

England." "They were now disposed to forgive the King all that was past, and renew their confidence in him, which was shaken by his conduct in the Dutch war."

The **Secret Treaty of Dover, 1670**. But Louis was determined not only to avenge himself on the Dutch for their interference, but, if possible, to crush the Dutch Republic out of existence altogether. He saw that he could best accomplish this by winning over Charles to his side, and he had no great difficulty in attaining his object. Charles hated the Dutch as the commercial rivals of England and was ready to sell himself to Louis, if only the latter would provide him with plenty of money, and render him free from the control of Parliament. Matters took a practical shape, when Louis sent Charles's youngest sister, the beautiful **Henrietta, Duchess of Orleans**, over to England to conclude an alliance with Charles. The outcome of her visit was, that a **Secret Treaty** was signed at **Dover** between Charles and Louis, the chief provisions of which were:—(1) That Charles should aid Louis in his war against the Dutch; (2) That he should declare himself a Catholic and receive £200,000 a year, and 6,000 French troops to enable him to crush any rebellion in England, which might follow his attempt to re-establish Roman Catholicism.

NOTE 1.—This Treaty was only known to the King, and the two Roman Catholic members of the Cabal, Clifford and Arlington. Charles was so afraid that the other members might know of it, that he actually despatched Buckingham to Paris to negotiate a sham treaty with Louis, in which no mention was made of Charles's change of religion, or of the bribe paid by Louis to Charles.

NOTE 2.—The **Coventry Act, 1671**. The lavish expenditure of the Court, and the riotous life of the King caused much dissatisfaction in the House, and it was proposed to tax all who visited play-houses. This led Sir John Coventry to make a jest on the subject, which reflected somewhat on the character of the King as a playgoer. Charles was mean enough to employ his son Monmouth to hire bravos to punish this insult. A party of the "royal guard" attacked Sir John in the street, and slit his nose to the bone. The Commons were indignant and marked their sense of the outrage by passing an Act, making *malicious wounding a capital offence*.

3. **The Second Dutch War, 1672-74**. Charles and Louis were resolved to take the Dutch by surprise. Before war was