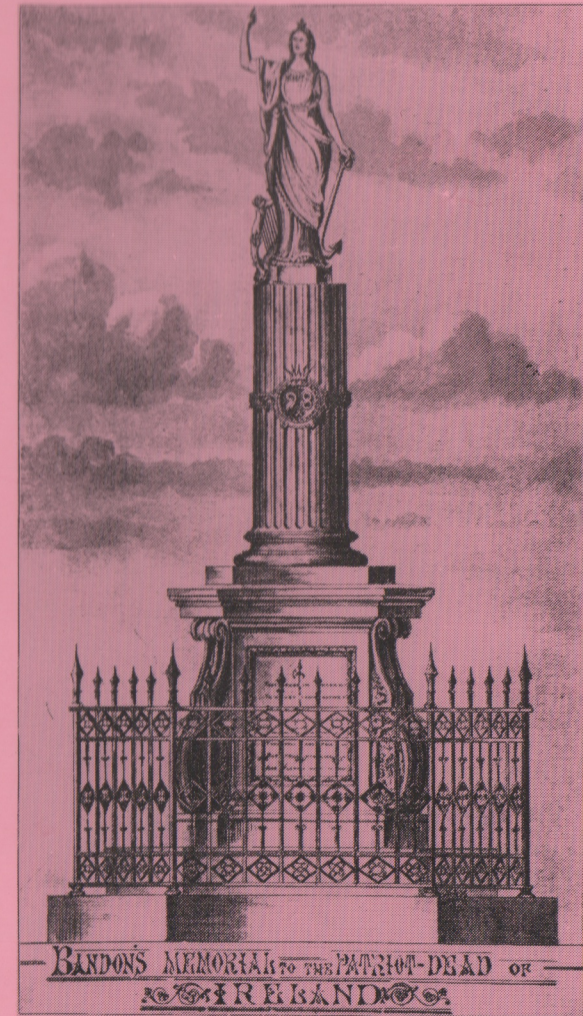


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The Proposed '98 Memorial in Bandon.

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**"WITHIN THE WALLS":-
DANIEL O'CONNELL IN BANDON, 1839**

EDITED FROM CONTEMPORARY NEWSPAPERS BY PADRAIG HAMILTON

PART 2: THE DINNER, THE GUESTS, & THE LOYAL TOASTS

A. INVITATION & REPLY

(from *The Correspondence of Daniel O'Connell, the Liberator*, edited by W.J. Fitzpatrick, Vol. 2., London, 1888).

Henry Townsend of Castletownsend, Co. Cork, to Daniel O'Connell, M.P.

... Your refusal to take office of the highest order, lest it should interfere with your active services in promoting the welfare of Ireland, your wise and statesmanlike determination to support a Government of whose administration you justly approve, and your anxious desire to promote the happy union of all sects and parties, clearly demonstrate a powerful mind, calculated to surmount every difficulty ...

To further this blessed sentiment of Christian charity among all classes of Irishmen it is that those whose wishes I have the honour to convey to you (professing different creeds) ask you as a favour to name a time when you can, with the least inconvenience to yourself, honour the Reformers of the West Riding of Cork with your company at a public dinner to be given in the town of Bandon ...

To Henry Townsend D.L.

Darrynane Abbey. Nov. 19th, 1839.

... I accept the invitation with mingled sentiments of pride and pleasure ...

If the people of Ireland, now approaching to nine millions, were reconciled to each other and would cooperate for the common good, what country on the face of the globe could be ... more capable of producing all the blessings of peace ...? It is because of the incalculable value of extinguishing national dissention that you, and men like you, are so fully estimable; Protestants who, like you, struggle to promote Christian goodwill ...¹

... and if there be in the Bandon district, as I can well believe there are, any worthy men who mistake our motives or misunderstand our object, let us convince them of their error and hold out to them the hand of peace and fellowship.

Your obliged and very faithful

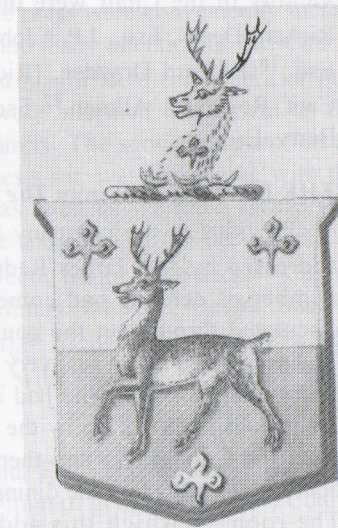
Daniel O'Connell



*The Devonshire Arms Hotel, Bandon, about 1910: a guest takes her departure.
(Courtesy of Mr. Paddy Connolly)*



The Liberator's mother Catherine O'Mullane was the daughter of a small Catholic landlord near Mallow.



The O'Connell Coat-of-Arms:- "Ciall agus Neart" (Sagacity and Strength). The strength, indeed, of the O'Connell clan is attributable to their sagacity in evading the Penal Laws.

(A reminder:-: the Dinner took place on Thursday, 5th December 1839).

B. THE DINNER - (i) from *The Southern Reporter*:

We believe we may with truth say that upon no former occasion had there been given a public entertainment upon a larger or more magnificent scale than that of Thursday at Bandon, by the Reformers of the West Riding of the County. The Banquet took place in the Ball Room of the Devonshire Arms Hotel, and whether in point of magnificence - for the principal tables groaned under the weight of massive plate sent in by some of the principal Families of the Neighbourhood ... the beautifully festooned and brilliantly lighted room, or the abundance of the viands and wines, served up by the Proprietor of the house in a style of elegance and comfort not exceeded anywhere - it was an entertainment alike worthy the distinguished Guest, and of those by whom it was promoted. The attention of the Committee was ceaseless, and certainly nothing could have been in better taste than the selection of the gentlemen appointed to fill the office of Stewards.

At half-past six o'clock dinner was announced, and in a moment the tables became fully occupied. About 200 of the most influential Liberal gentlemen of the Riding-Magistrates and others, sat down - the Chair being filled, and well and efficiently filled, by Henry Townsend, Esq., of Castle Townsend;² - the Vice-Presidents being Major Scott, of Coolmeen,³ Frances Coppinger, Esq., of Parkview, Bandon,⁴ and Philip Harding, Esq. J.P., of Macroom.⁵ In the immediate vicinity of the Chair were the County Members:⁶ F.B. Beamish, Esq. M.P.,⁷ Rickard Deasy, Esq., J.P.,⁸ John O'Hea, Esq., J.P.,⁹ - Lombard, Esq., Wm. Fagan, Esq.,¹⁰ Richard Dowden, (Richard),¹¹ Esq., James Redmond Barry, Esq., J.P., Capt. Rogers, J. Allman,¹² Esq., Edward O'Brien, Esq.,¹³ Henry Burke, Esq., P. Barry, Esq., etc.

THE DINNER - (ii) from *The Constitution*

Previous to the company being admitted into the Dinner-room, they were addressed by Mr. James Redmond Barry¹⁴ who said he was informed that a number of persons had come to the dinner upon invitations very generally circulated throughout the county, bearing the signature of the Chairman, Mr. Townsend, and also a seal very neatly executed - a fac simile of his own. This, Mr. Barry assured those, who had come under the impression of being guests, was a scandalous hoax got up by the Tory party, there having been but four invitations from the Committee; and therefore it became necessary for the Committee to admit no persons into the dining apartment, who did not produce a genuine ticket. The room in which this address was delivered, was full of persons who contemplated on a good feed, but as soon as it was concluded there was a pretty general movement towards the stairs, and in their retreat, several of the disappointed averred that the circulars emanated from the Radical party to induce them to come to the hotel, in the hope of shaming them into the purchase of

tickets.¹⁵ Though the entertainment was announced to be given by the people of Bandon, yet the number in that town who were expected to welcome the "Political Apostle" was so meagre, that persons were sent throughout the West Riding, to endeavour to swell the list, and the result was, that about two hundred sat down, a very small proportion of which belonged to the "Loyal Town".

At 7 o'clock Henry Townsend, Esquire took the chair ... William Fagan, Daniel Lombard,¹⁶ John Thomas Keane¹⁷, Rev. Wm. O'Connor R.C.C.,¹⁸ Dr. Nugent,¹⁹ Henry Burke, Patk. Barry,²⁰ John Hurley²¹. About 30 priests were present. The arrangements appear to have been entirely directed by Fr. Matt Horgan,²² who was busily engaged throughout the night in keeping the country boughals in order as they occasionally became a little troublesome from being temperanceites, *ex necessitate*, the waiters being deaf and dumb to the calls for "something to drink".

THE DINNER - (iii) from *The Cork Standard*

The banquet, which was got up at William's with a degree of taste and elegance highly creditable to the character of that excellent house, was laid in the Ballroom, which was very imposingly decorated with laurel leaves and flowers intermixed. At the lower end of the room, opposite the chair, there was placed an admirable likeness of the guest, the work of our fellow citizen, Mr. Joseph Dennis. Covers were laid for one hundred and sixty persons, and the room was completely filled. - We noticed in the vicinity of the chair, where the press were conveniently located by the Rev. Horgan, and placed under the kind and ready attention of Mr. Charles Galway,²³ one of the stewards, one of the most magnificent candelabra of pure silver we ever remembered to have seen. We were informed it was sent on this remarkable occasion by one of the Coppinger family. The service of plate on the transverse table, at which the Chairman and guests sat, was in keeping with this beautiful piece of art. The *tout ensemble* was such as we have rarely seen exhibited, and was highly creditable to the taste and spirit of the decorators. We noticed present amongst the company Major Scott, Major Broderick,²⁴ Captain Rogers, S. Bennett, J.P., Clonakilty, Messrs. Allman, the Rev. Messrs. Sheehan (Kilmackabe),²⁵ J. Fitzpatrick, (P.P. Skibbereen),²⁶ M'Sweeney²⁷ and O'Sullivan (of Bandon),²⁸ Field (Innosbannon),²⁹ Morgan, with the Rev. Mr. O'Connor, of Cork and Mr. Keane.

About half-past six o'clock Henry Townsend, Esq., entered the dining-room with his distinguished guest, followed by a long train of gentlemen. Mr. O'Connell met with a most flattering reception; he looked in excellent health, and repeatedly bowed his acknowledgments to the company.

On the right of the chairman sat Mr. O'Connell, Mr. R. Dowden (Richard), &c.; on his left the honourable members for the county, and Mr. F.B. Beamish, M.P.



O'Connell's hosts in Bandon were not his own Liberal Repealers, but their parliamentary allies, the mainstream Liberal Party of Great Britain. This cartoon of 1835 conveys the Tories' view of that alliance. Lord John Russell appears as Little Red Riding Hood, while the role of the Wolf is predictably awarded to O'Connell.



"Malmaison" (renamed "Bow Hall"), Castletownsend, the home of Henry Townsend: this fine metal engraving adorns a wicket gate there. The house was specially featured in the *Examiner Weekend Supplement*, on 25/10/1997.

C THE LOYAL TOASTS (from *The Southern Reporter*)

THE CHAIRMAN...

The warm interest which their young and amiable Queen had ever evinced for the welfare and prosperity of Ireland

.... the too long deferred rights of the people. With these observations he would give them" **The Queen, and may her reign be long and prosperous, and be handed down to posterity as the brightest feature in British history**". (Drunk with nine times nine and enthusiastic cheering).

THE CHAIRMAN now begged to propose the health of a Nobleman, who was the Representative of her Majesty in this Country (Hear) ... **"Lord Ebrington, the present Lord Lieutenant of Ireland"**.³⁰ (*Immense cheering*).

THE CHAIRMAN He would, therefore, give them **"The Duchess of Kent, the mother of their beloved Queen"**. (Three times three).

THE CHAIRMAN he would give them **"The Duke of Sussex, and the rest of the Royal Family of England"**. (Three times three).

THE CHAIRMAN Were he, some 30 or 40 years ago, to propose such a toast in a public assembly in the town of Bandon as "The People", the ascendancy faction would conceive themselves called upon to load him with the epithet of "rebel" and, perhaps, they would even go so far as to punish him as such. (*Hear*). However, the state of things was now so far improved that in giving such a toast he incurred the more soft and silken name of "Liberal" (*Cheering*). A name, as repulsive to some as rebel, or any other, though recognised by law (*Hear*) he would give them **"The people, the true source of all legitimate government"**³¹ (*Cheers*).

THE CHAIRMAN - Although her Majesty's Ministers had endeavoured by every means in their power to carry measures calculated to be of benefit to this country, and had failed in the attempt, that was no reason why they were not entitled to the gratitude of Irishmen ... (*Cheers*). He would give them, **"Lord Melbourne and her Majesty's Ministers"**³² (*Loud cheers*)

THE CHAIRMAN was now going to propose the health of **"the Marquess of Normanby"**³³ **the tried and approved friend of Ireland"** (*Immense and prolonged cheering*).

THE CHAIRMAN - What man, let him ask, what real Irishman existed, whose heart would not be delighted to find, that his country was now at length fast emerging into an independent nation, for they had the happiness at length to have



"Báda briste ag snámh san uisce". Cúirt an tSéafragh: An Bhoireann (Cill Briotáin) ar an dtaobh thall.

8. Tá dhá shaghas clainne ann: Clann do mharaíonn, nó clann do bheathaíonn.
 9. Comhairle a thug bean déirce do bhean a 'tí :-
"Éirigh síos go banúil, is tair aníos go fearúil".
 10. Is fearr le bean orlach dá toil, ná bannlá (mh) dá leas.
 11. Ná cuir an mhaith ar cairde.
 12. Paidreacha istoíche ní bhím i bhfad leo
Agus nuair éirim ar maidin, faighim a mhalairt de ghnó .
 13. Baile an Teampaill an Ranna,
Mar a bhfeicfidh tu an tonn ag fillleadh is ag casadh.
(= Ballintemple, Ring, Clonakilty).
 14. "Yes" agus "No" an chuid is fearr den Béarla.
 15. Is old an scéal nach fiú "hum" a rá leis.
- Seana-scéal i dtaobh Tí Molaga.
Sa tseana-shaol deirtear ná raibh cead ag aon bhean dul isteach i mainistir. Lá amháin tháinig bean go dtí doras na mainistreach i dTig Molaga. Bhí sí ag olagón mar bhí a céile marbh. D'airigh duine des na manaigh í agus bhuail sé i leith chuici. D'iarr sí air í a leogaint isteach, agus seo mar a labhair sí :-

"A Bhráthair bheag, a stóir
Éirigh chuig an Bhráthair Mhóir
Agus abair leis mé leogaint isteach go fóill
Mar go bhfuil mo chreach ag dul fé'n bhfód

Agus athair mo leanáí óg".
D'fhreagair sé mar seo í :-
"Mhuise leogfad, ar nóin,
Agus gach aon bhean eile ded' shórt".
Seo seana-rá i dtaobh Chúirt Mhic an tSéafragh is Tig Molaga:-
Tig Molaga an baile bocht
Ná héirigh ann go n-ithfír do bhreichust (bricfeast)
Cúirt Uí tSéirig an baile gann
Ná héirigh gan do dhinnéir ann
Mar tá báda briste ag snámh san uisce
Agus mná gan tuiscint ann".

- Uair amháin bhí amadán 'na chonáí i bparóiste in aice Dhroichead na Bandan. Lá bhí sé ar mhuin chapail agus chas sé leis an sagart. "Tá tú ag treabhadh romhat, a Thomáis' arsan sagart leis. "Táim agus tusa ag fuirseadh im' dhiaidh' arsa Tomás, mar thuig sé go raibh an sagart a d'iarraidh bheith ag magadh fé .
- Bhí cailín ann uair agus níor lamháil a hathair di pósadh i rith na hInide. Bhí sí ag fáil lochta air mar gheall ar sin, agus seo mar a dúirt sé léi:-
"Éist a chailín, mar níl ach prátaí a chur agus prátaí a bhaint agus beidh an Inid arís ann".
- Bhí fear le pósadh. Chuir sé a dheartháir le scéala éigin go dtí an cailín go raibh sé chun pósadh. Lá Domhnaigh a bhí ann, agus tar éis an Aifrinn a chasadh sé léi. Ní raibh aon aithne ag an deartháir ar an gcailín agus do chuir sé ceist ar an bhfear eile conas aitheodh sé í sa phobal. Seo é an cuntas a fuair sé ón deartháir uirthi:-
"An bhean is buí agus is duibhe pus agus súile
Ach is deise agus is fáiscithe bróg agus búcla".
- Lá amháin bhuail buachaill beag óg isteach ag triall ar tháilliúir. Bhí culaith gorm ar an mbuachaill. Deallraíonn sé ná raibh aon ró-fháilte ag an dtáilliúir roimis. Seo mar a labhair an tailliúir leis:"An tusa an buachaill beag gorm (beag orm)?" Thuig an garsún gur "beag orm" a bhí ina chroí aige dhó ,agus thug sé an chaint seo mar fhreagra air:-

"Ní lú leat é ná é thú".

Nóta *. Dar le Foclóir Uí Dhuinnín "Foighne bhreágh is aradha fhada": fine patience and good temper".

Aradha (inniu:- "araí") = bridle, restraint.

(Leanfar de). Foinse - Mionscannán 99, i Leabharlann Chontae Chorcaí.

FOILSITHE LE CAOINCHÉAD ROINN BÉALOIDEAS ÉIREANN;
COL. NA HOLLSCOILE, B.A. CLIATH.