

three months he struggled against a strong opposition. In sixteen divisions he was defeated; but his resolutions never wavered. Public feeling had grown strong. The cry of the nation was in his favor. The freedom of the city of London was presented to him, and the city illuminated in his honor. The House was dissolved, and in the new election one hundred and sixty-five supporters of the coalition lost their seats. Pitt was returned at the head of the poll for Cambridge University. He was now twenty-five years old. A young man, but the mightiest subject in England: more powerful than his father had ever been. From this point a full history of the life of Pitt would be the history of the nation.

Eight years of peace followed the election of 1784, during which time Pitt was the darling of the nation, the man on whom the eyes of the civilized world were turned. During these years his name was associated with peace, freedom, temperate reform and just administration. He had nobly assisted Wilberforce in endeavoring to abolish slavery, and had carried important measures in that direction.

In the meantime the French Revolution broke out. At first Pitt sympathized with the revolution. He was afterwards driven, by the Tory sentiment of the nation, to undertake war with France. From this day his misfortunes began. In the management of war he was as unlike his great father as it was possible to be. He had unlimited resources, plenty of men and a willing parliament. Chatham, under such circumstances, would, in a few months, have created one of the finest armies in the world, and by a bold stroke Europe would have been saved. Pitt, great as his abilities were, was in military affairs a mere driveller. True, by his genius, he formed many coalitions, but from the lack of energy they all failed. It is a remarkable proof of his parliamentary ability, that while the coalitions which he had formed were falling to pieces, while the enemy he was feebly contending with was subjugating nation after nation, and while all England was in commotion, he never lost his authority over the Commons. If some great victory of the enemy spread fear and dismay through the ranks of his majority, that dismay only lasted till he rose from the Treasury bench and poured forth in deep sonorous tones the language of inflexible resolution.