

clothed and well armed, and "*convinced that God had called them to do the work,*" was raised, and with Essex at their head was soon on its way to relieve the beleaguered city. Charles, however, was resolved not to risk a battle in his siege lines, and so he abandoned the town, and Essex entered it unopposed. The inhabitants regarded his arrival as a divine interposition and testified their gratitude by placing over the gates of their city, the inscription, "*A city assailed by man, but saved by God.*" But Charles was by no means daunted. His next move was to attempt to cut off Essex's retreat to London. The Parliamentary army came upon the Royal forces entrenched at Newbury. A fierce battle ensued, in which the solid masses of the London trained-bands "*stood as a bulwark and rampart*" against Rupert's horse, and defied their desperate charges. Night only parted the combatants, and Charles, finding that his ammunition was well nigh exhausted, and that the losses among his troops were heavy, ordered a retreat to Oxford, leaving the road open for Essex to continue his march to London unopposed.

NOTE.—In this battle Lord Falkland, the wisest and most moderate of the King's counsellors fell. He had long been "*weary of the times,*" and his natural cheerfulness and vivacity left him, and he sank into a sad and dejected mood, which told upon his bodily health, and he went about murmuring "*Peace! peace!*" His loyalty and attachment to Charles had induced him to take up the Royalist cause, but his refined spirit had nothing in common with the rough and boisterous soldiers of a cavalier camp. On the morning of the fatal day, he was heard to say, "*that he would be out of it ere night,*" and in the battle he spurred his horse more gallantly than advisedly through a gap in a hedge, and soon met his death.

Meanwhile Newcastle had laid siege to Hull, but a successful sortie compelled him to raise the siege. On the same day, Cromwell signally defeated a body of Royalist horse in an engagement known as Winceby Fight (1643).

5. **The Alliances with the Scots and the Irish.** The events in the campaign of 1643 clearly proved that both sides were so evenly balanced, that the war was not likely to be speedily terminated without the assistance of forces outside England, and so Charles began to cast about for assistance from Ireland, while Parliament entered into negotiations with the Scots.