Samuel Richardson

from his dear

Grandfather 5 mo 18th

1826

BRIEN BOIROIMHE, Monarch of Ireland, anno 1027, in the Armour in which he went to the field of battle.

THE

History of Ireland,

FROM THE

EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME,

Abridged for the Use of Children.

BY ALEXANDER BOWER,

Author of the Life of Dr Beattie—Luther—History of the University of Edinburgh, &c. &c.

EMBELLISHED WITH WOOD CUTS.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE materials for the History of Ireland are pretty ample. This little work is chiefly compiled from Jeoffry Keating's, Leland's, and Burdy's Histories of Ireland, and Cox's Hibernia Anglicana. Besides these, Ledwich's Antiquities, some of the works of General Vallancey, the Treatises of Plowden, Musgrave, Gordon, and others, have been consulted; and, in short, no pains spared to render it as authentic as possible. An Appendix is added, containing Views and Descriptions of some of the most remarkable edifices in that kingdom.

Edinburgh, August 1819.

THE

HISTORY OF IRELAND

ABRIDGED.

CHAPTER I.

Of the ancient State of Ireland.

The accounts of the first population of Ireland are so romantic and contradictory, that it appears to be very surprising how they could have ever obtained credit even with such as are most partial to the recital of what is marvellous, and at the same time take pleasure in contemplating the involved gloom which conceals from our view almost every thing that relates to the early migrations of the human race.

English and Scottish antiquaries have not scrupled to trace their origin to a period antecedent to the Christian era; but some Irish writers carry their pretensions to antiquity to a much more remote date, and with the utmost gravity speak of what happened on the invasion of Ireland before the flood. How well meant soever such attempts may be, yet they baffle the very purpose which they were intended to answer, and expose those who espouse them not only to censure but to ridicule.

Whatever particular opinion may be entertained respecting the precise spot on this globe which was first inhabited by man, it seems to be universally allowed, that the most authentic records refer this interesting event to a warm latitude. The world, it is evident, must have been peopled by degrees, unless we suppose that it proceeded from the hand of its Creator stocked with that variety of inhabitants which it now contains; and as the operations of nature are slow, though certain, a very considerable number of years must have been required before the northern regions of the earth were peopled. This is not the proper place to inquire into the mode or time in which the different European migrations were effected. It is sufficient to observe, that it is probable Britain was first peopled from France, and Ireland peopled from Britain. Its relative situation, language, and customs, seem to lead to this conclusion.

Ireland, one of the British Islands, is situate between the 5th and 10th degrees of west longitude, and between the 51st and 56th of north latitude, extending in length about 300 miles, and about 150 in breadth, and, excepting Great Britain, is the largest of the European islands.

The climate in a high degree resembles that of Great Britain; but in general it may be remarked, that it holds an intermediate rank between that of England and Scotland in regard to temperature. It is superior to both as to the number and goodness of its harbours. It is not inferior to England in the fertility of its soil, the abundance of its fisheries, and in the production of every thing necessary for the life of man, and contributing to his comfort. The rivers are more numerous; the

Shannon is larger than the Thames. The most singular fact respecting Ireland is, that no venomous animals are to be found in it; and though many theories have been proposed to account for this circumstance, yet every explanation which has hitherto been proposed is liable to objections.

It is altogether in vain to institute an inquiry who were the original inhabitants of Ireland, and no light whatever is to be derived from the more ancient Irish writers. They indulge in repeating the most idle and palpable fables, and repose perfect confidence in the legends which were recited by their ancient bards. If these songs or poems were consistent with themselves, or with one another, or could in any degree be reconciled with the ancient history of other European nations, they would be deserving of some degree of attention. But since none of those qualities can be applied to them, the legitimate inference is, that they are altogether unworthy of credit.

The most probable supposition (for no stronger expression can be employed with the shadow of reason) is, that Ireland was first peopled by a colony of the Celtæ, who from the most remote antiquity had inhabited the greater part of Western Europe, and carried their language, manners, religion, and government, into those countries of which they took possession in the course of their various migrations.

Notwithstanding the unqualified and vain assertions of the Irish bards, that their language is pure and original, or unadulterated with the idioms of any of the other European languages, yet very competent judges, who had not the same theory to support, have entertained quite a different opinion,

and proved, in the most incontestible manner, that it is an exceedingly compounded language; or, in other words, that it has many vocables in common with the other languages of Europe; in addition to which, it is worthy of remark, that the Irish use the Saxon character to this day. It must, however, be confessed, that arguments deduced from language are of an equivocal nature, and apt to lead to the adoption of an erroneous theory.

The manners of the ancient Irish also bore a singular resemblance to those nations that were of Celtic origin. Under the head of *Manners*, may be included their food, both as it respected the articles of diet which constituted their chief subsistence, and the manner in which they were prepared—their dress—the structure of their dwellings—and mode of carrying on war, &c.

Their religion was *Druidism*, a term derived from a Greek word which signifies *an oak*. This tree was esteemed as particularly sacred, and their sacred rites, such as they were, were observed in groves. No certain accounts have been transmitted to us respecting this singular superstition, only that they worshipped the sun, and fire, and inculcated the transmigration of souls. Inequality of rank existed in the priesthood, and there was one arch or high priest who had the superintendence of the rest, and in whose person resided the chief authority.

It does not admit of a doubt, that the original government of Ireland was monarchical. There were, indeed, provincial kings, at least, who were called such. Their number was indefinite (though generally five,) and the extent of their territories was enlarged or diminished according to the power

and fortune of him who held it. One of these frequently was permitted to retain the name of Monarch; but his title was founded upon mere force, and any submission he required, or exactions he made, were enforced by the sword. They were inaugurated into their office by no ceremony of anointing or crowning—they did not succeed by descent nor election, but by pure force; so that in general they arrived at the chief power in their principalities by means of the murder of their predecessors. Sometimes a successor was elected in the lifetime of the king; but this remedy was only partial, for, if we are to credit some Irish annalists, six hundred battles were fought, and out of two hundred kings, one hundred and seventy were murdered in this dreadful warfare.

Law could never be reduced to system among such barbarians. They had no written law, because the first principles of learning were unknown, and there is every reason to doubt whether they had even the use of written characters. There could be no such thing, therefore, as a compilation or digest of law; but as the rudest state of society could not exist without at least the appearance of the administration of justice, this was performed by hereditary judges called *Brehones*. Every *lord* had one of these judges attached to him, who decided all causes that came before him. In this he was regulated by his own will or that of his master, though they pretended to certain traditions, and to adhere to certain customs. Their mode of proceeding was singular, and indicative of the rudeness of the age. They sat on a turf or heap of stones on the top of a hill, or rather a mountain, without canopy or covering, and without clerks,

registers, or records, or indeed any formality of a court of judicature. What obedience was rendered to their decisions we are not told; but their notions of justice were extremely rude and undefined. The greatest crimes, such as murder, were only punished by a fine called *Eric*, which was usually paid to the relations of the deceased, only that the brehone had the eleventh part for his fees. No punishment whatever was inflicted upon robbery or theft, if committed on strangers and not on the followers of their chief. Instead of being reckoned offences, they were esteemed praise-worthy actions, and shewed the dexterity of the perpetrator.

There were some peculiarities in their law, which might be traced to those singular institutions that prevailed through all the Celtic tribes; and perhaps an origin much more general might be discovered, for human nature in the same circumstances presents the same appearance. Of this the law of *tanistry* appears to be one. This word, it is evident, is derived from *thane*, so common in the history of the northern nations, and which originally signified no more than the commander of the district, who was accountable to his superior. He was a provincial king or chieftain. The law of tanistry required, that upon the decease of any one, or when he left his tribe, the lands should be equally divided among the families of the community to which he belonged. This constituted a perpetual source of contention, discouraged agriculture, and operated as a barrier against every kind of improvement.

The brehones were not the only persons in the state whose office was hereditary; so also were their physicians, bards, harpers, poets, and histo-

rians. We are told that learning was so much encouraged at one time in Ireland, that there were 7000 students at Armagh, and great numbers besides at Ross, Carbry, Lismore, and Clonard.—Learning was then principally confined to the religious houses; but this golden age was of very short duration.

The dress of the men was a mantle or cloak, and trowsers; and of the women, a mantle and petticoat. Their shirts were dyed yellow, to save washing. Both sexes wore brogs, which were a species of shoes tied on the feet by a thong.

Their music was either a harp (which is the arms of the kingdom) or a bagpipe.

CHAPTER II.

From the earliest Times to the Invasion of Henry II.

It has been already mentioned, that the accounts which the Irish writers give of the early history of their nation so far exceed the bounds of credibility, that it would be a gross abuse both of time and patience to give an account of such fabulous legends. It may be proper, however, barely to mention, that after enumerating a long line of monarchs, they dwell with peculiar delight upon the character of Ollam Fodla, who was endowed with great talents for legislation, and whom they represent as having flourished nearly one thousand years before the Christian era. To him is ascribed the merit of having instituted the triennial assembly of kings, priests, and bards, at Tarah in Meath, and as having, in many other respects, benefited his country.

At an interval of upwards of two centuries, Kembeth ascended the throne and built the palace of Emania, near Armagh, which was the residence of the kings of Ulster for upwards of seven hundred years, and instituted a court similar, but subordinate, to that which assembled at Tarah. After a melancholy list of kings who were all assassinated, a colony of Scandinavian Goths are said to have formed settlements in Ireland; and about the beginning of the Christian era, the Dumnonian race murdered all the royal family and usurped the throne.

The Irish annals contain little else than a tissue of civil wars and murders until the beginning of the fifth century, when Nial the Great (or of the nine hostages, as he has been called, from having

received as many hostages from different nations,) appeared. He aided the Picts against the Britons, and afterwards invaded Gaul, in which he was joined by the Saxons. One of his own countrymen, however; murdered him upon the banks of the Loire in 406.

About the year 432, the celebrated St Patrick is said to have arrived in Ireland. The religion of the country previous to this event was Druidism; but by means of his exertions Christianity is represented to have been established. This celebrated saint is reported to have been a native of North Britain, and to have commenced his labours as a missionary in Ireland, in the sixtieth year of his age. He received his mission from Pope Celestine to evangelize the Irish, to whom he was very partial, having in his youth resided among them when he was in captivity. The very existence, however, of St Patrick has been denied, and combated by arguments which it will be difficult to answer. He is not mentioned by any ecclesiastical historian before the ninth century. One thing at least is certain, that neither St Patrick, nor any other missionary in the fifth century, succeeded in diffusing either the principles or the practice of Christianity throughout Ireland. It is not improbable, that the island was about that time annexed to the Romish See, and that the tribute under the name of *Peter's Pence* was willingly paid by some of the natives; but the morals of the great body of the nation were not improved in the smallest degree, for they still retained the same ferocious character; and for centuries after, the history of the country is stained by the perpetual repetition of enormities which disgrace human nature.

Nevertheless it ought to be acknowledged that, in consequence of the persecution which the English clergy suffered from the Saxons, that they fled to Ireland, where they found an asylum, and carried with them what little literature they possessed. It was this circumstance which caused Ireland to be called in the seventh century, "*The Island of Saints and Scholars.*"

Whilst the country was agitated by internal commotions, the chiefs engaged in mutual hostilities in order to gain the ascendancy, and the inhabitants, without restraint, were committing the most outrageous crimes, the Danes, or Ostmen, landed in Ireland. Their first landing was towards the end of the eight century, but the greatest invasion that they ever made, was in 815, under Turgis, who for nearly thirty years laid waste the country, and spread terror and desolation wherever he went. A stronger proof of the violent dissensions which then prevailed among the chiefs cannot be afforded, than their not uniting against the invader, who was equally hostile to them all. This, however, was at last effected; and when Turgis was slain, his followers were easily dispersed.

The Danes afterwards made repeated attempts to found a settlement, with various success. The most formidable opponent they had to encounter was Brian Baromy, monarch of Ireland, who, after having overcome them in many battles of inferior moment, at last, when at the advanced age of eighty-eight, engaged them on the 23d of April 1014, at Clonstaiffe, and though they were not completely driven out of the island, they were never able to maintain their superiority. Both Brian and his son Mortagh fell in the conflict.

CHAPTER III.

From the Invasion of Henry II. of England, to the Death of Richard II.

The motives which principally induced Henry to invade Ireland are imperfectly known. Many pretexts were made, in order to apologize for what seemed to be an unprovoked act of violence. It seems reasonable to presume that he was actuated by the predominant motive of all ambitious princes, the desire of extending his territory, and consequently his wealth and power. The example of the renowned Arthur and Edgar, kings of England, and the success which attended their expeditions, could not fail to cherish in his bosom the desire of adding the kingdom of Ireland to his dominions; but it was inexpedient to lay claim to it at once, or to undertake an invasion without publicly assigning some plausible reason.

Perfectly sensible that he had no just claims of his own which he could avow, he determined to shelter himself under the sanction of Papal authority; for in those days his Holiness assumed a power, universally recognised, of dethroning princes, or of conferring kingdoms upon them as he thought proper. Fortunately for the accomplishment of Henry's views, Adrian IV., an Englishman, was Pope, and at this time the English king was in great favour at the court of Rome. These circumstances, combined with the fact that the Irish had paid little or no attention to remit regularly what was called *Peter's Pence*, or a contribution of one penny levied from every house in the kingdom, were powerful recommendations for Adrian to second his ambitious project.

Accordingly, in the year 1156, a bull was obtained, and which is still in existence, "strictly charging and requiring, that all the people of Ireland do, with all humbleness, dutifulness, and honour, receive and accept you, (Henry) as their liege lord and sovereign, &c. excepting the right of the Holy Church, and the pension of Peter's Pence, &c." Though this was as ample as Henry could have desired, he nevertheless felt some difficulty in immediately acting upon it, which was increased by his affairs in France requiring his more immediate attention. A great council at Winchester had advised him to postpone his Irish designs, with which he seems to have complied; but an event happened in Ireland about 1167, which occasioned his interfering sooner than he had proposed, but gave him an opportunity of doing what he had so long wished.

The feuds of the *Irish Pentarchy*, or of the five kings of Ireland, were at this time carried to the greatest excess, principally by means of the restless ambition and profligate conduct of Dermod Mac Murchad, King of Leinster. He had violently carried off the wife of one of the neighbouring kings, and this, among other causes, determined them to unite against him. They were so successful, that he found it necessary to quit Ireland, and betake himself to the King of England, who was then at Guienne in France. He prostrated himself before the king, made every submission, and offered to swear allegiance to him as his liege lord, and to surrender to him his possessions in Ireland.

Henry received Dermod with great kindness, loaded him with presents, and (though much disposed) as he could not at present personally en-

gage in his cause, yet he gave him a general letter of recommendation, addressed to all his subjects, not only permitting them to assist him in the recovery of his land, but assuring them of his favour.

Dermod lost no time in making ample use of this letter, which he published wherever he went. The principal effect it produced was, that it, together with Dermod's liberal promises, prevailed upon Richard, Earl of Chepstow, commonly called *Strongbow*, to pledge himself to aid him next spring with a good force. Robert Fitzstephens and Maurice Fitzgerald were also persuaded to engage in Dermod's quarrel. Dermod, quite impatient, and elated with his success, departed for Ireland, where he was kindly received by the clergy. This was in winter 1169. The English kept their promise, but not accompanied with strong levies, and landed in the subsequent May, and took the town of Wexford. The King of Leinster, overjoyed at the effectual assistance which the English adventurers had rendered to him, proposed an expedition into Ossory, which was attended with similar success. Three hundred men were slain, and when their heads were brought to Dermod, the barbarian bit away the nose and lips of one of them whom he mortally hated.

Henry had prevented Strongbow from repairing to Ireland at the same time with his associates; having, however, at length obtained permission, he landed at Waterford in August 1171, with two hundred knights, and a thousand soldiers. He first took by storm the city of Waterford, when a general massacre ensued. Being now joined by Dermod and his confederates, they marched to Dublin, against whose inhabitants Dermod enter-

tained sentiments of the deepest revenge, because they had murdered his father, and, in derision, had buried him with a dog. The inhabitants were either slaughtered in the streets, or driven into the river without distinction, and only a very few effected their escape. They next directed their course to Meath, where they gave no quarter, ravaged the country, and burned and destroyed all around. Shortly after this Dermod died.

Henry viewed the successes of Strongbow with a jealous eye; he either wished to have all the reputation himself of subduing Ireland, or he was afraid that the English adventurers would join the natives, and raise a formidable opposition against the plans that he had projected. He therefore, after having recalled his subjects, visited Ireland in person; when they, as well as several native chieftains, satisfied him of their allegiance, and were taken into favour. Shortly after this he received submission from all the princes of Ireland except Ulster.

Previous to his departure, however, he called a synod at Cashel, in order that he might accomplish the object of the Pope's Bull, and fulfil its conditions. After having arranged this, he next directed his attention to such regulations as were necessary for the government of his new possessions. He distributed the lands that were surrendered among the adventurers, in different portions, on condition of their doing homage, and paying tribute; and it was at the same time enacted, that they should be governed by the English laws. These were said to be within the *Pale*. The Irish Princes, on the other hand, were to be regulated by the brehone laws and ancient customs. He

formed the territories that were acquired into shires or counties, and appointed sheriffs, with other magistrates, in imitation of what was established in England.

Henry's foreign affairs now demanded his attention; he therefore made preparation for his return to England. He went to Wexford with the design of setting sail, but the weather was so tempestuous, that he was detained there for three months. He was very unwilling to leave Ireland in so unsettled a condition; but the troubled state of affairs in England, through the murder of Becket, and the scarcity of provisions in Ireland, together with his army being infected with the plague, made him extremely anxious to take his departure. He was not so much afraid of the Irish as he was of Strongbow and his confederates; he therefore contrived to balance their power in such a manner, that they might be checks on each other. He went on board on the morning of Easter Monday, 1172, and landed in Wales in the course of the same day.

When intelligence was received in Ireland that Henry was in great difficulties, the Irish chieftains, disregarding the oath that they had taken, considered this to be a favourable opportunity to rebel, and accordingly did so. The country was again involved in all the horrors of civil war, and exhibited the most disgusting scenes of perfidy, cruelty, and murder. Henry having completely vanquished all his enemies, O'Connor, King of Connaught, and the most formidable opponent to his power in Ireland, thought proper to send three deputies to Windsor, where the King then was, to make the most ample professions of submission.

It was agreed that he should continue to possess the kingdom of Connaught, upon condition of his acknowledging Henry as his liege lord, relinquishing all claim to the English possessions, and paying tribute to him.

Upon the death of Strongbow in 1177, who may be considered as the founder of British power in Ireland, dissension began to take place among the English; they agreed however in one particular, an eager desire to extend their possessions and increase their wealth. De Courcy invaded Ulster, and De Cogan, Connaught. Both of these were in direct violation of engagements made with the King of England; but these adventurers either had received private encouragement from Henry, or openly transgressed his commands.

In the year 1185, Henry appointed his youngest son, John, Governor of Ireland, when only in his eighteenth year. The title which he assumed was *Lord of Ireland.* The Irish lords were grossly insulted by his attendants; at which they were so irritated, that they entered into a solemn league to exert themselves to the utmost to free their country from the invaders. John's mismanagement was so great, that it was found necessary to recall him, and shortly after his father, Henry, died.

Richard I. was the undisputed heir of Henry, but he was so engrossed with the crusades, that he paid no attention whatever to Ireland. John, who succeeded him on the throne of England, discovered the same imprudence in the management of Irish affairs, which he shewed in his disputes with the English barons. He removed his best servants from offices of trust, which, besides depriving him of their valuable services, was the

means of sowing dissension among those by whose exertions he retained his possessions in Ireland. Finding, however, that affairs were in a very bad state, he determined to visit Ireland a second time; which accordingly he did in 1210. Having remained for two months, he set about correcting the numerous abuses in the administration of the law which had crept in. His great object was to establish the English laws in the kingdom, and for this purpose he made a more complete division of his lands into counties, and appointed the proper officers. He caused money to be coined, according to the weight of the money of England, and made it current in both kingdoms by proclamation, which was the first Sterling money that was coined in Ireland. His extensive authority in Ireland affords a striking contrast to the restraints that were laid upon him by his English subjects.

A period of about fifty years had now elapsed since the English adventurers had settled in Ireland. Though their arrival had been the cause of much bloodshed and great commotions in the country, it is yet to be doubted whether the sum total of national misery was increased, or that it only flowed in a different channel. It cannot admit of a doubt that they introduced considerable improvements in the arts of domestic life. England was at that time in an infinitely higher degree of civilization than Ireland, and the example which the English shewed could not fail to be imitated.

Henry III. succeeded his father John, and being only ten years of age, the affairs of government were ably conducted by the earl of Pembroke, protector of England. The wisdom of his administration was most conspicuous, particularly as it re-

spected Ireland. He was the representative of Strongbow, under whose auspices the settlement had been established; so that, independently of his duty as prime minister, he had many private reasons for attempting to ameliorate the state of Ireland, in which he held so large possessions. His administration, however, was of so short continuance, that it was not to be expected very permanent effects could be produced. He renewed the *Magna Charta* of King John, and extended its benefits to the Irish colonists. A letter was also written to the lord justice or governor of Ireland, requiring him "to take the oath of fealty of the nobility of Ireland, and all others that are obliged thereto, and assuring them, they shall enjoy the same liberties in Ireland as he hath granted to his subjects in England." The death of the protector, however, put a termination to these and many other wise measures.

For many years after, and indeed during almost the whole of Henry's long reign, the affairs of Ireland presented nothing but scenes of turbulence and bloodshed. These appeared first in Connaught, and afterwards in Munster, but gradually spread throughout the kingdom, and, as usual, produced famine and disease.

Very little attention was paid to Irish affairs in the beginning of the reign of Edward I. He had been created Lord of Ireland by his father; but this was chiefly conferred upon him as a title of honour, and that he might derive emolument from the office, in order to qualify him to marry the Infanta of Spain. He was on his return from the Holy Land when his father died. The crusades—his possessions in France, where he remained more than a

year before he came to England—the reduction of Wales—his contentions with the Scots—and the care which his English affairs required,—all co-operated to withdraw his attention from Ireland. He was at little trouble to have recourse to such means as were likely to reduce them to quiet; being engaged in what he considered to be matters of far greater importance, he neglected his Irish colony.

The Irish within the *pale* had frequently presented petitions to Edward for a more equal administration of the English law, but in 1278, they offered him eight thousand marks for this benefit—a sum almost incredible, amounting to about eighty thousand pounds of our present money; but the powerful barons, afraid lest it would abridge their authority, threw obstructions in the way, and rendered the attempt ineffectual.

Sir John Wogan, a man of wisdom and discretion, had been appointed governor, and beheld with deep regret the disorders which prevailed. In consequence of his suggestion, therefore, a parliament was summoned in 1295, the first of the kind that had ever taken place in Ireland. In imitation of the English practice, writs were issued to the lords spiritual and temporal, and the sheriffs were directed to return two knights for each of the counties and liberties. This assembly was but thinly attended, yet several acts were passed which gave a temporary check to a spirit of disorder; the tranquillity, however, which it restored, was of very short duration. The wars in which Edward was engaged required constant supplies of money, and what he did collect in Ireland was never appropriated to secure the peace of the country.

The silly attachment of Edward II. to favourites, and particularly to Gavestone, is well known. This very man, however, was sent over to Ireland as governor, and in that character acquitted himself with ability in rectifying the disorders that were so prevalent, and by his vigorous measures reduced the country to quiet; but upon his being recalled, it relapsed into its former state of insubordination. Sir John Wogan, already mentioned, was appointed his successor, and had recourse to measures similar to those he had employed during his former administration; but they did not now produce equally salutary consequences.

The chief causes of the convulsed state of Ireland had arisen from the feuds among the chieftains themselves, and the warfare they had carried on with the English settlers; but now a foreign enemy appeared, who had for ages given them no disturbance: this was the Scots. The feeble Edward had imagined that he was able to make as great an impression upon the Scottish nation as his father had done; and, after having made the most formidable preparations, entered Scotland, when his army was completely routed by Robert Bruce at Bannockburn, with a force not amounting to one-third of the number. This gave confidence to Bruce's adherents; and as intelligence of so signal a victory spread rapidly, it was soon known in Ireland. The Irish chieftains looked upon it as a very favourable opportunity to get rid of Edward's authority in the country, and considered the Scots as the most likely instrument by which the English might be excluded from the possessions they had so unjustly wrested from them. The Scots were therefore invited to Ireland, and prospects very flatter-

ing to an ambitious youth were held out, if he would undertake the enterprise. These allurements were exactly such as were calculated to produce a powerful effect upon the king of Scots and his brother Edward.

Upon the promise of the crown of Ireland, Edward landed in Ulster with about six thousand Scots, and was immediately joined by the native Irish. The English settlers were put to death, their castles thrown down, and towns burned. Edward was crowned King of Ireland at Dundalk with due solemnity. His brother Robert arrived with a considerable number of forces to his assistance, but was checked in his progress by the rigours of the season, and a great dearth that prevailed. He did not remain long, but the troops that he had brought were of essential service.

After various success, a battle was fought at Dundalk, in which Edward Bruce was slain, and his army defeated. The effects of this invasion are represented to have continued for a great many years. The marching and countermarching of the forces of the rival kings reduced the country to a desert; and the wretched inhabitants, deprived of every comfort, were subjected to the most grievous calamities. The lands were deserted, and those who had occupied them either fled to England, or joined the Irish, adopting their customs, and assisting in their insurrections. In order to gain popularity, and shake themselves loose from the bondage of Edward, some of the English lords imitated their example, by using the language, and assuming the garb and manners of the natives.

After Edward II. had been compelled to resign in favour of his son, he was barbarously murdered,

when the young king was only fifteen years of age. The ceremony of appointing twelve governors of the kingdom during his minority was observed, but every thing was under the direction of Mortimer and the queen, who still continued their illicit connexion, and had been the murderers of the late king. It was not to be expected that much benefit was to accrue to Ireland during their administration; but even after the termination of Edward's minority, little regard was paid to Ireland, and the government displayed the same feebleness by which it was distinguished during the former reign. The king was intent upon the subjugation of France, and Irish affairs were quite neglected. The country was torn in pieces, not only by the insurrections of the Irish, but by the contentions and rancorous hatred that existed among the settlers themselves.

Ireland was in so agitated a state, that it was convulsed from the slightest causes; and what at another stage of civilization would have been overlooked, or at least speedily suppressed, was magnified into a most grievous burden. Nay, what had been formerly considered as a grievance, was now esteemed as a privilege; for they claimed the benefit of the English laws, which was ungenerously refused. This produced an insurrection in Leinster, which in a short time spread over the whole of that province, as well as Meath and Munster. They ravaged the settlements of the English in these quarters, and, as usual, in the course of their incursions totally forgot what had given rise to the quarrel. The enormities that were committed upon the defenceless inhabitants exceed all belief, and afford, were any necessary, most incontestible

proofs of the excessive ferociousness of the natives in that age.

The great schemes of subjugation which Edward had from time to time undertaken against the French and Scots, had impoverished the treasury, and compelled him frequently to apply for succours to his subjects; and sometimes he applied under false pretences, concealing the real object which he had in view. These, when discovered, gave great offence. Many methods were resorted to in order to correct evils, a great many of which proceeded either from the conduct of the king himself, or the injudicious management of those who were intrusted with authority. He sent over his son Lionel, afterwards duke of Clarence, that he might reform the state of the country; and when his efforts proved unavailing, what was called "the Statute of Kilkenny," was enacted, which bore almost equally hard upon the English and Irish. To such a state of degradation had every thing connected with Ireland arrived, that many refused the appointment of being made chief governor.

It was not to be expected that Edward's grandson, Richard II., who succeeded when he was only eleven years old, and as he grew up discovered little knowledge of the art of governing, could produce any great effect upon Irish affairs. In the year 1394, however, whether from vanity or from whatever motive, he visited Ireland, accompanied with a force of thirty-four thousand men. Seventy Irish chiefs made obedience to him; and this weak prince, delighted with the apparent authority he possessed, imagined that his presence had subdued the country. Upon his departure, however, fresh disturbances arose, and the stipulations to which

they had agreed were immediately broken. He returned to Ireland, and, by a series of ill-concerted schemes, found it necessary to depart for England; shortly after which he was cruelly murdered.

CHAPTER IV.

From the Accession of Henry IV. to the Death of Elizabeth.

THE means by which Henry IV. ascended the throne were so violent, and excited so many enemies in England, whose passions and interests he found it necessary to direct, in order to secure the succession to his family, that his attention was diverted from Ireland to what he conceived to be of far superior importance. His son Henry V. was so engrossed with the success he had obtained on the continent, that he hardly deigned to adopt any measures towards the amelioration of this unfortunate country. During his reign, the English maintained a footing in Ireland by paying tribute to the chieftains, which was called *black rent.*

The contentions between the houses of York and Lancaster, which had been long smothered, now began to break out, and at last, through the contempt in which Henry VI. was universally held, an open insurrection took place, which occasioned those bloody contests that engaged for many years almost all the nobility of England. Henry was compelled to resign, and Edward IV. succeeded. During these contests, the chief families in Ireland were involved in great animosities at each other. They had espoused separate interests—the Fitzgeralds favoured the faction of York, and the Butlers that of Lancaster. The earl of Ormond, the head of the latter family, was attainted and executed; and such an effect did these disputes produce, that the English influence was much diminished in Ireland, while the power of the Irish chieftains was much increased.

During the very short reigns of Edward V. and Richard III. (not amounting to three years,) nothing of any importance happened. The Geralds retained the ascendency, and the earl of Kildare was continued lord-deputy by Henry VII. Stratagems, which must appear at the present time very absurd, were resorted to in order to revive the falling claims of the house of York; and the theatre upon which these were first acted was Ireland.—Two impostors appeared, the first called *Simnel*, and the second *Warbeck*. But the wise measures adopted by Henry, together with the vigorous resistance which he made to his opponents, soon undeceived his subjects.

In the year 1494, Sir Edward Poynings was appointed lord-deputy. The most remarkable occurrence in his administration was, the enactment of the celebrated law which goes under his name. It provided, "That no parliament should thenceforth be held in Ireland, until the causes and considerations on account of which it should be convened, and the laws which might be deemed proper to be enacted by it, should be previously certified by the king and his lieutenant in council, under the great seal of Ireland." This was designed as a check upon the governors, who often summoned parliaments, and got acts passed, to serve their own private purposes.

Though Kildare had used every effort to oppose Henry's interest in Ireland, yet when sent a prisoner to London, he had the address so to ingratiate himself with the king, that he returned as deputy, and was restored to all his former dignities. The English interest revived under his administration, as indeed it did during the whole of this king's reign,

chiefly through the operation of Poyning's law, parliaments being called seldom, and only upon important occasions. From this period, therefore, may be dated the origin of the complete influence of the English monarchs in regard to Ireland.

When Henry VIII. succeeded to the throne, the wise administration of his father was abandoned, and Ireland suffered from the caprice and unsteadiness of the tyrant, as well as the rest of his other dominions. The Butlers experienced various vicissitudes of fortune; but the implacable Henry at last succeeded in putting to death the whole family, excepting Gerald, a youth of twelve years of age, who was preserved by Cardinal Pole, and afterwards regained the extensive possessions of his family.

The rise and progress of the glorious Reformation, first begun by Luther, is well known to have happened at this time. It first spread through Germany, and made many converts in England, and in most of the other European states. Henry was at first its most bitter enemy, and wrote a book against Luther, from which the kings of England are to this day called *Defenders of the Faith.* He soon, however, changed his opinion, and became the avowed protector of the new doctrine. The change which was produced in the king's mind, and was gradually spreading throughout the English nation, produced little or no effect in Ireland. They abhorred all innovations respecting religion. The native Irish had never heard of any other system than that of Popery; and as they had never been allowed to partake of the benefits of the English laws, they could not, from the grossness of their ignorance, be made to comprehend the nature

of the subjects in dispute. Henry's great object was to prevail upon them to acknowledge his being supreme head of the church, a doctrine to which he annexed an uncommon degree of value; to which they assented, after strenuous opposition. Other acts were passed in the same parliament, in imitation of what had been done in England, investing the king with the first fruits of bishoprics, abbeys, priories, colleges, and hospitals.

The Pope employed every mean in his power to prevent the operation of these acts, and succeeded so far as to induce many of the clergy rather to renounce their livings than yield compliance. The Irish chieftains, in Ulster particularly, were excited by the clergy to take up arms in defence of what they considered to be the true religion. A battle was accordingly fought at Bellahoe, in which the king's troops under Lord Grey were victorious. This execrable tyrant rewarded his zealous servant as he did all those who ever shewed any ardour to serve him—he was beheaded. The murder of this very active deputy inspired the popish chieftains with confidence; but, after making the semblance of determined opposition, they found themselves obliged to submit, and took the oaths of allegiance and supremacy. Titles of nobility were conferred upon the most eminent, in order to render them more attached to the English interest.

Upon the death of Henry, his son Edward VI. who was only nine years old, was directed by a council; and as the Irish had seized the opportunity of his minority to rebel, Edward Bellingham, a brave and experienced commander, was sent over to compel them to submission; and among other regulations, he accomplished what his predecessors

had found to be impracticable,—he prevailed upon the Irish lords to reside in Dublin, the seat of government, and thus contributed to improve them in civilization, and induced them to relinquish the rude and savage habits in which they indulged at their castles in the country.

The Reformation under Edward was of a quite different nature from that which had been adopted by Henry. Excepting the acknowledgment of his own supremacy, and the seizure of the church lands, his absurd system differed in no respect from Popery. Edward's ministers were zealous in propagating the true principles of the Reformation. A liturgy was therefore composed agreeable to those principles, and was established by act of parliament. Not only the ignorance, and consequently the prejudices of the Irish, but their unacquaintance with the language in which it was written, laid them under very great disadvantages. The clergy, who were its chief opponents, had ready access to the minds of the common people, by being well acquainted with their language; whereas the arguments of the advocates of the new system were unintelligible, from their deficiency in this respect. Religious controversy did take place in Ireland to a certain extent, but was comparatively of trifling moment.

Mary succeeded Edward. Being a bigotted papist herself, she began her reign by soothing the Irish chieftains; for which, indeed, there was no occasion, for they willingly reverted to their ancient form of religion, and hardly any other was known. Popery was established by parliament; but the same persecutions did not take place in Ireland which had shed so much blood in England.

Cole, the dean of St Paul's, arrived with a commission, as he supposed, to punish heretics; but upon opening it, he found a pack of cards, which had been substituted by the dexterity of his hostess in Chester.

When Elizabeth came to the throne, the English Protestants looked forward to their deliverer; but the same lively sensations were not nearly so prevalent in Ireland. They had suffered little or nothing, and their partialities were altogether in favour of the Popish system. The Protestant religion was, however, established by act of parliament; but this assembly was composed of delegates chosen after a different manner from that of any other that had ever met. It was composed of representatives from only ten counties, and from towns in which the royal authority was predominant. A similar plan was adopted to that which had been followed in Edward's reign, only that the bishops were to be nominated by the crown—a sure token that the clergy were not to be trusted. Considerable opposition was shewn to the queen's government, particularly in Ulster, so that in 1569 it was thought adviseable to summon a new parliament. A majority was procured in favour of government with the utmost difficulty, and after passing various laws, which solely had in view the support of Elizabeth's right to the throne, and consequently the defence of Protestantism, they were dissolved. Commotions were raised in different parts of the country; a new method was therefore suggested to allay them, which it was supposed would prove effectual. O'Neal in Ulster had given great trouble to government, and was considered as the champion of Popery; it was therefore proposed that plantations of Protestants

should be attempted in that quarter. The first that was tried was at Ards, in the county of Down, and the second at Clanhuboy, in the same county; but through mismanagement both proved abortive.

Elizabeth being considered as at the head of the Protestant interest, the other European powers looked upon her with a very jealous eye. Various invasions were suggested, chiefly from Italy and Spain, in both of which countries she was viewed with horror; and any plan, how absurd soever, to cut her off or destroy her government, was greedily listened to. In 1578, therefore, an ineffectual attempt was made to land in the county of Kerry. Some time afterwards troops were landed at the same place; but they found themselves under the necessity of surrendering, and were cruelly put to the sword.

In the year 1584, Sir John Perrot was appointed lord-deputy, a man in every respect qualified for the discharge of that important office. He published an assurance of protection to all who should return to their allegiance; he was anxious that the English law should prevail throughout the country, being persuaded that this was the only mean by which good government could be established; he appointed sheriffs, &c. and had succeeded so far as to induce the Irish chieftains to express a wish to accept of the English law, and to propose to maintain eleven hundred troops at their own expense. These salutary measures, however, were rendered abortive in consequence of the parsimony of the queen.

The affairs of Ireland continued in this wavering state for a considerable time. Divers methods were proposed, and some of them carried into effect,

when, in 1588, a report of an invasion from Spain was generally spread throughout Europe. The hopes of the favourers of the Romish church were founded upon its success; but it eventually was completely unsuccessful, for the British navy, in conjunction with the tempestuous weather which the *Spanish Armada* had to encounter, almost annihilated this armament, which was vauntingly named *Invincible.* Wherever the distressed Spaniards effected a landing in Ireland, they were received with joy. Severe punishments were inflicted upon several of the Irish chieftains who were active in favouring the invasion.

It deserves to be noticed, that it was at this time a proposal was made to erect an university in Ireland. The arrangements were not completely made till 1591, when "*The College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, near Dublin,*" was founded. It originally consisted of three fellows and three scholars; and Cecil, Queen Elizabeth's minister, was the first chancellor.

For several years after this, Ireland was the seat of tumult and rebellion. They cherished the idea that the Spaniards would return, as they had promised; and seized every pretext to oppose the queen's administration. A temporary success increased their violence, so that Elizabeth was now fully convinced that temporizing measures were of no avail. She therefore sent the earl of Essex with twenty thousand men, and invested him with full powers to bring the country under subjection. But instead of obeying the orders he had received, he was chargeable with the highest degree of misconduct; and his expedition answered no valuable purpose, and in the issue proved fatal to him.

Mountjoy and Carew succeeded Essex in the command of the queen's armies, and by their prudent conduct, compelled the Spaniards, who had landed, to surrender,—and, what was of more importance, the formidable chieftain O'Neal, earl of Tyrone, found it necessary to submit to her authority. After this submission, and having received a pardon for himself and followers, he repaired to Dublin, where news had arrived of the death of the queen.

CHAPTER V.

From the Accession of James I. to the Revolution of 1688.

NOTWITHSTANDING the peaceable dispositions of James, and the real desire he had to introduce civilization and the arts of polished life among the Irish, yet he met with considerable opposition. This chiefly arose from the influence of the Romish clergy, who were very desirous to establish Popery, and industriously spread false reports respecting the designs which the king had in view. The Romish mode of worship was pretty generally established through the provinces of Leinster and Munster, and the Protestant clergy were ejected, and the penal statutes set at defiance. By means, however, of the firm and steady, but conciliating conduct of Mountjoy, these evils were corrected. He marched into Munster at the head of the royal army, and shewed those who were ready for insurrection that he was determined to suppress them. A few were executed by martial law. He published an act of *oblivion and indemnity*, and took under his protection the whole Irish peasantry, who in general had been cruelly treated by their chieftains. His successor Chichester established sessions in Connaught, and restored the circuits of Munster, which had fallen into disuse for two centuries.

The native Irish began now to feel the benefit of being protected by the English laws, and that it was much to be preferred to the partial administration to which they had been obliged to submit under the brehones. Greater security was also conferred upon those landholders who held their pro-

perty by very uncertain tenure; for a *commission of grace* was issued, by which the estates they possessed were granted to them anew, according to the English mode. A new patent was made out for every estate.

Though they were fully aware of the security thus granted to them, yet many zealots appeared in different quarters, who, under the mask of religion, preached up sedition. James was, it must be confessed, in a considerable degree partial to the pomp of the Romish ceremonies; yet he had no idea that any apology whatever could be made for resistance to kings, who, he said, were God's vicegerents on earth. When he tried, therefore, lenient measures, and found them of no avail, he grew quite impatient. He therefore commanded, by proclamation, all the Popish clergy in Ireland to leave the kingdom within a limited time. This had the effect of putting all the recusants in motion, and they presented a petition against such severities. This happened upon the very day that information came to Dublin of the discovery of the Popish plot in 1605; and therefore subjected the Irish Papists to much suspicion, and was the cause of their being much more strictly watched, and of some of them being thrown into prison.

James discovered the utmost anxiety to reclaim them. He caused the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer to be translated into the Irish language, and enjoined the Protestant clergy to pay the most exemplary attention to the discharge of their duty. These produced only a trifling effect, so inveterate were the prejudices of the people in favour of Popery.

Meanwhile a letter was dropt by some person

unknown, in the Privy Council Chamber, communicating the information that the recusants were to attempt an insurrection upon a certain day—were to seize upon the Castle of Dublin, and put to death the lord-deputy and council. This was immediately made public, and struck with consternation both Protestants and Papists. The two leaders of the latter party, Tyrone and Tyrconnel, instantly took guilt to themselves, and made their escape to the continent, abandoning their immense estates to the crown. Some of their accomplices were tried and executed.

These repeated conspiracies and rebellions naturally directed the attention of government to the necessity of adopting some plan, by which the allegiance of the Irish might be secured. Tracts of land, containing from five to eight hundred thousand English acres, had been forfeited to the crown, in the province of Ulster alone. It was therefore resolved on, that these should be distributed among different settlers, according to circumstances. There were to be three classes. *First,* Undertakers, who were to be natives of England or Scotland, and were allowed only to take such for their tenants. *Second,* Servitors, who had served either in a civil or military capacity in Ireland. These were to be permitted to take any as tenants, excepting recusants. *Third,* Old natives, who were at liberty to take as tenants those of their own country and religion; and, by way of encouragement, the oath of allegiance was not exacted from them. Many subordinate regulations were introduced, which were much calculated to secure success to the adventure, which, however, was attended with greater difficulties than at first appeared.

In the year 1612, James determined to assemble a parliament. Such had been the distracted state of Ireland, that no parliament had been summoned for twenty-seven years, and this may be considered as the first national parliament that ever was held, because it was composed of representatives from every part of the kingdom. Party spirit ran very high between the two factions, Protestants and recusants; the greatest exertions were therefore made to obtain a majority in both houses of parliament, but the Protestant interest had the ascendency. In the Commons they had upwards of twenty of a majority, and in the Lords they had more, on account of the twenty bishops being members.

Their first meeting was riotously conducted, when they proceeded to the election of a speaker; but by the good management of the deputy and of the king himself, to whom they appealed, their subsequent conduct was more moderate.

At the same time a convocation of the clergy was held in Dublin. The chief purpose of their assembling was to frame a Confession of Faith for the Church of Ireland. The drawing up of this formulary was assigned to the celebrated Dr James Usher, afterwards archbishop of Armagh. He has been found much fault with for the high Calvinistic principles, as they are termed, which he has introduced; but it requires only a very cursory view to convince any one, that (whether the principles be true or false) they are borrowed from the Thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England, or rather, are little else than a repetition of the nine articles which were published at Lambeth, on 20th November 1555, and are generally called the Lam-

beth Articles. These were approved of by the convocation, and ratified by the deputy.

Disturbances took place in different places, partly in consequence of the severity of St John, who was now appointed deputy, but principally through the arrogant presumption of the recusants themselves, who in many places shewed plainly that nothing else than the complete restoration of the Romish hierarchy could satisfy them.

James also had projected other settlements, similar to those of Ulster, in the West of Ireland, but death prevented him from carrying them into execution. Upon the whole, his schemes for the amelioration of the condition of the Irish were judicious, and certainly produced many beneficial consequences.

When the obstinate and infatuated Charles I. ascended the throne, violent enmity existed between the different sects in Ireland. The pope had not been an inattentive spectator of the struggles which his abettors had made to maintain and establish his spiritual authority. He therefore absolved them from the oaths they had taken, and openly declared that it was their duty, as true sons of the church, rather to suffer death than take the oath of supremacy, by which he said "*the sceptre of the Catholic church was wrested from the hand of the Vicar of God Almighty.*" Many of the Protestant clergy had imbibed the sentiments of the Presbyterians, and held in utter abhorrence the peculiar doctrines of the church of Rome; and, at the same time, considered Episcopacy as little better than the image of the beast.

Charles, at his accession, found himself engaged in a war with Spain; and afraid lest an attack

should be made upon Ireland from that quarter, he augmented the number of forces in the country for its defence. Having no money to support these troops, according to his accustomed arbitrary manner, he quartered them upon the towns and counties, requiring the inhabitants to supply them with necessaries, &c. for three months. In order to pacify all parties, he held out that he was to bestow *royal graces*, which would more than indemnify them for the expense to which they were put on the present occasion; and to give it the air of being seriously intended to be fulfilled, he promised to summon a parliament, who should ratify the stipulations he had made. A parliament was accordingly summoned for a particular day; but as there was no certification of *the causes and considerations* for which it was called, in terms of Poyning's law, the writs were illegal.

The contributions, nevertheless, were punctually paid by the recusants, who claimed great merit for doing so, and immediately proceeded to celebrate the Romish worship in the most solemn manner; they seized on churches, and founded an university in the capital. The deputy, conceiving that such behaviour was carrying matters with too high a hand, issued a proclamation, commanding them, in the king's name, "to forbear the exercise of their Popish rites and ceremonies." This was designed rather as a matter of form than any thing else, but it gave great offence to the recusants; and it was found expedient to recall the deputy, in whose place two lords justices were appointed, who in their private sentiments were very hostile to Popery.

Without consulting the king, therefore, they en-

joined the most strict compliance with what indeed was the law, viz. a regular attendance upon public worship. This, however, was disapproved of by the king; and upon receiving intelligence of this, the recusants indulged in immoderate joy,—and Carmelites, Jesuits, and Friars, publicly, even in the streets of Dublin, performed their religious rites, and preached sedition. Upon attempting to disperse them, the friars and their votaries put to flight the king's troops. The English government, however, ordered fifteen religious houses to be seized for the king's use, and gave the Romish college to the University of Dublin.

Wentworth, better known by the name of Lord Strafford, was appointed chief governor in 1633. He was a tool quite to the king's mind, and he conducted himself in a very arrogant manner. His chief object was to procure money to fill the empty coffers of the king. To prevail upon both factions to contribute liberally, he held out to the one, that the penal statutes would be enforced; and to the other, that he would be under the necessity of tolerating their opponents, if they were parsimonious.

His behaviour to both houses of parliament was insolent in the extreme; yet he found all parties sufficiently compliant, for very large supplies were voted. Whenever it suited his purpose, he broke through solemn engagements into which the king had entered, and had recourse to acts of an exceedingly arbitrary nature; and in most, if not all of these, he was encouraged by his royal master.

The administration of Wentworth, however, is entitled to considerable praise. It was severe, and in many respects unjust; but it was vigilant. He

sanctioned the introduction of the English law into Ireland, encouraged trade and manufactures—and in particular, may be considered as the author of the linen trade, which has been the source of so great wealth, and is the staple commodity of the country. The melancholy fate of this zealous servant is well known;—he was beheaded on Tower Hill.

The severe measures pursued by the king, in time produced what has been called the Rebellion of 1641. The state of the Irish nation had been greatly improved under James, and much progress had been made to ameliorate their condition; but the great cause of almost all the dissensions which have ever convulsed Ireland, has been the difference in regard to religion which has prevailed, and has never been altogether separated from politics. The recusants had been long dissatisfied with the insincerity of Charles, and projected resistance to his government; but were never able to unite in that hearty co-operation which is necessary to carry into effect great designs.

The contrivers of the plot, and the leading men who carried it into execution, were in general persons of disappointed hopes—of desperate fortune—and who considered themselves as aggrieved, by the estates which their ancestors possessed being wrested from them and conferred upon Englishmen. They were all zealous Papists, and pretended that the establishment of the power of the Pope was one chief cause of the insurrection.

The day on which this conspiracy was to take effect was fixed to be upon the 5th of October 1641; but when it arrived, it was found that several unforeseen circumstances had occurred, which

rendered a short delay indispensable. It was therefore resolved that it should not take place till the 23d. So infatuated was his majesty's government, that during the time that the conspirators were indefatigable in their exertions, and held very frequent consultations in order to bring their plans to maturity, no regard was paid to the information communicated from various quarters, that an insurrection was in contemplation.

It was not till the evening of the 22d, that the lords-justices, Parsons and Borlace, received information upon which they could rely; and even then the measures they adopted were far from being vigorous, or such as the urgency of the case demanded. Hugh M'Mahon, one of the conspirators, intrusted one O'Conolly, an Irishman, but who had been bred a Protestant, with what was to take place upon the subsequent day. Both had drunk to excess; and O'Conolly in that state repaired to Sir William Parsons, and revealed all he knew. The justice seeing him intoxicated, was not disposed to pay much regard to the information he had received; but upon reflection he became alarmed, and sent for his colleague Borlace. O'Conolly was allowed to take some sleep, and was then brought before the privy council, and gave a distinct narrative of the whole plot. But so infatuated were they, that they seized upon none of the conspirators till five o'clock next morning, during which time some of the principal instigators had fled.

The Castle of Dublin was thus protected from being taken by surprise, and a proclamation issued, giving public notification of the discovery that had been made. Information was also received of the

commencement of rebellion in the North. The Protestants were in a dreadful state of alarm; and many of the English, notwithstanding the unfavourableness of the season, preferred the hazard of a sea voyage to the horrors of a civil war.

Leinster and Munster were kept quiet for some time, principally through the influence of the loyalists who resided in those parts of the country; but in Ulster the most cruel massacres were committed, chiefly through the savage brutality of Sir Phelim O'Nial. It ought at the same time to be confessed, that Protestants, who were the sufferers, through the irritation of their feelings, retaliated with signal acts of vengeance.

The king being at variance with his English parliament, could render them no assistance himself; but he applied to them, and recommended Ireland to their protection. They appeared to enter warmly into the business; but this only furnished an opportunity for procuring arms, which they were to turn against the king himself. The rebellion spread rapidly, and in due time the Roman Catholics within the pale joined them. Many towns were besieged, and skirmishes took place.

Those within the pale, however, began to view their rashness in its proper light; they saw that no dependance could be placed upon those with whom they had connected themselves, and therefore solicited the protection of government. This was positively refused, and orders were given to send them prisoners to Dublin. The evident design of this was, that the number of forfeitures might be increased by preventing others from submitting.

The manner in which the war was carried on was shocking in the extreme; the worst passions

of human nature were called into action, and the country was reduced to a similar state of barbarism as it was when the English first invaded it. No battle of sufficient consequence had been fought to give a decided superiority to the one party over the other, and both seem to have been heartily tired of it. The rebels were so dispirited from the want of every kind of supplies, that they resolved in council to abandon the cause as desperate, and seek for a place of safety abroad. When they had relinquished all hope of ever being able to retrieve their affairs, they received intelligence of the arrival of Owen O'Neal in the county of Donegal, with a hundred officers, and a supply of arms and ammunition, from Dunkirk. This communicated new life to the rebels; and O'Neal, who had seen a great deal of service abroad, and in whose abilities they had great confidence, now assumed the command, and superseded his kinsman Sir Phelim. He was allowed to adopt any measures he thought proper for his own defence. Neither the Scottish nor the English armies gave him the least molestation, which, for want of supplies, were exposed to the miseries of cold and famine.

The royal troops being thus discouraged, permitted the rebels to increase their forces in every province. They received warlike stores from France; and having captured several English vessels loaded with provisions, they were much better supplied than the army of government.

The rebels now became sensible that their warfare had been too desultory, and that they had not acted with that unanimity or with that co-operation which was necessary to ensure success. It was therefore proposed that a general convention

of the whole nation should meet at Kilkenny in the month of October. One of the first resolutions of this meeting was to defend the rights of the Catholic church, in terms of the great charter, and to accept of the law of England and statutes of Ireland, in as far as they did not interfere with the Roman Catholic religion. They appointed subordinate courts in the different counties; and a council of twenty-four persons was chosen, which was called "*The Supreme Council of the Confederate Catholics of Ireland.*" Ample powers were committed to them over every thing connected with the general interest, both civil and military; and to annex greater consequence to the institution, a guard of five hundred foot and two hundred horse was assigned to them. They professed allegiance to the king, but protested against the Irish government, which, they said, was directed by a *malignant party.*

The divisions which existed among the English had the effect of uniting the Irish more closely, and of giving them greater confidence. An open rupture had taken place between the king and the parliament, and the English nation were divided between the two; and as it was easily perceived that the sword must ultimately determine the subjects under dispute, it became an object of the first importance to gain over the Irish army. Ormond, who commanded the army, was sincerely attached to the king's interests; the parliament were on that account the more assiduous in throwing obstacles in his way. They sent over two of their own number to Dublin, who, in concert with the lords justices, were to thwart all his measures; and this they did effectually, by preventing infor-

mation from being communicated either to the king or to the parliament.

Diverse negotiations were begun between Ormond and the insurgents. They urged much the necessity of a new parliament; but this was what he could by no means comply with; as they had the greater number of the counties and towns in their power, it was certain that they could secure a majority in their favour. The arms of the confederates were almost every where successful; on the other hand, the king's affairs were in a very critical state, and it was difficult to say in what part of the empire they presented the most unprosperous appearance. An armistice, therefore, was absolutely necessary for the situation of his affairs. After an incredible number of negotiations, in which the king, the confederates, the Scots, and the English parliament, all bore a part, a peace was concluded between the king and the general assembly of the confederates, upon the 28th of March 1646. In the issue, however, it gave satisfaction to none of the parties, for it was utterly impossible for either to fulfil the conditions upon the supposition that they were sincere in their professions.

What induced the king to be so eager for a treaty with the confederates, was the idea that they could be of the most essential service to his cause in England against the parliament. They had engaged to assist him with 10,000 men, and seem to have been really in earnest to perform this part of the treaty; but an event happened which disconcerted the whole plan that had been agreed on. The king, after the unfortunate battle of Naseby, afraid of being taken prisoner by the vic-

torious army of Fairfax, in an evil hour surrendered himself up to the Scots at Newark, though they had been always hostile to him. It was thought that the king's interest could be more effectually promoted by opposing the army of the parliament in Ireland at the present juncture. They were eager to testify their loyalty to Charles, though, in consequence of untoward events, they had not been sent in time to relieve Chester, as was intended, which was now in the possession of the parliamentary forces, and any attempt to stop their progress in England seemed to be altogether vain.

The pope had sent a nuncio to Ireland to watch over the interests of the church. This man's zeal was excessive, and, as has been too common with his order, imagined that he was serving his master most essentially when he was urging the adoption of very violent measures. The clergy warmly espoused his sentiments, and delighted in the disorder which prevailed, imagining that the complete overthrow of the established Protestant church was an indispensible preliminary to the exaltation of their own. The treaty was condemned by these fanatics in the most unqualified and outrageous terms, and excommunication was pronounced against all who promoted it.

The nuncio had the influence to dissolve the confederacy, and by his own authority directed the military movements of the forces. The leaders of the army became jealous of each other's power, which at last extended to the armies they commanded; so that their exertions being distracted, they did not produce the effect they might otherwise have done.

After various attempts at negotiation with both parties, the Marquis of Ormond, who remained the faithful servant of the king, clearly saw that hopes of accommodating matters with the Irish were no longer to be entertained, he consequently resigned his authority into the hands of the English parliament. Shortly after he embarked for England, and landed at Bristol.

The commissioners of parliament interdicted the use of the liturgy, and discovered as great a spirit of intolerance as that which they so much reprobated in the Papists.

The confederates now began to quarrel among themselves. The violence of the nuncio gave offence to the more moderate, and mutual recriminations were not only made, for they waged war on one another. Ormond found that he could not remain long in England, and therefore retired to France, from whence he returned to Ireland, and embarked in the royal cause with as great eagerness as ever. When it was known that the English army had demanded that the king should be brought to justice, Ormond found little difficulty in concluding a treaty with the confederates upon his own terms; but before the treaty reached London, the ill-fated Charles had been tried, and suffered by the hands of the executioner. When this intelligence was brought to Ireland, Ormond proclaimed the Prince of Wales king, under the name of Charles II. in every place to which his authority extended. This public spirited nobleman exerted himself zealously in favour of the young king, but his efforts were far from being accompanied with success.

The independents had succeeded in gaining the

ascendancy over the Presbyterians, and among the former, that extraordinary man, Oliver Cromwell, had already risen into the first notice. He was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and was, besides, invested with the command of the forces that were allotted for the reduction of the royalists in that country. Having landed in Dublin with a sufficient force, money, and all other necessaries of war, he stormed Drogheda; and notwithstanding the gallant resistance which was made by the garrison, he put them all to the sword, "to save," as he hypocritically expressed it, "the effusion of human blood!"—Shocking as Cromwell's conduct doubtless was, it cannot be denied that it did so—for almost all the fortified cities opened their gates at his approach. The state of affairs in England required Cromwell's presence. After having been in Ireland only about nine months, he embarked at Youghall, on the 29th of May 1650, and left the command of the army with his son-in-law, Ireton.

Ireton was sufficiently successful; and Ormond, who had received great cause of disgust from all parties, retired to France, having left Clanricarde as his deputy. The rebellion was at length subdued; the forfeited lands were bestowed upon the soldiery, and many were executed for the opposition they had made to the parliament.

Cromwell meanwhile was making rapid strides to supreme power, and having the military on his side, he was declared, by a council of officers, *Protector* of the three kingdoms. Such opposition was made to him in Ireland, that there was only a majority of one in favour of proclaiming him. Being disgusted at the commissioners on this account, he put a period to their authority, and de-

clared Fleetwood lord-deputy for three years. His son, Henry, was afterwards appointed Fleetwood's successor; and it is universally agreed, that his administration was exceedingly acceptable to all parties, even to the native Irish themselves. Cromwell died on the 3d of September 1658, of a tertian ague, in the 59th year of his age. His son, Richard, was appointed his successor; but, disliking the office, he voluntarily resigned it, when Charles II. was restored to the throne of his ancestors, and hailed by all classes of the people.

Charles had a very delicate part to act. The disturbances had been so great and of so long continuance in Ireland, that the changes respecting property had frequently taken place, and the claimants for justice were exceedingly numerous. The prudence and firmness of Ormond, who was now appointed lord lieutenant, prevented matters from being carried to that extremity to which they were tending. Charles tried the experiment, (in compliance with his ministers,) of appointing other lieutenants in the place of this virtuous man, but he found that he was best served by him, and he accordingly held that office when Charles died in 1685.

James II., an avowed papist, succeeded his brother, and made many very fair professions, "that he would preserve the government in church and state, and the rights and liberties of the nation;" but he was not long before he shewed what his designs were. He went publicly to mass the second Sunday after his succession; and shortly after the Protestants became seriously alarmed, not only for their property, but their lives; and an order was issued to disarm the militia, which con-

sisted entirely of Protestants that had been formed by the duke of Ormond. This was succeeded by a commission given to Richard Talbot, lately created earl of Tyrconnel, a noted Papist, and whose brother was a Jesuit, empowering him to command and regulate the army independently of the lord lieutenant. He also brought orders for the admission of Roman Catholics into corporations, and the offices of sheriffs and justices of the peace; and at last, on some pretence of misconduct in office, Clarendon was dismissed, and this bigot was appointed lord-deputy. He dismissed from the army 300 officers and 4000 privates, solely because they were Protestants, and the latter he stripped even to their clothes. So great was the general terror that prevailed, that when Clarendon, the lord lieutenant, returned to England, he was accompanied by 1500 Protestant families from Dublin alone. The crown-lawyers were removed to give place to Papists—the corporations were new modelled—and the university had come to the determination of converting their plate into money, and had actually put it on board of a vessel to get it sold in England. This was prevented by Tyrconnel; and he would have appropriated the whole to his own private emolument, had not Nagle (a creature of his own), the attorney-general, represented to him the dangerous consequences that would ensue. In short, the great object was to promote what was supposed to be the cause of Popery, and to accumulate as much wealth as possible at the expense of the Protestants.

The violent manner in which the Roman Catholics conducted themselves, brought matters to a crisis: the Protestants, who were in despair, applied to William, prince of Orange, son-in-law to the

king, to rescue them from approaching destruction, and made him an offer of the British throne. This politic prince, seeing that James was hated by his subjects, and that he had every chance of succeeding in the enterprise, determined to assist them; and, collecting an army, he landed unexpectedly at Torbay, and advanced to London without opposition. Almost the whole country had flocked to the standard of William, whose court became the centre round which all the friends of liberty rallied, and James, finding himself deserted, first by the nobility, then by his favourites and children, and having previously sent his queen over to France, abdicated the throne, and fled to the Continent.

However, the authority of James was still acknowledged in Ireland, and having procured succours from the court of France, he embarked at Brest, and landed at Kinsale on the 22d of May. This infatuated prince soon after made his public entry into Dublin, where he was received with acclamations of joy by the populace, and having published a few proclamations against the prince of Orange, he then directed his attention to Derry.

The city of Derry, or Londonderry, was considered by the Protestants of the north as the safest place of retreat; numbers of them had repaired there to escape the tyranny of the leaders of government; and the troops of Tyrconnel had been foiled in their attempt to gain possession of the town. James laid siege to this place; but after a lapse of four months, during which the inhabitants suffered every species of misery and privation, he was obliged to raise it, and return to Dublin, where he assembled a parliament of his own creatures, and passed the most arbitrary acts.

Many occurrences had taken place to prevent the prince of Orange from sending that assistance to Ireland which he so much desired, and the army of Schomberg, which had arrived in the north, of whose success the most brilliant expectations had been formed, was so infected by disease, that more than two-thirds died. In this state of affairs, William determined to conduct the war in person, and having sent over a reinforcement and necessaries for the army, he followed soon after, attended by prince George of Denmark, and several other persons of distinction. He landed at Carrickfergus, and immediately collecting his forces, led them against the army of James, which lay near Drogheda, on the banks of the Boyne.

It was upon the opposite sides of the river that both armies came in sight of each other, inflamed with all the animosities arising from religion, hatred, and revenge. The river Boyne at this place was not so deep but that men might wade over on foot; however, the banks were rugged, and rendered dangerous by old houses and ditches, which served to defend the latent enemy. William, who now headed the Protestant army, had no sooner arrived, but he rode along the side of the river in sight of both armies, to make proper observations upon the plan of battle; but, in the mean time, being perceived by the enemy, a cannon was privately brought out, and planted against him where he was sitting. The shot killed several of his followers, and he himself was wounded in the shoulder.

Early the next morning, at six o'clock, king William gave orders to force a passage over the river. This the army undertook in three different

places; and after a furious cannonading, the battle began with unusual vigour. The Irish troops, though reckoned the best in Europe abroad, have always fought indifferently at home. After an obstinate resistance, they fled with precipitation, leaving the French and Swiss regiments, who came to their assistance, to make the best retreat they could. William led on his horse in person; and contributed, by his activity and vigilance, to secure the victory. James was not in the battle, but stood aloof during the action, on the hill of Dunmore, surrounded with some squadrons of horse; and at intervals was heard to exclaim, when he saw his own troops repulsing those of the enemy, —"O spare my English subjects!"

The Irish lost about fifteen hundred men, and the Protestants about one third of that number. The victory was splendid, and almost decisive; but the death of the duke of Schomberg, who was shot as he was crossing the water, seemed to outweigh the whole loss sustained by the enemy.

The last battle fought in favour of James was at Aughrim. The enemy fought with surprising fury, and the horse were several times repulsed; but the English, wading through the middle of a bog up to the waist in mud, and rallying with some difficulty on the firm ground on the other side, renewed the combat with great fury. St Ruth, the Irish general, being killed by a cannon ball, his fate so dispirited his troops, that they gave way on all sides, and retreated to Limerick, where they resolved to make a final stand, after having lost above five thousand of the flower of their army. Limerick, the last retreat of the Irish forces, made a brave defence; but soon seeing the enemy, advanced

within ten paces of the bridge-foot, and perceiving themselves surrounded on all sides, they determined to capitulate; a negotiation was immediately begun, and hostilities ceased on both sides. The Roman Catholics, by this capitulation, were restored to the enjoyment of those liberties in the exercise of their religion which they had possessed in the reign of king Charles the Second. All persons were indulged with free leave to remove with their families and effects to any other country except England and Scotland. In consequence of this, above fourteen thousand of those who had fought for king James went over into France, having transports provided by government for conveying them thither.

James was now reduced to the lowest ebb of despondence; his designs upon England were quite frustrated, so that nothing was left his friends but the hopes of assassinating the monarch on the throne. These base attempts, as barbarous as they were useless, were not entirely disagreeable to the temper of James. It is said he encouraged and proposed them; but they all proved unserviceable to his cause, and only ended in the destruction of the undertakers. From that time till he died, which was about seven years, he continued to reside at St Germains, a pensioner on the bounties of Lewis, and assisted by occasional liberalities from his daughter and friends in England. He died on the sixteenth day of September, 1700, after having laboured under a tedious sickness; and many miracles, as the people thought, were wrought at his tomb. Indeed, the latter part of his life was calculated to inspire the superstitious with reverence for his piety. He subjected himself to

acts of uncommon penance and mortification. He frequently visited the poor monks of La Trappe, who were edified by his humble and pious deportment. His pride and arbitrary temper seemed to have vanished with his greatness; he became affable, kind, and easy to all his dependants; and in his last illness conjured his son to prefer religion to every worldly advantage, a counsel which that prince strictly obeyed. He died with great marks of devotion, and was interred, at his own request, in the church of the English Benedictines at Paris, without any funeral solemnity.

CHAPTER VI.

From the Revolution of 1688, *to the present Time.*

IRELAND, which had been for ages the seat of war and tumult, was now restored to peace; and though attempts were made from time to time to interrupt that quiet by a foreign enemy, yet they never were successful. William was busily occupied in doing as much for the benefit of the country as the complicated nature of its affairs would permit. He gave way, however, to the prejudices of the English, respecting the woollen manufacture, which he was the means of destroying; but, instead of it, he encouraged the manufacture of hemp and linen. William died in 1701, in consequence of a contusion he received by a fall from his horse.

During the reign of his successor, Queen Anne, very little occurred which deserves to be particularly mentioned. A bill against the further growth of Popery was passed, which may be considered fully as much in a political as in a religious light. It was chiefly directed against the favourers of the Stuart family, who were hence called *Jacobites*. The penal statutes also bore very hard upon the Catholics. They were disqualified from serving as members of parliament, &c. and other clauses were introduced which have occasioned great contention since. Towards the end of her reign, the queen was entirely under the direction of the Tories, whose object appears to have been to introduce the exiled family. A bill, however, had been brought

into parliament similar to what was passed in England, which settled the succession in the House of Hanover.

George I. elector of Hanover, succeeded to the crown on the death of Anne, which happened in 1714. He was strongly attached to the Whigs; and though a rebellion broke out in Scotland and the north of England, yet Ireland remained quiet and undisturbed. In the reign of his son, George II., the Catholics were deprived of their elective franchise—the English ministry entertaining strong suspicions of their allegiance. During the rebellion of 1745, no attempt was made to join in it. The only instance of an invasion since the revolution, was that attempted by Thurst at Carrickfergus, in February 1760. It occasioned considerable alarm in the north of Ireland; but in an engagement off the Isle of Man, the commander of the French squadron was killed, and three frigates taken.

Peace with France was soon ratified after the accession of his present majesty, George III. The oppression, however, under which the nation groaned, gave rise to insubordination, and in various parts of the country associations contrary to law, under different names, were formed. The first was called "White-boys," (from wearing a shirt over their clothes,) and appeared in the south of Ireland in 1762. Their vengeance was directed against tithe-procters and others, upon whom they inflicted the most barbarous punishments. They drove down fences, houghed cattle, &c. but were soon subdued by the military, and many suffered the sentence of the law.

In the course of the subsequent year, another association made its appearance in Ulster, compos-

ed entirely of Protestants, as the former was of Roman Catholics. These were called "Hearts of Oak," from wearing boughs of oak in their hats. Their object was to resist labouring at the high roads, in terms of the act of parliament. They began to attempt to reform what they esteemed to be other grievances; but the presence of the military put a stop to their excesses, and the obnoxious act was repealed.

In 1768, a bill was passed for octennial parliaments, which previous to that time had generally lasted during the life of the king.

Another insurrection took place in Ulster, called "Hearts of Steel," in 1773. A plan had been introduced of giving no leases to land without a heavy fine and high fees to the agent. The old possessors were enraged at this—they maimed the cattle of the new tenants, and committed other outrages.

The American war was equally injurious to Ireland as to Great Britain. Irish linens, to a very large amount, had been annually exported to America. This market was of course shut, which bore very hard upon a most industrious class of the community.

When hostilities commenced between France and Great Britain in 1778, in consequence of the former having joined the Americans, the Irish were alarmed by the prospect of an invasion. As the number of military in the country was by no means adequate to its defence, a great many persons *voluntarily* associated themselves for this purpose, and were hence called *Volunteers*. It was under the auspices of this body that the independence of Ireland was secured, and the laws which had been

passed by the British legislature, respecting its dependence, were repealed.

The history of Ireland at this period is identified with that of England. Attempts were made to procure a reform in parliament. The British and the Irish parliaments differed essentially upon one important point—the regency bill. When his majesty was seized with an illness which rendered him incapable of discharging the duties of royalty, it was proposed in the British parliament to make the prince of Wales regent under certain restrictions, whereas in Ireland he was requested to take upon him the government of the kingdom without any limitations whatever. The recovery of the king, however, put an end to these discussions.

The French revolution produced a considerably greater sensation in Ireland than in Britain. It gave rise to a society that called themselves *United Irishmen.* Whatever might have been their original intention, it cannot be denied, that a total subversion of the Irish constitution was what they latterly aimed at. They raised insurrections in various parts of the country, which were the cause of much blood being shed. They invited the French to their assistance, and general Humbert effected a landing at Killala in the county of Mayo, on the 22d of August, 1798, with an army of 1100 men. The garrison of Killala, only fifty in number, fled, after a vain attempt to oppose the entrance of the French vanguard. On the following day, Ballina, seven miles to the south of Killala, surrendered to the French force. A royal army, more than sufficent in appearance, was quickly assembled at the point of attack. With great expedition generals Hutchinson and Lake arrived at Castlebar; intelli-

gence soon after arrived of the enemy's approach, and the army was drawn to an advantageous position between the town and the advancing French, who appeared at the distance of two miles from Castlebar, at seven o'clock on the morning of the 27th. Humbert's force consisted of 800 men, with two curricle guns, and about 1000 Irish peasants; the French officers ordered their men to file to the right and left, and advance in small bodies under cover of the smoke, to assail the foe in flank. Seized with a strange panic, the royal army shrunk from the assault, broke on all sides, and fled through the town in extreme confusion.

The marquis Cornwallis had determined to march in person against the invaders. On the 26th of August he arrived with his army at Philipstown, and on the succeeding day at Kilbeggan, having advanced forty-four miles in two days by the grand canal. On the 4th of September he arrived at Hollymount, whence he was preparing to march to the attack of the French at Castlebar; but received information that the enemy had abandoned that post, and had directed their course to Foxford.

Humbert having ordered the troops left at Killala to repair to the main body, commenced a rapid march early in the morning of the 4th of September, from Catslebar, through Foxford toward Sligo. In the meantime, colonel Crawford, with a body of troops, supported by another under general Lake, hung upon their rear; general Moore, with a third, observed their motions at a greater distance; while lord Cornwallis, with the chief army, moved nearly in a parallel direction from Holymount, through Clare and Ballyhaunis, toward Carrick-on-Shannon. Pursued by such forces from

behind, the French leader found himself also opposed in front by another army. Colonel Vereker, of the city of Limerick militia, had marched from Sligo for that purpose, with 330 men and two curricle guns. He met and fought the hostile troops when they had passed the town of Coloony on the 5th of September. The colonel, supposing himself engaged with the vanguard only of the French, pressed with eagerness for the victory before the main body should arrive to its relief. Humbert, conceiving the colonel's force to be the vanguard of a great army, attempted only to repulse, not to surround it. Vereker, after a battle of about an hour, was obliged to retreat, with the loss of his artillery, to Sligo, whence he withdrew with his little army to Ballyshannon.

Humbert now directed his march by Drumahair toward Manorhamilton, in the county of Leitrim; crossing the Shannon at Ballintra, he arrived at Ballynamuck on the 8th of September, so closely pursued, that his rear-guard had been unable to break the bridge at Ballintra, while the viceroy, with the grand army, crossing the same river at Carrick-on-Shannon, marched by Mohill to St Johnstown, in the county of Longford, to intercept him in front in his way to Granard. This movement reduced him to such a situation, that if he should proceed, he must inevitably be surrounded by near 30,000 British forces. In this situation Humbert arranged his forces. The rear-guard was attacked by Crawford, and about two hundred laid down their arms; the rest continued a defence for above half an hour, but on the approach of the main body of Lake's army, surrendered also. Excluded from quarter, the rebel auxiliaries fled in all directions.

While the French were marching from Castlebar, the conspiracy had been embraced by multitudes in the neighbouring counties, particularly Longford. Their plan was to rise round Granard, to seize that post, and thence to attack the town of Cavan, where lay deposited stores of arms and ammunition. They would have surprised the former on the 5th of September, if captain Cottingham had not arrived for its defence by a rapid march from Cavan. With 200 yeomen, he withstood the attack of between 2 and 3000 rebels five hours, and defeated them with the loss of 400 men; while of the royal army not one was killed, and only two slightly wounded.

A large body still persevered in rebellion in the county of Mayo. No part of the royal forces arrived in the neighbourhood of Killala till the 22d of September, when, after some discharges of cannon and musketry, the rebel garrison at Ballina, with a French officer, its commander, fled to the former town, the only post remaining. The royal troops, amounting to twelve hundred, with five pieces of artillery, advanced to assail Killala in two columns by different roads. The rebels, thus surrounded, and driven from their post by a flanking fire, fled in various directions.

The army of Humbert had been intended only as the vanguard of a more formidable force. A brig from France arrived in the isle of Rutland, in the county of Donegall, on the 16th of September, and landed its crew. Among these was James Napper Tandy, bearing the title of general of brigade in the French service. Informed of the surrendry of Humbert's troops, they re-embarked.

The principal French armament at length ap-

peared on the 11th of October, near the coast of Donegall; consisting of one ship of the line, and eight frigates, with above 4000 soldiers. Prevented from landing, pursued, and on the next day overtaken by the British fleet of Sir John Borlase Warren, the ship of the line was taken, and six of the frigates which made sail to escape were captured in the chase. Another squadron of three frigates, with 2000 troops, destined to co-operate with the former, anchored in the bay of Killala on the 27th of the same month, but on the appearance of some hostile ships, set sail with precipitation, and escaped pursuit, and shortly after the country was restored to order.

A bill passed both the British and Irish legislatures, incorporating the two kingdoms. Ireland was to send one hundred commoners, four prelates, and twenty-eight temporal peers; the revenue to be levied off Ireland was fixed at two-seventeenths for the next following twenty-years, and the Union to commence upon the 1st of January 1801.

The war with France, which had commenced in 1793, was terminated by the peace of Amiens; but this was of very short duration, and war was again renewed. In 1814, Bonaparte felt himself under the necessity of submitting to the allied powers, and was allowed to retire to the Island of Elba, from whence he returned in 1815, but was completely routed at Waterloo by the army under the duke of Wellington.

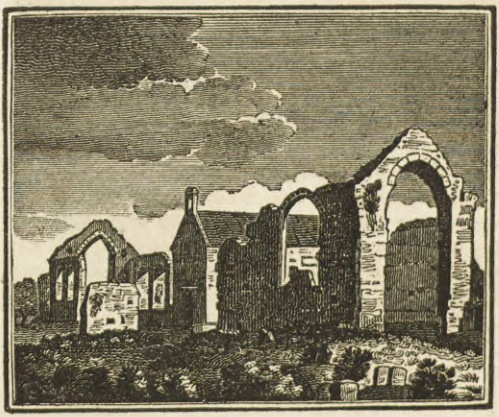
In 1817, the princess Charlotte of Wales, presumptive heir to the crown, died in childbed; and in November 1818, queen Charlotte died, having lived with her royal consort for the very long period of fifty-eight years.

APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

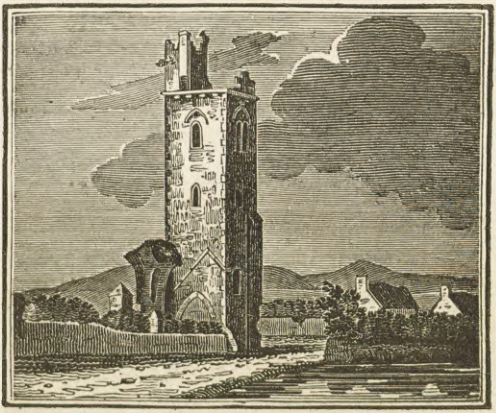
Views, accompanied with Descriptions, of some of the most remarkable Edifices of Antiquity in that Country.

TARAH CHURCH.



THE Church of Tarah is a vicarage in the diocese of Meath, famed only as being connected with the hill of Tarah, so celebrated in the fictions of the Irish bards.

TOWER OF DUNDALK.



The ancient town of Dundalk, which is situate on the Irish Channel, has a bay and harbour; and was at one period so well fortified, that almost all the buildings were castles and towers. These fortifications were necessary in order to protect the English colonists, for this was the extremity of the English jurisdiction.

There were two monastic buildings erected here, the one for Crossbearers, founded by Bertram de Verdun, about the end of Henry II.'s reign, which was afterwards converted into an hospital; the other, called the Gray-friary, was built by John de Verdun in the reign of Henry III., the east window of which was much admired for its curious and elegant workmanship. The tower, a view of

which is here given, formed a part of that building, and is a square battlemented steeple in good repair. In the side there is a fine Gothic window, with a projecting stone over it, cut into a grotesque head, the terminations of the arch, which are similarly ornamented.

ST MARY'S CHAPEL.

This view of St Mary's Chapel, or church, was drawn by Cockings, in 1791. The castle of Drogheda stands in the church-yard, of which there is little remaining except some mouldering walls. The chapel is entire, and probably belonged in former ages to the castle, or was formed out of part of its ruins.

FERNS CASTLE.

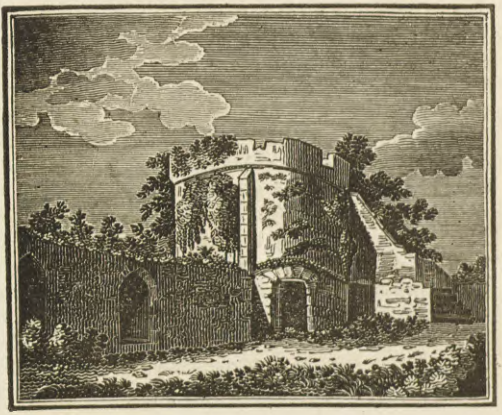
The above view was taken from an original drawing by Barralet, in the collection of the Right Hon. William Conyngham.

This castle was constructed about 1176, by the first English adventurers. In 1312, by the treachery of Adam de Northampton, bishop of Ferns, the Scots and Irish burnt and destroyed the town and castle. For this a writ was issued against him by Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, and justice of Ireland, ordering his arrest, for adhering to Edward Bruce, and his brother, Robert Bruce, and furnishing them with provisions, arms, and men.

The castle stands on an eminence in the town: it appears to have been a square, flanked with towers—one is entire, and half of another. The entire tower is thus constructed: three quarters of

its height, beginning from the ground, is of small stones of all sizes—the next three quarters are larger—and the upper of hewn-stone. This tower among other apartments, has a beautiful chapel, the groining of which springs from consoles; the floor is gone. The room over it is arched, and the edges of the stones of the long loop-holed windows have been rounded, as if for embrazures for light artillery.

CASTLE OF KILKENNY.



This view was taken from an original drawing, by J. G. Brien, in the collection of the Right Hon. William Conyingham.

Richard Strongbow married the daughter of the king of Leinster, by whom he obtained possession of a great part of that province, and had his right confirmed by Henry II. In 1173, being then ap-

pointed Lord Justice of Ireland, he laid the foundation of a castle in Kilkenny; but he had scarcely got it finished, when it was demolished by the Irish insurgents. In 1195, William, Earl Marshal, a descendant of Strongbow's, and also Lord Justice, rebuilt this noble castle on a more extensive plan; and a great part of this fine edifice, which has survived the convulsions of this distracted country, continues still to be a conspicuous ornament to the city of Kilkenny.

The castle is situate on a rising ground, on one side of which is a steep descent to the river Nore, whose rapid stream is a sufficient protection on that quarter; and the other sides were defended by ramparts, walls, and towers. The entrance is through a lofty gate of marble, of the Corinthian order; and the enclosed are afforded not only accommodation for the noble possessor and his domestics, but also for a strong garrison.

This castle, in 1391, became the property of Hugh le Despenser by marriage, who conveyed it to the Earl of Ormond; and we find it has always been considered in former times as the bulwark of the English jurisdiction in that part of the country. In the reign of Queen Anne, it was rebuilt by the Duke of Ormond in a magnificent manner, a little before his retreat from the country.