

DESCENDED from the ancient house of Fermoy, was Dominick Roche, who was four times Mayor of Limerick, and who possessed more power than any other man in the city. * This family, like many others in Ireland, suffered exceedingly by their unshaken attachment to Charles I. On this account, when Cromwell came over, the first effects of his vengeance were directed against Lord Viscount Roche and his brother, whom he pursued with unrelenting severity. They enjoyed an extensive estate at Fermoy, and the younger branch also possessed the lands of Newcastle, Mungret and Cahiravahalla in the liberties of Limerick, which Cromwell not only confiscated, but destroyed all their goods, whilst the owners escaped in disguise to Waterford, where they embarked for France, and still followed the fortunes of their exiled King.

ON the restoration, a court of claims was erected in Dublin, when Dominick Roche, son to Jordan Oge Roche,—who was mayor of Limerick in 1639,—laid claim to the above mentioned lands. His loyalty and deserts were so well known, that an Habere issued to the coroner of the city, to give him immediate possession. This occasioned great rejoicings in Limerick, and the mayor with the city regalia, went out on the occasion to accompany Mr. Roche. When they came to Groody bridge, the procession halted, and the coroner requested to have two fields near the old castle for his own use; Mr. Roche deemed it derogatory to his dignity

* See page 278.

dignity to give up fields thus situated; when the Coroner in great passion, said he had business elsewhere, and could not possibly be prevailed on to stay and give possession. Mr. Roche now set out to lay his complaint before the court of claims, but so unsettled was the kingdom at that period, so numerous the claimants, and so valuable the lands, he found the door shut against him.

WHEN King James came to Ireland, he was so well convinced of the services of this family, that he created Dominick Roche, Baron Tarbert, and Viscount Cahiravahalla. His grandsons are Thomas Roche of Dublin, esq; and Sir Boyle Roche, bart. who inherits all the loyalty, and all the virtues of his ancestors. Sir Boyle made early choice of a military life; he was taken prisoner at the siege of Quebec; and was at the sieges of several fortresses in the West Indies; after which he served ten years in America, in the 27th, 28th and Royal American Regiments. When the war broke out in America, Sir Boyle was zealously supported and nobly assisted by Lord Kenmare and all his friends and connexions. He beat up in person for recruits; he deemed every service honourable, in which he could serve his King or country, and in spite of the efforts of a party to seduce his men, in one week he raised five hundred recruits for the King's army. * He has served twelve years in parliament, and has been rewarded with a Baronetage, by a most gracious and discerning Prince.

* See page 133.

No. XII.

The Earl of Westmeath's letter to the author,
concerning Colonel Luttrell, &c. *

S I R,

I HAD the favour of yours. I was in Limerick, and present at Colonel Luttrell's trial; though neither I, nor Sarsfield, nor Colonel Purcell, were on the court martial. My Lord Tyrconnell appointed those he thought he had an influence on to be on it, who, though many of them were his nephews, and Marks Talbot his bastard son, who being much wounded at Aughrim, came to the Court martial, Colonel Luttrell was acquitted, and it was impossible he could be found guilty by men that had either honesty or honour. I read in a printed book, a false allegation against Colonel Luttrell, as if he had given an opportunity to Ginkle, to have a bridge laid over the Shannon; Colonel Luttrell was then confined in the castle of Limerick, and brigadier Clifford commanded where the bridge was laid over, and by a very great neglect he made no opposition to it. He was for that neglect confined in the castle, and I believe if the capitulation had not been made, he must of course be condemned by a court martial. I had a regiment of horse, and we were encamped on a mountain within three miles of the bridge, and the body consisted of about 3000 men commanded by general Sheldon; on his having intelligence that Ginkle had laid a bridge over the Shannon, and that a great number

* Harris's Life of King William, appendix, page 73.

number of horse and foot had passed it, he marched with the horse to Six-mile bridge, which we passed, and went the next day to Clare, where we remained till we made articles. All what I write, I assure you is true, and shall not be uneasy for that reason, if you make use of my name.

I am Sir,

Your most humble servant,

WESTMEATH.*

CLOUNINE, August 22,

1749.

To Mr. Walter Harris, Clarendon-
street, Dublin.

* Thomas, who in 1714, succeeded to the Earldom of Westmeath was a lieutenant colonel in the earl of Tyrone's regiment, in King James's army, and was outlawed May 11, 1691; but being in the city of Limerick at the capitulation, and one of the hostages exchanged for the due observance of the articles, his outlawry was reversed and he was restored to his estate. See Kimber's Peerage of Ireland, page 14.