

and steered his course for Waterford, accompanied by thirty leaders of his own kindred, one hundred horsemen, and three hundred hardy and well-appointed archers.

As soon as Le Gros arrived in Waterford, and had an interview with the chief governor, it was mutually agreed they should march immediately to Wexford, and that the marriage of the former with Strongbow's sister should be performed without delay. The citizens of Waterford, naturally averse to the English invaders, and rendered still more hostile by their rigorous oppressions, as soon as the chief governor was gone, formed the desperate resolution of freeing themselves from their insolent masters by a general massacre of the garrison. The latter, little suspecting any violence or treachery within the walls, felt that confidence and security in which men generally indulge who are surrounded by their friends and adherents, and thus afford a more favourable opportunity for the execution of the designs of their secret enemies. Their commander, while crossing the river Suir, was, with his few attendants, murdered by the mariners who conveyed them; and as soon as intelligence of this event was carried to the city, all the English who could be found unarmed, were suddenly assailed, and slaughtered without distinction of age, sex, or condition. Such of the garrison as were able, on this emergency, to take up arms, joined their associates in the citadel called Reginald's Tower; and there not only succeeded in defending themselves, but at length drove their assailants from the city, and obliged them to sue for peace and accept it on the most rigorous terms.

Meanwhile the town of Wexford was a scene of joyful