

**A HISTORY OF THE PENAL
LAWS AGAINST THE IRISH
CATHOLICS: FROM THE TREATY
OF LIMERICK TO THE UNION**

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A History of the Penal Laws Against the Irish Catholics: From the Treaty of Limerick to the Union by Henry Parnell

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HENRY PARNELL

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OF LIMERICK TO THE UNION**

A
HISTORY
OF THE
PENAL LAWS
AGAINST THE
IRISH CATHOLICS,

FROM

THE TREATY OF LIMERICK TO THE UNION.

BY HENRY PARNELL, Esq. M. P.

“ He felt it his duty to declare fully his sentiments on these points, because he looked upon his Roman Catholic brethren as fellow subjects and fellow Christians, believers in the same God, and partners in the same Redemption. Speculative differences in some points of faith from him, were of no account, they and he had but one religion—the religion of Christianity. Therefore, as children of the same father, as travellers in the same road, and seekers of the same salvation, why not love each other as brothers? It was no part of Protestantism to persecute Catholics, and without justice to the Catholics there could be no security for the Protestant Establishment.”—*Vide Speech of Dr. Law, Bishop of Elphin, on the Catholic Bill of 1793.*

“ If any one should contend that this is not the time for Government to make concessions to Ireland, I wish him to consider, whether there is any time in which it is improper for either individuals or nations to do justice, any season improper for extinguishing animosity, any occasion more suitable than the present, for putting an end to heart-burnings, and internal discontent.”—*Vide Speech intended to be spoken by Dr. Watson, Bishop of Llandaff, November 23, 1803.*

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1808.

The following table shows the results of the experiment. The first column shows the number of trials, the second column shows the number of correct responses, and the third column shows the percentage of correct responses. The data shows that the percentage of correct responses increases as the number of trials increases, indicating that the subjects are learning the task.

Trial	Correct	Percentage
1	0	0%
2	0	0%
3	1	33%
4	1	25%
5	2	40%
6	2	33%
7	3	43%
8	3	38%
9	4	44%
10	4	40%
11	5	45%
12	5	42%
13	6	46%
14	6	43%
15	7	47%
16	7	44%
17	8	47%
18	8	44%
19	9	47%
20	9	45%
21	10	48%
22	10	45%
23	11	48%
24	11	46%
25	12	48%
26	12	46%
27	13	48%
28	13	46%
29	14	48%
30	14	46%
31	15	48%
32	15	46%
33	16	48%
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84	41	46%
85	42	48%
86	42	46%
87	43	48%
88	43	46%
89	44	48%
90	44	46%
91	45	48%
92	45	46%
93	46	48%
94	46	46%
95	47	48%
96	47	46%
97	48	48%
98	48	46%
99	49	48%
100	49	46%

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HISTORY

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WILLIAM III.

WHEN James abdicated the Throne of England, he retired to France, to solicit the aid of Louis XIV. to enable him to secure the possession of Ireland, where he was still acknowledged as the lawful Sovereign. On the 12th of March, 1689, James landed at Kinsale with about 1200 of his own subjects in the pay of France, and 100 French officers. He was received with open arms, and the whole country seemed to be devoted to him, for although the Protestants in the North had declared for the new Government, their strength and number were inconsiderable, when compared with the forces of the Lord Deputy Tyrconnel. This Minister had disarmed all the other Protestants in one day, and assem-

bled an army of 30,000 foot and 8000 cavalry.* Addresses were poured in upon James from all orders of the people. The established clergy among the rest congratulated him upon his arrival, a certain sign that his chance of success was not contemptible.

James continued to govern Ireland, without any interruption from William, till the 13th of August,† when Schomberg landed at Belfast with an English army of 10,000 men. To oppose him, James collected his forces amounting to 30,000 at Drogheda.‡ Schomberg who had arrived at Dundalk thought it prudent to advance no farther; and instead of reducing Ireland, after having lost one half of his army by sickness, he at the end of the campaign was under the necessity of entrenching himself against an enemy, which he had been taught in England to despise, and of confining his operations to the protection of the Northern Province.§

On the 14th of June in the year following, William landed with reinforcements at Carrickfergus. His military genius as well as the dis-

tracted

* Smollet, 1. 36. † Leland, v. 3. b. 6. c. 6. ‡ Ib. § Ib.

tracted state of England, and the formidable preparations of France, inclined him to a vigorous prosecution of the war in Ireland.* He advanced towards Dublin with an army of 36,000 men, James collected his forces amounting to 33,000 at Drogheda, and by an unaccountable infatuation resisted the advice of his General Officers to act on the defensive against William; who would then have had to contend at the same time against a threatened foreign invasion of Britain, the insurrection which his own subjects were plotting, and the difficulty of maintaining his Irish army in an unfriendly climate without provisions or succours.

Though William obtained a decided victory at the Boyne, the Irish army had fought with courage and obstinacy; and, in consequence of having at one time repulsed the centre of the English army, were able to retire in good order, with the loss of only 1500 men.† The subsequent defeat of General Douglas before Athlone, and of William himself before Limerick, left James at the end of the campaign in possession

* Leland, v. 3, b. 6. c. 6.

† Ib.

of nearly one half of Ireland, and well supported by an army inured to war and commanded by able and experienced Generals. William experienced still greater embarrassments on the Continent and in England. A victory had been gained by Luxemburgh, in Flanders, over Prince Waldeck and the confederate army; Tourville had defeated the united fleets of England and Holland; and great dejection and discontent was visible among all his British subjects.

William having returned to England in the autumn of 1690, General Ginckle, with an army inferior to that of St. Ruth, who now commanded the Irish forces, commenced the campaign by the capture of the fort of Baltimore. Having afterwards taken Athlone, and defeated St. Ruth at the battle of Aughrim, he laid siege to Limerick on the 25th of August, 1691. The fortifications had been strengthened since William was repulsed before it in the preceding year; the garrison was healthy, well supplied, and in numbers equal to the assailants, and strong succours were daily expected from France*. The besiegers, on the other hand, were too few for the undertaking,

the

* Leland, v. 3. b. 6. c. 6.

the season of the year was far advanced, and they had no expectations of receiving any reinforcements.

Week passed away after week without Ginckle's obtaining any advantage over the besieged; at length he made a lodgment on the opposite side of the Shannon. But, notwithstanding this success, it was debated whether the siege should be carried on, or converted into a blockade; such were the difficulties foreseen in reducing the town. It was dangerous for the besiegers to continue in their present station on the approach of winter, and hazardous to divide an army sufficient only for assailing the town on one side; and yet the only effectual way of reducing it was to invest it on all sides, by cutting off the garrison from all intercourse with the county of Clare*.

William, in the mean time, was so sensible of the necessity of obtaining the surrender of the Irish army, in order to secure his newly acquired throne, and the success of the revolution, that he sent instructions to the Lords Justices to issue a proclamation, offering to the Catholics still more liberal

* Leland, v. 3. b. 6. c. 6.