

# CORONATION OF CHARLES II

1 January 1651

First the King's Majesty, in a prince's robe, was conducted from his bed-chamber by the Constable<sup>1</sup> on his right hand and the Marshal<sup>2</sup> on his left hand to the Chamber of Presence, and there was placed in a chair under a cloth of state by the Lord of Angus,<sup>3</sup> Chamberlain appointed by the King for that day. And there, after a little repose, the noblemen, with the Commissioners of Barons and Burroughs, entered the hall and presented themselves before His Majesty.

Thereafter, the Lord Chancellor<sup>4</sup> spoke to the King to this purpose:

Sir, Your good subjects desire you may be crowned as the righteous and lawful heir of the Crown of this Kingdom; that you would maintain religion as it is presently professed and established and conform to the National League and Covenant, according to your declaration at Dumfermling in August last. Also that you would be graciously pleased to receive them under Your Highness' protection, to govern them by the laws of the Kingdom, and to defend them in their rights and liberties by your royal power, offering themselves in most humble manner to Your Majesty with their vows, to bestow lands, life, and what else is in their power for the maintenance of religion, for the safety of Your Majesty's sacred person and maintenance of your Crown, which they entreat Your Majesty to accept, and pray Almighty God that for many years you may happily enjoy the same.

The King made this answer:

I do esteem the affections of my good people more than the crowns of many kingdoms, and shall be ready, by God's assistance, to bestow my life in their defence, wishing to live no longer than I may see religion and this Kingdom flourish in all happiness.

Thereafter, the Commissioners of Barons and Burroughs and the noblemen accompanied His Majesty to the Kirk of Scoone, in order and rank according to their quality, two and two, the spurs being carried by the Earl of Eglinton.<sup>5</sup> Next, the sword by the Earl of Rothes,<sup>6</sup> then the scepter by the Earl of Crawford and Lindsay,<sup>7</sup> and the crown by the Marquess of Argyle,<sup>8</sup> immediately before the King.

Then came the King, with the Great Constable on his right hand and the Great Marshal on his left hand, his train being carried by Lord Ereskine,<sup>9</sup> Lord Montgomerie,<sup>10</sup> Lord Newbattle,<sup>11</sup> and Lord Mauchline<sup>12</sup>—four earls' eldest sons—under a canopy of crimson velvet, supported by six earls' sons—to wit, Lord Drummond,<sup>13</sup> Lord Carnegie,<sup>14</sup> Lord Ramsay,<sup>15</sup> Lord Johnstone,<sup>16</sup> Lord Brechin,<sup>17</sup> Lord Hay of Yester,<sup>18</sup> and the six carriers supported by six noblemen's sons. Thus the King's Majesty entered the kirk.

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<sup>1</sup> Gilbert Hay (–1675), Earl of Erroll and Lord High Constable of Scotland

<sup>2</sup> William Keith (1614–1671), Earl Marischal and Marshal of Scotland

<sup>3</sup> Archibald Douglas (1694–1761), eldest son of James Douglas (c. 1646–1700), Marquess of Douglas

<sup>4</sup> John Campbell (1598–1662), Earl of Loudoun and Lord Chancellor of Scotland

<sup>5</sup> Alexander Montgomerie (1588–1661), Earl of Eglinton

<sup>6</sup> John Leslie (c. 1630–1681), Earl of Rothes

<sup>7</sup> John Lindsay (c. 1598–1678), Earl of Crawford and Earl of Lindsay

<sup>8</sup> Archibald Campbell (1607–1661), Marquess of Argyle

<sup>9</sup> John Erskine (–1668), son of John Erskine (c. 1585–1654), Earl of Mar and Lord High Treasurer of Scotland

<sup>10</sup> son of Alexander Montgomerie (1588–1661), Earl of Eglinton

<sup>11</sup> Robert Kerr (1636–1703), son of William Kerr (c. 1605–1675), Earl of Lothian

<sup>12</sup> James Campbell (c. 1624–1684), son of John Campbell (1598–1662), Earl of Loudon and Lord Chancellor of Scotland

<sup>13</sup> James Drummond (1615–1675), son of John Drummond (1588–1662), Earl of Perth

<sup>14</sup> James Carnegie (–1669), son of David Carnegie (1575–1658), Earl of Southesk

<sup>15</sup> George Ramsay (c. 1622–1674), son of William Ramsay (–1672), Earl of Dalhousie

<sup>16</sup> William Johnstone, son of James Johnstone (1602–1653), Earl of Hartfell

<sup>17</sup> George Maule (1619–1671), son of Patrick Maule (1585–1661), Earl of Panmure

<sup>18</sup> John Hay (1625–1697), son of John Hay (1593–1653), Earl of Tweeddale

The Kirk being seated and prepared with a table, whereupon the honours were laid, and a chair set in a fitting place for His Majesty's hearing of sermon over against the minister, and another chair on the other side where he sat when he received the crown, before which there was a bench decently covered, as also seats about for noblemen, barons, and burgesses.

And there being also a stage in a fit place erected of 24-feet square, albeit four feet high from the ground, covered with carpets, with two stairs, one from the west and another to the east. Upon which great stage there was another little stage erected some two feet high, ascending by two steps, on which the Throne or Chair of State was set.

The Kirk thus fittingly prepared, the King's Majesty entered the same, accompanied as aforesaid, and first set himself in his chair for hearing of sermon. All being quietly composed unto attention, Master Robert Douglas, Moderator of the Commission of the General Assembly, after calling upon God by prayer, preached the following sermon....

The sermon being ended, prayer was made for a blessing upon the doctrine delivered. The King being to renew the covenants, first the National Covenant, then the Solemn League and Covenant, were distinctly read. After the reading of these covenants, the minister prayed for grace to perform the contents of the covenants and for faithful steadfastness in the oath of God. And then (the ministers Commissioners of the General Assembly desired to be present, standing before the pulpit) he administered the oath unto the King, who kneeling and lifting up his right hand, did swear in in the words following:

I Charles, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, do assure and declare by my solemn oath, in the presence of Almighty God, the Searcher of hearts, my allowance and approbation of the National Covenant and of the Solemn League and Covenant above-written, and faithfully oblige myself to prosecute the ends thereof in my station and calling, and that I, for myself and successors, shall consent and agree to all acts of Parliament enjoining the National Covenant and the Solemn League and Covenant, and fully establish Presbyterian government, the directory of worship, confession of faith, and catechisms in the Kingdom of Scotland as they are approved by the general assemblies of this Kirk and Parliament of this Kingdom. And that I shall give my royal assent to acts and ordinances of Parliament passed, or to be passed, enjoining the same in my other dominions. And that I shall observe these in my own practice and family, and shall never make opposition to any of these, or endeavour any change thereof.

After the King had thus solemnly sworn, the National Covenant and the League and Covenant, the King's oath subjoined unto both, being drawn up in a fair parchment, the King did subscribe the same, in presence of all.

Thereafter the King ascended the stage, and sat down in the Chair of State. Then the lords, Great Constable, and Marshal went to the four corners of the stage with the Lyon<sup>1</sup> going before them; who spoke to the people these words:

Sirs, I do present unto you the King, Charles, the rightful and undoubted heir of the Crown and dignity of this realm. This day is by the Parliament of this Kingdom appointed for his Coronation. And are you not willing to have him for your king, and become subject to his commandments?

In which action, the King's Majesty stood up, showing himself to the people in each corner. And the people expressed their willingness by cheerful acclamations in these words, "God save the King, Charles the Second."

Thereafter the King's Majesty, supported by the Constable and Marshal, came down from the stage and sat down in the Chair where he heard the sermon. The minister, accompanied with the ministers before-mentioned, came from the pulpit toward the King and required if he was willing to take the oath appointed to be taken at the coronation. The King answered he was most willing.

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<sup>1</sup> Sir James Balfour (c. 1600–1658), Baronet Kinnaird and Lord Lyon King of Arms

Then the oath of coronation, as it is contained in the eighth act of the first parliament of King James, being read by the Lyon, the tenour whereof follows:

Because the increase of virtue and suppressing of idolatry craves that the prince and the people be of one perfect religion, which of God's mercy is now presently professed within this realm, therefore it is statuted and ordained by our sovereign lord, my Lord Regent, and three estates of this present Parliament that all kings, princes, and magistrates whatsoever holding their place which hereafter at any time shall happen to reign and bear rule over this Realm, at the time of their coronation and receipt of their princely authority make their faithful promise, in the presence of the Eternal God, that during the whole course of their lives they shall serve the same Eternal God to the uttermost of their power, according as He has required in His most holy Word, revealed and contained in the New and Old Testaments.

And according to the same Word, shall maintain the true religion of Christ Jesus, the preaching of His Holy Word, and due and right ministration of the sacraments now received and preached within this Realm. And shall abolish and gainstand all false religions contrary to the same. And shall rule the people committed to their charge according to the will and command of God, revealed in His foresaid Word, and according to the liveable laws and constitutions received in this Realm no ways repugnant to the said Word of the Eternal God. And shall procure to the uttermost of their power to the Kirk of God and whole Christian people, true and perfect peace, in time coming.

The rights and rents, with all just privileges of the Crown of Scotland, to preserve and keep inviolate; neither shall they transfer nor alienate the same.

They shall forbid and repress in all estates and degrees rife, oppression, and all kinds of wrong. In all judgments they shall command and procure that justice and equity be kept to all creatures without exception, as the Lord and Father of Mercies be merciful unto them.

And out of their lands and empire they shall be careful to root out all heretics and enemies to the true worship of God that shall be convicted by the true Kirk of God of the aforesaid crimes.

And that they shall faithfully affirm the things above written by their Solemn Oath.

The minister tendered the oath unto the King, who kneeling and holding up his right hand, swore in these words:

By the Eternal and Almighty God, who lives and reigns forever, I shall observe and keep all that is contained in this oath.

This done, the King's Majesty sat down in his Chair and reposed himself a little. Then the King arose from his Chair and was disrobed by the Lord Great Chamberlain of the Princely Robe, wherewith he entered the Kirk and was invested by the said Chamberlain in his royal robes.

Thereafter, the King being brought to the chair on the north side of the Kirk, supported as formerly, the sword was brought by Sir William Cockburn of Langton,<sup>1</sup> Gentleman Usher, from the table and delivered to Lyon King of Arms, who gave it to the Lord Great Constable, who put the same in the King's hand, saying:

Sir, receive this kingly sword for the defence of the faith of Christ and protection of His Kirk and of the true religion, as it is presently established in this Kingdom and according to the National Covenant and League and Covenant, and for executing equity and justice, and for punishment of iniquity and injustice.

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<sup>1</sup> Sir William Cockburn of Langton (c. 1628–1663), Baronet Cockburn

This done, the Great Constable received the sword from the King and girded the same about his side. Thereafter the King sat down in his chair, and then the spurs were put on him by the Earl Marshall. Thereafter, Archibald, Marquess of Argyle, having taken the crown in his hands, the minister prayed to this purpose:

That the Lord would purge the crown from the sins and transgressions of them that did reign before him. That it might be a pure crown. That God would settle the crown upon the King's head. And since men that set it on were not able to settle it, that the Lord would put it on and preserve it.

And then the said Marquess put the crown on the King's head.

Which done, the Lyon King of Arms, the Great Constable standing by him, caused an herald to call the whole noblemen, one by one, according to their ranks. Who coming before the King, kneeling and with their hand touching the crown on the King's head, swore these words:

By the Eternal and Almighty God, who lives and reigns forever, I shall support you to my uttermost.

And when they had done, then all the nobility held up their hands and swore to be loyal and true subjects, and faithful to the Crown.

The Earl Marshal, with the Lyon, going to the four corners of the stage, the Lyon proclaimed the obligatory oath of the people. And the people, holding up their hands all the time, did swear:

By the Eternal and Almighty God, who lives and reigns forever, we become your liege men, and true and faithful shall be unto you, and live and die with you against all manner of folks whatsoever in your service, according to the National Covenant and Solemn League and Covenant.

Then did the Earls and Vicounts put on their crowns, and the Lyon likewise put on his.

Then did the Lord Chamberlain loose the sword wherewith the King was girded and draw it and deliver it drawn into the King's hands. And the King put it in the hands of the Great Constable to carry it naked before him. Then John, Earl of Crawford and Lindsay, took the scepter and put it in the King's right hand, saying:

Sir, receive this scepter, the sign of royal power of the Kingdom, that you may govern yourself right, and defend all the Christian people committed by God to your charge, punishing the wicked and protecting the just.

Then did the King ascend the stage, attended by the officers of the Crown and nobility, and was installed on the royal throne by Archibald, Marquess of Argyle, saying:

Stand and hold fast from henceforth the place whereof you are the lawful and righteous heir by a long and lineal succession of your fathers, which is now delivered unto you by authority of Almighty God.

When the King was set down upon the throne, the minister spoke to him a word of exhortation, as follows....

Then the Lord Chancellor went to the four corners of the stage, the Lyon King of Arms going before him, and proclaimed His Majesty's free pardon to all breakers of penal statutes, and made offer thereof. Whereupon the people cried, "God save the King." Then the King, supported by the Great Constable and Marshall, and accompanied by the Chancellor, arose from the throne and went out at a door prepared for that purpose to a stage, and showed himself to the people without, who clapped their hands and cried with a loud voice, a long time, "God save the King." Then, the King returning and sitting down upon the throne, delivered the scepter to the Earl of Crawford and Lindsay to be carried before him. Thereafter the Lyon King of Arms rehearsed the royal line of the kings upward to Fergus the first.

Then the Lyon called the lords one by one, who kneeling and holding their hands betwixt the King's hands, did swear these words:

By the Eternal and almighty God, who lives and reigns forever, I become your liege man, and truth and faith shall bear unto you, and live and die with you against all manner of folks whatsoever, in your service, according to the National Covenant and Solemn League and Covenant.

And every one of them kissed the King's left check.

When these solemnities were ended, the minister standing before the King on his throne, pronounced this blessing:

The Lord bless you and save you. The Lord hear you in the day of trouble. The name of the God of Jacob defend you. The Lord send you help from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion. Amen.

The blessing pronounced, the minister went to pulpit and had the following exhortation...

After this exhortation, the Minister closed the whole action with prayer, and the twentieth Psalm being sung, he dismissed the people with the blessing. Then did the King's Majesty descend from the stage, with the crown upon his head and, receiving again the scepter in his hand, returned with the whole train, in solemn manner, to his palace, the sword being carried before him.

*Coronation of Charles the Second, King of Scotland, England, France, and Ireland as it was Acted and Done at Scoone (Aberdeen: James Brown, 1651):1, 19–21, 22–23, 24. [modernized]*