

self-knowledge, to enterprize rashly, and come-off miserably in great undertakings.

* “Of those who swayed most in the late troubles, few words as to this point may suffice. They had arms, leaders, and successes to their wish; but “to make use of so great an advantage” was not their skill.

“To other causes therefore, and not to the want of force, or warlike manhood, in the Britains, both of those antient times and these lately, we must impute the ill husbanding of those fair opportunities, which might seem to have put Liberty (so long desired,) like a *bride*, into their hands. Of which other causes, equally belonging to ruler, priest, and people, above hath been related: which, as they brought those ancient natives [of Britain] to misery and ruin, by Liberty; (which, rightly used, might have made them happy;) so brought they these of late, after many labours, much bloodshed, and vast expence, to ridiculous frustration: in whom the like defects, the like miscarriages, notoriously appeared, with vices not less hateful or inexcusable.

“For, a Parliament † having been called, to redress many things, (as ’twas thought.) the people, with great courage, and expectation to be eased of what discon-

* Note, The following paragraphs, marked with inverted commas, have been omitted in all the former editions of our author's History of Britain, before that which was published in the collection of his works, in two volumes, folio, in the year 1738. The first Edition of this History of England by Milton, was published in the year 1670.

† This Parliament has been since called *The Long Parliament*, and met on the 3d day of November, in the year 1640.