

the attacks of William's army. The famous bridge, chief scene of the conflict, has been replaced by a more modern structure, but the massive round towers of the castle are still standing, and give the place a very imposing appearance.

After a few hours spent in Athlone we skirted the northern shore of lovely Lough Ennel until we arrived at Mullingar, one of the most ancient towns of the Palatinate. It once contained a fine castle and two large priories, but of these not a trace remains. On the day of our visit there happened to be a horsefair and we were interested and amused by the great throngs of shrewd dealers who came to sell or "trade" horses; as they jostled one another, good-naturedly, many a hard bargain was driven, and many a quip and jest flew like a barb from mouth to mouth.

Tommy Atkins was much in evidence, and we learned that the place was a very important military station.

Leaving Mullingar we encountered some pretty pieces of woodland, watered by many a laughing stream, in whose translucent waters we could often discern a silvery fin, and no doubt the place is a favorite haunt of the angler.

Our next stopping place was Maynooth, where we saw the great tower of the once famous and magnificent Castle of the Kildares. Here "Silken Thomas" held court amid "rich spoils, goodly hangings and brave furniture," as the chronicler quaintly puts it.

"And oh! through many a dark campaign
They proved their prowess stern,
In Leinster's plains and Munster's vales
On king and chief and kern;
But noble was the cheer within
The halls so rudely won,
And generous was the steel-gloved hand
That had such slaughter done.
How gay their laugh, how proud their mien,
You'd ask no herald's sign—
Amid a thousand you had known
The princely Geraldine."

But of still greater interest to us was the magnificent college of Maynooth. The original college was founded by the Earl of Kildare in 1521, but the present building dates from 1795. Previous to that year, in the dark days of persecution, the Irish clergy had to go abroad for their education, but since then they have gathered here in their hundreds year by year from every part of