

sword; I believe all the friars were knocked on the head promiscuously but two." A few were captured and shipped for Barbadoes to work as slaves in the sugar plantations in that island. Cromwell seems to have felt that some excuse was needed for these atrocities. "*I am persuaded,*" the despatch ends, "*that this is a righteous judgment of God upon these barbarous wretches, who have imbued their hands in so much innocent blood, and that it will tend to prevent the effusion of blood for the future.*" Sending a detachment to conquer Ulster, Cromwell turned south and besieged **Wexford**. As the garrison refused to surrender, it shared the same fate as that of Drogheda. The effect of these terrible massacres was instantaneous. Town after town surrendered, and before the spring of 1650, Cromwell had subdued half the island. But the threatening attitude of Scotland demanded his presence, and so he returned to England, leaving **Ireton**, his son-in-law, and **Ludlow** to complete the conquest.

NOTE.—In 1652 the war in Ireland came to an end. The success, which had attended Cromwell and **Ireton**, restored English authority, and the estates of most of the Celtic landowners were confiscated, and handed over to Puritan generals.

(3) Opposition to the Commonwealth in Scotland.

The execution of Charles I. had been universally denounced in Scotland. The Presbyterian government with **Argyll** at its head, immediately proclaimed the young Prince of Wales as Charles II., and invited him to Scotland to ascend the throne of his father. Meanwhile, **Montrose**, who was still in exile, received a commission from Charles and re-appeared in the Highlands, resolved to hazard another Royalist rising. Landing at Caithness with a small band of followers, he advanced through Ross, but none of the highland clans joined his standard. At **Carbisdale** he was utterly routed by the Covenanters and escaped from the field, but was subsequently captured, clad in the disguise of a peasant, and taken to Edinburgh. An Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament attainting him as a traitor, and he was hanged in the Grassmarket with every circumstance of revolting barbarity, which his enemy Argyll could inflict upon him. With his death all hopes of a successful Royalist rising in Scotland vanished. Charles at once opened negotiations