

COMPULSORY LOAN

Charles I (1600–1649), King of England and Scotland (1625–1649)

Westminster, 20 December 1635

Trusty and well-beloved, We greet you well. Having observed in the precedents and custom of former times that all the kings and queens of this realm upon extraordinary occasions have used either to resort to those contributions which arise from the generality of subjects, or to the private helps of some well-affected in particular, by way of loan. In which later course We being at this time enforced to proceed for supply of some portions of treasure for diverse public services, and particularly for continuing and increasing Our magazines in some large proportion in Our realm of Ireland, in Our navy and in Our forts. In all which greater sums have bene expended of late, both in building and repairing, and in making sundry provisions, than have been in twenty years before, We have now in Our eye an especial care that such discretion may be observed in the choice of the lenders and such an indifferent distribution as the sums that We shall receive may be raised with an equall consideration of men's abilities.

And therefore, seeing men have had so good experience of Our repayment of all those sums which We have ever required in this kind, We doubt not but We shall now receive the like argument of good affection from you (amongst other of Our subjects) and that with such alacrity and readiness as may make the same so much the more acceptable, especially seeing We require but that of some which few men would deny a friend, and have a mind resolved to expose all Our earthly fortune for the preservation of the general.

The sum that We require of you by virtue of these presents is fifteen pounds, which We do promise in the name of Us, our heirs, and successors, to repay to you, or your assignees, within eighteen months after the payment thereof unto the collector. The person that We have appointed to collect it is Edward Forsett, Esquire, to whose hands We do require you to send it within twelve days after you have received this privy seal, which together with the collector's acquittance, shall be sufficient warrant unto the officers of Our receipt for the repayment thereof at the time limited.

Given under Our Privy Seal at Our palace of Westminster the 20th day of December, in the ninth year of Our reign of Great Britain, France, and Ireland.

John Webb, *Memorials of the Civil War Between King Charles I and the Parliament of England as it Affected Herefordshire and the Adjacent Counties* (London: Longman, Green, and Company, 1879), II:334–335.