

preceding Sovereign for certain statements in Parliament; but the Commons petitioned the new king that such proceeding "was against the law and course of Parliament, and in annihilation of the customs of the Commons." The King, after taking advice of the Lords, assented, and thus all the branches of the legislature affirmed the privilege.

In 1621, after succeeding Sovereigns had violated the rule thus acknowledged, the Commons of England, in clear and explicit language, declared their privileges in the famous "Remonstrance" which King James I. tore out of the Journals. In it they claimed the rights of the Commons in Parliament, and of every member of the House, to have freedom of speech to propound, treat, reason, and bring to conclusion the making of laws, and the redress of mischiefs and grievances which daily happen in the realm; and that any matter or matters touching Parliament or Parliament business done in Parliament should only be shown to the King by the advice of all the Commons. \*

Twenty years later the Lords and the Commons united in a declaration of their privileges in the petition and remonstrance presented to Charles I. in 1641. They affirm "That it is their ancient and undoubted right, that your Majesty ought not to notice any matter in agitation and debate in either House of Parliament, *but by their information or agreement.* That your Majesty ought not to propound any condition, provision, or limi-

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\* "Mr. Francis Nevill of Yorkshire, a member of the House, was (4th February, 1640), questioned for breach of privileges in the preceding Parliament, by discovering to the King and Council, what words some members did let fall in their debate in that House, whereby two members had been committed to the Tower by the Council. And Mr. Nevill, being brought to the Bar, was, by order of the House, committed a prisoner to the Tower of London."—*Lex Parliamenti*, p. 378.