

## O'CONNELL IN IRELAND.

(Continued.)

*From the Dublin Freeman's Journal.*

## SOLEMN OBSEQUIES IN THE METROPOLITAN CHURCH.

The prelates, priests, and people of Ireland were represented at the last sad and solemn, funeral rites which took place over the remains of O'Connell in the Metropolitan Church on yesterday. — Notwithstanding that the rain fell in torrents, and that the city was shrouded in gloom as the Heavens themselves were hung in mourning, country and city sent forth their thousands as they ever did to honour their Liberator. None who witnessed the proceedings of yesterday, can doubt that indeath as in life O'Connell is still monarch of the Irish heart; with only this change in the affections of the people, love has acquired the sacred dignity of reverential veneration without losing any of its native intensity.

For more than two hours before the time appointed for the commencement of the obsequies, every approach to the Church of the Conception was crowded with clergymen, ladies, and gentlemen, anxious to join in Ireland's prayer, for the repose of her greatest, her most honoured son. The admission was by tickets, issued by the Cemeteries Committee, and though many were disappointed, all the church could contain were accommodated. Indeed it would have required a Tara to afford room for the countless thousands whose feelings prompted them to kneel by O'Connell's coffin ere it was consigned to its last resting-place, and the damp earth had forever covered it from their view. Many a heavy heart on yesterday, far away from the lighted altar before which the remains of O'Connell lay in state offered up aspirations for his eternal happiness, as pure and as ardent as those which passed on the notes of the choir's solemn music to Heaven.

## THE INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH.

The interior of the Metropolitan Church, as we observed on a former occasion, was clothed in mourning, and in every way fitted for the occasion with great skill and taste by Mr. Crooke, of Sackville Street. On standing by the door opposite the grand altar, we felt at once a deep sense of the profound solemnity the scene was calculated to inspire. The whole nave wore the weeds of mourning. The pillars, and the parts from the pillars to the ceiling were clothed in black. In the spaces intervening between the pillars, hung festoons of sable drapery. The muffled windows scarcely let in the day on this habitation of death, but four hundred wax lights in

chandeliers of the richest description cast a sombre effulgence on the dark scene which added much to the imposing effect of the solemnity and its grandeur. In the distance the beautiful white marble steps of the altar were to be seen rising with sublime simplicity, in contrast both to the mourning lights whose glare they reflected, and to the gloomy garb in which sorrow veiled the church around them. Nearer, and directly in front of the altar, was the altar, was the catafalque on which the coffin containing the remains of O'Connell rested. It too, was covered with black cloth. A canopy supported by four pillars was raised over the upper dais or platform, on which the coffin rested. From each of those pillars projected a chandelier of exquisite workmanship. The four chandeliers cast the brilliancy of twelve lights on the lid of the coffin. Lower down were twenty-four lights, and lower down again, thirty-six around the catafalque.

The front gallery was set apart for the immediate friends and relatives of the illustrious deceased. In it we observed the four sons of the Liberator, Maurice, John, Morgan, and Daniel, with many other relatives and several of the ladies of the family. Mr. Steele, the faithful friend of the Liberator, also occupied a seat in the gallery. In front of it was suspended the O'Connell arms with the supporters, motto, and crest, beautifully executed in the form of a hatchment. On the sides and ends of the upper dais of the catafalque, the arms of the family were emblazoned. Over the front door we saw them also on stained glass, on a white ground, diapered with shamrocks, and surrounded with a border of the same national emblem. In the corners of this stained glass were the Irish harp, and the initials D. O. C. in ornamented letters of golden hue. In front of the organ loft, and round the catafalque were suspended scrolls on which were written in Latin the inscriptions adopted at the obsequies in Rome. The principal scroll has these words:—

## DANIEL O'CONNELL.

Viro omnium sæculorum prædicatione memorando

Atque hoc tempore necessario

Qui ingenii sui splendore, et mira dicendi copia

Vitam, religionem, civium jura, libertatemque,

Adseruit propugnavit.

In gravioribus causis a prima juventute subactus.

Nihil ei in abstrusis reipublicæ negotiis

arduum fuit,

Quod non acie mentis ut labore pervicerit

enodavit

In maximis muneribus et honoribus

Pari semper fastigio stabit