

The officers and men who entered the service of France had bitter reason to repent their decision. Instead of being, as they expected, kept together in regiments, they were for the most part broken up and distributed throughout the French army. Louis was deeply enraged at the surrender just as the expedition he had made such efforts to send for the conquest of Ireland was within a few hours' sail of its shores, and he treated the whole of the Irish and French who returned from Ireland as men who had acted the part of traitors.

As soon as the terms of capitulation were arranged, Captain Davenant obtained papers of protection for all the men of his troop. He had formed them up on parade, and had put the question whether they wished to return home or to enter the service of France.

"I myself and your officers intend to return home," he said. "Of course each of you is free to do as he chooses; but it appears to me a most foolish thing to leave your country for ever, and exile yourself in the service of France, when you are free to return home. You know how little French promises have been kept during this war, and how little faith is to be placed on them in future."

The men were unanimous in their decision to return to their homes, and as soon as the protection papers were obtained the troop disbanded, and all returned to their homes and occupations in and around Bray.

It was a joyful meeting when Captain Davenant and Walter returned to the castle. Mrs. Davenant had always shared her husband's opinion that the chances of