

up an approved form of government and administrative authority.

Q. How did Ormond act for the king?

A. As the Irish troops had been victorious at Fermoy and elsewhere, and were receiving encouragement and assistance from Pope Urban VIII, and the French court, Ormond, in 1646, concluded a year's truce with the Confederates, on condition of their paying the king £30,000.

Q. What was the result?

A. The term of inaction produced dissensions among the Confederate leaders.

Q. What occurred at this time in England?

A. King Charles, unable to cope with his own rebellious subjects, fled to Scotland, but was sold by the Scotch Puritans to the English Parliament, by whose orders he was at last beheaded, in 1649.

Q. Did his Irish Catholic subjects fight for him?

A. Yes, in 1646, Owen Roe O'Neill and his Catholic troops fought the glorious battle of Benburb, and intirely defeated the great parliamentary army, under Monroe.

Q. What had the Earl of Ormond been doing?

A. After signing a treaty with the Confederates, to secure their services for the king, he tried to make terms with the Parliamentarians, but, being threatened with arrest, he fled to France, whence he returned in 1648, and signed another treaty granting the Catholics all concessions.

Q. Did Charles II. confirm this treaty?

A. Yes, while he was in exile in Holland; but when he landed in Scotland in 1650, to please the Puritans he sanctioned the extirpation of the Papists, and declared all Irish treaties null and void.

Q. Did the English Parliament accept his professions?

A. No. He had to fly from England, where a Commonwealth was now established, under Oliver Cromwell, the Puritan general.

Q. When did Cromwell land in Ireland?

A. At the close of 1649, when he stormed and took Drogheda, and slaughtered all the people in cold blood. O'Neill being dead, Cromwell marched south, besieged Wexford, and murdered 300 women assembled under the cross, the city having been treacherously given up by its Royalist commander, Captain Stafford.

Y. Where was Cromwell held at bay?

A. At Waterford, Limerick, and Clonmel.

Q. When did Cromwell leave Ireland?

A. In May 1650, after for nine months ravag-

ing the country, destroying the crops, battering down castles and churches, dividing the lands of his murdered victims among his blood-thirsty followers, and passing the severest measures against clergy and people.

Q. Who continued his bloody work?

A. His son-in-law, General Ireton, took Waterford, Dungannon, and Athlone, and besieged Limerick, where the governor, Hugh O'Neill, nobly held out, till the inhabitants, cut down by famine and the plague, were betrayed by a Colonel Fennell, who admitted Ireton's army.

Q. How did the Cromwellians act?

A. They hanged the Bishop of Emly, and several priests and gentry, and pillaged the whole city.

Q. What was the fate of the murderer and the traitor.

A. Under the curse of the martyred Bishop O'Brien, Ireton died of the horrible plague in 1651, and Fennell was hanged for his treachery.

Q. What was the Act of Settlement?

A. In 1652, the "Long Parliament" decreed death to all the Catholic clergy and loyalists, the forfeiture of their property, and the banishment of all the Irish who had not taken up arms across the Shannon into Connaught, thousands of children being sold in slavery in the West Indies.

Q. When did Cromwell die?

A. In 1658, and King Charles II. was restored to the throne 1660.

Q. What was his gratitude to the loyal Irish?

A. He confirmed their Cromwellian plunderers in their possessions, gave them supreme power in the new Irish parliament, and settled the Protestant prelates in their usurped sees.

Q. What atrocity marked Charles II's reign?

A. In 1681, the illustrious Oliver Plunkett, Archbishop of Armagh, was charged with conspiracy, arraigned at London, condemned without his witnesses being heard, and hanged, drawn, and quartered.

Q. When did Charles II. die?

A. In 1685, being succeeded by his brother, James II., who appointed the Earl of Clarendon his Irish Viceroy, and as a Catholic declared equal privileges to all classes of his subjects.

(To be continued.)

A wicked intention destroys the good which we do, and a good intention is not sufficient to excuse the evil which it produces.