

Tradition says that in the 1836 period Maurice was Military Attache at the Court of the King of the Belgians, and so striking was the beauty of his daughter, Elizabeth, who was presented at that Court, that the Queen of the Belgians publicly thanked Maurice "for bringing such loveliness to her Court." Certainly she was a most attractive lassie, as is shown by a pencil sketch of her preserved at Kineagh House, Waterville.

Maurice had become a Major-General on 22 July, 1830, and in 1835 a K.C.H.

In 1838 he was accorded the appointment he had so long wished for, and returned to his beloved Australia as commander of the forces. Here he bought a property from the Protestant Bishop of Sydney, at Woolmaloo, which he called Tarnons, after his mother's home in Ireland. It has been said that he at one time held the land on which the present Roman Catholic cathedral of Sydney now stands, and it would be interesting to know if that is so, and how he came to dispose of this very valuable asset.

During his command in Australia a mutiny occurred amongst the 99th (Lanarkshire Regiment) at Hobart, in which Edward Maurice O'Connell, of the Tralce Branch, was a captain. O'Connell's handling of this mutiny gained him considerable credit, for he put it down and corrected certain justifiable grievances, by his personal prestige and without resort to force.

On 23 Nov., 1841, he was promoted to lieutenant-general, and on 13 Dec., 1843, whether by mistake or not is not known, he was appointed colonel of the 81 Foot, quickly to be followed, on 19 Jan., 1844, by appointment to be colonel of the 80th Regiment, which post he held till his death. He was relieved of his post as commander of the forces by Major-General Wynard, and then he administered the government of the colony from 12 July, 1846, till 2 Aug., 1846, after which, though he remained in the colony and was very popular, he took no active part in public affairs.

During his command the 1st New Zealand war was fought, and his obituary notice says: "His conduct throughout his command, and in particular with reference to the expedition to New Zealand, received the highest praise from the authorities at home."

Low's *City of Sydney Director for 1844-1845* makes amusing reading in these democratic days. Under the heading "Military Staff stationed in N.S.W." is mentioned:

"His Excellency Lt.-Gen. Sir M. C. O'Connell, K.C.H., Commanding the Forces.

Capt. M. C. O'Connell, 28th Regt., Asst. Military Secretary.

Capt. E. M. O'Connell 99th Regt., Brigade Major.

Lt. W. B. O'Connell, 73 Regt. A.D.C.

Lt. C. P. O'Connell, 51st Regt., extra A.D.C.

It is thought that at the same time and place his son-in-law, Capt. Henry Capel Somerset, was also on the staff.

Gibbs, Stallard & Co. published a map of Sydney, 1878, which shows three O'Connell Streets:

(a) O'Connell Street in the city. Bligh Street is next to it.

(b) O'Connell Street, Newtown.

(c) O'Connell Street, North Willoughby, a small street north of Harper not far from St. Mary's Church.

There is also an O'Connell Street in Auckland, New Zealand, called after him.

Sir Maurice Charles Philip O'Connell d. 25 May, 1848, in his 82nd year just as he was planning a trip back to Ireland. He was accorded a public funeral, and was buried in Newtown Cemetery, Sydney, St. Stephen's Churchyard. His tombstone bearing the words "Lt.-Gen. Sir Maurice O'Connell, K.C.H., Died 25 May, 1848" "Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away." A subsequent note says that his final place of interment is Camperdown Cemetery, the Bligh family vault, in which his grandson, Richard Murray O'Connell, is also buried. It was part of the Bligh estate and given to the Church in trust, which trust was still in existence in 1932.

Lady O'Connell was b. in 1784, and d. on 10 Dec., 1864, at Beaufort Buildings, Gros'ter, the residence of her son-in-law, Col. Somerset. The writer has not seen a picture of Sir Maurice Charles Philip as a young man, though one in his French uniform did exist and is thought to be in a Museum at Sydney. A picture of him as a very dignified, white-headed man, taken after 1835, is at the Pioneers' Club, Sydney, and a water colour, thought to be a copy, is at Llanvihangle Court. He seems a spare and spruce man. Not very great of stature, but of the thin build. His nose is the hawklike hooked nose, the last legacy of our Conway forefathers. He is very recognisably an O'Connell.

7 children of the marriage are recorded.

1. Sir Maurice Charles O'Connell, b. 1812, d. 1879  
Richard O'Connell.  
Charles Philip O'Connell.

2. William Bligh J. O'Connell, b., —, d. 25 July, 1896.  
Robert Brownrigg O'Connell, b. Dec., 1817, d. 3 Feb., 1819.  
Mary Nano Godfrey O'Connell, b. 1823, d. 19 Feb., 1825.  
Elizabeth O'Connell, d. 29 Aug., 1892.

#### SIR MAURICE CHARLES O'CONNELL

Q2B1 Reference found in Sidney Lee's *Dictionary of National Biography, Men of the Times*, by Capt. H. Morris Humphreys, published by Maccann & Bird & Co., of Melbourne, 1882, *The Queensland Courier* of 24 Mar., 1879, *Australian Encyclopedia*, vol. ii, *Australian Dictionary of Dates*, by J. H. Heaton (afterwards Sir J. Henneker