



THE REPORT

Limerick having been reported to be the strongest place in all this kingdom, it is quite the contrary, the walls having gone much to decay by the neglect of the Corporation. The improvements made upon the bogs hath made the approach to it more easy, it being two towns of an indifferent circuit, and neither of them of any great strength, especially the Irish town, and it would be too great a charge for his majesty to strengthen both towns, and to lay them into one it cannot well be done without weakening them, for the Irish town hath grounds that command it, and the English town not, so that should the Irish town be lost, it would be the loss of the other, by reason it stands much higher, and there is no coming at the other town well but by the Irish town.

Having considered well upon the place, what manner of strength this place will require, nothing can be more for his majesty's service, and the strength of these two places than to have a citadel that commands both, and lay both towns open to it, this place being the greatest inlet, and in the heart of the country, and key of all the western trade, it is left to his majesty's consideration whether it is necessary to strengthen it, it being the

most proper place for a magazine, next to Dublin, in the whole kingdom.

There is also below at the entrance of this river, the island of Scatterry, which is very convenient and absolutely necessary that some small charge be laid out for the security of his majesty's trade, or customs. It commands the channel, and one of the most noble rivers in this kingdom.

In Limerick, at present, his majesty's stores lie in an old castle, having two or three files of men to guard it. The castle itself is not tenable without a great charge, and when done, the town itself would be lessened by it, and the charge of no effect when the main work shall be finished.

Wherefore if his majesty shall approve of what is laid down in the survey or plan of the place, or that this place be in any way fortified, the charge would be thrown away, so that it is better to do it at once, than to be always doing it. The

charge of building the citadel amounts to £78,310.

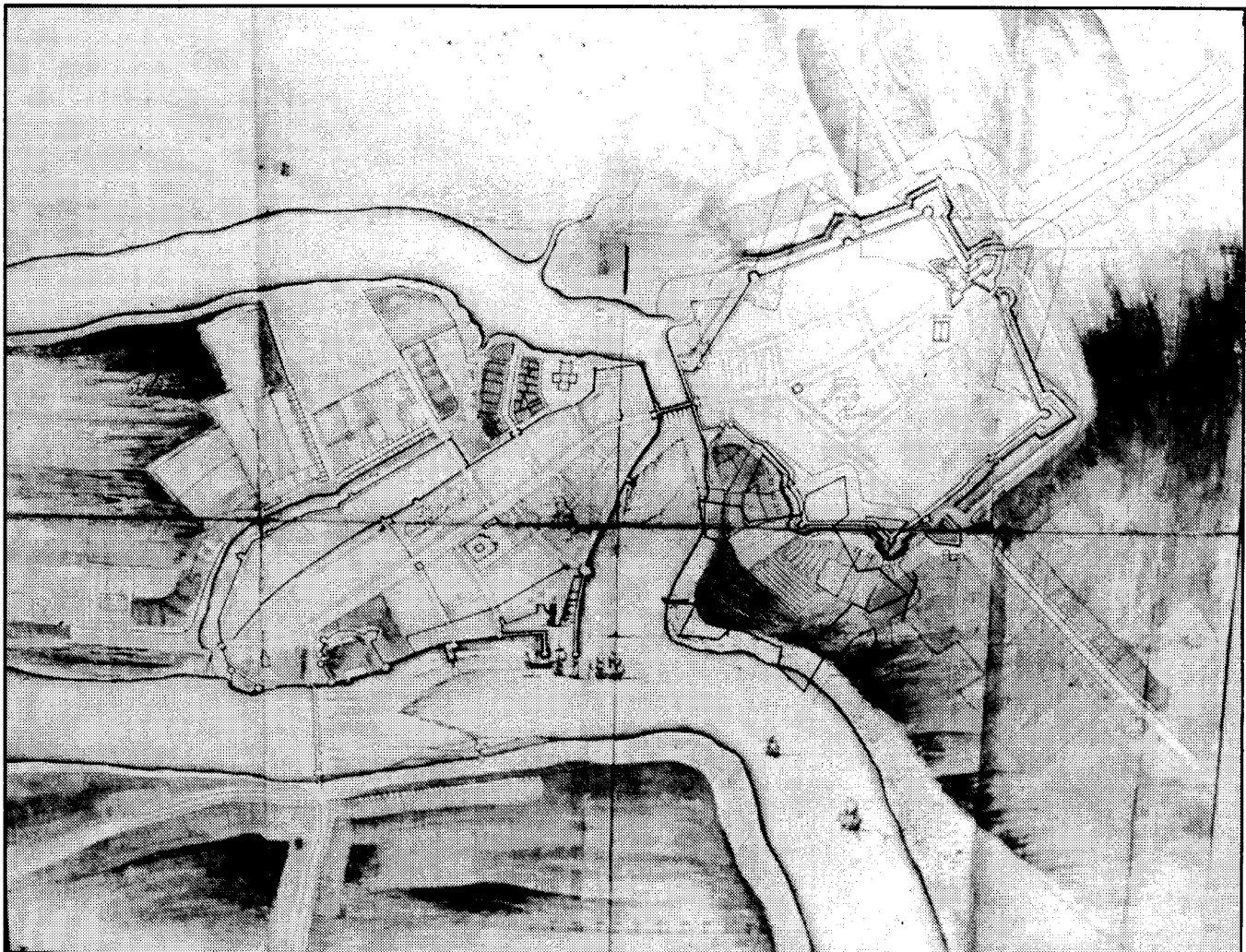
The Corporation to be questioned for not keeping the walls in better repair, etc.

[He gives a detailed breakdown of the estimate for his proposed citadel beside and around the Irishtown, and concludes]: As for the present repairs, it will be of no purpose to do anything that may put his majesty to charge, by mending of old decayed walls, the store houses themselves being in indifferent good repair, but the stores almost totally decayed as is all over the kingdom.

ABSTRACT OF ORDNANCE AT LIMERICK:

BRASS: 1 cannon of 8, 1 cannon of 7, 1 demi-cannon, 1 24-pounder, 3 culverins, 2 12-pounders, 2 demi-culverin, 6 sakers, 1 3-pounder, 2 falcons, 1 falconet, 3 petards, 1 mortar-piece.

IRON: 5 sakers, 7 minions, 3 3-pounders, 2 falcons, 1 falconet, 1 sling-piece.



Map of Limerick with plan for a citadel by Thomas Phillips, 1685.