

Parliament. To regain his popularity, he fitted out an expedition to assist the Huguenots at La Rochelle, but suffered an ignominious defeat at the Island of Rhé and returned home in disgrace. While engaged at Portsmouth in fitting out a second expedition to Rochelle, he was stabbed by John Felton, a subaltern, who had served under him, and had been refused promotion.

Wentworth, Thomas, Earl of Strafford, was descended from a great Yorkshire family, and was born in 1593. He was educated at Cambridge, and sat in the Parliaments of James I., for Yorkshire. He was excluded from the Second Parliament of Charles I. by being appointed sheriff, but resumed his seat in the Third Parliament, and assisted in drawing up the famous Petition of Right. Like Bacon, he held that a strong government, led by an enlightened king, and assisted by a council of wise statesmen, was better able to rule a nation than an intolerant House of Commons, and with this view in mind he deserted the popular cause and joined the King. "*You are leaving us now,*" said Pym, "*but we shall not leave you while your head is on your shoulders.*" Charles recognized his ability, raised him to the peerage, and appointed him President of the Council of the North, in which capacity he ruled with a rod of iron.

In 1632 he was made Lord Deputy of Ireland. Under his government that country became more prosperous than it had ever been before. Trade was increased, the manufacture of flax introduced, a respectable army organized, and a docile Parliament called into existence, and many reforms carried out in the Church. But his rule was attended with such harshness that it was little better than a "*Reign of Terror.*" His scheme, which he called "*Thorough,*" was to make the King's power absolute. "*The King,*" he wrote to Laud, "*is as absolute here as any prince in the world can be.*"

In 1638 the Scots took up arms against Charles's tyrannical government, and threatened to invade England. Charles became so alarmed that he summoned Strafford from Ireland to his assistance. On his arrival, he strongly advised Charles to summon his Fourth Parliament, but it proved so unmanageable that Charles dissolved it. The Long Parliament met in 1640, and led by Pym proceeded to impeach Strafford on the charge of illegal and tyrannical government. The impeachment, however, fell through, and a Bill of Attainder was brought in against him, based on information supplied by Sir Harry Vane, from certain notes which his father had taken down during a council, where Strafford was reported to have said, "*You have an army in Ireland that you may employ to reduce 'this country' to obedience,*" and the prosecution contended that the words "*this country*" referred to *England*. A Bill founded on this slender charge passed the Commons by 204 to 59. But the Lords still hesitated. The discovery of the Army Plot to rescue Strafford sealed his fate. The Lords at once passed the Bill, and the royal assent only was necessary. Charles at first refused to give it, but the fear of a popular rising induced him to yield. Strafford, too, had written