

excitement was intense and clashes between Orangemen and Catholics were narrowly averted. It was well that Lord Anglesey, a man in sympathy with the Catholic cause, was viceroy at the time, for he in no small way contributed to calm the passions of the people.

Parliament opened on Feb. 6, 1829, and from the opening sitting it was evident that Catholic Ireland had won out. Peel himself, hitherto an avowed enemy of Catholics, and Catholic interests, was the first man to admit the advisability of making concessions to the Irish people. Lord Wellington, in the Upper House, said that he saw civil war ahead, if something was not soon done.

On March 10, Peel introduced a bill of Emancipation of which the principal terms were: 1st. That the oath required of members of parliament should be so altered, that Catholics could take it without hesitation. 2nd. The disfranchisement of 40 s. freeholders. On April 10, the bill was passed by the House of Lords. O'Connell presented himself before Parliament on May 15th, and asked for the new oath. But after a heated debate, it was decided, that as O'Connell had been elected before the new law was passed, he would be obliged to take the old oath. Of course he refused. On his return to Clare, he was returned without the necessity of a contest.

The fight for Catholic emancipation had been successful. A Roman Catholic could now sit in Parliament; he could now be a member of corporations; he could be a judge or a King's council. In fact the only officers barred to a Catholic at the time were those of Regent, Lord Chancellors of England and Ireland, and Viceroy of Ireland. Today the only office not open to a Roman Catholic is that of Regent. Another great gain was that the government could not interfere in the appointment of bishops.

Naturally the disfranchisement of 40s. freeholders and the suppression of the Catholic Association were severe blows to Ireland. The great majority of Irish peasants were tillers of the soil, and they were mostly 40 s. freeholders.

Emancipation was the first spoke in the wheel of Reforms. The last spoke will be placed in 1912, when Home Rule will, we hope, be granted to Ireland.

J. A. TALLON, '14.