

lying supine, after the most crushing defeats. But the new champion had preferred the English parliament as his arena. The first note of the coming triumph sounded when O'Connell was elected from Clare to the English House of Commons. The second, when, as a Catholic, he retained his seat despite his refusal to take the oath of supremacy. How emancipation was obtained in the following year, in 1828, is best told in his own words. He says: "We carried Catholic Emancipation despite the King, despite an overwhelming majority of the House of Lords, despite a powerful and well-armed faction in Ireland, despite the great majority of the English people, and not only in spite of, but, in fact, through the instrumentality of our bitterest enemies, Wellington and Peel, who had actually formed their administration on the basis and for the purpose of resisting our claims." He further states, before an Irish audience: "It is not I, nor any man in my class, that obtained Emancipation; it was the honesty, the determination, the self-sacrifice, of the Irish peasant."

O'Connell, in securing the long deferred boon of Emancipation, had fairly won the glorious title of Liberator. Had he done nothing else for the good of his distressed country, Ireland should still have reason to place him the foremost among her sons. His patriotic labors, however, did not cease with the victory of 1829. For a dozen succeeding years he strove with all the magic of his eloquence and all the weight of his influence to storm the British Parliament for justice, or, at least, some installment of justice, in behalf of the sister island. Even though he pleaded in vain, even though he could not prevent that hostile legislature from inflicting additional wrong, still he made the sad condition of his country known to all Europe, and found for her cause friends and defenders wherever there were men animated with sympathy for the oppressed, and with a spirit to condemn the oppressor.

At length, in 1842, he committed himself and his countrymen to the struggle for national self-government as the proper and only means of consummating their national aims and aspirations. To this noble cause O'Connell devoted the remainder of his life. To give even a summary of the Liberator's titanic labors in behalf of the Repeal movement would require volumes instead of this short essay. Nor could the charm, the force of his unequalled eloquence, the wonderful sagacity, the prudence with which he directed and controlled a people fired with unbounded patriotic enthusiasm, the inexhaustible patience and tact of his efforts, both to remove Pro-