

and his successors, the equal rights of all his subjects. In that generation, as in this, said the speaker, the English, however jealous of their own freedom, could not frankly allow its blessings to others—especially to the Irish, whom they hated with a savage intensity. So Ireland fought for King James—representing to her civil and religious liberty—from 1688 to 1691—the Anglo-Irish Protestants, with some liberal-minded exceptions, espousing the English side of the quarrel. For three years Ireland, with her poor resources, her untrained population, distracted by foreign and domestic hatred—abandoned, at the outset of the war, by the King for whom she dared and lost all—feebly seconded by France—maintained her integrity in the face of the armies of Protestant Europe, led by William and his ablest marshals. Unfortunate in many battles, she exhibited her ancient heroism in all,—covered herself with glory at the first sieges of Athlone and Limerick, in 1690; and made King William fly the country in disgust, after failing signally at the breach of the latter fortress. On the memorable 12th day of July, 1691, the battle of Aughrim was fought and lost by Ireland. Gen. Saint Ruth, commanding for James, was killed at the very moment of victory. His French troops lost heart, wavered and broke. The victorious Irish were outflanked by the enemy, who renewed the fight on witnessing the death of the French General, and a terrible disaster ensued. But Aughrim, although fatal to Irish liberty, cast no shame upon Irish valor, for even the English historians acknowledge that no braver battle was ever fought on any soil. Ireland made her last stand at Limerick—being the second siege of that stronghold, called “The Irish Saragossa,” during this war. Baron de Ginkell, commanding for William, sat down before the brave old town in the middle of August, and, for more than six weeks, 100 pieces of cannon and numerous mortars poured shot and shell upon the place. Limerick was riddled like a sieve, but, under the indomitable Sarsfield, still held out. Treason, however, accomplished that which gunpowder and iron had failed to achieve. Two Anglo-Irish Generals in the service of James—Lutterell and Clifford by name—uncovered the city, on the Clare side of the Shannon, and enabled the English, by the use of pontoons, to seize Thomond Bridge—the key to the citadel. Even yet the Irish refused to surrender. Ginkell, struck with admiration at their gallant bearing, offered favorable terms. Despairing of aid from France—Louis XIV.

being pressed by other wars—his provisions running short, winter approaching, and Limerick in ruins—Sarsfield, with a bursting heart, agreed to an armistice. The arrangements were soon completed, and, on October 3, 1691—a black day for Ireland—Limerick capitulated with honor. The Dutch General conceded almost everything demanded. Such Irish officers and soldiers as desired to join the army of William were to retain their grade and receive higher pay. All who wished to take service in France were allowed to do so—Ginkell agreeing to furnish fifty transports and two men-of-war to convey them to that country. The civil articles—for Sarsfield would not surrender until all was made secure—promised freedom from persecution, rights of conscience, and the undisturbed possession of property to all the Irish people at home. The latter portion of the “Treaty of Limerick” was shamefully violated by England before the Irish soldiery had reached the ocean; but, for this, bloody revenge was taken on foreign fields in after times.

The garrison marched out by the Thomond Gate, “drums beating, colors flying, and matches lighting!” They retained all their arms, baggage and artillery. Without the walls two flags were planted; those of England and of France. Of the 15,000 soldiers who marched out of Limerick, 1,000 wheeled to the left, and the English banner blushed redder yet with shame as they stood beneath its folds. The rest, 14,000 strong, wheeled to the right dressed their ranks beneath the *Fleur de Lis*, and, dashing tears of agony from their eyes, cheered for Ireland and King James!

Immediately after the surrender, the Count Chateau Reneaud, with a French fleet and army, all too late for Ireland, cast anchor in the Shannon. His ships were useful in conveying the Irish soldiery to France. In all—including the garrisons of Galway and Sligo—20,000 Irish troops sailed from Limerick and Cork, under Sarsfield and Lord Clare, for the French ports. These soldiers, with Mountcashel's Brigade, exchanged by King James for 6,000 French troops before the battle of the Boyne, formed a corps of 25,000 men—called the “Old” and “New” Brigades. They were all in the pay of Louis, but were sworn to support James in any effort which he might put forth to recover his throne.

The Irish troops of France were prominently engaged under Louis XIV. in the war of the League of Augsburg, waged by Europe against him, from 1688 to the peace of Ryswick, in 1697; in the war of the Spanish succession—