

against the king's authority ;" and, in acknowledgment of his eminent services, he was raised by his holiness to the dignity of Apostolic legate. But he was never permitted to exercise this newly-acquired authority : for, on his return to Ireland, arrayed in this ecclesiastical panoply, he was prevented by the king, and was obliged to spend the remainder of his days in Normandy.

O'Toole was succeeded in the archiepiscopal chair by John Comyn, an Englishman, whom Henry had recommended to the clergy of Dublin, and whose election had been confirmed by Lucius the Roman pontiff. Ireland at this time required men of abilities to repair the loss of some of the most distinguished of the original adventurers ; and it is probable that Comyn was promoted to his new dignity rather for his vigour and abilities in temporal affairs than for those virtues which were necessary in the character of a Christian bishop.

A. D. 1182. By the desolating current of time, and the mutation of human affairs, the original adventurers were being swept off the stage on which they had acted so prominent a part, and it became necessary that their place should be supplied by others whose attachment to the interests of the English monarch would be the best security for the permanence and stability of the colony. Five years had now elapsed since De Cogan and Fitz-stephen had established themselves in Desmond ; and the latter, though deeply affected by the death of a favourite son, seemed to have the prospect of a peaccable repose provided for his old age. But such is the uncertainty and transitory nature of all human enjoyments, that his hopes were soon blasted by a series of unexpected and untoward circumstances.