

citizens as fell easily within their reach. It is authentically stated that in the single County of Armagh, during the year 1796, no less than seven thousand Catholics were thus either murdered in cold blood or driven penniless from their old homes. Here is how a Protestant, Thomas Addis Emmett, in his *Pieces of Irish History*, describes the doings of the Orangemen at that time: "They posted up on the cabins of their unfortunate victims this pithy notice, 'To Hell or Connaught,' and appointed a limited time in which the necessary removal of persons and property was to be made. If, after the expiration of that period, the notice had not been complied with, the Orangemen assembled, destroyed the furniture, burned the habitations and forced the ruined families to fly elsewhere for shelter." Liberal and refined Protestants were equally objects of hatred in the Orangemen's eyes. In regard to this hatred, Rev. Father Kavanagh, an Irish Franciscan, who has lately published a popular history of the '98 rebellion, justly remarks: "It is but fair to say that Protestant gentlemen were found virtuous enough to earn the detestation of such vile men whose hatred was their highest eulogy." The illustrious Grattan, in a speech before Parliament, described the Orangemen of that period as "a banditti of murderers, committing massacre in the name of God, and exercising despotic power in the name of liberty."

In addition to the above enumerated evils, on March 30th, 1798, the whole country was placed under the woeful depotism of martial law. An army of more than 130,000 men was let loose upon the people on the notorious "free quarters" plan. Thousands of Orange yeomen were de-

signedly located in districts exclusively Catholic, and even the unoffending peasantry of counties where there had been no attempt at rebellion, were subjected to the horrid outrages of a licentious soldiery. How can we enumerate the wicked deeds of these worse than brigands? The wholesale butchery of helpless people, even of women and children, the pillage and burning of cherished homes, the desecration and complete destruction of God's sacred temples are some of the crimes we are allowed to mention. There were perpetrated other deeds of darkness over which Christian decency compels us to let hang the pall. Even Lord Cornwallis in his correspondence was obliged to state, regarding the militia, that they were "ferocious and cruel in the extreme;" that "murder seemed to be their favorite pastime;" that "the yeomen took the lead in rapine and murder" and that "the militia followed closely upon the heels of the yeomanry in murder and every kind of atrocity." What a strange acknowledgement is this in the mouth of one who was trying to have respected the British law! Another gentleman, the loyalist historian, Maxwell, says on the same subject: "That the rigid principles of British law were grossly departed from, cannot be disputed, and that during that fearful period means and measures infamous alike, were resorted to, must be admitted." Another good authority, Lord Holland, in his *Memoirs of the Whig Party*, thus expresses his conviction regarding the '98 rebellion: "The fact is incontrovertible, that the people of Ireland were driven to resistance (which possibly, they meditated before) by the free quarters and excesses of the soldiery, which were