

contributions but fixed the amount each man had to pay. Alderman Reed refused and was put into the army as a soldier on the Scotch border at his own charge, with orders to be put to the hardest and most perilous duty; he was captured by the Scots and had to pay more for his ransom than the gift to the King amounted to; but he made his fight, and here is his name on the roll of those who have advanced the cause of self-government. Charles I., in 1627, called upon each man to make him a loan. Two hundred country gentlemen were clapped into irons for refusing and were shifted from prison to prison to break their spirit. Dr. Mainwaring preached before Charles that the King needed no parliamentary warrant for taxation, and that to resist his will was to incur eternal damnation. John Hampden, one of the richest commoners in England, answered that he could lend the money but he feared the curse named in Magna Charta for its violation; and he was sent back into close confinement.

Again, the Petition of Right said that no man should be taxed except by law of parliament, and Charles agreed to it. Then he levied tonnage and poundage. Parliament denounced it and was adjourned by the King. Merchants refused to pay, but the Courts decided against them. Parliament came back furious and Charles dissolved it. Richard Chambers refused to pay. Summoned before the King in Council, he told them in their teeth that not even in Turkey were merchants so wrung as in England. The Star Chamber fined him two thousand pounds and ordered him to make humble submission. He was a Puritan. He refused and was sent to prison; and for three hundred years his name has been on the roll of patriots.

In 1636 Charles ordered ship-money collected, and the highest Court decided that no statute prohibiting arbitrary taxation could be pleaded against the King's will. But notwithstanding Courts and Kings we always find the English people facing the King with the declaration that they cannot be legally taxed without their own consent, and long before the American Revolution they had won the victory.

George III. and his packed and corrupted parliament, which did not represent the people, proposed to tax America. Our