

Though, during the long strife between King and Parliament, the authorities at home had little leisure and perhaps little inclination to interfere with this small and distant dependency, yet the political and religious discord which raged in England throughout these years, found its counterpart to some extent in the Bermudas.

From the first the Puritan ministers and their followers seem to have caused constant trouble. About 1620 certain modifications in the forms of the Church of England were introduced, similar to those allowed in the Channel Islands. In 1643 the Independents formally seceded from the Church, and two years later an act of the Long Parliament established freedom of worship for the inhabitants of the islands. Later, from 1660 onwards, the *odium theologicum* of this small community appears to have been turned against the Quakers, acts and proclamations were promulgated against them, and an order was made by the Company prohibiting their landing in the islands<sup>1</sup>.

At the time of the execution of Charles the First and the establishment of the Commonwealth, the adherents of the Royalists appear to have been in the ascendant, and in 1650 the Long Parliament passed an act prohibiting trade with these islands as well as with Barbados, Antigua, and Virginia, on account of the refusal of the colonists to recognize the new order of things<sup>2</sup>. The opposition however was not long-lived. Barbados was blockaded and reduced to order in January, 1652; and in February of that year the Governor and Council of the Bermudas took the oath of allegiance 'to the Commonwealth of England as it is now established without a King or House of Lords.'

On the other hand the Restoration of Charles the Second eight years later, in 1660, appears to have been at once welcomed

<sup>1</sup> It may be also mentioned that about 1694 a tax was placed on all Jews arriving in the islands for purposes of trade.

<sup>2</sup> See below, pp. 144, 182.