

weeks Strafford had a chance to learn the value of the word of the king, for Charles assented to his death, though most unwillingly, and he was beheaded. Laud was kept in prison until his execution four years later.

The general discontent of the kingdom and the danger from the Scottish army, forced the king to give assent to sweeping measures of reform that were introduced into Parliament. The Star Chamber Court was abolished and ship-money was declared illegal. It was also provided that Parliament must meet at least once in three years, whether the king called it or not, and that the present Parliament could not be dissolved by the king without its consent.

167. The "**Grand Remonstrance,**" 1641.—Charles had unwillingly consented to all the measures of Parliament, but secretly he was trying to procure help in Scotland and Ireland in his struggle for the mastery. In order to make friends with the Scots, he went to Edinburgh in 1641, agreed to all the demands of the Scottish Parliament, and tried to persuade them to send him an army.



JOHN HAMPDEN

In the meantime, there was trouble in Ireland. The native Irish, who had been dispossessed of their land by James I, were almost in a state of rebellion. The rule of Strafford had made the Irish more discontented

than ever. As soon as his strong hand was removed, a rebellion took place, and thousands of English were massacred in a few days. It was necessary to send an army to quell the revolt; but to give the king men and money was to endanger the liberties of England, for he would then be strong enough to compel the submission of those members of Parliament who were opposed to him.

There was much discussion. Some stood firmly by the king. Some thought that it was the wisest plan, since the king had yielded several points, to bear with him, and hope that nothing worse would come to pass. Some—and these