THE WOMAN IN WHITE.

PART THE SECOND. HARTRIGHT'S NARRATIVE.

I.

I open a new page. I advance my narrative by one week.

The history of the interval which I thus pass over must remain unrecorded. My heart turns faint, my mind sinks in darkness and confusion when I think of it. This must not be, if I, who write, am to guide, as I ought, you who read.

This must not be, if the clue that leads through the windings of the Story is to remain, from end to end, untangled in my hands.

A life suddenly changed—its whole purpose created afresh; its hopes and fears, its struggles, its interests, and its sacrifices, all turned at once and for ever into a new direction—this is the prospect which now opens before me, like the burst of view from a mountain's top. I left my narrative in the quiet shadow of Limmeridge church: I resume it, one week later, in the stir and turmoil of a London street.

The street is in a populous and a poor neighbourhood. The ground floor of one of the houses in it is occupied by a small news-vendor's shop; and the first floor and the second are let as furnished lodgings of the humblest kind.

I have taken those two floors, in an assumed name. On the upper floor I live, with a room to work in, a room to sleep in. On the lower floor, under the same assumed name, two women live, who are described as my sisters. I get my bread by drawing and engraving on wood for the cheap periodicals. My sisters are supposed to help me by taking in a little needlework. Our poor place of abode, our humble calling, our assumed relationship, and our assumed name, are all used alike as a means of hiding us in the house-forest of London. We are numbered no longer with the people whose lives are open and known. I am an obscure, unnoticed man, without patron or friend to help me. Marian Halcombe is nothing now, but my eldest sister, who provides for our household wants by the toil of her own hands. We two are at once the dupes and the agents of a daring imposture. We are the accomplices of mad Anne Catherick, who claims the name, the place, and the living personality of dear Lady Glyde.

That is our situation. That is the changed aspect in which we three must appear, henceforth, in this narrative, for many and many a page to come.

In the eye of reason and of law, in the estimation of relatives and friends, according to every received formality of civilised society, "Laura, Lady Glyde," lay buried with her mother in Limmeridge churchyard. Torn in her own lifetime from the list of the living, the daughter of Philip Wardle and the wife of Percival Glyde, might still exist for her sister, might still exist for me, but to all the world besides she was dead. Dead to her uncle who had renounced her; dead to the servants of the house, who had failed to recognise her; dead to the persons in authority who had transmitted her fortune to her husband and her aunt; dead to my mother and my sister, who believed me to be the dupe of an adventurer and the victim of a fraud; socially, morally, legally—dead.

And yet alive! Alive in poverty and in hiding. Alive, with the poor drawing-master to fight her battle, and to win the way back for her to her place in the world of living beings.

Did no suspicion, excited by my own knowledge of Anne Catherick's resemblance to her, cross my mind, when her face was first revealed to me? Not the shadow of a suspicion from the moment when she lifted the veil by the side of the inscription which recorded her death.

Before the sun of that day had set, before the last glimpse of the home which was closed against her had passed from our view, the farewell words I spoke, when we parted at Limmeridge House, had been recalled by both of us; repeated by me, recognised by her. "If ever the time comes, when the devotion of my whole heart and soul and strength will give you a moment's happiness, or spare you a moment's sorrow, will you try to remember the poor drawing-master who has taught you?" She, who now remembered so little of the trouble and the terror of a later time, remembered those words, and held her poor head innocently and trustingly on the bosom of the man who had spoken them. In that moment, when she called me by my name, when she said, "They have tried to make me forget everything, Walter; but I remember Marian, and I remember you!"—in that moment, I who had long since given her my love, gave her my life, and thanked God that it was mine to bestow on her. Yes! the time had come. From thousands on thousands of miles away;
through forest and wilderness, where companions stronger than I had fallen by my side; through peril of death three times renewed, and thrice escaped, the Hand that leads men on the dark road to the future, had led me to meet that time. Forlorn and disowned, sorely tried and sadly changed; her beauty faded, her mind clouded; robbed of her station in the world, of her place among living creatures, the devotion I had promised, the devotion of my whole heart and soul and strength might he laid blamelessly, now, at those dear feet. In the right of her calamity, in the right of her friendlessness, she was mine at last! Mine to support, to protect, to cherish, to restore. Mine to love and honour as father and brother both. Mine to vindicate through all risks and all sacrifices—through the hopeless struggle against Rank and Power, through the long fight with armed Deceit and fortified Success, through the waste of my reputation, through the loss of my friends, through the hazard of my life.

11.

My position is defined; my motives are acknowledged. The story of Marian and the story of Laura must come next.

I shall relate both narratives, not in the words (often interrupted, often ineradicably confused) of the speakers themselves, but in the words of the brief, plain, studiously simple abstract which I committed to writing for my own guidance, and for the guidance of my legal adviser. So the tangled web will be most speedily and most intelligibly unravelled.

The story of Marian begins, where the narrative of the housekeeper at Blackwater Park left off.

On Lady Glyde's departure from her husband's house, the fact of that departure, and the necessary statement of the circumstances under which it had taken place, were communicated to Miss Halcombe by the housekeeper. It was not till some days afterwards (how many days exactly, Mrs. Michelson, in the absence of any written memorandum on the subject, could not undertake to say) that a letter arrived from Madame Fosco announcing Lady Glyde's sudden death in Count Fosco's house. The letter avoided mentioning dates, and left it to Mrs. Michelson's discretion to break the news at once to Miss Halcombe, or to defer doing so until that lady's health should be more firmly established.

Having consulted Mr. Dawson (who had been himself delayed, by ill health, in resuming his attendance at Blackwater Park), Mrs. Michelson, by the doctor's advice and in the doctor's presence, communicated this news, either on the day when the letter was received, or on the day after. It is not necessary to dwell here upon the effect which the intelligence of Lady Glyde's sudden death produced on her sister. It is only useful to the present purpose to say that she was not able to travel for more than three weeks afterwards. At the end of that time she proceeded to London, accompanied by the housekeeper. They parted there; Mrs. Michelson previously informing Miss Halcombe of her address, in case they might wish to communicate at a future period.

On parting with the housekeeper, Miss Halcombe went at once to the office of Messrs. Gilmore and Kyrie, to consult with the latter gentleman, in Mr. Gilmore's absence. She mentioned to Mr. Kyrie, what she had thought it desirable to conceal from everyone else (Mrs. Michelson included)—her suspicion of the circumstances under which Lady Glyde was said to have met her death. Mr. Kyrie, who had previously given friendly proof of his anxiety to serve Miss Halcombe, at once undertook to make such inquiries as the delicate and dangerous nature of the investigation proposed to him would permit.

To exhaust this part of the subject before going further, it may be here mentioned that Count Fosco offered every facility to Mr. Kyrie, on that gentleman's stating that he was sent by Miss Halcombe to collect such particulars as had not yet reached her of Lady Glyde's decease. Mr. Kyrie was placed, in communication with the medical man, Mr. Goodricke, and with the two servants. In the absence of any means of ascertaining the exact date of Lady Glyde's departure from Blackwater Park, the result of the doctor's and the servants' evidence, and of the volunteered statements of Count Fosco and his wife, was conclusive to the mind of Mr. Kyrie. He could only assume that the intensity of Miss Halcombe's suffering under the loss of her sister, had misled her judgment in a most deplorable manner; and he wrote her word that the shocking suspicion to which she had alluded in his presence, was, in his opinion, destitute of the smallest fragment of foundation in truth. Thus the investigation by Mr. Gilmore's partner began and ended.

Meanwhile, Miss Halcombe had returned to Limmeridge House; and had there collected all the additional information which she was able to obtain.

Mr. Fairlie had received his first intimation of his niece's death from his sister, Madame Fosco; this letter also not containing any exact reference to dates. He had sanctioned his sister's proposal that the deceased lady should be laid in her mother's grave in Limmeridge churchyard. Count Fosco had accompanied the remains to Cumberland, and had attended the funeral at Limmeridge, which took place on the 2nd of August. It was followed, as a mark of respect, by all the inhabitants of the village and the neighbourhood. On the next day, the inscription (originally drawn out, it was said, by the aunt of the deceased lady, and submitted for approval to her brother, Mr. Fairlie) was engraved on one side of the monument over the tomb.

On the day of the funeral, and for one day after, Count Fosco had been received as a guest at Limmeridge House; but no interview had taken place between Mr. Fairlie and himself, by the former gentleman's desire. They
had communicated by writing; and, through this medium, Count Fosco had made Mr. Fairlie acquainted with the details of his niece’s last illness and death. The letter presenting this information added no new facts to the facts already known; but one very remarkable paragraph was contained in the postscript. It referred to the woman Anne Cathérick.

The substance of the paragraph in question was as follows:

It first informed Mr. Fairlie that Anne Cathérick (of whom he might hear full particulars from Miss Halcombe when she reached Limmeridge) had been traced and recovered in the neighbourhood of Blackwater Park, and had been, for the second time, placed under the charge of the medical man from whose custody she had once escaped.

This was the first part of the postscript. The second part warned Mr. Fairlie that Anne Cathérick’s mental malady had been aggravated by her long freedom from control; and that the insane hatred and distrust of Sir Percival Glyde, which had been one of her most marked delusions in former times, still existed, under a newly-acquired form. The unfortunate woman’s last idea in connexion with Sir Percival, was the idea of annoying and distressing him, and of elevating herself, as she supposed, in the estimation of the patients and nurses, by assuming the character of his deceased wife; the scheme of this personation having evidently occurred to her, after a stolen interview which she had succeeded in obtaining with Lady Glyde, and at which she had observed the extraordinary accidental likeness between the deceased lady and herself. It was to the last degree improbable that she would succeed a second time in escaping from the Asylum; but it was just possible she might find some means of annoying the late Lady Glyde’s relatives with letters; and, in that case, Mr. Fairlie was warned beforehand how to receive them.

The postscript, expressed in these terms, was shown to Miss Halcombe, when she arrived at Limmeridge. There were also placed in her possession the clothes Lady Glyde had worn, and the other effects she had brought with her to her aunt’s house. They had been carefully collected and sent to Cumberland by Madame Fosco.

Such was the posture of affairs when Miss Halcombe reached Limmeridge, in the early part of September. Shortly afterwards, she was confined to her room by a relapse; her weakened physical energies giving way under the severe mental affliction from which she was now suffering. On getting stronger again, in a month’s time, her suspicion of the circumstances described as attending her sister’s death, still remained unshaken. She had heard nothing, in the interim, of Sir Percival Glyde; but letters had reached her from Madame Fosco, making the most affectionate inquiries on the part of her husband and herself. Instead of answering these letters, Miss Halcombe caused the house in St. John’s Wood, and the proceed-ings of its inmates, to be privately watched. Nothing doubtful was discovered. The same result attended the next investigations, which were secretly instituted on the subject of Mrs. Rubelle. She had arrived in London, about six months before, with her husband. They had come from Lyons; and they had taken a house in the neighbourhood of Leicester-square, to be fitted up as a boarding-house for foreigners, who were expected to visit England in large numbers to see the Exhibition of 1851. Nothing was known against husband or wife, in the neighbourhood. They were quiet people; and they had paid their way honestly up to the present time. The final enquiries related to Sir Percival Glyde. He was settled in Paris; and living there quietly in a small circle of English and French friends.

Boiled at all points, but still not able to rest, Miss Halcombe next determined to visit the Asylum in which Anne Cathérick was for the second time confined. She had felt a strong curiosity about the woman in former days; and she was now doubly interested—first, in ascertaining whether the report of Anne Cathérick’s attempted personation of Lady Glyde was true; and, secondly (if it proved to be true), in discovering for herself what the poor creature’s real motives were for attempting the deceit.

Although Count Fosco’s letter to Mr. Fairlie did not mention the address of the Asylum, that important omission cost no difficulties in Miss Halcombe’s way. When Mr. Hartwright had met Anne Cathérick at Limmeridge, she had informed him of the locality in which the house was situated; and Miss Halcombe had noted down the direction in her diary, with all the other particulars of the interview, exactly as she heard them from Mr. Hartwright’s own lips. Accordingly, she looked back at the entry, and extracted the address; furnished herself with the Count’s letter to Mr. Fairlie, as a species of credential which might be useful to her; and started by herself for the Asylum, on the eleventh of October.

She passed the night of the eleventh in London. It had been her intention to sleep at the house inhabited by Lady Glyde’s old governess; but Mrs. Vesey’s agitation at the sight of her lost pupil’s nearest and dearest friend was so distressing, that Miss Halcombe considerably refrained from remaining in her presence, and removed to a respectable boarding-house in the neighbourhood, recommended by Mr. Vesey. The next day, she proceeded to the Asylum, which was situated, not far from London, on the northern side of the metropolis. She was immediately admitted to see the proprietor. At first, he appeared to be decidedly unwilling to let her communicate with his patient. But, on her showing him the postscript to Count Fosco’s letter—on her reminding him that she was the “Miss Halcombe” there referred to—that she was a near relative of the deceased Lady Glyde; and that she was therefore naturally interested, for family reasons, in observing for herself the extent of Anne Cathérick’s delusion, in relation to her late sister—the tone and manner
of the owner of the Asylum altered, and he withdrew his objections. He probably felt that a continued refusal, under these circumstances, would not only be an act of discourtesy in itself, but also imply that the proceedings in his establishment were not of a nature to bear investigation by respectable strangers.

Miss Halcombe's own impression was that the owner of the Asylum had not been received into the confidence of Sir Percival and the Count. His consenting at all to let her visit his patient seemed to afford one proof of this, and his readiness in making admissions which could scarcely have escaped the lips of an accomplice, certainly appeared to furnish another.

For example, in the course of the introductory conversation which took place, he informed Miss Halcombe that Anne Catherick had been brought back to him, with the necessary order and certificates, by Count Posco, on the thirtieth of July; the Count producing a letter of explanations and instructions, signed by Sir Percival Glyde. On receiving his inmate again, he (the proprietor of the Asylum) acknowledged that he had observed some curious personal changes in her. Such changes, no doubt, were not without precedent in his experience of persons mentally afflicted. Insane people were often, at one time, outwardly as well as inwardly, unlike what they were at another; the change from better to worse, or from worse to better, in the madness, having a necessary tendency to produce alterations of appearance externally. He allowed for these; and he allowed also for the modification in the form of Anne Catherick's delusion, which was reflected, no doubt, in her manner and expression. But he was still perplexed, at times, by certain differences between his patient before she had escaped, and his patient since she had been brought back. Those differences were too minute to be described. He could not say, of course, that she was absolutely altered in height or shape or complexion, or in the colour of her hair and eyes, or in the general form of her face: the change was something that he felt, more than something that he saw. In short, the case had been a puzzle from the first, and one more perplexity was added to it now.

It cannot be said that this conversation led to the result of even partially preparing Miss Halcombe's mind for what was to come. But it produced, nevertheless, a very serious effect upon her. She was so completely unmoved by it, that some little time elapsed before she could summon composure enough to follow the proprietor of the Asylum to that part of the house in which the inmates were confined.

On inquiry, it turned out that Anne Catherick was then taking exercise in the grounds attached to the establishment. One of the nurses volunteered to conduct Miss Halcombe to the place; the proprietor of the Asylum remaining in the house for a few minutes to attend to a case which required his services, and then engaging to join his visitor in the grounds.

The nurse led Miss Halcombe to a distant part of the property, which was prettily laid out; and, after looking about her a little, turned into a turf walk, shaded by a shrubbery on either side. About half way down this walk, two women were slowly approaching. The nurse pointed to them, and said, "There is Anne Catherick, ma'am, with the attendant who waits on her. The attendant will answer any questions you wish to put." With those words the nurse left her, to return to the duties of the house.

Miss Halcombe advanced on her side, and the women advanced on theirs. When they were within a dozen paces of each other, one of the women stopped for an instant, looked eagerly at the strange lady, shook off the nurse's grasp on her, and, the next moment, rushed into Miss Halcombe's arms. In that moment Miss Halcombe recognised her sister—recognised the dead-alive.

Fortunately for the success of the measures taken subsequently, no one witnessed this recognition but the nurse. She was a young woman; and she was so startled by it that she was at first quite incapable of interfering. When she was able to do so, her whole services were required by Miss Halcombe, who had for the moment sunk altogether in the effort to keep her own senses under the shock of the discovery. After waiting a few minutes in the fresh air and the cool shade, her natural energy and courage helped her a little, and she became sufficiently mistress of herself to feel the necessity of recalling her presence of mind for her unfortunate sister's sake.

She obtained permission to speak alone with the patient, on condition that they both remained well within the nurse's view. There was no time for questions—there was only time for Miss Halcombe to impress on the unhappy lady the necessity of controlling herself, and to assure her of immediate help and rescue if she did so. The prospect of escaping from the Asylum by obedience to her sister's directions, was sufficient to quiet Lady Glyde, and to make her understand what was required of her. Miss Halcombe next returned to the nurse, placed all the gold she then had in her pocket (three sovereigns) in the nurse's hands, and asked when and where she could speak to her alone.

The woman was at first surprised and distrustful. But, on Miss Halcombe's declaring that she only wanted to put some questions which she was too much agitated to ask at that moment, and that she had no intention of misleading the nurse into any dereliction of duty, the woman took the money, and proposed three o'clock on the next day as the time for the interview. She might then slip out for half an hour, after the patients had dined; and she would meet the lady in a retired place, outside the high north wall which screened the grounds of the house. Miss Halcombe had only time to assent, and to whisper to her sister that she should hear from her on the next day, when the proprietor of the Asylum joined them. He noticed his visitor's agitation, which Miss Halcombe accounted for by saying that her interview with Anne Catherick was then taking place, and that she was about to return to the patients.
rick had a little startled her; at first. She took
her leave as soon after as possible—that is to
say, as soon as she could summon courage to
force herself from the presence of her unfor-
tunate sister.
A very little reflection, when the capacity to
reflect returned, convinced her that any attempt to
identify Lady Glyde and to rescue her by
legal means, would, even if successful, involve
delay that might be fatal to her sister's in-
tellects, which were shaken already by the horror
of the situation to which she had been consigned.
By the time Miss Halcombe had got back to
London, she had determined to effect Lady
Glyde's escape privately, by means of the
nurse.
She went at once to her stockbroker; and
sold out of the funds all the little property she
possessed, amounting to rather less than seven
hundred pounds. Determined, if necessary, to
pay the price of her sister's liberty with every
farthing she had in the world, she repaired the
next day, having the whole sum about her, in
bank-notes, to her appointment outside the
Asylum wall.
The nurse was there. Miss Halcombe ap-
proached the subject cautiously by many pre-
liminary questions. She discovered among other
particulars, that the nurse who had, in former
times, attended on the true Anne Catherick, had
been held responsible (although she was not to
blame for it) for the patient's escape, and had
lost her place in consequence. The same penalty,
it was added, would attach to the person then
speaking to her, if the supposed Anne Catherick
was missing a second time; and, moreover, the
nurse, in this case, had an especial interest in
keeping her place. She was engaged to be mar-
rried; and she and her future husband were waiting
till they could save, together between two and
three hundred pounds to start in business. The
nurse's wages were good; and she might suc-
cceed, by strict economy, in contributing her
small share towards the sum required in two
years' time.

On this hint, Miss Halcombe spoke. She
declared that the supposed Anne Catherick
was nearly related to her; that she had been
placed in the Asylum, under a fatal mistake; and
that the nurse would be doing a good and a
Christian action in being the means of restoring
them to one another. Before there was time
to start a single objection, Miss Halcombe took
four bank-notes of a hundred pounds each from
her pocket-book, and offered them to the woman,
as a compensation for the risk she was to run,
and for the loss of her place.
The nurse hesitated, through sheer incredulity
and surprise. Miss Halcombe pressed the point
on her firmly.
"You will be doing a good action," she re-
peated; "you will be helping the most injured
and unhappy woman alive. There is your mar-
rriage-portion for a reward. Bring her safely to
me, here; and I will put these four bank-notes
into your hand, before I claim her."
"Will you give me a letter saying those words,
which I can show to my sweetheart, when he
asks how I got the money?" inquired the
woman.
"I will bring the letter with me, ready written
and signed," answered Miss Halcombe.
"Then I'll risk it," said the nurse.
"When?"
"To-morrow."

It was hastily agreed between them that Miss
Halcombe should return early the next morn-
ing, and wait out of sight, among the trees
—always, however, keeping near the quiet spot
of ground under the north wall. The nurse
could fix no time for her appearance; caution
requiring that she should wait, and be guided by
circumstances. On that understanding, they
separated.

Miss Halcombe was at her place, with the
promised letter, and the promised bank-notes,
before ten the next morning. She waited more
than an hour and a half. At the end of that
time, the nurse came quickly round the corner
of the wall, holding Lady Glyde by the arm.
The moment they met, Miss Halcombe put the
bank-notes in the letter into her hand—and the
sisters were united again.

The nurse had dressed Lady Glyde, with ex-
cellent forethought, in a bonnet, veil, and shawl
of her own. Miss Halcombe only detained her
to suggest a means of turning the pursuit in a
false direction, when the escape was discovered
at the Asylum. She was to go back to the house;
to mention in the hearing of the other nurses
that Anne Catherick had been inquiring, lat-
tery, about the distance from London to
Hampshire; to wait till the last moment, before
discovery was inevitable; and then to give the
alarm that Anne was missing. The supposed
inquiries about Hampshire, when communicated
to the owner of the Asylum, would lead him to
suppose that his patient had returned to Black-
water Park, under the influence of the delusion
which made her persist in asserting herself to
the Lady of the House; and the first pursuit would, in
all probability, be turned in that direction.

The nurse consented to follow these sugges-
tions—the more readily, as they offered her the
means of securing herself against any worse
consequences than the loss of her place, by re-
mainning in the Asylum, and so maintaining
the appearance of innocence, at least. She at once
returned to the house; and Miss Halcombe lost
no time in taking her sister back with her to
London. They caught the afternoon train to
Carlisle the same afternoon, and arrived at Lim-
meridge, without accident or difficulty of any
kind, that night.

During the latter part of their journey, they
were alone in the carriage, and Miss Halcombe
was able to collect such remembrances of the
past as her sister's confused and weakened
memory was able to recall. The terrible story
of the conspiracy so obtained, was presented in
fragments, sadly incoherent in themselves, and
widely detached from each other. Imperfect as
the revelation was, it must nevertheless be re-
corded here before this explanatory narrative
closes with the events of the next day at Limeridge House.

The following particulars comprise all that Miss Halcombe was able to discover.

COMMONS AND KING.

On the 4th of January, 1642, a certain royal gentleman, to whom a romantic posterity has accorded high moral honours, and who, by virtue of plots that always failed, rose gradually to the place and rank of martyrdom, began that great civil war of ours, which resulted in the scaffold for him and the Protectorate for ourselves. He began it, by one of the crafistest attempts against the liberties of Parliament which he had ever ventured on; an attempt made, not in the heat of sudden passion and unadvisedly, as his partisans would have it, but as the result of mature deliberation, and with distinct and settled purpose. Ever since the death of Strafford, Charles the First had resolved to revenge himself on the insolent Commons, who had not only slain his friend, but opposed his own authority; and his impeachment of the Five Members was the latest form which this resolution took—after it had taken not a few others.

This is the great point in Charles's career which Clarendon, Hume, and his partisans generally have always misstated, and which now, for the first time, Mr. John Fonnerin, in a noble book, The Arrest of the Five Members, has presented in its true light. From the Journal kept by D'Ewes, and from other records of the State Paper-office, Mr. Forster clearly and indisputably proves the king's resolution to break with the Commons, and force on them either annihilation as a representative and independent body, or the quarrel which ended in their victory. The arrest was but one of the means of the struggle which Strafford began and Charles continued, and which had a far deeper significance than personal enmity or momentary passion.

The troubles now at hand, when the Commons and the king were to stand foot to foot, and measure swords together, immediately followed on the gorgeous City banquet which the Royalist Lord Mayor, Sir Richard Gourney, gave to Charles on his return from Scotland; when Royalist matters looked so bright, and when the Royalist party showed so strong, that the king made sure he had weathered the storm for good and all, and had nothing to do but sail into port, colours flying and yards manned, like the triumphant prince he was. But suspicions soon got afoot that all was not so fair for him as it looked, and, that the gliterring pageant which monarchy took as born of the eternal veracities, was but a flimsy matter of lath and plaster—nothing more. Many people began to fear for the future. One Mr. Sidney Berek, not a very notorious personage in history, wrote thus: "I pray God we find not that we have flattered ourselves with an imaginary strength and partie in the city and elsewhere, which will fall away if need would be," and a Mr. Slingby, another personage doubtless of great importance at the time, but now of historical insignificance, wrote many bewailings to Pennington—that Pennington who was soon to do Charles the service of carrying across Channel his queen, the crown jewels, and Lord Digby; and whom the king had secretly made Lord Admiral on the dismissal of Lord Northumberland. Parliament, however, finding out that royal dodge, cancelled the appointment; not wishing to trust the four seas into the keeping of one of the most thorough-going Royalists about him. This Pennington did great service to his cause, nevertheless. There was another terrified soul, failing sadly in the presence of possible danger. Mean-spirited, craven-hearted, Mr. Speaker Lenthal, foreseeing evil days between the king's majesty and the people's House, wrote a letter full of whine and whimper, desiring to be relieved from his office, which might bring him into unpleasant collision with one or both, in the clash so sure to come. He was kept in, sorely against his will; and strangely enough, when the time came, rose to the height of the situation like a nobler man. But a great time, directed by great men, may bear up small men for the nonce: as a great water may.

The last dish of the grand City banquet, which made Charles forget his danger and act as if his power were eternal and immutat, was scarcely cold, when the citizens began again to throng round Westminster, by the thousand, and settled wrath in their faces, crying out against Episcopacy. But the king's code of kinsmen was coercion, not conciliation. The best manner that occurred to him of answering those rough cries, so hourlessly uttered, was by removing the popular train bands on guard at the two Houses, and substituting companies officered by his own adherents; by making an offensive order on the matter of religious worship; by recasting the list of court officers, so that he might make privy councillors of the most notorious opponents of the Great Remonstrance; by assailing the privileges of the House of Commons, in sending them an angry message disapproving their discussion of a bill for raising soldiers by impressment; by proclaiming the severest execution of the statutes against all who should question or impugn the Book of Common Prayer, on the very day after the citizens had presented a petition against the bishops; and, finally, while pressing hard against Puritan offenders, remitting their pains and penalties against certain Roman Catholics who had transgressed the existing law. These were either the acts of a madman, as Mr. Forster says, or the acts of a despot, determined at all hazards to override justice, legality, and the popular will.

Another point of disagreement between the king and the people lay in the governorship of the Tower—the Bridle of the City, as it was called. Honest Balfour was suddenly removed from his command by the king's orders, and the keys were given to Colonel Lumsford, a dissolute "young outlaw, who feared neither God nor man." The Commons peti-