

The result of the American war was happy for Britain as well as America, for compulsory taxation of an unrepresented people was a violation of English principles. The collapse of the war naturally brought in a new government, composed of those who had opposed it, of the followers of Chatham and the Rockingham Whigs. But the two elements differed in views. Shelburne and young William Pitt were suspicious of the great Whigs, were ready to conciliate the king, and looked to electoral reform; the Whigs looked with aversion upon any extension of popular power or of court influence. Rockingham's death and the succession of Shelburne as prime minister led to a split. Fox, the leader of the Whigs, combined with North to form a Coalition ministry in violation of their former principles. The king sided with Pitt, and an appeal to the constituencies resulted in the defeat of the coalition. *Pitt's government* had been formed by an intrigue, but in Pitt the king had found a man "who could lay the foundations of the organization of intelligence in the place of the organization of hereditary rank and hereditary wealth." The policy of the new Tory party was distinctly Liberal. Pitt had learned from *Adam Smith* the first principles of political economy, and the early years of his authority were marked by great reforms. The state of the people, too, had improved in many ways. The seed sown by Wesley had taken root, and a new life and vigour everywhere appeared.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

The ideas out of which modern democracy has sprung first came to the surface in France, where the evils of selfish aristocracy and corrupt church were at their worst.

"In opposition to these evils, a double tendency was soon manifested, the one, of which the typical personage was Rousseau, which looked to pure democracy as the remedy against the evils of an effete aristocratic society; the other, of which the typical personage was Voltaire, which looked to clearer intellectual belief as a remedy for the evils caused by ignorance and folly. By the combination of these two movements, modern society was to be deeply moulded in the future."

It was inevitable that the first attempt to carry these ideas into practice, in a country devoid of political education, would end in disaster, and that the traditions of the past should be scorned. It was also natural that, though England could not in the long run escape the new influences, the first effect would be to create a feeling of repugnance to violent changes, and to cause reaction. This lasted