

WITH THE STORY TELLERS

But of that chieftain's coming,  
The earls were soon apprised,  
And laid for both an ambushade,  
Quite skillfully devised.  
Outnumbered greatly and surprised,  
They were soon put to flight,  
And with three hundred of their men,  
Fell in that bloody fight.

The news received, McMurrrough  
Before his chiefs arose—  
"This is disheartening tidings,  
What do you now propose?"  
Said Lawlor: "Though I'd like at once  
To strike our deadly foe;  
I fear our numbers are too few  
Against him yet to go."  
Stout Hugh O'Toole took up the word:  
"Talk not of falling back,  
'Twould instigate those wavering now  
To join in the attack,  
Upon us and our followers,  
That they might favor gain,  
From Ormond who would stronger be  
Should we come back again.  
Still I admit, it looks to me,  
Kilkenny's not the place  
Where we could crush decisively  
The haters of our race.  
But if we straight to Dublin go  
It is my firm belief;  
The earls their vantage must forego,  
And haste to its relief.  
So couriers to Wicklow send  
To muster all the clans:  
Then call the roll in glennasmole;  
Prince Art these are my plans!"