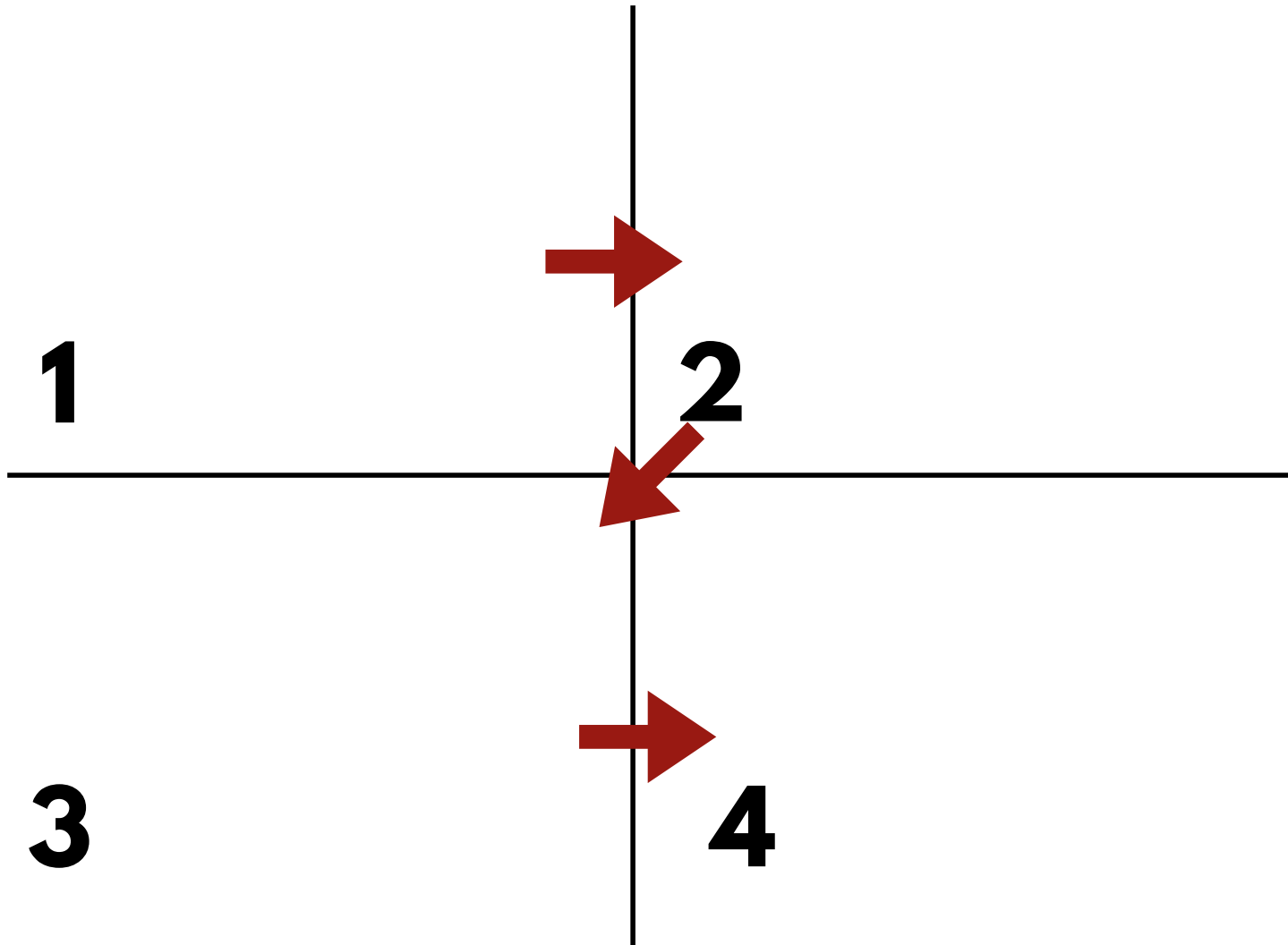


The Legend of Blackbeard

part 1

READ THE PAGES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT



Blackbeard was one of the Mohunes who had died a century back, and was buried in the vault under the church, with others of his family, but could not rest there, whether, as some said, because he was always looking for a lost treasure, or as others, because of his exceeding wickedness in life.



For this last were the true reason, he must have been mad indeed, for Mohunes have died before and since his day wicked enough to bear anyone company in their vault or elsewhere.

2

Men would have it that on dark winter nights Blackbeard might be seen with an old-fashioned lanthorn digging for treasure in the graveyard; and those who professed to know said he was the tallest of men, with full black beard, coppery face, and such evil eyes, that any who once met their gaze must die within a year.



However that might be, there were few in Moonfleet who would not rather walk ten miles round than go near the churchyard after dark; and once when Cracky Jones, a poor doited body, was found there one summer morning, lying dead on the grass, it was thought that he had met Blackbeard in the night.

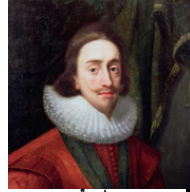


Mr Glennie, who knew more about such things than anyone else, told me that Blackbeard was none other than a certain Colonel John Mohune, deceased about one hundred years ago.



4

He would have it that Colonel Mohune, in the dreadful war against King Charles the First, had deserted the allegiance of his house and supported the cause of the rebels.



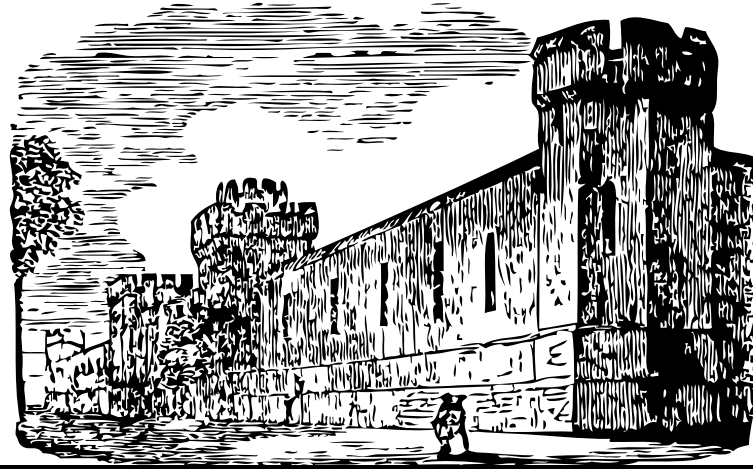
5

For the King, carrying constantly hidden about his person a great diamond which had once been given him by his brother King of France, Mohune got wind of this jewel, and promised that if it were given him he would wink at. His Majesty's escape.

7



So being made Governor of Carisbrooke Castle for the Parliament, he became there the King's jailer, but was false to his trust



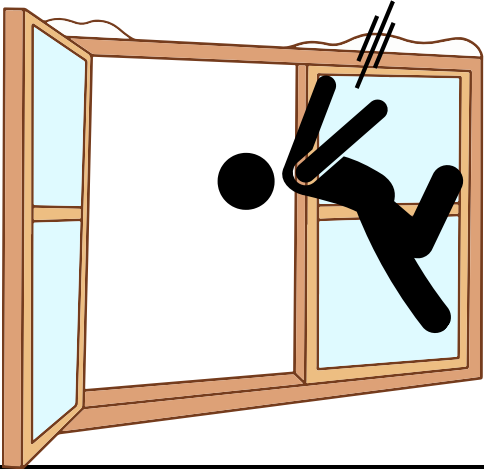
6

8

Then this wicked man, having taken the bribe, plays traitor again, comes with a file of soldiers at the hour appointed for the King's flight.



**finds His Majesty escaping through a
window,**



9

has him away to a stricter ward,



10

**and reports to the Parliament that
the King's escape is only prevented
by Colonel Mohune's watchfulness.**



11

**But how true, as Mr.
Glennie said, that we
should not be envious
against the ungodly,
against the man that
walketh after evil
counsels.**



12

Suspicion fell on Colonel Mohune; he was removed from his Governorship, and came back to his home at Moonfleet



13

here he lived in seclusion, despised by both parties in the State, until he died, about the time of the happy Restoration of King Charles the Second.



14

15

But even after his death he could not get rest; for men said that he had hid somewhere that treasure given him to permit the

King's escape, and that not daring to reclaim it, had let the secret die with him, and so must needs come out of his grave to try to get at it again.



TO BE CONTINUED