

# MEN OF SUBSTANCE:

The London Livery Companies' Reluctant Part in the Plantation of Ulster

*Robert Stedall*

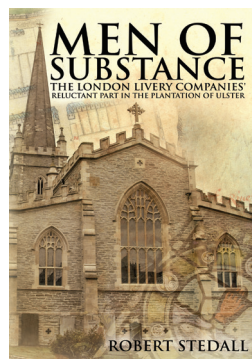
ISBN: 9781786124562 (paperback)

Prices: £19.99 / €26.99 / \$29.95

ISBN: 9781786124555 (hardback)

Prices: £25.99 / €29.99 / \$34.95

Genre: History



Is it realised that Londonderry with its impregnable fortifications was built by the London Livery Companies? Is it known that a second Spanish Armada landed in Kinsale in 1601, with every expectation of gaining Irish rebel support to push the English out of Ireland? Had it succeeded, Ireland would have become a Spanish dominion.

English involvement in Ireland was designed to subdue its dogmatically Catholic Gaelic chieftains and to prevent it becoming a bridgehead for foreign invasion of Britain. Attempts to impose English government and the Anglican religion met with determined resistance from a native population alien in language, custom and creed. The English solution was to expropriate ancestral Gaelic lands and to settle them with waves of English colonists to 'civilise the natives.' The new arrivals included Presbyterians from Scotland who were no more in sympathy with Anglican rites than the Catholic Irish.

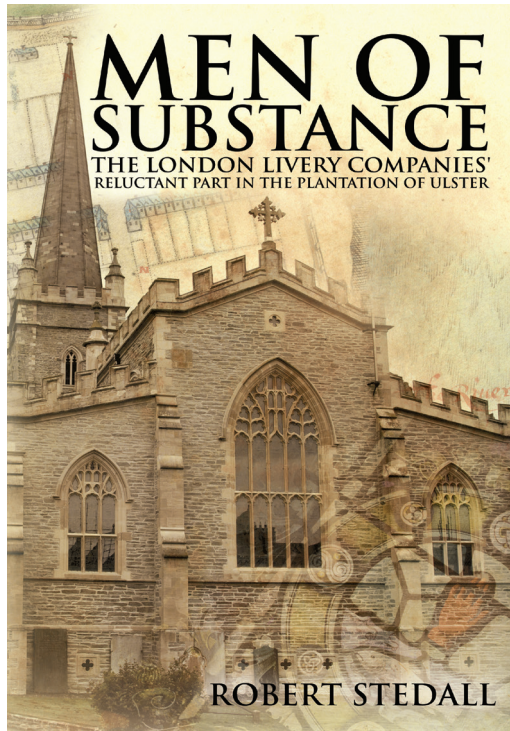
It was James I, who, in 1610, forced the London Livery Companies into colonising County Londonderry, then the most belligerent part of Ireland, and into fortifying Londonderry and Coleraine. He was looking for 'Men of Substance' to restore order among Ulster's Irish chieftains, who were receiving Continental European support. Facing continuing attack from militant Ulster rebels, settlers did not arrive in sufficient numbers to establish control. Far from replacing the local Irish they needed their help to build their settlements. Charles I, frustrated at their failure to meet plantation objectives, expropriated their estates. This led to the City of London supporting Parliament in the Civil war, which cost Charles I his head. Meanwhile, in 1641, the Irish organised a concerted rebellion to destroy any remaining British settlements. It was only the walls of Londonderry, which prevented them from re-establishing complete control.

During the Commonwealth, Cromwell arrived in Ireland to restore English rule, allowing the London Livery Companies to return. Under James II, settlers again came under attack from the Irish who, with French assistance, established 'Jacobite' forces to restore Catholicism and Stuart rule. It was only the bravery of the British settlers besieged in Londonderry that prevented Jacobite forces from overrunning Ulster. William III amassed a huge army to restore order and re-establish the Companies on their estates. These were generally let to head tenants, often absentees, who milked them to the detriment of the tenantry, until they could no longer subsist. The only safety valve was emigration. Huge numbers, initially of Protestants, but later of Catholic Irish, seething with anger, left for America and Canada. For those left behind, deprivation and hardship inflamed the rivalry between Presbyterians and Catholics.

It was only in the 19th Century that the Companies, realising the tenants' plight, resumed control of their estates and commenced a period of unparalleled munificence, building towns, introducing modern farming methods, funding schools, churches and medical care and reclaiming wasteland. Yet starting in the 1870s, calls for Irish Home Rule were coupled with demands for tenants' rights. Despite landowner resistance, pressure on Parliament to finance tenant ownership became overwhelming. The Livery Companies were high-profile targets, and, despite their more recent generosity, the British Government financed tenant purchases, so that by about 1900 the Companies had sold up. Yet sectarian rivalry has rumbled on; the conflict of more recent times is understandable, even if it is difficult to condone.

Tel: +44 (0) 207 038 8212  
Fax: +44 (0) 207 038 8100  
editors@austinmacauley.com  
www.austinmacauley.com

**AUSTIN MACAULEY**  
PUBLISHERS LTD.



Please send me ..... copy/ies of  
*Men of Substance.*

Please add the following postage per book:  
United Kingdom £2.50 / Europe £4.00 /  
Rest of World £5.00

**Delivery and Payment Details**

Format	Price	Qty	Total
Hardback <input type="checkbox"/> Paperback <input type="checkbox"/>			
Subtotal			
Postage			
Total			

Full name: .....

Street Address .....

City:..... County:.....

Postcode: ..... Country: .....

Phone number (inc. area code): ..... Email: .....

*I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to Austin Macauley Publishers Limited*

Please send to: Austin Macauley, CGC-33-01, 25 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5LQ

Tel: +44 (0) 207 038 8212  
Fax: +44 (0) 207 038 8100  
editors@austinmacauley.com  
www.austinmacauley.com

**AUSTIN MACAULEY**  
PUBLISHERS LTD.