

house, the House of Lords having been considered useless. Among them were the following persons: William Lenthall, Lord-Viscount Lisle, Lord Halifax, Lord Whitelocke, Oliver St. John, Oliver Cromwell, Fleetwood, Ludlow, Skippon, Sir Arthur Hazelrigge, Sir Harry Vane, Sir Harry Vane the younger, Sir John Barker, Sir Thomas Widdrington, Sir Francis Russell, Blake, Marten, Algernon Sydney, Harrison, and Scot. It is admitted of these men by Bishop Warburton, that notwithstanding their prejudices against Episcopacy, they were "A SET OF THE GREATEST GENIUSES FOR GOVERNMENT THE WORLD EVER SAW EMBARKED TOGETHER IN ONE COMMON CAUSE."

Cromwell and his army were masters in the land. Macaulay says that the Commonwealth had against it "all the Cavaliers, the great majority of the Roundheads, the Anglican Church, the Presbyterian Church, England, Scotland, Ireland." Yet such was the genius and resolution of Cromwell, that he was able to overpower and crush everything that crossed his path. In Ireland he put down completely, it might be said mercilessly, that terrible army by which Sir Phelim O'Neal and the Earl of Antrim had cruelly butchered thousands upon thousands of Protestants—men, women, and children; and then passing over to Scotland with his army of Ironsides, where Prince Charles had been crowned king, Cromwell defeated the gallant Leslie on the 3rd of September, 1650, and then gave to conquered Scotland (Hetherington says) "a degree of civil peace beyond what had ever before been experienced." "I verily believe," said the Presbyterian Kirkton, "there were more souls converted to Christ," during the period of Cromwell's domination, "than in any season since the Reformation, though of triple its duration." On the 3rd of September, 1651, Cromwell again met in battle, at Worcester, Prince Charles, with an army of Presbyterians and Royalists far superior to the army of Cromwell, but the Ironsides made a gallant fight, and so decisive was their victory that Charles fled to the Continent.

About this time was passed the celebrated Navigation Act. English ships from the time of James lay rotting at the mouth of the Thames, and English ship-building had ceased. English ports had been filled with Dutch vessels. The Navigation Act, which owed its origin to Cromwell, St. John, and Whitelocke, made England a great ship-owning nation. In the war that followed immediately after with the Dutch, the few English war vessels were destroyed, and De Tromp fixed a broom at his mast head to show that he could sweep the English fleet from the seas. Vane, by his great energy, soon had a new fleet built, and the the Puritan Admiral Blake gave battle to the Dutch, and gained a glorious victory. The Dutch made a bold effort to recover from their defeat: they built a new fleet; but in the time of Cromwell's Protectorate it was shattered completely.

The English Republic came to its end violently. Vane had introduced a measure which was just what England required, but was nearly 200 years in advance of English public opinion. It was a reform bill, similar in its provisions to that which became law in England, in the present century; and it contained a clause for an immediate dissolution of Parliament. Cromwell and the officers seeing that the election would bring in the Presbyterians, who were as much opposed to religious toleration as ever, forcibly expelled the members from the House. After this, Cromwell was made Protector, but in his Parliaments he had to meet with the most decided hostility from Vane, Scot, Hazelrigge and others, who were out-and-out republicans, and with whom