

The True Witness

TESTIS AN COELO FIDELIS

CATHOLIC PERIODICALS

VOL. XXVI.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1876.

NO. 48.

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REVEREND J. J. MURPHY,
 who lost his life at the fire at Back River on the night of December 4th, 1875.
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THE MAN O' AIRIE.

O, there above, yon heather hill,
 Where fodies' comes but rarely,
 There is a house they point out still,
 Where dwelt the man o' Airie.
 He wore a coat o' hoddes gray,
 His hand was hard w' labor;
 But still he had a hamey way,
 O' standin' by his neighbor.

His burly laugh made men rejoice,
 His words the neighbors guided;
 But little bairnies loved his voice
 And in his smile confided;
 The word, to-day, that left his lip,
 Became a deed to-morrow,
 Hout man, the friendship o' his grip
 Would lift the heart o' sorrow.

He was na' loud, he was na' proud,
 He lacked in learnin' sairy,
 And yet he'd pick him frae a crowd,
 The honest man o' Airie,
 His wealth, it was na' in his land,
 It was na' in the city;
 A mint o' honor was his hand,
 His heart a mine o' pity.

He's dead and gane, this prince o' Fife,
 Mute is his burly laughter;
 But ah! the music o' his life
 That bides w' us lang after,
 His memory lives, the man nae die,
 That lingers bright and lovin',
 Just like a star lost frae the sky
 Whose ray survives his ruin.

Chorus.
 O up and down an' roun' an' roun',
 And o'er the hale world fairly,
 Ye might hae searched, but never foun'
 Anither man o' Airie.

RELICS OF THE IRISH BRIGADE AND OF THE IRISH LEGION.

IRISHMEN AND DESCENDANTS OF IRISHMEN LIVING IN FRANCE FROM 1791 TO 1876.

By J. P. LEONARD.

No. 2.

It has been said, and with great truth, that the services rendered to France by the Irish Brigade and the Irish Legion were never fully appreciated in that country. Little mention is made of them by historians, even when they speak of battles in which they played a prominent part. Late, however, M.obelet, Guizot and other writers have done more justice to the heroism of those "exiles of Erin" who fought and fell for France.

My intention was at first to speak only of those brave soldiers who were living within the last sixty years, but some authentic and interesting documents, containing information touching some of the heroes of Fontenoy, Lawfield, India and the American war, have induced me to go further back, to the time when the brigade was dissolved—1763. The privilege granted to me of looking over the registers of the Hotel des Invalides, the last retreat of the brave, enabled me to trace some of these soldiers through the varied changes they witnessed in the stirring times in which they lived.

From the last officer of the Irish Legion, Commandant O'Brien, now living, I got the document, which I translated and which contains the full account of the organization of the regiment and their services, presented a short time before the brigades were dissolved to the National Assembly and printed in Paris. It has a character of impartiality and truth about it that makes it interesting. The state-

ment drawn up, too, by a member of the Assembly, and not by an interested party or by an Irishman, enhances its value, and I believe it will interest my countrymen, as it did myself when I read it only a few days ago.

Historical observations on the origin, services and positions of the Irish officers in the service of France, addressed to the National Assembly.
 Rédigees par M. A. D., Deputé a l'Assemblée Nationale.
 INTRODUCTION.

The time has now come when the National Assembly is to carry out the great work which will give a new organization to the army, and place on a solid basis the fate of those soldiers of the country, who for long years have been tormented by continual changes, becoming every day more irritating and which did no good and only served to discourage the army.

The National Assembly will, no doubt, seriously examine what advantages the Empire obtains from the foreign troops, who are sacrificing themselves for her defence, can never be injurious to a nation of 24 millions, and, if any objection can be made to the expression, foreign troops, we hope at least to prove that the Irish could never be considered as such, and that they are in reality French.

Few people know the details which concern these regiments, and we have thought it would be useful to show the representatives of the nation the right the Irish have to their esteem.

They are the most unhappy portion of a brave and faithful people who deserved favour from the greatest and most generous nation in the world, and who claim to-day from its justice the confirmation of the honorable title of French citizens, which they obtained more than a century ago from Louis the XIV. and which they have merited since by the most unswerving fidelity, and by the torrents of blood, (des flots de sang) which they have shed for their adopted country.

OF THE ORIGIN AND ARRIVAL OF THE IRISH REGIMENTS IN FRANCE.

FIRST PERIOD.—1689.

A squadron in which James II. embarked, commanded by M. de Gabaret, arrived in Ireland on the 17th of March.

On the 6th of May following, Count D. Chateau Renand, brought the King several officers, uniforms, &c., and returned to France with his squadron of 22 ships. On his way back he beat Rear Admiral Herbert and took seven richly laden Dutch vessels. M. d'Amfreville left Brest on the 13th of March, 1690, with 86 ships of the line, having on board six French regiments, 6,300 men and he landed them in Kinsale Bay, on the 23rd of the same month. As Louis XIV wanted troops, it was settled that, James II. should give him, Irish regiments in exchange. They were consequently embarked in Cork, in the French vessels, and arrived in Brest on the 1st of May, 1690. These regiments were the following: Montcashel, O'Brien, and Dillon, in which were received the remains of the regiments of Burke and Fielding, and they formed a corps of 5,371 men, officers included; they were armed and equipped at the expense of the families who raised them.

MONTCASHEL.

This regiment was formed in 1683 of the companies that Charles the Second took from the town of Tangier in Africa, when he demolished it.

The Duke of Ormond was its first colonel, and had for successor Lord Montcashel, who died in France in 1694. M. de Lee succeeded him and left his regiment in 1704 to his son, Francis de Lee—the latter dying in 1721, it came back to his father, then Lieutenant-General and Grand Cross of the Order of St. Louis. He kept it until 1773, when he gave it to M. de Bulkeley—the latter dying Lieutenant-General and Knight of the King's Orders, the regiment was given to his son, Count de Bulkeley, at present Lieutenant-General. He kept it until 1775 when by a new formation of the army, under the minister, Marshal du Muy, it was incorporated into Dillon's, and took the name—

O'BRIEN.

This regiment was raised in Ireland in the beginning of 1689 by Lord Clare, who dying in 1691, gave his regiment to his eldest son Daniel O'Brien, who brought it to France, where having succeeded to the title of his father, the regiment took the name of

CLARE.

The latter dying in 1693, the regiment was given to M. de Lee, who was Lieutenant-Colonel in it, and who left it in 1694 to take Montcashel's.

He was replaced M. Talbot, who, having fallen into disgrace with the Government for having made use of indiscreet language, was sent to the Bastille, and deprived of his regiment in 1696, and Lord Clare, second son of the officer who raised the regiment, and brother of the one who brought it to France got it.

Having been killed at the battle of Ramillies on the 23rd of May, 1706, the regiment was kept up for his son, then a child, and the command given to O'Brien, Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment, until 1750, when young Lord Clare, Count of Thomond, took the command, and became Marshal of France, Knight of the King's Order, Commander of Languedoc when he died in 1761.

The regiment was reserved for his son, a child at the time, but the latter dying in 1775, the regiment of Clare was incorporated in Berwick's.

DILLON.

This regiment never changed its name, Lord Theobald Dillon raised it on his estate in Ireland in 1688, and having armed and equipped it at his expense, he gave it to his second son, Arthur Dillon, who brought it to France, where he became at the age of thirty-three, Lieutenant-General, having received that rank and that of Marshal de Camp, deeds of valour.

He was commander in Dauphine, and beat on the 28th August, 1709, near Briancon, General Reibender, commander of the troops of Savoy who attempted to enter France.

He ended his glorious career in 1733, leaving five sons. In 1728 he had given his regiment to

his eldest son, Charles Dillon. The latter, who, in 1734, was the eldest of the family, kept the regiment however, but gave it later to his brother, Henry Dillon. Lord Charles having died, Henry Dillon succeeded to the title and to the family estates, but still kept the regiment until 1743. After the battle of Dettingen, the English, from auxiliaries, became a principal party in the war, and he was obliged, for the preservation of his title of peer of Ireland, and to prevent the confiscation of his estates, to leave the service of France, which he did with the consent and advice of Louis XV. His third brother, Chevalier Dillon, got the command of the regiment, at the head of which he was killed at the battle of Fontenoy in 1745.

Louis XV. appointed on the field of battle the fourth brother, Edward Dillon, as colonel of the regiment, and he was, like his brother, killed leading it on at the battle of Lawfield in 1747.

The fifth brother alone remained, but he had taken orders, and is at present, and has been for the last twenty-eight years, Archbishop of Narbonne.

At the death of Edward Dillon, killed at the battle of Lawfield, Louis XV. was asked to give the regiment away, under the pretext that the Dillon family was extinct, but the King answered that Lord Dillon was married and that he would not consent to allow a property cemented by so much blood and eminent services to leave the family while he had any hope left to give it to them.

Dillon's regiment, in consequence, remained from 1747, under the command of a Lieutenant-Colonel. Count Arthur Dillon, second son of Lord Henry Dillon, received the command of it on the 25th of August, 1767, and the brevet proves clearly his rights.

He is at present "Marechal de Camp," proprietor of the regiment, at the head of which he served during the war in America.

After giving a short history of the different regiments, the member of the National Assembly gives the following account, year by year, of the services of the Irish Brigades. It was in vain. Soon after they were dissolved, some of the officers emigrating others retiring from the service and some serving in other regiments.

There were then living many of the soldiers who fought at Fontenoy, in the wars of India, America, &c., who, as the reporter says, could attest to the gallantry of the Irish troops.

Coming from such a source and addressed to the National Assembly the document which I translate and which in those stormy times was read by millions, has the melancholy but truthful interest to-day.

Abridged details of the services of the Irish regiments in France from 1689 to the peace of 1763.

We have seen how the regiments arrived in France, and the religious and patriotic motives that caused their emigration. We have now to speak of their gratitude to the nation that received them, by sacrificing themselves on every occasion for its glory and safety. It is a pleasing task to show the efforts they made to deserve favour, and we shall consequently present the abridged details of their services.

Service of the Irish Brigade in the Service of France.

1690.—The regiments of Montcashel, O'Brien and Dillon arrived in May, 1689, and were sent at once to Savoy and Piedmont, under the orders of Marshal de Catinat. They were at the battle of Star-tarde, won by this general on the 20th of August.

1691.—They made the splendid campaign of M. de Catinat, which ended by the siege of Montenu-han, taken on the 21st December.

1693.—Battle of Nerwinde, won by Marshal de Luxembourg, 29th July. The Irish regiments in France since 1691 were present, with the exception of three regiments, sent to the army in Piedmont.

1693.—Battle of Marsulla, won by M. de Catinat 4th October. The Irish greatly distinguished themselves, which was attested by M. de Catinat.

1696.—The six Irish regiments of the army of M. de Catinat, were at the only military operations of that year, the siege of Valenza, under the orders of the Duke of Savoy who had just made peace with France.

1701.—At the end of the campaign of 1701, M. de Sheldon at the head of his regiment of cavalry met Baron Merrey, between Cremona and Mantow, and though the latter commanded a corps three times more numerous than that of Sheldon, he was beaten and taken prisoner and Louis XIV. to reward this splendid achievement, gave the officers "a la suite," the same pay as the others, and the colonel, who was a marshal de camp, was made lieutenant-general.

1702.—Surprise of Cremona, the 1st of February. A priest introduced the army of Prince Eugene by a passage that was not known. The garrison, composed of the regiments Royal des Vaisseaux, Dillon and Burke, with Finarcon's dragons, defended themselves so bravely that, though taken by surprise, they recovered the town and drove the Imperialists out of it. The Irish fought most gallantly in their shirts at the Po door, through which the principal column endeavoured to enter the city.

1703.—First battle of Hochstet, won by the Marshal de Villars, the 20th September. A part of the Irish troops were present. The regiment Clare greatly distinguished itself. Having in the early part of the battle lost one of its flags, the men with the sword on the enemy, recovered their own flag and two of the enemy's. A few days after they were at the battle of Spire, won by Marshal de Villars, 15th November.

1704.—The Irish were at the second battle of Hochstet, on the 13th August. They were greatly out up when placed near the village of Pleintinhof, and finding the battle lost, they forced their way through the enemy, who took no prisoners among them, and they did not lose a single flag, which on that fatal day, was considered an advantage.

1705.—Battle of Cassano, 16th August, won by M. de Vendome. A great part of the Irish troops were present. The river Adda separated the two armies. The infantry alone were inactive. The Irish were much exposed to the enemy's batteries, and not skilled in a combat of musketry, alone, became impatient and dashed into the river, which the crossed by swimming, took possession of the other side, and of the batteries that had been firing on them. Mr. Dillon, then brigadier, com-

manded them; their audacity contributed greatly to the gaining of the battle, and M. de Vendome wrote to Louis XIV.—"that the Irish had fought in that affair with exemplary valour and intrepidity, and that they were the troops whose zeal and attachment could always be depended on in most difficult and trying events of war."

1706.—Battle of Ramillies, 23rd May, lost by Marshal Villeroi. Part of the Irish were present and were greatly cut up, Clare's regiment particularly, which lost Lord Clare, its colonel, 38 officers, and 326 men out of 800. It was opposed to a Dutch regiment, which it destroyed almost entirely, taking two of its flags and one from the English regiment of Churchill.

1707.—Battle of Almanza, 25th of April, won by Marshal de Berwick. He got the English division, which was the left of the Portuguese, turned by the regiments of Dillon, Berwick and Burke, and contributed greatly to their defeat, and to the gaining of the battle.

1708.—These same regiments served in Spain in the army of the Duke of Orleans, and were at the taking of Alcoi under M. de Mahony, the 9th January, and that of Tortone, the 11th July, and at Alicante, 3rd December.

1709.—In this year was fought the terrible battle of Malpouquet. Nearly all the Irish were present. After being three hours under fire of twenty cannons and repulsing three furious attacks of the enemy, with great loss to the latter, they retired slowly to the left of the army, after Marshal Villars had been wounded.

1712.—The Irish regiments were in the army of Marshal de Villars; were present at Denain 24th July, and at the siege of Marchiennes, which yielded on the 30th.

1714.—Some of the Irish troops served this year in Germany under Marshal de Villars, who after the peace of Utrecht, continued the war against the Emperor. There was nothing remarkable except the siege of Fribourg, in Bresgaw, which surrendered on the 16th November.

From 1713 to 1733 France was at peace.

1733.—The Irish were at the battle of Parma, 29th June, and at that of Guastalla on the 19th September.

1734.—Part of the Irish troops made the campaign in Germany under Marshal de Berwick. They were at the siege of Philipsbourg, where that celebrated general was killed by a cannon ball (12 June.) The Clare and Dillon regiments distinguished themselves greatly.

France at peace from 1736 to 1741.

1742.—All the Irish troops were assembled at Dunkirk, under the pretext of an invasion of England but in reality to oppose the English, who, though only then the auxiliaries of Austria, might march their army, landed at Ostend, into France.

1744.—France declared war against England. The Irish were destined to make a descent on England, under Marshal de Saxe, and were nearly all embarked. The squadron, commanded by M. de Roquefeuille, set sail. Prince Edward was on board the same ship as the Marshal, but contrary winds prevented the success of the undertaking.

1745.—Battle of Fontenoy, the 11th May, won by Louis XV., who had Marshal de Saxe under him.

Les Irlandais s'y conquirent de gloire displayed the greatest heroism. A large number of generals still living and who were present at it can affirm the fact.

The Irish Brigade which has been placed on reserve attacked with the greatest impetuosity a l'arme blanche, the famous English column which seemed invincible. Supported by the Brigade de Normandie they made an opening in it, and the King's household troops dashed in and terminated its defeat.

The Irish lost in this affair the third part of their soldiers, and more than a fourth of their officers were killed on the field. In the number several superior officers among them Chevalier de Dillon, colonel of the regiment. Louis XV. went next day to the camp of the brigade and thanked each corps in particular.

These details given in the National Assembly in presence of many officers present at the battle, will show how gallantly the Irish fought at Fontenoy.

1746.—This year several officers went to Scotland with Prince Edward, piquets of 60 men from each regiment were chosen. A great many were taken at sea and some of Fitzwarer's cavalry also.

1747.—Battle of Lawfield in which the Irish fought gallantly in presence of Louis XV. They twice attacked the village of Lawfield and were greatly decimated. They lost 1,600 men and 132 officers.

1748.—The Irish were present at the siege of Maestricht the last affair of the war.

France at peace from 1748 to 1756.

1756.—Lally's regiment went to India with an extra battalion.

1759.—The Brigade in Brittany embarked on the squadron commanded by M. de Contans.

1760.—The Irish spent the winter at Marbourg and Giessen.

1761.—350 men of the Brigade were sent to Fontenoy, but on passing through Fritzlar, M. de Narbonne kept them with him, and he always attributed to them the success of the defence of the place that partly saved the French army.

At the same time General Bredenberg at the head of 10,000 men attacked Marbourg, defended by the Irish Brigade. On the report of the enemy's advance the regiments of Clare, Both and Berwick started from Giessen, and arrived before them at Marbourg where, united with their countrymen, they opposed an invincible resistance to a most vigorous attack. General Bredenberg was killed and his troops retired in disorder, leaving their dead and wounded and three pieces of cannon.

The heroism of the defenders of Marbourg allowed the French army time to rally.

1769.—War in Corsica. The regiments of Bulkeley and Roscommon made the two campaigns.

1779.—Fears of a rupture with England were entertained touching the Falkland Islands, and Clare's regiment was sent to India.

AMERICAN WAR.

1779.—Dillon's regiment and two others were sent to America in the beginning of the year 1779. The first battalion of Dillon's regiment, 1,400 men embarked at Brest on the 5th April, 1779. On

the 1st July the troops landed on the Island of Grenada, and after storming at the head of his grenadiers the place, Dillon obliged the garrison to surrender at discretion.

1780.—The second battalion of Walsh's regiment with Dillon's took La Martinique 21st June under the Marquis de Bouille. They took St. Eustache, the Irish led the attack. 840 English soldiers were taken prisoners by less than half their number.

1782.—Dillon was at the siege of the fortress Brimstone Hill and St. Christopher. At the end of the year Berwick's regiment arrived at Martinique.

The political question then discussing gave fears of a rupture with the English and Walsh's regiment only just returned, was sent to India, where it is at present. The Irish soldiers in the service of France were considered as Frenchmen. The proof will be found in the following legal document:—
 "On the 18th September, 1747, the Tribunal gave M. O'Connor, born in Ireland, officer in the French service, right to inherit the property of his uncle, Dillon, and of his cousin, Kelly, excluding Mr. Kelly, born and living in Ireland.
 "Count de Kearney, an officer of the Brigade, dying in Versailles in 1780, the inheritance was given to Jacques Nagle, major in the Brigade, born in Ireland, excluding Madame d'Oliveira, sister of Count de Kearney, an Irish Catholic lady, residing in Cork, Ireland.
 "The decree was confirmed by the Tribunal on the 12th August, 1785."

Having given this document, which year by year shows how important the services of the brigades were, I shall endeavour to draw up a similar one for the officers of the Irish Legion from 1804 to 1815 after giving some details of the survivors of the wars from Fontenoy.

The services rendered to France since the restoration, and the eminent men living since 1815, will form matter for the two last articles. I shall endeavour to trace them down to the man now living, and the most illustrious of all, Marshal Patrick MacMahon, who directs the destinies of the great nation to-day.

—Cork Examiner. J. P. L.

THE IRISH "DOMESDAY BOOK."

Some of our readers, says the *Kilkenny Journal*, may have heard, possibly, of the recent compilation of a "Domesday Book" of England—that is, of the number of the landed proprietors of England—but few or none may have learned of a like compilation for Ireland. The English Book has been made public. Not so the Irish. There is not a little mystery here. The order of authority is, that a copy be kept in the library of the House of Commons for the use of Members of Parliament only. It is marked "Confidential," to prevent M.P.'s even from publishing the particulars. How, under these circumstances, we have got to the following important and significant figures is of no material consequence here. Suffice it, that we publish them as reliable and correct.—

SUMMARY OF LANDED PROPRIETORS IN IRELAND.

Acreage of Proprietors.	Number of Proprietors.	Total Area Statute Acres.	Total Valuation.
20,000 ac. & upwards	110	4,151,142	1,513,594
10,000 & under 20,000	192	2,607,919	1,174,228
5,000 do	10,000	440,307,471	1,453,697
2,000 do	5,000	1,246,387,611	1,987,202
1,000 do	2,000	1,773,247,756	1,385,580
500 do	1,000	2,663,187,171	1,133,877
300 do	500	2,271,884,493	591,104
200 do	300	1,916,471,646	345,662
100 do	200	2,778,408,690	334,476
50 do	100	2,082,162,006	144,441
25 do	50	1,400,52,804	62,637
under 25 acres	2,377	30,059	47,187
Total for Ireland	19,288	20,047,572	10,182,686
Number of agricultural holdings	603,864		
Number of rural population	4,286,019		

Writing with regard to these figures, an English contemporary and organ of the working classes, says:

"No country on the face of the earth, civilized or uncivilized, out of the British dominions, can parallel such statistics. Can anything be more infamous, than the state of things, such figures indicate? Not twenty thousand land-owners in Ireland of any agricultural land be it a garden, a field or a farm! A rural population of 4,286,019—say two million adults, and only 603,864 separate holdings; only one adult in three renting even a bit of land, from a potato patch to a farm! Then there are not, out of the two millions of adults, one in fifty 'owning' a potato patch or farm—capable of saying! 'Here I am on my own property, not a serf to any man. From this no man can turn me out, neither deprive me of a share in the profits of the soil!'"

"But the worst is not yet told," adds our contemporary; "the three thousand men who own two-thirds of the soil of Ireland, are men who hold similar large tracts of land in England and in Scotland. Many of them never saw their Irish estates, or ever troubled themselves as to the state of their tenants. Men like the Duke of Devonshire—one of the richest proprietors, owning 127,604 acres in England—are amongst the largest owners in Ireland. Having regard to such a state of things, what can more betray the absurdity of the Liberal party than having had the eldest son of such a peer the Chief Secretary, and now their leader in the House of Commons? Can he ever lead to a reform of the land laws? Is he likely ever to lead the Liberal party to repeal the laws of primogeniture and entail? Is he likely ever to assail the land monopoly? Would he sanction, and lead to the putting of a fair share of the burdens of our National existence—say a ten per cent. probate duty—on the land? No never! Not in the least more likely, to do it than Benjamin Disraeli, the leader of the Tories. Perish a Liberal party that consents to the manifest sham of following the lead of the obstructive duke!"