

that his heirs looked much to Rome. We may not understand this but it is part of the human drama of being yourself while being obligated to be someone else. And if you do not understand that, we suggest the counselling center.

## III.1.c Charles I

The Reign of Charles I (1625-1649)

Born in 1600, Charles was still young when ascending the throne. His wife was the daughter of Henry of France and a determined Romanist. His own views were not strongly set, the influence of his father was very marked and he had to live with a situation that made vacillation dangerous. The Queen pushed for further rights for English catholics and Charles pushed for supremacy over the church.

His archbishop after 1633 was Laud. Charles never saw eye to eye with Abbot and Laud was a totally different person. We are told that he had twice been offered a cardinalate if he would submit to Rome and he was surely a crypto-catholic at best. Very Arminian in theological application, Laud oppressed Calvinists and dissenters with considerable vigor. Attempting to pass a forceful liturgy on the Scots church, he quickly alienated Scotland and produced a civil war. The immediate outcome was the Scots National Covenant in which the clanholders banded together to uphold the true religion. The Scottish war that followed was the beginning of the end for Charles.

Frankly it is hard to give a fair evaluation to Laud. It is argued that he was particularly anxious to promote the Divine Right. His foes accused him of an arrogant spirit and he made many personal enemies when operating from a base of power. His absolutist views did not please his friends as well. He probably deserves a better "shake" from history and from the Parliament that executed him as a traitor in 1645. At the time his whole life had been given to the service of the church along the lines discussed. Interested students will find the better side of Laud in J.B.Mozley: ESSAYS HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL (1878). The Essay is entitled: Wm. Laud.

The Trials of Government

Charles followed his father in holding to the Divine Right principle and had the moral support of the queen. He entered unilaterally into war abroad