

Outbreak of the Rebellion – Original Documents

The Proclamation of Sir Phelim O'Neill – 24 October 1641

This proclamation is to inform all in this country that the present meeting and assembly of the Irish is in no way intended against the King, or to hurt any of his subjects either of the English or the Scottish nation; but only for the defence and liberty of ourselves and of the natives of the Irish nation.

We order all people at once to return to their homes, under pain of death, and promise that any hurt done to any person or persons shall be at once repaired.

Printed Calendar of State Papers Ireland, 1633-47

The examination of Owen Connolly, 22 October 1641

The examination of Owen Connolly who being duly sworn and examined said that he received a letter from Colonel Hugh Óg MacMahon desiring him to follow him to Dublin. He arrived in Dublin about six o'clock in the evening and went to Hugh's house in Oxmantown. In the house of Lord Maguire they drank a cup of beer and returned to Hugh's house where he [Connolly] was told that there would be on this night great numbers of noblemen and gentlemen of the Irish papists from all parts of Ireland in Dublin who with Maguire had determined to take Dublin Castle and possess themselves of all the ammunition there. They first intended to batter down the chimneys of the town, followed by the houses and cut off all Protestants that would not join with them. He further said that Hugh Óg told him that the Irish had prepared men in all parts of the kingdom to destroy all the English inhabiting there tomorrow morning by ten o'clock and that in all the seaports and other towns in Ireland, all the Protestants would be killed.

TCD MS 809, Folios 13-14

Proclamation by the Lords Justices and Council William Parsons and John Borlase

This is to make known to all His Majesty's good subjects in his kingdom of Ireland, that the discovery has been made by us, the Lords Justices and Council, of a most disloyal and detestable conspiracy by some evil-affected Irish Papists. It is against the lives of us the Lords Justices and Council and many others of his Majesty's faithful subjects throughout this kingdom. The plan is not only to seize his Majesty's castle in Dublin, but also of the other fortifications in the kingdom.

By the great goodness and abundant mercy of Almighty God to his Majesty, and his state and kingdom, those wicked men are brought to light, and some of the plotters arrested and committed to the Castle of Dublin, to stop those wicked and damnable plots in other parts of Ireland.

We therefore have thought it fit to make it publicly known to all of his Majesty's loyal subjects who we require to defend themselves and all the kingdom.

God save the King.

John Temple, *The Irish Rebellion* (London, 1646)