

informed of their plans. Many of the leaders were arrested before the day of the rising, including Oliver Bond, Lord Edward Fitzgerald and John and Henry Sheares, so that the rebels were practically without leaders on the appointed day.

I shall not narrate the little minor events of the campaign that followed. The rising was only partial, it was confined chiefly to the counties of Kildare, Wicklow and Wexford, and there were some slight attempts in Carlow, Queen's County, Meath and County Dublin. But Dublin City did not rise, for it had been placed under martial law. On the 26th of May a body of 4,000 insurgents were defeated on the Hill of Tara.

The next insurrection and the most formidable one of all broke out in the County of Wexford on the 27th of May. Although the United Irishmen had never obtained a strong foothold in this county the people were driven to desperation by the cruelties inflicted on them by the Orange yeomanry. The climax came when Father John Murphy discovered his chapel in ashes on Whit Sunday morning. Father Michael Murphy, finding his chapel also destroyed, added his flock to the insurgent army and soon all Wexford was aroused. Wexford was captured, and the rebel army was formed into three divisions, the first of which was to attack New Ross and hasten the rising in Munster, the second was to open communication with Carlow, Kilkenny and Kildare, and the third was to move by way of Arklow and Wicklow on the Capital. New Ross was besieged and taken, but was afterwards recaptured by the Royalists. Waterford did not rise as was expected and Munster held back for another French expedition. The rebels concentrated all their strength on Vinegar Hill. 13,000 royal troops attacked their position and, aided by the best artillery, the Irish were routed. Disorganization and dispersion soon followed. Wexford was given up and, contrary to the terms of the capitulation, the leaders were executed.

In Connaught the rising was renewed at the end of August. The Irish leaders received aid from France at this point, but a force of 30,000 Royalists succeeded in quelling the rebellion and Humbert, the French leader, was obliged to surrender.

Another French fleet under Wolfe Tone's command was defeated after a few hours' engagement off the coast of Donegal.