

THE SIEGE OF DERRY

AND

DEFENCE OF ENNISKILLEN;

A Narrative of the Great and Leading Events which transpired in Ireland during that Momentous Period in our National History.

The eloquent Macaulay says,—“It is impossible not to respect the sentiment which indicates itself by the veneration of the people of Londonderry, and the North generally, for the dear old city and its associations.” “It is a sentiment,” he says, “which belongs to the higher and purer part of human nature, and which adds not a little to the strength of states. A people which takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors, will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants.”

“Within the city,” says the same author, “there were seven thousand men capable of bearing arms, and the whole world could not have furnished seven thousand men better qualified to meet a terrible emergency.”

The Reign of Terror under which every Protestant in Ireland groaned at the time of the Revolution will be seen in the history of the events contained in this book, showing clearly that there was no other course open to them but resistance to the Stuart dynasty, which, had it been perpetuated, must have sunk the whole British Empire to the level of Spain, Portugal, or Italy. And if on this Continent a British Settlement existed at all, we may judge of its extent and character by what Mexico and Lower Canada now are.

Extract from the Speech of Lord Lisnard, Governor-General of the Dominion,

Delivered at Toronto, 5th October 1869.

His Lordship spoke of the heroes of the Irish struggle in 1688-90 as “those who successfully conducted the toilsome retreat from Cavan—who turned to bay and held their ground at Enniskillen, through many a month of doubt and peril. Of whom another band sustained the LONGEST SIEGE which ever took place in the British Islands, and watched from the walls, which their valour made impregnable, the slow approach of the sails from Lough Foyle, which were bringing them relief to close the conflict in their triumph—a triumph not more glorious to the defenders than it proved advantageous to them and their assailants, and to the cause of Civil and Religious Liberty then and for all time to come.”

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