

cordingly a combination was formed against him. King John was forced to sign and seal at Runnymede, in 1215, the Magna Charta, which is regarded as the great bulwark of English liberty even at the present time. Some of the more important clauses were 'that the people should have a voice in the levying of taxes,' and 'that suspects should have the right of trial by a jury of peers.'

In spite of Magna Charta the people still suffered wrongs. Relief was obtained through the Petition of Rights in the time of Charles I. The Petition stopped forced loans, and specified cases of taxation, in fact reiterated in a clearer way the Great Charter. Again the Bill of Rights under William III limited the power of William of Orange, and forbade the raising of an army without the consent of parliament, the suspension of laws and the arbitrary collection of money. It asserted the right of the people to depose the king and change the order of succession, thus putting aside all claim to divine right.

In the Jacobite movement which followed party government had its beginning. Through the indolence and ignorance of George I. a cabinet was formed and Walpole became the first Prime Minister of England. On account of his great financial abilities, he was made first Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer. Henceforth it was the rule that the first Lord of the Treasury became the finder of the revenues expended by the other ministers. Any adviser who questioned his authority invited dismissal and thus he became Premier in his Cabinet. In 1837 the constituencies were redistributed, representatives coming from "rotten" boroughs were thrown out and their places given to members from the new constituencies. On this foundation rests the government of our day created for and by the people, grown with the industrial life of England, in which the sovereign is a useful figure head.

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