



CHAPTER XVI.

PEACE.

GINCKLE'S expedition across the Shannon and his surprise of the Irish cavalry camp, successful as it had been, altered the position in no way. Several days passed, and then after a council of war it was determined to recross the bridge of boats, which remained undisturbed, to the Clare side, and try to force a way across Thomond Bridge. On the 22d of September all the cavalry of the army, ten regiments of infantry, and fourteen pieces of cannon made the passage without molestation and marched towards the bridge, which was defended upon the Clare side by two strong towers. As the British advanced guard of infantry approached the bridge it was charged by a body of Irish horse, broken, and driven back.

A strong body of cavalry rode up to support the infantry; the Irish horse were reinforced, and a hot fight continued until, at about four o'clock in the afternoon, the whole force of British infantry came up, and the Irish retired upon the infantry posted in the works which covered the bridge. Near the gate were high grounds cut up by gravel-pits. The Irish infantry