

**Royal Hibernian Military School, *Return Re: Religion and Two Pupils Named Cashen,*
1844, H.C. Accounts & Papers, No. 363.**

Return was requested by Maurice O'Connell, MP for Tralee. O'Connell was a son of the noted Irish nationalist, Daniel O'Connell.

3 Harcourt-place, 27 Nov. 1843.

Lieut.-Colonel Colomb
Commandant
Royal Hibernian Military School

Sir,

I have been applied to by the family of two boys, named Edward and William Cashen (sons of Edward Cashen of the 6th Regiment), who are now at the Military School under your command, and who are now, I am informed, brought up as Protestants, though they entered the school as Catholics, and were allowed the free exercise of that religion for some time after their entrance. Their father, as I am informed, was always a Catholic, and that was the faith they were brought up in; their mother (who is married again in England) certified to that effect, when a question about it arose soon after their first entrance; and surely boys at their time of life are unable to judge for themselves, and should be educated in the religion of their parents. The foul stain of religious intolerance has been for some time wiped away from the British army, and those who are in high stations in it affect to proclaim the full enjoyment of religious liberty to every man in the army : surely then the Catholic soldier has a right to expect that his children will be brought up in his own religion; and there is, I hope, no disposition in any of the officials of that establishment which you now command to interfere with the religious principles of the few Catholic children who are admitted into the establishment. I know the family of these boys to be very respectable people in their station of life, and I am sure that it is only necessary to call your attention to this case, to ensure to the boys the free exercise of their father's religion, and to guard against any attempts to have that religion interfered with, at all events, until they arrive at years of discretion.

I have, &c.
(signed) R. O'Connell.

[Note: R. O'Connell was Rikard/Richard O'Connell, a barister then residing at 3 Harcourt Place, Dublin. He was admitted to the bar in 1830. He was a nephew of Daniel O'Connell and an active nationalist. *Dublin Almanac and General Register of Ireland*, 1847; *The Catholic Sentinel* (Boston), November 8, 1834.]

Royal Hibernian Military School, 30 Nov. 1843.

R. O'Connell, Esq., 3, Harcourt-place.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 27th, and shall not fail to lay it before the Governors, on their next Board day.

I have, &c.

(signed) G. Colomb, Lieut.-Col. Commandant.

Royal Hibernian Military School, 7 Dec. 1843.

R. O'Connell, Esq., 3, Harcourt-place.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 27th ult., addressed to the Commandant, relative to the two boys named in the margin, I am now directed to transmit to you the following extract from the proceedings of the Committee of Governors of the Royal Hibernian Military School, which assembled at the Castle on the 5th instant :

“Having ascertained that it is the wish, both of the mother and of the children, that the latter should attend the Established Church and be educated as Protestants, the Committee would not feel justified in requiring these children to be educated as Romancatholics, or to attend the Catholic chapel.”

(signed) Christ Foss, Secretary. Dear Mother,

Hibernian School, Dublin, 6 Oct. 1843.

To Hannah Cashen,
Manchester.

Dear Mother,

I write these few lines to you, hoping to find you in the same state of health in which this leaves me; that is, well, I wish to know whether it is your pleasure that I should go to church or not. My uncle says we must go to chapel; we wish to go to church. William and I are well; we are improving in our learning, and I am improving at my trade.

I am, dear Mother, your dutiful son,

(signed) Edward Cashen.

Manchester, 10 October 1843.

To Edward Cashen,
Royal Hibernian Military School,
Dublin.

My dear Edward,

I was surprised at the short epistle I received this morning, but not surprised at its contents, as your uncle Denis got a letter from your uncle John, in which he threatened to get you sent home if I did not send you to chapel; but I hope it is out of his power to do so, as also to have any control at all over you, as we don't depend upon uncles.

My dear boys, I wish you to use your own pleasure, and hope you have better sense than to act contrary to your own inclinations and the wishes of your governors and masters. I have been greatly persecuted since I came to Manchester, especially about religion, and has threatened to send you home more than once, and made me sign a petition against my will to send you to chapel; and your uncle Denis prosecuted me every way in their power; but he can do harm here, as I have nothing from him nor none of the rest of them, but what we get through our own industry.

I hope in the spring I will be able to come to see you, as it was out of my power this year. I wish you would send me word whether your uncle John has any power to get you sent out of the school before your time, or not. If your uncle comes to see you, your only answer is to tell him that you will go to church; and don't mention this letter, as I do not want any fresh contentions with them.

My dear boy, I hope you will answer this if it is in your power, and tell me all particulars. I have no more to say at present, but with kind love from your sisters, I remain your affectionate mother,
If you get a letter from your uncle take no notice of it, nor what he may say.

(signed) Hannah Cashen.

REGISTRY OF MARRIAGE

Rank, Christian and surname of the soldier (specifying whether bachelor or widower)	Serjeant Edward Cashen, bachelor.
Christian and surname of the woman (specifying whether spinster or widow)	Hannah Lord, spinster.
Place of marriage (specifying parish, county, &c.)	At Hampton on the Hill, near Warwick.
Date of marriage	On the 18 th day of October 1824.
Signature of the parties married	(signed) Edward Cashen, serj. 6 th regt. (signed) Hannah Cashen.
Signature of two witnesses presnt at the cere- mony	(signed) James Prescott, 6 th regiment. (signed) Hannah Boone
Signature of the chaplain or officiating clergy- man by whom the marriage was solemnized	(signed) Francis Quile Clark, minister.

I certify the above registry to be correct.
(signed) J. Richardson, Capt. 6th Regt.

REGISTRY OF BAPTISM

Date of Birth.	3 July 1833
Date of Batptism.	7 July 1833
Place of Baptism.	Chatham
Christian Name of Child.	Edward
Christian Name of Parent.	Edward
Surname of Parent.	Cashen
Rank of Father.	Serjeant
Name of the Officating Clergyman.	Rev. Mr. Maney, Curate.

(True copies.)
(signed) W. Birch, Ens. and Adj. 6th Regt.
I certify the above registry to be correct.
(signed) P. Patterson, Capt. 6th Regt.

Royal Hibernian Military School,
Dublin, 17 May 1844

ROYAL HIBERNIAN MILITARY SCHOOL.

STATEMENT of the Ages of the Two Boys, William and Edward Cashen,
at the time of changing their religion.

Edward Cashen - - - - - aged 10 1/12 years.
William Cashen - - - - - aged 8 years.

STATEMENT of the Ages of other Children who have changed their Religion within
the last Four Years.

1 aged 13 3/12 years.	2 aged 10 10/12 years.
1 aged 12 1/12 years.	1 aged 10 9/12 years.
1 aged 11 4/12 years.	1 aged 9 years.
1 aged 11 2/12 years.	8 aged 8 8/12 years.

Geo. Colomb,
Lieut.-Col. Commandant, R.H.M.S.