

May Anniversary.



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This important event in our national history has been so minutely described by the diarists of the time, and their accounts have been so often quoted, that we shall content ourselves with chronicling a few of the leading details.

Pepys, the quaint and garrulous Secretary of the Admiralty, has left us the liveliest record of the incidents immediately preceding the Restoration. On this occasion he appears to have accompanied Sir Edward Montagu, afterwards Earl of Sandwich, as secretary, in the fleet which brought home the King. When the House of Commons voted his Restoration, they also voted that £50,000, "to be borrowed of the City," should be given to the Sovereign for the supply of his immediate necessities; and how greatly he stood in need of this supply may be gathered from the following entry of Pepys, under May 17, 1660: "This afternoon Mr. Edward Pickering told me in what a sad poor condition for clothes and money the King was, and all his attendants, when he came to him first from my lord, *their clothes not being worth forty shillings, the best of them; and how overjoyed the King was when Sir J. Grenville brought him some money—so joyful that he called the Princess Royal (Mary, eldest daughter of Charles I.) and the Duke of York to look upon it, as it lay in the portmanteaus before it was taken out.*"

Admiral Sir Edward Montagu had received orders from the Council of Parliament to bring over the King, and accordingly he sailed for the Hague, where, on the 21st of May, Charles and his suite were received on board Montagu's ship (the name of which, on the same day, he altered to the Charles), "amidst infinite shooting of guns;" and after dinner the fleet weighed anchor, and set sail for England. It is interesting to read how Pepys had previously been through the fleet to proclaim the King, and of the joyous reception he had met with from every ship; how the heart of the staunch Royalist must have throbbed with joy. Then, with what minuteness he relates the conduct of the King on the passage; how restlessly he walked up and down, "very active and stirring;" how, upon the quarter-deck, he fell into discourse of his escapes from Worcester, where it made poor Pepys "ready to weep to hear the stories that he told of his difficulties that he had passed through; of his travelling four days and three nights on foot, every step up to his knees in dirt, with nothing but a green coat and a pair of country breeches on, and a pair of country shoes that made him so sore all over

his feet that he could scarce stir; yet he was forced to run away from a miller and other company that took them for rogues." On the same evening Pepys heard some of the suite "talking of more of the King's difficulties, as how he was fain to eat a piece of bread and cheese out of a poor body's pocket" &c.

On the 25th Charles landed at Dover; "the King and the two Dukes (of York and Gloucester) did eat their breakfast before they went, and there being nothing but ship's diet they eat of nothing else but peas and pork, and boiled beef." Pepys continues, "Dr. Clerke, who eat with me, told me how the King had given £50 to Mr. Shepley, for my lord's servants, and £500 among the officers and common men of the ship. Great expectation of the King making some knights, but there was none. About noon (though the brigantine that Beale made was then ready to carry him), yet he, the King, would go in my lord's barge with the two dukes. Our captain steered, and my lord went along bare with him. I went, and Mr. Maunsell, and one of the King's footmen, and a dog that the King loved, in a boat by ourselves, and so got on shore when the King did, who was received by General Monk with all imaginable love and respect at his entrance upon the land at Dover," where he did not stay, but got into "stately coach there set for him, and so away through the town towards Canterbury."

Two days afterwards Admiral Montagu was invested with the George and Garter on board his own ship, as General Monk had also been at Canterbury on the preceding day. The King entered London on his birthday, May the 29th, and "with him," says Evelyn, in his "Diary," under that date, "a triumph of about 20,000 horse and foote, brandishing their swords and shouting with inexpressible joy; the wayes strewed with flowers, the bells ringing, the streets hung with tapistry, fountains running with wine; the maior, aldermen, and all the companies in their liveries, chaines of gold, and banners; lords and nobles clad in cloth of silver, gold and velvet; the windows and balconies all set with ladies; trumpets, music, and myriads of people flocking even so far as from Rochester, so as they were seven hours in passing the city, even from two in the afternoon till nine at night." "I stood in the Strand and beheld it," continues Evelyn, "and blessed God." Such a scene of impressive pageantry our artist has attempted to represent in the above picturesque engraving.