

CHAPTER II.

CHARLES I.

Born 1600 A.D.—Began to reign 1625 A.D.—Beheaded 1649 A.D.

First Parliament of Charles.	The National Covenant.	Self-denying Ordinance.
The siege of Rochelle.	The Long Parliament.	Cromwell's army.
The Petition of Rights.	Irish rebellion.	The King a prisoner.
Strafford and Laud.	The two parties.	Pride's Purge.
The three Courts.	The Civil War.	Trial of the King.
Ship-money.	Campaign of 1643.	His execution.
Puritan Emigration.	Oliver Cromwell.	Character.
	Campaign of 1644.	Notes.

CHARLES, the second son of James I., became King in his twenty-fifth year. He married Henrietta Maria, the daughter of Henry IV. of France. The expensive Spanish war, begun in the last reign, still continued. To meet its cost, Charles asked his first Parliament for a supply; but the majority of the Commons were Puritans, and, looking with a jealous eye on the Catholic Queen, they granted only £140,000 with tonnage and poundage for one year. Enraged at this want of confidence, and especially at some charges brought against Buckingham, the King dissolved their sitting in three weeks. He then levied taxes by his own authority, revived the old abuse of *benevolences*, and began to quarter his soldiers in private houses. His chief advisers were his Queen and Buckingham. Henrietta, as a Catholic, hated the Puritans; and she had inherited from her father a strong attachment to absolute power. She never ceased, through all her husband's life, to urge him on in that dangerous path towards which his own temper inclined him far too strongly.

The second Parliament, meeting in 1626, prepared to impeach Buckingham; but they had not passed a single Act when a dissolution checked their plans. The same illegal taxation followed. Many who resisted were imprisoned.

To add to the difficulties of Charles, a war with France began. Buckingham was again the cause. He quarrelled