

In 1848, under the leadership of O'Connor, a third Chartist petition was drawn up known as the 'Monster Petition'. It was intended to be taken to parliament in a large procession, but the government took elaborate military precautions, and the procession was forbidden to cross the Thames. It was therefore taken to parliament in three cabs instead. O'Connor had claimed that the petition contained five million signatures, but in the event it was found to contain less than two million, and a great many of these were false. Parliament refused to discuss it, and the Chartist movement was discredited.

Despite the fiasco of the third petition, the Chartist movement gave expression to a number of proposals which were later adopted to produce a reformed parliamentary system. Universal manhood suffrage, the abolition of the property qualification and a secret ballot all featured among the Chartists' demands and all of them were eventually granted, but the process of reform was slow and was not fully achieved until the early 20th century. In essence, the demands of the Chartists were too far ahead of the times, and consequently the government took very resolute action to control and suppress their actions. Doubtless the essayist Thomas Carlyle, writing in the mid 19th century, expressed the fear of many MPs when he wrote, 'These chartisms are our French Revolution. God grant that we, with our better methods, may be able to transact it by argument alone.'

*For each statement, write T if it is true, F if it is false, or NG if the information is not given in the passages.*

1. The third Chartist petition, known as the 'Monster Petition,' was intended to be taken to parliament in a large procession but was forbidden to cross the Thames.
2. The 'Monster Petition' contained more than five million signatures, as claimed by O'Connor.
3. Parliament agreed to discuss the 'Monster Petition' and the Chartist movement lost credibility.
4. The demands of the Chartists, such as universal manhood suffrage and the abolition of the property qualification, were eventually granted.
5. The government took strong measures to control and suppress the actions of the Chartists three months after the third petition.
6. Thomas Carlyle expressed concern that the Chartists' movement could lead to a revolution similar to the French Revolution.