

The Artios Home Companion Series

Unit 7: Constitutional Monarchy in England

Teacher Overview

“The weak leadership of King James left his son, King Charles I, with many problems to face and to deal with. ‘Should the King or Parliament control the government?’ It was a question which could neither be evaded nor compromised...and finally, in 1642, the two parties [King Charles I and Parliament] drifted into civil war...”

“The great civil war between King Charles and his English Parliament began in August 1642, when the King ‘raised his standard’ at Nottingham. It did not really end until Charles was beheaded in 1649, and a Commonwealth or republic was set up...”

“Oliver Cromwell had grave faults; and he was by no means an easy man to deal with. He made many blunders, some of which were serious ones. But he proved himself equal to the task he had undertaken...”

– Samuel Harding



Oliver Cromwell by Robert Walker

Key People and Events

James I
Sir Walter Raleigh
Guy Fawkes
Divine Right of Kings
Sir John Eliot
John Hampden
William Laud,
Archbishop of Canterbury
King Charles I
Oliver Cromwell
“Ironsides”
Battle of Marston Moor
Charles II

Vocabulary

Lesson 1: arbitrary impeachment boor pillory perpetual jurisdiction	Lesson 2: routed Commonwealth	Lesson 3: None
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Reading and Assignments

In this unit, students will:

- Complete three lessons in which they will learn about **James I, Charles I, civil war in England** and **the rise of the English constitution**, journaling and answering discussion questions as they read.
- Define vocabulary words.
- Read contrasting poems from William Blake's most famous work, *Songs of Innocence and Experience*.
- Visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.

Leading Ideas

History is HIS Story.

God's story of love, mercy, and redemption through Christ.

He made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

— Ephesians 1:9-10

God's providential hand governs and times all events and provides for his Creation according to His plan and purposes.

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

— Acts 17:24-27

Literature and Composition

Unit 7: Poetry

Units 7 - 10

Songs of Innocence and Experience

by William Blake

<http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext99/sinex10h.htm>

Unit 7 – Assignments

- Read the two poems in the assignment background section.
- Make note of their form (number of stanzas, couplets, etc.) and rhyme scheme (abba, abab, etc.).
- Write a brief essay on the poems that answers the following questions:
 - What Christian values are presented in the poems?
 - What can be learned about “The Lamb” after reading “The Tyger”? What can be learned about “The Tyger” after reading “The Lamb”?
 - What conflicting views on religion are expressed in the poems?

Unit 7 – Assignment Background

In this unit, we will look at contrasting poems from Blake’s most famous work. As Blake himself noted, *Songs of Innocence and Experience* is a collection of works illustrating “The Two Contrary States of the Human Soul.” *Songs of Innocence* was written before *Songs of Experience* and presents the ideal human belief, the pure innocence of children. In contrast, *Songs of Experience* presents the harsher view of humans. The first two poems, “The Lamb” and “The Tiger,” present the questions about creation. Could the same God who made the gentle lamb have also created the fierce tiger? With all the wonderful things in the world created by God, why do bad things exist as well?

“The Lamb”

from *Songs of Innocence*

by William Blake

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.
By the stream & o’er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice:
Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Little Lamb I’ll tell thee,

Little Lamb I’ll tell thee:
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.

“The Tyger”
from *Songs of Experience*
by William Blake

Tyger Tyger. burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies.
Burnt the fire of thine eyes!
On what wings dare he aspire!
What the hand, dare sieze the fire?

And what shoulder, & what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp,
Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tyger, Tyger burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

Lesson One

History Overview and Assignments James I & Charles I and Parliament

“The weak leadership of King James left his son, King Charles I, with many problems to face and to deal with. ‘Should the King or Parliament control the government?’ It was a question which could neither be evaded nor compromised...and finally, in 1642, the two parties [King Charles I and Parliament] drifted into civil war...”

— Samuel Harding



James I of England
by Daniel Mytens



Charles I
by Antoon van Dyck

Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the articles: *James I, the First Stuart King & Charles I and Parliament*, pages 7-13.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Be sure to visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.

Vocabulary

arbitrary
impeachment
boor
pillory
perpetual
jurisdiction

Key People and Events

James I
Sir Walter Raleigh
Guy Fawkes
Divine Right of Kings
King Charles I
Sir John Eliot
John Hampden
William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury

Discussion Questions

1. What did Catholics hope would happen for them under the rule of King James as opposed to what they had experienced under the rule of Queen Elizabeth?
2. Why did King James imprison Sir Walter Raleigh?
3. Why did King James ultimately have Sir Walter Raleigh put to death?
4. Describe the treasonous plot devised by Guy Fawkes.
5. Explain the concept of the “divine right of kings.”
6. To what did King James believe Parliament owed all of their rights?
7. Why did King James want to make a treaty with Spain after his son-in-law lost all his lands during the Thirty Years’ War?
8. How did Parliament feel about this treaty with Spain, and why?
9. What happened during the third Parliament of King Charles, and what was the result?
10. What steps did King Charles take to prevent Parliament from meeting again for eleven years?
11. How did Scotland greet King Charles’ attempt at reforming the Church of Scotland?
12. Describe the “Long Parliament” and its effect on the reign of Charles.
13. Why did Parliament fear the Earl of Strafford?
14. What two issues separated Charles from his Parliament?
15. What was the foundational question that had to be settled by Parliament regarding government control?

Adapted from the book:

The Story of England

by Samuel B. Harding

James I, the First Stuart King

Under the Tudor rulers, the English people submitted to arbitrary rule because great dangers threatened both church and state. In the time of the Stuart Kings, these dangers were past. The attempt of the Stuarts to rule despotically led, therefore, to a series of quarrels between King and Parliament which resulted in civil war, the execution of one King, the expulsion of another, and the final loss by the Stuarts of the crowns of both England and Scotland.

In England, Mary Stuart's son was known as James I, though he continued to be James VI of Scotland. He was well educated, shrewd, witty, and a lover of peace; but he lacked dignity, was physically a coward, and couldn't say "no" to his favorites. A foreigner at his court in Scotland gave this description of him:



James I

"He speaks, eats, dresses, and plays like a boor. He is never still for a moment, but walks perpetually up and down the room. His walk is sprawling and awkward, and his voice loud. He prefers hunting to all other amusements, and will be six hours

together on horseback. He is very conceited, and he underrates other princes."

His great learning, together with this foolish conduct, led a French statesman to call him "the wisest fool in Christendom."

One of James's first acts was to try to unite the two kingdoms of England and Scotland into one. Englishmen, however, were jealous both of the favors which James showed to these Scotch subjects and of their trading rights. The attempt failed, and it was not until a hundred years later (1707) that England and Scotland were united under one Parliament.

The religious question gave James I the most trouble. English Puritans expected James to support them, because he came from a Presbyterian country. But James was so greatly displeased with Presbyterianism in Scotland that, when one of the English Puritans mentioned the word "presbyter," he burst out:

"If this be all your party have to say for themselves, I will make them conform to the Church, or I will harry them out of the land."

By this attitude James pleased the bishops, but made all Puritans his opponents.

Some small bands of Separatists took the King at his word and left England for Holland. After a few years (1620) they passed to America and founded Plymouth Colony. Virginia also was founded in King James's time (1607), but this was from motives of gain, not religion. Under

James's son, Charles I, the colonies of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Maryland were founded.

We cannot tell the story here of these first beginnings of a new world of English-speaking peoples across the sea, but we must not forget that it was one of the greatest events of that time.

Catholics, too, had hoped that King James would relieve them from the oppressive laws Queen Elizabeth had made against their religion. When this hope was disappointed, plots were formed against the King. Sir Walter Raleigh—a famous man from the time of Elizabeth's reign, who was not a Catholic, but was disappointed at not being taken into James's service—was accused and convicted of being engaged in one of these plots, and for thirteen years he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. Then he was allowed to set forth on a gold hunting expedition to South America. When he failed in his quest and attacked the Spaniards, King James had him put to death under his old sentence. Before laying his head upon the block, he felt the edge of the axe:

"Tis a sharp medicine," he said, "but a sure cure for all diseases."

A more important plot spurred by Catholic discontent was formed by a man named Guy Fawkes. With some others, he succeeded in storing thirty barrels of gunpowder in a cellar under the Parliament house; and he planned to blow up King, Lords, Commons, ministers, and all, at the opening of Parliament. The plot, however, was discovered, and Guy Fawkes and his helpers were executed. The memory of the event was long preserved by the annual

celebration of "Guy Fawkes day," when stuffed figures of Fawkes (whence comes our slang word "guy") were burned. Until recent years, school children in England learned these verses:

*"Remember, remember,
the Fifth of November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot;
I see no reason why Gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!"*



Guy Fawkes's Cellar

King James had very lofty ideas of the powers of a King, and said some very foolish things about them. He believed in the "divine right" of Kings—that is, that they received their powers from God, and are responsible to Him alone, and not in any way to their subjects.

But, unfortunately for James, he had even more need of the good will of Parliament than Elizabeth had. He squandered his revenues so recklessly on his pleasures and favorites that he was constantly in need of new taxes. Parliament, however, showed itself firmly resolved not to vote him money until grievances of which they complained should be removed. From this, and other

causes, it resulted that James quarreled with every Parliament that he summoned, except the last one.

James took the position that Parliament owed all its powers and privileges—such as the right of free speech, and freedom from arrest for what might be said in Parliament—entirely to the graciousness of the King. He forbade them “to meddle with anything concerning our government or deep matters of state.” Their business, in short, was merely to vote him the money he needed.

Parliament, on the other hand, asserted, in a famous declaration which they caused to be written in their journal, that “the liberties, privileges, and jurisdictions of Parliament are the undoubted birthright and inheritance of the subjects of England,” and that they had a right to debate all matters which concerned them as subjects.

James thereupon dismissed his Parliament, and with his own hands tore this declaration from their journal. It was easy to tear out the record; but it was difficult to move the people from what they believed to be their constitutional rights. Besides quarreling over Puritanism, taxes, and privileges, James and his Parliament held different views concerning foreign affairs.

From 1618 to 1648, Germany was wasted by a terrible religious war between Catholics and Protestants, called the Thirty Years’ War. England was interested in this, not only because England was a Protestant

country and therefore sympathized with the Protestant cause, but also because King James’s daughter Elizabeth had married a German Protestant prince who lost his lands during the course of the war. King James wanted to aid his son-in-law to recover his lands, but thought the best way to do this way by making a treaty with Spain, which was aiding the Catholic powers. So, long negotiations were carried on for the marriage of his son, Prince Charles, to a Spanish princess. Parliament, on the other hand, bitterly hated the idea of a Spanish marriage, and wanted to strike a vigorous blow at Spain through a naval war. This would not only help their fellow Protestants in Germany, but at the same time win for themselves rich prizes, and further their trading and colonizing ambitions.

In the end, James found that his plans for a Spanish alliance were impossible. He broke off negotiations, and in his last Parliament, which assembled in 1624, he invited the very “meddling” with foreign affairs which he had formerly forbidden. War was then declared against Spain. For the first time since the early days of his reign, King James and his subjects were in harmony.

James died the next year. He left to his son the difficulty of dealing with the many problems which he had raised by his weakness and folly, but had not known how to solve.

Adapted from the book:

The Story of England

by Samuel B. Harding

Charles I and Parliament

Charles I was a good man, and was much more “kingly” in his manner than James I; but he held as high ideas of his rights, and was far more impractical. He was less inclined to give way to Parliament, especially where the rights of the Church were concerned; and there was also an unintentional untruthfulness in him which made it impossible to bind him to any promise. The result was that he was even less successful than his father in dealing with the problems of his time.

King James’s last and greatest favorite, the Duke of Buckingham, was equally in favor with King Charles. He had risen from a very humble position, solely through his handsome face and good manners. He was now in the highest ranks of the English nobility, and had an income of thousands of pounds sterling a year. All of his family—father, mother, brothers, sisters—had also been enriched and ennobled.

Until Buckingham’s death (in 1628) the government was entirely in his hands. But the war with Spain fared badly, and men thought with regret of the glorious victories of Elizabeth. Buckingham hurried England into a war with France, and this, too, was mismanaged. Illegal taxes were collected, and men who refused to pay were illegally punished. In addition, favor was shown to an anti-Puritan party which now began to rise in the Church of England.

For all this, Buckingham was rightly held responsible, and finally was named in Parliament as “the grievance of grievances.” To save him from

“impeachment”—that is, trial and punishment by Parliament—Charles was obliged to dismiss his second Parliament. In the next Parliament which he called, the members decided not to renew their attack on Buckingham, but to pass a Petition of Right, in which such arbitrary taxation and imprisonment as those which Buckingham and Charles had used were declared illegal. To this law Charles was forced to give his consent. It was the most important act limiting the power of the crown which had been passed since the granting of the Great Charter, by King John, 413 years before.

A few months later, Buckingham was slain by a private enemy. Nevertheless, the quarrels between King and Parliament continued.

In 1629 this Parliament—the third one of King Charles’s reign—broke up in great disorder. While the King’s messenger knocked loudly upon their locked door to summon them for dismissal, the leaders of the House of Commons forcibly held their Speaker in his chair and passed a set of defiant resolutions. These declared anyone who advised the King to bring in anti-Puritan charges in religion, or to collect (without Parliamentary grant) the taxes which were in dispute, should be considered “a capital enemy of the commonwealth”—that is, should be worthy of punishment by death.

For the next eleven years, no Parliament was held, and the King carried on the government by his “absolute” power.

Sir John Eliot was the statesman who had played the chief part in opposing the King's measures, and upon him chiefly the King's wrath now fell. In violation of the rights of free speech granted to Parliament, the leaders of Parliament were imprisoned in the Tower of London. Others made their submission and were released, but Eliot's brave spirit refused to gain freedom for himself by surrendering the principle of liberty for the nation. His punishment was made more severe. He was placed in a room which was dark, cold, and wretchedly uncomfortable; and none but his sons were allowed to visit him. Under the weight of this punishment his health (but not his spirit) gave way, and he died in November, 1632. He was truly a martyr to the cause of constitutional liberty.

Charles's refusal to call Parliament forced him to raise money in many objectionable ways. Among these was the levying of "ship money."

In the old days, when an army might be raised by calling out the men of the country to serve in war at their own expense, the counties bordering on the sea were often called upon to furnish ships for the King's service. This "ship service" King Charles now changed into a money payment; and he demanded it not only from the seaboard counties, but from the whole country. "Ship money" became a regular tax laid upon the land without the consent of Parliament; and it was seen that, if this were permitted to pass unquestioned, Englishmen would lose one of their dearest rights.

A rich and patriotic Englishman named John Hampden refused to pay his "ship money" tax, which amounted to twenty shillings, and the question of the lawfulness of "ship money" came before the

courts. The judges of that time felt they were "the lions that supported the King's throne," and must uphold his power; the King, too, had been weeding out judges whom he thought to be unfriendly to his claims. Therefore, the case was decided against Hampden, and the collection of "ship money" continued. The "ship money" case was nevertheless of great importance. It gave to the leading men who opposed the King's claims a chance to speak their minds on the subject, and so to place before the people the dangers of the King's policy. It showed the nation how insecure were their rights of property, under the law as administered by the King's judges.

While the King trampled on the rights of Parliament and arbitrarily took from his subjects their property, he angered the nation yet more deeply by his religious policies.

Charles appointed as Archbishop of Canterbury a well-meaning but narrow-minded man named William Laud, and allowed him to carry out changes in the Church which seemed to the Puritans to pave the way for a restoration of the Catholic faith. Men who wrote and spoke against these changes, or against the power of the bishops, were made to stand in the pillory, had their ears cut off, were branded on the cheek with hot irons, were fined ruinous sums, and were cast into prison. Finally, to complete his folly, Laud and the King tried to "reform" the Church of Scotland in the same way they had already "reformed" the Church of England.

In Scotland, almost the whole nation banded together to resist the changes. The result was a rebellion, called the "Bishop's Wars," in which Charles was defeated. The Scots then advanced into England. Charles

was obliged to make peace with his Scottish subjects. In this he agreed the Scots' army should stay in England until the changes which he promised should be carried through, and he would pay its expenses.

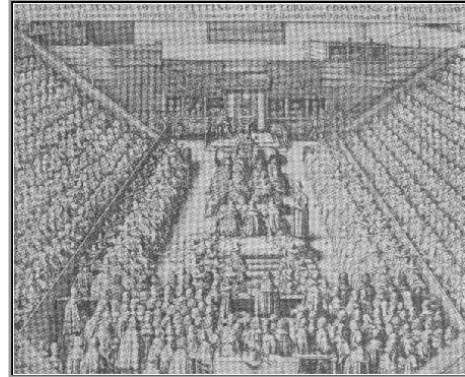
To get money to pay the Scots, Charles was obliged, after eleven years of arbitrary government, at last to summon his Parliament—the famous Long Parliament—which sat (with interruptions) from 1640 to 1660.

Charles could not rid himself of the Long Parliament when it opposed him, as he had done his earlier ones, because in its earlier stages it was backed by the army of the Scots. Later he was prevented from dissolving it because he had been forced to agree that it should not be dismissed without its own consent.

In both the House of Commons and the House of Lords there was a strong majority against Charles's policies. The leaders of Parliament, therefore, set to work to do three things—to undo the misgovernment of the last eleven years, to punish Charles's ministers, and to pass laws which should make such abuses impossible for the future.

Their hatred was chiefly directed against the Earl of Strafford, who had joined them in opposing the Duke of Buckingham, but had become Charles's principal adviser after Buckingham's death. Strafford was honest in his course, but his former companions regarded him as a traitor to their cause. They also feared him, for so long as he lived no victory which they might win over the King could be permanent, nor could their lives be safe. Every effort, therefore, was made to have him put to death. He was accused of

attempting to overthrow the liberties of the kingdom, and particularly of having advised the King to make war on his English people. This was held to be treason, and Parliament at last voted he should be beheaded.



Trial of Strafford

Charles had promised Strafford he should not suffer in person or in honor, for aiding him. But the outcry of the London mob against Strafford was so great the King was terrified for the safety of his Queen and children, and, with tears in his eyes, he at last consented to Strafford's execution.

"Put not your trust in princes!" cried Strafford when this news was brought to him. Nevertheless, he had scarcely hoped that he would be spared. He met his death bravely.

He was a pure and able man, and was loyal to what he believed to be his duty. It was his misfortune that his ideas of government were those of a past age, and that his death was a necessity for the people's liberty.

After Strafford's execution, the King and Parliament drifted ever farther and farther apart.

At one time, Charles caused five of the leaders of Parliament to be accused of treason. In violation of their Parliamentary

privileges, he came in person with an armed force to seize them. When the Speaker of the Commons was asked to point out the accused members, he replied, kneeling before the King:

“May it please your Majesty, I have neither eyes to see, nor tongue to speak, in this place, but as the House is pleased to direct me.”

“Well, well,” replied the King, “tis no matter; I think my eyes are as good as another’s.”

However, he did not find the men he sought, because, as he said, “the birds were flown.” This attempt did Charles no good, but only caused Parliament and the nation to distrust his intentions.

Two questions now separated Charles from his Parliament. One was the government of the Church by bishops, which the Puritans wished to cast out, “root and branch.” The other was the appointment by Parliament of the officers who commanded the county militia. Troops were now being raised to put down a rebellion in Ireland, and members of

Parliament were fearful lest Charles should use these to put down Parliament itself.

To the demand for the right to appoint the militia officers, Charles replied:

“That is a thing with which I would not even trust my wife and children.”

On the religious question, he was equally steadfast. In this position he was supported by many members of Parliament who had formerly opposed him. On a measure called the “Grand Remonstrance,” which was directed against the King’s government, the opposition to Charles had a majority of only eleven votes, in place of the almost unanimous support which they formerly had. Feeling ran so high that swords were actually drawn on the floor of the House of Commons, and bloodshed was narrowly prevented.

The question really at issue was this: Should the King or Parliament control the government?

It was a question which could neither be evaded nor compromised. Matters grew steadily worse and worse; and finally, in 1642, the two parties drifted into civil war.

Lesson Two

History Overview and Assignments Civil War & The Commonwealth and the Protectorate

“The great civil war between King Charles and his English Parliament began in August 1642, when the King ‘raised his standard’ at Nottingham. It did not really end until Charles was beheaded in 1649, and a Commonwealth or republic was set up...”

– Samuel Harding



Battle of Naseby



Cromwell at Dunbar

Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article: *The Civil War Between King and Parliament & Commonwealth and Protectorate*, pages 15-22.
- Narrate about today’s reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Be sure to visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.

Vocabulary

routed
Commonwealth

Key People and Events

King Charles I
Oliver Cromwell
John Hampden
“Ironsides”
Battle of Marston Moor

Discussion Questions

1. How were the people divided between the support of the King or Parliament during England's Civil War?
2. What were the king's supporters called?
3. What were the supporters of Parliament called?
4. Describe how Parliament won the Battle of Marston Moor.
5. Why did King Charles leave Oxford in disguise and go to Scotland?
6. Describe how the "Independents" felt about reforming the Church of England.
7. Describe the fate of King Charles after Scotland returned him to England. Be specific and detailed.
8. Outline the development of the Commonwealth and Protectorate as described in the article of the same title.

Adapted from the book:

The Story of England

by Samuel B. Harding

The Civil War between King and Parliament

The great civil war between King Charles and his English Parliament began in August, 1642 when the King "raised his standard" at Nottingham. It did not really end until Charles was beheaded in 1649 and a Commonwealth or republic was set up.

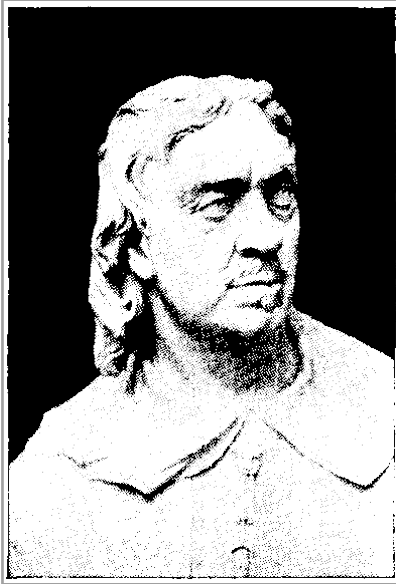
In this war, the great majority of the nobles and the gentry, with their dependents, took the side of the King. The middle classes—the traders and manufacturers of the towns, and most of the small farmers—upheld the cause of Parliament. The King's supporters, for the most part, believed in the Church of England, and loved a festive life and fine clothes. They were called "Cavaliers." The supporters of Parliament were mainly sober-minded Puritans, plain in their lives and in their dress. They were called "Roundheads" from their refusal to wear

the "lovelock" which Cavaliers wore curling down over one shoulder.

The east and south—which were then the most populous, industrious, and wealthy parts of England—generally sided with Parliament. The north and west went with the King. Oxford, the seat of England's greatest university, was the royalist headquarters. Parliament controlled London, the navy, most of the seaports, and the law-making and taxing part of the government. From the beginning its resources were much greater than those of the King. Both sides sought aid outside of England. Parliament secured an army from the Scots. The King's efforts to get men from Ireland and the Continent profited him very little.

In the beginning of the war, Charles gained some successes, chiefly because the Cavaliers were better soldiers than the

troops which Parliament raised. But among the members of Parliament was a plain, earnest, country squire named Oliver Cromwell. He had an unsuspected genius for war, and soon recognized the trouble with the Parliament's army.



Oliver Cromwell

“Your troops,” he told his cousin, John Hampden, “are mostly old decayed serving men and tapsters, and such kind of fellows; and their troops are gentlemen’s sons and persons of quality. Do you think the spirits of such base and mean fellows will ever be able to encounter gentlemen who have honor, and courage, and resolution in them? You must get men of a spirit that is likely to go as far as gentlemen will go, or else you will be beaten still.”

Setting to work on this principle, Cromwell organized his famous body of troops, known as the “Ironsides.” The name was first given to Cromwell himself, by one of the King’s generals, and later extended to his troops. They were sternly Puritan men, like their commander, who “knew what they fought for and loved what they knew.” And from the time when

Cromwell and his Ironsides began to be prominent in the war, the balance of victory inclined in Parliament’s favor.

The first great Parliamentary victory was won in July, 1644 at Marston Moor, in the north of England. An army of Scots and Parliamentarians had laid siege to the city of York. Charles ordered his nephew, Prince Rupert—a dashing cavalry general—to go to its deliverance. As Rupert approached, the Scots and Parliament men drew back and took their stand on a long ridge above Marston Moor. When Rupert arrived at its foot, it was already seven o’clock in the evening of a long summer day. He decided not to begin the attack until morning, and he and his men began to eat such supper as they had with them.

But suddenly, while the Royalists were thus engaged, the Parliament men rushed down the hill and attacked them.

Rupert’s army fought bravely, but they were outnumbered and in disorder. On the side of Parliament, Cromwell and his Ironsides performed special service.

“It had all the evidence,” Cromwell wrote after the battle, “of an absolute victory, obtained by the Lord’s blessing upon the godly party. We never charged but that we routed the enemy. God made them as stubble to our swords.”

By this battle, Rupert’s army was practically destroyed. York was forced to surrender, and almost all the north of England passed from the control of the King to that of Parliament.

After Marston Moor, the army of Parliament was reorganized on a more Puritan basis. Cromwell, as commander of the cavalry, now took on an increasingly greater leading role.

Another great battle was fought the

next year at Naseby, in central England. Rupert, who was this time accompanied by the King, was again defeated, and again the victory was mainly due to Cromwell and his Ironsides. “The stake played for at Naseby,” says a great historian, “was the crown of England, and Charles had lost it.” He was left without an army, and his surrender became only a question of time. Worse than the loss of his army was the capture of Charles’s papers, containing copies of his letters to his wife. These showed that in his negotiations with Parliament he was not sincere, and that he had no intention of making a lasting peace with his rebellious subjects.

Part of Cromwell’s Letter after Naseby

Some months after the battle of Naseby, Charles set out from Oxford in disguise. He arrived at the camp of the Scots, and then surrendered.

Charles thought his Scottish subjects would offer him better terms than his English ones. But the Scots found Charles so obstinate and tricky that at last they turned him over to the agents of the English Parliament, and marched off to their homes.

Then Parliament tried its hand at negotiating with Charles. At this time Parliament was ruled by men who wanted to establish the Presbyterian form of religion in England and persecute all other

denominations. The army, on the other hand, was made up mainly of “Independents” who held radical religious ideas. They did not want any church supported by the state; but they did want equal toleration for all sects of Christians, except Roman Catholics and perhaps Episcopalians. In addition, the army was angry because Parliament tried to dismiss it without giving it the many months of back pay which were due.

In these circumstances Charles made the fatal mistake of trying to play off Parliament against the army. The result was the army took his custody into its own hands. Late one night an officer knocked at the door of Charles’s bedroom with a small squad of soldiers, and told him that he must go with them to some other place.

“What commission have you to take me?” asked Charles, fearing that some harm might be intended.

“Here’s my commission,” replied the officer, pointing to the soldiers behind him.

Charles passed from the custody of Parliament into that of the army. They tried to get him to agree to fair terms. But Charles could not understand things were not as they had been, and he must now make up his mind to accept important changes in the government of both church and state.

“You cannot do without me,” he said to the army leaders. “You will fall to ruin if I do not sustain you.”

He clung blindly to the belief that a hereditary King was absolutely necessary to England, and if he only held out long enough he would surely have his way. So he rejected the army’s proposals.

In November, 1647, Charles succeeded in escaping from Hampton Court, where he

was kept in honorable captivity, to a castle in the Isle of Wight. There he negotiated a treaty with the Scots by which he agreed to establish the Presbyterian worship in England for three years, and to put down the religious sects to which most of the army belonged. On these terms the Scots agreed to send a new army into England—this time to make war on their former allies, and to restore Charles to his English throne.

When the Scots came into England, Cromwell succeeded in defeating them in the battle of Preston, after three days' hard fighting. The chief result of this new war was to bring the army leaders at last to the grim determination to put the King to death.

"If ever the Lord brings us back again in peace," they said upon setting out for the war, "it is our duty to call Charles Stuart, that man of blood, to an account for the blood he has shed, and the mischief he has done against the Lord's cause and people in these poor nations."

But, in order to give any form of law to the trial of the King, Parliament must act, and to get such action the army must drive out the Presbyterians from that body and secure control of it for the radical sects which they themselves represented. Accordingly, in December, 1648, an officer named Colonel Pride took his stand before the doors of Parliament and "purged" that body by arresting or turning back, as they sought to enter, 143 of its members. After this, many other members of their own accord ceased to attend Parliament. The army gained control of Parliament, and could pass what measures it wished.

To try the King, a High Court of Justice was appointed, consisting of 135 members.

Only 65 members of this court appeared at the trial, and only 59 of these signed the sentence which it passed against the King.

The charge against Charles was that he had tried to overturn the liberties of the nation and reinstate absolute government; and that he had made war against the Parliament and kingdom. He replied by denying the court had any right to try him. In spite of this plea, the trial went on. After sitting seven days, the court found him guilty of being "a tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy to the good people of this kingdom," and sentenced him to death.

Three days later, on January 30, 1649—a cold and wintry day—the sentence was publicly carried out. Charles's last acts were full of bravery and dignity.

"I fear not death," he said. "Death is not terrible to me. I bless my God I am prepared."

The scaffold was erected before the King's palace of Whitehall, in London. The great crowd of people which gathered about it showed their sympathy for the King and disapproval of the sentence by groans of pity and horror, and strong guards of soldiers were necessary, both there and throughout London, to preserve order. Large numbers who had condemned the King's policies disapproved of his execution. A poet among this number thus describes Charles's last moments:

*"He nothing common did or mean,
Upon that memorable scene,
But with his keener eye
That axe's edge did try;
Nor called the gods with vulgar spite
To vindicate his helpless right,
But bowed his comely head
Down, as upon a bed."*

The army, with the iron hand of force, had overthrown both Parliament and King. It remained for them, if they could, to

reconstruct upon those ruins a government which should be safe and free.

Adapted from the book:

The Story of England

by Samuel B. Harding

Commonwealth and Protectorate

1649-1660

At the time when Parliament was preparing to bring the King to trial, it laid the foundations for a republican form of government. It declared that the people are the source of all just power, that the House of Commons represents the people, and that what it passes as law does not need the consent of either King or House of Lords. The kingship and the House of Lords were both abolished as “useless, burdensome, and dangerous,” and a “Commonwealth” was established, with a Council of State at its head.

At once the new government found itself threatened from three sources—from the extreme radicals (called “Levelers”) in England who wanted a more democratic form of government, from the Royalists and Catholics in Ireland, and from the Presbyterians and Royalists of Scotland. To Cromwell, who was now at last made “Captain General and Commander in Chief” of the army, fell the task of dealing with each of these dangers. The Levellers were crushed and their leaders punished. Then Cromwell took two fortified towns in Ireland by storm and pitilessly put the garrisons to death—as a means, he said, “to prevent the effusion of blood for the future.”

The danger from Scotland was not so easily overcome. Immediately after

Charles I was put to death, the Scots had proclaimed his son, Charles II, King of Scotland; and he had promised them (which his father would never grant) that Presbyterian rule should there be supreme. To prevent the Scots from restoring Charles II in England, Cromwell invaded Scotland; and he soon confronted the Scottish army near the little town of Dunbar.

“The enemy,” wrote Cromwell, “hath blocked up our way at the pass, through which we cannot get without almost a miracle. He lieth so upon the hills that we know not how to go that way without great difficulty; and our lying there daily consumeth our men, who fall sick beyond imagination.”

From this difficulty Cromwell was relieved by a false move of the Scots, who came down from the hills to the level ground by the roadside. Before daybreak on the morning of September 3, 1650, Cromwell and his men attacked their unsuspecting foes, and in less than an hour’s time the whole Scottish army was destroyed. In this battle of Dunbar, three thousand were slain on the field and ten thousand taken prisoner. To Cromwell the result seemed “one of the most signal mercies that God hath done to England and His people.”

The Scots, however, were not crushed. While Cromwell was busy securing Edinburgh and other strong places, Charles II and a new army made a sudden dash into England. At once terror seized upon many of the ruling spirits of England, for they dreaded a general uprising in favor of the young King. But, before any serious mischief could befall, Cromwell overtook the Scottish forces at Worcester; and there, just one year after the battle of Dunbar, he won a second great victory. His letter to the speaker of the Parliament, written at ten o'clock on the night of the battle, tells the story:

“NEAR WORCESTER,
3d September, 1651.

“Sir: Being so weary and scarce able to write, yet I thought it my duty to let you know thus much. That upon this day, being the 3rd of September (remarkable for a mercy granted to our forces on this day twelve-month in Scotland), we built a bridge of boats over the river Severn, about half a mile from Worcester. We passed over some horse and foot, and beat the enemy from hedge to hedge until we beat them into Worcester. The enemy then drew all his forces on the other side of the town, and made a considerable fight with us for three hours' space. But in the end we beat them totally, and pursued him to the fort, which we took—and indeed have beaten his whole army.

“This hath been a very glorious mercy, and as stiff a contest, for four or five hours, as ever I have seen. Both your old forces, and those newly raised, have behaved with very great courage; and He that made them come out, made them willing to fight for you. The Lord God Almighty framed our

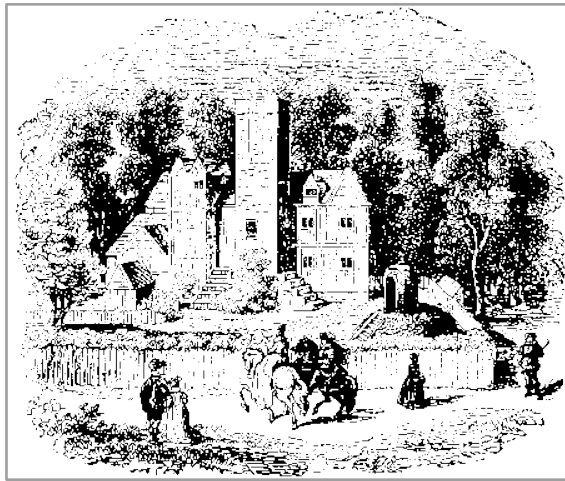
hearts to real thankfulness for this, which is alone His doing. I hope I shall within a day or two give you a more perfect account. In the meantime I hope you will pardon, sir,

Your most humble servant,
“OLIVER CROMWELL.”

The escape of Charles II from the field of Worcester makes one of the most thrilling stories of history. He slipped away in the darkness with a few companions, and next morning set out alone, in disguise and with short-cut hair, to try to reach a place of safety. For four days and three nights he traveled on foot, “every step up to his knees in dirt, with nothing but a green coat and a pair of country breeches on, and a pair of country shoes that made him so sore all over his feet that he could scarce stir.” He found his most loyal guides and protectors among persecuted Catholics, both high and low. At one time he lay hid all day among the branches of a bushy oak, standing in an open plain, while soldiers searched the country around for fugitives.

A brave lady undertook to bring him to the seaport of Bristol, with Charles riding in the saddle as her servant and the lady mounted behind on a “pillion,” according to the fashion of that day. But no ship was to be found at Bristol, and they were forced to go elsewhere. Adventure then followed adventure while Charles made his way along the southern coast of England, from the Bay of Bristol to the Straits of Dover. At the end of six weeks, he obtained a vessel at Brighton, which took him safely across to France. During the course of his wanderings his secret became known to over forty-five persons; but not one of them, for either fear or hope of reward,

played him false.



Boscobel House

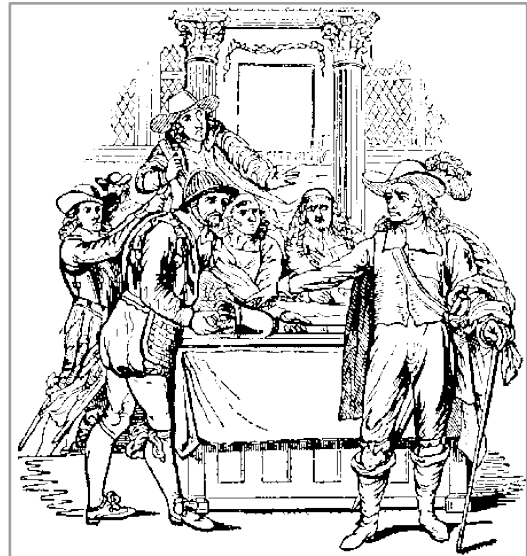
The battle of Worcester crushed the last opposition to the Commonwealth, and its rule was extended over Scotland and Ireland as well as England. But Cromwell's work was not yet done. In a famous poem, his friend John Milton reminded him that—

*“Much remains
To conquer still; peace hath her victories
No less renowned than war.”*

The remnant of the Long Parliament, which people in scorn called the “Rump,” was unwilling to surrender their power. They insisted that, in the new Parliament which was to take the place of the old, they should not only have seats but should have a veto over the election of new members. Cromwell and his friends opposed this claim, and at last in April, 1653, he forcibly dissolved the “Rump.”

“Come, come,” Cromwell called out from his place in Parliament. “I will put an end to your prating. You are no Parliament. Some of you are drunkards, and some of you are worse. How can you be a Parliament for God's people? Depart, I say,

and let us have done with you!” And stamping with his foot, he called in a company of soldiers which he had stationed outside, and cleared the hall.



Cromwell Dissolving Parliament

Then Cromwell tried the experiment of ruling by an assembly of “persons fearing God, and of approved fidelity and honesty,” who were appointed by the army council instead of being elected by the people. The wits of that day called it “Barebone's Parliament,” from the name of one of its members, Praise-God Barebone. This body began to vigorously reform the abuses which, as Cromwell had said, “made many poor to make a few rich.” But the task proved too great for them, and they soon resigned their powers into Cromwell's hands.

Next, a written constitution called the “Instrument of Government” was prepared by the army leaders, under which Cromwell became “Protector” and governed with the aid of a Council of State and a Parliament. But troubles at once arose between the Protector and his Parliament, and Cromwell was obliged to fall back again upon the army, and to rule by military

force.

Worn out at last by much hard fighting and harder governing, and saddened by the loss of those most dear to him, Oliver Cromwell died on September 3, 1658—the anniversary of his great victories at Dunbar and Worcester. He was a great and good man, and many of his ideas for the reform of government and society were in advance of his time. But his attempt at governing by military force, unsupported by a majority of the nation, failed—as it must always fail. He was sincerely and deeply religious. As a poet of his party wrote:

*“He first put arms into
Religion’s hand,
And timorous conscience
unto courage manned:
The soldier taught
that inward mail to wear,
And fearing God,
how they should nothing
fear.”*

He was succeeded as Protector by his son, Richard Cromwell. Richard, however, had neither the force of character nor the hold on the army that his father had. He permitted the army leaders to restore the “Rump” Parliament, and then that body

speedily forced Richard to give up the Protectorate and retire to private life.

Then the “Rump,” which had learned nothing by its former expulsion, quarreled with the army. It was again expelled, and then once more, after a few weeks, restored.

By this time England was heartily tired of Protectors, army, and “Rump” alike, and was ready to welcome Charles II as the representative of the old line of Kings.

The restoration was accomplished mainly by General Monk, a strong, silent man, who had been stationed in Scotland and had taken no part in the recent squabbles. Now he marched his troops to London and forced the “Rump” to admit the members excluded by Colonel Pride in 1648. This reconstituted Long Parliament then ordered a new election, and the new Parliament invited Charles II to return from France and take the English throne.

The Puritan Revolution was at an end. The republic, which it had attempted to set up, had failed. But its work was not all in vain. The absolute rule which James I had claimed, and which Charles I had used, thenceforth became more difficult. In the end, the example of Cromwell and his followers made tyrannical government in England impossible.

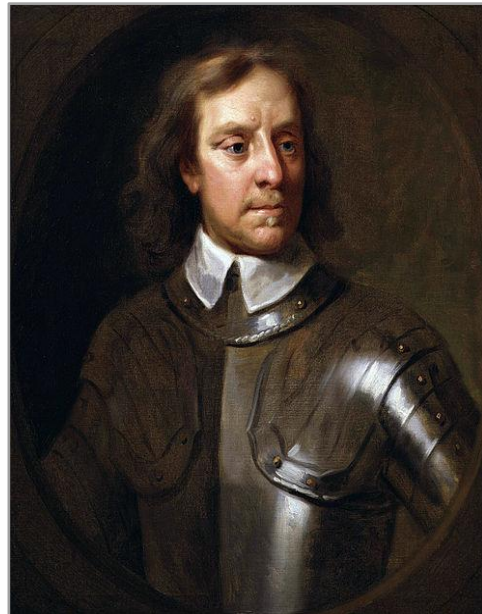
Lesson Three

History Overview and Assignments Charles II and Oliver Cromwell

“Oliver Cromwell had grave faults; and he was by no means an easy man to deal with. He made many blunders, some of which were serious ones. But he proved himself equal to the task he had undertaken...”
– Samuel Harding



Charles II of England in Coronation Robes



Oliver Cromwell

Reading and Assignments

- Read the articles: *Charles II and the Stuart Restoration & Oliver Cromwell*, pages 24-31.
- There are no discussion questions for these two articles. Instead, write a biographical sketch of each of the two main characters of the articles: Charles II and Oliver Cromwell. This sketch should be constructed in the form of a five-paragraph essay.
- Be sure to visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.

Key People

Charles II
Oliver Cromwell

Adapted from the book:

The Story of England

by Samuel B. Harding

Charles II and the Stuart Restoration

1660-1685

Charles II entered London on May 29, 1660, which was his thirtieth birthday. The shouting and joy which greeted him were greater than could be described. He was an abler man than his father, and his wanderings and exile had given him experience of the world. But he was a bad man morally, and he had none of the loyalty to principle which caused Charles I to uphold the Church of England at all cost. He was as much resolved to rule absolutely as his father, but he was determined above all things not to “set out on his travels again.” So, when his measures aroused serious opposition, he drew back. For a long time, people did not suspect him of dangerous designs; for his ready wit and pleasant manners disguised his real plans, and he seemed to be wholly given up to leading a festive life.



Ladies of the Court of Charles II

The court and society took their tone from the King, and a great reaction against Puritanism set in. The theaters, which had been closed by the Long Parliament, were reopened. With them came back bull baiting, bear baiting, cock fighting, the Maypole dance, and all the other usages, good and bad, which characterized “Merry England.” Pleasant vice and profitable corruption prevailed, in place of the Puritans’ endless Psalm singing, sermons, and prayer.



Maypole Dance

It was during the time of Charles II, also, that the drinking of coffee, tea, and chocolate came to use in England. The first was introduced from Turkey, the second from China, and the third from Central America. Coffee houses, or places for drinking coffee, became the chief meeting places for fashionable society, where the

latest news could always be heard.

Charles was wise enough to let Parliament settle the questions which the restoration raised.

Thirteen persons who had taken part in the trial and execution of Charles I were put to death, but most of those concerned in the rebellion were pardoned, or were lightly punished.

Charles's second Parliament, which sat from 1661 to 1679, was as "Cavalier" as his heart could wish. It reestablished the Church of England and expelled two thousand Puritan ministers from their pulpits. By later laws, it forbade the dispossessed ministers from earning a living by teaching, or from holding religious assemblies, or from even residing five miles of a town.

From this time there exists, along with the established Episcopal Church, a large body of Protestant "Dissenters" — Presbyterians, Baptists, Quakers, and the like — as well as a considerable body of Roman Catholics. One of the chief needs of the time was to secure, for these Dissenters, religious toleration — that is, the right to worship peaceably, in their own way, without punishment by the state. The foreign policy of Charles was at first chiefly concerned with the "United Provinces," or Dutch republic.

These provinces, situated about the mouth of the river Rhine, had become rich and prosperous states through commerce and industry. While Elizabeth ruled over England, they became Protestant and threw off the cruel government of Spain. For a time, the greater part of the commerce of Europe was carried on in Dutch vessels. They established a colonial empire which included the Cape of Good

Hope in Africa; Java, Ceylon, and the Moluccas in the East Indies; and New Amsterdam in America. The jealousy which their commercial success aroused in England had led Cromwell to pass a Navigation Act which took from them most of their trade with that country. A war followed (1651-1654); and although the Dutch Admiral, Van Tromp, for a time sailed "with a broom at his masthead" as a sign of his intention to sweep the English fleet from the sea, he had at last been defeated and slain, and the Dutch had made peace.



Gentlemen's Costumes
in the Time of Charles II

Under Charles II, two new wars were fought with the Dutch. In the first of these (1665-1667), Prince Rupert and Admiral Monk won some victories. Then Charles, thinking that peace would be made, laid up his fleet in the harbors of the river Thames, in order that he might save money to spend on his pleasures. But the Dutch got together a new fleet, sailed up the Thames, and burned three of the English ships which lay at anchor. They then blockaded the river for two weeks. Men murmured that such things had not happened in Cromwell's day.

"Everybody," wrote an officer of the

navy, “reflects upon Oliver, and commends him, saying what brave things he did, and how he made all the neighboring princes fear him.”

The only gain which England made from the Dutch by this war was New Amsterdam, which was conquered and called New York, in honor of Charles’s brother, the Duke of York (1664).

Charles’s second war with the Dutch came in 1672. He attacked them in alliance with Louis XIV of France, who was seeking to extend his kingdom at the expense of his neighbors. By a secret treaty, Charles promised Louis that he would declare himself a Catholic whenever the time seemed ripe for it. In return, the French King again and again gave large sums of money to Charles, to make him independent of Parliament. He also promised to send soldiers to his aid, in case rebellion broke out in England.

The war which Charles and Louis waged went badly. On land, the brave Hollanders defended themselves against Louis XIV by cutting the dykes which protected their low-lying land against the sea and flooding the open country. On the sea, the English felt they were left by the French to do all the fighting. Charles’s nephew, William III of Orange, was now at the head of the Dutch government, with the title of Stadtholder; and the English Parliament soon forced King Charles to conclude a peace. Thenceforth, William III was free to give all his attention to saving free government and the Protestant religion, in Europe, from the ambitious designs of Louis XIV.

The city of London, under Charles II, suffered two great disasters — from plague, and from fire.

Attacks of the plague were common, owing to bad sanitary conditions and lack of medical knowledge. London streets were narrow and filthy, and the upper stories of the houses projected so that they almost met those of the other side. Sunlight and fresh air were thus shut out. Also, the drainage was bad and the water supply poor. The result was that in 1665 London suffered an attack of the plague such as it had never experienced since the time of the Black Death three hundred years before. For a time, more than 6,000 persons a week died from it, and altogether fully 120,000 persons perished in London alone. Houses in which persons lay sick with the disease were marked with red crosses a foot long, together with the words, “God have mercy upon us!” At night, death carts went around the streets, accompanied by men ringing bells and crying, “Bring out your dead!” Shops were shut up, and the streets deserted; for all who could do so fled to the purer air of the country. Thirty, forty, and even a hundred miles from London the people were panic stricken. They shut their doors even against their friends; and if two men passed upon the road, or in the open fields, each kept as far from the other as space would permit. It was not until winter that the sickness declined.

Scarcely had London begun to recover from the plague when it was swept by a terrible fire. The flames broke out in the early morning of September 2, 1666, and raged four days. The wind was blowing a gale, and the fire did not die out until four-fifths of old London was laid in ashes. Eighty-nine churches, including St. Paul’s cathedral, were burned, and more than thirteen hundred houses. Two hundred thousand people were left homeless. In a

diary of that time, the writer described the fire at its height:

“We saw the fire grow, and as it grew darker, it appeared more and more; in corners and upon steeples, and between churches and houses, and as far as we could see up the hill of the city, in a most horrid malicious bloody flame, not like the fine flame of an ordinary fire. We saw the fire as only one entire arch of fire from this side to the other side of the bridge, and in a bow up the hill for an arch of above a mile long. It made me weep to see it: the churches, houses, and all on fire, and flaming at once, and a horrid noise the flames made, and the cracking of houses at their ruin.”

Some good results followed the fire. It put an end to the last ravages of the plague by burning out the old, filthy, rat-infested quarters; and it cleared the ground for a rebuilding of the city in more modern fashion.



New St. Paul's Cathedral

Many persons falsely said the fire was the work of “Papists” or Roman Catholics, who at the time were both hated and feared by English Protestants. A few years later, Charles made this feeling much worse by taking a step toward carrying out his secret

treaty with Louis XIV.

Charles did not dare to declare himself a Catholic, but he did issue a “Declaration of Indulgence.” By this, he attempted to suspend all laws passed against Roman Catholics and Protestant Dissenters alike, and give them religious toleration. The measure was wise in itself, but it was dishonest in its motives, and was contrary to the sentiments of most of his subjects. Moreover, it was very doubtful whether the King alone could suspend laws which had been passed by the King and Parliament together. The result was that a great opposition was aroused in Parliament. Charles was obliged not only to recall his declaration, but also to give his consent to a “test act” by which all Catholics were driven out of political offices.

Not long after this, the jealous hatred of English Protestants for Roman Catholics was fanned to a flame by the discovery of what was alleged to be a “Popish Plot.”

A wicked man named Titus Oates swore falsely that Catholics were plotting to murder Charles II and to restore the Catholic religion by the aid of a French army. Other men came forward and confirmed his stories, in order that they might share in the rewards which were given to Oates. Unfortunately, a London magistrate at this time was found dead in a ditch, thrust through with a sword; and this was believed to be the work of the plotters.

All England then went wild with excitement. Five Jesuit priests were convicted and hanged, after shamefully unfair trials, and one Catholic nobleman was beheaded. Hundreds of others were arrested and punished in milder ways. To check still further the influence of Catholics, a new “test act” was passed which shut them

out of the House of Lords. A desperate effort was also made to prevent the Duke of York, who had declared himself a Catholic, from succeeding his brother, Charles II, as King; but this was unsuccessful.

For a long time there had been a growing opposition to the government of Charles II on political grounds. Now, under the influence of the religious struggle, it took the form of a political party called the “Whigs.” The name came from a word used by Scottish teamsters to make their horses go faster. The supporters of the King were given the name of “Tories,” from an Irish word meaning outlaws. The Tories generally upheld the established Church of England, believed that the King ruled by “divine right,” and taught that it was a sin to resist him under any pretext. The Whigs, on the other hand, favored toleration for Protestant dissenters and believed that the King was only an officer of the government, subject to the law and to Parliament. This was the beginning of the two great political parties whose rivalries have shaped the government of England from that day to this.

In the last five years of his reign, Charles II was completely victorious over his opponents. Shaftesbury, the great leader of the Whigs, was exiled and died abroad. Other leading Whigs were arrested and executed on charges of plotting against the King. Parliament was called to meet at Oxford, where it would be away from the support of the Londoners; and it was so overawed that it passed whatever measures the King willed. To make the King’s control permanent, steps were taken by which Tories were placed in power over most of the towns of England, so that for the future their representatives in the House of Commons might be favorable to the King.

While in the height of his triumph, Charles died in 1685 of apoplexy. In his last hours he was reconciled to the Catholic Church, and died in that faith. He left no legitimate children, and the throne passed to his brother James, Duke of York.

The Whig party seemed hopelessly crushed, and it looked as if James II would rule his dominions of England, Ireland, and Scotland with less trouble than had any member so far of the Stuart house.

Adapted from the book:

Famous Men of Modern Times

by John H. Haaren

Oliver Cromwell

1599–1658

Oliver Cromwell was born in Huntingdon, England, four years before the death of Queen Elizabeth and the accession of King James I.

His father was a gentleman farmer and cultivated his own land. But he was in comfortable circumstances and able to take excellent care of his family.

Oliver is described as being of a wayward and violent temper as a lad. He was cross and masterful, but possessed a large quantity of mirthful energy which showed itself in various forms of mischief.

It is said that when only a boy he dreamed he would become the greatest man in England. A story is also told that once, at

school, he took the part of king in a play, and placed the crown upon his head himself instead of letting someone else crown him.

At college he excelled in Latin and history, especially in the study of the lives of the famous men of Greece and Rome.

He was, however, more famed for his skill at football and other rough games than for the study of books.

His schooling was given him by Dr. Thomas Beard, a Puritan minister who resided in his native town, and who seems to have taken a great interest in him as a boy.



Cromwell

It was from his mother, who is described as “a woman of rare vigor and great decision of purpose,” that Cromwell derived his remarkable strength of character.

At the age of eighteen, he left college, on account of the death of his father, and returned home to look after the affairs of the family.

At twenty-one years of age he was married to Elizabeth Bourchier, daughter of a London merchant, who proved to be a most excellent wife.

The esteem in which he was held in

Huntingdon is shown by the fact that in the Great Parliament, which drew up “The Petition of Rights,” he sat as a member and represented his native place.

He made his first speech in the House of Commons, where so much of his future work was to be done, on February 11, 1629. He was then thirty years of age.

A gentleman who heard this first speech described it: “I came into the House of Commons one morning and listened to a gentleman speaking whom I knew not. His dress was a plain cloth suit which showed the cut of a country tailor; his linen was not very clean; his hat was without a hatband; his voice was sharp, and his eloquence full of fervor. He was speaking in behalf of a servant who had been imprisoned for speaking against the Queen because she indulged in dancing.”

After King Charles dismissed that Parliament, he decided to manage the affairs of the nation without one; and so for eleven years no other Parliament was called.

During this long interval Cromwell remained at home and worked upon his land.

Want of money at last forced King Charles to call a Parliament; and it assembled in 1640.

In this Parliament Cromwell sat as the member for Cambridge, and took an active part in the business of the House.

Trouble soon arose between the king and the Parliament on the question as to who possessed the right to levy taxes. Both parties claimed this right, and neither would yield.

Then Parliament passed what was called “The Great Remonstrance,” which was a complaint from the people of the wrongs they suffered under the rule of Charles.

On leaving the house that day, Cromwell said to a friend with whom he was walking, "If the Remonstrance had been rejected, I would have left England never to have set my foot upon her shores again."

The king was so angry that he ordered the arrest of the five members who had taken the lead in the passing of the Remonstrance, but the House of Commons would not allow the arrests to be made.

The next day King Charles brought four hundred soldiers with him, and demanded the men be given up; but the members would not yield, and the king had to go away without them.

It at once became evident there would be war between the Parliament and the king, and the whole land was filled with excitement and alarm.

How Cromwell felt about this matter can be seen from a few words in a letter written at this time. He said, "The king's heart has been hardened. He will not listen to reason. The sword must be drawn. I feel myself urged to carry forward this work."

The whole nation quickly became divided into two parties. The friends of the king were called "Royalists," or "Cavaliers." Those of Parliament were called "Roundheads." Cromwell's own uncle and cousin were staunch friends of King Charles, and at once entered his army.

Cromwell raised two companies of volunteers. He distinguished himself by his strict discipline; although up to the time when the war broke out, he had not had much experience in military affairs.

He was then forty-three years old. He soon became known as a great leader and soldier, and his successes as a soldier gave

him a high place in the affairs of the nation.

The adherents of Parliament had on their side the navy, and they also had more money than King Charles had. But Charles had a fine body of cavalry, and many of the rich men of England sent him money to carry on the war.

At the opening of the war, the army of Charles had the advantage. Cromwell saw that the forces of the Parliament would soon be beaten unless they could get soldiers who were interested in the cause for which they were fighting, and such men he at once began to gather about him.

A large number of soldiers who fought under Cromwell were Puritans. The Puritans were people who objected to many of the forms and ceremonies of the Church of England.

Many of them laid great stress on the importance of sober and righteous living. When in camp, they read the Bible and sang psalms. They often recited Bible verses and sang psalms as they went into battle.

The first battle of the war was fought at Edge Hill. The greatest loss in any single engagement was at the battle of Marston Moor, where the king's army left forty thousand slain upon the field.

In this battle the soldiers under the command of Cromwell really won the victory. From that time he rose rapidly until he became commander-in-chief. He is said to have been victorious in every battle he fought.

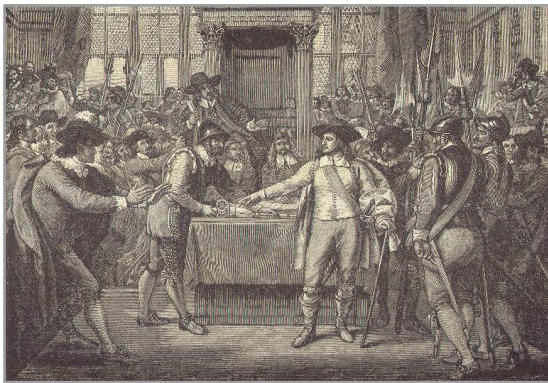
Oliver received while in the army the name of "Ironsides;" and a little later this same title was given to his men, because the Royalist troops had found it impossible to break Cromwell's lines.

But it must not be thought that Cromwell was a man devoid of tender

feeling. Shortly before the battle of Marston Moor, his eldest son was killed. Cromwell felt his loss most keenly, and was heard to say, "It went to my heart like a dagger. Indeed it did."

Over sixty other battles were fought; and finally the cause of the king was wrecked at the great battle of Naseby, in 1645.

But instead of admitting that he was beaten and agreeing to meet the demands of the people, Charles fled to Scotland and tried to induce the Scots to give him aid.



Cromwell Dissolving the Long Parliament

This turned Cromwell against the king, and convinced him that only through the death of Charles was it possible to secure the liberties of the English people.

In June, 1647, the king was seized by one of Cromwell's soldiers and placed in custody of the army. The Commons resented this action and resolved to make terms with the king. The army leaders sent Colonel Pride with a body of soldiers to "purge" the Commons of members who

avored making terms with the king.

The remaining members soon afterwards passed a resolution that the king should be brought to justice, and voted to form a special High Court of Justice. The king protested that the court was illegal and refused to make any plea. He was condemned by the court and was beheaded on January 30, 1649.

In 1653 Cromwell decided to dissolve Parliament. A body of soldiers drove the members out, and Cromwell himself took possession of the speaker's mace.

Oliver Cromwell was now the most powerful man in England; and the army, over which he still presided, offered to make him king.

One of his daughters pleaded so earnestly with him that he refused to accept the crown or to take the title of king.

England was declared to be no longer a monarchy but a Commonwealth; and under this new form of government Oliver Cromwell was made ruler, with the title of Protector.

In the summer of 1658 he was taken ill with chills and fever; and on September 3rd of that year he died.

Oliver Cromwell had grave faults; and he was by no means an easy man to deal with. He made many blunders, some of which were serious ones. But he proved himself equal to the task he had undertaken.