

though Milton was in feeble health, and was threatened with the complete loss of eyesight, the sight of one eye being already gone, the feeling of patriotism was so strong within him, that forgetting himself, and remembering only his country, he replied to Salmasius, whom he completely discomfited, in one of his most famous prose works, "The Defence of the People of England." Once more in his "Second Defence of the People of England" he labored in behalf of his countrymen, to whom he paid that fine tribute, "No illusions of glory, no extravagant emulation of the ancients influenced them with a thirst for idle liberty, but the rectitude of their lives, and the sobriety of their habits, taught them the only true and safe road to the rights of conscience."

When the Stuart line was restored these two works were publicly burned, and Milton was forced to live in obscurity—an obscurity from which the genius of the blind poet flashed more brilliantly than at any previous part of his career, for "Paradise Lost" was given to the world. Six years later appeared "Paradise Regained" and "Sampson Agonistes";