

**CHIEF STAGES IN THE GREAT STRUGGLE BETWEEN
THE KING AND THE PARLIAMENT.****I. In the Reign of James I.**

- (1) **First Parliament.** James had frequent quarrels with his First Parliament, in the course of which, Parliament vindicated its right to control its own elections, and also the right of its members to freedom of arrest. It also remonstrated against the "Impositions," the arbitrary proceedings of the High Commission Court, and the authority of Royal Proclamations.
- (2) **Second Parliament,** sometimes called the "*Added Parliament.*" James's relations with his Second Parliament were of a no more friendly nature than those with his First. It refused to grant a supply till it had dealt with the King's impositions of customs, and James in anger dissolved it.
- (3) **Third Parliament** proceeded to attack the abuse of monopolies, and impeached **Sir Giles Mompesson**, and **Lord Bacon** for holding monopolies. They also made a protest to the effect "that their liberties and privileges were the undoubted birthright of Englishmen, and that they had a right to freedom of debate on all matters concerning Parliamentary business." James was so enraged that he tore the "*protest*" out of the Parliamentary Journal with his own hand. Parliament was dissolved, and several members were imprisoned.
- (4) **Fourth Parliament.** Continual quarrels arose on the King's foreign policy. The Commons declared that monopolies were illegal.

II. In the Reign of Charles I.

- (1) **First Parliament.** The Commons complained bitterly of Charles's foreign policy, his leniency towards Roman Catholics, and of Buckingham's bad government. Charles dissolves Parliament to save his favourite from a formal attack.
- (2) **Second Parliament.** Charles rouses the indignation of the Commons by marking off some of the more out-spoken members of the last Parliament to serve as sheriffs, and so preventing them from sitting in the House. He also foolishly attempts to keep the Earl of Bristol, Buckingham's personal enemy, out of the House of Lords.