

and a regiment of troops!" O'Connell became Lt.-Col. on May 4 1809, and in that year the 1st Battalion of the 73rd, with O'Connell in command (bearing a commission as Lt.-Governor of New South Wales and its dependencies) landed at Sydney.

He travelled out on the same boat as Governor McQuarrie, who had been sent to relieve Governor Bligh. Governor Bligh having got the colonists up against him in a big way. In 1810 O'Connell m. Bligh's dau. (described as "brave and dutiful daughter"). She had been m. to Lieutenant Putland, R.N., who had died of consumption in 1807. It is rumoured that O'Connell eloped with her from her father's ship, but her father had no ship, and in any case he was probably in the custody of the infuriated colonists at the time. Col. Hopkinson, her great-grandson, has a pleasant set of Lowestoft china which bears on it the arms of Putland impaling Bligh. The Putland arms are the same as those of Putland of Bray Head, and Lt. Putland may well have been the grandson of John Putland, of Dublin, b. 1709, d. Dec., 1773, who m., 22 July, 1738, Catherine, dau., and eventually co-heir, of Sir Emanuel Moore, Bart., of Ross Carbery, M.P. Catherine d. July, 1764.

O'Connell's marriage with Mary Bligh, and his intransigent support of his father-in-law, seems to have raised embarrassments, and it was thought that he might be a critic of McQuarrie's régime, but McQuarrie renamed South Row after him on the occasion of his marriage and it became, and still is, O'Connell Street, Sydney, so relations cannot have been too bad between them. In any case O'Connell stuck on with the regiment.

On 6 Dec., 1813, G. W. Evans, the explorer, discovered a series of plains near where Bathurst now stands, and named them O'Connell Plains, after him. There is now a township O'Connell in the vicinity.

A "Nominal return of all allotments granted in the town of Sydney by Governor McQuarrie" shows, 12 Mar., 1814, M. C. O'Connell, 3 roods 34½ perches.

In April, 1814, the 73rd were ordered away and O'Connell went with them. This time it was to Ceylon, and we next hear of him in the despatch published on 2 Aug., 1815, from Lt.-General Sir. R. Brownrigg, K.B. In 1815 it had been decided to conquer the Kingdom of Ceylon, and O'Connell was second in command during that war, and in personal command of the 2nd Division, which took the King prisoner and entered the capital. O'Connell is mentioned several times in the despatch.

In a "List of Inscriptions on Tombstones and Monuments in Ceylon," by J. Penny Lewis, C.M.G., C.S.C., it is stated—with some inaccurate assumptions—"Lt.-Col. O'Connell commanded the 2nd Division (Reserve) in the Kandyan War of 1815 and arrived at Mahaweliganga on Feb. 10, after storming the 'fatal Heights of Balane.'" As a result of this spirited campaign General Brownrigg was created a baronet on 8 Mar., 1816.

It is not too easy to reconstruct his career from 1815 to 1838, when he returned to Australia as Major-General commanding the forces. His long printed obituary says, "O'Connell commanded the 73rd for 20 years, and was, we believe, the most popular commanding officer in the Army, while he was also a great favourite with the authorities at the Horse Guard, and though he was longer unemployed as a general officer than his friends thought he should be yet, for the last ten years he held command . . . in Australia, etc." The *Dictionary of National Biography* says, "He retired on half-pay on the return of the regiment. He became a Major-General on 22 July, 1830, etc."

In Mr. Penny Lewis's work quoted above we find references to O'Connell still in Ceylon in 1819. A tombstone at Trincomalee bears the inscription "Feb. 3, 1819—Beneath are the remains of Robert Brownrigg O'Connell, son of Col. O'Connell of the 73rd Regt. . . . aged 14 months." Also an excerpt from the local newspaper, *Gazette*, of 14 Feb., 1819. "The departure from Colombo of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. O'Connell left a great blank in our society, and we are sincerely grieved to hear that their first arrival in Trincomalee has been embittered by the loss of their beloved child. We fear that Mrs. O'Connell must have suffered severely through the powerful trial to her maternal affections. Her little boy was taken ill on their passage at the beginning of a gale of wind that lasted some days, during which she was herself much indisposed and both were deprived of all professional assistance, as the only medical gentleman on board the transports was unfortunately in another ship. On landing some hope was entertained, but it was soon dashed away, and in a few days these afflicted parents were doomed to see the death of their boy whose improved health and bloom they had in the commencement of the voyage contemplated with such delight."

Further, with reference to a remark at page 3 of Skinner (sic), "I was one evening taken to a ball given by the Commandant of the garrison, Sir Maurice O'Connell, commanding the 73rd Regiment," the compiler states: "Lt.-Col. O'Connell (he was not Sir Maurice O'Connell) was commandant 1819-21."

We next hear of the family through a tomb erected at Athlone to Mary Nano Godfrey O'Connell, b. 1823, d. 19 Feb., 1825. Probably he was unemployed and in Ireland.

A book *Malta, the Islands and their History*, by T. Zammit, Valetta, 1929, states: "In 1827 Major-General F. C. Ponsonby was sent" (to Malta) "from Corfu as Lieutenant Governor but spent much of his time out of the island. The senior officer in command of the troops acted for him. In the year 1827 it was Col. M. C. O'Connell." Major-Gen. Ponsonby became, eventually, a G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.H., K.M.T. and K.S.G.