

Rinuccini arrives in Kilkenny

Pope Innocent X saw the war in Ireland as a holy war and contributed £56,000 to the Confederation of Kilkenny, which was a huge amount of money at the time. In 1645, he sent a special ambassador, known as a papal nuncio, to the assembly in Kilkenny to ensure that his interests were looked after. Archbishop Rinuccini, arrived at Kenmare in October and came to Kilkenny soon afterwards.

In his own account of his arrival to Kilkenny, he was met by a large group of local people outside St. Patrick's Church and proceeded through St Patrick's Gate into the city. On his way towards St Canice's Cathedral he stopped at the Market Cross, where a young man (probably a clerical student) made a speech to him.

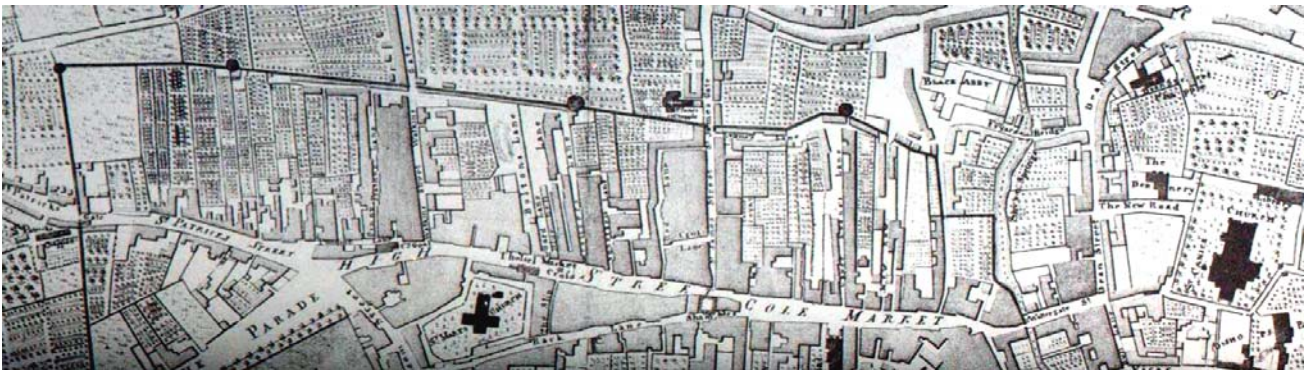
The following description was written by Richard Bellings, the secretary to the Supreme Council of the Confederation Assembly. It is taken from a history of the Confederation which he wrote many years afterwards.

"His entrance into the citie, which he made [in November 1645] on horseback under a canopy, was as solemne and magnificent as the cleargy and laitie that strove which of them should doe him the greatest honour could make it. After some days of repose, he had audience given him in the gallery of the Castle, and was conducted from his house by some prelates and noblemen with other persons of quality appointed to attend upon him. He was received at the gate by two of the Councill, and others of the cleargy and nobility of a more eminent degree, and when he came to the place where the Councill sat, he was placed in a chair not farre from the Lord Viscount Mountgarret, the President of the Councill."

The nuncio presented a letter from the pope saying that Archbishop Rinuccini had been sent into the Kingdom of Ireland to the Confederate Catholics, and that he had sent as much supplies as he could with the nuncio, who would speak on his behalf. The nuncio said that the Pope wished success to their affairs.

1. Find seven words that are spelled differently from the way they are spelled today. Write the old spelling followed by the modern spelling.
2. Find the meaning of the word *repose*.
3. What do you think Richard Bellings means by 'people of quality'?
4. What was a papal nuncio?
5. How did the citizens of Kilkenny welcome Rinuccini?

6. When Rinuccini arrived at the assembly, how did the members show that they thought he was a very important visitor?
7. Below is a section of John Rocque's Map of Kilkenny 1758



1. Mark in red the route taken by Rinuccini from St Patrick's Gate to St Canice's Cathedral.
2. Put a ring around the following:
 - St Patrick's Church (listed as St Patrick's)
 - St Patrick's Gate
 - Market Cross
 - St Canice's Cathedral

Do you know the story of Rinuccini and the window in St Canice's Cathedral? It can be found in the section on St Canice's Cathedral.