

Q. What was Douglas's next proceeding?

A. He constructed a battery in front of the town, and opened a fire on the castle.

Q. How did the garrison meet the attack?

A. By returning Douglas's fire from the castle with tremendous effect. His best gunner was killed and his battery was destroyed. He was accordingly obliged to raise the siege.

Q. When did William besiege Limerick?

A. On the 9th of August, 1690.

Q. What was the conduct of his army prior to the siege?

A. They renewed the brutalities they had practiced at Athlone. They plundered and burned the country, and committed acts of the grossest licentiousness.

Q. What defence did the Irish garrison of Limerick make?

A. A most gallant one; even the women mingled amongst the soldiers, and fought as valiantly as the men. They declared that they would rather be torn in pieces than submit to the power of wretches who were guilty of such foul abominations as the Williamite army had committed.

Q. How long did the conflict last?

A. For three hours; when William retreated from Limerick, seeing that success was perfectly hopeless.

Q. How many men did William lose?

A. Two thousand.

Q. How did the advances of his army affect the condition of the Protestants who inhabited the country?

A. Most disastrously; for the Protestants in the neighbourhood of Limerick, and also of Athlone, had previously lived in security under the protections they had taken out from the Jacobite garrisons of those places; but on the approach of William's army, they had surrendered their protections and gone over to the invading army, by whom they were treated with the utmost indignity, and even brutality.

Q. What walled city was next attacked?

A. Cork; which was taken after a brave defence; the inhabitants having stipulated for protection for their persons and property.

Q. Were these terms observed?

A. No; a Williamite mob abused the persons, and plundered the property of the Catholic and Jacobite inhabitants; in which acts of licence they were joined by the triumphant soldiery.

Q. What was the amount of the confiscations under William?

A. One million and sixty thousand acres.

Q. What town of importance did William besiege in the ensuing year?

A. Athlone.

Q. Who conducted the assault?

A. General Ginckle.

Q. When did he appear before the town?

A. On the 18th of June, 1691.

Q. What resistance did the garrison make?

A. A most vallant one. The assailing force was now far superior to that which General Douglas had brought against the town on the occasion of the previous siege.

Q. How many cannon did Ginckle mount on his battery?

A. Ten; with which he opened a tremendous fire on the town and castle. The bridge had been broken by Grace in the former siege, and the English now repaired the breach with woodwork, under cover of the smoke of burning buildings.

Q. How did the Irish meet this attempt?

A. A sergeant and ten men, cased in armour, rushed forth from the town to destroy the wooden passage the English had made.

Q. What was the fate of this brave little party?

A. They were destroyed by a shot from the English battery.

Q. Was their attempt renewed by others?

A. Yes; a second party from the town filled their places, and succeeded in destroying the woodwork on the bridge. Only two of this party survived their desperate exploit.

Q. What was the result on the invading force?

A. Ginckle was unable for nine days to repeat his assault.

Q. When he did renew his attack, how did the Irish act?

A. They threw grenades into all the wooden works on which he had been occupied during the interval; and all his pontoons, galleries, and breastworks were consumed to ashes.

Q. What was the conduct of King James's French general, St. Ruth?

A. He most absurdly removed the brave men who so ably garrisoned Athlone, and supplied their places with inferior regiments.

Q. Meanwhile, how was Ginckle occupied?

A. He seriously debated with his officers whether he should abandon the siege or renew the assault. His own opinion was in favour of retreating; his officers, however, prevailed on him to renew his attempt by fording the river next morning.

Q. How did Ginckle try to throw the garrison off their guard?

A. He began to remove his guns from the batteries, as if they were preparing to depart.

Q. Did his trick deceive the Irish officers?

A. No; and they implored St. Ruth's reply.

A. The English said he will not dare to try it.

Q. What did the Irish General, Sarsfield, answer?

A. "No enterprise," said Sarsfield, "is too great for English valour."