

native Kerry he was addressing a public gathering he turned round and appealed to "yonder blue mountains where you and I were cradled." He spoke of Ireland as the "land of the green valley and the rushing river." At Mullaghmast, standing on a spot where a number of Irish chieftains were supposed to have been massacred in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, he thus alluded to the scene:—"They came confiding in Saxon honor, to a friendly conference. In the midst of revelry they were surrounded and butchered. Their wives were widows; their children fatherless. In their homes was heard the shrill shriek of despair, the cry of bitter agony. Oh! Saxon cruelty, how it cheers my heart to think that you dare not attempt such a deed again." It can readily be imagined what effect such allusions would have upon the Irish peasant. Lord Lytton has given a description of one of O'Connell's great gatherings, when, according to Justin McCarthy, fully a quarter million were present. He says:—"As I beheld the human ocean around me, I not unnaturally thought that no clarion could send its notes even to the centre of that crowd.

"Then as I thought, rose the sonorous swell  
As from some Church tower swings the silvery bell;  
Aloft and clear from airy tide to tide,  
It glided easy as a bird may glide.  
To the last verge of that vast audience sent,  
It played with each wild passion as it went;  
Now stirred the uproar—now the murmur stilled  
And sobs or laughter answered as it willed.  
Then did I know what spells of infinite choice  
To rouse or lull has the sweet human voice.  
Then did I learn to seize the sudden clew  
To the grand troublous life antique—to view,  
Under the rock stand of Demosthenes,  
Unstable Athens heave her noisy seas."

To the power of oratory O'Connell added the qualities of a shrewd statesman. Having the condition of his people firmly engraved upon his mind, he conceived the plan of forming the Irish millions into an immense league against the existing order of things. He had a firm belief in his own skill to keep within the law, and to conduct his work upon constitutional grounds. Soon Catholic Ireland was arrayed to a man, and claimed her lawful freedom. O'Connell was elected to the British Parliament in 1828. He was not, however, allowed to sit as representative, as he was unable being a Catholic to take the full oath required of each member. He then set in motion an agitation which led to stirring discussions in the House of Commons, and in less than a year he forced that body to pass the Act known in history as the "*Catholic Emancipation Act*." Thence, allowed to take his seat in the Imperial Legislature he never ceased to proclaim against British severity, and, amid many stormy scenes, he guided a series of movements which culminated in 1840, when he