

"Cambridge Platform" had been in existence there as early as 1648. The Court party was not favourable to the Synod; still one of the Court chaplains, John Howe, attended and participated in the deliberations.

As soon as it became evident that the political power of the Independents was overthrown, all the trimmers and office-seekers who had been with them in the day of their prosperity, deserted the "sinking ship," and talked as loud for Presbytery as they had done for Independency, and when the time came, abandoned Presbytery for Episcopacy. Among these were Gen. Monk and Sir Anthony Ashley Cooper, both of whom played a prominent part after the Restoration.

In the parliament that recalled Prince Charles, Sir Matthew Hale, who had been Chief Justice under Cromwell, ventured to suggest some definite settlement, but Gen. Monk, who had been in turn Royalist and Republican, Episcopalian, Independent, and Presbyterian, silenced him. Monk had previously attempted to become Protector himself, but Cooper had thwarted his plans, and now Monk had been bribed to throw his influence as commander of the army in favor of Charles Stuart.

Prince Charles was a different man from his father. He was a kind-hearted man, but had no religious scruples. He had been educated an Episcopalian, and had afterwards subscribed the Solemn League and Covenant, when he desired the support of the Scots Presbyterians. On being crowned in Scotland in 1651, he had taken an oath to defend the Presbyterian Church, and kneeling down on his knees, and holding his right hand towards heaven, uttered the following words: "By the Eternal and Almighty God, who liveth and reigneth forever, I shall observe and keep all that is contained in this oath." After the battle of Worcester, where his army had been so terribly beaten by Oliver Cromwell, he went to France, endeavored to concoct conspiracies for the murder of Cromwell, whom he styled "a certain mechanic fellow," and promised the murderer rewards both in this world and the world to come. While in France, where his only hope of getting to the throne was by French assistance, he had renounced Protestantism, and became a Roman Catholic. And now he was on his way to England to become head of the Anglican Church, having promised freedom of conscience and an amnesty for political offences, which promises were outrageously disregarded.

Charles the Second came over from Holland amid great rejoicing, and his journey to London was one continued triumph. But on Blackheath, where some twenty or thirty thousand of Cromwell's warriors had been drawn up by Monk to welcome their king, there was perfect stillness. All Monk's efforts were in vain, they would make no sign. Macaulay says that Charles himself, as he passed through them, smiled, bowed, and extended his hand graciously to the colonels and officers, but they did not appear to take any notice. Their countenances were sad and lowering. When this once formidable Puritan army was disbanded, the historian says, Royalists were surprised to find that no depredations were committed, and that Oliver's soldiers settled down into the most peaceful of citizens.

Thus was Charles the Second restored to the palace of his father and grandfather; and on the evening of his arrival in London, while thanksgivings were being offered up for the safety of the Church and State, while church bells rang merry peals, "and groups of Royalists gathered round buckets of wine in the streets, and drank the king's health on their knees," the tall grandson of Henry of Navarre employed the enthusiasm of the evening "to debauch a beautiful woman of nineteen, the wife of one of his subjects."