

*King of Hy Liathan ; Mothla, King of the Decies ;
and Echtigern, King of Dalaradia.]*

*[Time—The early morning before the Battle of
Clontarf.]*

King Brian :—

Think ye the Vikings will attack to-day ?
'Tis monstrous if they show irreverence
By spilling blood upon the holy hour
When Christ lay dying on a cross for men !
I have sent message to their very camp
Begging them to defer until next day
The opening of conflict. Are there here
Who know of later tidings ?

Ospak :—

Noble King,
Not many minutes past, my soldiers took
A Danish spy, who, on being put to pain,
Told us that, some days gone, the sorcerers,
By Brodar were consulted, and replied
That if before Good Friday they gave fight,
The Danes would lose. But if upon that day
Battle was joined, King Brian sure would fall.
'Twas then resolved by common vote of all,
That on the morning of that holy day
They would attack in force.

King Brian :—

'Twould thus appear
There is no time to lose. The right wing then
Murrough and his brave brothers will
command
With Malachy of Meath, Our central force
Donal, the son of famed Dhu-Davoren,
And Kian, worthy son of great Malloy
Will lead to strife. Our left will be brought on
By the proud Princes of Connacia.
King Echtigern will join with them. May
Christ
Strengthen your souls when the deep dread
of war