

## IRISH SOLDIERS ABROAD.

"Long as valour shineth,  
Or Mercy's soul at war repineth,  
So long shall Erin's pride  
Tell how they lived and died."

— MOORE.



THE truth of the saying that the "Sons of Erin are scattered even to the confines of the globe," has become so well known in our day, that it is deemed rare wit indeed, for travellers to declare that in their wanderings through the jungles of darkest Africa, or over the ice-fields of the Arctic regions, they always chanced to fall in with an Irishman. It was but a few weeks ago that Nansen, the great Arctic explorer, reached the North Pole, and it is contended, notwithstanding the questioned authenticity of the report, that the famous discoverer was astounded at finding himself forestailed by an Irishman. Whether these be facts or fiction, the truth still remains that the sons of Erin are to be found in every part of the world. Some winning distinction by their brilliant talents, and thereby shedding lustre upon the land of their birth; others in humbler stations, living in the diligent performance of duty, thus giving glory to their God. The facts were so remarkable that Dean Swift was prompted to write, "I cannot but highly esteem those gentlemen of Ireland, who, with all the disadvantages of being exiles and strangers, have been able to distinguish themselves by their valor and conduct, in so many parts of the world, I think above all other nations." This is especially true in military life, and the story of the wanderings of many of

Erin's exiles is very touching. Yes! many of those truly heroic "soldiers of fortune" who quitted home and native land to fight in the armies of foreign princes, drank the cup of sorrow to its very dregs. Exiles as they were, they fought and died upon foreign soil, with no friend to mourn over their ashes, no one to sing their deeds of valor. Thus it happens that there are many deficiencies of information connected with the history of numbers of Irishmen who devoted themselves to a military life abroad. It is a most regrettable fact that so many noble Irishmen, after having performed prodigious deeds of bravery, have had the sad lot of dying alone in foreign lands, and of being consigned forever to oblivion. But thank heaven! this cruel fate was not reserved for all. There have been saved to us the records of Irishmen whose daring deeds and chivalrous exploits challenge those of any nation in the world. Yes! We have only to read the history of the European wars, from the fall of the Stuart dynasty to the first revolution in France, and there we will find the Irish exiles claiming honorable mention in the great armies from Russia to Spain. To the service of France especially did these famous warriors flock, forming there those brave and valiant bands of Irishmen so distinguished in reputation, and known as the Irish Brigades. It has been truly said that "there is nothing more interesting or romantic in the history of chivalry