

demanded the Repeal of the Union between Great Britain and Ireland. He believed that nations should be governed by the will of the people. All rational men of the time acknowledged that the Union had received the sanction of the Irish people through unjust means. And O'Connell showed by the protests of the Irish that it was retained in the same manner. He formed alliances with the most popular parties in England, with the Democracy and with the Free Traders. And later his sagacity led him to think it possible to form a party in parliament which would treat with all parties, but coalesce with neither. He believed that the desires of four-fifths of a people, when peacefully and perseveringly expressed, would in the end prove triumphant. He obtained seats in parliament for his sons, nephews, and his sworn retainers. When a vacancy occurred in any constituency he immediately sent a Repeal candidate to contest it. And at his elections he always insisted upon law and order. "The man who commits a crime gives strength to the enemy," was his favorite maxim. When the temperance movement started in Ireland O'Connell at once turned it to account. He urged his followers to join it, and spoke of them as his "Grand Army of Teetotaliers." He instituted the system of monster meetings, which is now recognised as the most powerful means of attaining political ends. And if O'Connell had lived a few years longer, if a worthy successor had taken his mantle, if famine had not completely broken the spirit of the Irish people, who can say that his cause would not have triumphed. "None," says the historian, "except those who think nothing can happen, which they do not want to happen."

Did O'Connell spend his life in a just cause? As early as the reign of Henry II the Irish were governed by a parliament of their own. This was first composed of Protestants and when the British sway extended over the whole island it was made up of Protestants and Catholics. After the English conquest, the natives, especially the Catholics, received treatment far from just. They were debarred from all civil and religious rights, and were given a government to which they never constitutionally assented. And when the unknown lawyer took up their cause their oppression had abated but little. What was the cause of England's unjust treatment? Why do not the Irish today rule themselves? It is claimed by some that they are unfit to govern. It is said they are a people of peculiar temperaments adapted only to be ruled. If they demand a reform and it is not immediately complied with, they appeal to arms. Strange that the Irish should be condemned for an act which is perfectly allowable to the English. Canadians fighting for a fuller measure of responsible government is not on a much higher plane than the Irish fighting because they have no government at all. The English nature