

bodies ; secret alliances with France and other Catholic nations, for the destruction of English liberties ; by foreign armies ; the maintenance of a standing army by taxes wrung, or swindled, from the unwilling subjects ; the judicial murder of all who protested or were likely to be dangerous. These were some of the means made use of for governing Britain in the seventeenth century. For about forty years the British nation, conservative and patient, endured, hoping for better days, and firmly, strenuously, resisting the encroachments of Rome, and despotism of the priest and the tyrant. But the end of forbearance came at last.

When the Parliament at last, in the memorable year of 1642, placed before King Charles I. the demand that the people should have the power of dismissing and appointing the Royal Ministers, and of controlling military, civil, and religious affairs, and when the King replied, as his ultimatum, " I should be no more than a phantom of a King if I granted your demands," then the English Revolution began ! Both sides were equally determined—the English people for Protestantism and liberty—the King and his adherents for despotism and Roman Catholicism. So we reach the first point in the history of the conflict. The civil war, which followed, desolated the country for four years, but was short, sharp, and decisive, and resulted in the complete overthrow of the King, and even his execution, as conspiring against the liberties of his subjects, in the election of a Protector, Protestant and Puritan, and, on his death, in that condition of disorder and anarchy which always accompanies revolutions. So we are brought to the middle of the century, and to a period of anarchy and conflict. The nation, still conservative and patient, recalled the old dynasty, in the person of Charles II., believing that the severe lesson would not have been taught in vain, and that the dethronement and execution of his father would have taught forever the lesson that Englishmen would bend neither to the yoke of the priest nor to the iron sceptre of the despot. But the two later Stuarts, brothers, Charles II. and James II., turned out to be worse than the former, and the history of the reigns of these two men is the old history over again, of a patient people determined to be free, opposing a King equally determined to enslave them, body and soul. Never had England shown a firmer loyalty, a nobler moderation ; never had England shown so stubborn a resistance to despotism, as in the reign of James II., until the wonderful spectacle was presented of a whole nation, almost to a man, opposed to their King, and yet law-abiding and quiet—resisting tyranny, yet striking no blow. In the year 1688 occurred the celebrated trial of the seven bishops for refusing to bow their necks to the yoke that the King would have placed upon the Church. This trial and acquittal formed the second climatic point in the history. I quote here the words of the historian, Green. " James was at Hounslow Camp when the news of the acquittal of the bishops reached him, and as he rode from the camp he heard a great shout behind him. ' What is that ? ' he asked. ' It is nothing,' was the reply, ' only the soldiers are glad the bishops are acquitted.' ' Do you call that nothing,' grumbled the King. That shout told him that he was utterly alone in the realm." Note the significance