

was again whipped in the pillory. A clergyman named Leighton fared even worse. He published a book against the doings of the bishops, for which he was summoned into the Star Chamber, fined £10,000, his family were brutally treated by the officers of the court, and while he was ill he was taken to the pillory and whipped, having to remain two hours in the pillory on a very cold day, his nose was slit on both sides, and the letters S. S. were branded on his face with a red-hot iron. After that he was imprisoned for life, but was released by the Long Parliament.

How happened it that Englishmen, the heirs and inheritors of the Magna Charta wrung from King John at Runnymede, allowed such courts as these to have an existence? It was due more than anything else to that principle maintained by the king, and upheld by courtiers and bishops, that the king was responsible to God alone for his actions. This principle is known as "the divine right," and has caused torrents of blood to flow in the old world. It was this principle that gave the Star Chamber its terrors, that permitted the Inquisition to torture and harass, and that made the fires of persecution to burn with brilliance. The Tudors claimed they held the Crown without reference to the people, "from God alone," and that the Parliament existed only by their sufferance. James the First had been held in restraint by the liberty-loving Scotchmen; and while on his way to England he said to one of his courtiers, who was telling him of the powers he could exercise in England, "Do I make the Bishops? Do I make the judges?" and added, "then I make both law and gospel!" and he tried to, making use of both Star Chamber and Inquisition. James was in the habit of calling himself "a lieutenant and vicegerent of God." He had a handsome favorite, named Villiers, whom he created Duke of Buckingham, of whom Lord Clarendon says, "Never any man, in any age, rose in so short a time to so much greatness of honor, fame or fortune, upon no other advantage or recommendation than the beauty or gracefulness of his person;" and James not only followed his advice, but made him Lord High Admiral of England, a position for which he was totally unqualified. It was by Buckingham's advice that the king refused to assist his own son-in-law in Bohemia, in consequence of which the Palatinate was lost to the Protestants of Europe. James set aside the wishes of Parliament and the laws of the land defiantly, and if any man in Parliament proved refractory, he was dealt with in a summary manner.

In the latter part of the reign of King James, there entered Parliament a man whom no attempt at bribery could silence, and whom no threats could terrify. Neither King nor favorite, inquisition nor Star Chamber, could induce him to swerve from the course he had pointed out for himself. This was Sir John Eliot, who lost no opportunity to stir up the Commons to maintain the rights of the people. In the reign of Charles I., Eliot made such tremendous onslaughts on Buckingham, that the King became exasperated, and had him imprisoned, together with Pym and Hampden, who were not far behind Eliot in "pluck" and ability. Imprisonment only made them more determined; and when Eliot appeared in a new Parliament, he charged home upon Buckingham the disasters to the nation's arms and honor; the loss of the Palatinate; the success of the Spanish over the English troops; the defeat of the King of Denmark by Count Tilly, by which England was lowered in the esteem of the Protestant nations; the assistance the English fleet gave to the French King, in his attack on the Huguenots of Rochelle; in addition to which Eliot condemned, in unmeasured terms, the illegal exactions of ship money, the outrages of the Star Chamber and High Commission. In