

and warfare than the story of the solitary soldiers of fortune who sought service and found fame, and sometimes misfortune under the flag of foreign kings." It is but natural therefore that we should be attracted by a series of such brilliant military achievements as those of the Irish exiles in France, Flanders, Italy, Germany and Russia.

However, before relating a few of the many glorious deeds performed by Irishmen in the last couple of centuries, it might not prove uninteresting to take a passing glance at some of the characteristics of the Irish soldier, especially those which distinguish him from the soldiers of all other nationalities. That he is ambitious of personal renown can never be doubted, for in no history, other than that of the Irish Brigades, will we find so many instances of humble and unknown persons rising to fame and glory by their own individual efforts. The Irishman's love of war and romance may be seen in his quitting the cherished hearths of his fatherland, and betaking himself to foreign climes, there to gratify an unsatiable longing for the thundering of canon and the blind fury of the cavalry charge. It is on the battlefield that he is perfectly at home. Like the chivalrous Frenchman, he must ever be in active service, ever in the front ranks of the infantry. In his impetuous desire to mingle in the fight his enthusiasm so often overpowers him, that prudence and discretion are thrown to the winds.

An old English veteran, Lieutenant John Skipp, had occasion like many others to admire the excellence of the Irish soldiers. In his memoirs referring to the 87th Regiment, a corps called the "*Fogabouloughs*" or "*Clear the Way*" boys, he spoke thus: "I must confess that I love to be on duty, or any kind of service with the Irish. There is a promptness to obey, an hilarity, a cheerful obedience, and willingness to act, which I have rarely met with in any other body of men; there is a willingness to share their crust and drop, on service with their comrades; an indescribable cheerfulness in obliging and accomodating each other. In that corps there was a unity I have never seen in any other; and as for fighting, they were very devils." Another striking illus-

tration of the high esteem in which Irish soldiers were held by the great generals of those stormy times, is evinced in the unconcealed admiration that the Duke of Wellington had for them. It is related by an historian of the Irish Brigade that during the Peninsular war one of the generals observed to the Duke of Wellington how unsteadily a certain Irish corps marched. The noble Duke replied: "Yes, General, they do, indeed: but they fight like devils," and a commentator continuing says, "So they will always fight, while they are Irish. In some situations they are, perhaps, too impetuous; but if I know anything of the service, this is a fault on the right side; and what at the moment was thought rashness and madness, has gained old England many a glorious victory." It is no wonder then that such soldiers have acquired unrivalled celebrity, and have won the admiration of the most prejudiced by their daring enterprises, their thrilling adventures and brilliant achievements on all the great battlefields of the western world. To give a complete and detailed account of the many deeds of heroism performed by Irish exiles would entail a vast amount of deep research and minute investigation. It would require volume upon volume to do justice to each and every Irish soldier who offered up his life blood in the service of foreigners. But some idea at least of their bravery may be obtained from learning of a few of the most celebrated exploits in which sons of Erin have shone with unrivalled lustre.

Undoubtedly, the most noted achievements of any body of Irish soldiers, whether serving at home or abroad, were those of the famous Irish Brigade which served under Louis XIV. One of the numerous instances in which their valor won the day for the French in the latter's struggles with the Confederates of Augsburg, was at the battle of Marsaglia in 1693. The commander of the French in that memorable battle was Marshal de Catinat. Besides the regular French troops he had under his command several Irish corps headed by Thomas Maxwell, John Manchop, Francis O'Carroll and other celebrated Irish leaders. Marshall Catinat was victorious but to the Irish his victory was in