

III.1.c.1
Charles'
governmental
trials

and most of his enterprises resulted in losses. Consequently there was a great lack of faith between the king and the Parliament and much agitation. In 1629 Charles dismissed Parliament and ruled without it for the next 11 years with a series of temporizing actions. We cannot go into detail in this portion of history but when the Scottish lords revolted and declared war over Laud's interference in their religious estate, Charles was moved to conduct a punitive war against them. He had no funds for such and only Parliament could raise money. A crisis existed therefore in 1640 and Charles had no recourse but to recall parliament. In a very sulky mood the legislators showed no indication of meeting the king's needs and it was quickly dismissed. But the emergency continued and Parliament was recalled. Both the Long Parliament (this one) and the Short Parliament (the last one) had their roots in this pivotal year.

Parliament came back in a sulky mood and would not meet continuously for the next twenty years. It was not minded to give the king his way or to uphold the war with Scotland. Laud was accused of precipitating the affair without the consent of the legal body. He was imprisoned for his independent actions, although he protested that ecclesiastical interference by him had not been his intent...he was instead merely carrying out the will of the king. Eventually he was tried for treason, found guilty and executed. From the reconvening of the Long Parliament (1640) through 1642 there was a continuous struggle with the king and a general rebellion was barely averted. In 1643 Parliament abolished episcopacy! A time of strife was at hand. The Parliamentary followers were at full variance with the throne.

In the meantime, the Scots had formed the Solemn League and Covenant binding all the ecclesiastically oppressed into a working fellowship with considerable political solidarity. Open war followed with the king. The latter was supported by much of the nobility and his forces were identified as "Cavaliers." The commoners, known as the "Roundheads" sided with the Scots and the forces of Charles were defeated in 1644..he, himself, personally surrendering in 1646. The immediate leader of the commoner forces was Oliver Cromwell and his military prowess gave him quick victories over the Cavaliers first, and when necessary, the Scots. Charles agreed to a sort of interim but in 1648 led a Scottish-French force against the commoners (and Parliament) in an attempt to reassert the rights of the Throne. He was overthrown and captured. His failure in battle and