

decernimus per presentes. Volentes et concedentes . . . Thomas aut eorum heredes, factores, et procuratores, aut alii inimicos nostros pecuniis vel aliter iuverint, vel imposterum iuvabunt, aut quidvis . . . excommunicationis aut banni, aut rerum belli, confederationum, privilegiorum, aut consuetudinum, differentiarumque vel questionum cum superiori a . . . maiestate, vel imperio, vel cum aliqua alia persona, seu personis, vel alia quacunque causa, nihil penitus excluso, neque solutio predicti debiti . . . Andree et Thome, eorum heredibus, procuratoribus, sive factoribus denegabitur, neque ipsi propterea indignacionem nostram incu[rrent] . . . exceptionibus etiam quibuscunque non obstantibus. In cuius rei testimonium his literis nostris patentibus, manibus nostris propriis sign . . . Dat. apud palatium nostrum de Westminster septimo die mensis Aprilis anno domini millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo qu[into].

[*At the back*] Et pro maiori securitate retrospectorum Andree Lixsalles et Thome Flechhammer, et heredum eorum nos consilarii privati consilii Regie maiestatis retrospecte, quorum nomina hic inferius subscribuntur, nominibus nostris propriis et privatis promittimus et nos obligamus pro plena satisfaccione debiti retrospecti uti retrospectum est absque aliqua exceptione.

STE WINTON CANCELL	WILLM PETRE
NICO EBOR ELECTUS	JO BOURNE
WINCHESTER	JOHN GAGE
W HOWARD	RIC SOUTHWELL
WILLM PAGET	THOMAS WHARTON
ROBT ROCHESTER	E WALDEGRAVE

CHARLES II AND THE BATTLE OF WORCESTER.

AMONGST a mass of unpublished documents of the Commonwealth period at the Public Record Office, two original declarations of Charles II have lately been found.

A peculiar interest attaches to them from the fact of their having been issued a few days before the battle of Worcester in 1651, whilst Charles still entertained some immediate hope of gaining the kingship of England. Their wording is also worthy of notice, as showing the tone in which Charles addressed his subjects concerning the commonwealth government, and the government he himself meant to establish; whilst the dictates of policy and the influence of the covenanting party are very conspicuous.

Charles entered England full of hope. He had no doubt that not only all the royalists, but also large numbers of people of all grades of opinion who were suffering under the parliamentary yoke would flock to his standard. He expected to be victualled all along his route, to be received in the towns, and to increase in force and popularity as he marched southward. But these hopes were not destined to be fulfilled. It must be remembered that his army was almost entirely composed of Scotchmen, who would naturally have some objection to leaving their country behind, and that the more rigorous of the presbyterians were, on conscientious grounds, op-

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 tiranny 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