

waged by Louis to support his grandson, Philip of Anjou, on the Spanish throne—commenced in 1700, and concluded by the peace of Utrecht and Treaty of Rastadt 1713-14; and under Louis XIV., in numerous minor wars with Germany, and especially in the war of the Austrian succession—France supporting the claim of Charles VII., of Bavaria, against Maria Theresa, Queen of Hungary, daughter of the last Hapsburg Emperor of Germany, Charles VI. This war was begun in 1740. France took sides in 1743, and it was concluded by the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, in 1748. In each of these contests, France and England were on opposite sides—a circumstance favorable to the bloody development of Irish hatred. After the last of the wars specified, the Irish Brigade, having no warlike food on which to flourish, covered with laurels and "worn out with glory," faded from the fields of Europe.

The "Old" Brigade scaled every Alpine fortress, drove the vengeful "Vaudois" from their savage hills, and laid the country under fire and sword, leaving a reputation for military prowess fresh, at this day, amid the mountains of Savoy.

In Flanders, in 1692, under Sarsfield and Lord Clare, the "New" Brigade won immortal honor at Steinkirk, where Luxemburg routed King William. At Landen, or Neerwinder in July, 1693, William held his ground desperately against the bravest efforts of the French. Luxemburg was in despair, when the fierce war-cry, "Remember Limerick!" rent the clouds, and the Royal Irish Foot Guards, led by Sarsfield, shattered the English centre, broke into Neerwinder, opened a path to victory for the French Household, and William was hurried up into the River Geete, while the Irish shout of victory shook the plain like a clap of thunder. Sarsfield received his death-wound, but his dying gaze beheld the sight he most loved to see—the English flag in shameful flight.

This same year, in Italy, under Catinat, the "Old" Brigade made its mark at Marsaglia, where it defeated the Savoyard centre, drew the whole French army after it, and chased Victor Amadeus almost to the gates of Turin.

Thenceforth, Lord Mountcashel having died of his wounds, the two Brigades were united as one. The younger Schomberg, son of the hero of the Boyne, fell before the Irish bayonets at Marsaglia. At the battle of Montgry, in Spain, fought in 1694, by the French against the Spanish, the "Brigade," under Marshal de Noailles, renewed its laurels, and the Irish charge proved potent in bringing the Spaniards to reason.

This war terminated, gloriously for France, by the Peace of Ryswick.

The war of the Spanish succession broke out in 1700. England and Austria supported the Archduke Charles against Philip of Anjou, the Bourbon heir. This struggle brought upon the stage the Duke of Marlborough, for England, and Prince Eugene, of Savoy, for Austria, two of the greatest generals of modern times. Marshals, the Duke of Berwick, Catinaut, Villeroy, Vendome, Villairs, Booflers and Noailles, commanded the armies of France. In this frightful struggle, the Irish flag always blazed in the vanguard of victory—in the rearguard of defeat, and the Irish name became the synonym of valor.

In the winter of 1702, the citadel of Cremons, in Northern Italy, was held for France by Marshal Villeroy, with a strong garrison. The French gave themselves up to revelry, and the walls were poorly guarded. Carrioli, an Italian, informed Prince Eugene, the Austrian commander, of the state of affairs. The traitor agreed to let in a portion of the enemy by means of a sewer running from outside the walls under his house. At the same time the French sentinels at the gate of St. Margaret, badly defended, were to be drawn off, so that Eugene himself, with a strong body of cuirassiers might enter and join the other party. Count Mercei was to attack the "Gate of the Po," defended by an Irish company, and Prince Vandement and Count Freiberg were to support the attack with the cavalry of their respective commands. The attack was made at midnight and the plans were admirably executed. The Austrians were in possession of the town before the garrison was alarmed. Count Mercei, however, met bad fortune at the "Gate of the Po." The Irish guard, chatting over old times by the Shannon, the Barrow, or the Suir, kept faithful watch. The clatter of hoofs aroused them, as Mercei, attended by several regiments of dragoons, rode up to the gate and called upon them to surrender. The Irish replied with a sharp volley, which laid some of the Germans out in the roadway. The fire aroused the sleeping Irish regiments of Dillon and Burke, who, in their shirts only, as they sprang from bivouac, grasped their muskets and hastened to the rescue. They were met in the square by Eugene's cuirassiers, who charged them fiercely. Major O'Mahony formed his Irish into a square and let the Austrians have a fusillade. The cuirassiers, urged by Eugene and Freiberg, dashed madly at the Italian bat-