

By the vigilance of De Lacy, as well as his prudence in managing the affairs of the colony, matters soon began to wear a more promising appearance. He had retarded the English power in Meath, which had been lost during the administration of his predecessor, and had encouraged a coalition of English and Irish by his marriage with the daughter of Roderic O'Connor, but having been assailed by the calumnies of the envious, he was recalled by his sovereign, and the government was committed to John, constable of Cheshire, and the bishop of Coventry, two strangers to the country, and little qualified for this important trust. However, in the short space of three months, the king was convinced of the impolicy of this appointment, as well as of the injustice of his suspicions respecting the late chief governor; and De Lacy was restored to his office, notwithstanding the efforts of his enemies to the contrary.

The weakness of the colonial government in its infantile state afforded many opportunities to the native princes of overturning it altogether; but involved in the perpetual surge and eddy of their own dissensions they continued regardless of everything that was not immediately connected with their own local concerns. To that spirit of retaliation which was evinced from the earliest period by the Irish chieftains, the interests of their country had always been sacrificed, and a succession of outrages had been perpetuated which remain as so many blots upon the pages of that national history. Nor did such feuds now rage with less violence than formerly, when those toparchs might have perceived the general calamity which their divisions had brought upon their common country.