

fastened to the end of long poles, they stood their ground like veteran troops, and fought long and desperately. At last they were out-flanked by Feversham's forces, and when the morning broke, Monmouth, seeing that all was lost, took refuge in ignominious flight. Although a reward of £5,000 was offered for his apprehension, he contrived to escape to the New Forest, where a few days later he was captured, hiding in a dry ditch covered with bracken. *Sedgmoor was the last battle fought on English ground.*

Meanwhile Parliament had passed a Bill of Attainder against Monmouth, condemning him to death without further trial. He was brought to London, and the King with a strange cruelty granted him a personal interview, although he never intended to pardon him. Monmouth threw himself at his uncle's feet, and made the most abject and craven entreaties for his life, but James was unmoved, and after spending upwards of an hour in reminding him of his evil doings, sent him to the scaffold. Monmouth was executed on Tower Hill amidst the gaze of thousands of spectators. "*I shall say but little,*" he said, "*I came here not to speak but to die; I die a Protestant of the Church of England.*" Some words of advice to the executioner "*not to hack his body,*" so completely unnerved the man, that it was only after five strokes with the axe that he completed his ghastly work. Monmouth, with all his faults, was much beloved by the lower classes of the people. Many regarded him as nothing less than a martyr, who had died for the Protestant Faith.

The victors of Sedgmoor followed up their victory by a cruel and bloodthirsty revenge. Feversham had returned to London leaving Colonel Kirke in command at Bridgewater. Kirke was a veteran soldier, who had served against the Moors in Tangiers, and his soldiers were ironically called "Lambs," in allusion to the emblem of their regiment. His treatment of the insurgents was most barbarous. Under his orders, no less than 100 captives were cruelly put to death without even the form of a trial, during the week which followed the battle of Sedgmoor.

5. **The Western Circuit, or the Bloody Assize, 1685.** But Kirke's ferocious measures did not satisfy James. A Commission of five judges, headed by the coarse and brutal