

and factories. They were treated very cruelly, working long hours on poor food, and beaten if they failed to please their harsh employers. Now young children are in school.

Chimneys were cleaned by boys who climbed up them, a dangerous business in which the boys often met with injury. Many laws have been passed to do away with such a state of affairs.

THE ENGLISH UNDER VICTORIA—II.

The railway was a new thing when Queen Victoria began to reign. Before that time people travelled in coaches drawn by horses, a slow and costly way of making a journey. Poor people went on foot or by waggon. George Stephenson built the first English railway.

In 1840 penny postage came in; before that time a letter often cost a shilling, or even half a crown. A great change has taken place in the law. Then a man could be hanged for a very small offence; now death is a very rare punishment.

The Empire has increased very greatly. In Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, great numbers of our people have set up new homes.

THE ENGLISH TO-DAY.

The Boer War broke out in 1899. The Orange Free State and the Transvaal in South Africa declared war against Britain. Many brave men from the Colonies came to fight for the Mother Country, and in 1900 Lord Roberts took the capitals of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. The war was ended in 1902 and the two countries added to the Empire.

After the death of Queen Victoria, Edward VII. came to the throne in 1901. We have now read the Story of the English People, and must do our utmost to keep up the credit of our race.