

THE ENGLISH AND THE CORN LAWS.

After the Great War trade was very bad and food was very dear. The price of bread was very high because of the Corn Laws. These laws kept foreign wheat out of the country, and made English wheat very dear.

The mass of the people could not help themselves against these laws, they had no votes and no power in Parliament. The power was held by landlords who were in favour of such laws. At last some men spoke strongly against the Corn Laws.

In 1845 there was a famine, and people saw the need of cheap bread. The Corn Laws were destroyed in 1849. Food is now cheap and good.

THE ENGLISH IN THE CRIMEA.

The Crimean War began in 1854. England and France, on behalf of Turkey, went to war with Russia. The fighting took place in the Crimean peninsula in the Black Sea. Great battles were fought at Alma, Balaklava, and Inkermann.

The British troops suffered very much from cold, hunger, and sickness. A band of English ladies went out to nurse the sick and wounded. The town of Sebastopol was taken in 1855. Russia then gave way, and peace was made in 1856.

THE ENGLISH IN THE INDIAN MUTINY.

In 1857 the Indian Mutiny broke out. The native troops murdered the white masters, and slew women and children. At Cawnpore and Lucknow large numbers of English were shut up, and had to fight for their lives.

The English at Cawnpore were murdered by treachery, but at Lucknow the garrison held out till an army came up to save them. There was much fighting, but by the end of 1858 the English were once more masters of the country.

THE ENGLISH AND THEIR VOTE.

Eighty years ago hardly a working man in the country had a vote. Thus the mass of the people had no voice in making or altering the laws. Now the working classes have great power, because they have many votes with which to elect men who agree with their wishes.

In 1832 the Reform Bill was passed. It gave votes to many more people than before, and gave members to large towns which had not had members before. In 1885 the vote was given to every householder. A vote is a very useful thing, and should be given very carefully and after much thought.

THE ENGLISH UNDER VICTORIA—I.

Queen Victoria died in 1901, after a reign of more than sixty-three years. During this reign many great changes took place. In 1837 there were very few schools, and these were poor ones without proper teachers; now there are plenty of good schools. Then many young children were working in mines