

ants. They heard of tumultuous assemblages in different parts of the kingdom, especially in London:—the archbishop's palace attacked—the bishop insulted—members of parliament prevented by the mob from taking their seats, and their names and persons held up to public execration, if they dared to vote in opposition to the popular will. It is an invariable precursor of revolution, when a faction in the state basely avail themselves of mob-violence for the attainment of their object. Government is virtually at an end when rulers are coerced by the pressure from without. Relying on the support of the excited masses, the factious leaders were guilty of the most glaring violations of law and justice, committing members of their own house to prison, and impeaching members of the upper house for words used in debate, which were far from being immoderate; imprisoning those who presented petitions, if their petitions did not please them; usurping at once both the judicial and legislative powers in matters relating to the Church. Add to this, that they insulted the King with the most unreasonable demands, which it was impossible that he should grant, without virtually abdicating his regal power. Troops were raised without his consent; his revenues were taken from him; his fortresses occupied by his subjects, and himself denied admittance. At the same time the most absurd rumours and detestable calumnies were circulated by the puritan and dissenting faction, in order to inflame the popular mind. Reports were spread that the King had raised an army of papists, with which he intended to drive out the Parliament, and restore popery; that large number of papists were concealed in the vaults and cellars of London, ready to issue forth and massacre the citizens; and that the King had given orders to blow up the Thames with gunpowder, and destroy the whole city by inundation. Then again, when the king had been forced from London, it was industriously circulated, and currently believed, even till the beginning of the war, that he was in the hands of desperate malignants, who carried him about with them against his will, and that the troops levied by the Parliament were intended to rescue the King from his bondage. Many ignorant persons actually joined the rebels under this notion; so utterly unable are the mass of the people to judge of mere matters of fact—so open to the most gross delusion. Such were the current reports circulated amongst the more credulous of the citizens of London, and soon spread amongst the inhabitants of the country. At the same time the press, freed from all restraint, teemed with the most atrocious libels and falsehoods. The vilest calumnies were published by the Puritans against the Church. The clergy, who dared to uphold the King's authority, were sequestered and deprived, and a set of ranting demagogues appointed in their place; and even judges for the same reason were removed from the bench.

But when the King was forced by the violence of his enemies to adopt measures of self-defence, and had determined to vindicate his cause and resist further aggression, the eyes of the more moderate part of the nation began to be opened. In truth, the violence of the factious leaders in the part defeated its own object; for their unreasonable demands and increasing insolence made it manifest, even to their own adherents, that they had resolved to push things to extremities; and many who had hitherto voted in opposition to the court, and joined in the factious cry, now that they perceived that it was not a mere question of the extent of prerogative, but of the very existence of monarchy, chose the King's part in the contest which they had contributed to bring about. Thus it is that when moderate and conscientious men are betrayed into acquiescence in unjustifiable measures, even though it be to obtain a just object, instead of the means being sanctified by the end, the end is desecrated by the means employed to gain it; and they who have contributed to set the mass in motion, intending to roll it to a certain point, are unable to stop its impetus when they most desire; and find to their mortification that they have been all the while the tools of men less honest than themselves. Nothing contributed more to disabuse the public mind of its delusion than the manifestoes of the King, penned by the noble Falkland; and it is worth observing, that whereas the so-called parliamentary party circulated their own statements, and carefully suppressed those on the other side wherever they were able to do so; the King, on the other hand, dispersed his own and those of the hostile party together, desirous that all men might judge between them, and confident in the justice of his cause.

The war which was about to commence has been commonly called a war between the King and Parliament. How utterly erroneous is this designation, will be apparent from one or two facts. It is well known that the revolutionary party were always in a minority even in the House of Commons, and prevailed only by the aid of mob-violence and intimidation. When the war broke out in 1642, the members of the House of Lords who resorted to the King far exceeded those who remained behind; and afterwards, the

Parliament which assembled around the King at Oxford equalled the number of those who sat at Westminster. How, then, could it be rightly called a war between the King and Parliament, when two estates of the realm at least were clearly on the King's side? It was nothing more or less than a rebellion fomented by a knot of factious demagogues, effected by mob-violence, and submitted to by the supine indifference and laziness of the better disposed. Perhaps no one thing more contributed to it than the negligent attendance of the loyal members in their places in parliament, which enabled the revolutionists, though a minority, to choose their own time for bringing forward the most objectionable measures. It were well if after ages would take example by these ascertained facts.

The following passage from Clarendon is worth the consideration of members of parliament in all ages:—"I know not," he says, "how those men have already answered it to their consciences, or how they will answer it to Him who can discern their consciences, who having assumed their country's trust, and it may be, with great earnestness laboured to acquire that trust (i.e., a seat in parliament), by their supine laziness, negligence, and absence, were the first inlets to those inundations which so contributed to those licenses which overwhelmed us. For by this means a handful of men, much inferior in the beginning, came to give laws to the major part."

At length, on the 25th day of August, 1642, the news was spread thorough the country that the King had set up the royal standard at Nottingham. The day on which the civil war thus openly commenced was ushered in with a tremendous storm of wind and rain; and the King's standard was no sooner raised than it was blown down again by the violence of the tempest, an omen which was not without its influence on the minds of the royalists. In truth, the King commenced the struggle under no favourable auspices. He was accompanied by not more than a few hundred troops, unprovided with arms or military stores. The garrisons and depots were in the hands of the rebels. They had also in the neighbourhood of the King an army of six thousand men, under the command of Essex, with which they might at once have crushed the royal cause; but for some unexplained reason, whether they underrated the power of the King, and expected that his small force would melt away instead of augmenting, or whether Essex and other leaders dreaded the course which seemed inevitable, and shrunk from the enormous sin of actual rebellion against their lawful sovereign—whatever might have been the cause it is certain that they neglected to avail themselves of the power with which they then seemed able to have put an end to the contest at a blow.

Meanwhile the King's forces daily increased in number. The loyalty of the nation was roused, and the spirit of the ancient chivalry was again kindled. Many who had shrunk supinely from public affairs when their exertions might have saved the country, now, partly from shame, partly from alarm, came forward on the side of their lawful ruler. The nobility and gentry of the land flocked to him from all quarters, bringing with them armed attendants; and they who were unable to answer the summons in person sent in stores and contributions. The Universities melted down their plate to be coined into money; and the Queen sold her jewels, and purchased arms and ammunition for the troops.

The two parties being thus fairly engaged in open hostility sent forth their manifestoes to every town and county; requisitions were despatched by the King to all his loyal subjects to furnish arms and money, and counter-requisitions were issued by the Parliament.

On the 17th of October, the following order from the King was forwarded to the magistrates of the city of Lichfield.

—CHARLES R.

—Trusty and well-beloved:

—We greet you well. Our will and pleasure is, that you cause all the inhabitants of your city of Lichfield immediately to bring into the town-hall there all their arms, muskets, pykes, corsletts, swords, or weapons of any sort; and whosoever shall fayle of bringing in his said arms, or endeavour to conceale the same, shall be taken as a person disaffected to the publique peace.

—And our pleasure is, that the said armes bee forthwith sent unto us, to our royal standard. And further, we require you to summon all the substantial inhabitants of that our city, and in our name move them, that they severally contribute in such proportion to us in money or plate for the present supply of our extraordinary visible necessity, as wee may thereby judge of the sense they have of our condition; and of this service we shall expect a particular account, as well of those who refuse as of those who do supply us, by Wednesday, 8 of the clock in the morning, at our royal standard. And hereof you must not fayle, as you tender our displeasure.

—Given att our Court att Wolverhampton this 17th day of October, 1642."

NOTE.—Extracts from a collection of old manuscripts now in my possession, illustrative of the state of the country at the opening of the rebellion. The first is evidently a declaration made by the rebels.

"Whereas there are divers papists, robbers, and other lewed persons that are lately come into our country, and very nere to the town of Derby, and threaten likewise the ruin of the sayd county.—Therefore we do earnestly entreate you, as you tender your own safety, and the preservation of the peace of this countie, that you will send to Derby to-morrowe, being Wensday, such able and well affected persons, together with so many horses, bridles, and saddles, as you can convenientlie spare, with such weapons as you can provide, as gunns, haldearis, picforks, bills, and such like, to help to defend the said towne and countie against them. And so, being confident of your forwardness and willinge assistance, we rest," &c.

The following letters, of which neither the signature nor the address have been preserved, bear internal evidence of having been written by Sir J. Gell, the rebel leader at Derby. They shew the dreadful state of embarrassment in which peaceable persons must have been placed.

—SIR,

—You have been formally sent to for y^r resolution what you would do for the defence of y^re countie. Mr. Hastings is now come with forces to Swarkeston, to the apparent disturbance of the peace of this county. There is no longer tyme to dissemble; therefore you must declare yoursefve eyther for hym or us, and that presently by to-morrowe at noon. We say no more but that we are," &c.

—3rd Jan. 1642 3."

—SIR,

—You have had tyme enough to resolve eyther to bee for the countie or thote y^t robb itt; Mr. Hastings with his crew doth the later. We are resolved to oppose hym with all the strength wee have. If you speedily send us any assistance to the good worke, doe it before Wensday night, the 14th of this month; otherwise assure yoursefve wee know how to value both newters and enimies. There is no further tyme for delay; you may do y^r countie service, and obhege," &c.

—CAPTAIN,

—We are credibly informed y^t divers constables doe not bring in their monies, nor some their horses, contrary to y^e assessments y^t was set upon their severall townshies, to y^e greate disservice of y^e present necessitie of this county, and to the apparent opposition of the authoritie of Parliament, which is y^e only worke of some malignants. These are therefore to require you, according to y^e authoritie given to us by both Houses of Parliament, y^t presently upon receipt hereof you secure the person, and seize upon the mone, plate, armes, and horses of any malignants (i.e., royalists), where you are strong enough; and when you are not, send to us, and wee will assist you with more forces. And hereof fayle not, as you tender the service of the King (!) and Parliament. Given under our hand at Derby."

(To be continued.)

FRIENDSHIP is an union of souls, and utterly precludes dissimulation: if we are too unfeeling to find a pleasure in weeping with the afflicted, we must be unworthy the privilege of rejoicing with the happy. The pleasures of friendship are not peculiar to scenes of cheerfulness; its sweetest soothing, on the contrary, are reserved for the hour of distress—then, in the absence of every other consolation, it softens the asperity of misfortunes, and renders even anguish bearable.

WINDOWS OPENED MORE WOULD KEEP DOCTORS FROM THE DOOR.—A very large quantity of fresh air is spoiled and rendered foul by the act of breathing. A man spoils not less than a gallon every minute. In eight hours' breathing, a full grown man spoils as much fresh air as seventeen three-bushel sacks could hold! If he were shut up in a room seven feet broad, seven feet long, and seven feet high, the door and windows fastened so tightly that no air could pass through, he would die, poisoned by his own breath, in a very few hours; in twenty-four hours he would have spoiled all the air contained in the room, and have converted it into poison. Reader, when you rise to-morrow morning, just go out of doors for five minutes, and observe carefully the freshness of the air. That air is the state in which God keeps it for breathing. Then come back suddenly into your close room, and your own senses will at once make you feel how very far the air of your chamber is from being in the same wholesome and serviceable condition.