

wellian régime. The sudden dissolution in April, 1659, of the Parliament of Richard Cromwell and the fall of the Protectorate, followed by the return of the Rump Parliament to Westminster, revived the hopes of the Royalists. The two parties—Royalist and Presbyterian—heretofore at variance, now coalesced with the view of bringing about the restoration of the monarchy. Sir George Booth with a number of other Cheshire gentlemen, raised the standard of insurrection at Warrington, and amongst those who promised him assistance was the veteran knight Sir Thomas Middleton, of Chirk Castle. The Rump Parliament immediately passed the following resolution.

Tuesday, 9th August, 1659. Resolved. That Sir George Booth, Sir Thomas Middleton [with others named] being in Arms against the Parliament & Commonwealth & all their Adherents & Partakers, are Rebels and Traytors to the Commonwealth & shall be proceeded against as Rebels and Traytors.

The following letter from Charles II. to Sir Thomas Middleton is among the State Papers:

Stoke 17 Aug. 1659,

Sr Thomas Myddelton, my lord of Derby hath acquainted me with your affections to s^ve me, and the bearer will let you know my condition, and the present opportunitie to attempt the recov^y of my rights and my subjects lib^ties. I desire and require you upon this occasion to declare and stirr for me with all the power and interest you have, w^{ch} I am satisfied is very greate, assisting the Earle of Derby in th^e execution of his commission, w^{ch} he is now about, and in any other way you can advantage my affaires. This doing you shall be sure of whatsoever he gives you hopes off from me, or shall promise you in my name. I desire you to send me speedy intelligence of the condicon of North Wales, wth what els you know that may concern my service.

Your assured frend,

CHARLES R.

For Sr Thomas Myddelton.

In the *History of Chirk Castle* this letter is dated 17 August, 1651, which must be a misprint for 1659.