

posed to the acquisition of England by force of arms. From these causes, and from the coldness of their reception over the border, something like one third of the army melted away in the course of a few days and returned to Scotland. The northern towns closed their gates against Charles, and the militia were very active in preventing the assembling of the royalists, in seizing the arms of all suspected persons, and in all ways hindering recruits from joining the king. The earl of Derby, a staunch royalist, came over from the Isle of Man at once and raised a considerable force in Lancashire. But before he could rejoin the king, he was defeated and his forces cut to pieces by Colonel Selburne. This defeat was a further discouragement to Charles and his army, who at last, with flagging spirits and diminished numbers, marched into Worcester city on 22 Aug. Charles was respectfully received by the magistrates of that city and proclaimed king. The army was wearied with marching, and greatly in need of rest. It was therefore determined not to press on further, but to endeavour to bring in recruits from Wales and the neighbouring counties, whilst the main body of the forces was enjoying a few days of well-earned repose.

Two days after his entry into Worcester Charles issued the first proclamation, given below, and it was followed on 26 Aug. by the second. It may be conjectured from the difference in tone between the first and the second proclamation, that the spirits of the royalist party continued to fall as the days went on, and that the order for all persons between sixteen and sixty to assemble in arms for Charles on 26 Aug. met with very little response.

The second declaration was presumably written after what must have been but a melancholy rendezvous in the Pitchcroft meadow outside Worcester. Charles no longer attempts to carry off matters with a high hand, but assumes a tone of conciliation, makes promises, and endeavours to smooth away such difficulties as may arise in the minds of his 'subjects.'

CONSTANCE EVERETT GREEN.

CHARLES R. BY THE KING.

Whereas by the Trayterous plotts & Conspiracyes of many Rebellious people of this kingdome assuming to themselves the name & power of a Parl^t the fundamentall free and knowne lawes of this kingdome have not onely bin endeavoured to be utterly subverted And to y^e end y^e sd rebellious psons under their deceitfull device and p^tence of liberty & freedome fr tyranny comitted have seduced and drawne into their conspiracy many other people & subjects of this kingdome and raised forces to effect y^e same wherby they not onely comitted the most horrid Act of murder upon our late deare royall father their undoubted lawfull head & soverigne of y^e rightfull & long established governm^t of y^e kingdome by

many success^{ors} of ages & by the undoubted & knowne lawes of y^e same but also doe yett still psist in the same wicked plotta & rebellion against us our crowne & dignity And utterly to extirpate all royall govnm^t of this kingdome And y^e lawes liberties & freedomes of y^e same & to bring in a genale vassalage servitude of all the true & loyall subjects of this naton under the tyrannicall yoke of the s^d rebellious people calling themselves a Par^t And of a rebllious Army rayseed & continued by their Complottm^t together, who have to y^t purpose entered into our realme of Scotland And done much hurt & spoyle to our subjects y^e people of y^t naton whereof it hath pleased god wth a revengfull eie to looke upon y^t their rebellion And to give us assurance of his mercy & p[']vidence over us severall late successes ag^t them at y^e pass at Warrington & heare at Worc, both respectively they endeavoured to keepe against us but have bin defeated of y^e same & yet nevertheless they continue the same their rebellion & are come back to hinder our settlem^t in our throne of govnm^t of this kingdome And doe dayly raise what forces they can to destroy our royall pson And y^e just lawes and fredomes all our true & loyall subjects of this realme of England for p[']vention whereof And to free all our true hearted and well affected subjects to us and our govnm^t from ye misery & slavery of bondage under such tyrants & rebels who have truly manifested their wicked intentions of their hard pressures of our loveing subjects by many yeares continuance hitherto, These are therefore to charge command you forthwth upon sight hereof by yo^rselves y^e petty Con^{bles} of yo^r division to give summons & warneing as well in the p[']ish churches or otherwise to all & every p[']son & p[']sons betweene the age of 16 & 60 yeares to make their general rendezvouzes and meeting in y^e great meadow called Pitchcroft near the City of Worces^r, wth all their horses fitt for service & y^e best weapons & Armes they have or can procure upon Tuesday next being y^e 26 of this instant month by ten of y^e clocke in y^e morneing, when & where wee shall bee p[']sonnally p[']sent to give such order & directons as we shall find requisite touching y^e disposing such numb['] of them as we shall think fitt for y^e defence of our pson all other our subjects of y^e County & City of Worc^r and y^e establishm^t of us in our throne & of y^e peace & quietnes of y^e kingdome in y^e true & rightfull way of govnm^t & to p[']serve the liberty and freedome of y^e true and loyall subjects of y^e same fr['] y^e tyranny of all rebellious oppressors And y^t you cause y^e s^d Con^{bles} to sett forth & keep strict watch & ward in all places with:n yo^r division for apprehending of all evill affected psons to his Ma^{tie} & his govnm^t of this naton And y^t you cause diligent search to be made in all suspected places for Armes of all ill affected psons to his Mat^{tie} And y^e same to seize And bring to his Magazeene at Worc^r whereof you & all other persons herein concerned are not to fail as you & they tender y^e safety of us & yo^r selves & y^e weale publique of this kingdome And this at yo^r & their extreamest p[']ill requiring this to bee read tomorrow in all Churches & Chappells where it can come. Given at Worc^r the 23 of this instant Aug^t 1651.

To y^e Con^{bles} of Cradley & Dudley.

This is a true copy of his Ma^{ties} order sent & directed to me w^{ch} I have received but this day at one of y^e clocke And you are diligently to pforme the contents thereof in giving sumons to all such psons above specified

& keeping watch & ward & searching for Armes as is aforesaid And in y^e pformance of any other thing belonging to y^r office in y^e s^d order mentioned.

Y^rs

JOHN COLE.

Dated Aug^t y^e 26 1651

[Endorsed] JOHN TIRER.

Passed 16 Dec. 1658.

CHARLES R.

His Ma^{tie}'s declaration to all his loving subjects of his kingdome of England & dominion of Wales.

Wee shall not ripp upp the causes of the unhappie differences betwixt our Royall father & the two houses of Parliament, It shall bee our studie That they may bee for ever buried and That our subjects of England & dominions of Wales, may returne to their obedience they owe us as their lawful king, and to the ancient & happie government of the kingdome by kinge Lords & Commons, wherein they & their ancestors have lived, soe longe, soe happilie, without the effusion of more blood with these thoughts wee are nowe returning into our kingdome of England with an Armie (by the blessinge of God) able to protect our Loyall subjects whoe shall joyne with us & assist us in doeing justice upon the murtherers of our Royall father, and to defend us from the violence of such as will continue the expultōn of us from our full Rights the subversion of the lawfull government of the kingdome, & the oppression of our good subjects in England by armes & exorbitant imposit^{ns}, And before wee enter the kingdome wee thought fitt by this short declaration to lett our good subjects there knowe, that our desires are not more to be restored unto our own Rights then to procure & maintaine to them their freedome, And as wee have given full & entire satisfaction to our subjects of Scotland both of what may concerne religion, their lawes and liberties which (god willing) wee shall inviolably preserve to them, soe it shall be our studie & would bee our greatest joy that wee might attaine the same happines in England, And because wee doe thinke ourselves bound in dutie, to looke more at the glorie of God then our owne interest, Wee doe in the first place declare That wee shall faithfully in our station & calling as we are bound by the covenant endeavour to settle Religion, in doctrine worship discipline & government according to the word of god & the example of the best reformed Churches.

We shall also endeavour that Parliam^{ts} may be restored to their freedome & priveleges, by whose advise wee doe declare our resolutions are toe governe & settle all differences & distempers, That our people may enjoy their liberties & properties, free from armes, quartering or illegal impositions These being our cleare intentions & resolutions wee doe expect & invite all our good subjects of England dominion of Wales to concurr with & assist us according to their dutie & allegiance, And such as are in armes either in Scotland or in England under Oliver Croome-well presentlie after knowledge hereof, to lay them downe, or to come in & joyne with us in our Armie, where they shall receive protection &