

seas of blood with which he had deluged the soil of Europe. There was great distress in England; the wicked Bread Tax was in force, and many cruel things were done to keep down the people when they met together to try and get old-fashioned wrongs set right. The poor old King George III., blind and crazy, was gradually nearing the tomb to which Queen Caroline (his wife for more than fifty years) had been borne in the previous year. The Prince Regent was revelling at Carlton House. In the world of science, Sir Humphry Davy took the highest place; whilst the prominent names in literature were: Scott, Byron, Shelley, Keats, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Southey, Campbell, Moore. The slave-trade had been abolished, but Catholic Emancipation, the Repeal of the Corn Laws, the Reform Bill and other great works had yet to be accomplished. Lord Ashley (afterwards Earl of Shaftesbury) was at this time a youth of eighteen, and, of course, not yet in Parliament, so that his long career of philanthropic triumphs, which we have so lately seen brought to a close, was still in the future, and the many wrongs which he attacked and conquered, were flourishing unchecked. As it is intended to make the present sketch of Queen Victoria's career as far as possible a personal one, future allusions to political or general topics will be few and brief, but a rapid glance round before beginning the story seemed desirable.

And next it will be well to say a word or two