

his violation of the agreement with Parliament allowed him to be tried for treason and he was executed as a traitor by commoner forces on 30 January 1649. His son, Charles II, had fled to France, and eventually became something of a folk hero...often called "Bonny Prince Charlie."

There are a number of fascinating moves in this age: the Rump Parliament, Pride's Purge, etc., that are not needed for our general understanding but are necessary for a more detailed study of the age. J.D. Douglas, LIGHT IN THE NORTH offers a very interesting treatment of the time and a better understanding of the total historical package. Out of the period came the Commonwealth, a period of parliamentary government with an autocrat for general directorship. That ruler will be Oliver Cromwell and we will see more of him later.

The Westminster Assembly 1643-1648

III.1.d.  
Westminster

The revitalized parliament, feeling the difficulty caused by the edicts of Laud and the alienation of the Scots, had taken a commoner turn. The new assembly of parliament called for a re-study of worship forms and summoned a meeting of theologians in 1643. The new gathering was to convene in Westminster Abbey and to form a new confession, a better service order, and such other things as might be instructive in the life of the church. It had rather broad powers in study but little in real legislation since all that it did required parliamentary approval before it could become law...a practice that proved a good idea in time. About 120 clergymen were in the assembly, a half-dozen of them from the Anglican church, and perhaps about 20 lay persons. There were representatives from the Puritan communities in the colonies and in general the puritan-presbyterian ideology forces had the largest and most vigorous representation. Many varying political viewpoints were present and in some ways it was the most truly representative meeting for a long time. The Anglicans, however, badly outnumbered and outmanned, probably represented the largest population block. But the intemperance of Charles and Laud had turned public sentiment against the establishment although it would return in less than 20 years. Working under various moderators the group proceeded to revise the doctrinal articles of the church and produce a new confessional base as follows:

The Directory of Worship, 1644, gave new orders of worship and church practice.