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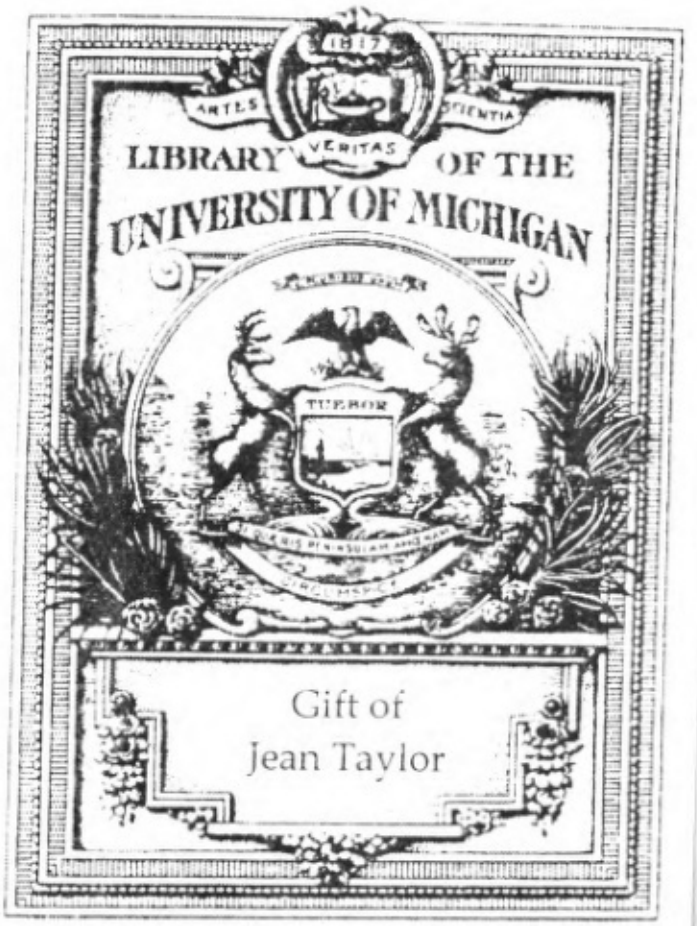

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T. Earle Westbrook
1899

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THE HESSIAN TROOPERS DRIVEN FORTH. O & G

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self for what I have done. I think myself, my son, that there are higher lives than that spent in tilling the soil from boyhood to old age. It is true the soil must be tilled. There must be ever hewers of wood and drawers of water; but God has appointed for each his place, and I think, my son, that you have that within you which would render the life with which your father and grandfather have been well-contented an irksome one for you. I have no fear that we shall be always separated. Your grandfather is an old man, and when the Lord pleases to take him, your father and I will be free to do as we choose, and can, if we like, dispose of this land and quit this troubled country and settle in England or elsewhere near where you may be. It is true that we shall get little for the land; for, broad as are its acres, who will give much for a doubtful title? But there is ample laid by for our old age, and I see not the sense of laboring incessantly, as does your grandfather, merely to lay up stores which you will never enjoy. Did I see any signs of a decrease in the bitter animosity which parties feel toward each other here I might think differently; but there is no prospect of peace and good-will returning in your time, and therefore no object in your father and I toiling on for the rest of our lives when the return of our labor will be of little worth to you. Such being so, I do not regret that your thoughts turn to the world of which you have read in books. The world is but a secondary consideration to us, 'tis true, but I can see no special goodness in a life of dull monotony.'"

"I wonder where your mother got hold of her ideas, John; she is so different from most of your people?"

"She is indeed," John agreed. "It was from her mother that she received her teaching. I know she was not happy with her husband, who was as gloomy and fanatical as is my grandfather, and she ever looked back

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only of the fortified towns of Enniskillen and Derry. In the south General McCarty was equally successful in clearing Munster of William's adherents, and defeated Lord Inshiquin in every encounter.

On the 14th of March Mr. Davenant, who had ridden into Dublin, returned in the evening with the news that the king had landed at Kinsale two days before, with fifteen hundred Irish troops in the pay of France, and a hundred French officers, intended to aid in drilling the new levies.

"I am glad, indeed, that he has arrived, for had he been met on the seas by the English fleet all our hopes might have been dashed at a blow. Now that he is with us it will rouse the enthusiasm of the people to the utmost. If he is wise he will surely be able to unite all Ireland under him, save of course the fanatics of the north, who, however, can do nothing against the whole strength of the country, since Hamilton's little force alone has been sufficient to put down all opposition, save where they remain shut up behind the walls of Derry and Enniskillen. It is not with them that we have to cope alone—they would be utterly powerless—it is with the army of England and Scotland we shall have to fight. Unfortunately we have no fleet, and they can land wherever they choose; but now the king is really among us, all who have hitherto wavered will join. Let England and Scotland choose their king as they will, but there is no reason why Ireland should desert its rightful monarch at their bidding."

"When will the king arrive at Dublin, father?"

"He goes first to Cork, Walter; Tyrconnell has set out, and will meet him there. They say he will be here in about ten days' time. The French ambassador, the Marquis d'Avaux, comes with him, and many French nobles."

"Do you think, father, he will at once order that his

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favor and protection to the Established Protestant Church; issued an invitation to the Protestants who had fled the kingdom to return to their homes, and assured them of safety and his particular care; and he commanded that, with the exception of the military, no Catholics should carry arms in Dublin. Finally, he summoned a parliament to meet him in Dublin on the 7th of May.

One day a messenger arrived with a dispatch for Captain Davenant.

"We are to move into Dublin to-morrow, Walter," he said when he read it. "We are to take the field at once; the king himself is going to march in command of us against Derry. I think his majesty is wrong; and I know that Tyrconnell has argued strongly against his intention. There are three reasons against it. First, as I told you, I think it were better to leave Derry alone until the main issue is settled; secondly, King James has no military experience whatever, and if aught goes wrong with the expedition he will lose prestige; thirdly, although it were well for him to be with the army when it fights a foreign foe, it were better that he should not lead it against men who are, however much they may rebel against him, his own subjects.

"I know Tyrconnell has set forth these objections to him; but unhappily obstinacy is a fault of all the Stuart race, and it generally happens that they are most obstinate when most wrong. However, I trust that when Derry sees so strong a force marching against it, it will open its gates without resistance. A siege can only entail horrible suffering on the town; and that suffering will in the end tell against James' cause, for it will excite the sympathy of the Protestants in England and Scotland and make them all the hotter to conquer Ireland."

The following day the troop was mustered in front of

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"KILCOWAN IS ON FIRE, SIR!" O & G

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