

should not 'think to scape unquestionable' (21. 21). He also speaks of 'the proceedings now in Parlament against the King' (27. 31). In 38. 16 ff. the Presbyterians are denounced, 'who now, to the stirring up of new discord, acquitt him; . . . absolve him, unconfound him, though unconverted, unrepentant,' etc. He speaks of the king's trial as a future event (40. 16), and of the likelihood of his punishment by the Parliament and Military Council 'if it appeare thir duty' (40. 22), while in 42. 8 he refers to 'what remaines to doe,' and warns the Presbyterian divines to 'beware an old and perfet enemy,' if they put him in his place of old-time power (42. 2 ff.).

Internal evidence, therefore, especially the mention of 'the proceedings now in Parlament against the King,' and the reference to those who shivered at the prospect of becoming judges at the trial, make it certain that Milton wrote these pages during the month of January, 1649. On Jan. 1 the Commons appointed commissioners and judges to try the king. The proceedings against him were debated until the passing of the Resolution and Ordinance of Jan. 6. It was also during this momentous week that various members of the House swerved and shivered. Bulstrode Whitelocke, the great lawyer, found it convenient to retire into the country; the clerk of the House, Mr. Elysyng, discovered that his health had suddenly failed him; nearly half of the commissioners failed to attend any of the meetings of the trial court. Lord General Fairfax himself, an arch-leader of the Independents, was at the first meeting on Jan. 8, but never attended a second session. As Milton's allusion (6. 7 ff.) points to these faint-hearts, the treatise must have been written after Jan. 8. The reference to Prynne's pamphlet, *A Briefe Memento to the Present*