

CATECHISM OF THE HISTORY OF IRELAND.

CHAPTER XXVI.—(Continued.)

A. Chiefly of the, sons of Cromwellian adventurers, and other supporters of what was called "The Protestant interest." There were a very small number of Catholics yet in the House.

Q. How did the parliament violate the treaty of Limerick?

A. By an act disabling the Catholics from educating their children, or being guardians of their own or other people's children; also by an act disarming the Catholics; and by another act to expel all Catholic prelates and priests from the kingdom. They also passed laws to prevent the intermarriages of Protestants with Catholics; and to prevent Catholics from being attorneys or gamekeepers.

Q. What address did the English parliament present to William in 1693, on the subject of Ireland?

A. An address praying him to discourage the woollen manufacture of Ireland.

Q. What was William's answer?

A. "I shall do all that in me lies to discourage the woollen manufacture of Ireland, and to encourage the linen manufacture therein."

Q. Did William keep his promise to discourage our woollen trade?

A. He did.

Q. Did he keep his promise to encourage our linen trade?

A. He did not.

Q. In what year did William die?

A. In 1701. He was succeeded by his cousin and sister-in-law, Anne Stuart.

CHAPTER XXVII.

The Reign of Queen Anne.

Q. What enactments were passed against the Catholics in the reign of Anne?

A. The code, generally, known as the Penal laws.

Q. What were the penalties inflicted by the code?

A. The Catholics were thereby rendered incapable of acquiring landed property in fee, or by lease for any term longer than thirty-one years; and even for that limited term they were not permitted to possess an interest in their land greater than one-third the amount of the rent, on pain of forfeiting the entire to the first Protestant who should discover the extent of such interest.

Q. State some other enactment of the code?

A. If the child of a Papist possessing an estate should conform to Protestantism, the parent was debarred from disposing of his property by sale, mortgage, or will; and the Court of Chancery was empowered to order an annuity out of the estates for the use of such conforming child.

Q. What other penal laws were passed?

A. Catholics were declared incapable of inheriting the estates of their Protestant relations. The estate of a Catholic who had not a Protestant heir, was to be divided in a gavel among all his children. All men were to be qualified for office, or as voters at elections, by taking the oath of abjuration; and by receiving the sacrament of the Lord's Supper as administered in the Established Protestant Church. A Catholic possessing a horse, no matter of what value, was compelled to surrender the horse to any Protestant on payment of five pounds.

Q. What measure did the English parliament usurp the power of enacting against the Irish Catholics in 1703?

A. "When," says Mr. Prendergast in his "Cromwellian settlement," "the lands forfeited for the war of 1690 came to be sold at Crichton House in 1703, the Irish were declared by the English parliament incapable of purchasing at the auction, or of taking a lease of more than two acres." Mr. Prendergast adds in a note, "It was when the estate was made the property of the first Protestant Discoverer; that animation was put into this law."

Discoverers then became like hounds upon the scent after lands secretly purchased by the Irish.

Q. How did the government convert the Catholic owners of such estates to the Protestant religion?

A. By robbing them of their property if they refused to conform. Mr. Prendergast, speaking of the law that gave the estate to the Protestant Discoverer, says, "Gentlemen fearing to lose their lands now found it necessary to conform. Between 1703 and 1709 there were only 36 conformers in Ireland. In the next ten years (that is, after the Discovery Act) the conformists were 150."

Q. Was there a more specific violation of the Treaty of Limerick, than the scandalous enactments you have mentioned?

A. Yes; the parliament enacted a law which, expressly, and by name, deprived the Catholics of Galway and Limerick of the protection guaranteed to them by that treaty.

Q. Was a bribe held out to Catholic priests to become Protestants?

A. Yes; a grant of forty pounds per annum was made to every "Popish" priest who should embrace the established religion.

Q. What was the object of the Irish Protestant parliament in their shameless infraction of the Treaty of Limerick, and their violent and jercious enactments against their Catholic fellow-countrymen?

A. They were haunted by incessant fears that the Catholics would try to recover the estates which had been wrested from them by every variety of flagitious crime; and they therefore laboured to depress and weaken the objects of their terror to the utmost.