

## CHAPTER 10

### SCOTTISH AFFAIRS

In August 1641 the King went to Scotland to settle affairs there and Parliament appointed a commission to accompany him; this consisted of Lord Howard of Escrick, Hampden, Fiennes and Stapleton<sup>1</sup>. These were ostensibly to cement relations with the Scots Covenanters but covertly to keep an eye on Charles lest he should plot anything to the disadvantage of Parliament. Thereafter Hampden was involved in the affairs of Scotland in and out of Parliament.

While on Scotland he became aware of a plot to kill Argyle and other leading covenanters, and there were suspicions that Charles was not averse to this and may indeed have been implicit. This had alarming effects on Pym and his colleagues in Westminster; would the King try the same in there?<sup>2</sup> And had the King's party gained control it would have put an end to any chance of a Scots army coming to the aid of the Parliament. Leaving Fiennes behind in Scotland Hampden "hastened back to throw himself heart and soul into the Parliamentary struggle. With him there was no turning back. What he had seen in Scotland seems to have confirmed him in the belief that Charles could not be trusted"<sup>3</sup>.

Hampden returned to London at the beginning of November 1641 about a fortnight after Parliament resumed on October 20<sup>th</sup>. On 17<sup>th</sup> January 1642, shortly after the attempted arrest of the five members, he moved in the House that it would pay for a house and furnishings for the Scots commissioners now in London and at the same time he was asked to "return thanks to the Scots for a declaration they made to the King deploring the state of the two kingdoms and laying the blame on the papists and bishops"<sup>4</sup>. On 25<sup>th</sup> January it was ordered that he and Stapleton be paid £16,000 of which £10,000 be paid to the Scots for their "brotherly assistance" in providing forces to occupy Ulster against the rebellious Irish. On the 28<sup>th</sup> he moved that the Sheriff of Northumberland should provide a strong guard to see this money safely delivered to the Scots, and a further sum to provide ammunition and a ship to transport 2,500 Scots to Ulster.

On 16<sup>th</sup> February he moved that both Houses should petition the King to appoint General Leslie to command these forces, and was appointed with Fiennes and Stapleton to inform the Scots of this.<sup>5</sup> On the 22<sup>nd</sup> he moved that six demicannons be sent to Ireland for the use of the Scots and provision for their rations.<sup>6</sup>

On April 6<sup>th</sup> a committee was formed to draw up a Declaration to the Scots for the preservation of "the late league, union and good intelligence between the two kingdoms". This Declaration was read in the House on the 9<sup>th</sup> "to express their care and zeal to maintain the good correspondency between the nations which both parliaments have obliged themselves to preserve, .....and they have given no cause to His Majesty to withdraw himself from his Parliament; but it hath proceeded from the evil counsels to lay great imputations upon the Parliament"<sup>7</sup>. Some thought it was too belligerent about the King's 'evil counsellors'; nevertheless it was passed<sup>8</sup>, and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Hampden moved that a Mr Green should take it to the Scots<sup>9</sup>. On May 9<sup>th</sup> Hampden reported their reply in which they desired "we should get a right understanding between the King and his Parliament, and that the King should be advised by his Parliament and return to it"<sup>10</sup>.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> Hampden asked the House to send money to the Scots, on the 13<sup>th</sup> to send rations, ammunition etc, again on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of June, and the 16<sup>th</sup> July. This was known as 'brotherly assistance'.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June there was more discussion about the Scots treaty with reference to money, arms and other matters.<sup>11</sup>, and again on June 24<sup>th</sup> when Hampden and Fiennes managed a conference with the Lords on the matter<sup>12</sup>.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June the House was made aware of a letter sent by the King to the Scots council wherein (according to Sir Walter Earle) he claimed "our subjects of Scotland were the first causers of the rebellion in Ireland, but I think ye did it not expressly, but your covenant was the occasion of it"<sup>13</sup>, so the House sent a letter to the Scots "to express how well this Kingdom

resents" the implication<sup>14</sup>, and on the 14<sup>th</sup> June they sent them a Declaration expressing "thankfulness for the good affection of our brethren of Scotland"<sup>15</sup>.

All this Treaty was to do with the plan whereby a Scots army was to go to Ulster to put down the rebellion there (the results of which are still apparent), but when the war broke out the army was kept in Scotland and its value became apparent in the battle of Marston Moor (1644) when the Scots army under Leslie played a decisive part.

Therefore, Hampden played a major, if not *the* major role in maintaining the "good correspondency" between the English Parliament and the Scots Covenanters which was such an important factor in the eventual outcome of the Civil War. What would have been his reaction to the Scots' invasion of England in the second Civil War one can only speculate.