

THE PARLIAMENTARY TRADITION

The parliamentary tradition involves achieving political change using nonviolent methods.

DANIEL O'CONNELL, 'THE LIBERATOR'

Key Words

rent, Genoa, Slavery Abolition Act, penal laws, French Revolution, Clontarf, Repeal Association, Catholic Relief Act, barrister, Great Famine, Kerry, 1798 Irish Rebellion, Emancipation, Catholic Association, Liberator, monster meetings, Member of Parliament.



Daniel O'Connell (1775-1847) made a significant contribution to Ireland's parliamentary tradition.

Background

O'Connell was born near Caherciveen in County (1) _____. He was raised as a Catholic. He received his education at home, in France and England. He witnessed the violence of the (2) _____ and the (3) _____. Horrified, he became convinced that the best way to achieve political and social change was by using nonviolent methods. After finishing his education, he became a successful (4) _____.

Catholic Emancipation

Under the (5) _____, Catholics were banned from taking seats in the British parliament. In 1823, O'Connell set up the (6) _____, to campaign for (7) Catholic _____ (equal political and civil rights for Catholics). To fund the association, its members paid one penny a month, the (8) Catholic _____. He held public meetings, attended by large crowds. In 1828, he was elected (9) _____ (MP) for County Clare, but he could not take his seat as he was a Catholic.

His efforts led the government to pass the (10) _____ (1829), allowing Catholics to hold seats in the British parliament. At the next election, he was re-elected in Clare and took his seat in parliament. O'Connell became known as, (11) 'The _____'.

Career in Parliament

O'Connell was an outspoken opponent of slavery. He helped pass the (12) _____ (1833), which abolished slavery in British territories.

In 1840, O'Connell set up the (13) _____, to campaign for the repeal of the Act of Union (1800). He wanted an independent Irish parliament. He and his supporters organised (14) '_____'. Almost one million people were said to have attended a meeting at the Hill of Tara. The British government banned O'Connell from going ahead with a meeting in (15) _____, planned for 8th October 1843. Fearing violence, O'Connell cancelled the event. Regardless, he was arrested, put on trial and found guilty of 'conspiracy'. He spent three months in prison.

His last contribution in the House of Commons was in 1847. Millions of people were starving in Ireland as a result of the (16) _____. He delivered an emotional speech in which he pleaded for help. Sadly, his own health was poor, and his voice could barely be heard.

Death and Legacy

Facing death, O'Connell left for Rome to receive a blessing from the Pope. Unfortunately, he did not reach his destination. He died in (17) _____, Italy on 15th May 1847. Famously, his heart was sent to Rome and his body was returned to Ireland.

O'Connell is remembered as the man who pioneered nonviolent political protest. Prime Minister William Gladstone described O'Connell as "the greatest popular leader the world has ever seen".