

none the less, was sincere and even consistent in his conduct; he had denounced the Union in his early manhood as an obstacle to the Catholic cause; he had spoken against the measure in Parliament; he believed that the claims of Ireland were set aside or at least slighted in what he deemed an alien assembly; and though he ceased for many years to demand repeal, and regarded it rather as a means than as an end, he was throughout life an avowed repealer. It should be observed, however, that, in his judgment, the repeal of the Union would not weaken the real bond between Great Britain and Ireland; and he had nothing in common with the Revolutionists who, at a later period, openly declared for a separation of the two countries by physical force. The organisation which had effected such marvellous results in 1828-29 was recreated for the new project. Enormous meetings, convened by the priesthood and controlled by O'Connell, assembled in 1842-43, and probably nine-tenths of Irish Catholics were unanimous in their cries for repeal. O'Connell seems to have thought success certain, but he had not perceived the essential difference between the earlier agitation and this. The enlightened opinion of the three kingdoms for the most part supported the Catholic claims and as certainly it condemned repeal. Peel, after some hesitation, resolved to put down the Repeal Movement. A vast intended meeting was proclaimed unlawful, and, in October, 1843, O'Connell was arrested and held to bail with ten or twelve of his principal followers. He was convicted (February, 1844) after trials that followed, but they were not good specimens of equal justice and the sentence of imprisonment for one year and £2,000 fine were reversed on a writ of error in the House of Lords in September, 1844, and he and his colleagues were again free. The spell, however, of O'Connell's power had vanished, his health had suffered much from the short confinement; he was verging upon his seventieth year; and he was alarmed and pained by the growth of a party in the repeal ranks who scoffed at his views and advocated the revolutionary doctrines which he had always feared and abhorred. Before long famine had fallen upon the land, and under this visitation the repeal movement, already paralysed, wholly collapsed. O'Connell died on 15th May, 1847, at Genoa, whilst on his way to Rome. His body was brought back to Dublin and buried at Glasnevin Cemetery.

"O'Connell was a remarkable man in every sense of the word, of splendid physique, and with all the attractions of a popular leader. Catholic Ireland calls him her 'Liberator' still; and history will say of him that, with some failings, he had many and great gifts, that he was an orator of a high order, and that, agitator as he was, he possessed the wisdom, the caution and the tact of a real statesman. Nevertheless he not only failed to complete the chief aim of his life, but Lecky trenchantly observes, 'by a singular fatality the great advocate of Repeal did more than anyone else to make the Union a necessity. . . . He destroyed the sympathy between the people and their natural leaders, and he threw the former into the hands of men who had subordinated all national to ecclesiastical considerations or into the hands of reckless, ignorant and dishonest adventurers.' O'Connell married, in 1802, his cousin, Mary O'Connell, by whom he had three daughters and four sons, Maurice, Morgan, John (1810-1853), known as the 'Young Liberator,' and Daniel, who all sat in Parliament.

"His son, John, published a 'Life,' in 1846, and 'Recollections and Experiences,' in 1849. There are also biographies by W. Fagan (1847), M. F. Cusack (1872), J. O'Rourke and O'Keefe (1875), and J. A. Hamilton (1888). See especially W. E. H. Lecky's essay in the revised edition of his *Leaders of Public Opinion in Ireland*, vol. ii (1903).

"W. O. M."

The above article appears as printed in *Encyclopedia Britannica*, it is by William O'Connor Morris (*d.* 1904), formerly Judge of the County Courts Ireland, and Professor of Law to the King's Inn, Dublin; author of *Great Commanders of Modern Times, Irish History, Ireland, 1795-1898*, etc. Had the article been written a few years later Lecky's comment would have been shown to be a false one and a premature reading of history.

Comment by Lord Denman at the hearing of the Writ of Error: "If such practices as have taken place in the present instance in Ireland shall continue, trial by jury would become a mockery, a delusion and a snare."

Before Woolsack, Lord Brougham, Lords Denman, Cottenham and Campbell. The Lords voted 3 to 2 in favour of a writ of error.

List of monster meetings, 19th March, 1843, to 10th October, 1843, and estimate of persons taking part:

Trim 30,000	Kilkenny 300,000	Clontibert 30,000
Mullingar 100,000	Mallow 400,000	Tara 800,000
Cork 500,000	Dundalk 200,000	Clifden 50,000
Longford 200,000	Donnybrook 200,000	Lismore 100,000
Drogheda 200,000	Baltinglass 300,000	Mullaghmast 100,000

From the *Centenary Record*, 6th August, 1875.

Code Letters: Each individual of O'Connell descent bears a code group to facilitate reference. The first letter denotes the stirpes, i.e. descent from which child of the Liberator. The first figure shows the generation.