

*Charles II in exile*

Monarchy brought back the gaiety of life: theatres were reopened, new dramatists wrote cynical plays to entertain the corrupt court. It was also the restoration of Parliament, House of Lords, Anglican church and Cavalier gentry (noblemen) with their old privileges and intolerance.

But the **Commonwealth** was dissolved. **Charles II** was the king of England and

Ireland but all these countries now had their own Parliament again.

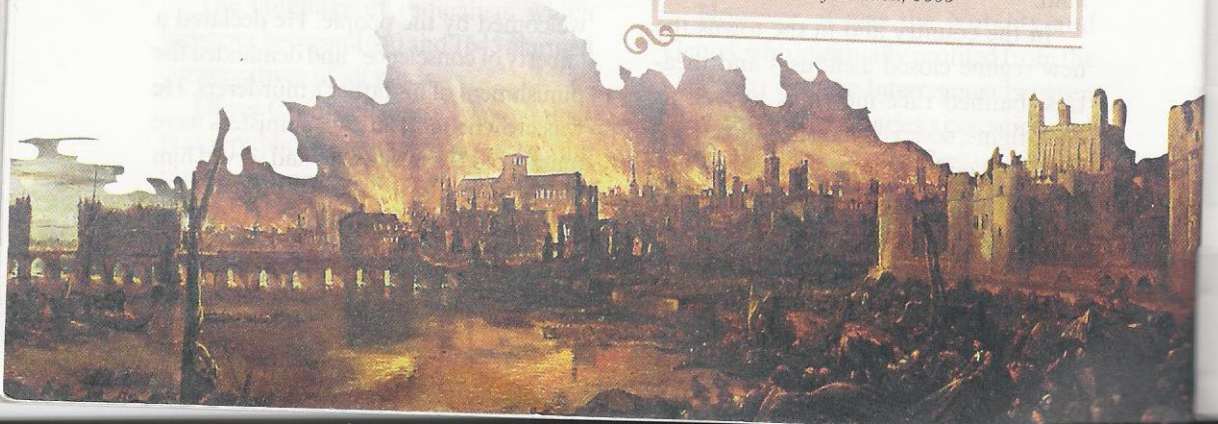
Charles II was more French than English. He did his best to secure toleration for Catholics in England and also to escape the control of Parliament. The Parliament and the Protestants wanted to keep their leading position.

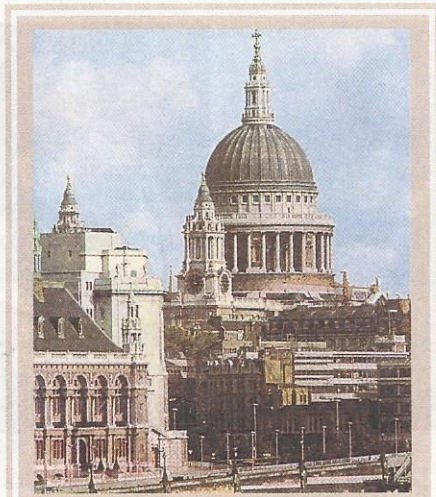
The first years of the Restoration saw action of revenge on Cromwell's dead body, Acts against the Puritans passed by the Parliament of Cavaliers and the appearance of Milton's "Paradise Lost" in which the author tried "to justify the ways of God to men"; **New Amsterdam** was captured from the Dutch and renamed **New York**, after the King's brother, James, Duke of York (later James II).

The **Great Plague of 1665** and the **Great Fire of London in 1666** were the calamities that brought a lot of suffering to the English people.

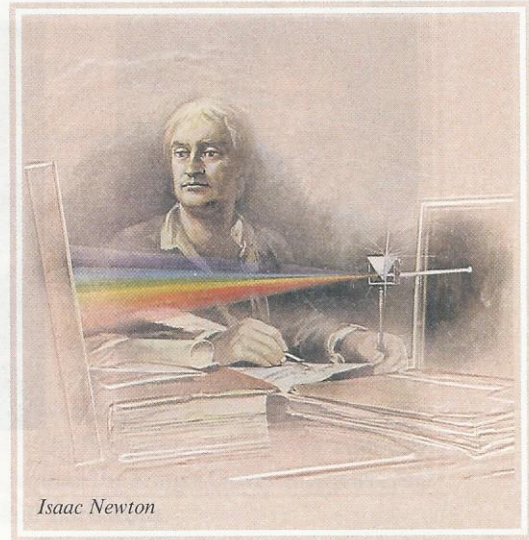
In the 1650s outstanding scientists gathered at Oxford and founded the first great learned society in England, "the Royal Society", whose patron was the King. They were dedicated to the advance of knowledge in every subject and their society attracted many talented minds: **Christopher Wren**, the great designer, known later as the rebuilders of London after the Great Fire, **John Locke**,

*The Great Fire of London, 1666*





St. Paul's Cathedral (Arch. Ch. Wren)



Isaac Newton

the political philosopher, the father of the Modern science of chemistry. One more name stands out about others — that of **Isaac Newton**. His greatest discoveries include the spectrum and the basic law of the universe — the law of gravity.

Charles II governed the country through the inner Council, or Cabal, which consisted of five men, two of them were Catholics and the other three were supporters of religious toleration. As a result Charles issued a Declaration of Indulgence granting toleration to all — including Catholics. In their rejection of that Declaration the Parliament adopted the Test Act (1673) forbidding all Catholics to hold office for the Crown. It was also directed against James the Duke of York, the heir to the throne.

The Opposition to the King became organized into a party with a majority in the newly elected Parliament. They managed to pass the **Habeas Corpus Act (1679)**, which provided a protection of human rights of the new bourgeoisie. This Act, originally adopted against the arbitrary actions of Charles II, has

proved to be an essential milestone in the legal system of Great Britain.

Newly coined nicknames became applicable to the opposing groups in the political struggle: the opposition to the King which demanded a further curbing of the Monarch's prerogatives, was nicknamed "The Whigs" by their opponents in Parliament. These opponents supported the Catholic views of the King and the King himself; and they in their turn were also nicknamed as "the Tories" by the first group. It was another term of abuse originated for condemning the Irish Catholics who were fighting against the Protestant army of Cromwell. These two parties, the Whigs and the Tories became the basis of Britain's two-party parliament system of government (see Chart III, p. 46).

James II became the King of England after his brother's death in 1685. He had two daughters — Mary and Ann — from his first Protestant wife, and they were firm Protestants. Mary was married to her first cousin, William of Orange, a Dutch prince and a militant Protestant.