

concluded, they should be marched past a flag, raised at a given station, where those who were to be enlisted for England should file off; while those for France were to proceed onwards. Sarsfield gave the word "March!" Profound silence reigned over the whole mass; not a sound was heard, except the steady tramp of the Irish soldiers as they advanced, until the solemnity of the scene was broken by the shouts of the multitude assembled within sight, when "the royal regiment of guards," fourteen hundred strong, reached the flag; and all—excepting seven—passed it. Of the whole army only three thousand either joined the English, or obtained "means to carry them home;"\* the remainder were subsequently embarked for France, and laid the foundation of those famous "Irish Brigades," which occupy positions so prominent and so honourable in the after wars of Europe.†

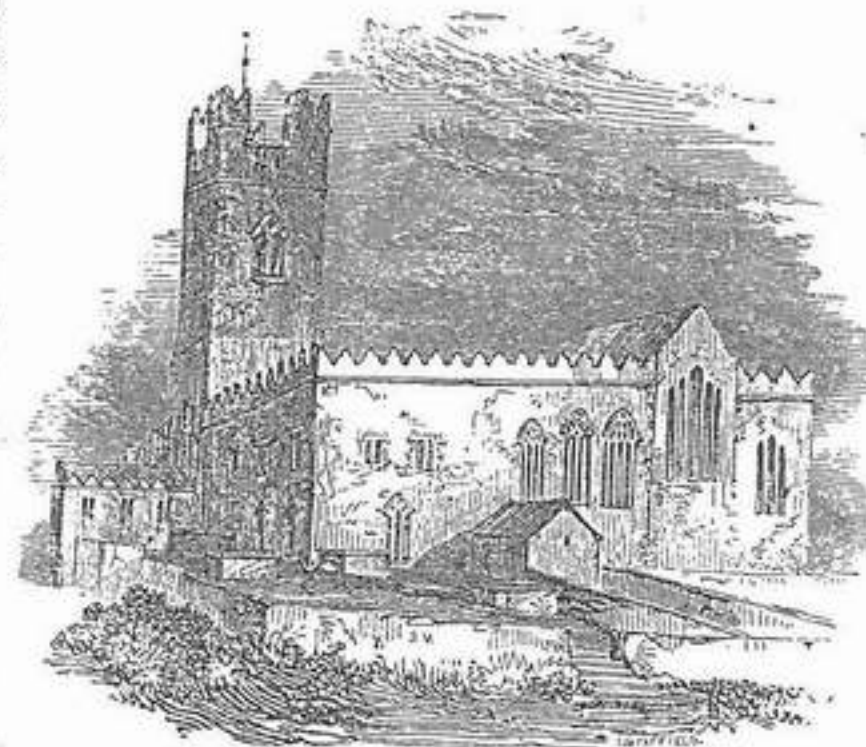
Of their daring courage many anecdotes are preserved. One of them may be regarded as a key to the whole. "Complaints founded," says the narrator, "in jealousy and envy, being made against the Brigades, the king took occasion to tell the marshal, Earl of Thomond, 'Some of your countrymen, marshal, give me a good deal of trouble.' 'Sire,' he replied, 'your majesty's enemies make the same complaint in every part of the world.'"

So ended the siege of Limerick, terminating the Irish war of the Revolution. The articles were ratified by King William, on the 24th of February, 1692; and on the 3rd of March, it was announced by proclamation that "peace was restored to Ireland." No serious attempt was subsequently made to disturb it; although, for upwards of half a century afterwards, Limerick was an object of peculiar distrust to the British Government. So late as 1750, no less than seventeen gates were in existence, and several regiments were always garrisoned there. A statement of the military arrangement of Ireland, transmitted from Dublin to Mr. Edgar, secretary to the Pretender, in 1726, contains this passage: "In Limerick there are 22, and in Cork 11 companies of soldiers stationed. The companies selected are all English protestants, and other foreigners."

\* It is said that Ginckle was so mortified and disappointed at the result of the day's proceeding, and especially with the active interference of the Roman Catholic clergy, that he was inclined to quarrel with the Irish general, and threatened to send back the hostages. Sarsfield bowed, and said, "I am in your power." "Not so," replied the gallant Dutchman, "for you shall go into the town again, and do the worst you can."

† That the hearts of the army were not with the French is, however, sufficiently notorious. Of the portion that was marched for Cork, a very large number—more than half, indeed—deserted on the way. "The men," says O'Driscoll, "quitted their ranks every mile they proceeded, and went to their own homes, or to look for homes amongst their friends and relations;" and of those that were embarked in the Shannon, "A regard for truth," writes the old historian of Limerick, "obliges us to confess, that many unjustifiable means were used to inveigle these brave fellows into the French service. They were torn from their wives and families, and when some of the unhappy women clung to the sides of the boats to share the fates of their husbands, their fingers were cut off, and some of them perished in sight of their husbands."

The city of Limerick, situated in an extensive plain watered by the mighty Shannon, about sixty Irish miles from the sea,\* is divided, like all the towns of note in Ireland, into English town and Irish town; but a third division, called Newtown Pery, was added to it during the last century—the work being commenced in 1769, by the Right Hon. Edmond Sexton Pery. The English town stands on the "King's Island," an island formed by the Shannon, which divides, about half a mile above the city, into two streams; the narrowest of which is named the Abbey River. There is also an extensive and populous suburb on the opposite side of the river, in the county of Clare. The more modern parts are remarkably handsome, the streets being wide and the houses evenly built: the ancient portions, on the contrary, are narrow and confined, and dirty to a proverb. Limerick may be classed among the best cities of Ireland, and it is rapidly improving. Within the last few years, squares and crescents have been largely added to it, and several public buildings have been erected on a plan at once elegant and convenient. When Dr. Campbell wrote his "Survey" in 1775, the number of its streets was twenty-seven, and of its houses 3859; in 1787, the houses, according to the calculation of Mr. Ferrar, numbered 4300; in 1827, according to M'Gregor, there were seventy streets, besides numerous lanes; and by the census of 1821, the houses were enumerated at 8268. The population was then 59,045; and in 1831, it had increased to 66,554; including, however, that of the "rural district." The most remarkable of the ancient structures of Limerick, with the exception of "King John's castle," is the Cathedral—dedicated to "St. Mary;" a large and heavy-looking structure, built on the site of the palace of O'Brien, king of Limerick. Its tower is



\* Ferrar states that the city derived its ancient name "Lumneach" from the fact that "the island on which it is built, so pleasing in its situation, and so well calculated to prevent surprise by the river Shannon surrounding it, was fixed on for the rendezvous of a gang of outlaws, who subsisted by plundering the neighbouring counties. Here they brought their horses and other booty, from whence it acquired the name of Lumneach, or a spot made bare by feeding horses."

remarkably high; and from the summit there is a magnificent prospect of the various objects of attraction in the immediate neighbourhood;—it is, indeed, the only place from which a view can be obtained; for there are no adjacent hills—a circumstance to which the city is considerably indebted for its natural strength.\* The merchants of Limerick are active and enterprising; but their advantages are less than those of many other Irish seaports; and although a “next neighbour” to America, the long and circuitous sea voyage from English harbours has curtailed the trade that might have been looked for with the United States.†

The city has been long unrivalled in Ireland for some peculiar advantages; the world is familiar with the fame of Limerick lasses, Limerick gloves, Limerick hooks, and Limerick lace—the latter, however, is a distinction of

\* There is a curious and interesting tradition connected with the bells of Limerick cathedral. The story is prettily told, and will bear repetition. They were, it is said, brought originally from Italy, where they were manufactured by a young native, who grew justly proud of the successful result of years of anxious toil expended in their production. They were subsequently purchased by the prior of a neighbouring convent; and with the profits of this sale the young Italian procured a little villa, where he had the pleasure of hearing the tolling of his bells from the convent cliff, and of growing old in the bosom of domestic happiness. This, however, was not to continue. In some of those broils, whether civil or foreign, which are the undying worm in the peace of a fallen land, the good Italian was a sufferer amongst many. He lost his all; and, after the passing of the storm, found himself preserved alone amid the wreck of fortune, friends, family, and home. The convent in which the bells, the *chefs-d'œuvre* of his skill, were hung, was razed to the earth, and the bells were carried away to another land. The unfortunate owner, haunted by his memories, and deserted by his hopes, became a wanderer over Europe. His hair grew grey, and his heart withered, before he again found a home and a friend. In this desolation of spirit, he formed the resolution of seeking the place to which the treasures of his memory had been finally borne. He sailed for Ireland, proceeded up the Shannon; the vessel anchored in the pool near Limerick, and he hired a small boat for the purpose of landing. The city was now before him; and he beheld St. Mary's steeple, lifting its turreted head above the smoke and mist of the old town. He sat in the stern, and looked fondly towards it. It was an evening so calm and beautiful as to remind him of his own native haven in the sweetest time of the year—the death of the spring. The broad stream appeared like one smooth mirror, and the little vessel glided through it. On a sudden, amid the general stillness, the bells tolled from the cathedral; the rowers rested on their oars, and the vessel went forward with the impulse it had received. The aged Italian looked towards the city, crossed his arms on his breast, and lay back in his seat; home, happiness, early recollections, friends, family—all were in the sound, and went with it to his heart. When the rowers looked round, they beheld him with his face still turned towards the cathedral; but his eyes were closed, and when they landed they found him dead!

† We are indebted to the industry of Mr. Inglis—to whose accuracy in collecting facts, and perfect fairness in reporting them, we gladly bear testimony—for the following statement, showing that the advance of the prosperity of Limerick has been rapid and uniform:—“The amount of exports has nearly doubled since the year 1822. Nor has this increase been in only one branch of trade. With very few exceptions it has attended every branch. The corn export trade, especially, has advanced. In 1822, the export of wheat was 102,593 barrels; in 1828, the export had increased to 150,583 barrels; in 1832, the quantity exported was 194,144 barrels; and in 1833, 218,915. In barley, the export has never been great; and although it has doubled since the year 1824, it has somewhat decreased during the two last years. In oats, the increase has been very great. From 155,000 barrels, exported in 1822, the quantity had risen, in 1832, to 408,000. In flour and oatmeal, too, the increase of export has been steady and great. Of the former article, 172 cwt. only was exported in 1824. In 1828, the quantity had risen to upwards of 6,000 cwt.; in 1832, it was 33,000 cwt.; and in 1833, upwards of 37,000. In oatmeal, the advance has been equally great. The butter

more recent growth. The women of all ranks throughout the county are remarkably beautiful in form and feature. The gloves retained their celebrity for above a century; but the manufacture has dwindled of late, and a short time ago, a glover of the city excused his want of punctuality in discharging an order, by the simple truth that he had not yet received a supply from Cork, where “Limerick gloves” are now, almost exclusively, made.\* The hooks have long been, and still are, famous—the saying, that “every hook is worth a salmon,” continuing to hold good.† The original O'Shaughnessy is dead; but his namesake and successor, as well as another maker named Glover, uphold the high character they have established in the estimation of every brother of the angle. They bear a very high price—necessarily so, in

trade, which I have found rather declining in most other places, exhibits no symptom of decline in Limerick. In 1822, 42,869 firkins were exported; in 1831, 67,699 firkins were exported; the following year, there was an advance upon this quantity; and in 1833, 75,000 firkins were exported. In many other articles of trade, the increase has been equally great; but the general increase of trade is best observed by the estimated value of the whole exports. In 1822, the estimated value was £479,538; in 1830, the estimated value was £720,266; the following year, it was £854,406; in 1832, it was £1,005,945; and in 1833, £936,995. The tonnage of vessels clearing out of the port exhibits the same advance. In 1822, the tonnage was 92,876; in 1825, 41,871; in 1831, 52,326; in 1833, 56,850. We have procured the following returns of the quantity of provisions shipped from the port in the year 1840:—Beef, 1097 tierces; ditto, 48 barrels; pork, 9573 tierces; ditto, 15,726 barrels; butter, 71,513 firkins; bacon, 56,542 cwt.; wheat, 54,528 barrels; oats, 325,901 barrels; barley, 10,454 barrels; bran, 1883 cwt.; flour, 58,840 cwt.; oatmeal, 29,660 cwt.; lard, 11,328 cwt.; hams, 8269 cwt.; hides, 460 cwt.; malt, 485 cwt. The whole of the exports of this year, 1840, may be estimated at about the value of £1,500,000. Unhappily, however, the extent of the export trade, although sufficiently illustrative of the prosperity of the city, is by no means a test of the comforts and welfare of the people. In 1822, when the exports were comparatively small, potatoes were not above 1½d. per stone; and in the year 1840, when they were greatest, the same article of food had reached to 8d.—the poor being literally starving.

\* The leather was so delicate, and the workmanship so fine, that a pair was frequently passed through a wedding ring; we purchased a pair enclosed in a walnut shell.

† The Limerick hook is formed of the purest steel, and each hook is separately tempered; the point is remarkably sharp, carried almost to the fineness of a needle; it will never bend and rarely break; it is longer in the fang than any other hook; and has no bend, as in the Kirby hook. Here for example is one of No. 6, and another of No. 9. The salmon hooks are frequently much larger than the No. 6. The flies used on the Shannon are of a very gandy character—much more so than either the English, Scotch, Welsh, or even those applied to other Irish rivers—the feathers most available are those of the golden pheasant (toppings). Although fully effective in luring the salmon, it resembles no insect hitherto discovered. We had prepared, for introduction here, some observations on angling in Ireland; but the county of Limerick supplies us with so many topics more peculiar to it, that these remarks we reserve for a future occasion. The Shannon is famous for salmon-fishing, but not for the salmon alone; and the rivers that run into it abound in trout. The increased facilities for exporting to England have of course materially raised the price of the fish; but a few years ago salmon was usually sold in Limerick market for a penny a pound; and it was a common proviso in the indentures of an apprentice to any decent trade, that he should not be required to eat salmon for dinner more than thrice a week. We have seen one of the contracts that contained the singular stipulation.

