

HAMPDEN, John, *häm'-den*, a celebrated English patriot, descended of an ancient family in Buckinghamshire. In 1636 he distinguished himself by his resistance to the crown, and his objection to the payment of ship-money, by which he acquired great popularity. This case was argued twelve days in the court of Exchequer, before the twelve judges and although the decision was given in favour of the crown, the popularity of Hampden by no means suffered. He became a leading man in the House of Commons, and, at the commencement of the civil war, took up arms against the king; but fell in an engagement with Prince Rupert on Chalgrove Field, Oxfordshire, 1643; b. in London, 1594. Lord Clarendon observes of him, that "he had a head to contrive, a tongue to persuade, and a heart to execute any mischief." But others are of a different opinion from his lordship, in reference to Hampden's powers of contriving *mischief*. In fact, he was one of England's noblest worthies. He spoke, acted, fought, and fell for the liberties of his country; and what more can be allotted for man to do? In private life he was amiable and affectionate; in public debate, eloquent yet temperate; in counsel, sagacious; in action, vigilant; in enterprise, courageous; and his last moments were spent in prayer, breathed for the welfare of his country.

169. 30R.4

HAMPDEN, John, M.P., politician, relative of Cromwell; b. 1594; imprisoned for resisting general loan, 1627; refused to pay the tax termed ship-money, 1636; active opponent of Laud and Strafford, 1640-1; impeached by the king, 3 Jan. 1642; colonel in the parliamentary army; wounded at Chalgrove, 18 June; d. 24 June 1643.

Hampd:
March. 21.
1631

Your faithfull servant
& affectional friend
J. Hampden