

MEMOIR OF GOVERNOR JOHN PARR.

BY

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Governor John Parr was directly descended from Lord Parr, Baron Kendal, who was a well-known nobleman, in the north of England, in the reign of Henry VIII. The arms of their family are to be seen in the Parr Chapel of Kendal Church, Westmoreland. The eldest son of this nobleman emigrated to Ireland and settled in 1620 at Belturbet, County Cavan.

In 1641, the family in County Cavan was represented by John Parr. In that year, the most bloody of the Irish rebellion, the Protestants of the neighbourhood were driven by the Irish rebels to take refuge in Belturbet Church. The rebels surrounded the church, blocked the doors, and set fire to the building. All the Parr family—nine in number,—inside the church perished, except the infant son of John Parr, who was thrown out of a window, into the arms of a faithful servant. This child named John, became the father of another John Parr, born 1672, who fought at the battle of the Boyne, and also at Blenheim, Marlborough's greatest victory.

There Parr won distinction, and the notice of the great commander. Entrusted with dispatches, at a most critical moment, in that immortal fight to a distant post, directing the general commanding to hold a most doubtful position until relief could be afforded, Parr was desperately wounded, but managed to deliver his orders, thus greatly contributing to the glory of the victory. John Parr served through Marlborough's campaign, but becoming