

WITH THE STORY TELLERS

father who was all his life engaged in warfare with the English, died in 1375, leaving young Art to assume the control of affairs at the age of eighteen years.

He followed in his father's footsteps, everywhere combatting the aggressiveness of the English settlers, who from time to time and under one pretext or other, endeavored to dispossess the Irish of their lands to which they laid claim.

In 1392, he suffered a defeat at Shankill, Queen's county, at the hands of the Earl of Ormond, who commanded a greatly superior force, but he retrieved himself soon afterwards, by the capture of New Ross, at that time, the second strongest city in Leinster. After possessing himself of all their arms and stores, he razed the walls of the town. The English King, Richard the third was so indignant on hearing this that he raised an army of thirty-five thousand men; and with it sailed to Ireland, landing at Waterford in 1394; but was completely outgeneraled by McMurrough and returned to England, without accomplishing anything.

Meantime the king's exchequer had been removed from Dublin to Carlow for greater safety. McMurrough captured the town and seized the funds. This was followed by the battle of Kells county Kilkenny. The British were defeated, and their commander, the Earl of March, heir apparent to the English throne was slain.

On learning of this King Richard became so enraged, that he swore he would exterminate the whole McMurrough sept, and for that purpose gave orders, that every vessel over fifty tons through the whole length of England, from the Solway to Lands End should be placed at his disposal to transport his troops and stores across to Waterford, but the second expedition met with no more success than the first,