History permeates every inch of the Irish landscape. One of the biggest names in this city was Parnell. A monument now honors him in Dublin’s city center.

Do you want to know more about Parnell?

Visit the following websites for more information:


Use online resources to learn more about Charles Stewart Parnell, Irish history, and Irish literature.

Answers to the True/False Quiz

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. True

Additional Works Cited


A “former friend” and “bitter foe” of Charles Stewart Parnell, Michael Davitt “wrote of him, ‘To deny his greatness would be like denying the existence of a mountain’” (Abel 7). A formidable and “charismatic” leader, Parnell entered the parliament at age 29 “as a member of the Home Rule League, pressing for Irish autonomy,” according to his “Historic Figures” biography at bbc.co.uk/history.

After “two British diplomats” were murdered in Dublin’s Phoenix Park, a forged letter asserted Parnell’s support for these violent acts, but “proof that the letter was a forgery transformed Parnell into a hero in the eyes of English liberals. It was the peak of his career” (bbc.co.uk, para. 4).

Certainly, Parnell provides a study in contrasts. As a landowner, Parnell did not stand to benefit personally from agrarian reforms he proposed. His mother, an American, was “violently—if not pathologically—anti-English,” (Abels 11), and Parnell became the voice of the Irish national movement. However, there is an old Gaelic saying that “even wise men have flaws.” Charles Stewart Parnell’s politically-fatal flaw involved a scandalous association with a married Englishwoman named Kitty O’Shea in whose divorce he was named.

An affair with a married woman led to Parnell’s losing his political position. True or False

Parnell’s mother was an American who had strong anti-English feelings. True or False

Parnell entered parliament when he was still in his twenties. True or False

Parnell died at the age of forty-five. True or False

W.B. Yeats wrote a poem titled “Parnell’s Funeral.” True or False

Parnell is credited with bringing “The Irish question to the forefront of British politics” (www.factmonster.com). True or False

For his activities, Parnell served time in jail. True or False

“...no man has the right to say to his country, ‘thus far shalt thou go and no futher’ and we have never attempted to fix the ne-plus-ultra to the progress of Ireland’s nationhood, and we never shall. Go soirbhighidh Dia Éire dá clainn. [That God may make Ireland flourish for her people.]”

—Charles Stewart Parnell

Who designed the Parnell monument?

“The monument was executed in New York by Dublin-born sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens” (Healy 7) and now “stands on the central island where Parnell Street crosses the top of O’Connell Street” (Healy 6). John Redmond, Parnell’s successor “as leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party” was responsible for instigating the Parnell monument, “partly as a symbolic gesture to honour the ‘uncrowned king of Ireland’ and to consolidate his aspiration to reunite the constitutionalists under his own leadership” (www.dublincity.ie/Images).

Also according to www.dublincity.ie/Images, Parnell attended the “unveiling ceremony for the O’connell Monument accompanying the archbishop in his ceremonial carriage” (17).

The inscription listed below appears on the monument, which includes a bronze figure of Parnell on a pillar of Ashlar granite. On the day of the unveiling, “Dublin Corporation changed the name of Great Britain Street to Parnell Street” (Healy 7).

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