

A. Through Herbert, Earl of Glmoragan, the son of the Marquis of Worcester.

Q. Did Ormond at last sign the treaty with the confederates?

A. He did, on the 28th of May, 1646.

Q. What at last induced him to do so?

A. The pressing necessity of the king's affairs, which were every day becoming more desperate in consequence of the delay.

Q. What was the first battle fought in Ireland after that treaty?

A. The battle of Benburb, in which Owen Roe O'Neill, commanding the Catholic forces on the part of the king, defeated the more numerous army of the parliamentarians, commanded by Monroe.

Q. Meanwhile what were the king's fortunes in England?

A. Most disastrous. He met with a succession of defeats, and at last surrendered himself into the hands of the Scotch puritans, who sold him to the English parliament for the sum of £400,000.

Q. What was then Ormond's policy?

A. As soon as he saw the king's affairs were hopeless, he began to make terms with the parliamentarians; and he even pretended that Charles had instructed him to prefer the alliance of that party to the friendship of the Irish.

Q. When Ormond deserted the confederates to negotiate with the parliamentarians, what conditions did he make for himself with the latter?

A. He bargained for £3,000 a year for his wife; £14,000 to make good his own personal losses in the war; and liberty to reside in England, on condition of not disturbing the new order of things.

Q. Was the last stipulation carried into effect?

A. No; on arriving in England he was apprised that the parliament had issued orders to arrest him, and he accordingly escaped to France.

Q. What were the fortunes of the confederate Catholics?

A. Unprosperous. They were divided by the opposite councils of Rinuccini, the Pope's nuncio, and his party, on the one hand, and the more moderate party on the other.

Q. Did Ormond return to Ireland from France?

A. He did, in September, 1648.

Q. Where was the king at that time?

A. A close prisoner at Carisbrook Castle, in the Isle of Wight, in the hands of the parliamentarians.

Q. How had Ormond employed his time whilst in France?

A. In endeavoring to obtain from the French court supplies to carry on the war for the king in Ireland.

Q. Did he succeed?

A. So badly; that the slender sum that court advanced him little more than defrayed the expenses of his voyage. On arriving at Cork, he had no more than

thirty French louis d'or for his military chest.

Q. Did he renew his treaty with the confederates?

A. Yes; on the 16th of January, 1649, he ratified that treaty, granting every concession demanded by the Catholics.

Q. Had he the king's authority for this ratification?

A. Yes; so long before as the 10th of October, in the previous year, Charles had written Ormond a letter from his prison, in which he says: "Be not startled at my great concessions concerning Ireland, for they will come to nothing."

Q. On what day was the king beheaded by the parliamentarians?

A. On the 30th of January, 1649.

CHAPTER XIX.

The Commonwealth.

Q. Where was Ormond when the news of the king's death reached him?

A. At Youghal, in the county of Cork.

Q. What was his first act on learning the event?

A. To proclaim the Prince of Wales king, by the title of Charles the Second.

Q. Where was the young king at that time?

A. At the Hague in Holland.

Q. Did he begin by confirming the peace which Ormond had signed with the confederate Catholics?

A. Yes; he wrote from the Hague, "that he had received, and was extremely well satisfied with the articles of peace with the Irish confederates, and would confirm wholly and entirely all that was contained in them."

Q. Did he keep that promise to the Irish?

A. No; for in order to secure the crown of Scotland for himself, he found it was necessary to break faith with the Catholics, whom the Scotch Puritans detested.

Q. What was then Charles's next declaration?

A. Having landed in Scotland in June, 1650, he publicly declared, "that he did detest and abhor Popery, superstition, and idolatry; together with prelacy; resolving not to tolerate, much less to allow, those in any part of his dominions, and to endeavor the extirpation thereof to the utmost of his power."

Q. What did the king further say with regard to the peace with the Irish confederates, which he had so recently promised to observe inviolate?

A. "That it was null and void." "That he was convinced in his conscience of the sinfulness and unlawfulness of it, and of his allowing them (the confederates) the liberty of the Popish religion; for which he did from his heart desire to be deeply humbled before the Lord; and for having sought unto such unlawful help for the restoring him to his throne."