

them. In 1036, he journeyed to Rome, was kindly received by Pope Benedict IX, in whose hands he placed the regal diadem, made of pure Irish gold, ornamented with precious stones.

The successor of Brian Boru was Turlough O'Brien, his grandson, whose father was King of Munster. Everybody knows that Westminster Hall, in London, built by William Rufus, in the closing years of the 11th century, has an oaken roof, which, thus far, has been spared by insects. It is less generally known that this wood, grown in Shillelagh, close to Arklow, in the county of Wicklow, was presented to the English monarch by King Turlough, the next successor of Brian Boru.

In 1168, Roderick O'Conner, of the blood of Brian, became ruler of Connaught and subsequently of all Ireland. O'Ruare, Prince of Brefni, had taken to wife a damsel, as frail as fair, who, shortly after fled to his bitterest personal enemy, Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster, who, fearing for his life, fled the country, in 1169, and finding Henry II., of England, in France, tendered him the sovereignty of Ireland, on condition of his own restoration to the throne of Leinster.

Passing into England he met Strongbow (Richard de Clare) and other of the Anglo-Norman military leaders, and, promising that if he would espouse his cause and take a sufficient military force to Ireland, he would bestow on him his daughter Eva, heir-apparent to the Kingdom of Leinster, and bestow on him, as dowry, the right of succession thereto. Dermot's own ambition and design probably were to become sole ruler of Ireland by aid of the foreign army of invasion under Strongbow, whose marriage with Eva duly took place.

But Henry, the English sovereign, becoming jealous of Strongbow, recalled him and his soldiers. Just then, in the year 1172, King Dermot died, and Strongbow submitted himself to Henry. Whereupon Henry hastened to Ireland with five hundred knights and a great number of horse and foot, landed at Waterford, and thence went to Dublin, where the Irish magnates paid him homage, as Roderick of Connaught subsequently did, and so Ireland was trans-

ferred to the yoke of English sovereignty.

In May, 1170, King Henry II., the English sovereign, not alone favorably, but eagerly, accepted the invitation of Dermot, King of Leinster, to sanction the service of a volunteer British force. The bribe offered to Henry was that if such action should restore Dermot to his throne, the latter would hold his crown as a vassal to England.

Accordingly, Henry issued letters of license, authorizing a military expedition against Ireland. Bristol, which was "mighty conveyant" to the south-west of Ireland, was to have been the place of rendezvous for the invading force, and there King Henry's agent received every encouragement from the civic magistrates, and Dermot, the de-throned, who was there, gave very liberal promises of land and property to all who would assist him to recover his crown.

There, too, at the same time, made much of by the Bristolians of all ranks, was a gallant soldier, one Richard de Clare, surnamed Strongbow, besides being Earl of Pembroke, Vice-governor of Normandy, which then, and for a considerable later period, belonged to the English monarch, and Marshal of the royal palace—whether *this*, at that time, was the Tower of London or the Keep of Windsor, this deponent knoweth not.

King Dermot, aware that his cause would be immensely strengthened by the personal adherence of such a powerful chief as Strongbow, offered him the heart of Eva, his daughter, with a promise to settle upon the heirs of such an union the succession to the throne of Leinster. To other adventurers minor promises were made. Fitz-Stephen, Governor of the Castle of Cardigan, and ancestor of the Barrys of Cork, received forever, a grant of the town of Wexford right opposite to Cardigan; and, indeed this was the first place besieged and taken by the English and Welsh invaders.

Strongbow had previously visited Ireland more than once. While he was collecting volunteers, under the King's letter, Fitz-Stephen got the start of him in Ireland, landing 30 knights, 60 esquires, and 300 foot-soldiers. Meanwhile, King Dermot, who had slipped over to Ireland, collected a force of 500