

any longer. Get you gone, and give place to better men; you are no longer a Parliament." He then stamped with his foot, and in poured the soldiers to clear the House.

As the leading members passed him, he accused them of being persons of dishonest and corrupt lives, a shame and a scandal to the Gospel. Most of them were so terrified by the suddenness of the affair that they left speechless. Sir H. Vane, however, stood fearless to the last and denounced the act as "against all right and all honour." "Ah, Sir Harry Vane," he cried, with bitter indignation, "you might have prevented this, but you are a juggler, you have no common honesty; the Lord deliver me from Sir Harry Vane. What shall we do with this bauble?" he cried, as he lifted up the mace, "Take it away." But some of the members still lingered in the House, and as if to excuse his conduct, "It is you," he said, "that have forced me to do this. I have sought the Lord night and day, that He would rather slay me than put me upon the doing of this work." Finally he ordered the House to be cleared, and having locked the door put the key in his pocket, and walked away to his lodgings in Whitehall. Next morning some Royalist wag affixed a notice on the door, "*This house to let now unfurnished.*"

NOTE.—Shortly after, Cromwell dissolved the Council of State. Bradshaw protested against such a proceeding. "We have heard," he said, "what you have done at the House, and in some hours all England will hear it. But you mistake, Sir, if you think the Parliament dissolved. No person on earth can dissolve the Parliament but itself." This was strictly true, and in 1660 it was again summoned by Monk, to be this time dissolved by its own consent.

## SECTION II.—THE PROTECTORATE.

1. The Little or Barebone's Parliament, also called the Assembly of Nominees, 1653. The ancient institutions of King, Lords, and Commons had been overthrown, and the three kingdoms, England, Scotland, and Ireland, lay at the foot of the Conqueror. The question which now occupied men's minds was, what was to be the form of the new Constitution? Some thought that Cromwell would invite the young king Charles II. to take the throne of his fathers, others that he would with the aid of the army, make himself