

considered—the details of the several struggles have been given under their proper heads, and the general events which preceded them are familiar to all readers of English History.

In 1642, as the prelude to the ensuing civil war, it was ordered by the parliament, that the magazines of the several counties should be put into the hands of their lords-lieutenants; and shortly afterwards, the KING issued his COMMISSIONS OF ARRAY. The attempts of the commissioners to obey the injunction were of course opposed by those who had espoused the cause of the parliament; and the efforts of the lord Strange, in the adjacent county of Lancaster, were impeded by the exertions of sir Thomas Stanley, Mr. Holland of Heaton, Mr. Egerton of Shawe, Mr. Booth, Mr. Ashton, and Mr. Moor, the two last of whom were members of the house of commons.^a

On July 15, 1642, the lord Strange came to Manchester, with about 400 men; and whilst he was at dinner there, capt. Holcroft and capt. Birch entered the town with their forces, and beating to arms, a skirmish ensued, in which one Richard Parcevall, of Kirkman's hulme, a linen-webster, was slain by the royalists; which is said to have been the first blood shed in these wars, for which the lord Strange was afterwards impeached of high treason.^b

On Aug. 12, sir William Brereton, and the deputy lieutenants for the county of Chester, the commissioners authorized by parliament for settling the militia, came to Nantwich with a considerable body of men. The king's commissioners of array, hearing of the intended meeting, came also with a large body of men to Ravensmore, within a mile of the town, having previously issued their orders to several townships in Nantwich and Broxton hundreds, to supply a certain quantity of men, arms, and ammunition. Both parties met on Beam heath, and disputes arose which were likely to

end in bloodshed, but were compromised by the interposition of Mr. Wilbraham of Darfold, and Mr. Werdon of Chester.^c

Four days previous to this, sir William Brereton had been interrupted by the local magistracy in beating up for the parliament in Chester. Shortly afterwards the king and council having resolved to raise the royal standard at Warrington, the lord Strange proceeded successfully with his musters, had 20,000 men in readiness in Lancashire, and proposed to have done the same in Cheshire and North Wales; but, in the mean time, the place for setting up the standard was fixed to be at Nottingham, to the great disappointment of the earl, and of the numbers which he had engaged in the royal cause, many of whom resolved to be neutral, and others openly avowed rebellion, and seized on the town of Manchester.^d

From Nottingham the king proceeded through Derby to Shrewsbury, and on the 23 Sept. paid a visit to Chester, the particulars of which have been given in its local history; and, on Oct. 7, again privately met a commission from that city at Wrexham, and returning the same day to Shrewsbury, where his army then lay, prepared to march southwards.^e

On the 23d of the same month was fought the memorable battle of Edgehill.

A short time before this, lord Grandison had entered Cheshire with a considerable body of horse; and being joined by lord Cholmondeley and sir Hugh Calveley, came to Nantwich on Michaelmas day. The place was barricadoed and supplied with arms, on behalf of the parliament; but a fear of the royal army at Shrewsbury induced the inhabitants to make a conditional surrender; and the king's party entering the place on Michaelmas day, disarmed the townsmen, and carrying away also the horses, arms, and accoutrements, from Woodhey, Doddington, Haslington, Baddiley, and other neigh-

conduct had been held up for imitation in a book published by a Lancashire Catholic, William Allen (shortly afterwards made a cardinal), on the ground of its being unlawful to obey an excommunicated queen. See Camden's Elizabeth. Kennet, vol. ii. p. 540.

Peter Warburton, armiger, 18 Februarii	21	Hugh Calverley, of Ley, armiger, 27 Marcii	50
Thomas Leigh, of High Leigh, armiger, 24 Februarij	50	Rowland Dutton, armiger, 17 Marcii	25
John Leigh, of Boothe, armiger, 21 Februarij	25	Raph Calveley, armiger, 11 Marcii	25
Thomas Tutchett, armiger, 24 Februarij	25	The ladie Boothe, tercio die Marcii	25
Thomas Leigh, of Adlington, arm. 21 Februarij	25	The ladie Warburton, eodem	25
Henrie Berkenhead, armiger, 14 Februarij	25	Henrie Manwering, armiger, quarto die Marcii	25
Richard Gravnor, armiger, 25 Februarii	25	Geoffrey Shakerley, armiger, 9 die Marcii	25
Sir William Brereton, miles, eodem	100	Sir Rowland Standeley, miles, 7 Marcii	100
Phillip Oldefield, 27 Februarii	25	George Massey, sexto die Marcii	25
The ladie Egerton, 20 Februarii	50	John Poole, armiger, 9 die Marcii	25
Thomas Wilbram, armiger, 15 die Februarii	25	Thomas Bunburie, armiger, primo die Marcii	25
George Booth, armiger, 11 Marcii	25	William Whitmore, armiger, tercio die Marcii	25
Randall Manwering, of Pecver, armiger, 9 Marcii	25	John Egerton, armiger, 29 Marcii	25
John Dutton, armiger, secundo die Marcii	25	John Browne, of Stapleford, quarto die Marcii	25
Thomas Aston, armiger, quarto die Marcii	25	Henrie Delves, armiger, 24 Marcii	25
William Marbury, of Meare, armiger, primo die Marcij	25	Richard Cotton, armiger, 17 Marcii	25
Adam Leicester, armiger, 11 Marcii	25	Thomas Vernon, armiger, 13 Marcii	25
Sir Peter Leigh, miles, 16 Marcii	100	Jo. Griffith, armiger, 25 Marcii	25
William Brereton, of Handford, armiger, 16 Marcii	25	Roger Manwering, 17 Marcii	25
William Davenport, of Bromhall, armiger, 19 Marcii	25	Richard Wilbram, eodem die	25
Thomas Standley, of Alderley, armiger, quarto die Marcii	25	Richard Church, eodem	25
Randall Davenport, of Henbry, armiger, 14 Marcii	25	Geffrie Minshull, eodem	25
William Duckenfield, armiger, 17 Marcii	25	Thomas Brooke, armiger, 9 die Aprilis	25
Raphe Harden, armiger, eodem	25	Thomas Venables, armiger, 11 die Aprilis	25
Robert Hild, of Norbry, armiger, 13 Marcii	25	Tho. Smithe, armiger, 25 die Maii	25
Sir Randall Brereton, miles, 6 Marcii	50		

^a Cowper, quoting Tho. May's Hist. p. 109.

^c Malbon's MS. quoted by Cowper, and Burghall's Diary.

^e His host, sir Richard Lloyd, is said to have urged the length of the day's journey (44 computed miles), and the unseasonableness of the weather, and to have pressed his royal guest to stay till the next day at Wrexham, and the King to have dismissed him and the other gentlemen with these pathetic and simple words:—"Gentlemen, go you and take your rests, for you have homes and houses to go to, and beds of your own to lodge in, and God grant that you may long enjoy them—I am deprived of these comforts. I must attend my present affairs, and return this night to the place whence I came."—Cowper, quoting Dr. Barwick's Life, from Symonds's Parallel, p. 242.

^b Rushw. iv. 659, and Impeachment of lord Strange, printed Sept. 17, 1642.

^d Dugdale, Bar. vol. ii. 251.

Vol 1

bouring seats, proceeded in a few days to the king's camp at Shrewsbury.^a

On the Lancashire side, the earl of Derby, notwithstanding his disappointments, and his deprivation of the lieutenancies of Cheshire, and North Wales, exerted himself to the utmost; and after sustaining a doubtful conflict with the parliamentary commissioners on Houghton common, near Chowbent, marched through Leigh to Warrington (Dec. 2), and being then joined by lord Cholmondeley, advanced into Cheshire to surprise the militia under Mr. Mainwaring of Kermincham.^b

This attempt was frustrated; the earl retired into Lancashire, and a part of lord Cholmondeley's troops were taken and disarmed at Northwich.

On the 8th of December another attempt was made by the royalists under col. Leigh of Adlington, to seize Macclesfield for the king; but the party were defeated by Mr. Mainwaring, who raised the county, and attacked them therein with great fury. Two soldiers were slain, and their colonel fled in disguise of a drummer. Mr. Mainwaring, whose numbers were swelled by a detachment from Manchester to a thousand horse and foot, plundered Adlington, and sir Rowland Egerton's seat at Wrinchill; and whilst the Cheshire loyalists were flying from their residences to Chester, Shrewsbury, and other places, marched into Nantwich (Dec. 10), and was there joined by more troops from Manchester, with three pieces of cannon.^c

Chester, being occupied at the same time for the king by earl Rivers, his brother (Mr. Thomas Savage), lord Kilmorey, lord Cholmondeley, and the other commissioners of array, with their tenants and dependants in Cheshire and Shropshire, and some levies commanded by col. Hastings, son of the earl of Huntington, the adverse parties, in the words of Mr. Cowper, "began to

be a good deal afraid of each other," and after several meetings the articles of pacification subjoined were agreed upon.^d

The parliament, alleging that these articles were concluded upon without due authority, declared them null and void, as they had done others of the like nature in the county of York,^e and signifying to their Cheshire officers that hostilities should be renewed, sent down, as their commander in chief for Cheshire and parts adjacent, the celebrated sir William Brereton, of Handford, then knight of the shire for this county, whose abilities greatly conduced to that issue of the struggle in these districts, on which the general failure of the royal cause is allowed by Clarendon to have mainly hinged.^f

On the 28th of Jan. 1642-3, sir William Brereton, having entered Cheshire with one troop of horse and a regiment of dragoons, attacked sir Thomas Aston in Nantwich about four in the evening, and, after a severe conflict, threw the royalists into confusion by the unexpected explosion and flash of a small piece of a cannon, of which he had several with him, but had not previously made use.^g His subsequent occupation of the place, and the particulars of the defence of Nantwich against all the efforts of the royalists, to the close of the war, are given from a contemporary diary, under the account of that town. The head quarters of the Cheshire parliamentarians were then fixed at Nantwich, and those of the royalists in Chester, under the command of the governor, sir Nicholas Byron.

Sir William Brereton next attempting a general muster of all persons from sixteen to sixty, at Tarporley and Frodsham, experienced checks from the royalists at Tilston heath and Tiverton,^h but plundered the northern side of the county, seized on Beeston and Halton castles, and fortified Norton priory and Northwich.ⁱ

^a Cowper's MSS.

^b Cowper, quoting Malbon's MSS.

^c Ibid.

^d Tricesimo Decembris, 1642.—An agreement made the day above, at Bunbury, in the county of Chester, for a pacification and settling the peace of that county, by us whose names are subscribed, authorized hereunto by the Lords and Gentlemen nominated Commissioners of Array, and Deputy Lieutenants of the said County.

1. It is agreed that there be an absolute cessation of arms from henceforth within this county, and no arms to be taken up to offend one another, but by the consent of the King and both Houses of Parliament, unless it be to resist forces brought into the county.

2. That all but two hundred of either side shall be disbanded to-morrow, being Saturday, and on Monday all the rest, on both sides, both horse and foot, shall be disbanded.

3. That all prisoners on both sides be enlarged. As for Mr. Norton, who is now prisoner at Manchester, the gentlemen appointed deputy lieutenants do declare, that he was taken without their knowledge or encouragement, by some Manchester troops, upon a private quarrel, for taking powder, and other goods, belonging to a person at Manchester; yet they will use their utmost endeavours to procure his enlargement, and do desire the like endeavours to be used by the lords and others, commissioners of array, for enlarging Mr. Daniel, of Daresbury.

4. That the fortifications of Chester, Nantwich, Stockport, Knutsford, or any town in Cheshire, lately made by either part, be presently demolished.

5. That all goods and arms taken on both sides, now remaining in the county in specie, be forthwith restored; and for all others that are taken out of the county, it is promised on both parts, that since the benefit of this Pacification redounds to the whole county, they will use their utmost endeavours for a joint contribution of the county towards a satisfaction to the owners.

6. That the Lords and Gentlemen, Commissioners of Array, before the 8th day of January next, procure from his Majesty a letter, thereby declaring, that in regard that a peace is made in the county, he will send no forces into this county; and if any other person shall, contrary to such declaration, bring forces into the county (passage for forces without doing any hostile act only excepted), the said Lords and Gentlemen will join to resist them. And if any forces, without the consent of the King and both Houses of Parliament, shall come into this county (the passages for forces without doing any hostile act only excepted), the said Gentlemen, nominated deputy lieutenants, will join to resist them, and will use their utmost endeavours therein.

7. In regard, by the blessing of God, there is like to be a peace within the county, if this agreement be, it is agreed that the Commissioners of Array shall not any further put the Commission of Array in execution, nor the Gentlemen nominated deputy lieutenants, the ordinance of the militia, or execute their commission.

8. Lastly—All the said parties do agree and promise to each other, on the word of a gentleman, as they desire to prosper, that, as well themselves, as also all their friends, tenants, servants, and also all others in whom they have any interest, shall, as much as in them lies, perform the agreement; and it is further desired, that all the parties join in a petition to his Majesty and both Houses of Parliament, for putting an end to the great distractions and miseries fallen upon this kingdom, by making a speedy peace. And it is agreed, that sir George Booth, and all others within this county, who have appeared as commissioners of array, or as deputy lieutenants, by reason of the ordinance of Parliament, shall, with all convenient speed, subscribe this agreement.

ROBERT KILMURREY.
ORLANDO BRIDGEMAN.

WILLIAM MARBURY.
HENRY MAINWARING.

^e Rushworth, v. 101.

^f See the account of sir William Brereton, under Handford.

^g Cowper's MSS.

^h Vol. II. pp. 149, 150 [now 277-8.—H.

ⁱ Vol. III. p. 92, [now 162.] and extract from Ricart's Survey in Addenda.

An attempt was then made by sir Thomas Aston to occupy Middlewich for the king, which ended in his total defeat by sir William Brereton.*

This action was fought on March 13, 1642-3; and up to November following the several forces in Chester and Nantwich appear to have engaged merely in fruitless attempts on those two places, or in skirmishes with the soldiers in the small dependent garrisons scattered

* See sir Thomas Aston's letter, vol. III. p. 97 [now 178]. The operations, from sir William Brereton's entry to the battle of Middlewich, are described as follows, in a rare pamphlet, entitled "Cheshire's Successes, London, March 25, 1642."

CHAP. I.

The Battell of Nampitwich.

The well affected in the county of Chester having a long time expected sir William Brereton, baronet, for their relief (who were miserably infected by the commission of array), on Saturday Jan. 28 he advanced from Congleton, in the same county, to Nampitwich; but hearing sir Thomas Aston with his forces intended to take that towne before him, he sent a partie before to secure the towne for himselfe, who were but few in number, but came seasonably; sir William advanced after with his carriages, which he durst not leave without himselfe to guard them. Sir Thomas understanding that a partie of ours had possest themselves of the towne, he came against it about three of the clock, was five times valiantly repelled: in which assaults we lost but one man, slaine by a poisoned bullet, though the towne lay open on all sides without any trench or banke: when he saw his hopes for that towne frustrate, he retreated, and fell upon sir William, who was not above 150 strong, but sir Thomas had neere 400. Besides that he had all other advantages, for he had first survey'd and chosen his ground in a lane neere the towne, had made his van strong, flank'd them on either side, and there stood in battalia till sir William came, who had no notice of his enemies but by a boy who told him of their approach, which caused them to order themselves for an assault, in chance that newes were true; but they were gotten into the jaws of death before they were aware; for it being darke, neere six of the clock, they discern'd them more by the enemies whispering than by their one eye: but God, to whom the light is all one as the day, was a pillar of fire unto them, and gave them so much light as serv'd to the obtaining of a glorious victory. Sir Thomas let flye, but without success; sir William discharged his drakes, which wrought more terror than execution, for the ground was very rough; but the enemy cry'd, Let us fly, for they have great ordnance. Capitaine Goldegay dismounted his dragooneers, and turn'd his horses upon them, which brought them into confusion, and charg'd upon them very sore; all the rest fell to it with their pistols, dragoones, and carbines, but that service was but short, for there was neither time nor place to wheele about or renew the charge; then they fell to it by dint of sword and weight of their battle-axes, with which they belaboured the enemy, that the prisoners confesse that they never felt the like blowes in any other service: in a short time so many were unhorsed, and beaten downe with violence, that all the worke that remain'd was the taking of prisoners, horses, and armes. Sir William, who first had carried it with brave resolution, was the first that tooke prisoners, seconded by many more, who apprehended more than they could secure. Sir Thomas seeing how things went, fled (as we heare) on foot three miles, and then got an horse on which he fled to Whitchurch. Sir Vincent Corbet crawled away on all foure lest he should be discern'd, and then ran on foot bare-headed to Ower, 6 miles; many were disperst abroad in the fields, and divers found that next day: one man with a stick in his hand disarm'd three men and tooke them prisoners, and two others that he met with also, but two of them slipt away which he durst not pursue lest he should loose the other three: what number of men we slew is uncertaine, but some were seene dead in the lane, some afterwards were found dead in the fields, and some graves were discovered; we tooke 110 of their horse, and neere 120 prisoners, amongst those, capitaine Bridgeman and capitaine Cholmeley, with other commanders and officers; three of ours (as I take it) were slaine, and two or three were prisoners, whom they brought into Chester with triumph, having made them six in number by men they had taken up by the high-ways. Sir Thomas after some dayes returned to Chester with about 50 or 60 horse, but for his honour they sent many of their horses privately out to meet him, and so returned as a man well reinforc'd. It's very probable they lost more horses than we got, by which stroke they were foulely shaken, and their friends discomfited. We for our part had a sollemne day of thanksgiving, and fell to the managing of the weighty affairs of the county.

CHAP. II.

The Battell at Torperley, Febr. 21.

After this, on Tuesday Feb. 21, we had a pitch battell at Torperley, the mid-way betwixt Chester and Nampitwich, which was thus occasioned: we sent forth our warrants to require all betwixt 60 and 16 yeares old to meet us at Torperley, to find out the strength of the county, and who were for us in case we had need of them; the enemy took notice of it, and gave it out they would meet us there; we were not sure of it, because we are not sure of any thing they say or sweare, yet we went out about 1500 strong, as I take it, to guard the country: they came also from Chester, and were on the ground before us; when we survey'd their posture, we thought they lay in ambuscado a little from the towne, where 4 wayes meet: we judging that place impassible, advanced no further, but wheel'd to the right hand to plant on a good ground, neere a place called the Swannes Nest: but whilst we were on our march they got the ground before us, where they stood in battalia. They had all advantages that could be, the wind cleare and strong, a firme even soyle, well mounted, a hole towards us where they planted divers musketiers, layd an ambuscado in an hedge, and planted their ordnance amongst their horse. We marshald ours on a field over against them towards Tilston hall, a valley with a strait passage being betwixt us; we had no ordnance, nor could we reach them with our muskets. They had as faire a marke as they could desire, for our infantrie were at the bottome of the hill, under the command of their muskets, and our cavalrie were on the high ground, the but for their canon. We saluted one another with fire and lead; they play'd on us for about the space of an houre with canon and musket, yet we lost not a man, only 3 were shot, scarce wounded, and an horse hoofe hit with a musket-ball out of a canon, which was a miraculous providence of God in the judgement of all men; besides our forces there we had about 200 in Beston castle, which we sent for to joyne with us, reserving 30 to keepe the castle; which they finding out by their scouts, sent two troops to intercept them, having by treachery gotten their word, they saluted them as friends, gave them the word, shook hands, and the more deluded them by capitaine Greene, who was very like a lieutenant of ours, and whom they had drest in an habit most like him, but being within them they bid them throw downe their armes, and let the round-head rogues cry for quarter; whereupon ours retreated a little, and then gave fire, which so amaz'd them that both troopes fled: sir Thomas pistol'd one, that for that day bare the colours, and our partie report they saw divers of theirs fall upon their fiering.

The issue of that dayes work was this, we retreated to the heath to find out a better ground, considering we might suffer much but could make no execution on them where we were rallied; new ground was not to be found there, it being a congrewe; part of the army making it a retreat, the rest followed, not out of feare, for our enemy durst not meet us on even termes, but to get home before wee were nighted; the enemy by their scouts discovered about 700 of our club-men comming neere them from the Forrest, and in a good posture, suspected that we wheeled to the left, while the other were ready to charge on the other hand, which struck them with such feare that they fled to Chester. The commission of array staid at the crosse in Torperley, not daring to come to the battell, whereby they had the precedency in the fight; thereby Torperley scap'd plundering, and the parsonage the ruine threat'ned, for they stay'd not to drinke a draught of beere, but had them sollemnize another day of thanksgiving, scoffing at the ordnance, and triumphed in Chester they had got sir William's hat and feather, a great trophée, though upon examination it was found to be one of their owne soldiers.

CHAP. III.

An account how the time was spent since sir William's first advancing into the county till the battle at Middlewich.

For as much as many are charging us of sloath and neglect of the country, sith little hath beene done of late in a long time, we shall truly relate what things in sixe or seven weekes space have been done, and let others judge.

After sir William had possessed himself of Nampitwich, his care was to order, enlarge and maintaine his forces, how to bring in the gentric to him, who had conjoyn'd in the late accommodation with the Commissioners of Array, and how to secure the towne, which was extremely malignant and lay very open; businesse came in on a throng, but the country came not in to help forward that worke, but by special warrant. It hath been found a worke of no small difficultie to perfect that worke begun, what ever others thinke that make their reckning without their host. All were forward for the taking of Chester, which in all probability had been feasible, had we suddainly called in the countrie, and gone about it before they had time to reinforce themselves, and before their trenches were made; but we knew we could doe little without assistance, so by degrees wee drew in the gentric and many fit to bear armes, and of so small a beginning are enlarged to about 2000, well appointed, many of these being horse and dragooneers; then we set the proposition for mony on foot in a very strict way, which has brought us as many hundreds, much provision of cheese, bacon, hay, come, &c. and not a few horse; we have also all sorts of officers amongst us, fitting for a campe, and have brought in malignants goods from all parts about us. We have

over the county. The king's troops were discomfited at Burleydam chapel in April; before Nantwich, under lord Capel, in May; and made another ineffectual attempt on the same town in October; and Carden Hall was taken by the parliamentarians in June. The last-mentioned party was repelled in an attack on Chester in the following month; and in November was worsted in a skirmish between the Chester garrison and some troops stationed at Tarvin, in an action at Stamford Bridge.^a

After this period the royalists obtained a decided advantage for a few months, being strengthened by a reinforcement of troops from Ireland, under lord Byron.

Beeston castle was taken by stratagem; sir William Brereton was defeated with considerable loss at Middlewich; which town, as well as Northwich, fell into the hands of lord Byron; and the royalists, driving all the disaffected into Nantwich, seized successively on their strong holds round it, the churches of Barthomley and Acton, and the halls of Doddington, Dorfold, and Crewe.^b Nantwich, which was held by sir George Booth,^c in the absence of sir William Brereton, was now the only garrison left for this party in Cheshire, but the obstinacy of the defence mocked all the efforts of the royalists.

On the 25th of January 1643-4, sir Thomas Fairfax

taken in Beeston castle, where we keep a garrison which awes all the country about, at which our enemies grinde their teeth; and the walls being in many places level'd to the ground, we have made up all those breaches with mud walls, so as we doubt not but to keepe out 20,000 men with that small garrison; we have intrencht all this towne of Nantwich with good workes and walls, so as through God's helpe we feare not, though many thousands of our enemies encampe against us. We have fortified Northwich with trenches, sconces, &c. for the securitie of all those parts, which have bene much infected by the Commission of Array and the Ea. of Darbies forces at Warrington; and wee have often sallied out for the clearing of those parts which were most in danger. One place above others hath been extremely assaulted, Mr. Brookes of Norton, a neere neighbour to the Ea. Rivers, against which they brought their canon, with many horse and foote, and fell to batter it on a Sabbath day. Mr. Brooke had 80 men in the house; we were carefull he should lack no powder, with all other things master Brooke furnisht them fully. A man upon his tower, with a flag in his hand, cryde them ayme while they discharged their canon, saying "wide, my lord, on the right hand; now wide two yardes on the left; two yardes over, my lord, &c." He made them swell for anger, when they could endamage the house, for they only wounded one man, lost 46 of their owne, and their canonier; then in divelish revenge they burnt a barne, and corne worth (as is valued) a thousand pound, set fire to another, but more execution was made on the man that attempted it, than the barne, for he was blinded in firing the barne, and so found wandering in the fields, and confest hee had five pound given him for his service. After this they plundered Mr. Brookes tenants, and returned home with shame and hatred of all the country. To this worthy man's rescue we could not goe, because the march was long and full of hazzard, and wee thought their ayme was to tire us out upon that service, upon which they might put us almost every day, by reason of Halton castle, in their possession, and but halfe a mile from Norton. More we might instance in to take off our reproach, but another armie greater than ours, lying under the same censure, will vindicate us, unlesse ungratefully we condemne them.

CHAP. IV.

The Battle at Middlewich, betwixt Collonell BRERETON and Sir THO. ASTON, March 13.

Sir Thomas Aston and his partie in Chester, recovering strength after their late overthrow, exercised the same in mischief, and all wicked outrages; for, besides their plundering and wasting of all the countrie neere Chester, they laid such intollerable taxes both on the citie and countrie thereabout, that their owne partie was embittered against them, yea, before we secured Northwich, whiles some of our forces were in that country; they plundered Weverham and the country about; they carried old men out of their houses, bound them together, tyed them to a cart, drave them through mire and water above the knees, and so brought them to that Dungeon, where they lie without fire or light, and now through extremities are so diseased, that they are readie to yield up the ghost.

On the Sabbath, March 12, having a little before advanced to Middlewich, they plundered all that day, as a most proper season for it, commanded the carts in all the countrie about to carrie away the goods, kept a faire that day neere Torperley, to sell those goods. In Over, when they had plundered they left rathane in the house, wrapt in papers, for the children, which by God's providence was taken from them before they could eat it, after their parents durst retorne to them; and being a considerable body, they sent for more strength, and by their warrants to the churches about, commanded all the countrie to come in with such insolent and imperious expressions, that they were hatfull to some malignants, and concluded to give no quarter to any round-heads, and were confident quickly to carry all downe before them.

Sir William at that time was at Northwich with a considerable party; many gentlemen of his partie were at Nantwich, with about seven or eight hundred armed men; their generous spirits were inrag'd to see such outrages committed; it wrought alike in all sir William's forces to provoke us for to fall upon the enemy, though we could not easily communicate our purposes one to another. At Nantwich we agreed to assault them the next morning, signified the same to sir Will. He was as forward as we. Our gent. desired a minister to come to their chambers, upon the alarm to be given at twelve o'clock, that commanding them to God in prayer, they might speed the better. Some ministers and others fell to the worke that day by prayer and fasting, though not as Moses, Aron, and Hur, in prospect of the armies, yet wrestling as Jacob did, and putting their mouthes in the dust, if so bee there might be hope, of which they had a gracious returne by three o'clocke. The businesse of that day was carryed thus:—Sir William, being four miles from the enemy, assaulted that side of the towne by eight a clock, March the 13th, and continued the fight for about three or foure houres before we came to his help; in which time this accident fell out, that his powder was all spent, excepting about seven pound; they tooke counsell upon it, and it was concluded they must retreat, because their partie from Nantwich was not come in to their assistance; but sir William was resolute not to retreat, but to send to Northwich for more powder, and to keep them in play as well as they could till the powder came, which accordingly they did; betwixt eleven and twelve o'clock, we came to their assistance, which they knew not of till they heard us in hot service, on the other side the town; when we began, their powder came. The enemy had chief advantages, their ordinance planted; we had none; they layd about 150 musquetiers in an hole convenient for them. They layd their ambuscadoes in the hedges, maquetiers in the church and steeple, and had every way so strengthened themselves, that they seemed impregnable; but God lead on our men with incredible courage. Capitaine George Booth fac'd the towne with his troope whiles they plaid on with their ordinance, which once graz'd before them, and then mounted cleare over them; in another, that it dasht the water and mire in his and two other captaines faces, but there it dies. This was no discouragement to our men; they marched upon all their ambuscadoes, drave them all out of them into the towne, entered the towne upon the mouth of the canon and storme of the muskets, our Major (a right Scottish blade) brought them up in two files, with which he lined the walls, and kept that street open, went up to their ordinance, which he tooke; then the enemy fled into the church; sir Thomas Aston would have gon after them, but they durst not let him in, lest we should enter with him; then he mounted his horse, and fled with all speed by Kinderton, and divers others with him, for that way only was open, all the rest we had surrounded; we slew divers upon the top of the steeple, and some, they say, within the church. Our Major, with captain Hide, fired the church doore, and thrust at them with swords as they lookt out of the windowes, then presently they cride for quarter, which was granted them. We tooke sir Edward Mosley, baronet, one colonell, one sergeant-major, eleven captaines, three of them Cheshire men (capt. John Hurleston, capt. Massie of Cottington, and capt. Starkie). We tooke three colours from their troops, sir Thomas Aston's being one, and about 500 more, many of them commanders, and it's probable neere as many are fled to their houses, never to retorne to that partie againe. We have taken their ordinance and much powder. The souldiers tooke much spoyle from the prisoners, abundance of money, for they had converted their plundered ware into coyne, a multitude of muskets, buffe coates, scarfes, swords, satin doublets, &c. We lost six men, and about ten are wounded; wee slew of theirs about 30, that we know off, besides many wounded. Our gunpowder, by accident, was blowne up so soone as we entered the towne, but God supplied us more than treble out of our enemies store. Sir Thomas is fled that countrie; the array are in great perplexitie. The tiding of this coming to Nantwich, we turn'd our prayers into prayses, sent the belman to warne the towne to the church, to retorne God thanks for such an unparalel'd mercy which they did with great alacritic, and joyfull acclamations, in a full congregation. Upon Wednesday after, the colonell, with all the gentlemen, souldiers, and the whole towne, presented God with solemne thanksgiving, who hath hitherto crowned this countie with such glorious victories.

^a "Not unto us, Lord, not unto us, but to thy name bee all the glory; for by thy power we have beaten downe such as have risen up against us."

^b See the Account of the Siege of Nantwich, for particulars of these; vol. III. p. 224 [now 431-2]: Siege of Chester, vol. I. 204 [now 392-3]; and Tarvin, vol. II. 167 [now 309-10.—H.]

^c The details of these minor operations will be found under the severall heads here mentioned.

^d See vol. III. 228 [now 434.—H.]

and sir William Brereton relieved Nantwich, and defeated lord Byron, the greater part of whose army escaped to Chester, other portions surrendering in Acton church and Dorfold hall. The mansions of Crewe, Doddington, Withenshaw, Adlington, and Birkenhead, which had been garrisoned by the royalists, were successively taken by the parliament. The royalists had some advantages near Chester, but had two severe defeats at Old Castle Heath and Malpas, and were subsequently besieged by sir William Brereton in Beeston castle and Chester. Beeston was relieved in March by the princes Rupert and Maurice, and Chester by the report of the king's advance on May 4, 1645; but both sieges were subsequently resumed; and the actual arrival of the king and his troops at Chester, in Sept. 1645, only paved the way for a disastrous defeat of his army on Rowton heath, near the city, and a final

abandonment of Chester to its fate. The parliamentarians were now completely in military possession of the surrounding country; and the brave garrisons in these places, which had long held out without any hope of succour, surrendered by successive capitulations, Beeston being yielded up in November, 1645, and Chester in February following; * the blockade having been finally completed by the arrival of the Lancashire troops (from the siege of Lathom) at Dodleston, under the command of colonel John Booth.^b

With this capitulation, the first act of the revolutionary tragedy, as far as respected Cheshire, may be said to have closed; * and the only forces in the field for the king were defeated by sir William Brereton and others, on the 22d of March following, near Stow, in Gloucestershire, where their commander, the lord Astley, was himself taken prisoner; and the next opera-

^a P. xxxviii. *Col. John Booth*. There is considerable difficulty in identifying the relatives of sir George Booth engaged in the civil wars; and col. John Booth in some of the old pamphlets is called his nephew, as mentioned in note *b*. In others he is called his uncle, and it would seem from comparing dates, correctly so. *Col. John Booth*, then, who completed the blockade of Chester, and was afterwards governor of Chester for the king during sir George Booth's occupation of it (*Merc. Polit.* 584, p. 700) appears to be the first John Booth of Woodford, knighted in 1660, being probably one of those selected by his nephew in consequence of the permission granted by Charles II. *Lieut. John Booth* (one of the royalists taken at Winnington), was col. John Booth's younger son (*Merc. Pol.* 1659, p. 689), and Nathaniel Booth, also taken there, was the founder of the Mottram branch, and sir George Booth's brother. *Ormerod's Additions*, vol. III. 440.

^b An excellent narrative of all the operations connected with the siege of Chester, by Dr. Cowper of Overleigh, will be found in the account of that city, vol. I. pp. 203—209 [*now* 240-7.—H.]

^c Of Mottram, and nephew of sir George Booth. See *ped. vol. III. p. 325* [*now* 641-2; but see above.—II.]

^d The following list of the Cheshire Knights and Gentlemen who compounded with the parliament for their estates, is merely a transcript (with a few corrections) from the printed general catalogue of sufferers, but is inserted with the view of identifying a large portion of the families distinguished for their adherence to the royal cause in this unfortunate war. [This is a very short list for such a county; there can be but little doubt that many heads of families by moving about from place to place, and by reason of age or other infirmity, escaped altogether compromising themselves on either side.]

[Allen, William, of Bewdley	£.90	0	0]	Foord, George, of Congleton, merchant	£.12	9	0
Allen, Richard, sen. of Greenhill	110	0	0	Gamull, William, of Chester, gent.	225	0	0
Burges, William, of Macclesfield	50	0	0	Griffin, Richard, of Bartherton	50	0	0
Brereton, Richard, of Ashley.....	600	0	0	Crosvenor, sir Rich. of Eaton, bart. with £.130 per an. settled	1250	0	0
Berrington, Thomas, of Chester, gent.....	20	0	0	Horton, Ralph, of Cool, gent.	128	0	0
Boville, Stephen, of Brumley.....	35	0	0	Heath, Richard, of Weston, gent.	138	0	0
Bellet, John, sen. and John, his son, of Morton, esq.....	1005	5	0	Hurleston, John, of Pickton, esq.....	890	0	0
Bailow, Henry, of Chester.....	120	0	0	Holford, John, of Davenham, gent.	110	17	0
Berrington, Thomas, of Chester, esq.	20	0	0	Heath, Richard, of Egerton, gent.	237	0	0
Bennet, Thomas, of Barnston, [gent.]	95	0	0	Ilinton, William [of] Burton, gent.	90	0	0
Booth, Lawrence, of Tovin-Low, gent.	191	7	0	Heys, Richard, of Brereton	10	0	0
Burroughs, Stanley, of Bickley, esq.	298	3	0	Horton, Robert, of Cool, gent.	10	0	0
Bunbury, Henry, of Stanney, esq.* with £.25 per ann. settled	868	0	0	Hollingshead, Francis, [of] Boscley	2	6	8
Bavand, Daniel, of Chester, gent.	90	0	0	Hope, George, [of] Dodleston, esq.	503	10	0
Bridgman, Orlando, of Chester, esq.	865	5	9	Jerman, Richard, and Richard his son, of Newton.....	90	0	0
Barnston, William, of Churton, esq.....	567	0	0	Jemmyng, Ralph, [of] Manley, gent.	75	0	0
[Bromley, Tho. of Hampton, esq.....	320	0	0]	Jones, John, of Nantwich, gent.....	25	0	0
Brown, Richard, of Upton.....	24	15	0	Irish, William, of Newhall.....	58	0	0
[Bromfield, Robert, of Old-hall, Wilson (<i>sic</i>) gent.....	57	3	0]	King, John, of Cholmly, gent.	50	0	0
Brereton, lord William	1738	18	0	Kilmory, lord visc. with £.120 per ann. settled on the ministry	2306	0	0
Brereton, John, of Brereton, esq.	150	0	0	Kelsall, John, [of] Trafford, gent.....	236	0	0
Brerewood, sir Robert, of Chester.....	387	10	0	Kinsey, John, [of] Wimbaldsley, gent.....	80	0	0
Broster, Richard, of Chester, alderman	170	0	0	Knight, William, [of] Congleton	12	0	0
Bridge, Thomas, of Malpas, cler.	26	0	0	Ann, the widow of Thomas Leigh, of Adlington, esq.	603	7	8
Barrow, William, of Churton.....	60	0	0	Lawton, John, of Snape	54	0	0
Bickerton, George, Horschall, Chester	55	10	0	Leonard, Robert, of Tarvin	70	0	0
Cotton, George, [of] Combermeer	666	13	4	Leigh, Thomas, of Adlington, with £.56 per ann. settled.....	1040	0	0
Carter, Robert, Middlewich	47	0	0	Leigh, Edward, of Baguley, gent.....	300	0	0
Cleaford, John, of Over, yeoman	18	0	0	Leversage, William, sen. of Wheelock, esq.	260	0	0
Cholmondeley, lord.....	7742	0	0	Lawton, of Lawton, gent.	680	0	0
Cholmondeley, Thomas, Valc Royal, esq.	450	0	0	Leigh, Henry, of High Leigh, esq.	710	0	0
Cooper, Robert, of Runcorn	80	0	0	Larden, John, of Chomley	63	0	0
Cheshire, Thomas, of Halton, gent.....	100	0	0	Littler, Richard, [of] Mouldsworth	53	0	0
Caldcot, John, of Bickley, gent.	9	0	0	Leigh, John, of Adlington	60	0	0
[Cotton, Rich. <i>Recus. pro</i> Tho. Byrom.....	80	0	0]	Leigh, Charles, of the same	50	0	0
Cholmley, Thomas, of Bickley	2	10	0	Licester, Peter, jun., of Nether Tabley, esq.....	778	18	4
Dorrel, Thomas, of Edge	150	0	0	Massy, James, of Sale, gent.	52	0	0
Delves, sir Thomas, Doddington	1484	10	0	Morgell, Edward, of Chester, gent.	60	0	0
Dod, Edward, of Edge, esq.	93	6	8	[Minsball, of Valc-royal, gent.	740	0	0]
Davenport, William, Bramhall, esq.	745	0	0	Manwaring, Elisha, Marton	150	0	0
Fleock, Robert, of Acton	18	0	0	Maisterson, Thomas, of Woodford, gent.....	630	0	0
Edge, William, of Harlton.....	75	0	0	Moreton, William, [of] Moreton, esq.....	641	0	0
Edonhead, Richard, the elder, of Sutton	92	2	0	Manwaring, Peter, jun. of Smallwood, gent.....	100	0	0
Fletcher, John, of Marley, gent. and Richard, his son	318	0	0	Mallory, Richard, [of] Moberley, gent.	193	16	0
Frogg, John, of Whitby	58	8	0	Manwaring, Thomas, [of] Bostock, gent.....	142	0	0
Forest, Humphrey, of Over Tabley	16	16	8	Massy, sir Wm. of Fuddington, knt. with £.34 per ann. settled	1210	0	0

* He was also fined £2200, and plundered of £10,000 more. See *Bunbury*.—H.

† £1440 by another authority; but, as a fact, it exceeded £2000, though the real amounts often extorted cannot always be measured by even the Composition Papers. See also, *Addenda*, p. 896, for a heavy composition of the Rutters of Kingsley.—H.

tions worthy of notice were consequent on the report of the intended advance of Duke Hamilton and sir Mar- maduke Langdale, in 1648.

At a meeting of lieutenantancy held at Bowdon, May 23 in this year, it was resolved to raise, within the county, three regiments of 600 men each, to be severally com- manded by col. Croxton, col. Massie, and col. James Louthiane. The inhabitants, however, generally refused to enlist as late as July 19, before which time the loyal- ists on the Yorkshire and Derbyshire sides had made incursions into Cheshire, near Whaley Bridge, and had carried off to Pontefract all the horses found in the closes at the chamber of Macclesfield Forest,^a of which sir William Brereton was then steward. In the next month Hamilton and Langdale were successively routed by Cromwell in person, near Preston, in Lancashire, and the unfortunate duke was pursued by him to Warrington Bridge. He then passed through Nantwich, with 3000 men, to Uttoxeter, where he was taken prisoner, and in his route across Cheshire the gentlemen of the county took 500 of his troops, and many of his soldiers were

killed by the countrymen.^b About the same time a design was discovered to seize Chester castle for the king, and two officers connected with it were shot in the city corn-market.^c

The 30th of January following was marked by the murder of the Sovereign; and in the following year king Charles II. being in arms in Scotland, it was agreed at Middlewich, Aug. 20, 1650, that four regiments should be raised, consisting of 700 men each, to be commanded by three field-officers and five captains in each regiment. Col. Dukenfield had Wirral and Broxton hundreds; col. Croxton Nantwich, and part of Northwich; col. Brooke Edisbury, and parts of Bucklow and Northwich; and col. Henry Bradshaw had Macclesfield, and part of Bucklow, viz. the parishes of Bowdon, Mobberley, and part of Rosthorne.^d

The royal army marched through Cheshire towards Worcester, colonel Massie (who had changed his party) moving one day's march in advance, and were met at Warrington Bridge by Lambert, who retired before them;^e and here an important error was committed, in

Manwaring, sir Thomas, knight.....	£. 1	6	8	Spark, William, of Chester, alderman.....	£. 59	0	0
Niveton, William, of Parkhouse.....	24	0	0	Starkey, Henry, of Darley, esq.	617	3	0
Nichols, William, [of] Cheadle, D. D.	143	0	0	Savage, Thomas, of Barrow, gent.....	70	0	0
Nash, Philip, of Crew, gent.....	39	14	2	Sollito, Randolph, [of] Church-Lawton.....	8	10	0
Oldfield, Leftwich, of Leftwich, esq.....	154	14	0	Smith, William, [of] Withenshaw.....	1	0	0
Piggot, Thomas, of Butley.....	30	0	0	Taylor, John, of Brainstige.....	74	0	0
Pritchard, Philip, [of] Bostock.....	80	0	0	Thorp, Thomas, of Chester, gent.....	177	0	0
Pickford, Thomas [of] Adlington.....	16	15	0	Tatton, Robert, of Withenshaw, esq.....	707	13	4
Penket, Thomas, of Sutton.....	66	5	0	Vernon, Henry, of Haslington, gent.....	500	0	0
Pershall, Thomas, and Edward, [Chester].....	300	0	0	Venables, Peter, of Kinderton, esq. and Thomas his son.....	6150	0	0
Parkington, William, [of] Worrall [qy. Partington].....	5	0	0	Warren, Edward, and Edmund and Humphrey his uncles, of Pointon, gents.....	650	0	0
Peison, Thomas, [of] Over Tabley, gent.....	7	0	0	Walker, John, of Congleton.....	56	0	0
Renshaw, James, of Butley.....	12	0	0	Watts, George, of Adlington.....	440	0	0
Russel, Edward, of Chester, gent.....	370	0	0	Wood, Humphrey, of Pointon.....	10	0	0
Rode, Ranille, of Rode, esq. and Thomas his son.....	138	0	0	Weston, Thomas, sen. of Chester.....	190	0	0
Rivers, Elizabeth, countess dowager.....	100	0	0	Warden, John, and Robert his son, of Chester, gents.....	600	0	0
Rivers, earl John.....	1120	0	0	Wilbraham, sir Thomas, [of] Woodhay.....	2500	0	0
Renshaw, Robert, of Stopford, gent.....	3	10	0	Walley, Charles, of Chester, gent.....	268	10	0
Saethwicke, Thomas, [of] Sneathwick, gent.....	157	0	0	Whitmore, Valentine, [of] Thurstaston, Chester.....	250	0	0
Shirt, Dorothy, of Adlington.....	30	0	0	Wicksted, Richard, [of] Nantwich, gent.....	210	0	0
Sidway, Thomas, of Alsagher.....	50	0	0	Wildens, William, of Morley [qy. Norley].....	25	0	0
Smith, Thomas, of Nibly.....	40	0	0	Walthal, Alexander, [of] Rutley-heyes.....	164	0	0
Snell, George, of Gilding Sutton [Doctor].....	330	0	0	Webster, Robert, of Barrow.....	65	0	0
Stockton, Thomas, of Kidlington, gent.....	223	0	0	Wilbraham, Hugh, [of] Drakelow, gent.....	362	0	0
Smith, sir Thos. of Chester, knt, with £. 710 per ann. settled.....	2150	0	0	Wilson, John, of Chester, gent.....	142	10	0
Spurstow, George, [of] Spurstow, gent.....	56	0	0	Wicksted, Thomas, of Hampton, yeoman.....	56	0	0
Shackerley, Jeffery, of Holme, esq.....	784	0	0	Wilson, Richard, of Chester, gent.....	22	0	0
Shipton, Samuel, [of] Alderley, clerk.....	250	0	0	Woodnoth, Jonathan, of Shavington, gent.....	400	0	0
Savage, Thomas, of Beeston, esq.....	557	0	0	Yates, William, of Middlewich.....	17	0	0
Swaine, John, of Brereton.....	25	16	0				

The leaders of the parliamentary party may be collected from the following list of the commission of the peace for Cheshire, A. D. 1650.

William Lenthall, Speaker	Edmund Prideaux.	Edward Hyde.
Oliver Cromwell, lieutenant-gen.	George Booth, knight and bart.	Thomas Croxton.
Thomas lord Fairfax.	William Brereton, bart.	Jonathan Bruen.
John Bradshaw, lord president.	Henry Delves, bart.	Peter Dutton.
Bulstrode Whitlocke } lords commissioners	Henry Brooke.	Henry Birkenhead.
Richard Keble } of the	Thomas Stanley.	Henry Bradshaw.
John Lisle } Great Seal.	Robert Dukenfield.	Of the Quorum.
Henry Rolle, chief justice of the Upper Bench.	Thomas Manwaring.	Gilbert Gerard.
Thomas Fell, one of the Justices of Chester.	Thomas Marbury.	Henry Green.
John Bradshaw, attorney-gen. of Chester.	Thomas Brereton.	Richard Wright.
Humphrey Mackworth.		

^a See Correspondence of Henry Bradshaw, in Marple.

^b Heath's Chronicle, p. 332.

^c See post, p. 209 [note 246-7.--H].

^d Officers in the four regiments returned to London to the council of state:—

Colonel H. Brooke's. John Brooke, lieutenant-col.; John Bromhall, major; Ralph Pownall, John Lownes, Edward Stailefox, Tho. Latham, and Chency Bostock, captains.

Colonel R. Duckenfield's. Henry Birkenhead, lieutenant-col.; Simon Finch, major; John Stopford, Tho. Partington, John Corbett, Henry Green, sen. Jonathan Ridge, captains.

Colonel Croxton's. Gilbert Gerard, lieutenant-col.; Geo. Malborne, major; John Delves, Hugh Whitney, Tho. Malborne, Tho. Walley, John Holford, captains.

Colonel Bradshaw's. Lawrence Downes, lieutenant-col.; Alexander Newton, major; William Fitton, William Fallowes, William Watson, Edward Alscocke, Richard Grantham, captains.

All Bradshaw's regiment (except the chaplain) was in the battle at the city of Worcester, and consisted of 607 men, besides officers, according to a return signed by the colonel and other officers, of whom seven common men were killed, and one ensign and 12 common men wounded. Another return, in Bradshaw's hand-writing, makes the total, exclusive of officers, 967.—Marple papers.

^e Clarendon, iii. 400, 406. edit. 1717.