

better," was the ominous comment of one of the patriot members. This Parliament had sat only twenty-three days, and was afterwards known as the **Short Parliament**.

Although the Short Parliament had proved a failure, Charles managed to scrape together a few thousand pounds by levying Ship-money and other illegal devices, and again raised an army to subdue the Scots. But the troops were undisciplined and mutinous, and no threats or entreaties of Strafford could induce them to do their duty. Moreover, they showed their sympathy with the Puritan movement by breaking open the churches in their march northwards, burning the Communion rails, which Laud had ordered to be put up, and removing the Communion Table itself to the middle of the building. As Strafford himself confessed, "*there was a general disaffection to the King's service; no man was sensible of his dishonour.*" Meanwhile, the Scots, knowing that the sympathy of the people of England was on their side, entered England, and, forcing the passage of the Tyne at **Newburn**, drove in headlong flight an English force, which had been sent against them. This defeat convinced Charles of the hopelessness of his cause. He had hoped that the advance of the Scots through Northumberland would rouse the national spirit, but in this he was deceived, and, for the first time in history, a Scottish army entered England amidst the welcome of the inhabitants. Charles was in despair, and at once entered into negotiations with the Scots at **Ripon**. It was agreed that Northumberland and Durham should be held by the Scots as a security for the payment of £850 a day for the maintenance of their army, until a permanent settlement could be effected. Charles then summoned a **Great Council of Peers** to meet him at **York**. This Council was in fact a revival of the old "Great Council" of the Plantagenets, which had not been called for centuries. Before this body Charles laid his difficulties, but the members knew well enough that the time was long since past when such a Council represented the nation, and so they were afraid to act independently of the Commons, and earnestly advised the King to summon another Parliament. This advice Charles was compelled to follow, and the year 1640 witnessed the meeting of the memorable Long Parliament.