

"free" Parliament would, to use the expression of one of their members, soon destroy "*the new-born and delicate constitution, which they had brought into existence,*" and restore the old order of things. They therefore absolutely ignored the demands of the Army.

To a practical mind like that of Cromwell, the only solution of the difficulty was, that for the present the government of the Rump should not be meddled with. In peaceful times he would not have allowed such a "burlesque of Parliamentary government" to have existed for a week, but these were times of great unrest and disquietude, and wild ideas were afloat in the Army. He therefore thought it expedient to allow the Rump to continue in power, until all opposition to the Commonwealth, both at home and abroad, should be crushed.

## 2. Opposition to the Commonwealth.

(1) The new Commonwealth was beset with difficulties and dangers. In England, the publication of a book, called "*Eikon Basilike,*" or the "Royal Likeness," portraying in vivid and impressive language the meditations, piety and sufferings of the unfortunate King while he lay in prison, rekindled the loyalty of the Royalists. It was generally believed by the Royalists that Charles himself had written the book, but the real author was Dr. Gauden, a Presbyterian minister. Its popularity was immense, and in a short time it ran through no less than forty-seven editions. So great was the impression made upon the people generally, that the Independents engaged Milton to write a rejoinder called "*Eikonoklastes,*" or the "Image-breaker," and although the author threw all his eloquence and skill into the work, he failed to counteract the good impression, which the "*Eikon Basilike*" had created.

But a far more formidable danger arose in the Army, where a body of extreme democratical republicans (called by their opponents "Levellers," because their wish was to make all men equal) aimed at subverting all social and military order. Many of the Levellers were members of fanatical religious sects, who looked forward to the immediate coming of the Millenium and the ultimate triumph of the "saints." Dissatisfied with the results of the Civil War, they