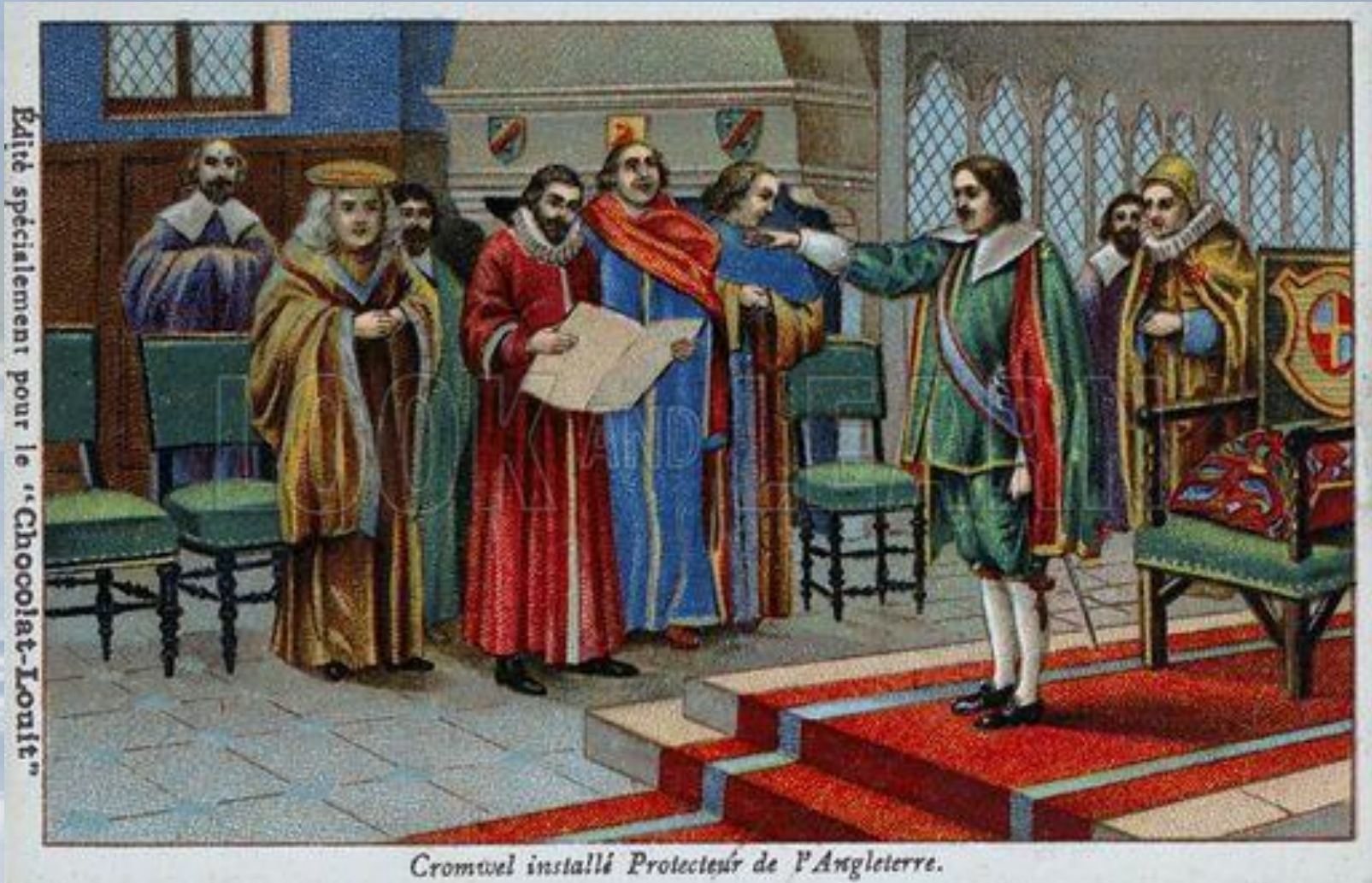


OLIVER CROMWELL



Hi, everybody! Let me introduce myself. My name is Oliver Cromwell. Why am I famous?

Well, in a way , I am the one to be blamed or thanked for the execution of King Charles I, just to start with.

I did what I strongly believed to improve my country, but let me tell you my story, so you can judge yourself!



I was raised in
modest family.

My father died when I
was 18. I was the
second of ten
children, hence, I had
a big family to look
after.

I had to sell the
land and rent a
cheaper farm in
order to survive!



Gentry «modest»

- When Cromwell refers to himself as «modest», he actually means «modest» for his rank, as he belongs to the «gentry» (small nobility/landowners).
- His family became gentry thanks to the sharing of the Church's wealth and lands since Henry VIII.
- Not rich but well connected.
- He developed a deep hatred towards the Church of Rome.
- Recovering from a bad illness, he commented:
“Emerging from darkness to light, the light of puritanism”



No money, no prospects.
I even thought about
joining the Pilgrim
Fathers and emigrate. I
was a broken man!

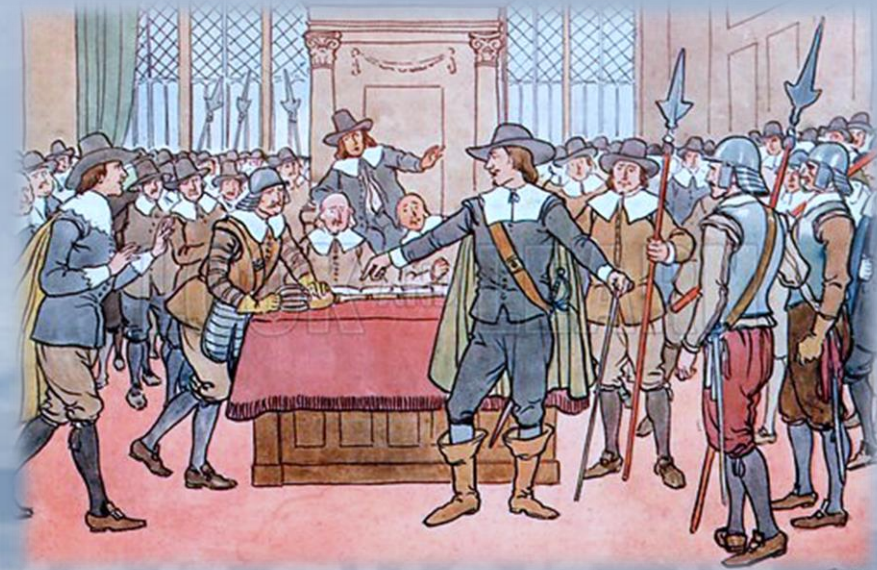
But then , all of a sudden, luck
was on my side: my uncle –
may rest his souls - died and
left me his house and estates!!



The same year I was given
also the position of tithes
collector too. I was
respectful again!

I became also Mp during the Long Parliament for Cambridge.

My speeches inflamed the assembly and I started to be seen as a leader.

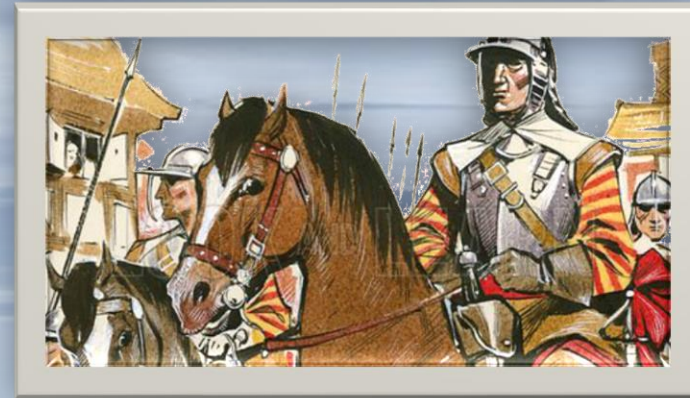


Hence, I became the leader of the Parliamentarians during the Civil War!



The New Model Army

- Cromwell improved the army (disciplined cavalry, ironsides).
- In 1645 the reformed army was called : **New Model Army**
- The roylists surrendered in 1646 in the Battle of Naseby (1° civil war).
- There were about 200.000 deaths
- Parliamentarians won over Scottish Royalist in 1648 (2° civil war)
- **Prides Purge**: mps hostile to the New Model Army and the King's trial were banned from the House of Commons. Only about 60 mps remained eventually.
- Parliament was now called "The Rump"
- At that point, the king was arrested and tried.
- This put an end to the civil war .



Those days I didn't have in mind to have the King arrested and killed, to be sure!

I just wanted a new constitution, with a monarchy under the control of Parliament, of course, but just for the sake of England. Nothing would have happened, hadn't you been so stubborn.

But, come on, how could I have accepted the authority of Parliament over me? I was chosen by god! God!! Do you understand?





The most hated man in Ireland



- Cromwell led a brutal and ferocious parliamentary invasion of Ireland.
- Churches and monasteries were turned into stables .
- Catholicism was banned and priests executed.
- He used the press to spread false charges of homicides, treasons to justify the confiscation of Irish goods.
- At the end of the Irish war in 1650 thousands of people died especially in the North of the country.
- The resettlement of Northern Ireland with English Anglican people was decided. This was the beginning of the bloody religious and social conflicts which have not yet completely expired.



I am not ashamed of what I did! Those papists needed a good lesson!

They had to understand who was in charge then! And I am sure they did!



The reckoning with Scotland

- In 1651 Cromwell won over Scotland (3rd civil war) which had recognized Charles II as heir and king to the throne of Scotland.
- Thousands were massacred including women and children.
- Now England ruled over Scotland and Ireland.
- Back to the Commons Cromwell demanded :
 1. new elections
 2. unifying the 3 countries
 3. establishing a new Church which would be tolerant to most people

As the Rump up to 1653 had passed no laws
Cromwell surrounded Westminster
with the army



No way,
to be left
alone!





*«you have sat too long for any good you have been doing lately...
In the name of God, go!»*

.....and dissolved Parliament.



No way! No way!

You are telling me, that Cromwell downsized Parliament to dissolve it eventually.....

....and nobody dared say anything! I was beheaded just for having tried!!



Becoming a King?

- **July 1653:** 144 Mps were chosen (saintliness was required).
- But rather than ruling, they dissolved and gave power to Oliver Cromwell.
- **December 1653:** the new Parliament with 400 representatives of England, Scotland and Ireland appointed Cromwell Lord Protector.
- In 1657 Parliament made Cromwell king.
- Cromwell already lived in Charles I's palaces and was usually called Royal Highness
- He was “crowned” on 26th June 1657, but he kept only the title of Lord Protector.



I was tempted , I admit, but my conscience couldn't allow me to accept the title.



By the ways, I decided to change my signature from Olicer C. to Oliver P. (which stood for Protector).

In short, now there is a man in charge of the country, who has the power of the king, dissolves Parliaments, raises armies and collects taxes exactly as Charles I used to do.....

This is what I am saying!!!!



When some Royalists rebelled, they were crushed and this gave the chance to Cromwell to set up a military dictatorship

When Parliament tried to reduce his power and that of the army, he dissolved it.

Even people started to have enough. Any leisure was, actually, forbidden.





Cromwell's death

- Cromwell died on 3 September 1658, aged 59.
- There was a terrible tempest the night he died and people said it was Satan who had come to take his soul.
- Cromwell appointed his son, Richard, as his successor, but he didn't have his nerve.
- In 1660 Parliament restored Charles II.



I had his enemies executed and I punished even those who had already died like John Bradshaw and Henry Ireton .

But I didn't mean to bury the hatchet! I wanted my father to be revenged

Cromwell's body was dug up, put on trial and hung from the gallows at Tyburn, then his head was chopped off!

Cromwell's head was placed on a spike on the roof of Westminster Hall so as that any body could understand who was the King now



Charles II



Now, I am sure,
you believe I
deserved all this!

But, in a way I
launched the age of
rebellions against
authorities and
monarchies.



And undoubtedly I
influenced the making
of the future
constitutional
monarchy.

So, I have not
repented. I
acted
according to
God's will.

Cromwell's head



He really
took it
badly!!!!

And someone
even calls him
«The Merry
King!»

There is
nothing
merry going
on here!



The posthumous execution of John Bradshaw, Henry Ireton and Oliver Cromwell.