

STATESMEN SERIES.

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DANIEL O'CONNELL.

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*STATESMEN SERIES.*

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LIFE OF  
DANIEL O'CONNELL.

BY

J. A. HAMILTON. -

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## PREFATORY NOTE.

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THE only complete Life of O'Connell hitherto published is Miss Cusack's, a bulky and uncritical book, founded, however, upon a considerable quantity of unpublished materials, chiefly correspondence with Archbishop McHale, not all of which was used. John O'Connell began a life of his father, which he brought in two thick volumes as far as 1824. Of this book it is difficult to speak temperately. A son, writing of his father in the father's lifetime, is not expected to be impartial, but that is no reason why he should be grotesquely eulogistic of his father and his party and indecently abusive of his opponents. Such merit as the book has is due to its being a kind of scrap-book of the speeches and resolutions at the meetings from 1810 to 1824. The same author's edition of his father's speeches is carried only a year or two farther. He also published a volume of "Parliamentary Reminiscences" from 1833 to 1842, which contains a number

of his father's letters of the years 1829 and 1840. William Fagan's *Life*, which, considering that it appeared in a Cork newspaper immediately after O'Connell's death, is a meritorious work, ends at 1838. Huish's *Life* breaks off in the middle, and is almost valueless; Græme's *Life* is the same. *The Centenary Record*, published by the O'Connell Centenary Committee of 1875, contains some new information, which the arrangement of the book makes as inaccessible as possible. O'Neill Daunt's *Reminiscences* deal almost exclusively with the last ten years of O'Connell's life, but are very valuable. Dr. William Forbes Taylor, under the *sobriquet* of "A Munster Farmer," published a short and temperate review of O'Connell's career, called *A Munster Farmer's Reminiscences of O'Connell*. I have endeavoured to collect what was valuable from all these sources, in order to construct at once a picture of the man and a sketch of his career; and where they disagreed I have presumed that the truth must have been best known to John the son and Daunt the friend. Mr. Shaw Lefevre's *Peel and O'Connell* has been before me, but its scope is rather foreign to the object of this book. I have not dissented from the general estimate and conclusions of Mr. Lecky's masterly essay in the *Leaders of Public Opinion in Ireland*, which seems to me to possess all the finality that is possible, until O'Connell's epoch has passed into

the cooler temperature of history and ceased to be steeped in the burning atmosphere of Irish controversy.

In addition to these works the authorities are Wyse's *History of the Catholic Association* and Charles Butler's *Historical Memoirs of the Roman Catholics*; Mr. W. J. Amherst's *History of Catholic Emancipation*, which is carried only to 1820, is also a useful book. For the Repeal period, Duffy's *Young Ireland and Four Years of Irish History* are of the first importance. For the legal part of O'Connell's life, O'Flanagan's *Munster Circuit and Irish Bar* are useful. I have consulted also D. O. Maddyn's *Chiefs of Parties*, Cloncurry's *Personal Reminiscences*, the lives severally of Canning, Althorp, Melbourne, Ellenborough, Sheil, Drummond, and Dr. Doyle; Peel's *Memoirs*, the *Greville Memoirs*, Lord Hatherton's *Memoir*, Lord Colchester's *Diary*, Guizot's *Embassy to St. James' in 1840*, and Barrington's *Personal Sketches*. For visits to Darrynane Catherine O'Connell's *Excursions in Ireland* and Howitt's *Journal*, vol. i. p. 328 are useful. J. Venedey, a fair-minded German, published an interesting account of what he saw in Ireland in 1843, and in a small work by M. Cavrois, published at Arras, called *O'Connell et le Collège Anglais à St. Omer*, there are several interesting particulars about O'Connell's early and his last days. For foreign opinion the following books may be looked at, though

they do not add much to our knowledge of him: an *Elogio, recitato nei solenni funerali celebratigli nei giorni 25 e 30 Giugno 1847*, by Father Gioacchino Ventura, Napoli 1848; Leopold Schipper's *Irland's verhältniss zu England*; Moriarty's *Leben und Werke O'Connell's*, and two pamphlets by J. M. de Gaulle and by Jules Gondon. Among Magazines, the *New Monthly Magazine* from 1821 to 1832 contains articles by Sheil and others, and *Macmillan's Magazine*, vol. xxviii., a valuable article by Mr. Ball. I have also made use of various pamphlets, and for general history have followed Mr. Spencer Walpole's excellent book.

J. A. H.

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