

O'Brien lost an eye in the conflict and together with his father was captured and imprisoned in Algiers.

After some negotiations his father was released but the son was detained as a captive. He was, however, eventually released, and in the year of his father's death, 1674, he was appointed Captain-General of the British Forces in Africa, Governor and Vice-Admiral of the Royal Citadel of Tangier, Colonel of the Queen's Own Regiment of Foot, and was sworn a member of his Majesty's Privy Council. On 9th September in the same year he succeeded to the family estates and title as 2nd Earl of Inchiquin.

When the Prince of Orange arrived in England in 1689, Inchiquin joined him and was attainted, with forfeiture of his estates, by King James's Irish Parliament. He headed a large army of Munster Protestants in an endeavour to recover his estates but was defeated by McCarthy and fled to England. He returned with King William's Army and was present at the Battle of the Boyne and the Siege of Limerick, and, of course, recovered his estates when the Jacobite cause was defeated.

He was appointed Governor-General of Jamaica by King William but his term of office was an unhappy one. Though a good soldier, Inchiquin was no diplomat. He treated the natives rudely and received little help from them or from the planters when the French Navy was harrassing the island. In addition he had to tend with the negroes who had escaped from the plantations and were raiding the settlements in search of food, committing terrible atrocities in the process. He broke down in health and died in January, 1691.

Inchiquin was twice married, firstly to Lady Margaret Boyle, daughter of the first Earl of Ossory, and secondly to Elizabeth Brydges, daughter of Lord Chandos and widow of Lord Herbert of Chisbury. He had three sons and one daughter, one of whom, William, became the third Earl of Inchiquin.

WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN.

William Smith O'Brien, Irish patriot and politician, was born at Dromoland on 17th October, 1803, the second son of Sir Edward O'Brien by his wife Charlotte Smith, of Cahirmoyle, Co. Limerick. He received the education at Harrow and Cambridge, fitted to his aristocratic position, but, in after life, was to forget all his early training in his fierce indignation at the wrongs imposed on Ireland.

At the age of 25, he was elected Member of Parliament for the township of Ennis, and in the same year became a member of the Catholic Party, who were then struggling hard for Emancipation. In the following year, however, because of the dangers of civil war, he opposed it and fought a duel with Ireland's Head Pacificator, "Honest Tom Steele," who believed in the old motto:

"Peace with the Sword." This time it was pistols, but neither was injured in the exchange of shots.

O'Brien lost his seat in 1831, but was re-elected for Co. Limerick—he had in the meantime inherited his mother's property at Cahirmoyle—in 1835. He was a keen Parliamentarian, always fighting hard for the Irish poor and the improvement of education in Ireland, but voting for or against the main Irish Party, according as he considered it advisable or otherwise.

During this period he was an uneasy ally of O'Connell, who desired none but yes-men in his Party. In the year 1846, O'Brien, together with the Young Irelanders, Duffy, Meagher and Mitchell, seceded from Conciliation Hall. He then became a regular contributor to the newspaper, "The Nation," and a staunch supporter of its policy. He made his last speech in the House of Commons on 10th April, 1848, warning the members that if they did not yield to the Irish claims for a separate Parliament, they would be faced with the possibility of a Republic in Ireland. On being called a traitor, he admitted he had been instrumental in inciting his countrymen to arm, and stated that, if disloyalty to the government of Ireland by the Parliament of Great Britain was treason, then he was a traitor.

Shortly afterwards, together with the Confederate leaders he was arrested and tried. Mitchel was sent into exile, but the jury disagreed on O'Brien and he was acquitted. However, the transportation of Mitchel exasperated the Confederation and drove them into open revolt. An abortive and almost farcical Rising led by O'Brien, took place at Ballingarry, in the Co. Tipperary, on 29th July, 1848. O'Brien was again arrested, tried, and this time sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. This was later commuted to transportation for life, and he left Ireland for Van Dieman's Land.

He would not accept parole on the island, but was pardoned in 1854, provided he did not return to the United Kingdom. He lived at Brussels until 1856, when, receiving an unconditional pardon, he returned to Ireland. Although occasionally contributing to "The Nation," O'Brien was broken in health and spirit and took no further active part in Irish politics. He went to England for his health in 1864 and died at Bangor on 18th June in that year. His remains were brought back to Ireland where they received a tremendous reception in Dublin, and were buried in Rathronan graveyard, in Co. Limerick.

In the Limerick City Museum there is a miniature of O'Brien, the only original painting of him in existence, as well as his original certificate of pardon from the Governor of Van Dieman's Land, dated 26th June, 1854; a book presented to him by his brother-in-law, Robert Gabbett, on his departure from "Kingstown" for Van Dieman's Land; and many copies of his books with his autograph.

The following books and pamphlets written by Smith O'Brien are also in the Limerick Library:—

Thoughts upon Ecclesiastical Reform (1833); Plan for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland (1830); Considerations Relative to the Renewal of the East-India Company's Charter (1830); Principles of Government, 2 vols. (1856); Education in Ireland (1839).

He also wrote "Reproductive Employment, 1847," and a pamphlet in French on the Polish Insurrection of 1863. He was a keen Irish scholar and collector of Irish manuscripts. The Royal Irish Academy have several manuscripts in his own autograph as well as many of those collected by him.

In 1832 he married Lucy Caroline Gabbett and had five sons and two daughters, many of whose descendants are still alive.

PETER O'CONNELL.

Peter O'Connell, lexicographer, was born at Carne, four miles east of Kilrush, in the year 1746. He was a schoolmaster by profession and spent all his spare time in the study of Irish and the old Irish manuscripts, becoming as proficient in the ancient language as he was born with the modern Irish. In early life he began work on the compilation of his important Irish dictionary, and in order to know thoroughly all the different dialects he travelled throughout the whole of Ireland, as well as to Wales, the Highlands of Scotland, and the Hebrides and Orkney Islands.

In 1812, Doctor O'Reardon, a famous Limerick scholar took him into his house to continue his work and collected for him ancient and modern manuscripts from all parts of the country. Here he remained for seven years, having no worries about his livelihood and being able to devote all his time to his great work. However, he then had a disagreement with the doctor as to the mode of publishing the dictionary, and, in a fit of pique, took himself, his dictionary and all his manuscripts off to his brother, Patrick O'Connell, of Carne, and spent the rest of his days there, unnoticed and unwanted, until his death in 1826, aged 71 years.

Shortly after his death, his nephew Anthony endeavoured to get Daniel O'Connell, whom one would naturally expect to take an interest in Irish, to publish it. The latter refused, and Anthony, who had travelled to Tralee to interview the Liberator, pledged the manuscript for a few shillings to enable him to return to Clare, with the great Chief's words ringing in his ears: "That his uncle was an old fool to have spent so much of his life on so useless a work."

When Eugene O'Curry, who was living in Limerick at this time, heard the fate of the work, he sent to Anthony and procured the pawn ticket, sent it to Tralee with the necessary money to redeem it and procured the manuscript by return coach. In