

discipline unimpaired with unexampled fidelity; and the constancy of Armenian Christians, even unto martyrdom, has been abundantly illustrated in the present persecutions, when thousands of tortured victims have accepted a cruel death as the alternative of abjuring Christ and professing the Moslem creed.

These are the people on whose behalf the aid and sympathies of Christians everywhere are invoked in their terrible sufferings. Mr. Castell Hopkins' work, setting forth so fully and graphically their eventful story, with its long record of bitter injuries from the most despotic, fanatical, and wily power that ever wielded the sword in the sacred name of the one God, will fulfil a mission of mercy, if it succeeds, as it deserves, in intensifying this popular sympathy and quickening the flow of practical relief for "suffering Armenia."

The volume amply sustains the author's well-earned literary reputation, and is presented by its enterprising publishers in a most attractive form.

THE ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY.

BY THE EDITOR.

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REIGN OF CHARLES I. (c).



HE "Short Parliament" met, as we have seen, on April 13th, 1640, and was dissolved on the 5th of May. On the 3rd of November, through the clamors of the people, through his own want of supplies, through the terribly unsettled state of the country, Charles was forced to assemble Parliament again. This is known in history as the "Long Parliament," and proved to be one of the most terrible and blood-thirsty tribunals that ever sat. It began its work by liberating Williams, Bishop of Lincoln, who for three years had been a prisoner in the Tower. Laud sought to prevent this, but with ominous forebodings he saw that his influence was well nigh, if not entirely, gone. The Puritan Churchmen wanted a man like Williams in the House of Lords, but to his credit it is to be said that he showed no personal resentment for the degrading treatment he had received.

The first victim marked by this parliament for destruction was Wentworth, Earl of Strafford. Loyalty to his king was his crime. In the eyes of the parliament this was treason. As soon as he arrived from Ireland he was impeached. Fearing some malignity of the kind, he thought it best not to take his seat in the House of Lords, but the king persuaded him to do so on the distinct promise that he would stand between him and all danger. No sooner, however, had he taken his seat in parliament

than he was impeached and placed under arrest.

The next man dealt with was Laud. He was impeached by the Scottish commissioners in the House of Lords as an incendiary. On the 18th of December the matter was debated in the lower house. Most inflammatory speeches were made against him. He was called "the sty of all the pestilential filth that had infected the state and government of the commonwealth." He was accused of appointing all the "popish bishops," such as Manwaring, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Bishop of Oxford, and Bishop Wren. The mention of Bishop Wren called forth a savage joke from one of the members, who called him "the uncleanest of all the unclean birds." The result of the debate was that Laud was voted a traitor. He was arrested and placed in charge of Maxwell, the gentleman usher of the black rod. Having resigned the Chancellorship of Oxford, he gave himself up to his new and terrible situation. Laud was a man who kept a careful record of all that he did day by day; and some of his reflections upon the evil days that had overtaken him are most affecting. In this diary we discover a trust in God, and a sincere piety, which, had they known of it, must have softened even the hearts of his Puritan foes. Under arrest, for instance, he prays for his enemies—"that for their hatred I may love them; for their cursing I may bless them; for their injury I may do them good; and for their persecution I may pray for them—Lord, pray for them, forgive them what they do."

Shortly after his arrest he was arraigned before the House of Lords, where he made a most masterly defence of himself, and by means of it left a good impression upon the members; but his enemies were too strong, even there. The Archbishop was committed to the Tower. Oh! gloomy Tower of London, what sighs and groans have thine old walls heard; what innocent victims have been held within thy stony embrace!

On his way to the Tower he was beset with shouting, clamor, and revilings, which went, according to the Archbishop's own words, "even beyond barbarity itself." Strafford was also a prisoner in the Tower, but no intercourse was allowed between him and his Archbishop, personal friends though they were. Strafford's trial began on the 22nd of March (1641). There was no law on which he could be convicted. The terrible parliament made a law for the purpose. By a majority he was condemned. The king's signature alone was necessary to secure his death. The king had promised to stand between him and all harm; but he feared to resist the parliament. Could he be freed from his promise? Bishop Williams, of Lincoln, told him he could, and so did Archbishop Usher, of Armagh; Bishop Juxon, of