

Q. What losses did the Williamites sustain just then?

A. They lost Sligo and Jamestown, which were stormed and taken by the gallant Sarsfield, earl of Lucan, a man of whom Irishmen may well be proud.

Q. How did Schomburg's campaign terminate?

A. In the destruction by disease and famine, of the greater portion of his army; while no advantage of any importance had been gained by his efforts against James, excepting the capture of the fort of Charlemont.

Q. On what course did William then resolve?

A. On proceeding to Ireland himself.

Q. Where and when did he land?

A. At Carrickfergus, on the 14th

June, 1690.

Q. By whom was he attended?

A. By Prince George of Denmark, the duke of Ormond, and a large train of followers of rank.

Q. What was the number of William's army?

A. Thirty-six thousand picked men.

Q. What were James's movements?

A. As soon as he learned that William had landed he proceeded to join his army, which were now encamped on the southern banks of the Boyne, near Drogheda.

Q. When did William's army arrive at the Boyne?

A. At an early hour on the morning of the 30th of June.

Q. How was James's army then posted?

A. They had Drogheda to the right, a deep bog to their left, the Boyne in their front, and some hedges between their lines and the river, which could be used at breastworks for infantry.

Q. What peril did William escape?

A. While reconnoitering James's position from the opposite bank of the river, he was struck on the right shoulder by a ball from James's lines; while another shot killed a man and two horses in his immediate vicinity. He, however, escaped with a slight wound, and rode through his army to counteract the dispiriting effects of a report of his death that had been spread.

Q. How was James affected by the approach of battle?

A. He had blustered a good deal the previous day about his anxiety to risk an engagement; but he now was eagerly anxious to avoid encountering his opponent.

Q. Was this from sheer poltroonery?

A. Partly it was so; no doubt; but William's army was so vastly superior to his own in artillery, as well as in numbers, that the French generals of James would have willingly escaped an engagement. The Irish, however, expressed their perfect readiness to fight

*The Battle of the Boyne, and the Sieges of Athlone and Limerick.*

Q. On what day was the battle of the Boyne fought?

A. On the first of July, 1690.

Q. Did James take an active part in the battle?

A. No; he looked on at the contest from the Hill of Donore; and when a portion of William's army gave way before the charge of the Irish dragoons, he exclaimed, "Spare, O Spare my English subjects."

Q. What was the progress and event of the battle?

A. Great valour was displayed on both sides; but the great superiority, in point of numbers and equipments, on the part of William's army, decided the victory in their favour. Exclusively of the numerical advantage, the Williamites were encouraged by the presence of a monarch who led them with bravery and skill; whilst the Jacobites were dispirited by the cowardice and incapacity of the miserable James.

Q. What did the Irish soldiers say when James fled to Dublin?

A. Their cry was, "Change kings, and we'll fight the battle over again."

Q. What was the conduct of William's soldiers after the battle?

A. The Enniskilleners, and some other desperadoes, murdered in cold blood many of the peasantry, whom curiosity had drawn to the spot.

Q. Who received James at Dublin Castle?

A. Lady Tyrconnell received him on the staircase; and when his majesty, with base ingratitude and falsehood, ascribed the event of the battle to the cowardice of the Irish, "who," he said, "had run away," Lady Tyrconnell replied with spirit, "Your majesty, I see, has won the race." In truth, James had not waited for the end of the engagement, but had precipitately fled to Dublin, leaving the day yet undecided.

Q. What commission did William issue?

A. A commission to confiscate the estates of all the Jacobite leaders who had taken up arms.

Q. What was William's next military enterprise?

A. The siege of Athlone. This service was entrusted to General Douglas, who was placed at the head of ten regiments of foot and five of horse.

Q. Who was the Jacobite governor of Athlone?

A. Colonel Grace.

Q. When summoned by Douglas to surrender, what was Grace's answer?

A. He fired a pistol at the messenger, desiring him to take that as his reply.