

A. Yes; he discouraged informers against "Papists," and conciliated the people of Ireland by mitigating the severities of the existing laws, so far as a mild administration could mitigate them.

Q. Were there not, however, two new penal laws passed during his viceroyalty?

A. Yes; one of these laws dissolved all marriages between Protestants and Papists; the other inflicted the penalty of death on every Catholic priest who should marry two Protestants, or a Protestant and Papist.

Q. In what year did Chesterfield leave Ireland?

A. In 1747.

Q. Who then acquired a leading power in the Irish government?

A. The Protestant prime, Dr. Stone, who, like his predecessor, Boulter, was an Englishman.

Q. What was Stone's policy?

A. He converted his house into a brothel to win the support of the younger members of parliament to his measures by pandering to their vices?

Q. What event occurred in 1759?

A. Carrickfergus was seized by a small French force under the command of Thurot; who, however, soon retired, when he found that he was not sustained by the Catholic inhabitants.

Q. What important legislative measures was contemplated in that year?

A. Ministers projected a legislative union between Ireland and England.

Q. Did this scheme succeed?

A. No; it was abandoned for the time. The people of Dublin were indignant at the design. They rushed into the House of Lords, and compelled such members of both house as they met, to take an oath that they never would consent to the destruction of the Irish parliament.

Q. In what year did George the Second die?

A. In 1760.

#### CHAPTER XXX.

#### *The Reign of George the Third.*

Q. What change occurred in the constitution of the Irish parliament in the earlier part of the reign of George the Third?

A. The members of the House of Commons had previously sat for life; but in 1768, they shortened the duration of each parliament to eight years.

Q. Who was at that time lord lieutenant?

A. Lord Townshend.

Q. What dispute arose between the court and the House of Commons?

A. A money bill had been prepared in England, and was submitted to the House of Commons by the Irish minister; but the Commons threw out the bill, because it had not originated with themselves.

Q. Did Lord Townshend protest against the rejection of the bill by the Commons?

A. He did; but the House refused to enter his protest on their journals.

Q. In what year did the American colonies revolt from England?

A. In 1776.

Q. What effect had the assertion of American independence on the Irish people?

A. It stimulated them, by example, to assert the freedom of their trade, and the independence of their parliament.

Q. Did it furnish them with any facilities for this purpose?

A. Yes; by embarrassing England, which was then engaged in a war against the American states, and could not spare troops to overawe the Irish. For the period of England's difficulty and distress has ever been the period the most favourable to Irish freedom. England's extremity has always been Ireland's opportunity.

Q. Who were the Irish Volunteers?

A. They were an army of citizen-soldiers, who rose up to defend their country, which, in 1778, was threatened with a French invasion.

Q. Where did the enrolment of this citizen-army originate?

A. In Belfast. The people of that town had requested the government to send them a garrison.

Q. What was the answer of the government?

A. That they could not spare them more than half a troop of dismounted cavalry, and half a company of invalids.

Q. When the Belfast Volunteers formed themselves into a corps for the national defence, was their example speedily followed by the other towns throughout the kingdom?

A. Yes; so speedily, that within a few months the volunteer army of Ireland amounted to 42,000 strong.

Q. What were the proceedings of the Irish Parliament?

A. When the house of Parliament found themselves sustained by so powerful an army, they unanimously voted an address to the viceroy, declaring that the nation could only be preserved from ruin, by a free trade; they also voted resolutions of thanks to the different volunteer companies for their spirited patriotism.

Q. In what year was free trade carried by the Irish legislature?

A. In 1779.

Q. What was the celebrated resolution of the Dublin Volunteers, presided over by the duke of Leinster, in 1780?

A. "Resolved—That the king, lords, and commons of Ireland only, were competent to make laws binding the subjects of this realm; and that they would not obey, nor give operation to, any laws since only those enacted by the king, lords, and commons of Ireland, whose rights and privileges, jointly and severally, they were determined to support with their lives and fortunes."

(To be continued.)