

THE YEAR 1643.

On the night of January 5th, Hampden's regiment, while employed on the Parliament's outposts near Brackley, had their picquets attacked by a body of the Earl of Northampton's horse from Banbury: but Hampden, having suspected such a design and reinforced himself with some dragoons brought in from the Buckinghamshire side after dark, repulsed the assailants and pursued them till after daybreak; with the loss of his lieutenant-colonel, Wagstaffe, who was captured by the Royalists.²¹

A Proclamation from the King at Oxford, dated January 21st, requires the people of DEDDINGTON to deliver up to him the broken bells of the Church there (the tower of which had fallen in 1634):—

“To our trusty and well-beloved subjects, the Parson, Churchwardens, Constables, and Officers, and others, the parishioners of Dadington.

“CHARLES R.

Whereas information is given us that by the fall of your Steeple at Dadington in this our County, the Bells are made unserviceable for you

till that shall be rebuilt, and they are new founded; and that the metal of them may be fit for present use, both for our own and public occasion, we hereby require you to send the same to our Magazine here in New College, and some such trusty persons with them as may see the just weight, and the nature of them taken by our Officers there, to the end that we may restore the same in materials or monies to your Church, when you shall have occasion to use the same; and to the end we may the better effect this, we hereby command the commissioners of our train to remember us hereof when it shall be opportune: and for full assurance hereof to your whole parish, we are graciously pleased to confirm this by our own royal signature. Oxford, at the Court, January the one-and-twentieth, in the eighteenth year of our reign.”²²