

The Siege of Galway 1691

The Last Stand

The Rev. Robert H. Murray, LITT. D.

1911

On the 16th of July Ginkell marched through Loughrea, *en route* for Galway. Its garrison consisted of seven poor regiments under D'Usson and Lord Dillon. The former was Governor of the town and the latter the General in charge. An Irish officer offered to Ginkell to surrender an outwork, and assured him that there were only fifteen hundred armed men in the town. When Ginkell summoned the Governor to yield, he replied that he intended to defend the place to the last. His words sounded determined, but they were nothing but empty sound. The siege began. After the capture of the out-works, an action in which Talmash "would needs go as a volunteer, as he usually did when it was not his turn to command," Galway surrendered on the 21st with the honours of war. The soldiers were allowed to march to Limerick leaving the town "with their arms, six pieces of cannon, drums beating, colours flying, match lighted, and bullet in mouth." The townsmen, then submitting to the English Governor, might live as peaceable subjects, would be pardoned for the part they had taken in the war, and would be permitted the free exercise of their religion, and the enjoyment of their property as settled in the reign of Charles II. [1] Ginkell granted these terms because he wanted to hurry down to Limerick before the season for campaigning ceased. He left behind him Sir Henry Bellasis as Governor with his own regiment, the 22nd Foot, and the 12th and 23rd regiments for a garrison. O'Kelly hints that not only was there treachery on the part of the Irish officer at Galway, but that D'Usson and Lord Dillon were also concerned in it. D'Usson was the friend of the Viceroy's and Dillon was his nephew; these facts afford a sufficient explanation, he thinks, of the weak defence. O'Kelly regrets that Baldearg O'Donnel made terms with Ginkell and became "unhappily joined with the sworn enemies of his country." [2]

[1] Story, 151-174; *Macariae Excidium*, 137-141, 462-466; Clarke, ii. 459; Burnet, ii. 95; *Jacobite Narrative*, 152. Hoffmann, Aug. 3: "The latter condition (*i.e.* that Roman Catholics could hold civic office) displeased the English ministers. They blame Ginkell for his leniency. And certainly the town would not have received this condition from an English general" (Klopp, v. 303). When he made such a concession he must have been sure of the King's consent beforehand. In other words, he acted according to his instructions which directed him as far as in him lay to set aside every pretext for a war of religions. Burnet says expressly that Ginkell received secret orders from the King to consent to everything if only the war in Ireland might be brought to an end. Letter, July 20, 1691 (*Clarke Correspondence*).

[2] *Macariae Excidium*, 140-143; Story 180-183; C.S.P., *Dom* 1690-1691, 475, 528.

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Macariæ Excidium ;
or, the
Destruction of Cyprus ;
Containing

The last Warr and Conquest of that *Kingdom*.
Written originally in *Syriac* by Philotas Phylocypres.
Translated into *Latin* by Gratianus Ragallus, P. R.

And now Made into English

By
Colonel Charles O Kelly.

Anno Domini
1692.

Health to the Reader.

After this notable Victory at *Acra*, *Ororis* only wanted the Reduceing of *Paphos* and *Cythera*, to compleat the Conquest of the whole Kingdom. *Cythera* is the Head City of *Paphia*, not much above a Daye's Journey from *Acra*. It is built uppon a Neck of Land between the Sea and the River *Cytha*, which comes out of a great Lake riseing from high Mountains in the West of *Paphia*, 24 Miles from *Cythera*, and separating that Part of the Country from the Rest of the Province ; for there is noe Passage thither but by Boats over the Lake, or by the Conveniency of a stone Bridge at *Cythera* ; soe that the Town, haveing the Sea on the South, the River *Cytha* and the Lake on the West and North, lyes exposed to an Attack only on the East Side, where *Ororis* encamped on the 19th Day of the 5th Month ; and that Night he gained an Outwork uppon the Hill, very near the Walls, by the Treachery of an Officer who deserted from thence to the Enemy. *Cythera* was not well man'd at that Time, by Reason that the Result once taken to divide most of the Foot between that Place and *Paphos* was altdred, and since the Battle, none gott thither but a few *Paphian* Soldiers who escaped from *Acra*, to the Number of 6 or 700 Men, most of them well armed. After the Defeat of the Army, *Leogones* was ordered to march streight to *Cythera* with what Men he could gather together, his Brigade (to please *Coridon*) being formerly dispersed between severall Posts, and at a great Distance ; but he was prevented by the Enemy, who, next Day after their Arrivall before *Cythera*, crossed the River in Boats, and planting their Bridge without any Opposition, they passed over a Part of the Army into the Western *Paphia*, beseidging the Town on that Side, and thereby hindring *Leogones* from entring into it that Way, as he de-signed ; for he could not pretend to doe it in any other Way, haveing noe Conveniency to relieve it by Sea. The Town of *Cythera* did not only want Men for its Defence, but it was also destitute of warlick Engines, which are requisit in a beseidged Place ; yet the greatest Want of all was Resolution and Union ; for if the Townsmen were united and resolute, they were num-erous enough, with the Assistance of the Garison, to defend the Town, whereby they might give the *Cyprian* Army Time to recruit and putt themselves in a Posture to relieve that City ; and in case they had failed of that Design, the *Cytherists*, however, could not miss getting as good Conditions the last Day as they gott at first, and much more to their Credit. But they were divided into Factions, and the most prevalent at that Time was the new-intrested Men, who longed for a Change of Government to reestablish the *Attilan* Settlement, confirmed by *Pythagoras*, but reversed by *Amasis*. They concealed their Arms, and would not lend them to the Soldiers who

wanted them ; much less would they make Use of any themselves, to defend their Country. One of the civill Officers (the Sonn of a *Cilician*, professing the *Martanesian* Doctrine) made his Escape to the Camp of *Ororis*, the Contrivance (as it was then believed) of the first Civill Magistrate, who was secured uppon it, and likely would suffer, had the Enemy not come soe suddenly to attack the Town. This Spye gave *Ororis* an exact Account of all Things ; how the Work on the Hill was not fully finished, the Town ill manned and ill furnished with other Necessaryes ; the Citizens being, for the most Part, weary of the present Government, and longing to be under the Comand and Jurisdiction of Prince *Theodore* ; adding, that if the Place was once surrounded, before the Arrivall of *Leogones*, who was sent for in all Hast, they could not hold out long, without the Assistance of the Townes Men, who (as he assured) would give none. Uppon this Information, which *Ororis* received at *Acra*, three Daies after the Battle, he advanced streight to *Cythera*. *Dusones*, who commanded in-chief, was a great Friend of *Coridon's*, and the Governor was his Nephew, which occasioned a Report among the People, that they did not much dislike the Townsmen's Inclination to treat with *Ororis* ; and it is likely that those who were for a Treaty and Submission to *Theodore*, were the more encouraged to propose it, because they knew very well that their acting after that Manner would be countenanced by *Coridon*, and, perhaps, noe Way displeas-ing to *Amasis* himself ; and it seems they had some Ground to think soe, for *Amasis* writt afterwards to *Dusones*, givinge him Thanks for his Moderation at *Paphos*, and his early Sur-render of the Place, before the Garison or Inhabitants should be reduced to any Hardships. It is certain that the same Day the *Cilicians* passed the River (which was the next Day after they appeared before the Towne), those of *Cythera* beat a Parly and began to capitulate. The Treaty held for six Daies, tho' the Articles for the Surrender of *Cythera* were included the 2nd Day ; but they expected *Coridon's* Result uppon the Propositions made by *Ororis* for a gener-all Capitulation, which was brought to *Paphos* by the Governor's Brother-in-law, who (as some People averred), after delivering his Message there, endeavoured to perswade his Friends in the Army to accept of the advantageous Offers made by *Ororis*, which lost him the Friendship of *Lysander*, and the Esteem of those who resolved to continue the War, and hearken to noe Conditions. By the Capitulation of *Cythera*, all Persons submitting to Theodore were to enjoy their Estates, as formerly, in the Reign of King *Pythagoras* the 2nd. The Officers and Soldiers were at Liberty to march to *Paphos*, or joyn *Theodore's* Army, or return to their own Homes. On the 26th Day of the 5th Month, and 15 Daies after the Battle, the Garrison marched out of *Cythera*, and the *Cilicians* entred the Town. Some of the Officers and a few Soldiers joyned with the Enemy, others retired Home, but the greatest Number went with *Dusones* and the Governor to *Paphos*, where they gave *Coridon* an Account of their Proceedings, who easily approved thereof.

<i>Acra</i>	Aughrim
<i>Amasis</i>	James. II
<i>Attilan</i>	Cromwellian
<i>Cilician</i>	Englishman
<i>Coridon</i>	Tyrconnell
<i>Cyprian</i>	Irish
<i>Cytha</i>	Galway River
<i>Cythera</i>	Galway
<i>Cytherists</i>	Galwegians
<i>Dusones</i>	D'Usson
<i>Leogones</i>	O'Donnell
<i>Lysander</i>	Sarsfield
<i>Martanesian</i>	Protestant
<i>Ororis</i>	De Ginkell

Paphos . . . Limerick
Paphia . . . Connaught
Pythagoras . . . Chas. II
Theodore . . . William III
Western Paphia . Conemara

After this notable victory at Aughrim, Ginkell only required to reduce Galway and Limerick, to become master of the entire kingdom.

King James's Memoirs remark, that, after the battle of Aughrim, the English, "had they pursued their victory and marched streight to Limerick had finished the war at one blow ; for the great consternation the Irish were then in, the fortifications of that town not finished, the troops dispersed in the mountains and bogs, there had been no possibility of houlding out before a victorious Army ; but by the enemies turning their march towards Galway, they gaue the Irish time to reassemble their scaterd forces and delay their destiny some months longer" [1]

[1] Memoirs of King James II., vol. ii. p 548.

Ginkell encamped on the east side of Galway, July 19th, and that night he gained an outwork upon the hill, very near the walls &c.

According to Story, DelaBrune, and Harris, the Williamite Commander appeared before Galway, with the forces which accompanied him, on the Sunday after the battle of Aughrim, that is, the 19th of July, old style, or the 29th, according to our present computation. "The unfinished Work on a Hill," which is represented as "very near the Walls," and as having been "occupied" by him the night of his arrival, seems to have been amongst those alluded to by Story. "The Ridge of Land," says the Williamite Chaplain, "between the Bog and the Bay towards the East, is but very narrow, and may, with no great Difficulty, be Fortified, without which the Town is not to be defended, since an Army may approach under Covert of this Ridge within less than 100 Yards of the Town-wall, where there is a rising Ground, that overlooks a great Part of the Town. There had been some Works upon the Neck of this Ridge in former Times, and the French had begun to repair them, but had not brought them to any Perfection," &C. [2]

[2] Story's Continuation, &c., pp. 153, 155, 156, 157.— De la Brune, &c., pp. 63,64. — Harris's Life of William III., p. 329.

Galway was not well manned at that time.

The manuscript letter of a Mr. John Morgan, sent out with a Williamite party on the 19th of July, about nine miles beyond Kilcolgan, to make discoveries respecting the Irish, states, on the 20th, to Lieutenant-General Scravemoer : "The man I sent to Galway is come back, & 1 Capt^o French of the L^d Clanrickards Reg^t with him, who surrendered himself to me. They both say, that they have the reputation of 7 Reg^{ts} in the town, but that they are not above 2000 strong ; but they expect, as they hear, O'Donnel's Brigade." Story, after the surrender of the place, calls the Irish garrison "not above 2300 Men, and those," he observes, "but indifferently armed, and worse clothed". [3]

[3] Letter, &c., dated Kilcolgan, July 20th, 1691, in Clarke's Correspondence. —Story's Continuation, p. 173.

The enemy, the day after they sat down before Galway, crossed the river in boats, constructed a bridge, and, having passed a part of their army over into Western Connaught, besieged the city on that side ; thus excluding O'Donnell, who purposed to introduce his troops by that way, as his only one for doing so.

After mentioning an unsuccessful design formed, the day they came before the town, by the English, with their tin boats, against the ships in the harbour, and that “ the Boats therefore were to be employed otherways,” the Williamite annalist adds : “ As soon as it was grown dark. Lieutenant General *Machay*, with Colonel *Tiffin's*, Colonel *St. John's*, Monsieur *Cambon's*. Lord George *Hambleton's*, one Dutch, and a Danish Regiment of Foot, with four Squadrons of Horse and Dragoons, were wafted over the River, about two Miles above the Town : by Break of Day,” he continues, “our Men were all safe on the other Side, meeting with no Opposition, only a small Party of Dragoons fir'd at the first Party that landed, and then scoured off ; whether the *Irish* really expected *Balderock O'Donnell* to come into Town that Way is uncertain, however we had now destroyed all Hopes of it, and he retired again into the County of Mayo, &c. [4]

[4] Story's Continuation, pp. 156, 157.

The inhabitants of Galway (had they stood a siege) could not miss getting as good conditions the last day as they got at first, and much more to their credit.

Israel Fielding, sometime acting Secretary to the Williamite Lords Justices for Ireland, writing from Dublin Castle, July 6th, 1691 (or six days before the battle of Aughrim), to General Ginkell's Secretary, George Clarke, respecting the very favourable conditions, already agreed upon at the Castle, to be offered to the people of Galway, in order to induce them the more readily to submit, remarks : “ The latitude given the Galwaynists is very large, but 'tis worth our while to get the town, almost at any rate”. [5]

[5] MS. Letter in Clarke's Correspondence, &c.

One of the Civil Magistrates, the son of an Englishman and a Protestant, escaped to Ginkell's camp, by the contrivance of the first Civil Magistrate, as it was then believed ; who was arrested for this, and would likely have suffered, had not the sudden arrival of the enemy prevented it.

Story, under the date of the 18th of July, having noted, how some Protestants made their escape out of Galway, and gave Ginkell information of the state of the town, observes, in particular, how “ one Mr. Shaw, a Merchant,” arrived in the English camp from Galway, “ and gave the General a full Account how Matters stood within ; that the Garrison were only 7 Regiments, and those neither full nor well Armed ; that they agreed not amongst themselves about keeping or surrendring the Town, tho it was probable they would never abide a brisk Attack ; that *D'Ussone*, the French Lieutenant General, was there, and that my Lord *Dillon* was Governour, and that the *Irish* expected *Balderick ODonnel*, with his Party to come into Town, by way of *Ire Conaught*, without whom they were not in a Condition to make Resistance.” Nevertheless, as the civilian spoken of by Colonel O'Kelly is subsequently mentioned by him, as having gone to Ginkell and given him information at Aughrim, three days after the battle, or three days sooner than this Mr. Shaw is said by Story to have done, it would appear, that the Milesian Colonel and the Williamite Chaplain had in view two different refugees, and bearers of intelligence, from Galway, to Ginkell.

The “ first Civill Magistrate” mentioned by Colonel O'Kelly, as having been arrested in Galway, for disaffection to King James's government, was the Mayor, Arthur French,

already seen to have been substituted in December, 1690, for Colonel Alexander MacDonnell, who was deprived of that office, on a similar charge, or suspicion. Mr. Morgan's previously-cited letter from Kilcolgan, of July 20th, 1691, shows this, by its statement of what some persons, who escaped from Galway, in a boat, the day before, alleged. "They say, that *the Mayor* & some more of the townsmen are imprisoned for endeavouring to surrender the town to us." The desertion of the Captain French of Lord Clanrickard's Regiment to Ginkell (quoted from the same letter in Note 245) may have been by the connivance of his namesake, if not relative, the Mayor. [6]

[6] Story's Continuation, p. 151, &c.

It is likely, that those who were for a treaty and submission to William, were the more encouraged to propose it, because they knew very well, that their acting in that manner would be countenanced by the Duke of Tyrconnell, and perhaps no way displeasing to James himself. What the royal Memoirs state of the surrender of Galway, after the account they give of the defeat of Aughrim, is as follows : "It was not to be expected that after this defeat Galway could make any great resistance, however it might well have retarded the enemies progress some days, and given time to perfect the fortifications of Limerick ; which, with the help of the rainy season then near at hand, would infallibly have saved it that campaign, but My Lord Clanrickard and others considering nothing but their own security, made such haste to surrender it, that they would not wait the coming up of the enemies cannon, which was yet at Athlone and without which there was no forcing the place, but gave it up and themselves with it, for he and several others both Officers and soldiers remain'd in Town tho the garrison had libertie to march out, which was conducted to Limerick accordingly". [7]

[7] Memoirs of King James II., vol. ii. p. 459.

The day the English passed the river, which was the next after their coming before the town, those in Galway beat a parley to treat about capitulating, and, though the articles for a surrender were concluded on the second day, the negotiations lasted for six days, as the Duke of Tyrconnell's decision from Limerick, upon propositions by Ginkell for a general capitulation, was waited for.

Lieutenant-General Ginkell arrived with his army before Galway on Sunday, July 19th, O. S. He dispatched, as already mentioned, a considerable body of troops across the water to West Connaught side, by next morning, or Monday, the 20th. He had, the same day, negotiations for a capitulation entered into, hostages exchanged, and a truce concluded with him, to last till ten o'clock in the morning of Tuesday, the 21st. Upon that day, the Articles of Capitulation, &c., were duly ratified between himself and the Irish. And, finally, according to those Articles, the place was evacuated by the Irish garrison, and given up to him, on Sunday, the 26th of July, or a week from the day he came before it.

"This Town with a good Garrison in it," says Story, from whom the preceding particulars are taken, "might have given us more Trouble, *and so have postponed the Siege of Limerick*" : yet considering their present Circumstances, they did not manage ill in procuring for themselves those Terms which they had, tho' the General might safely condescend to grant any Thing included in the Lords Justices Declaration, which both the Articles of *Gallway* and *Limerick* are. At the same Time," he continues, "that *Gallway* was Capitulating, there came a Drum from *Limerick*, which put us in Hopes that all was over, and that they had a Mind to make Terms not only for *Gallway* but for the *Irish Nation* in general, but it was only about the Exchange or Releasing of some Prisoners, which at that Time could not be granted, or rather it was to understand what became of *Gallway*, that so the others might take their Measures accordingly."

Yet, from the lapse of time which was to intervene between the signing of the Articles of Galway on the 21st, and the giving it up on the 26th, and from the great anxiety observable in the correspondence of the Williamite Lords Justices for Ireland, to terminate the Irish war above all things, what Colonel O’Kelly affirms, of such a delay having arisen from a proposal on Ginkell’s part, that a capitulation should be entered into for the rest of Ireland as well as for Galway, seems by no means improbable. The Williamite Lord Justice, Coningesby, for instance, writing to Ginkell from Dublin, July 21st (or the day the Articles of Galway were signed), has this postscript to his letter : “ My Lord, it is my opinion, that this war should be ended upon any terms ; and though it seems to be so near something, yet nobody can answer for ye events of war.” [8]

[8] See Notes 7 and 195. — Story’s Continuation, — Lord Justice’s letter in Clarke’s Correspondence, &c.

The 26th of July, fifteen days after the battle of Aughrim, the Irish garrison marched out of Galway, and the English entered the town ; some of the officers and a few soldiers joining the enemy ; others returning home ; but the greatest number proceeding to Limerick, with M. D’Usson and the Governor, &c.

The 26th of July was the fourteenth, and *not* the fifteenth, day after the 12th, or that on which the battle of Aughrim was fought. Respecting the surrender of Galway by the Irish, Story says : “ We continued a Friendly Correspondence till *Sunday* the 26th. when about seven a Clock in the Morning, Monsieur *d’Ussone*, the French Lieutenant General, came to our Camp, and stay’d about Half an Hour, from whence he had a Guard for his Person, to duct him towards Limerick : Sir Henry *Bellasis* being appointed Governor, he marched to the Town with his own, Colonel *Brewer’s* and Colonel *Herbert’s* Regiments, and about nine a Clock, we took Possession of all the Guards. . . About ten a Clock, my Lord *Dillon* marched out with the Irish Garrison, being not above 2300 Men, and those but indifferently armed and worse cloathed, they had six Pieces of Cannon according to the Capitulation (four of which were Iron) and drawn by six Teams of our Horses, having a Guard of Horse and Dragoons from our Camp, to conduct them to *Limerick*. At twelve a Clock, the General himself went into Town, being attended after his Entrance by the Mayor and Aldermen, the Recorder making him a Speech, to wish him Joy.” [9]

[9] Story’s Continuation, pp. 172, 173.

Macariae excidium, or, The destruction of Cyprus : being a secret history of the war of the revolution in Ireland (1850)

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The Siege of Galway

The Irish chieftains ; or, A struggle for the crown

(1872)

Charles ffrench Blake-Forster

The whole Williamite army marched on the 17th of July, five days after the battle of Aughrim, to Athenry, or 'Ye Citie of the Barons,' which historic old town was in ancient times the Norman capital of the province of Connaught ; and though once a place of the greatest importance, at this time it consisted of only about thirty houses which were all deserted, the inhabitants having fled on hearing of the result of the battle of Aughrim, and taken refuge in the mountains of Slieve Boughta. However, though Athenry was so much reduced from what it was in olden time, it was still surrounded by a strong stone wall, and the fortifications were in a good state of preservation, having been all newly repaired on the 1st of June, 1689. The army having encamped on the plain outside the town. Baron de Grinckell, taking a strong guard with him, advanced in the direction of Galway. Not thinking it prudent to advance further, he contented himself with a very imperfect view—from a rising ground—of the city and bay. In the latter were six ships, some of which had brought provisions to the town, as they would be required for the use of the garrison during the siege. He then returned to his camp at Athenry ; after inspecting which, he took up his quarters for the night in that town, and next day rode to Oranmore, which was burned a few days previously by the inhabitants of Galway. On his return to the camp he found Shaw the merchant, and the other Protestants who had accompanied him in his flight from Galway that morning, impatiently awaiting his arrival. They advised the Commander-in-chief to attack Galway without delay, and assured him that the town was not prepared to stand a siege.

Some days previously a large party of the English forces, by order of Baron de Ginckell, arrested the Right Honourable Denis Daly, of Carrownakelly, in the county of Galway, Second Justice of the Court of Conmion Pleas, and a Privy Councillor of Ireland. This gentleman, who was in high favour with King James, was of opinion for a long time past that the cause of that sovereign was hopeless. Still, he told the Williamite Commander-in-chief that it would be nonsense for him to think of taking the city of Galway—that he would not be able to do so—and if he attempted it, he would only have to retreat with loss and dishonour, as the fortifications of the town were strong, and the whole of the Irish army expected to arrive there in a few days from Limerick. This information was corroborated by some stragglers, who protested that Galway was garrisoned by over 5,000 men, all of whom were well clothed, armed, and drilled, and impatient to revenge the loss of Aughrim, which they attributed to the perfidious treachery of Colonel Henry Luttrell ; that Lord Lucan, with all the Irish cavalry, and Baldearg O'Donnell at the head of 6,000 well-armed regular troops, were on their march to relieve the town, that the French fleet was hourly expected in the harbour, and that there was nothing to prevent their vessels from sailing up the bay, as the castle on the Island of Bophin was garrisoned by a strong party of Irish, under Colonel Timothy O'Riordan. On hearing this startling intelligence. Baron de Ginckell was of opinion that the siege of Galway would continue until the winter would have set in, but Shaw gave him a true account of how matters really stood with the townspeople, and said that the speedy surrender of the garrison would be of the greatest importance to King William's cause. De Ginckell believing that Shaw's information was the most reliable, determined without further delay on marching to Galway, and accordingly informed the Williamite Lords Justices of his intention. When they were made acquainted with his resolution, they directed Captain Cole, who commanded several ships of war stationed on the Shannon, for the purpose of preventing the Irish in Limerick from receiving any assistance from France, to prepare immediately and sail to

Galway, and at the same time invested him with power to offer conditions to the citizens, provided they made advantageous proposals of surrender.

Early on the morning of the 19th of July, 1691, Lieutenant-General Baron de Ginckell, at the head of over 14,000 men, marched to Galway from Athenry, leaving the remainder of his forces, 3,000 horse and dragoons at the latter place, under the command of Major-General the Marquis de Ruvigny and Lieutenant-General Scravenmore, to secure the different passes for conveying the cannon from Athlone, should he require it during the siege of Gaway. The English forces marched in two columns, with a rear-guard consisting of 100 men attached to each wing, and commanded by a Lieutenant-Colonel. They marched in regular order until within view of the city, when their van was attacked by some Irish soldiers sent out to skirmish by order of Lieutenant-General d'Usson. After harassing the English, and killing a considerable number of them, the Irish retreated quickly within the walls shouting loudly, and applauded by all the citizens. Cuthbert Fenwick was stationed on Tor an Leoin, or the Lion's Tower, from which he had an excellent view of the English army as it advanced. The Williamites, annoyed at the sudden and unexpected attack made upon them by the garrison, rushed forward to seize the outworks, but were repulsed with great loss. They then sent strong parties to attack the Castle of Tiroléin then called Tirellan, where some of the Irish soldiers were stationed, who received the enemy with a heavy fire, but knowing that they could not maintain the castle long against such heavy odds they set it on fire, and then retired into the town.

This ancient castellated mansion, the residence of Lord Bophin — a scion of the noble House of Clanricarde — and, from time immemorial, the residence of his ancestors, was soon enveloped in lurid sheets of flame, and immense clouds of smoke, ascended from the burning mass, which indicated to the inhabitants of the country, for miles around, that the siege of Galway had commenced. By this conflagration, a great amount of valuable property was destroyed, but in time of war such considerations are not taken notice of, particularly when they tend to check the progress of an enemy. While the Irish were retreating from the outworks of the burning castle, they killed many of the enemy, and also set fire to the suburbs on the north-west side of the town, lest the Williamite marksmen might take shelter behind them while firing at the ramparts. No sooner had they passed the gates than they were received with loud acclamations of applause by the besieged inhabitants, which shewed Baron de Ginckell that he would have a great deal more trouble in reducing Galway than he at first anticipated ; for he now clearly saw, that the citizens were determined to fight to the last man, and he began to entertain serious doubts, as to the truth of the information he had received from Shaw. The Dutchman was so astonished at the determined resistance he received, that he considered it prudent to summon the garrison ; which, though small, he feared was able to protract the siege for a longer time than he at first imagined. Accordingly, he drew up his army at some distance from the walls, and sent a trumpeter into the town, to offer its inhabitants and garrison, the full benefit of the Proclamation issued by the Lords Justices, but the only answer he received from Lord Dillon was —“ Monsieur d'Usson, myself, and the rest of the garrison, are fully resolved to defend this town to the last man, and therefore refuse to accept of the terms offered by Baron de Ginckell, or the so called Lords Justices appointed by the Prince of Orange.” All this time the soldiers on the town walls cannonaded the Williamites, which circumstance was afterwards made a subject of complaint. When night was approaching, Baron de Ginckell ordered the regiments of Lord George Hamilton, Du Cambon, St. John, Tiffin, one Dutch, and one Danish, with four squadrons of horse and dragoons, all under the command of Major-General Mackay, to cross the river on floats at Menlough Castle, the residence of Colonel Sir Walter Blake, Baronet, at break of day next morning. However, in this attempt they were opposed by a party of Irish dragoons stationed at Dangan ; who, after a severe skirmish with the English, were obliged by superior numbers to retire to

the town. During all this time, the Irish engineers were hard at work, constructing a new fort near Fort Hill, which they had nearly completed, when one of the garrison deserted to the besieging army. This traitor advised Baron de Ginckell to attack the fort immediately, as if he allowed it to be finished, it would cause him much trouble. The Commander-in-chief having taken his advice, on the next morning ordered the Count de Nassau, and Major-General Tollemache, with the deserter for their guide, to commence an attack on the fort. The Williamites, by throwing in their grenades, forced the small party of Irish stationed in the fort to retire to the town, which, however they did not do, until they had killed one lieutenant and five privates, and wounded two lieutenants and eight privates. The Williamites now entered the unfinished fort, but the gunners on the walls of Galway firing furiously, killed and wounded a great number of them, and their principal engineer, Monsier de Madronet, was shot dead while directing his men. Up to this period, no symptoms of surrender were shown by the garrison, but now a deputation of some of the principal inhabitants of the town waited on Lord Dillon, and after a long argument, persuaded his Lordship to agree to a surrender. The Governor accordingly sent a letter to Baron de Ginckell, at ten o'clock in the morning, stating that he would surrender the town, on condition that fair terms were granted to the garrison and inhabitants. De Ginckell was delighted on receiving this unexpected proposal, as he well knew, that if Galway did not surrender he would have to undergo all the hardships of a long siege, but particularly so, as he wished to proceed to Limerick, with all possible speed, where he anticipated a desperate resistance from the patriotic Earl of Lucan. Therefore, hostilities now ceased, and Cuthbert, who had acted with great bravery, left his station on Tor an Leoin, resolved to seek out his friend Colonel Burke, of Tyaquin, whose post during the siege was Penrice's Tower. Not finding him at Sir Valentine's Castle, he proceeded by High Middle-street, Market-street, Jail-street, and Kea-street, to Boher eddir na Stronda, where he succeeded in meeting him.

“ Well, Burke,” said Cuthbert, “ what do you think of the intended surrender ?”

“ Our provisions could not last much longer, I think,” replied the Colonel, “ and even if they did, we would be only shedding blood in vain, for, as the King of France has sent us no aid, we would be eventually beaten ; so I think, on the whole, my young friend, it is the wisest plan.”

“ We have no alternative now,” replied Fenwick, “ but to try and bargain for the best terms with the Dutchman. But you see,” he continued, “ Captain Forster was correct in the opinion he always entertained of Balldearg O'Donnell. By St. George, I always considered, myself, that the fellow would betray us.”

In reply to this latter remark, Colonel Burke only shook his head, and taking Cuthbert's arm, they both returned by Sraid Tober an Iarlagh, New Tower-street, and Glover's-street, to the Mayoralty House, where they expected to find the Governor.

In the afternoon hostages were exchanged by the belligerents. Those on the part of the town were Lieutenants-Colonel Burke, O'Reilly, and Lynch ; and on the English side Lieutenants-Colonel the Marquis de Rheda, Coote, and Purcell. Baron de Ginckell being anxious to terminate the siege as quickly as possible, was satisfied to grant reasonable terms to the citizens; but in a council held in the town, the garrison were much divided with regard to the nature of the conditions which they would accept. It was the opinion of some that the town ought not to surrender, unless the inhabitants were allowed to enjoy all their rights and privileges as in the reign of King James ; while others were content to give up the town, provided they received free pardons for having taken part in the war, and were allowed to continue in the peaceable possession of their estates. The French officers, at the head of whom was Lieutenant-General

d'Usson, were resolved to fight to the last, or otherwise be permitted to march out of town, with all the honours of war, to Limerick. However, at ten o'clock on the morning of the next day, Tuesday, which was the time agreed on for deciding the matter, the garrison being still divided. Baron de Ginckell resolved to recommence the siege. That nobleman accordingly ordered four mortars, and eight large guns to be placed on the fort which he had captured on the previous day, owing to the treachery of the vile deserter ; and sent a drummer to the Governor with a message, demanding the release of his hostages ; but the citizens requested the Baron to allow the cessation of hostilities to continue for some time longer. He consented to this, in hope they might agree, though much against the inclination of the blood-thirsty Tollemache, who, several times unsuccessfully endeavoured to persuade the Commander-in-chief to take the town by storm, and put the inhabitants to the sword. Baron de Ginckell having waited a considerable time, and finding that the garrison had still come to no definite conclusion, sent different messengers to urge them to it immediately. This greatly encouraged Tollemache, who began to entertain hopes that the siege would be again renewed ; and he sent the following message to the garrison by Lieutenant-Colonel Burke, one of the hostages, who was permitted to return to the town : — “ When you are ready to begin afresh, give us a signal to secure ourselves, by firing a gun into the air.” The answer which he received from Burke was — “ We will not fire from within, until we are provoked to do it by you from without.” However, after a good deal of parley, the articles of surrender were agreed to on the 21st of July, and having been signed Lord Dillon gave over to Baron de Ginckell as hostages, the Earl of Clanricurde, Lord Enniskillen, Colonel Browne, Lieutenant-Colonel Bodkin, and Major Dillon. On the morning of Sunday the 26th of July, at seven o'clock. Lieutenant-general d'Usson proceeded to Baron de Ginckell's camp, where he delayed half-an-hour, and then marched on to Limerick to join the Earl of Lucan. At ten o'clock the same morning, Lord Dillon, at the head of the garrison, with six pieces of cannon, drawn by horses given for that purpose by De Ginckell, and accompanied by a strong guard of horse and dragoons, marched out with all the honours of war on his way to Limerick.

The Mayor requested Cuthbert Fenwick to remain with him for a week or two, but the latter excused himself by saying that although it would afford him much pleasure to stay with him at any other time, he regretted exceedingly he could not avail himself on the present occasion of his kind invitation, as he knew his kinsman, the Chief of Clooneene, would be impatient to hear the result of the siege of Galway, and should therefore return to Clooneene as soon as he had paid a visit to Sir Walter Blake, of Menlough Castle.

The Clooneene Foresters all went with Lord Dillon to Limerick, with the exception of two soldiers who remained to escort Fenwick on his return to Clooneene. After the garrison left the town he proceeded to De Ginckell's camp and obtained a pass certifying that he and his attendants had been in Galway during the siege, and as they were therefore entitled to the privileges granted to the garrison and inhabitants of the town by the Articles of Surrender, no loyal subject of King William was to offer them violence or injury, or otherwise molest them. Cuthbert next walked to the Wood Quay to hire a boat, for being a great lover of the picturesque, he preferred going to Menlough by the lake.

At twelve o'clock on the day of the surrender Baron de Ginckell marched into the town by Great Gate-street, and was received with every mark of respect by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Recorder. The latter having read a congratulatory address on the occasion, De Ginckell took possession of the town, and being handed the keys of the gates which he consigned to the care of Sir Henry Bellasyse, he viewed all the objects of interest in it, particularly the collegiate church of St. Nicholas. On Monday, the 27th, that portion of the Williamite army which had been encamped beyond the river under the command of Major-General Mackay, marched into

the town, and the soldiers, by order of the Baron de Ginckell, commenced to repair the damage done to the fort, which the garrison had commenced on the south-east corner of the wall, and all the sick and wounded soldiers who were not able to march, were ordered by the Governor to be attended to, and others were sent in waggons to Athlone.

On the 28th, the Williamite army returned to Athenry, and the inhabitants of Gortinsiguara were rejoiced to hear the enemy did not intend marching through their hamlet. While on their march Captain Cole with nine men-of-war, and eighteen smaller ships, in pursuance of the orders he had received from the Lords Justices previous to the siege, appeared in the harbour, but Baron de Ginckell sent him word to return to the Shannon without delay.

On the 29th, De Ginckell's army marched to Loughrea, where they remained in consequence of the heavy fall of rain and the roughness of the weather until the 31st, when they again moved forward, and proceeded as far as Eyrecourt Castle. Here they encamped for the night, and on the next day, Saturday, the 1st of August, went on to Banagher, where they were joined by Colonel Matthew's dragoons, and also by Colonel Lloyd's foot, who were ordered to Athlone, lest Balldearg O'Donnell might besiege that town. On Monday, the 3rd, they marched to Birr, rested during the next day, and continued their march on the 6th to Borrisokane, and on Thursday the 6th, reached Nenagh, where Baron de Ginckell halted, and remained four days, for the purpose of providing his large army with provisions and other necessaries. A messenger arrived here on the 8th, and demanded a private interview with the Commander-in-chief. Being admitted to his presence he informed that nobleman that his name was Richards, and that he was commissioned by Brigadier-General Don Hugh O'Donnell, to enter into a treaty with his Lordship, namely — that Don Hugh O'Donnell, commonly called Balldearg, would desert the Irish cause, surrender to Baron de Ginckell, and enter King William's service, and that he would also prevail on many hundreds of the Irish peasantry, Rapparees, and others who believed he was to be the deliverer of their country, to follow his example, provided he received a pension of only £2,000 a year, and was created Earl of Tyrconnell, with all the rights and privileges which his ancestors enjoyed, while they bore that title, which was forfeited to the Crown on the attainder of Roderick O'Donnell, Earl of Tyrconnell, and Chief of his Sept in the reign of King James I. De Ginckell considering that several of the Rapparees whom he knew to be stubborn foes would be among those, and would join him if he agreed to this treaty, as it was still fervently believed by many of the Irish that O'Donnell was the person foretold by an ancient prophecy who was to free his country from the yoke of England, thought it advisable to bring over Balldearg to his side. The Commander-in-chief therefore agreed to the proposition, provided King William was satisfied with it Richards after transacting his business with the Dutch nobleman departed for Dublin, well pleased with his success.

The Irish chieftains ; or, A struggle for the crown (1872)

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