

Q. Did St. Ruth comply with the advice of his Irish officers?

A. No; he was obstinate and self-sufficient, and refused to believe that Ginckle would really hazard another attack. He accordingly neglected to make any preparations of defence; and on the next morning the English had forded the river and entered the town ere St. Ruth had awakened from his slumbers.

Q. Where did St. Ruth retreat to with his army, after he had lost Athlone?

To the hill of Kilcommodon, near the castle of Aughrim, in the county of Galway.

Q. On what day was the battle of Aughrim fought?

A. On the 12th of July, 1691.

Q. What were the fortunes of the day?

A. Victory seemed for a long time to favour the Irish, who succeeded in several charges, and were quite triumphant on the right and on the centre; when St. Ruth was killed by a shot from the enemy's cannon. Confusion overspread the Irish army on the loss of their commander, and was speedily followed by defeat.

Q. What was the character of St. Ruth?

A. He was undoubtedly a brave and able general; but his merits were counterbalanced by his excessive presumption, self-confidence, vanity, and obstinacy.

Q. Did William renew his attempt against Limerick?

A. Yes; on the 25th of August, 1691.

Q. To whom did he commit the conduct of the second siege?

A. To Ginckle.

Q. Was the siege protracted?

A. Yes, for several weeks; and after an obstinate struggle, in which the greatest heroism was displayed on both sides, the city surrendered upon the terms embodied in the celebrated "Treaty of Limerick."

#### CHAPTER XXV.

##### *The Treaty of Limerick.*

Q. What was the advantage promised to the Irish Catholics in the Treaty of Limerick?

A. All the Catholics were to enjoy the exercise of their religion in as full and free a manner as they had done in the reign of Charles the Second. It was stipulated also, that as soon as parliament met, their majesties should try to obtain for the Catholics additional security for the freedom of their worship.

Q. What was the next provision in the treaty?

A. That all the inhabitants of the counties of Limerick, Cork, Clare, Kerry, and Mayo, who had taken up arms for King James, should possess their estates and pursue their callings and professions unmolested.

Q. What other right was secured to the Catholic gentry?

A. They were allowed to keep arms.

Q. And what oaths were required to be taken by them?

A. None, except the oath of allegiance to William and Mary.

Q. What provision was made by the treaty for all officers and soldiers who might refuse to remain in Ireland on the above conditions?

A. They were to be sent to France at the expense of the government.

Q. What was then the number of the Irish army at Limerick?

A. They were fifteen thousand strong.

Q. How many of them resolved to depart from Ireland, and enter the service of France?

A. About twelve thousand five hundred. They formed the commencement of the celebrated Irish Brigade which during the last century contributed so greatly to the honour of French arms.

#### CHAPTER XXVI.

##### *The Reign of William and Mary, concluded.*

Q. Was the treaty of Limerick faithfully observed by the government?

A. No; it was shamefully violated.

Q. What did Dr. Dopping, the Protestant bishop of Meath, say of it?

A. He preached a sermon before the lords justices, at Christ's Church, Dublin, in which he affirmed that Protestants were not bound to keep faith with Papists; at the same time denouncing the articles of the treaty.

Q. Was the bishop replied to?

A. He was, by another Protestant prelate; Doctor Moreton, bishop of Kildare, who alleged that the treaty was binding on men of good faith, and that Protestants could not be exonerated from keeping their promises to Papists.

Q. Did the English parliament violate the treaty?

A. Yes; by an audacious usurpation of power over the Irish legislature, the English parliament enacted "that all the members of the Irish legislature should take the oath of supremacy;" although the Treaty of Limerick had expressly provided, in its ninth article, that no oath whatsoever should be imposed upon the Irish Catholics except the oath of allegiance." In subsequent reigns, the treaty was yet more flagranty violated.

Q. Did the Irish parliament at this period of national depression and weakness, protect in any way, the interests of their country?

A. Yes; the Irish House of Commons rejected a money bill, which had been forwarded from England for their fiat; asserting their own exclusive right to originate all money bills.

Q. Of what materials was the Irish House of Commons at this time composed?