

Tone was recognized, tried and sentenced to be hanged. He begged "to be shot by a platoon of grenadiers," but this favor was denied him and he committed suicide.

Thus ended the glorious fight for Irish liberty. The leaders were all severely dealt with. Lord Edward Fitzgerald died of his wounds, Oliver Bond of apoplexy, and Father Quigley and William Byrne on the scaffold. Emmet, MacNevin and O'Connor were confined for three years in Fort George in Scotland.

The rebellion being crushed, Pitt immediately took up the question of the Union. By a system of wholesale bribery he strove to gain over the Irish Parliament to his measure. More than 1,000,000 pounds were spent to carry the Act. Owners of Irish boroughs were compensated at the rate of 15,000 pounds a seat. The Irish Parliament of 1799 was not sufficiently corrupted to pass the measure. At the opening of Parliament in 1800, 27 new peers had been added to the House of Lords, which made that branch of the legislature safe for the Castle. A change of 50 members had been made in the Commons, all, except two, nominees of the Castle. Sir Jonah Barrington, who was himself a distinguished actor in the struggle, in describing the scene of that night on which Ireland as a nation was extinguished says: "Every mind was at its stretch, every talent was in its vigor. Every man seemed to be inspired by the subject. Speeches more replete with talent and energy on both sides were never heard in the Irish Senate. The sublime, the eloquent, the figurative orator, the plain, the connected, the metaphysical reasoner, the classical, the learned and the solemn declaimer, in a succession of speeches so full of energy and enthusiasm, so interesting in their nature, so important in their consequences, created a variety of sensations even in the bosom of a stranger, and could scarcely fail of exciting some sympathy with a nation, doomed to close forever that school of eloquence, which had so long given character and and celebrity to Irish talent."

But even Grattan's eloquence could not preserve the liberty of his country, and after a debate of 20 hours the vote was taken and carried by a majority of 43 on the 7th of June.

Thus ended the fourth great epoch in Irish history; ended with the doomed martyr's scaffold orations mingling with the pitiful pleas of the homeless peasants for the justice which seemed