

THE  
CHARGE  
OF THE  
COMMONS  
OF  
ENGLAND,  
Against Charles Stuart,  
King of *England*,

Of High Treason, and other High Crimes,  
exhibited to the High Court of Justice,  
By *John Cook* Esquire, Solicitor General,  
appointed by the said Court, for,  
and on the behalf of the  
People of *England*.

As it was read to Him by the Clerk in the said  
Court, as soon as Mr. Solicitor General for the Kingdom  
had Impeached Him, in the name of the Commons  
of *England*, at His first Araignment,  
*Jan 20*. Saturday, Jan. 20. 1648.

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Examined by the Original Copy. *Imprimatur, Gilbert Mabbot.*

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London, Printed for *Rapha Harford*, at the Gilt Bible in Queens-Head-Alley  
in Pater-noster-Row. 1648.

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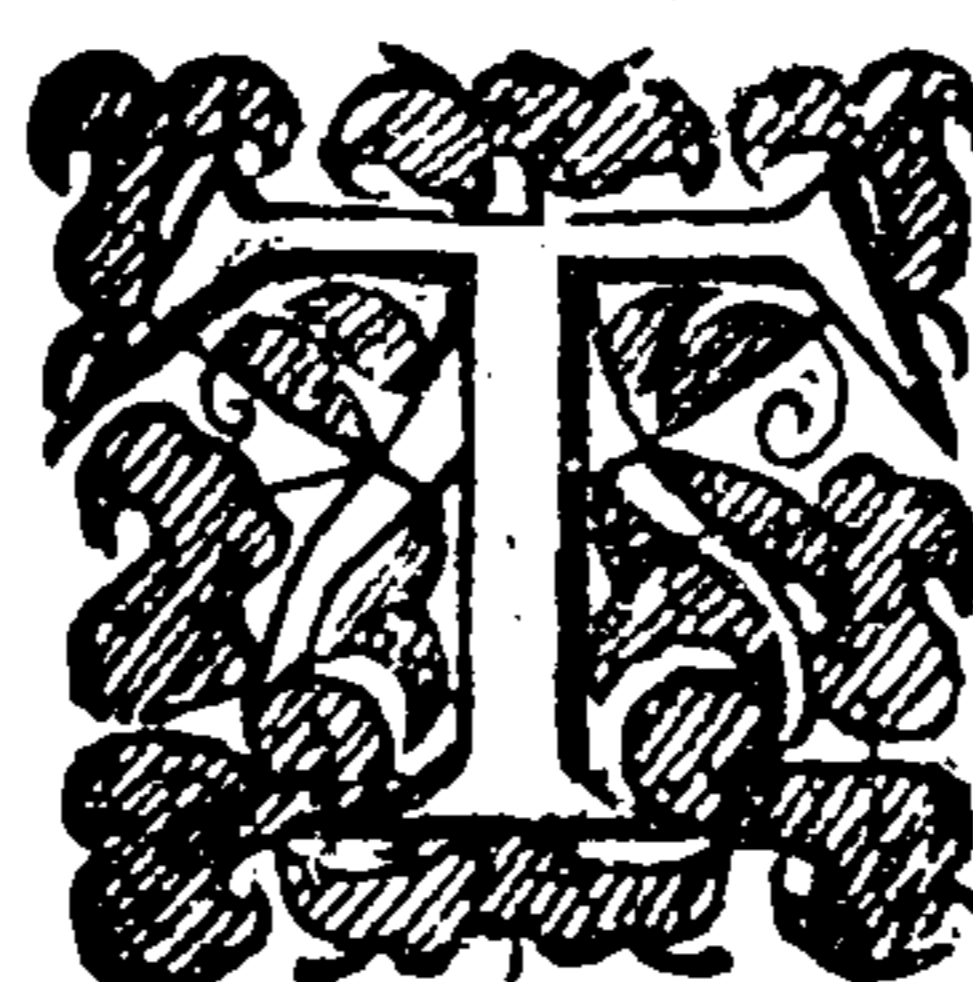
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THE

Charge of the Commons of *England*,  
against CHARLS STUART,  
King of *England*,

Of High Treason, and other High Crimes,  
exhibited to the High Court of Justice,  
Saturday, January 20. 1648.

The Court being sate, and the Prisoner at the  
Bar, Mr. *Cook*, Solicitor General, spake thus; My  
Lord, In behalf of the Commons of *England*, and  
of all the people thereof, I do accuse *Charls Stuart*,  
here present, of High Treason, and High Misdemeanors: And I do, in the name of the Commons  
of *England*, desire the Charge may be read unto  
Him, which the Clerk then read, as followeth;



That the said CHARLS STUART,  
being admitted King of England,  
and therein trusted with a *limited*  
*Power*, to Govern by, and according  
to the Laws of the Land, and  
not otherwise; And by his Trust, Oath, and Of-  
fice, being obliged to use the power committed  
to him, *For the good and benefit of the People*, and  
for the preservation of their Rights and Liber-  
ties; Yet nevertheless, out of a *wicked Design*, to  
erect and uphold in himself an unlimited and  
Tyrannicall power, to rule according to his *Will*,

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and to overthrow the Rights and Liberties of the People; Yea, to take away, and make void the foundations thereof, and of all redress and remedy of mis-government, which by the fundamental Constitutions of this Kingdom, were reserved on the Peoples behalf, in the Right and Power of frequent and successive Parliaments, or Nationall meetings in Councell; He, the said *Charls Stuart*, for accomplishment of such his *Designs*, and for the protecting of himself and his adherents, in His and Their *wicked Practises* to the same Ends, hath Trayterously and maliciously levyed War against the present Parliament, & the People therein Represented.

Particularly, upon or about the thirtieth day of *June*, in the yeer of our Lord, One thousand six hundred forty and two, At *Beverly*, in the County of *York*; And upon, or about the thirtieth day of *July*, in the yeer aforesaid, in the County of the City of *York*; And upon, or about the twenty fourth day of *August*, in the same yeer, at the County of the Town of *Nottingham* (when, and where He set up His Standard of War;) And also on, or about the twenty third day of *October*, in the same yeer, at *Edg-Hill*, and *Keinton-field*, in the County of *Warwick*; And upon, or about the thirtieth

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eth day of *November*, in the same yeer, at *Brainchford*, in the County of *Middlesex*: And upon, or about the thirtieth day of *August*, in the yeer of our Lord, One thousand six hundred forty and three, at *Carvesham-bridg*, near *Reading*, in the County of *Berks*; And upon, or about the thirtieth day of *October*, in the yeer last mentioned, at, or near the City of *Glocester*; And upon, or about the thirtieth day of *November*, in the yeer last mentioned, at *Newbery*, in the County of *Berks*; And upon, or about the one and thirtieth day of *July*, in the yeer of our Lord, One thousand six hundred forty and four, at *Cropredy-bridg*, in the County of *Oxon*; And upon, or about the thirtieth day of *September*, in the yeer last mentioned, at *Bodmin*, and other places near adjacent, in the County of *Cornwal*; And upon, or about the thirtieth day of *November*, in the yeer last mentioned, at *Newbery* aforesaid; And upon, or about the eighth day of *June*, in the yeer of our Lord, one thousand six hundred forty and five, at the Town of *Leicester*; And also, upon the fourteenth day of the same moneth, in the same yeer, at *Naseby-field*, in the County of *Northampton*. At which several times and places, or most of them, and at many other places in this Land, at several

other times, within the yeers aforementioned : And in the yeer of our Lord, One thousand six hundred fourty and six , He the said *Charls Stuart*, hath caused and procured many thousands of the free-people of the Nation to be slain ; and by *Divisions, Parties, and Insurrections*, within this Land, by invasions from forraign parts, endeavored and procured by Him, and by many other evil ways and means. He the said *Charls Stuart*, hath not onely maintained and carryed on the said War, both by Land and Sea, during the yeers before mentioned ; but also hath renewed, or caused to be renewed, the said War against the Parliament, and good people of this Nation, in this present yeer, One thousand six hundred forty and eight, in the Counties of *Kent, Effex, Surrey, Suffex, Middlesex*, and many other Counties and places in *England and Wales*, and also by Sea ; And particularly, He the said *Charls Stuart*, hath for that purpose, Given Commissions to his Son, the Prince, and others ; whereby, Besides multitudes of other persons, many such, as were by the Parliament intrusted and employed, for the safety of the Nation ; being by Him or His Agents, corrupted ; to the betraying of their Trust, and revolting from the Parliament, have had entertainment and commissi-  
on,

on, for the continuing and renewing of War and Hostility, against the said Parliament and People, as aforesaid. By which cruel and unnatural Wars by Him, the said *Charls Stuart*, levyed, continued, and renewed, as aforesaid, much Innocent blood of the Free-people of this Nation hath been spilt ; many Families have been wdone, the Publike Treasury wasted and exhausted, Trade obstructed, and miserably decayed ; vast expence and damage to the Nation incurred, and many parts of the Land spoyled, some of them even to desolation.

And for further prosecution of His said evil Designs, He, the said *Charls Stuart*, doth still continue his Commissions to the said Prince, and other Rebels and Revolters, both English and Forraigners ; and to the Earl of Ormond, and to the Irish Rebels and Revolters, associated with him ; from whom further Invasions upon this Land are threatned, upon the procurement, and on the behalf of the said *Charls Stuart*.

All which wicked Designs, Wars, and evill practises of Him, the said *Charls Stuart*, have been, and are carryed on, for the advancing and upholding of the Personal Interest of Will and Power, and pretended Prerogative to Himself and his Family, against the publike Interest, Common Right, Liberty, Justice, and Peace

*Of the People of this Nation*, by, and for whom he was entrusted, as aforesaid.

By all which it appeareth, that He, the said *Charls Stuart* hath been, and is the Occasioner, Author, and Contriver of the said Unnaturall, Cruell, and bloody Wars, and therein guilty of all the Treasons, Murthers, Rapines, Burnings, Spoiles, Desolations, Damage and Mischief to this Nation, acted or committed in the said Wars, or occasioned thereby.

And the said *John Cook*, by Protestation (saving on the behalf of the People of England, the liberty of Exhibiting at any time hereafter, any other Charge against the said *Charls Stuart*; and also of replying to the Answers which the said *Charls Stuart* shall make to the Premises, or any of them, or any other Charge that shall be so Exhibited) doth, for the said Treasons and Crimes, on the behalf of the said People of England, Impeach the said *Charls Stuart*, as a Tyrant, Traytor, Murtherer, and a publike, and Implacable Enemy to the Common-wealth of England: And pray, That the said *Charls Stuart*, King of England, may be put to answer All and Every the Premises, That such Proceedings, Examinations, Tryals, Sentence, and Judgment may be thereupon had, or shall be agreeable to Justice.

F I N I S.