

when writs had failed to be issued under the Great Seal. The Parliament reassembled in November 1641 to deal with a rebellion which had broken out in Ulster. To this Parliament Charles, in violation of the Great Charter, sent the Attorney-General to impeach Pym, Hollis, Hampden, and others, and then went in person, accompanied by armed men, to seize the leaders of the opposition within the walls of Parliament.

This provoked an immediate war between Charles and the Parliament, in which war the Puritans, especially the Independent party, became leaders, and finally victors, under the leadership of their famous general, Oliver Cromwell, afterwards Protector or President of the English Commonwealth, declared after the trial and execution of Charles I.

Oliver Cromwell, the Independent farmer of St. Ives in Huntingdonshire, is the only Commoner (except his son for a short time) who ever ruled the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the ruler as Protector who first made the power of the Commons of England dreaded in Europe by land and sea, when she fought for justice to the weak and oppressed Protestant peoples of Europe. Old James Boswell (father of Johnson's Boswell) said of him, "He garr'd Kings ken that they had a lith (crack) in their neck." "Who is this?" said Louis XIV. of France, upon receipt of a sharp letter from Cromwell, to his prime minister, Cardinal Mazarin, "that writes me thus?" "They have got a man ruling in England now," said the Cardinal. "You had better listen to him or he will be knocking at the gates of Paris next." Our famous Independent poet and Cromwell's Secretary of State, John Milton, wrote in 1655 of that little band of mountaineers, the Vaudois or Waldensian shepherds, persecuted for more than a hundred years by powerful potentates at the instigation of Rome:

Avenge, O Lord! Thy slaughter'd Saints, whose bones  
Lie scatter'd on the Alpine mountains cold;  
Even them who kept thy truth so pure of old  
When all our fathers worshipt stocks and stones,  
Forget not: In thy book record their groans  
Who were thy sheep, and in their ancient fold  
Slain by the bloody Piemontese, that roll'd  
Mother with infant down the rocks. Their moans  
The vales redoubled to the hills, and they  
To Heaven. Their martyr'd blood and ashes sow  
O'er all the Italian fields, where still doth sway  
The triple tyrant: that from these may grow  
A hundred-fold, who, having learnt Thy way,  
Early may fly the Babylonian woe.

"This prayer in behalf of the persecuted Protestants," says Newton, "was not entirely without effect, for Cromwell exerted himself in their favour, and his behaviour in the whole transaction is greatly to his honour even as it is related by an historian who was far from being partial to his memory. Nor would the Protector be backward in such a work which might give the world a particular opinion of his piety and zeal for the Protestant religion; but he proclaimed a solemn fast and caused large contributions to be gathered for them throughout the Kingdom of England and Wales. Nor did he rest here; but sent his agents to the Duke of Savoy, a prince with whom he had no correspondence or commerce; and the next year so engaged the Cardinal of France, and even terrified the Pope himself, without so much as doing any favour to the English Roman Catholics, that the Duke thought it necessary to restore all that he had taken from them, and renewed all those privileges they had formerly enjoyed—so great was the terror of his name; nothing being more usual