

works in later pamphlets. The publication in June 1660 of *L'Estrange His Apology*, in which he brought together earlier works, thereby identifying them as his own, has enabled scholars to make definite attributions.

Central to these works is L'Estrange's preoccupation with the political debates of the day. His arguments were to buttress royalist beliefs and to win support amongst the merchants and gentry. He was always fully aware of the dangers of certain political ideas gaining a general circulation and it became a declared duty for him to discredit those who posed a threat to his cherished but antiquated belief in monarchy and episcopacy. His early plea for limited monarchy was to flower into a more confident espousal of royalist principles. L'Estrange had adopted the role of an unofficial propagandist making an analysis of the factors which determined the support of the present government and why they were faulty, while providing answers to alarmist pamphlets. It was the panic-mongers who bore the brunt of his invective, being labelled 'trayterous' and 'seditious'.

The question of law and order both in the church and state was once again before the public during the months before and after the Restoration. The royalists argued that only monarchy could assure tradespeople and men of property a continuity of government and thus stability. The commonwealthmen, discovering a general undercutting of their support, had appealed to the army to overthrow their elected leaders. It was around the army that the battle for support would rage and ultimately determine the successful Restoration.

In March 1660 *A Plea for Limited Monarchy* was published in which L'Estrange analysed the motives behind the influential groups who opposed the return of Charles. He believed, correctly, that those who wanted a Commonwealth had vested interests, although they were amenable to the idea of a restored monarchy. L'Estrange believed that they felt anxious about their possible loss of crown lands acquired during the interregnum and their general belief that only a Commonwealth could sort out the entangled interests, including religious, of the nation. A change of government and the flexible allegiances of the army might well leave a king insecure and threaten another war. However, L'Estrange answered such fears and argued 'that our former Government, eminently, included all the perfections of a Free State, and was the Kernel, as it were, of a Common-wealth, in the Shell of Monarchy'.⁹ It was clear that the fate of the nation was in the hands of General Monck, and L'Estrange in recognition of this had prefaced the pamphlet with a 'humble addresse to his Excellency General Monck'. These overtures to Monck did not please the