

person and manner he was a marked contrast to his father, but he believed in the "divine right of kings," and in his own power and dignity even more firmly than did James. He was convinced that, if the people did not recognize his "divine right" to rule as he wished, it was simply because they were wilful and obstinate; it was his duty to govern and theirs to obey. Difficulty arose at the very beginning of his reign in connection with his marriage to Henrietta Maria of France. When the marriage was arranged, Charles had promised to allow his wife the utmost freedom in the exercise of her religion, and to permit her to bring to Eng-



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land her own priests and attendants. He also promised that the laws against the English Roman Catholics should be relaxed. Not only had Charles no power to carry out these promises, but he and his father had assured Parliament that he would not enter into any such agreement. When Parliament met, it insisted on enforcing the laws against the Roman Catholics, and Charles was compelled to yield. This incident irritated the English Protestants, and the failure of the king to keep his promise aroused the anger of France.

161. **The first Parliament, 1626.**—Charles quickly called his first Parliament and asked for money to carry on the war against Spain. The House was composed largely of wealthy gentlemen and able lawyers, for the most part Puritans. They knew well the history of their country, and were resolved to maintain the power of Parliament. They claimed that Parliament had the sole right to tax the people, and