

Clare take out her beads and begin to pray as the boat pushed off, and you were seen to be borne off by those ruffians."

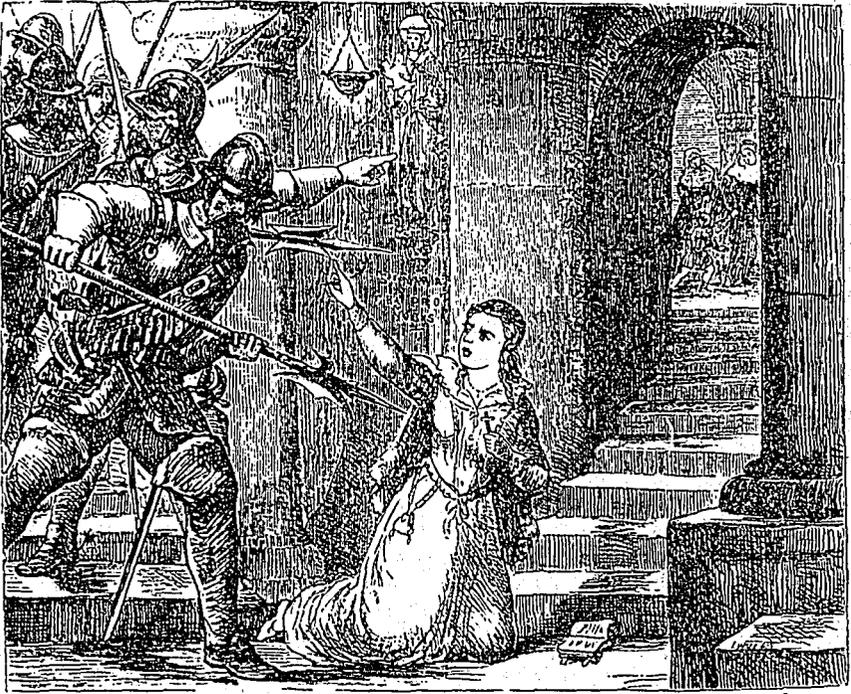
CHAPTER THE SEVENTEENTH.

The rapidity of Cromwell's movements soon showed the garrison of Drogheda that they had no ordinary foe to deal with. Ere a week had passed the batteries were ready, and on September the 2nd the fatal sounds were heard which

St. Peter's Church was turned into an hospital, and Bride and other ladies, with many pious women of the Third Order of St. Francis and St. Dominic, were ready to attend on the wounded.

"Ah, heaven! hear you that, Bride?" cried her terrified mother, towards evening on the 10th of September, as a sound that seemed to shake the city resounded in their ears.

"Hear you that, Bride? The invaders are upon us!"



IRELAND IN THE DAYS OF CROMWELL.

denoted hostilities had really begun. Strange to say, as the actual danger approached, Bride's spirits rose again. The anguish of parting from her friends was over; they at least were safe, and the heaviness that had weighed upon her heart was at an end. Perhaps it partly arose from the fact of her having made serious preparation for death; so that now having cast down at the feet of her Lord all that could awe or dismay her in that dread hour, she went on her road light of heart. Her time was busily employed. A large building near

Bride's cheek had paled a little, but she recovered herself.

"Mother, the siege only began to-day. Do you hold our men so cheap?—Here cometh Hugh; he will tell us it is nought—Here, now, Hugh, what means this riot?—surely no danger yet."

"Not yet," said Hugh, bravely; "but I misdoubt not 'tis near at hand. The steeple of St. Mary's is down. This man knoweth how to besiege. They say, however, he will give quarter, yea, and honourable terms, an' the resistance cost him not too dear."