

ARBETSBLAD



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THE CAMBRIA

Episode six – The minstrel’s show

❖ About the characters

Sir Samuel Cunard was a British shipping magnate and the founder of the Cunard Line, a shipping company which still exists today.

For almost 30 years in the mid-1800’s, the Cunard Line held the Blue Riband for the fastest voyages across the Atlantic Ocean.

❖ Frederick Douglass’ words:

“Power concedes nothing without demand; it never did; and it never will”.

The phrase is referred to in the radio series, but in real life this quote is from a speech which Frederick Douglass delivered in 1857 at Canandaigua in New York, in regards of the West India Emancipation. In the speech, he mentions Daniel O’Connell and his sympathies towards all mankind “and even his enemies were compelled to respect his patriotism”.





Discuss before listening:

- What do you know now that you didn't know before about slavery, abolition, Ireland in the 1800's and trans-Atlantic journeys?
- How do you think Frederick Douglass was received in Ireland when he got there in 1845?

Discuss after listening:

- Why do you think Mr. Dodd was so eager to claim that the objects Frederick Douglass displayed in his "show" were concoctions?
- What do you think was the significance for Captain Judkins personally in taking Mr. Douglass' side in the events on board the ship?
- Why do you think it was important to Matilda that Frederick Douglass should have Mirabelle in the end? Why would she want him to have her rather than keeping her to herself?
- What do you think will happen with Mr. Dodd once he returns to the U.S. after his journey to Ireland?

Exercises after listening:

- Research and find out: when did the abolition laws pass? What happened when they passed? How long did it take until the slaves were set free? How did the liberation process take place?
- How was Frederick Douglass' life in Ireland? What did he do there? How was he treated? Who took care of him? Where did he travel? What happened in the U.S. and the abolition movement while he was in Ireland?
- How did Frederick Douglass and Daniel O'Connell meet? In what ways did they cooperate? What did they talk about? What did Frederick Douglass know about Daniel O'Connell before he travelled to Ireland?
- In what ways were the abolition movement in the U.S. connected to the emancipation process in Ireland and the repeal of the Act of Union? Could they learn from each other? Use the same type of arguments?



Useful links:

- About abolition:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/abolition/>

<http://www.kurahulanda.com/slavery/slavery-a-abolition-in-the-usa>

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aahtml/exhibit/aopart3.html>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/slavery/about.htm>

http://abolition.e2bn.org/slavery_113.html

- About Frederick Douglass' life in Ireland:

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/02/25/frederick-douglasss-irish-liberty/?r=0>

<http://douglassoconnellmemorial.org/>

<http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/1781>

- Frederick Douglass' speech in Cork in 1845:

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/douglass/support8.html>

- About Daniel O'Connell:

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11200c.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_O%27Connell

<http://www.irish-society.org/home/hedgemaster-archives-2/people/o-connell-daniel>

- About what happened when an abolitionist married a slave-owner:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4narr1.html>

For more reading:

Book about a young Nigerian asylum-seeking girl in the U.K.:
"Little Bee" by Chris Cleave

World Bibliography about slavery and world slaving:
<http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/bib/about.php>

Did you know?

The Acts of Union – the union of the Kingdom of Ireland with the Kingdom of Great Britain to form the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland took place in 1800 and are still in force, although they have been amended since.

In the early Acts of Union, Irish men were only allowed to sit in the Irish Parliament if they were Anglican. Roman Catholics were not allowed to become MP's (members of Parliament).

As the major part of the Irish population was Catholic, this excluded the majority of the people from being represented in Parliament.

That is, until Daniel O'Connell came along and in 1823 started a campaign to allow Catholics to become MP's.

In 1829, the Catholic Emancipation was passed and the Irish Catholic population could be represented by their leaders officially.