

The magistracy, considering such an assemblage likely to proceed to violence, had called to the aid of the civil power two regiments of yeomanry and some regular troops; a party of the former being ordered to assist in securing the leaders, and to disperse the people, a scene of terror and confusion ensued, whereby some persons lost their lives, and many were seriously wounded.

338. To what did this lead?

The government thought it expedient to prevent such meetings of the people in future, unless they were convened by persons in authority; and for that and other purposes, restrictive acts were passed, not, however, without considerable opposition from those members who advocated the cause of parliamentary reform.

339. Was not the commencement of the year 1820 rendered remarkable in a melancholy manner by the death of two illustrious persons?

Yes; on the 23rd of January the Duke of Kent expired at his cottage at Sidmouth, in Devonshire, from inflammation brought on by cold. His royal highness, who was sincerely lamented, left an infant daughter, Alexandrina Victoria, (her present Majesty). Queen Charlotte had died in 1818.

340. Who was the other illustrious person who died at this period?

His venerable Majesty, George the Third, who expired on the 29th of January, 1820, in the 60th year of his reign, and the 82nd of his age. The long and severe malady that this just and amiable monarch had endured, had prepared his affectionate subjects for the melancholy event; but though long expected, his death was sincerely lamented.

341. Was not his reign signalized by many important discoveries, inventions, and improvements?

Yes; by the discovery of various islands and countries in different parts of the world; by the introduction of vaccination as a protection against the small-pox; by the use of gas for the purpose of lighting our streets, churches, manufactories, and shops; by the employment of steam for the purpose of propelling ships at sea, and various machines on land; also by numerous improvements in chemistry and other sciences.