On this narrative, O'Donovan has the following comment:—"The guilt of Fitzwilliam is rendered still darker by the fact lately published from the State papers by Mr. Shirley (*Account of Farney*, pp. 88, 91, 92, 98), that in his correspondence with Burghley, he expressed his anxiety for a speedy resolution of MacMahon's case—'that either the olde MacMahon *maie be pardoned* and sett at libertie, or a new one made, or that title extinguished and the territory divided.' The reader will at once perceive the wickedness of Fitzwilliam's proposal to make a new MacMahon, when he considers that Hugh Roe was his brother's heir, according to the law of England, and that large bribes had been offered to corrupt the chief governor [Fitzwilliam] to raise 'one Brien McHugh Oge' to the chieftainship. On the 2nd of March, 1589, Fitzwilliam wrote to Burghley and the lords of the council a long letter, in which he mentions this fact as follows:—'Some indede *attempted me* for him [Brien McHugh Oge] with large offers; but as I *never* benefitted myself by the admission of him that is now in durance, so did I meane to convert his fall wholie to the profit of her Majesty and good of this State, *nothing regarding mine owne private;* I speak it in the presence of God, by whom I hope to be saved!'" See Shirley's *Account of Farney*, p. 89; see also *Annals of Four Masters*, vol. vi., pp. 1878, 1879.

Had the Queen and her government wanted peace instead of Ulster spoils for English servitors, they might have had it at the eleventh hour, for O'Neill and O'Donnell kept preaching patience to their principal adherents even after there had been collisions at certain points, of the opposing forces. O'Neill wrote to Elizabeth so late as the middle of October, 1595. "Calling to mind," said he, "the great benefits and the place of honour I have received from your Majesty, I confess forgetting my duty and obedience contrary to your peace and laws, which I cannot justify; yet I protest the same proceeded not of malice or ambition, but from being unjustly and wickedly charged by my enemies, who sought to deprive me of my life. These ungodly practices being known to my kinsmen, allies, and followers, they, in revenge, entered into some traitorous actions without my privity or consent. As this has been my first offence, and I have before served your highness with loss of my blood, extend upon me and my followers your gracious pardon. I did not take the name of *The O'Neill* upon me in respect of any greater dignity than I have, but mistrusting some other might take that name on him, and so thereby breed trouble to my tenants and followers. I am now desirous to renounce it. My enemies have published abroad that I practised with foreign princes to draw strangers into this kingdom; but I did not go about any such matter before the 20th August last, other than the retaining of some Scots for my own defence. Before that date, I never practised with, or received letter or message from the king of Spain, or other potentate, for the disturbance of the quiet of your Majesty's realm, neither will henceforward." This was, indeed, sufficiently humble language, when it is considered that the Queen had very recently issued a proclamation in which she denounced him as a *bastard* and a *murderer* of her subjects. Of his enemies in Ireland, and their slandering of his motives, Captain Lee speaks thus:—"Let those devices of theirs take effect or otherwise, to have him cut off, your Majesty's whole kingdom there would moan it most pitifully; for there was never man bred in those parts who hath done your Majesty greater service than he, with often loss of his blood upon notable enemies of