

CHAPTER VIII

THE WESTERN SETTLERS

As might be expected, the Huguenots chose the line of least resistance in forming their settlements, and either remained in the ports at which they had arrived or went to special towns, such as Portarlinton or Lisburn, which had been prepared for their reception. Few penetrated to the west of Ireland, which was both difficult of access and lacked the advantages for trade which their geographical position gave to the eastern counties; nevertheless a few French names are connected with Limerick, Galway, Sligo and Mayo.

Smiles states that Huguenot settlers in Limerick established the lace and glove trade,¹ but Mrs. Hall in speaking of the city, mentions that its famous lace was introduced by a Mr. Walker from England in 1829, who brought over lace-makers from Nottingham to instruct the Irish in the art;² and no mention of Limerick as a place of settlement is made in the "Projet de Colonisation," nor by other writers.

It is possible that the lengthy siege which the city sustained made the Huguenots more unpopular here than elsewhere in Ireland, and Lenihan states that in 1698 "To the great relief of the citizens such Dutch Guards and French Refugees that had remained were ordered away."³ There are, however, some isolated instances of settlers here, such as the Le Froys, the Delmeges and the D'Esterres.

¹ "Huguenots in England," p. 299.

² "Tour in Ireland."

³ "History of Limerick."

The Lefroy family seems to have come originally from Picardy; but an Antoine Lefroy of Cambrai, flying from the persecutions of Alva, settled in England during the reign of Elizabeth. He joined the refugee congregation in Canterbury, where his descendants were silk dyers until the death of Thomas Lefroy in 1723. The latter left a son, Anthony, of Canterbury, who died in Leghorn in 1779; and his son, Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony Lefroy, settled in Limerick. Another son, Isaac, Fellow of All Souls and Rector of Ashe and Compton, re-established the English branch of the family.¹ Lieutenant-Colonel Lefroy was born in 1742 and died in 1819. He married Anne, daughter of Colonel Gardiner, and had four sons and five daughters. His daughters married into various county families, and of his sons, one became Captain in the 65th Regiment, another, Benjamin, was a Captain in the Royal Artillery and J.P. for County Kildare; the fourth was killed in action as a midshipman on the *San Fiorenzo* in 1805; and the eldest, Thomas Langlois, of Carriglas Manor, born in 1776, became Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, having been called to the Bar in 1797 and appointed a Bencher of the King's Inn in 1819. He represented Dublin University in Parliament from 1830 until 1841, when he was appointed Baron of the Exchequer, and he became Lord Chief Justice in 1852. He married, in 1799, a daughter of Jeffry Paul of Silver Spring, County Wexford, and left four sons on his death in 1869.²

The family of Delmege of Castle Park and Rathkeale, County Limerick, was Alsatian in origin and, according to Burke, descended from Adam Dolmage who fled from France to Ireland during the reign of Louis XIV. His brother, Julius, sought refuge in Jamaica, and there founded a family which became extinct in 1835. Adam Dolmage settled in Rath-

¹ "Huguenots in England," Appendix.

² Burke, "Landed Gentry of Ireland."

keale and had a grandson, Adam John, Captain of the Loyal German Fusiliers in 1778. He married Eliza Powell and had five sons. The third son, Christopher, born in 1783, married Martha, daughter of John Yielding, and, establishing himself at Castle Park, founded that branch of the family. The eldest son, Julius, a Captain in the 4th King's Own Regiment, born in 1772, succeeded his father at Rathkeale and married, in 1799, Susanne de Gorrequer of Brittany. He died in 1849, leaving two sons and three daughters.¹

The D'Esterres are of noble origin and claim descent from the Counts of Aix. At the Revocation Henri D'Esterre was forced to seek refuge in Holland. Here he married a Dutch lady of noble birth, Annie Amy Van Boffar, and with her removed to Ireland, where they purchased an estate in County Clare named by them Castle Henry. They are reported to have sailed up the Shannon bringing with them an immense amount of treasure in money, jewels and valuable china and table linen, "enough to supply twenty families," and thus seem to have been more fortunately circumstanced than the majority of the refugees. Possibly because of this they early became part of the Irish gentry around them. Their son Henry married, in 1724, Lucia Norcott at Springfield, County Cork, and their only daughter Mr. Darby of Leap Castle in the King's County. Henry D'Esterre died in 1752 aged sixty-six, and was buried at Six Mile Bridge in County Clare. He left two sons, Norcott and Henry, and three daughters. Of these Annie married Michael Parker of Hilbrook in 1761, and her brother, Norcott, married her husband's sister, Annie. Norcott had two sons, William, the Captain of an Indiaman, and Captain Norcott D'Esterre of the Royal Marines, who lost his life as the result of his famous duel with Daniel O'Connell.² Henry D'Esterre the younger was Sheriff of

¹ *Ibid.*

² Notes on the Family of D'Esterre (MS.), compiled in 1892, in the possession of Miss D'Esterre of Dublin.

Limerick in 1789 and Mayor in 1793.¹ Members of the family removed to England and Canada, and the remaining representatives of the Irish branch are now resident in Dublin, by whose kindness the writer has been permitted to utilize the above notes.

Nicholas Bonfoy, who resided in Limerick in the eighteenth century, may have been of Huguenot origin. He obtained the Freedom of the City in a silver box, the gift of "The Corporation of the City of Limerick to Nicholas Bonfoy, Esquire." "Neither McGregor nor Ferrar's History of Limerick mentions Bonfoy," writes Mr. Day of Cork, "but he must have been a Huguenot."²

Other names that may represent Huguenot refugees are those of Councillor John Tounadine, who was Sheriff of Limerick in 1764; Isaac Clampett who was Mayor in 1739; John Tavernor who was Sheriff in 1751,³ and whose surname occurs amongst the Lisburn Huguenots listed by Dr. Purdon;⁴ and Daniel Hignette who was Sheriff in 1671,⁵ and who is recorded by Gimlette as a foreign settler and the owner of lands in County Cork.⁶ This name also occurs amongst those of the Lisburn Huguenots.

Some important Huguenot names are connected with Killaloe, where James Abbadie held the Deanery from 1699 to 1724 and Dr. Richard Chenevix the Bishopric before his translation to that of Waterford in 1745, where the history of his family has been recorded.

James Abbadie was born at Nay in Bearn in 1654. He took the degree of Sedan, one of the four Huguenot Universi-

¹ Lenihan.

² C.H. & A.J., Vol. V, No. 44. Article by Robert Day on "The Freedoms of the City of Cork."

³ Lenihan.

⁴ U.J.A., Vol. I. Art. "Lisburn."

⁵ Lenihan.

⁶ "Huguenot Settlers," p. 194.

ties of France,¹ in his eighteenth year, and subsequently settled in Berlin. This he left to accompany Schomberg to England and thence on the Irish Campaign, during which he was one of the chaplains present at the Boyne. He was appointed minister of the Savoy Church in London and was honoured by being selected to preach the funeral oration on the death of Queen Mary.² In 1699 he received the Deanery of Killaloe, which he held for twenty-five years, and would have obtained that of St. Patrick's had he been proficient in English. Failing this, and considering "the small remainder of life he is likely to live," the Primate, in the summer of 1726, furnished him with letters of recommendation to Lord Carteret and to Dr. Gibson, then Bishop of London, in which he states "The bearer is Mr. Abbadie, Dean of Killaloe, one who for many years has made a figure in the world by the writings he has published. I find upon enquiry he was by King William recommended to the Government here for somewhat considerable and would have had the Deanery of St. Patrick's but that, having no knowledge of our language, it was thought improper to place him in the greatest preferment in this city.—He has firmly adhered to His Majesty's family here in the day of trial, and is every way a worthy man."³ The writings referred to are possibly the "Defence of the British Nation," published in 1693, and "L'Art de se Connaitre Soi-même." He also published in Berlin a treatise on "The Truth of the Christian Religion" which caused Madame de Sevigné, although an enemy of the Huguenots, to declare that she did not believe "that any one ever spoke of religion like this man."⁴ A copy of this book is preserved

¹ The others were at Montauban, Nismes and Saumur.

² Smiles, pp. 252, 253.

³ "Letters of Hugh Boulter, Lord Primate of Ireland." "It is a curious illustration of the manner in which Church patronage was dealt with in Ireland," writes Lecky, "that Abbadie was promised the first considerable preferment that fell vacant although he was entirely unable to speak English." "History of Ireland," Vol. I, p. 353.

⁴ Quoted Smiles, p. 252.

in Marsh's Library in Dublin with the interesting inscription "Don de l'auteur—Bouhéreau" recorded on its fly-leaf.¹ Abbadie received the desired position in London and died at Marylebone in his seventy-third year in 1727.² While in Ireland he resided occasionally at Portarlington, where reference occurs in the registers to "le Doyen de Cilalou," and where a Cornet Daniel d'Abbadie of the Earl of Galway's Horse, who was pensioned on the Irish Establishment from 1699 to 1727 and who may have been some connection of the Dean, was living about 1719.³

Paul Amyrault, who has been dealt with in connection with Carrick, was Chancellor of Killaloe in 1667, and Joseph Amyrault, who was probably his son, was Archdeacon of the same diocese in 1690.⁴

Two other French clerics of importance in the west of Ireland were the Rev. Theophilus Brocas, D.D., and the Rev. Peter Maturin.

Brocas came of a noble family which held an estate at Casteljalous in Guienne. Gabriel La Motte Brocas, the founder of the Irish branch of the family, escaped at the Revocation, served in the army of William of Orange and settled in Ireland in 1704.⁵ His son, Theophilus, who was born a year later, was educated at the Cathedral School in Dublin and entered Trinity College.⁶ He took Holy Orders and was appointed by the Crown to the Deanery of Killala and to the Vicarage of St. Anne's, Dublin, where he died in 1766. For his valuable work in promoting the arts and manufactures of Ireland he was presented with the Freedom of the City in a gold box. He left one son, the Rev. John Brocas, D.D., who succeeded him in the Deanery and was

¹ U.J.A., Vol. III. Art. "Portarlington."

² This date is given by Smiles. Agnew gives 1737.

³ Agnew, Vol. II, p. 102.

⁴ *Vide* p. 121.

⁵ Hug. Soc. Proc., Vol. I, p. 334, and XXVII, p. 223.

⁶ Parish Register Society, Vol. II, 27.

also appointed Rector of Monkstown, County Dublin, and chaplain to the Military Chapel at Ringsend. He died in 1806 leaving an only son, the Rev. Theophilus Brocas, Rector of Strabane, Derry, who died without issue, and a sister, Georgiana, who married in 1804 Robert Lindesay, Esq., Captain of the Louth Militia, through whom the family survives.¹

The Rev. Peter Maturin was the son of Gabriel Maturin, a French pastor who, after an imprisonment of twenty-six years in the Bastille, escaped to Ireland a cripple. The son was made Dean of Killala, and his son, Gabriel Jacques, born in Utrecht in 1700, was appointed to the Deanery of St. Patrick's, Dublin, in succession to Dean Swift.² From him descended the Rev. C. Maturin, Senior Fellow of Trinity College and Rector of Fanet, and the Rev. C. R. Maturin, author of "Bertram."³

Besides deaneries the West afforded two earldoms to French refugees. The history of the Earl of Galway has already been traced in dealing with Portarlington.⁴ It remains to mention the Trench, or La Tranche, family whose descendants became the Earls of Clancarty and Ashton.

Many inconsistencies have arisen in the varying accounts of this family. Smiles states that it derives from Frédéric De La Tranche, who fled to England after the Massacre of St. Bartholomew from the Seigneury of La Tranche in Poitou, and settled in Northumberland.⁵ Gimlette suggests that John Trench, who in Elizabeth's reign engaged in the manufacture of textiles with the La Cocque brothers, was an ancestor of the family, but points out that he is described as a "Norfolk gentleman" and that the name occurs in the

¹ "Huguenots in England," Appendix.

² Gilbert, "History of Dublin," Vol. III, p. 197.

³ "Huguenots in England," Appendix.

⁴ *Vide* p. 138.

⁵ "Huguenots in England," Appendix.

Registry of the French Church at Norwich.¹ A tombstone in Clongill old churchyard near Kells marked the grave of "Thomas Trynch, Clerk, Rector sometime of this Church," who died in March 1631, and described him as "born of an illustrious and unconquered Scottish family";² and, lastly, one tradition states that Frédéric fled at the Massacre of St. Bartholomew, while another maintains that he gained distinction in the Siege of La Rochelle.³

Mr. Austen Leigh in his article on the Trench family, in Volume VIII of the Proceedings of the Huguenot Society, based largely on the "Memoir" compiled for private circulation by Mr. Thomas Cook Trench, inclines to the belief that they may not have been Huguenots at all since a family of the name was existing in Scotland in the fifteenth century and Trenches were resident in Gressenhall, Norfolk, long before 1572.

The Earl of Clancarty, however, who compiled a Memoir of his family in 1802,⁴ seems to have had no doubts as to their French origin.

According to the Memoir Frédéric De La Tranche fled after 1572 to Northumberland, as stated by Smiles, who may have quoted from it. He there married Margaret Sutton and had three sons, Thomas, James and Adam. He later crossed into Scotland, where he died in 1580, and thus his son, who removed to Ireland and held the living of Clongill, is described as Scotch. This son is called "Thomas" on his tombstone, but it was James Trench, according to Mr. Austen Leigh, who took Holy Orders, married Margaret, daughter of Lord Montgomery, and came to Ireland in 1605, where he was given the Rectory of Clongill by the Bishop of Meath, Lord Montgomery's brother. His daughter married her first

¹ "Huguenot Settlers," p. 186.

² J.A.P.M.D., Vol. III.

³ Hug. Soc. Proc., Vol. VIII, p. 356.

⁴ Printed in Playfair's "Family Antiquity."

cousin, Frederick, son of Thomas Trench, who also settled in Ireland, purchasing Garbally Castle, County Galway, which remained the seat of the elder branch of the family until 1810. The latter died in 1669, leaving three sons, Frederick, John and William. Frederick and John both served as guides to the army of William III in the Aughrim Campaign of 1691, and the house at Garbally was lent as a military hospital. John became Dean of Raphoe.

The great-grandson of Frederick, the Dean's brother, Power Keating Trench, born in 1741, M.P. for Galway and Colonel to the Galway Militia, was raised to the Peerage in 1797 and later advanced to a Viscounty and Earldom with the title of Earl of Clancarty. He died in 1805. His fourth child was Power Trench, later Bishop of Waterford and Archbishop of Tuam.

The grandson of the Dean of Raphoe married Mary, heiress of Francis Sadleir of Sopwell Hall, County Tipperary, and his son Frederick, M.P. for Portarlington, was created Baron Ashton of Moat in 1800. A younger son, Richard, married in 1803 Melesina, granddaughter of the Right Rev. Richard Chenevix, Bishop of Waterford,¹ and was the father of Richard Chenevix Trench, Archbishop of Dublin.²

At one period of its history Sligo was governed by a French refugee. This was René De La Fausille of Anjou, who before the Revocation had been Captain of the Royal Regiment of La Ferté. He emigrated to Switzerland and thence to Holland, where he entered the service of William of Orange. He was made Captain of Grenadiers in Caillemotte's Regiment and was so severely wounded at the Boyne that he was rendered unfit for further military service. In reward for his conspicuous bravery Smiles states that William appointed him Governor of Sligo Port, Town and County,

¹ *Vide* p. 95.

² Hug. Soc. Proc., Vol. VIII, p. 370.

with a pension of ten shillings a day.¹ He could not, however, have obtained this post immediately, for he does not appear in the list of Governors and Deputy Governors compiled by Crossly in 1699 from a commission of William III,² and he was, in fact, kept on full pay till this date as is evinced in the Return of French Pensioners on the Irish Civil List in 1702. He is there described as Deputy Governor of "Slegoe" with a pension of six shillings a day, and it is stated that he had served in Holland and Ireland for twelve years and was disbanded as "lamed" in 1699. He is given as possessing £700 and a farm of £15 a year, and as having "a numerous family." He had married outside the Huguenot circle, his wife being a Miss Jane Feltman, and the "numerous family" consisted of four daughters and two sons. The elder, John, was a Brigade-Major and fought at Fontenoy and Dettingen. He later became Major-General and Colonel of the 66th Regiment and died on board H.M.S. *Marlborough* off Cuba in 1762. He left only one child, a daughter, and as his only brother died unmarried the family became extinct in the male line.³

Hardiman, the historian of Galway, makes no reference to any French settlers residing in that town, but in the list of Mayors and Aldermen quoted by him occurs the name of James Ribet Vigie, who seems to have found his way to Galway from Cork. In the latter city, as has already been shown, he was sworn free gratis amongst other refugees on February 18th, 1685, as a "poor distressed French Protestant forced to flee by reason of ye persecution."⁴ Nine years later he appears as Sheriff in Galway and, in 1703, as Mayor. A Commission of Array of three Foot Companies, drawn up on

¹ "Huguenots in England," Appendix; also Hug. Soc. Proc., Vol. VI, p. 318, and IX, p. 588.

² *Vide* article by H. A. S. Upton in Journal R.S.A.I., Vol. LV, Part I.

³ "Huguenots in England," Appendix, and Hug. Soc. Proc., IX, p. 588.

⁴ *Vide* p. 30.

the accession of the Queen, includes him as Lieutenant, and, in 1715, another Commission of Array of five Companies returns Alderman Vigie as Captain of the 2nd Company. He was dead by 1740, but he left a son to fill his place, for in the Militia Returns of that year James Ribett Vigie, Esq., is Captain of the 5th Company "vice J. Ribett Vigie, Senior, deceased."¹ The son may have been that "James Ribett" who was Sheriff in 1722, although this name may be a misspelling of Rivett or Revett found in the list of Mayors in 1692, 1727 and 1761, and amongst the Sheriffs in 1673, 1725 and 1773.² He cannot, however, have held his position in the Militia for any length of time, for in the Dublin newspaper, *Pue's Occurrences*, dated April 1741, occurs the entry "died James Ribet Vigie, Esq., Barrick Master of Gallway."

Hautenville and Feuquire are other Huguenot names found in the list of Aldermen of Galway. In 1719 a John Hautenville appears as Sheriff, and at the same period this name may be traced amongst the Huguenots of Dublin, where a Daniel Hautenville was living in 1720.³

Agnew gives a Feuquire in a list of Huguenot merchants of London under date 1744,⁴ but the name appears at an earlier period in Ireland, for in Galway a John Feuquire (or Fenquire) served as Sheriff in 1701 and again in 1703, and at the same time was included as an officer in the Militia. By 1740 he, like Vigie, was dead, for in the Militia Returns made at that date Robert Cook, Alderman, is recorded as First Lieutenant in the 4th Company "vice J. Feuquire, deceased."⁵ The name does not reappear, and it is possible that, if he had descendants, they removed to London.

Other names which may be Huguenot, but whose origin it has not been possible to establish, are Amory, Cambie,

¹ Hardiman, "History of Galway," Part I, Ch. 7.

² *Ibid.*, Part II.

³ *Vide* Registers of the French Churches.

⁴ "Protestant Exiles," Vol. III, p. 212.

⁵ Hardiman, Part II.

Camel, Dorsay and Semper, all to be found among the Aldermen of Galway;¹ while a William De La Mere is recorded by Gimlette as the holder of a property of 2,472 acres in the county under the Duke of Ormond.

Apart from those mentioned in the foregoing pages, it has proved impossible to discover anything further of the Huguenots in the West. If other refugees sought shelter there they must have early intermarried with the Irish families around them, and thus lost their individuality; a supposition which is all the more likely when the isolation of the western districts at that period, which would tend to cut the settlers off from the other French colonies in the country, is taken into account. No reference is made to them by any contemporary historian; Young,² who refers to the Palatines in Limerick, completely ignores the Huguenots, and writers on the western counties of Ireland have followed in his steps.

¹ *Vide* Hardiman, Part II.

² "Tour in Ireland."