

by their losses, accompanied by a few soldiers from Carrickfergus, slew in revenge thirty Catholics on Island Magee. These thirty were shortly converted into three thousand, and the event translated from the 9th January 1642, back to 25th November 1641, that a defensive operation might become the excuse for crimes committed months previously. The bloody work went forward. The contemplated spoliation merged into murder, which soon became a passion, and not only might the Protestants be seen naked and defenceless dragging themselves in hunger and cold to some place of safety, but savages of both sexes brandishing skenes; even boys practising their young hands in stabbing and torturing English children. Terrible were the scenes enacted, from which the eye turns away in horror. The massacre of the Indian rebellion was nothing to it. It was at first indeed greatly exaggerated. It was said that 200,000 perished in the first six months. At the trial of Lord Maguire the figures sworn to were 152,000. Others reduced the numbers slain to 40,000, or 37,000. Even these figures Mr. Froude thinks exaggerated. But Father Burke will have it that the whole story is a fiction. First he quotes Phelim O'Neill's proclamation on the day of the rising :

"These are to intimate and make known unto all persons whatsoever, in and through the whole country, that the true intent and meaning of us whose names are hereunto subscribed, that the first assembling of us is nowise intended against our Sovereign Lord the King, nor hurt of any of his subjects, either English or Scotch, but only for the defense and liberty of ourselves and the Irish natives of this kingdom. And we further declare, that whatsoever hurt hitherto hath been done to any person shall be speedily repaired; and we will that every person forthwith, after proclamation hereof, make their speedy repair unto their own houses under pain of death, that no further hurt be done unto any one under the like pain, and that this be proclaimed in all places. At *Dungannon, 23 October, 1641.*—*PHELIM O'NEILL.*"

Upon this proclamation the Rev. Father proceeds to enquire :

"Did they keep this declaration of theirs? Most inviolably. I assert, in the name of history, that they did not massacre the Protestants, and I will prove it from Protestant authority. We find despatches from the Irish Government to the government in England, of the 27th of that same month, in which they gave them the account of the rising of the Irish people; there they complained, telling how the Irish stripped their Protestant fellow-