

for the bloodshed he had caused. Aware that his life was in danger, Charles eluded his captors and escaped to the Isle of Wight, but only to find himself a close prisoner in **Carisbrooke Castle** in the hands of Colonel Hammond, the Governor of the Island. Although a prisoner at Carisbrooke, Charles still continued to carry on his intrigues with the Scots, Presbyterians and the Royalists. With the Scots he concluded a treaty called the **Engagement**, in virtue of which he agreed to abolish Episcopacy in England for three years, and suppress all heresy, if the Scots would advance into England and secure his restoration to power. Charles was delighted with the outlook. "*The two nations,*" he wrote, in his exuberance of spirit, "*will soon be at war.*" The knowledge of this treaty only served to strengthen the belief, that it was utterly futile to attempt any negotiations with the King, and the Parliament passed a vote of "*No Addresses,*" in which it was resolved, that no message should be received from Charles, or application made to him under penalties of high treason. This Bill for the time being put an end to all negotiations between the King and Parliament.

14. **The Second Civil War, 1648.** The plot, which Charles had been for some time fermenting, soon developed into open rebellion. Men of all classes were dissatisfied with the Army and the burdensome taxation needed for its support, and both Presbyterians and Royalists alike joined the Scots against the Parliament. But the absence of any preconcerted plan rendered all their attempts abortive.

(1) **Rising in Kent and the Battle of Maidstone, 1648.** Alive to the danger, Parliament and the Army waived their differences, and directed all their energies to suppress the wide-spread rebellion. Fairfax was at once despatched to suppress the rising in Kent. At **Maidstone**, he routed the main body of the insurgents and drove them across the Thames into Essex. At **Colchester** they made a desperate stand, in the hope of being relieved by the Scots, but Fairfax attacked them so vigorously, that they were compelled to capitulate. So fierce was the spirit of the soldiers against the rebels that the leaders, **Sir Charles Lucas** and **Sir George Lisle**, were actually shot in cold blood on the spot.