

radical booksellers, one of John Milton's publishers was asked to appear before the Council of State:

The Council of State being informed, that Livewell Chapman (Stationer of London) having caused several seditious and treasonable books to be printed and published, did withdraw and obscure himselfe, ordered a Proclamation to be issued forth, requiring the said Livewell Chapman to appear at the Council of State.<sup>4</sup>

Chapman was prepared to take risks in publishing and circulating radical thought. His motives were not commercial but political: an expression of his abhorrence of kingship.

While Monck was asserting an influence over the press he was playing a prominent role in the politics of the day by insisting that the members of Parliament excluded in 1648 be reinstated. He called for the elections to a new Parliament which was to sit on 25 April 1660. These events gave the royalist pamphleteers cause for elation and they could rightfully predict the demise of the 'Good Old Cause' and quietly prepare for the return of Charles Stuart. The printed items for the first four months of 1660 express the changes in the fortunes of the respective parties and vividly illustrate the laurels heaped upon General Monck, the renewed interest in monarchy and in a few tracts the bitter feeling against kingship.<sup>5</sup>

Although writers were willing to argue the particular virtues of their avowed causes they were generally reluctant to identify themselves on the titlepages of the published pamphlets. As the tide of support moved from the 'idealistic' community of the Commonwealth to the hierarchical edifice of monarchy there were fewer stationers willing to take the risks involved with radical publications; they were silenced not only by the gestures made by the Council of State but also by nervous publishers weighing their commercial interests ahead of their political beliefs. Exceptions to this trend did occur and John Milton and Livewell Chapman stand out for their solitary and resonant protests against power being vested in a king and Church.

Milton was one of the most respected and forceful writers for the 'Good Old Cause' constantly appealing to the rational faculty of man and the need for those who assumed power to preserve liberty and virtue. His cogent and apposite arguments were a compelling aspect of his works prior to the Restoration. On 3 March 1660, with the help of Livewell Chapman, he had printed *The Readie & Easie Way to Establish A Free Commonwealth, And the Excellence there of, Compared with the Inconveniencies and Dangers of Readmitting Kingship in this Nation*. The pamphlet was addressed to a majority of the nation who shared 'the vain and groundless apprehension that