

spare a single man, despatched Prince Rupert with a body of 10,000 cavalry to the Duke's aid. On his approach, the besiegers retreated, and being joined by the army of the "Associated Counties" under Manchester and Cromwell, took up their position on **Marston Moor**. *Here was fought on July 2nd, the first really decisive battle of the war.* The armies numbered on each side about 20,000 men. On the Royalist left, Lord Goring with his Northern horse put to flight in a furious rout the whole of the forces of Sir Thomas Fairfax and part of the Parliamentary centre, and then turned fiercely round upon the Scots. On the Royalists' right, Rupert's cavalry gallantly resisted the desperate assaults of Cromwell's horse, and "*a pretty while the combatants stood at the sword's point hacking one another,*" till at last Cromwell's well-trained Ironsides of the Association Army scattered Rupert's cavaliers "*like dust,*" and drove them in headlong flight off the field. Cromwell then brought up his troopers to assist the Scots, who were hard pressed in the centre. In a furious charge he broke the Royalist infantry under Newcastle, and then attacked the forces of Goring as they straggled back to the main body weary and disorganized. "*We never charged but we routed the enemy,*" boasted Cromwell; "*God made them as stubble to our swords.*" The victory was wholly on the side of the Parliament, and the cause of the Royalists in the North perished at a blow. York opened its gates to the conquerors, Newcastle fled in despair to Flanders, and Rupert, with the greatest difficulty, rallied 6,500 horse, and found his way back to Oxford. *The whole of the country north of the Humber fell into the hands of the Parliament.*

But the disaster of Marston Moor was almost balanced by the Royalist gains in the south. At **Cropredy Bridge**, Charles inflicted a signal defeat on Waller, after which the Parliamentary trained-bands were so dispirited that they melted away. Charles then pursued Essex into Cornwall, and at **Lostwithiel** so completely surrounded him that the whole of his infantry capitulated, and Essex himself escaped with difficulty in a boat to Plymouth.

7. **Second Battle of Newbury, 1644.** To check the King in his advance on London, Manchester's victorious army was