

## *Introduction*

had moved south towards the border, giving silent encouragement to the belief that it would support the cause of a free parliament – a parliament, that is, whose members would be untrammelled by an oath to the republic. December saw the collapse of the army's rule. On the 5th the London apprentices mobbed the soldiers. On the 13th the fleet declared for a free parliament, its example being followed soon afterwards by the Dublin garrison and most of the army in Ireland. On the 19th the Common Council of the City of London, already in touch with Monck, secured a promise of a free parliament from Fleetwood, Commander-in-Chief of the army, to whom this represented the only hope of pay for his men. On Christmas Eve the rank and file of some of the London regiments demonstrated in favour of a parliament, and on Boxing Day the Rump was allowed to reassemble. Finally on 1 January Monck moved his leading troops over the Tweed, and on the following day began to march south.

On that same New Year's Day Pepys began to keep his diary. For the first few months its entries are full of political news – the establishment in February of a new government, effectively under Monck, the elections to a free parliament in March and April, and on 1 May the parliamentary vote for the restoration of monarchy – 'the happiest May-day', as Pepys wrote, 'that hath been many a year'. Mountagu, made General-at-Sea with Monck, was ordered to bring Charles II home from exile in Holland, and on 11 May set sail from the Downs. He took Pepys with him as Admiral's Secretary and Treasurer to the Fleet – a considerable promotion for one who until then had not been much more than a domestic steward. He was now addressed in correspondence as 'Samuel Pepys, Esquire', dined with captains, and at The Hague was presented to the King and his brother the Duke of York. His standing with Mountagu was now higher than ever. On the fleet's return Mountagu was showered with titles and offices, becoming a Knight of the Garter, Earl of Sandwich, Vice-Admiral of the Kingdom, Master of the Great Wardrobe, and Clerk of the Privy Seal. At the same time he promised Pepys that they would 'rise together'. In June he acquired for him a government post of some importance – that of Clerk of the Acts to the Navy Board – as well as making him one of his deputies at the Privy Seal. Alone among Mountagu's entourage to be so highly favoured, Pepys now