

testant prejudice and to weaken English opposition, be here adequately described. A large number of Irishmen of unsurpassed ability and untarnished character gathered to his leadership. Ireland could refuse him no honor, and he sought none elsewhere. He was made Lord Mayor of Dublin, an honor he took advantage of to hold in the Corporation of Dublin a sort of parliamentary discussion on the great questions of the day. No better plan of directing public attention to the Repeal agitation could be chosen, and nothing could surpass the ability with which the Lord Mayor carried the plan into effect. Then followed the monster political meetings of 1843, and in September of that year two million of Irishmen had enlisted as Repealers at his call. But the British government looked upon the national organization with displeasure, and adopted measures to check it. Several magistrates who had joined the Repeal Association were deprived of their commissions. The next move was to stop the monster gatherings. At a meeting of the cabinet, held in London, it was resolved to suppress all further assemblies of the kind, to seize the leaders, and prosecute them for high treason. On October 7th, 1843, a proclamation was issued forbidding a meeting called at Clontarf for the following day. Exactly one hour later O'Connell issued a counter proclamation declaring the meeting cancelled, and requesting all persons to avoid danger by returning to their homes. O'Connell and his associates were arrested. On January 16, 1844, he was put on trial. The packed jury, all Catholics being carefully excluded, brought in a verdict of guilty. O'Connell appealed to the House of Lords and defended himself with some of his old time vigor. It was, however, the dying effort of a great public career. The old buoyancy of spirits was gone. No longer young, O'Connell was worn out both in body and mind by his previous exacting labors.

Nearly every Irish writer has dwelt on the great achievements of the Liberator. Among those who have descanted on his merits may be mentioned Denis Florence McCarthy, Thomas D'Arcy McGee, and Thomas Davis. The last named especially, by his fervid poetry in the *Nation*, did more than any other to fuse the Irish people into one united whole by a common national spirit, and to make O'Connell truly an uncrowned king, and thus

"Placed the strength of all the land
Like a falchion in his hand."

But other than Irish has paid tribute to the merits of the great