

342. Was not George the Third celebrated likewise for the encouragement he gave to the arts of painting and sculpture?

Yes; it was under his auspices that the Royal Academy for painting was founded at Somerset House.

343. What great men flourished during this reign?

The poets Burns, Cowper, and Goldsmith; the historians Hume, Smollett, and Gibbon; the writers Johnson, Adam Smith, Paley, and Blackstone; the inventors Watt, Brindley, and Arkwright; the statesmen Burke, Pitt, and Fox; the artists Reynolds, Lawrence, and Turner; and a host of others.

CHAPTER XV.

George the Fourth.

344. By whom was George the Third succeeded?

By his eldest son, George, Prince of Wales, at that time Regent of the kingdom; who was publicly proclaimed in London and Westminster.

345. By what other occurrences was the year distinguished?

By a general election throughout the United Kingdom, and by the trials of Mr. Hunt, and others at York, on a charge of attending, &c. the meeting at Manchester, (which had been decreed an illegal one), and of Sir Francis Burdett, at Leicester, for writing a letter on that occasion, reflecting on the conduct of government. In both instances the defendants were found guilty and imprisoned. Also by the trials and conviction of the Cato-street conspirators.

346. What other event of importance occurred during the year 1820?

Her Majesty, Queen Caroline, who had for several years been residing abroad, and who, in her absence, had been accused of improper conduct, arrived at Dover, to meet the charges which had been made against her.

347. To what did her arrival lead?

To her public trial by the peers of the realm, in the House of Lords, where she appeared personally; and although there was a small majority of votes against her, the government deemed it advisable to drop the proceedings, and allow her £50,000 per annum, to support the dignity of her station.