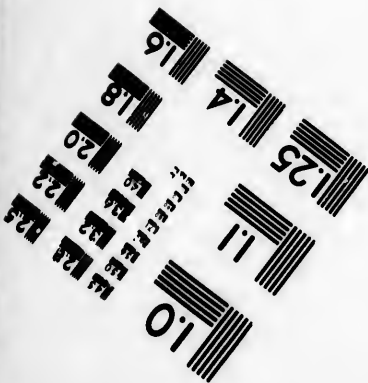
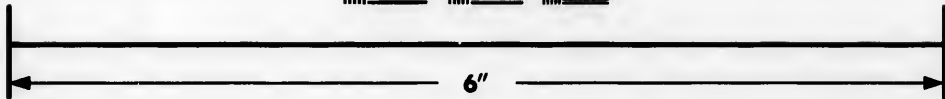
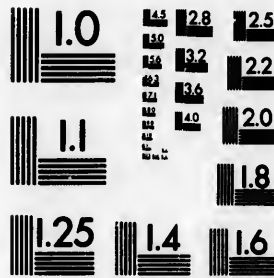


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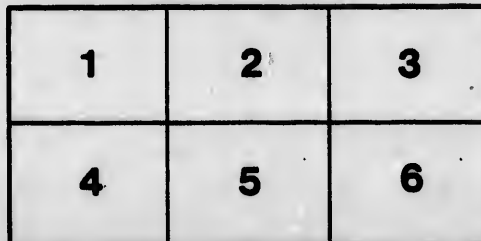
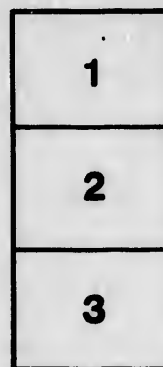
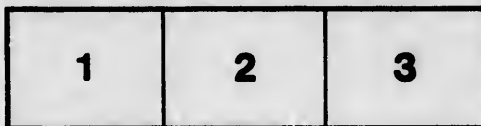
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ERRATA.

Page 111—12th line from the top—for “Charles Edward  
the *second* son of the Pretender,” read “the  
*eldest* son.”

Page 143—5th line from the top—for “to join him in  
*reversing*,” read “to join him in *reviving*.”

# HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

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## CHAPTER I.

### *The Roman Period.*

FROM B. C. 55 TO A. D. 450.

1. THE authentic history of Britain begins with the invasion of the country by the Romans. In the fifty-fifth year before the birth of Christ, the famous statesman and general, Julius Cæsar, having subdued Gaul, landed on the eastern shores of England, near Deal in Kent, with a force of about twelve thousand men. He was not, however, allowed to disembark from his ships without a fierce contest with the natives; but the genius of the Roman general, and the discipline of his troops, were more than a match for the headlong rashness and desperate bravery of their rude and savage opponents. After being defeated by the Romans, the Britons tendered their submission which Cæsar accepted; and the winter season approaching, he returned to Gaul after an absence of only fifteen days. The next year, he came back with a larger fleet, and an army of more than thirty thousand men, including two thousand cavalry. The Britons retired into the interior; and having elected as their leader the chief of the Tribonantes, called by the Romans, Cassivelaunus, they

harrassed the invaders by a desultory warfare, for which the country was highly favorable. But even this system proved vain. Having attempted to dispute the passage of the Thames at Wallingford, they were defeated ; and Cæsar advancing into the country, burnt Verulam the capital of Cassi. elannus. The Britons, thereupon, prayed for peace, which was granted to them on condition of paying a yearly tribute to Rome. Cæsar had not contemplated a permanent conquest of Britain ; and consequently, on the submission of the natives, he immediately withdrew his forces to the continent. His victories were not attended with any useful result, and the island was left unmolested for almost a century.

2. At the period of this, the first Roman invasion, Britain, like the opposite coast of Gaul was chiefly, if not wholly, inhabited by the race called Celts or Kelts, who are thus described by Cæsar in his celebrated Commentaries : —“ Among the Gauls the multitude are in a state of servile dependence upon the equestrian and sacerdotal orders. Most of them indeed, for the sake of exemption from taxes, or deliverance from debt, or protection against danger have enslaved themselves to the nobility whose power over them is as absolute as that of a master over his slaves. The Druids have the care of education ; they alone cultivate knowledge, they conceal from the vulgar the secret doctrines in which their pupils only are initiated. Their sacred duties privilege them from taxes and from military service ; they determine the greatest part of litigated questions ; it is their business to allot rewards and punishments.

“The party who refuses to abide by their decision is punished by interdiction, which disables him from public office, brands him as impious and criminal, and cuts off his whole intercourse with his fellow creatures. These powers are rendered more dreadful by the proneness to a dire superstition which taints the Gaulish character. All the political authority which the priesthood suffer to exist is exercised by a turbulent and factious nobility, whose constant occupation is to recruit and exercise their devoted adherents. The chieftain, or Vergobret, has an uncontrolled power of life and death over the laymen of his tribe. Their domestic life corresponds to their ecclesiastical and civil polity. Husbands have the power of life and death over their wives and children. At the death of a nobleman, if there be a suspicion against the wives, they are put to the torture as slaves; if they be thought guilty, after cruel torments, they die in the flames.” It will be remembered too, that this description of the Gauls refers to a time when that people were much more advanced in civilization than the Britons, although Britain was acknowledged by the former to be the chief source and seat of Druidism.

3. The Druids are said to have taught the existence of a supreme being, and the doctrine of the transmigration of souls. The serpent and the heavenly bodies were also objects of worship with them. They considered the oak as sacred; their religious exercises were performed in the depths of the forests and within circular spaces formed by large blocks of stones. Of these Druidical circles that of Stonehenge on Salisbury Plains is the most perfect spe-

cimen extant. We are informed by Cæsar that, at some of their celebrations, the Druids, seized indiscriminately, on the worshippers, and filled large wicker baskets with men, women and children who were consumed by fire.

4. The coast of Britain opposite to Gaul had, to a small extent, been settled by persons from the latter country, who had cultivated and cleared portions of the land, but the inland country was in a state of nature. The inhabitants lived in cottages thatched with straw, and raised large herds of cattle, from which, together with the produce of the chase, they derived their food, as well as such clothing as they used. Their arms, legs, and thighs were left naked, and were punctured and painted of a blue colour. Societies of men had wives in common. The people were divided into numberless tribes, of which the Romans have handed down to us the names of more than forty; and they were continually engaged in war with each other. In battle they, partly, fought on foot, and, partly, in chariots armed with scythes and drawn by horses. Their dexterity in the use of these chariots is greatly praised by their Roman enemies. They were unacquainted with the use of lime or mortar. The use of iron was limited, their weapons for the purposes of war being for the most part pointed with flints and sharpened stones.

5. In the year 43 of the Christian era, about ninety-six years after Cæsar's invasion, the conquest of Britain was seriously resumed, under the Roman emperor, Claudius. His general, Plautius, in seven years, reduced the country south of the river Thames. Ostorius Scapula extended the



Roman sway to the banks of the Severn, where he encountered the Silures of South Wales, under their brave king Caractacus, or Caradoc, whom he defeated and took prisoner, (A. D. 50.) Caractacus was carried in chains to Rome, where his bearing and language were such that he commanded the esteem and respect of Claudius, who treated him with lenity. In the year 59, Suetonius Paulinus attacked Mona, or Anglesea, which was the sacred seat of Druidism. After crossing the strait which divides the Island from the mainland, he saw the acclivities crowned with warriors, while women were running to and fro with mourning habits, their hair flying loose, and brandishing torches in their hands. The Druids stood with arms uplifted to heaven, praying for the destruction of the invaders. The Britons perished by the sword of the Romans and the flames they had themselves kindled. About the same time an insurrection of the subdued tribes broke out in consequence of an atrocious outrage upon Boadicea, Queen of Iceni, who was publicly whipped, and forced to witness the violation of her daughters. But Suetonius brought the insurgents to a general action, in which they were defeated with fearful slaughter. Boadicea who had harangued her countrymen, inciting them to avenge her wrongs, poisoned herself after the battle.

6. Under the emperor Vespasian, (A. D. 71), Cneius Julius Agricola was appointed to the government of Britain, and we have an account of his administration in the admirable history of his son-in-law, C. Cornelius Tacitus. Agricola, in the course of eight campaigns, carried the Roman



arms into Scotland, where at the foot of the eastern Grampians he gained a celebrated victory over a chief or king, called by the Romans, Galgacus. He joined by fortified posts the Friths of Forth and Clyde, to serve as a defence against the northern barbarians. It was during his government that Britain was first discovered to be an island. This was done by a Roman fleet which sailed around it by his order. A. D. 120, the Emperor Adrian built another line of forts, well known as Adrian's wall, from the Solway to the German Ocean. A third line was erected during the reign of Antoninus, commanding the Friths of Forth and Clyde.

7. After this, the Roman empire began to decline, from the invasion of the barbarians of the North of Europe, and the Roman soldiers were therefore gradually withdrawn to protect the city of Rome itself. The Island of Britain was finally released from its allegiance to Rome by the emperor Honorius, after a connexion of nearly four hundred years.

8. Britain had been divided by the Romans into six provinces, namely:—1. Britannia Prima, consisting of the country south of the Severn and the Thames;—2. Britannia Secunda, containing Wales and the adjoining districts along the Severn;—3. Flavia Cæsariensis, from the two former provinces to the German ocean;—4. Maxima Cæsariensis, to the north of the Humber, from its mouth to the mouth of the Tyne and the Eden;—5. Valenciana, from the Tyne to the Clyde and the Forth;—6. Vespasiana, the country beyond these friths, a nominal

conquest. The towns and military stations were numerous. The commerce of Britain was considerable, especially in corn, which was, indeed, so large that the island was called the Northern Granary of the Empire. Cattle, horses, dogs, tin, lead, iron, the precious metals, pearls and oysters were also exported and exchanged for the manufactures of Italy, and for the products and luxuries of other countries.

9. Christianity was introduced into Britain at an early period. Its progress at first was slow, but finally it became the religion of the country.

10. The Saxon conquest of England which we shall next relate, destroyed almost every vestige of Roman civilization. It is probable, indeed, that the great military roads which, stretching through the country from north to south, and from east to west, served as means of communication for many succeeding ages, and the clearing of the lands for the purposes of agriculture, were the only permanent results of the possession of Britain by the Romans. With these exceptions, the religion, literature, language, laws, and institutions of that great people, their public and private edifices, all vanished like a dream.

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*Questions on Chapter First.*

1. When does the authentic history of Britain begin ?  
What Roman general invaded Britain ?  
In what year and how was he received ?  
Did the Romans at this time remain in Britain ?

2. By whom was Britain chiefly inhabited at the time of the first Roman invasion ?  
What does Cæsar say respecting the inhabitants of Britain ?  
Who were the Druids and what were their powers and privileges ?
3. What did the Druids teach and where did they worship ?
4. In what kind of houses did the Britons live ? How did they dress ? Into how many tribes were they divided ? How did they fight in battle ?
5. In what year and by whom was the conquest of Britain resumed ? Describe what took place ?  
What was the chief seat of the Druids and what occurred there ?
6. Who did Vespasian appoint to the government of Britain ? Describe what he did. Who discovered Britain to be an Island ? How many lines of forts or walls were built ?
7. Who released Britain from its allegiance to Rome, and why was this done ?
8. In what year did the Romans divide Britain ? Was the commerce of Britain considerable ?
9. When was Christianity introduced and what was its progress ?
10. Did the Romans leave any permanent impression on the religion, literature, language, laws and institutions of Britain ?

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## CHAPTER II.

### *Saxon Period.*

#### THE HEPTARCHY—A. D. 450—825.

1. THE SAXONS.—The Britons having been deserted by their Roman masters, they became a prey to internal divisions, and to attacks from the Picts and Scots who then inhabited that portion of the island which is now called Scotland. In their distress they applied to Ætius the Roman prefect of Gaul, in language at once abject, and affecting. “The groans of the wretched Britons,” they write “to the thrice appointed consul Ætius. The

Barbarians drive us into the sea, and the sea forces us back on the swords of the Barbarians, so that we have nothing left to us but the wretched choice of being drowned or murdered." But Ætius could give them no aid, being sorely pressed by the Barbarians under Attila and other chiefs, who were forcing their way to the heart of the Roman empire.

2. The Britons, then, applied for assistance to the Saxons, a Germanic people who inhabited the sea coast along the Elbe and Rhine as far as Jutland. These Saxons were largely mingled with the Jutes, Angles and Frisians, all kindred tribes. They are described as a brave but cruel people, whose constant occupation was war and piracy. But like the other nations of ancient Germany, they were remarkable for their love of liberty, for obedience to those in lawful authority, for respect for females, and for a capacity for improvement and for progress in civilization. Their religion was that of Scandinavia, their chief object of worship being Odin or Woden; and for some ages after they were settled in England, Christianity and its teachers were objects of their hatred.

3. The Saxons performed their agreement with the Britons by defeating and driving back the Picts and Scots; but encouraged by the weakness of those whom they came to protect, and attracted by the fertility of the land, they resolved to establish themselves in the country. The first body of Saxons who came into England were under the guidance of two brothers Hen-

gist and Horsa. They took possession of the isle of Thanet, and being joined by successive bands of their countrymen, they turned their arms against the Britons, who were finally extirpated or driven into remote portions of the island. This, however, was not effected without a long and severe contest; for, after the lapse of more than a century, we find the Britons in the occupation of Cornwall, North and South Wales, Cumberland and Strathclyde in Scotland. Seven or eight Saxon principalities occupied the rest of England. These are, in history, called the Heptarchy or seven kingdoms, and consisted of Kent, Sussex, Essex, Wessex, Northumbria, East Anglia and Mercia. Each state was governed by its own prince or king; and after the Britons ceased to be dangerous as enemies, they were at frequent war with one another, although at times owing a limited allegiance to a chief bearing the title of Bretwalda, or "Wielder of the Britons." Of seven princes, who held this station, one was king of the South Saxons, one of the West Saxons, one of Kent, one of the East Angles, and three, in succession, of Northumbria.

4. About the close of the sixth century (595) the Christian religion was again introduced into England, by Augustin, a missionary, sent there for that purpose, by Pope Gregory the Great, at the head of forty other Monks. It is told of Gregory that, long before his accession to the Papal throne, he saw some beautiful children for sale in the slave market in Rome, and asking who they were, he was told they were Angles or English

Pagans. "Were they Christians," said Gregory, "they would not be Angles but Angels!" From that time, he formed the design of bringing the Saxons within the pale of Christianity. Augustin was favorably received by Ethelbert king of Kent, who then held the office of Bretwalda, and whose wife Bertha, a daughter of the king of Paris, was a Christian. Ethelbert having been baptised, his influence and example wrought upon his subjects who were converted in large numbers; and gradually the Christian religion was adopted by the whole Saxon people. We are informed by the historians of the times, that when Redwald king of East Anglia became Bretwalda, he called together a general council to take into consideration the new doctrine. All agreed as to the worthlessness of their old gods and their worship; and Coifi the pagan high-priest in an eloquent speech proposed their overthrow. Then casting aside his priestly garments, he called for arms and a horse, and galloping to the shrine of the principal idol at Godmundham, he hurled a lance in defiance within the enclosure. The Scandinavian gods were silent; the profanation was unpunished; and the sacred edifice was hurled to the ground.

5. England still continued divided into small states, weakened by continual wars between each other and with the Britons who long held possession of Cornwall and Devon, of the country west of the Severn, as well as the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland. But towards the middle of the eighth century the minor states of Kent, Sussex, Essex and East Anglia having become parts of

the more powerful kingdoms of Northumbria, Mercia and Wessex, the Britons were finally driven beyond the Wye, which country thereafter became known by the name of Wales.

6. The seven states being thus merged into the three kingdoms just named, a struggle for supremacy ensued between the latter, in which, sometimes one and sometimes another was ascendant. A dispute having arisen between Beorhtric and Egbert for the crown of Wessex, Egbert was forced to take refuge at the court of Charlemagne, emperor of the west, where he remained for fourteen years. On the death of Beorhtric, he returned to England and succeeded to the crown of Wessex. He was a prince of great talents. He reduced the Britons of Devon and Cornwall to subjection. In the year 823 he conquered Mercia, adding it to his dominions; and East Anglia and Northumbria having voluntarily submitted to him, his power was acknowledged throughout all the country southward of the Humber, either as king of England, or more probably as Bretwalda.

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*Questions on Chapter Second.*

1. After the Romans departed what happened to the Britons? To whom did they apply for aid, and with what success?
2. Whom did the Britons next apply to? Describe the Saxons, their character and religion?
3. Did the Saxons perform their agreement with the Britons? What then occurred? How was England divided by the Saxons? What were the seven principalities called, and how were they governed?

4. By whom was Christianity again introduced into Britain? What remark did Gregory the Great make respecting certain English Pagans? How were the Christian missionaries received in England? Relate what happened at a general council called to consider the Christian religion?
5. When and by whom were the Britons expelled beyond the River Wye?
6. Into how many states was Britain now divided? When did Egbert reign and what part of England acknowledged his authority?

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### CHAPTER III.

#### *Saxon Period Continued.*

A. D. 825—1066.

1. ENGLAND now enjoyed a more regular government and a greater freedom from internal discord. But a new enemy had for some time threatened her, whose ravages soon spread terror through the land. The Danes or Northmen, who, like the Saxon invaders of England, were composed of many Scandinavian nations and tribes, had long been known to the rest of Europe as bold and merciless pirates. They, first appeared on the English coast about the year 787, but were defeated by Offa king of Mercia. They returned, however, year after year, and being joined by the remaining Britons, they overran the whole country, burning, plundering and slaying, with little distinction of place, sex or age. Being still Pagans, the Christian ministers of religion, the



churches and monasteries, became the special objects of their fury. From about the fifth year of reign of the Egbert, and during those of his immediate successors, Ethelwolf, Ethelbald, Ethelbert, and Ethelred the First, the history of England contains little but accounts of the devastations of those Heathens, to use the term by which they were usually called. Mercia, Northumbria, and East Anglia had fallen; Wessex was all but ruined by them; the Saxons were about to meet the fate which they had themselves inflicted on the Britons, when a great man appeared on the stage, who was both destined to save his country and to stamp his name for ever on her civilization, her institutions and laws. Ethelred having died in battle he was succeeded by his brother Alfred the Great.

2. 871 to 901. This prince would have been esteemed an extraordinary man in any age or country; he was a wonder in the age and country in which he lived. Alfred was born at Wantage in Berkshire, in the year 849, and was the third son of Ethelwolf by Osberga, a noble Saxon lady. For sometime after his accession to the throne, he carried on an unequal contest against the Danes, who at last bore down all resistance. They overran the country from end to end, and the Saxon people were wholly beaten and subdued—"all," says the Saxon historian, "but Alfred the king." He, with a small band of friends, retired to the centre of a morass surrounded by bogs and forests, still called the Isle of Athelney, or the Isle of the Nobles, and formed by the waters of the Thone and Parret, in Somersetshire. It is told

of him that the good woman of the house, in which he was sheltered, one day asked Alfred, who was disguised as a peasant, to look to the cakes on the gridiron, while she went forth. The king, with his thoughts lent on other matters, let the cakes heat on till they were burned, much to the wrath of the good-wife, who scolded him for a lazy fellow who would be ready enough at the eating of them. It is also said that he visited the Danish camp in the guise of a harper, and remarked the carelessness and want of discipline, which, perhaps, arose from their contempt for their opponents. In a short time, however, Alfred again appeared among his people, who had believed him dead. They received him with enthusiasm, and rallying around him, the Danes were attacked, and completely routed. Guthrum, their chief, having sued for peace, received from Alfred a large tract of country, including part of Northumberland, on the condition of his consenting to be baptised. During the remainder of Alfred's reign the English, though occasionally harrassed, were not again endangered by the Danish arms. The country enjoyed uninterrupted peace for the ensuing fifteen years. It is true that during the last four years of Alfred's days, England experienced formidable hostility from a Danish force, under a celebrated leader, called Hastings, who invaded her in three hundred vessels. But Alfred met him with a navy composed of a far superior class of vessels to those of the invaders, whom he drove back and defeated.

3. Alfred devoted the peaceful portion of his reign to the safety and enlightenment of his people. He encouraged

learned men to reside at his court, and forwarded education among the clergy and the people. He improved the laws and enforced them, and for many ages afterwards everything that was most worthy of praise in the institutions of England was attributed to him. He not only encouraged learning, but was himself an author, having written works on philosophy, and translated several books from Latin into Anglo-Saxon. Alfred died in the year 901, leaving behind him a reputation perhaps unequalled certainly unsurpassed in the history of the world.

4. Edward, surnamed the Elder, Alfred's second son succeeded to the throne. His successor was Athelstan, his natural son, who, after a reign of nineteen years, was succeeded by his brother Edmund, and afterwards by another brother, Edred, who died in 955. Edwy the Fair, the nephew of Edred, next ascended the throne. This prince, having contracted a marriage with a lady named Elgiva, who was within the degrees of relationship prohibited by the church, his union with her was denounced by the clergy, headed by Dunstan, a monk known in history by the name of St. Dunstan. Under orders from Odo, Archbishop of Canterbury, Elgiva was forced from her husband's residence by a band of armed men, and carried to Ireland, where her captors branded her face with red-hot irons, with the view of destroying her beauty. But her wounds were healed without leaving any marks on her countenance, and she returned to England. Being captured by her enemies, she was treated with the utmost barbarity; the sinews of her legs were cut and

her body mangled, and she was only released from their cruelty by death. Edgar, the king's younger brother, having raised a revolt against him, the contest ended in a partition, which left the territory south of the Thames to Edwy, his rival being put in possession of the northern parts of the kingdom. The death of Edwy, shortly after, placed the whole of England under the sway of Edgar, who raised Dunstan to the See of Canterbury, and was wholly ruled by that prelate and the monks. This prince was weak and licentious, but his government was upheld with great success and talent by Dunstan, who was his minister and chief adviser. He was twice married, and his second nuptials were attended with circumstances too singular to be omitted. Edgar having heard much of the beauty of a young lady, called Elfrida, the daughter of the Earl of Devonshire, sent Ethelwald, a nobleman of his court, to see her and inform him if she deserved her great reputation. Ethelwald became, himself, enamoured of her beauty, wedded her, and represented to Edgar that she was unworthy of his favour. The king, afterwards, suspecting the matter, insisted on visiting her. Struck by her charms, he caused Ethelwald to be murdered, and afterwards, became the husband of Elfrida.

5. On Edgar's death, the right to the throne was disputed between his son by his first wife, Edward, surnamed the Martyr, and Ethelred, his son by Elfrida. The former was successful, by the aid of Dunstan and the monks; but a few years afterwards, having paid a visit to his younger brother, at Corfe Castle, he was mortally stabbed in the

back by direction of Elfrida, while raising a cup of wine to his lips. In the reign of his successor, Ethelred, called the Unready, the son of Edgar and Elfrida, the Danes renewed their attacks on England, landing on several parts of the coast and indulging in rapine and bloodshed. As they were spread over the country, a plot was entered into by the Saxons to destroy them; and, accordingly, all the Danes within the Saxon territory were cut off in one night. But this treacherous act was fearfully punished. Sweyn, king of Denmark, informed of the fate of his countrymen, landed in England at the head of a large army; and Ethelred was forced to fly to Normandy, leaving the country at the mercy of his opponent. Canute, surnamed the Great, succeeded Sweyn. After a fierce contest with Edmund Ironside, successor to Ethelred, they agreed to divide the kingdom between them, Edmund taking the southern, and Canuté the northern part of England. But Edmund being murdered, about a month after this treaty was entered into, Canute succeeded to the whole kingdom. Canute was one of the most powerful and greatest monarchs of the age. His sway extended over England, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden; and having adopted Christianity, he, in the latter part of his reign, ruled those countries, and especially England, with wisdom, vigour and justice. It is related of him that being flattered by his courtiers for his great power and talents, and especially as the greatest of sea-kings, he seated himself in the midst of those flatterers on the sea-shore, and commanded the tide, which was flowing, not to advance towards him. But

having proved the vanity of his words, he rebuked his attendants and piously observed, that there is one Being only who can say to the ocean, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther." After a reign over England of about twenty years, during which his impartiality gained him the respect of all parties, he died on the 12th November, 1036. He was succeeded by his son Harold, after whose death the crown descended to Hardicanute, the brother of that prince. Hardicanute's administration was marked by violence and injustice; and with his reign ended the Danish race of English kings.

6. Edward, surnamed the Confessor, was recalled from exile in Normandy, and crowned king in the year 1041. The Saxons were delighted to see the line of their ancient kings restored to them. Edward was, however, more fitted to be a monk than a monarch, especially in the iron age in which he lived. Yet, notwithstanding this, and notwithstanding, also, that he incurred much ill-will by his partiality for the Normans, many of whom he advanced to high offices, and to whom he was greatly attached, his memory was regarded with affection by the Saxons in after years, when they were subjected to a foreign yoke. He reigned twenty-four years.

7. On the day of Edward's interment, the Saxon nobles elected Harold, Earl of Kent, as their king. His father, Godwin, had been chiefly instrumental in securing the throne to Edward; and his sister had been married to that prince. Harold had several rivals, in his claims to the crown. One of these was Edgar Atheling, the grandson

of Edmund Ironside, and the lineal descendant of the Saxon royal race ; another was William, Duke of Normandy, who pretended to have been named as his successor by Edward ; and Harold's own brother Tostig, ex-Earl of Northumberland, took up arms against him, supported by a large force under Harold Hadrada, king of Norway.

8. Harold's attention, was first called to the last named enemy, who sailed up the Humber and gained possession of York. He offered terms to his brother, to induce him to withdraw from his foreign ally. " But if I accept these conditions," says Tostig, " what shall be the compensation to my ally the king of Norway." " Seven feet of English ground"; was the reply ; " or as Hadrada is a giant, perhaps a little more." The treaty was broken off ; and the Norwegians were attacked and defeated with great slaughter.

9. On the 28th day of September, 1066, during the absence of Harold in the north, the Duke of Normandy landed an army consisting of 60,000 chosen men, principally cavalry, at Pevensey in Sussex. He soon heard that Harold was approaching flushed, with victory. They met at the memorable field of Hastings. The battle was contested with the utmost fury. The Norman bowmen did fearful execution among the ranks of the Saxon infantry, which was drawn up in one solid mass, and which long proved impenetrable to the enemy's cavalry, though led on, in repeated attacks, by William in person. He at last had recourse to a stratagem which proved successful.

A large body of Norman men at arms were ordered to attack the English, and to retreat as if beaten. The English broke their ranks, in pursuit. The same stratagem was repeated several times ; and each time the English fell into the snare laid for them. At length Harold received his death from an arrow, which entering near the eye pierced to his brain. His two valiant brothers died gallantly defending his standard ; the English, broken and panic struck, took to flight ; and the fortune of the day and the fate of the kingdom were decided. The bravery and conduct of Harold in this, his last battle, have been admitted even by the Norman historians. His body was found on the field disfigured by blood and wounds.

The battle of Hastings closes the Saxon period of English history, extending over a space of more than six hundred years.

10. In England, under the Saxons, the crown was hereditary ; but it frequently occurred that the brother of a deceased king was preferred to his son, if the latter had not the capacity, or had not arrived at an age to execute the regal functions. The people were divided into Nobles, Freemen, and Serfs. All offices in the state were reserved for the nobles or Thanes ; but a Freeman might become a Thane by the possession of five hides of land, and by success in agriculture, commerce, learning, or arms. The Serfs were disposed of with the lands, together with the cattle and other stock. The title of Earl, or earlderman, was a personal distinction, conferred usually by the king on the person to whom the government of a province was confided.



11. The Saxons were almost wholly an agricultural people, and, although their ploughs and other implements were of the rudest description, it is computed that as large a quantity of land was under cultivation, in some parts of the country, as was the case in the last century. Many monasteries had orchards, but they were almost unknown to the great body of the people. The main objects of cultivation were wheat and barley, which, together with rye, constituted the great articles of food. Numerous herds of cattle, sheep, and swine comprised the chief wealth of the nobles and freemen generally. In short, the nation lived in a state of rude plenty ; but in refinement the people were far behind the Normans, who viewed with contempt the gross feeding of the Saxons and their rough and unpolished manners.

12. The legislative powers were divided between the king and the assembly called the Wittenagemot, or meeting of wisemen. This body was composed of the Thanes or Nobles, and its functions were at once legislative, political and judicial. The people had no voice in the selection of the Wittenagemot, who latterly, at least, were called together by the writ of the king. The judicial proceedings were simple, as they are in all rude communities. A person accused of crime brought his friends and neighbours forward to swear to his innocence in support of his own oath, and if the weight of evidence exceeded that against him he was acquitted. In case of death, the accused was obliged to undergo the Ordeal, which consisted of carrying a brand of red-hot iron for a certain distance, to

take a straw out of a boiling cauldron, or to swallow the cornsnaed, or accursed morsel, expressing the wish that if guilty, the bread might choke him. Every offence against life and property could be expiated by a fine. Thus the *were* or penalty for a freeman was two hundred shillings, for an earl twelve hundred shillings, while the *were* for taking the life of the king was six times the fine for an earl. With all their imperfections, however, we undoubtedly owe to the Saxons the germs at least of those noble institutions which have made the Anglo-Saxon race pre-eminent throughout the world.

13. Probably the most extraordinary of the Saxon institutions was the law or custom of Frank-pledge. By this law the whole population was distributed into a number of petty societies, called tithings or freeburghs, consisting of ten freeholders, and extending over every village throughout the kingdom. The tithing was bound to present an offender in court, that he might make reparation in his property and person; and if he escaped, the tithing was answerable for his fault, if they failed to exculpate themselves from participation in his fault or flight. Even a stranger guest could not be received for more than two nights as such; on the third day his host became responsible for him.

14. The Saxon chronicles continued in the Abbey of Peterborough until the reign of Henry the Second, the works of Gildas and Nennius, Bede's Ecclesiastical History, Asser and Alfred the Great, are the principal authorities on Saxon History. Bede wrote in the eighth century; Asser was the friend and tutor of Alfred.

*Questions on Chapter Third.*

1. When did the Danes first invade England, and what is said of their subsequent conduct ?  
What great king succeeded at this time to the throne ?
2. What is said of the character of Alfred the Great ? Was he successful at first ? Where did he retire to ? What anecdote is related of him ? Did he again re-appear among his people, and what was the result ? Who invaded England in the latter part of Alfred's reign, and how was he met ?
3. To what did Alfred devote the peaceful portion of his reign ?
4. What Princes succeeded Alfred ? What is said of Edwy, and of his marriage ? Who succeeded Edwy, and what is said of his chief adviser ? What is said respecting Edgar's second marriage ?
5. Who succeeded to the throne, and how, and by whose direction was Edgar killed ? What plot was entered into at this time by the Saxons ? What did the king of Denmark do in consequence ? Who succeeded Sweyn as king of Denmark ? What other countries did he reign over ? What is said of Canute's character and what anecdote is related of him ? Who succeeded Canute, and who was the last of the Danish kings in England ?
6. Who was now recalled to England ? What is said of the character of Edward, and how long did he reign ?
7. Who was elected king after Edward's death ? Who took up arms against Harold ?
8. Who did Harold first encounter ? Relate a conversation that took place between Harold and his rebellious brother, and what followed. ✕
9. Who landed in England, and what was the number of his troops ? Where did Harold encounter this powerful enemy ? Relate what ensued ? With the battle of Hastings what important period of History terminates, and how long had it endured ?
10. Under the Saxons how were the people divided. And what is said respecting each class ? ✕
11. To what did the Saxons chiefly devote themselves ?
12. How were the people governed ? What is said of their mode of administering justice ? What do we owe to the Saxons ?
13. What was Frank-pledge ?
14. What works are relied on as authorities in Saxon history ? ✕

## CHAPTER IV.

*From the Norman Conquest, to the Death of Stephen.*

## WILLIAM I.

1. The Normans were the same people that were known in England by the name of Danes. After many attacks on the kingdom of France, Charles the Simple ceded to them the Province of Neustria, with the title of Duke to their leader, Rollo, to whom, at the sametime, the French monarch gave his daughter in marriage. William, the victor at Hastings, was the fifth duke of Normandy in lineal descent from this chief, being the illegitimate son of Duke Robert the Magnificent. From the circumstance of his birth he is in history sometimes styled the Bastard, but after his conquest of England, he is best known by the name of the Conqueror.

2. The citizens of London, on hearing of the death of Harold, proclaimed Edgar Atheling king, and the nobles met to consult on the state of the country. But Edgar was a mere boy, and not endowed by nature with much capacity; and England was, at this period, remarkably deficient in men qualified to lead the people in a crisis such as existed. Nevertheless, when William approached the city, the gates were closed against him, and the citizens prepared to stand a siege. William, however, considered it prudent to retire to a position in which he might, at once, keep up his line of communication with Normandy, and intercept the supplies from the North,

which was still in arms against him. He then laid waste the surrounding country, with the view of compelling London to surrender, from famine. This course fully succeeded, for the citizens and clergy waited on him, with a proffer of the crown, on the sole condition that they should not be deprived of their ancient laws and privileges. Their submission was accepted, and William appointed Christmas-day for his coronation. But the wary conqueror did not enter the city until a strong fortress, which now forms a part of the tower of London, had been built for his reception. He was then crowned with the apparent assent of the people, and William took the oath to govern England as it had been governed by its ancient kings.

3. He took immediate steps to assert his own right to the crown, and to enrich his Norman followers by distributing among them the lands of the English who had fought at Hastings, and whom he declared rebels for appearing in the field against him. He re-established the payment to the Pope of the tribute called Peter's pence, and sent Harold's standard as a trophy to Rome. The strongholds and cities of the territory, as yet in his possession, he caused to be garrisoned with Normans. This done, he embarked for Normandy in the month of March, taking with him in his train, Edgar Atheling, and the two most powerful and influential of the Saxon Earls, Morcar and Edwin, with the intention, no doubt, of depriving the English of leaders in the event of an outbreak. He was recalled, however, in December, 1067, by the alarming state of the country.

4. The Normans, for a considerable time after their first victory, were masters of only a small portion of England. They had not yet penetrated beyond the Humber. The reduction of the central and northern provinces proved an arduous undertaking. Although often betrayed by the nobles, the Saxon people gallantly withstood the invaders, whose rapacity and cruelty became unbearable, and whom they menaced with a vengeance such as that with which their fathers had visited the Danes. But, without leaders or organization, their efforts proved vain. Step by step, the enemy prevailed against them; and after an ineffectual struggle of seven years, the whole country was subdued. Edgar Atheling retired to Scotland, whither he was followed by many of the Saxon nobles. Numbers took refuge in other foreign countries; and a band of Saxons under Seward, Earl of Gloucester, even reached Constantinople, where they became the body guards of the sovereign, and were renowned for their valour and fidelity until the downfall of the Greek empire. Multitudes were scattered over the forests throughout the kingdom, carrying on a fierce war against their oppressors.

5. The condition of the country and people is thus described by William of Malmesbury, writing sixty years after the occurrence of the events he records: "From York to Durham not an inhabited village remained. Fire, slaughter and desolation made it a vast wilderness, which it continues to this day." Bare walls and fields, says a modern historian, covered the face of the country. Many men sold themselves into slavery; the flesh of dogs, of

horses, of men, was greedily swallowed by dying mortals, It was horrible to look into the ruins of houses, or on the streets which were crowded with human corpses. None were left to bury them.

6. All England being at length subdued, William had recourse to a scheme which insured the safety of the conquerors, and in a short time wholly altered the state of the country. He divided England into sixty thousand Knight's Fees, which he lavishly bestowed on his followers, reserving to himself the proprietorship of the soil, a vast number of manors and estates by way of royal domains, and the feudal dues consisting chiefly of military services and relief. For every Knight's Fee, a Baron was obliged to furnish one Knight equipped and mounted to serve the king, at his own charge, for forty days. Aids and Reliefs were paid if the Lord was taken prisoner, when his eldest son was knighted and his eldest daughter married. To these usual feudal dues William added wardship and marriage, which were peculiar to Normandy and England. By these, the king claimed the possessions and revenues of his tenant's heir during his minority, and of disposing of a female heir in marriage. As the baron owed certain duties to the king, so the baron's tenants owed similar duties to the baron. Such is the outline of the feudal tenure introduced into England by William the Conqueror.

7. Among the remarkable incidents of William's reign is the ancient record, called Domesday Book, which contains an account of the land and land owners in thirty counties.

8. Of all the evils inflicted by this monarch on the Saxon people there is perhaps no act of his which rendered his memory so odious to them as his forest laws. He was passionately fond of hunting, and to indulge in this pleasure he converted into royal chases vast tracts of land, ruthlessly expelling the inhabitants and destroying whole villages, churches, and monasteries. The New Forest, in Hampshire, which he treated after this fashion, had contained thirty-six populous parishes. Any infringement of the forest laws, but especially destroying deer and other game, was cruelly punished.

9. In the latter years of his reign he was much harrassed by the revolt of his children. The Danes, too, attempted an invasion of England, but without success. William died in Normandy on the 9th day of September, 1087. Riding through the burning ruins of the town of Mantes, which he had captured, his horse trod on some hot-embers, and rearing, William, who was very corpulent, received an injury from the pommel of the saddle, which proved mortal.

10. It cannot be denied that this Prince possessed some high qualities, though darkened by perfidy and cruelty. Many of his faults and vices were, no doubt, characteristic of the age in which he lived. Even his enemies allow that he was sagacious, prudent and courageous; ingenious in forming plans as he was bold in executing them. But, on the other hand, it must be admitted, that he was greedy, rapacious and cruel. His conquest of England, which was attended with so much misery to the people of his own



generation, conferred many benefits on their posterity. If, as it has been said, "he took money by right and unright," we must not forget that we are also told that "a girl laden with gold might have traversed the breadth of England," in his reign without molestation.

11. WILLIAM II.—A. D. 1087 — 1100.— William the Conqueror left three sons, Robert, William surnamed Rufus or the Red, and Henry. The second son, William, taking possession of the large treasure hoarded by his father, contrived to be crowned king in Winchester on the 26th of September, 1087. Robert succeeded, without difficulty, to the dukedom of Normandy, and laid claim to the kingdom of England as the eldest son of the late monarch; but through the influence of Lanfrance, archbishop of Canterbury, and the support of the Saxon population, to whom William made large promises, and some concessions, the latter not only succeeded in retaining the throne of England, but in getting possession of Normandy, which Robert mortgaged to him for a large sum of money, to enable him to join the crusaders for the recovery of the Holy Land. William was as rapacious and profligate as his father, without his commanding talents; and his promises, made in his necessity, to the Saxons were indifferently kept. He was accidentally shot with an arrow while hunting in the New Forest, by Sir Walter Tyrrel, in August, A. D. 1100.

12. HENRY I.—1100—1135.—Henry, surnamed, Beauclerc, the conqueror's youngest son, hastened, on his brother's death, to seize on the royal treasure and the vacant throne.

Robert again advanced his claims to the kingdom, but he consented to enter into a treaty with Henry, by which he renounced his claim to the English crown on condition of being paid an annual pension of three thousand crowns, and on the promise of his brother to leave him in possession of Normandy. The survivor was to inherit the dominions of the brother who should first die, and the partizans of both were to have a full pardon. But this agreement was of short duration. Henry invaded Normandy with a large force, defeated Robert, and took him prisoner. The unfortunate prince was sent to England, and, on attempting to escape, his eyes were put out, in which state he survived for about thirty years, confined in various fortresses. The remainder of Henry's reign was chiefly taken up with wars in defence of his continental possessions, which were claimed by William the son of Robert, supported by the king of France, and in contentions with the clergy, who refused to acknowledge his right to authority over them. He established a colony of Flemings in Pembrokeshire, which eventually became a great source of wealth to the country, by the introduction of the art of manufacturing woollen cloth.

13. Henry was twice married. His first wife was Matilda, daughter of Malcom, king of Scotland, by Margaret the sister of Edgar Atheling. This lady, the descendant of their native kings, was much loved by the Saxons, who called her "the good queen Maud." The children by this marriage were a son and a daughter. William, the son, was drowned in his nineteenth year com-

ing to England from Normandy, and a hundred and thirty young noblemen perished with him: The king is said to have taken this misfortune so greatly to heart that he was never known to smile again. His daughter, Matilda, was married, first, to Henry V., emperor of Germany, by whom she had no issue; and, secondly, to Geoffrey Plantagenet, eldest son of the earl of Anjou, in France, by whom she had three sons, the eldest of whom, Henry Fitz-Empress, as he was called, afterwards succeeded to the English throne by the title of Henry the Second.

14. Henry the first died of a surfeit of lampreys on the 1st December, 1135, in the 66th year of his age, and the 36th of his reign. As his surname, Beauclerc, or fine clerk, or scholar, implies, he was accomplished in the learning of the age, and he was a liberal patron of learned men, and such arts as were then known; but it is to be regretted that his taste for letters did not free him from the ferocity which was the disgrace of the age. The expenses attended on the contests in which he was almost constantly engaged, led to heavy exactions on the people; but, on the whole, his reign contrasts favourably with those of his father and brother, and especially with the times of rapine and anarchy which followed under Stephen.

15. STEPHEN—A. D. 1135—1154.—After the death of prince William, Henry's only surviving child, as we have seen, was Matilda. On the birth of her eldest son, Henry, the barons of England and Normandy, by desire of her father, swore fealty to her and her heirs as the rightful successors to the crown after the death of her father.

But the sacredness of an oath was little regarded in these days. Henry no sooner died than many of these nobles declared they would not have a woman to rule over them, and Stephen, Earl of Boulogne, whose mother, Adela, was a daughter of the Conqueror, was crowned king. The early part of Stephen's reign was peaceful, but the latter part was distinguished by a cruel civil war. About 1137 the friends of Matilda armed themselves to place her on the throne. The Saxons, as in former similar troubles, determined to take no part in the contest, but to watch if they could not benefit themselves by the dissensions of the Normans, whom they still considered their enemies. We are even told that they conspired to murder all the Normans in one day, and to place the king of Scotland on the throne. But, it is said the secret was revealed in the confessional, and the leaders of the conspiracy were seized, and put to death. A civil war raged between the partisans of Matilda and Stephen until 1153. During this period, the most frightful cruelties were perpetrated by the contending parties. So great was the desolation of the country by this war, that a traveller, says the Saxon Chronicle, might go through a whole day's journey without seeing a "tilled acre of land, or meeting with a human being." To use the strong language of the same writer, "to till the ground was to plough the sea." In 1153 Stephen's only child died. Negotiations were then commenced, and it was agreed that Stephen should reign during the remainder of his life, in consideration of which he declared Henry Plantagenet, his heir and successor. He

died, at Feversham in Kent, in the following year, aged fifty.

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*Questions on Chapter Fourth.*

1. Who were the Normans? What province did they obtain in France? Who was William the victor at Hastings descended from, and what was he styled?
2. What did the citizens of London do when they heard of Harold's death? What did William in consequence resolve upon? What building did he erect? Where was he crowned, and what oath did he take?
3. What did William do to enrich his followers? What tribute did he re-establish? Who did he take to Normandy with him, and for what reason? Why was he re-called?
4. Did a long time elapse before all England was subdued? How did the Saxons behave? Whither did Edgar Atheling go and what became of others of the Saxons?
5. What chronicler describes the state of England at this time, and state generally what he says?
6. After England was subdued what scheme did William frame for ensuring the safety of the Normans? What services did a baron render for his land? What Aids and Reliefs were paid to the king? What duties did the tenants pay to the baron? What is this peculiar mode of holding lands called?
7. What ancient book of records was compiled in this reign?
8. What evils did the Saxons most complain of? To indulge his taste for hunting what did the king do?
9. What harassed the king in his latter years? Where and when did he die? Describe the cause of his death?
10. What is said of William's character? Did the conquest confer any benefits on the posterity of the Saxons? What is said to show the secure state of the kingdom?
11. How many sons survived William the Conqueror? Who succeeded to the throne of England, and who to the Dukedom of Normandy? How did William the II. acquire Normandy? What was his character? How was he killed, and in what year?
12. Who succeeded William the II.? What agreement did he make with his brother Robert? How was it kept? What became of Robert? What was the remainder of Henry's reign chiefly taken up with? What colony did he establish?

13. How often was Henry married? Who was his first wife, and what is said of her? How many children had Henry by this marriage? What became of his son? What of his daughter?
14. Where did Henry die, in what year of his age, and how long had he reigned? What did his surname (Beauclerc) imply, and what is said of his character?
15. Who was the lawful successor to the throne? Who was Stephen, and did he peacefully enjoy the kingdom? What is said respecting the conduct of the Saxons? What is said respecting the state of England at this time? How were the civil wars terminated?

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## CHAPTER V.

### FROM HENRY THE II. TO THE DEATH OF JOHN.

#### THE PLANTAGENETS.

1. HENRY II., A. D. 1154—1189.—Henry, the son of Matilda, commenced his reign by vigorously correcting the abuses that had crept into the country during the late civil war. About a year previous to his accession he married Eleanor, Duchess of Aquitaine, who had just been divorced from her former husband, Louis VII. of France. By this marriage he received an addition to his territory in that country, which, by conquest, eventually became larger than that possessed by the French king himself. Sir James Macintosh says, that less than a tenth part of Modern France was then governed by Louis VII., while the dominion of Henry the II., extended over more than a fifth part, including the whole of its Atlantic coast.

2. The most memorable event of Henry's reign was the struggle between him and the Clergy, headed by

Thomas á Becket. A' Becket was a Saxon by birth, son of a London citizen. In youth he was remarked for his beauty, bravery, and talents. He entered the church, but his priestly office did not prevent him from mixing much in gaieties and amusements. While Archdeacon of Canterbury, he attracted the notice of the King, and soon became his intimate companion, and a sharer of his pleasures. At length he was appointed to the highest ecclesiastical office in England, the Archbishopric of Canterbury. No sooner had he assumed its functions than he suddenly changed his conduct. He threw off the gay and courtly habits in which he had hitherto been distinguished, assumed an air of great humility and covered himself with the coarsest garments. He soon announced himself as the champion of the rights of his church.

3. Among other claims, the partizans of the church maintained that a priest, though accused of the greatest crimes, could not be tried by a civil magistrate, but by an ecclesiastical court. This privilege, admitted by William the Conqueror, had given rise to much evil, and naturally created discontent among laymen. The king, in 1163, therefore, ordered that every priest or clerk proved to have committed any enormous crime, should be handed over to the civil courts for punishment. A priest was shortly after accused and proved guilty of murder. He was cited before the king's justices. Becket declared the arrest illegal and a breach of clerical privilege. In order to settle the question, the king convoked a council of Nobles in 1164. Here they saw the necessity of destroy-



ing this privilege claimed by Becket, and they drew up sixteen enactments subjecting the clergy to the authority of the civil courts for murder, felony, and other crimes. Becket swore to obey these laws, but he retracted soon afterwards. He was, therefore, deprived of his office, and obliged to flee to the continent. The king of France and the Pope strongly defended his conduct, and Henry was induced to permit his return. Becket found that a portion of the property of his see had been confiscated, and he demanded it back. Henry promised to restore it, but delayed to do so. Becket caused to be excommunicated all who held the confiscated property, and included in this condemnation the Archbishop of York, and the Bishops of London and Salisbury. This proceeding made Henry exceedingly angry. Taking advantage of an unguarded expression which escaped from the king in his rage, four knights, who attended him, went and stabbed Becket at the altar. Henry declared himself innocent of the crime, but he had, nevertheless, to perform penance to expiate the Archbishop's murder. Becket was canonized as a saint and martyr.

4. In 1157 Henry overran Wales, and annexed a part of it to his dominions. Wales was then an independent country, peopled by the descendants of the ancient Britons, who had been driven out of England by the Saxons. In 1172 he went to Ireland with a large army, and taking advantage of the dissensions which had raged between the Irish chiefs, he annexed that country also to his crown. He died on the 11th of July, 1189, aged fifty-seven years.

1189  

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1157



5. RICHARD I., A. D. 1188 — 1199. — Richard, surnamed *Cœur de Lion*, or the Lion Hearted, succeeded on the death of his father. Although he reigned over England for ten years, his stay within the realm was very short, and he performed no act there deserving particular notice. His reputation as a knight has given him a better character than he deserved as a king. He was endowed with extraordinary personal strength and courage. He wrote poetry like a Troubadour, and could be gay and witty in conversation. But he was proud, cruel, rapacious, and revengeful, though he sometimes exhibited traits of generosity. On coming to the throne Richard determined on a crusade for the recovery of the holy sepulchre from the Mahometans, an undertaking considered highly meritorious in those days. The attempt had been frequently made before, but with indifferent success. The first crusade took place about the year 1096, under Godfrey of Bouillon, Peter the Hermit, and other leaders; the second was undertaken in 1147, and was led by Louis VII., of France, and Conrad III., Emperor of Germany; the third began in 1189, under the leadership of the Emperor Barbarossa, Philip Augustus, king of France, and Richard, king of England. Richard conquered the Island of Cyprus on his way to Palestine. He gained several victories over the Saracens under the celebrated Saladin, and such was his fame for strength and valour that the Saracen mothers used to frighten their children with his name. In returning home from the Holy Land he was imprisoned by the Archduke of Austria,

and the people of England had to pay a large ransom to release him. He died from the shot of an arrow, while besieging the castle of a rebel Noble in France.

6. JOHN, A. D. 1199—1216.—John was the youngest son of Henry II. According to the modern law of succession he was not the direct heir to the crown, to which his nephew, Arthur, the son of his elder brother Geoffrey had a prior right. John had all Richard's vices without his virtues. He was cruel without being brave. He was selfish, unstable, and licentious. The English nation, however, declared in his favour, while the people of Normandy, Brittany and Anjou in France, who were then subjects of the English crown, preferred the claim of Prince Arthur. John treacherously got possession of his young rival and nephew, and confined him in the castle of Rouen, where he caused this unfortunate youth to be basely murdered. The prelates and barons of the French provinces were so disgusted at his cruelty, that they declared war against John, in which they were assisted by the king of France. At this moment he plunged into a quarrel with the Pope, relative to the appointment of an Archbishop to the see of Canterbury. As he would not consent that the person selected by the Pope should fill that office, the latter declared he had forfeited his right to England, and ordered the king of France to wrest it from him. John's craven heart trembled at the danger. He abjectly withdrew his opposition, and stooped to the most submissive and degrading conditions to pacify the anger of Rome.

7. John, at length, had lost the respect of his barons,

by his cowardice,—of his people, by his exactions, and want of honor,—and of all classes, by his immoral and unmanly character. The discontent of the nation became so great, that a large number of the nobility and prelates united, and compelled him, much against his will, on the field of Runnymede to sign the “Great Charter,” and to swear that he would observe it.

8. The rights contained in this charter, which John was forced to sign, were not new. They were merely the rights which had existed in England from the Saxon period, but which the Norman kings had almost totally obliterated. It abolished many of the unjust exactions upon the lower classes, which the Conqueror had introduced into the feudal system. It promised to protect and respect the franchises and corporate privileges of the towns. It re-established trial by jury, and declared that no man should be outlawed, or imprisoned, exiled, or deprived of his property until he had been lawfully tried by the law of the land. The popular rights which John here promised to observe, and to see that they were observed by others, may seem unimportant to us; but they were in these times considered very great boons. The breach of them had hitherto been frequent, and caused many persons to be banished, some to be imprisoned, and others deprived of their property, and their lives, without guilt or trial, but merely to gratify the revenge, or the rapacity of some prince or baron. The great charter was several times violated by John, and by subsequent monarchs; but as often did the Lords and Commons cause it to be confirmed. To

this day it forms the basis of the rights and liberties of England, and will continue to be so, as long as Englishmen continue to be free.

9. After the signing of the Charter, John obtained from the Pope a dispensation to release him from the oath he had taken to obey it, and a bull excommunicating all those who would force him to observe it. None of the Bishops in England, to their honour, would read the dispensation or the bull. The barons rose up to compel him to obey his oath. John collected a number of free-booters and foreign soldiers to oppose them. They called to their aid prince Louis, son of the king of France. During this conflict John died on the 19th October, 1216, in his forty-ninth year.

10. LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION. — The period of the Magna Charta is an important one in other respects than the charter. From the conquest, the Normans and the Saxons had lived in the country as two distinct people. The Normans scorned the Saxons,—the Saxons hated the Normans. Each adhered to their own language, customs, and, as far as possible, to their own laws. Now, the two people first began to unite themselves under the name of Englishmen. The Norman-French and the Saxon dialects also began to blend together into the English language. A nationality sprung up between each race, both clinging to and enjoying the same laws, language, and customs.

11. Many of the Anglo-Norman kings were respectable scholars for their age, and all of them encouraged

learning. Several eminent schools were founded in England under their patronage. The University of Oxford received its earliest charters from John. That of Cambridge then also flourished. Oxford enjoyed a great reputation abroad even during the reign of the Conqueror.

12. Books were very dear and rare. A copy of a work which may now be purchased for a few shillings could not then be got for less than from twenty to fifty pounds. In the twelfth century one copy of a moderate sized volume cost more than fifty horses. Neither printing nor paper had as yet been discovered. All books were written on parchment. In consequence of the scarcity and dearness of books, and the comparatively limited amount of knowledge, the learning of these times was principally confined to the clergy. Many powerful and wealthy noblemen could neither read nor write.

13. LITERATURE.—The Anglo-Norman literature was chiefly composed of metrical romances,—that is the recital of tales, legends, and adventures, in verse. The most celebrated of these were written in the twelfth century, one of which entitled, “King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table” is remarkable for its beauty, and is read and admired to this day. They were generally written for the kings and nobles. Henry II. is said to have suggested some of them to the authors. It is however remarkable, that the best of these romances, though written in Norman-French, were composed by Saxons.

14. During this period nearly all works in prose were written in Latin. Among the eminent prose writers of

the twelfth century were John of Salisbury, Duns Scotus, and William of Malmesbury.

15. COMMERCE.—English ships and seamen even in the 11th and 12th centuries seemed to have been considered superior to those of other nations. England then imported from abroad spices, silks, jewels and other luxuries. But she exported, that is, sold and sent to foreigners, more than she purchased or imported from them. Henry of Huntingdon, a contemporary writer, informs us that she sent corn, flesh, wool, and fish, (particularly herrings and oysters,) to Germany. That she also sent off every year large quantities of copper and tin; and that the roofs of the principal castles and churches in Europe were covered with English lead.

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*Questions on Chapter Fifth.*

1. Who did Henry II marry? What was the extent of his territory in France?
2. State the particulars of the birth and parentage of Thomas à Becket? What was the character of Becket previous to his appointment to the archbishopric of Canterbury? What change took place in his character afterwards?
3. What was the nature of the dispute between him and Henry II? How did the king attempt to settle it? Describe how it terminated? How did Becket meet with his death?
4. How did Henry act towards Wales? When did he invade Ireland? What was the result of it? State the year of his death, and his age.
5. When did Richard I succeed to the throne? How long did he reign? What was his character? Where did he spend the greater part of his career? State the cause of his death, and the circumstances connected with it?
6. Who was John? Who was the rightful heir to the crown? Describe the character of John? How did he act towards

- prince Arthur ? What occurred in consequence of Arthur's death ? What was the cause of the quarrel between him and the Pope ? What did the Pope demand, and how did John act towards him ?
7. What did the barons compel John to do on the field of Runnymede ?
  8. What did the Great Charter abolish, and enact ?
  9. What was John's conduct towards it ?
  10. How did the Normans and Saxons act toward each other from the conquest ? When did the language of the two people begin to amalgamate ?
  11. What colleges flourished at this time ?
  12. State the value of books, and the substance on which they were written ? Among what class was learning principally confined ?
  13. Of what was the Anglo-Norman literature chiefly composed ? Who composed them, and in what language were they written ?
  14. State the names of the principal writers in prose.
  15. What was the state of commerce, and the character of English ships, and seamen ? What goods did England import ? What articles did she principally export ?

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## CHAPTER VI.

HENRY III., A. D. 1216—1272.

1. John was succeeded by his son, called Henry of Winchester. He was only ten years old at the time of his father's death, and the position of affairs were far from favourable to him. The most of the South of England, including the city of London, was in the possession of Louis, son of the king of France ; but as many of the Barons who sided with that Prince were chiefly actuated by hatred of the late king, most of them gradually came to the support of Henry, who could not be held responsible for his father's misdeeds. The French

prince was finally compelled to renounce his claim, and departed for his own country.

2. Henry III., was a weak and profligate ruler, and his long reign was chiefly marked by those troubles and dissensions which characterised those of too many of his predecessors. There is one circumstance, however, which renders it one of the most important eras in English history. The Barons had frequently forced from him a confirmation of the Great Charter and promises to reform abuses; but Henry always broke these promises with still greater facility than he made them. At last they took the government into their own hands. A committee of twenty-four Guardians, to exercise the executive functions, was appointed, at the head of which was Simon de Montford, Earl of Leicester. De Montford directed the cities and boroughs to send representatives to parliament, and, ever since, the English legislature has continued to consist of Lords, Knights and Burgesses. Edward, the son of Henry, advancing in years, he took the lead of the royal party, between which and the party of De Montford a long struggle ensued, in which the latter was finally beaten. He was defeated and slain at the battle of Evesham, on the 6th August, 1265. But though he suffered the doom of a traitor, his memory was revered by the English people, who long remembered him by the appellation of "Sir Simon the Righteous." Henry died on the 16th November, 1272. He was one of the least respectable of the kings of England.

3. EDWARD, A. D. 1272—1307.—*Edward*, called



*Longshanks*, or long legs, was the son and successor of Henry III. He was in Palestine when his father died. One evening while reclining on a couch, a messenger entered with a letter. While he knelt to deliver it, according to custom, he struck at Edward's breast with a poisoned dagger which he had concealed in his hand. Edward threw himself on the murderer and killed him with his own weapon. Tradition says that Eleanor, Edward's wife, as soon as she heard of the attack, ran and saved her husband's life, by sucking the poison from his wound.

4. Edward though cruel and unscrupulous was an able monarch. He improved the Courts of Justice, and made many valuable changes in the laws. He invaded Wales and annexed to England the remainder of that country which had hitherto maintained its independence.

5. He also invaded Scotland. A dispute having arisen between different claimants as to which should succeed to the Scottish throne, the matter was referred to his decision. He awarded that John Baliol should have the throne on condition that he acknowledged allegiance to England. Baliol accepted it on these terms; but the demands of Edward became so great that even he was forced to resist them, and Edward made this refusal a pretext for invading the country. His powerful armies, although gallantly resisted by the Scottish patriots, under Wallace and Douglas, subdued all opposition, and for a time he held the country in complete subjection. The brave Wallace was made prisoner and executed as a traitor. But the spirit and bravery of the Scotch was again aroused to repel the

English about seven years after. Their leader was now the celebrated Robert Bruce. Edward promptly raised an army to subdue him, but he died on his way to Scotland, on the 7th of July, 1307. Edward was a wise and warlike prince, and his law reforms have endeared his name to the English nation, who regard him as the "English Justinian;" but his conquests of Wales and Scotland have left a stain on his name which his good fortune and brilliant qualities cannot efface.

6. EDWARD II., A. D.—1307—1327.—Edward II. succeeded his father in his twenty-third year. He was destitute of two elements in character, which were then most necessary for a monarch, namely, energy and bravery. The war in Scotland continued. Bruce gradually retook all the acquisitions which had there been made by Edward's father; and at the great battle of Bannockburn, fought on the 23rd of June, 1314, between the English and Scotch, the latter gained a complete victory, and thereby terminated the invasion of their country. Edward's reign presents no other event of importance. He made himself despised and disliked by wasting wealth and honors on undeserving favorites, whose overbearing conduct brought ruin on themselves, and on their master. Edward was deposed, and his son, a lad of fourteen years, crowned in his stead. He was kept prisoner in Berkley Castle. The inmates one night heard terrific screams in the king's chamber, but their terror prevented them from approaching it. On the following morning the deposed monarch was found dead on his bed, his features exhibiting the

traces of great agony. He is supposed to have died from a red-hot iron which had been thrust through a pipe into his bowels.

7. EDWARD III., A. D. 1327—1377.—This Prince was the son of Edward the Second, and reigned for fifty years. During this long period the country was comparatively tranquil and flourishing. The King flattered the people, and assisted to confirm the representative branch of the constitution by calling a great number of parliaments during his reign. His brilliant achievements in France were also pleasing to the national pride, though they were of no permanent advantage to the nation. The most prominent events of his reign belong more to the history of France than to that of England.

8. It was generally supposed that no female could reign in France, in consequence of the salic law which barred all females from the throne. In 1328, Charles the Fair died, and left several daughters, but no sons. Edward affirmed that none of these daughters could succeed, and claimed the crown for himself, as heir through his mother, who was a sister to the late king. A more distant relative, however, obtained the crown, to which he succeeded under the name of Philip VI. Edward made this an excuse for an invasion of France. He entered that country with less than thirty thousand men in 1342, and at Crecy, he completely routed, more than sixty thousand French, and left the flower of their nobles and chivalry dead on the field of battle. He next besieged and took the town of Calais, which continued an English possession for about three centuries afterwards,

affording an easy door by which the English could enter France. A truce was then agreed on. After this truce had terminated, hostilities were re-commenced. Edward's brave son, the Black Prince, so called from the colour of his armour, now led the English army. After gaining a few unimportant successes he was met, near Poitiers, by a French army said to be six times more numerous than his own. The French were confident of success, and the Black Prince, determined rather to die in battle, than accept the degrading terms of peace which his opponents offered him. The battle was fought on the 16th of September, 1356. The French poured down in column after column on the little English band; but they were driven back in confusion, and the king of France and a large number of his court and nobility were taken captive. After this victory a considerable portion of France was ceded to England. The Black Prince spent a short but active and warlike life, and died before his father. He was much beloved by the English people, and his memory is yet spoken of with respect.

9. In 1348 a frightful plague, called "The Black Death," raged in England. It was believed to have come from China, and desolated every kingdom in Europe. Two hundred persons died of this disease in London in one day.

10. During the latter part of this reign the clergy and people became exasperated at the enormous exactions imposed by the Pope on the wealth of England. Edward endeavoured to conciliate both parties, but he was at length forced to oppose the Papal claims.

11. A priest named Wickliffe, one of the first English reformers, appeared at this time, and boldly and eloquently denounced the Papacy and the dignitaries of the Church of Rome for their love of wealth, and the errors which he alleged they had introduced into Christianity. Although denounced by the clergy as a heretic, his popularity in England was such that he died in peace at an advanced age.

12. RICHARD II., 1377—1399.—Richard II. was the son of the Black Prince, and ascended the throne in his eleventh year. The French, taking advantage of his youth, plundered the English coast. Scotland also, by the advice of France, renewed the war, and seized several English ships. To obtain money to defray the heavy expenses of these wars, parliament imposed a poll-tax. Every male and female of fifteen years and over, was ordered to pay a tax of three groats, annually. A large majority of the English peasants or farm labourers, were then serfs. They were the property of their masters, but in most cases the master could only sell them with the land on which they lived. Many serfs had obtained their freedom during the two previous reigns, and those who had not, had long begun to demand it. These feelings were now strengthened by the clergy, by the preaching of a Monk named Ball, and by those serfs who had fought under the Black Prince in France, and who there, and in Flanders, saw popular resistance against oppression like their own succeed.

13. This Poll-tax was a heavy burden on the serf, and

in fact, on all the poorer classes. It was, therefore, very unpopular, many refusing or evading to pay it. A collector of the tax in Kent entered the cottage of a man called Wat Tyler, or, Wat the Tiler, where he attempted improper liberties with his daughter, a girl of fourteen. Wat's wife resented this, and called in her husband; who, with a hammer killed the Collector. Wat's neighbours applauded his conduct, and promised to protect him. About the same time Sir Simon Burley carried off a man to his castle, whom he claimed as his serf. The hatred of the people to their serfdom and the poll-tax now roused them to resistance. The men of Kent and of Essex rose in arms. They placed Wat Tyler at their head, and made the priest Ball their chaplain. They first liberated the man who had been carried off by Sir Simon Burley, and then they marched towards London. Before they arrived at that city, their numbers had reached 100,000. At first their conduct was moderate, but when they were joined by the rabble of the city, they destroyed many buildings, and killed several wealthy citizens; but they never plundered. They were now so powerful in the city and in several counties that the king and his court had to take refuge in the Tower.

14. An effort was made to conciliate them. Richard agreed to their four demands:—1st. The abolition of slavery or serfdom.—2nd. The reduction of land rent to four pence an acre.—3rd. Full liberty of buying and selling in all fairs and markets.—4th. A general pardon for all past offences. When the king had signed a charter in which

these privileges were conceded,—all the insurgents were satisfied except Wat Tyler and his Kentish men. Wat made higher demands, and in a personal interview with the king, it is said that he insulted him very rudely. The Lord Mayor of London thereupon thrust a sword through Tyler's throat, who was dispatched by the King's attendants. Richard rode forward to the insurgents, and exclaimed:—"Tyler was a traitor. I am your king. I will be your captain and guide." Softened by the frankness and apparent kindness of his manner, they threw away their arms, and prayed for pardon. But instead of strengthening the affection of his people which he had thus regained, and keeping his word, Richard no sooner saw the insurgents abandon their arms, than he disregarded his promise, and took a cruel revenge. The Charter was annulled, and more than fifteen hundred of these poor people were hanged.

15. In 1396, Richard married Isabella, a daughter of Charles VI. of France, who was then but seven years old. Richard was not a wise nor a kindly Prince. He cared more for the wishes of his favourites than for the good of his people. His misgovernment made him so unpopular, that when Henry of Bolingbroke, son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, raised the standard of revolt against him, the unhappy king was forsaken by his army and people. He was forced to resign in favor of Henry, and after being confined in various castles, he was at last removed to Pontefract, where he is supposed to have died, either by the hand of an assassin, or by starvation.

16. LITERATURE.—We now give a brief list of the

most eminent men produced by England during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Nearly all of them were of Saxon origin. In metaphysics, the most eminent were Duns Scotus, and William Occam. In history, it had Matthew Paris, and Geoffrey of Monmouth. It possessed two who are recognized as the two first English poets,—Geoffrey Chaucer, and John Gower. Chaucer is properly called the father of English literature. He was born in 1328 and died in 1400. It was he who first wrote in English with any degree of elegance. In fact, to him our language is indebted for many of its excellencies. His great work is entitled “The Canterbury Tales.” Gower, a contemporary of Chaucer, was more of a novelist than a poet, and he was far inferior in genius to Chaucer. But the most learned man of this period, and one to whom succeeding generations are most indebted, is Roger Bacon. This great man, was born in 1214, and died in 1292. He was acquainted with all the learning of his time, in science, theology, and general literature. He made many important discoveries, he corrected an error in the calendar, he is supposed to have discovered gunpowder and predicted the telescope, and explained its use and power. It was he who first threw off the false system of philosophy then taught, and presented the germs of that system which Lord Bacon two centuries afterwards had the merit of discovering.

17. It was then generally believed, that the precious metals, such as gold and silver, could be manufactured from chemical compounds, and that a liquid could be discovered



which would preserve human life for ever. Those who attempted to make these discoveries were called alchemists. Astrology was also commonly practised among scholars. It professed to predict future events by the stars. These foolish doctrines were then not only believed by all classes, but continued to be so until a much later period.

*Questions on Chapter Sixth.*

1. Who succeeded king John? Who possessed at this time London and most of the South of England, and when were these abandoned?
2. Describe Henry the Third's character? What striking event occurred in this reign? Who was De Montfort? Where and when was he defeated, and what is said of his character? When did Henry die?
3. Who was Henry's successor? When did he learn that he had succeeded to the throne, and what occurred on the occasion?
4. What is said of Edward's character, and what did he do in England and Wales?
5. What induced Edward to invade Scotland? Describe what took place there. When and where did he die, and what is said respecting him?
6. How old was Edward the Second when he succeeded his father? In what was he deficient? With what success was the war in Scotland carried on? What great battle was fought? How did it end? What became of Edward the Second?
7. How long did Edward the Third reign, and in what state was the country? What is said of his principal achievements?
8. What is said of the salic law in France? Why did Edward claim the crown of France, and how did he enforce it? What great battle was fought, and with what results? What important French town did the English take? After the expiring of the truce who led the English, what battle did he fight, and how did the war terminate? What is said of the Black Prince?
9. What disease broke out in England in this reign, and what is said of it?

10. What exactions exasperated the clergy and people, and what did Edward do in reference to them ?
11. Who was Wickliffe, and what was he celebrated for ?
12. Who succeeded Edward the Third, and what was his age ? What did the French and Scotch do ? What tax did Parliament impose ? What is said of the serfs in England ?
13. Was the poll tax resisted—who led the people and what did they do ?
14. What effort was made to conciliate the people and with what result ? What became of Wat Tyler ? What charter did King Richard sign, and did he fulfil its conditions ?
15. Who did Richard marry—what is said of his character—in whose favour did he abandon the crown, and what became of him ?
16. Who were the most eminent writers in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries—in metaphysics—in history—in poetry ? Who first wrote the English language with elegance ? What is said of Roger Bacon and his discoveries ?
17. What is said of the Alchemists and Astrologists ?

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## CHAPTER VII.

### THE HOUSE OF LANCASTER FROM HENRY IV. TO HENRY VI. 1399—1461.

1. HENRY IV., (*Bolingbroke*), 1399-1413.—Henry IV. has been called a usurper. But it was not then the custom always to follow our modern law of succession. When there were two or more heirs to a throne, it oftentimes happened that the nearest heir was excluded, and one more remote selected, if he was expected to make a better king. So it was with Henry. The nearest heir to Richard II. was, no doubt, Edmund, Earl of March, great grand-son of Edward III. by his *second* son, while Henry was a descendant of Edward's *third* son. But when Richard II. was ejected, it was thought the latter

was fitter to be king than Edmund who was then a mere boy, and for this reason Henry was preferred. This selection gave rise to a long civil war about fifty years afterwards, known as "The War of the Roses!" Henry, as before stated, was the son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and hence is called the founder of the Lancastrian line.

2. As his title was disputed his reign was very turbulent. The Nobles who had raised him to the throne soon fancied they were neglected, and they made two or three attempts to destroy him. The Welsh, under a brave leader, Owen Glendower rose in rebellion and gained two battles, but they were subsequently defeated by Henry Percy. The powerful Earl of Northumberland twice resisted him with a large army, and the mysterious disappearance of Richard II., gave rise to rumors that he was alive, sometimes in France, sometimes in Scotland, and that he would re-appear in England and claim the crown.

3. The difficulties which Henry thus encountered, and the constant warfare against him were, nevertheless, beneficial to the liberties of the country. To secure his throne against these attacks he was forced to gain the good will of his Parliament, and accede to the demands of the Lords and Commons. It was during his reign that the House of Commons acquired some of its most valuable powers. It demanded, and Henry admitted its right, to see that the public money was lawfully and carefully used, and that wicked or incompetent ministers of the crown should be dismissed. The Parliament also adopted the plan of driving bargains with the crown by promising to give

money only on condition that such and such grievances were removed.

4. The followers of Wickliffe, called Lollards, were now numerous. In the second year of Henry's reign the clergy got a statute passed, by which all persons who preached or taught Wickliffe's doctrines were ordered to renounce them, or they were liable to be burnt as heretics. Several men distinguished for their learning were burned at Smithfield for adhering to his opinions. This was the first statute passed in England directing persecution for religious differences.

5. Henry's troubles made him prematurely old. He died on the 20th March, 1413, in the 47th year of his age, and in the 14th of his reign.

6. HENRY V., 1413—1422.—Henry V. succeeded his father, the late king. In his youth he was very wild and dissipated, but brave and magnanimous. When he became a king, he suddenly threw off his recklessness, assumed the steadiness of character appropriate to his station, and took those most in favour who had most severely censured his former conduct.

7. France was at this time torn in strife between two factions. At one time that country was governed by one party, and then she was subjected to another. Henry thought this a favourable moment to revive the claims of the kings of England on France for those possessions which they formerly held there. A large portion of that country had been ceded to Edward III., and in addition to this, Henry required the Province of Nor-

mandy, Anjou, Maine and a part of Provence, and demanded in marriage Catherine, a daughter of the French king. These demands were refused and he invaded France with a small but well provided army in 1415.

8. On the 25th of October 1414, Henry met the French at Agincourt. They numbered, it is said, from 60,000 to 100,000 men. Before the battle began Henry surveyed his little band of 9,000. "I would not have a single man more," he exclaimed, "fight as you are wont to do, and before night our numberless enemies shall be humbled in the dust." The result verified his prediction. The battle commenced at noon, and before night this large French army was scattered. Seven relations of the king of France, and many of the chief nobility perished on the field, with 8,000 gentry. Henry's French prisoners exceeded the number of his army, and under a cruel plea of necessity, he put many of them to death.

9. Henry then returned to England with large booty, and many prisoners of high rank. The English people received him with great joy. So soon as he had left France, the factions there revived. In 1417 Henry returned with 40,000 men. In 1419 he reconquered Normandy, which formerly belonged to his family. In 1420 he was married to the Princess Catherine of France, and by 1421 his conquests had extended so far, that the people of Paris accepted him as their king. He had hardly attained this, the object of his ambition, when he died at Paris on the 31st of August 1422, at the age of 34. He had reigned ten years.

10. HENRY VI., 1422—1461.—His son, Henry VI., was the issue of his marriage with Catherine of France. He was only ten months old when his father died. Henry the Fifth's conquest of France had been so complete, that his son was proclaimed at Paris as king of France and England without opposition; but war still raged in certain parts of France between the English and French. The Duke of Bedford was declared regent and commander of the English forces. He gained several victories over the nominal king of that country, Charles VII, until the cause of the latter was deemed to be wholly lost. But by a sudden and extraordinary event, Charles not only regained his losses, but ere he died recovered the whole of the kingdom with the exception of the town of Calais, which still continued in the hands of England. The instrument of his success was a young peasant girl, Joan of Arc, otherwise called the Maid of Orleans. She believed she was destined by the Almighty to rescue her country from the invaders. Stimulated by this idea she called, amid ridicule and disbelief, for soldiers to fight under her guidance. At length high and low believed in her alleged divine mission. She clothed herself in armour, rode on horseback as a knight, at the head of a French force, with which she gained victory after victory, and actually fulfilled her prediction of assisting in crowning the king at Rheims. Afterwards she was taken prisoner by the English, and tried for sorcery. She was declared guilty and burnt in the market place of Rouen.—an evil recompense for her many services to her country.

11. It has been stated at the commencement of this chapter, that Henry IV., the grandfather of the present monarch, was not the nearest heir to his predecessor, Richard II., and that the nearest heir, and the one who should have succeeded, according to the present law of succession, was Edmund Earl of March. His right descended to Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York. In the contest which arose from their conflicting claims the Lancastrian party adopted the *red* rose as their badge; the Yorkists adopted the *white* rose. Hence the struggle has been called "The war of the roses."

12. In 1452, Henry VI., who was always of weak intellect, became wholly imbecile. The Duke of York, his rival, was in consequence appointed protector; but he professed to have no wish to assume the crown, and had lately exhibited great moderation of conduct. Henry's wife was Margaret of Anjou, a bold, intriguing and ambitious woman. She was jealous of the protector, and Henry's health having somewhat recovered, she caused the Duke of York to be superseded by the Duke of Somerset, who was a cruel and an unpopular man. The Duke of York opposed him at the head of a large party. They fought at St. Albans on the 22nd of May, where Somerset was killed, and the king fell into the hands of his opponents after having been slightly wounded. The York party were now supreme. It would be unprofitable and tedious here to relate how "one party rose, and the other fell." Both fought with great ferocity, and committed much cruelty and bloodshed on each other. Many of the noblest

of the land were killed in the conflict. The whole country was desolated by the strife. In a battle fought near Wakefield, the Duke of York was slain, and his second son was killed after the fight was over. At length, after various successes and reverses, during a war of ten years, the Lancastrians were defeated at Mortimer's Cross on the 1st of February, 1461, and the young representative of the house of York was established in possession of the country ere that month elapsed.

*Questions on Chapter Seventh.*

1. Who was the nearest heir to Richard II. ? Why was Henry IV. preferred ? What did this preference produce ? Why was Henry IV. called the founder of the Lancastrian line ?
2. Who made attempts to assassinate him ? Who rose in rebellion, and were they successful ? What rumours were current respecting Richard II.
3. What was the effect of Henry's reign on parliaments ?
4. Who were the Lollards, and how were they treated ?
5. State the cause, place, and date of Henry's death ?
6. Who was the father of Henry V. ? Describe the character of his youth, and the change which occurred when he ascended the throne ?
7. Give a description of the state of France. What were Henry's claims on France ? Were these claims recognized ? What step did he take when France refused to comply with his demands ? When did he invade France, and what was the state of his army ?
8. When did he meet the French at Agincourt ? What was the number of his soldiers ? What was the number of the French ? Who won the battle ?
9. When did Henry return to England, and how was he received ? What induced him to go again to France, and what occurred there ? What benefit did he derive from his conquests ? When and where did he die ?
10. Who was Henry VI ? Over what countries was he declared king ?



Who was appointed regent ? By whom was the French king assisted in the recovery of his dominions ? Who was she ? What was her alleged mission ? How did she clothe herself ? Was she successful in her battles ? State how and by whom she suffered death.

11. Describe the origin of "the war of the roses." What was the name of the two rival houses ? What was the colour of the rose adopted by the House of York ? What was the colour of the rose selected by the House of Lancaster ?
12. Who was appointed protector in 1452 ? When and by whom was the Duke of York superseded as protector ? When was the battle of St. Albans fought, and what was the consequence ? How did the two Houses of York and Lancaster from henceforth act toward each other ? How long did the war continue, and in whose favour did it terminate ?

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE HOUSE OF YORK FROM EDWARD THE IV. TO RICHARD III.—1461—1485.

1. EDWARD IV.—The eldest son of Richard, the late Duke of York, was not twenty-one years of age when the successes obtained by his party over the declining fortunes of the House of Lancaster placed him in possession of the crown. He had shown great military talents and courage in the dreadful civil strife, which had for some time devastated the country ; and he was one of the handsomest men of his day. But he had the vices of those reared in civil broils—he was selfish, cruel and faithless.

2. But, though successful so far, Edward was not left to enjoy the fruits of his victory in peace. The indefatigable Margaret of Anjou was again in the field before long. She collected a large army, and it was only after :

several bloody engagements that she was forced to fly to France.

3. Edward owed much of his success to the Earl of Warwick, who, from his great power and the good fortune which attended the party on whose side he was, for the time, acquired the name of the king-maker. Warwick had been sent by Edward to demand for him in marriage the Princess Bona of Savoy, the sister of the Queen of France. But while engaged in this negotiation, Edward took to wife the young and beautiful widow of Sir John Gray, of Groby, who had perished lately in the wars. Warwick was much irritated by this act of the king, which he considered a slight upon himself and his mission. But he soon found other causes of discontent in the contest between his own followers and the new Queen's friends, for the favours of the king. He had certainly earned the gratitude of Edward, and he viewed, with great disgust, offices and grants conferred on the queen's relations, which he considered should be given to his own friends. He consequently broke out into rebellion against the king; but, after two years of alternate victory and defeat, he was obliged to take refuge in France. There he met Margaret, the wife of Henry the Sixth. Warwick had been her bitterest foe, and indeed the ruin of her house and cause, but their common enmity to Edward served as a bond of union between them. Warwick's second daughter was married to Margaret's son by Henry, and he now promised to restore the crown to the line of Lancaster. Edward, though warned of Warwick's in-

tended invasion, made no preparations for defence. Warwick landed unmolested on the coast of Devonshire, in September, 1470, and so great was his influence, and so little was Edward prepared to resist him, that the latter was forced to fly to Holland eleven days after Warwick landed in England.

4. Henry VI. was thereupon released from the Tower, and re-placed on the throne. But Edward quickly returned with a force supplied by the Duke of Burgundy. The fiercest battle of the Wars of the Roses—the Battle of Barnet—was now fought. The Lancastrians were defeated;—Warwick, and many of the chief nobility were slain, and Edward regained his crown. But Margaret fought another battle before she would abandon the contest. It took place at Tewkesbury, and there she and her son, Edward were taken prisoners. The young prince was brought before Edward in his tent. “What seek you in England?” demanded the king. “My father’s crown and my inheritance” was the reply of the brave youth. Instead of admiring this mark of courage in a fallen foe, the ungenerous monarch struck him on the mouth with his iron glove, and the Dukes of Clarence and Gloucester stabbed him with their swords. King Henry was, shortly after, found dead in the Tower. He is supposed to have been murdered by Gloucester. His wife, Margaret, after five years imprisonment, was sent to France, where she expired six years later. Edward IV. died on the 9th of April, 1483.

5. EDWARD V., 1483.—Edward left two sons and two

daughters. The eldest son, Edward, was of course, his nominal successor. His uncle, Richard Duke of York, who, at the time of the late king's decease, commanded an army on the Scottish marches, returned to London as soon as the news of this event reached him. After some time he contrived to get the young king and his brother, the Duke of York, into his hands and lodged them in the Tower, for their safety, as he pretended. Richard was made Protector of the kingdom, but his object was to seize the crown. For this purpose his creatures reported everywhere that the late king was illegitimate, as were also his children, his marriage with Elizabeth Gray having been illegal. A body of the citizens of London petitioned Richard to ascend the throne, to which he agreed with feigned reluctance. After a short time the two young sons of Edward the Fourth disappeared, and their fate has never been perfectly known. It is supposed that they were murdered in the Tower, and their bodies buried at the foot of the stairs leading from their chambers.

6. RICHARD III.—1483—1485.—The Duke of Gloucester was crowned under the title of Richard the Third. He is described by the historians of the succeeding ages as a man equally deformed in body and mind; stunted in stature, hump-backed, treacherous, cruel and bloody; and after making every allowance for the fact that the picture is drawn by his enemies, there is enough of truth in the portrait for Richard's condemnation. Still there can be no doubt that some useful laws were passed in his short reign, and that if a bad, he was an able man.

7. He wished to marry his only son, who was still a boy, to Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of his brother, Edward the Fourth; but this young prince dying, he would have wedded his niece himself, had he not been deterred from so doing by the advice of his friends and the remonstrances of the clergy.

8. Richard's title to the throne had been confirmed by parliament; but he gradually became unpopular with the great body of the people. The Lancastrians were still powerful, and their acknowledged chief was Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, who was the nearest native heir to the rights of the House of Lancaster. He was also supported by many of the leading Yorkists, who had exacted from him a promise to marry Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward the Fourth. Richmond, who had long been in exile in France, landed at Milford Haven with a force of five thousand men; and encountering Richard at Bosworth field, in Liecestershire, the famous battle was fought which ended the war of the roses. A large number of Richard's troops went over to his enemies; but he fought with his accustomed bravery. He was killed while attempting to hew his way to the person of his rival; and his crown being found on the field was presented to Richmond.

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*Questions on Chapter Eighth.*

1. What king now ascended the throne? What was his age, and to what great house did he belong? What is said of his talents, courage, &c.? What of his vices?

2. Who opposed Edward in the field, and with what result ?
3. To whom did Edward owe much of his success, and by what name was he usually called ? What princess did Warwick demand in marriage for the king ? What did Edward do while this negotiation was going on ? What effect had his conduct on Warwick, and to what did it lead ? To whom was a daughter of Warwick married ? What did Warwick promise, and how did he fulfil it ?
4. Who was released from the Tower and replaced on the throne, and did he remain long unmolested ? What great battle took place, and what was the result ? Relate the particulars of the interview between prince Edward and the king. What became of king Henry, and subsequently of Margaret, his wife ? When did Edward die ?
5. How many children had Edward IV. ? Which of them succeeded him, and under what title ? Who was made Protector of the kingdom ? What did he cause to be done. What petition did the citizens of London make to him, and did he agree to it ? What became of Edward V. and his youthful brother ?
6. What title did the Duke of Gloucester assume on being crowned ? What is said of him by historians ?
7. To whom did he wish to marry his only son, and why did it not take place ? What is said regarding his intentions of marrying his own niece, and why was he hindered ?
8. Who opposed Richard's title to the throne, and by whom was he supported ? Who did Richmond promise to marry ? Where did he land in England ? What famous battle was fought ? What became of Richard ?

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## CHAPTER IX.

### THE HOUSE OF TUDOR FROM HENRY VII. TO QUEEN ELIZABETH.—1485—1603.

1. HENRY VII.—1485—1509.—Henry VII., surnamed Tudor, entered London in August, 1485, and was crowned on the following month of October. He was more a politic than a warlike prince. He protected the

arts, manufactures and commerce. It was he who sent Cabot from Bristol to seek for new countries on the Atlantic, when Newfoundland was discovered. Henry would have left a name generally admired, had not the lustre of all his good qualities been dimmed by his excessive avarice and extortion. He married Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward the Fourth, and thus united the rival interests of the Houses of York and Lancaster. Still his reign was troubled by claimants to the throne. The first of these was Lambert Simnel. Henry continued to keep the young Earl of Warwick in the Tower. He was a son of the Duke of Clarence, and Richard III. regarded him as his successor to the crown. Clarence had been very popular in Ireland. An Oxford priest brought Simnel over to Dublin, and there represented him as the Earl of Warwick, who had escaped from his imprisonment. The Irish believed the assertion, and he was crowned in May, 1487, by the Bishop of Meath, as Edward VI. Simnel then landed in England with an army, but he was thoroughly defeated. Henry, to show his contempt for Simnel's claims, made him serve as turnspit in his kitchen.

2. The next and most accomplished claimant was Perkin Warbeck. It is even now doubted if he was an impostor. He represented himself to be Richard Duke of York, the second son of Edward IV., who had escaped from the Tower, where his unfortunate brother had been murdered by Richard III. He first publicly made this claim in 1481. He was then a youth of nineteen, with a handsome person, and noble manners. The people of Ire-

land recognised him as Richard IV. The Duchess of Burgundy, the sister of Edward the Fourth, called him "her dear young nephew;" and the whole of the Yorkist party professed to believe in his pretensions. But Henry and his party declared he was an impostor, and that he was one Perkin Warbeck, the son of a converted Jew, a wealthy merchant of Tournay. Warbeck proceeded to Ireland and from thence to Scotland to seek assistance to gain the English crown. The king of Scotland received him with royal honours, and married him to Catherine Gordon, a lady allied to the Scottish throne. After two or three warlike excursions by the English and Scots, Henry induced James to dismiss Warbeck. He then landed in Cornwall, where he soon gathered about 10,000 followers. With this force he met Henry's army at Taunton, where his adherents were dispersed. Warbeck himself fled for refuge to a monastery, but at last surrendered himself to Henry, relying on a promise of clemency. Henry confined him in the Tower, and it was for some time doubtful how he should be treated, for there were many who still believed his pretensions. At last he was tried for high treason, and executed in November 1499. The young and unfortunat Earl of Warwick, the last male heir of the Plantagenets, was just after beheaded on the assumed charge of having assisted Warbeck. But the real cause of his death was the refusal by Ferdinand of Arragon to betroth his daughter Catherine to Henry's eldest son Arthur, so long as a rival claimant to the throne existed. Henry died on the 21st April, 1509, aged 53. He had reigned 24 years.



3: HENRY VIII.—1485—1509.—Henry the only surviving son of the late king succeeded to the throne, not only unopposed but amid universal rejoicings. The evil points in his character had not yet exhibited themselves. He was in his eighteenth year, had a handsome person and frank and open manners. He began his reign, with a step which was very popular in those days, an invasion of France. He accordingly attacked that country in alliance with Spain, and although he gained some advantages in two campaigns, the war was not attended with any useful results.

4. His chief adviser or prime minister was the celebrated Cardinal Wolsey. Thomas Wolsey was the son of a tradesman in Ipswich, and having shown signs of talents at a very early age, he was sent to the University, where his progress was so rapid that he acquired the name of the Boy-Bachelor. Henry the Seventh had, with his usual shrewdness, noticed Wolsey's aptitude for business, and had advanced and employed him. He rose rapidly in that and the present reign, until he reached the dignities of Archbishop of York, Cardinal, and Lord High Chancellor of England. Wolsey has been accused of having gained great influence over Henry the Eighth by ministering to his passions and foibles; but it must be admitted that Henry's worst acts were committed after Wolsey ceased to be his adviser.

5. In the year 1520 Henry had a meeting with the king of France on the plains of Picardy, and from the wealth displayed by the monarchs and their respective

courts, the place of meeting is known in history by the name of the "Field of the Cloth of Gold." At this time the continent of Europe was divided by the struggle for supremacy between Francis the First of France, and Charles the Fifth, emperor of Germany and king of Spain. Henry's alliance was eagerly courted by both, and with proper temper and management, he might have turned the scale whichever way he pleased. But, although his position made him both feared and powerful, his measures were too unsteady, and he was too much ruled by passion, to profit by circumstances to any great extent.

6. Henry had, when only seventeen years of age, been married to Catharine of Arragon, daughter of the king of Spain. This lady had, in the first instance, been betrothed and married to his eldest brother, Arthur, who, it was declared, had died without consummating the marriage. But the father of the princess had given a large dower with his daughter, and Henry the Seventh was unwilling to part with the money. He consequently married her to Henry. The only living issue of this marriage was a daughter, and Henry was passionately anxious to have a son, which certainly was highly desirable for political reasons. He might also feel some scruples of conscience from the fact of Catharine being his brother's widow; at all events he said he did, and the circumstance was one much canvassed by the people. But the immediate cause of Henry's conduct to Catharine was his love for Anne Boleyn, daughter of an English gentleman, and maid of honor to the queen. Anne was young and beautiful, Catherine was

neither, and the king had been married to her for eighteen years. Henry applied to the Pope for a divorce, but the Emperor, Charles the Fifth, was the Queen's nephew, and the Pope dared not comply with the king of England's demand. But Henry was not to be balked, and a convention of the English Clergy declared the marriage void. Anne was then crowned queen, she and the king having been previously married. Catherine appealed to the Pope, who, after much hesitation and delay, declared the marriage between her and Henry valid. From this circumstance sprung events of vital importance to England; among these was the introduction of the Protestant Religion into the country.

7. The people of England had for several ages contended against the power of the Pope; but by the aid of the Clergy and by taking advantage of favourable circumstances, the papal influence continued still to be formidable. Yet the doctrines taught by Wickliffe had taken root in the soil, and when Luther preached the reformed religion in Germany, it speedily found converts and supporters in England. The quarrel between the Pope and Henry opened the way to the Reformation; for though the king was not a Protestant himself, he ceased to be a Papist by denying the authority of the Pope. In fact, it is difficult to say what he was:—he, on the one hand, deposed the Pope, constituting himself the head of the church in England, and also directed the scriptures to be translated and read in the churches; while, on the other hand, he enjoined auricular confession, enforced the celibacy of the clergy,

and punished with death all those who denied the great doctrines of the Roman Catholic faith. It is probable that these inconsistencies were, partly, forced on Henry by his having formerly written a book against Luther, in which he supported the seven sacraments. It was as a reward for this work that the Pope conferred on him the title of "Defender of the Faith," which the sovereigns of England still retain. Wolsey, who had opposed Henry's marriage to Anne Boleyn, was sacrificed to her suspicions and those of her kindred. He was deprived of the office of Chancellor, his goods were confiscated, and he died in great depression, while in custody under a charge of high treason.

8. Of Henry's acts, the suppression of the monasteries and other religious communities throughout the kingdom, was one of the most important in its results. By several enactments all the monastic institutions were dissolved, many being annexed to the crown, and the rest divided amongst the nobility and leading gentry. These changes, however, were not quietly effected; the people in several parts of the kingdom broke out into insurrection at various times, and were put down with much trouble and bloodshed.

9. Henry had only one child by Anne Boleyn, the afterwards celebrated queen Elizabeth. Getting tired of Anne, she was accused of adultery, and executed on the 19th May, 1536. The king on the following day married the Lady Jane Seymour. She died in the ensuing autumn, after being delivered of a male child, Edward,

who succeeded to the throne after his father's death. Henry's fourth wife was Ann of Cleves, daughter of the Duke of Gueldres, (1540). He was speedily divorced from her and married to Catherine Howard, who was executed for infidelity (February 1542). A few months afterwards he took to wife Lady Catharine Parr, who survived him. During this Prince's reign there was much dissension between England and Scotland. In 1543, especially, a Scottish army 30,000 strong passed the border, and was defeated at Flodden with great slaughter. The king of Scotland, James IV., and the flower of his nobility perished in this disastrous battle.

10. Henry died on the 28th February 1547, having been for some time suffering from foul and painful diseases, which irritated his temper and made it still more savage. His reign is probably the most remarkable and important in the annals of the country, although his own character is one of the most detestable on record. It has been truly said of him that he "spared no man in his anger, and no woman in his lust." Without giving a further list of his victims, the judicial murders of Fisher, the venerable Bishop of Rochester, of the learned and good Sir Thomas More, and of the accomplished Earl of Surrey, are sufficient for his condemnation with posterity. He resembled one of the worst of the Roman Emperors rather than a Christian ruler.

11. EDWARD VI.—1547—1553.—Edward, the only son of Henry VIII., was nine years old at his father's death. By Henry's will certain executors, named by him,

were appointed to administer the government until the young prince should come of age. These executors named Lord Hertford, (created Duke of Somerset,) Protector of the kingdom. The Protector immediately set about the establishment of the Protestant religion throughout the country, and his efforts were attended with, at least, temporary success. The regulations of Henry the Eighth were repealed, the clergy permitted to marry, and a liturgy was established which prevails, in a great measure, in the Church of England to this day. Somerset also was anxious to unite the island of Britain under one dominion by marrying Edward to Mary the infant queen of Scotland, a favorite project of the late king. But the Scots were generally averse to this match, and although the protector invaded that country, and gained the bloody battle of Pinkey, Mary was sent to France, and was betrothed and afterwards married to the heir of that kingdom. There were insurrections of the people in different parts of England during Somerset's administration, arising from the want of employment and the lowness of wages, as well as from religious motives.

12. A party was gradually formed against Somerset, at the head of which was Dudley, Earl of Warwick. The protector, finding himself deserted by his old partisans and supporters, had to yield to the storm, and laid down his authority. Heavy charges were preferred against him, and he was tried and executed for high treason. Warwick succeeded to Somerset's place and power, and was raised to the rank of Duke of Northumberland. But

his ambition was not contented with this elevation. King Henry the Eighth had been empowered by parliament to regulate by will the succession to the crown, and he had accordingly appointed his two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, respectively, to succeed in the event of his son's death without heirs. Henry also directed that if his own children should leave no issue, the descendants of his second sister, Mary, should ascend the throne, passing over the descendants of his elder sister, Margaret, the queen of Scots, as aliens. Northumberland persuaded Edward to bequeath the succession to Lady Jane Grey, the grand-daughter of his aunt Mary, on the plea that his sisters Mary and Elizabeth had been declared illegitimate by act of parliament; but the chief argument by which the young king was swayed was drawn from the warm attachment of the Lady Jane to the Protestant faith, to which he was himself zealously devoted. Northumberland had previously contrived to marry this lady to his fourth son, Lord Guildford Dudley. Edward died on the 28th July, 1553, at the age of sixteen. He had been always in delicate health; but his temper was amiable, and he was religious and fond of study.

13. MARY.—1553—1558.—On the king's death, Northumberland proclaimed Lady Jane Grey queen; but the nation at once recognized the right of the princess Mary, Henry the Eighth's eldest daughter, to the crown. Northumberland was tried and beheaded, and Lady Jane and her husband were imprisoned in the tower. They had been condemned at the same period as Northumberland, but were



spared in the meantime. Mary was not only a zealous but a bigotted Roman Catholic; and the chief wish of her heart was to bring the kingdom and people of England once more within the pale of the Roman Church. She began by getting parliament to repeal all the laws of Edward the Sixth on the subject of religion; and things were restored to the state in which they were in the reign of Henry the Eighth. This still left her, as sovereign, in the position of head of the church; but she only considered herself as holding that position in trust for the Pope, to whom she was immediately to transfer it. She selected, as her husband, Philip king of Spain, a prince partaking of her own zeal for their common faith, although she was aware that this marriage was extremely distasteful to the great body of her subjects. This led to an insurrection under a gentleman named Sir Thomas Wyatt; but it was suppressed in a short time. Lady Jane Grey, who had been spared, hitherto, was executed under the excuse of a connexion between her and the leaders of the outbreak. This victim of the ambition of others was highly accomplished, was possessed of great beauty, and had not reached her seventeenth year. Her husband, Lord Guilford Dudley suffered with her.

14. England was reconciled to Rome, and the two houses of parliament having repealed all the laws they had passed against the Roman Catholics in former days, prayed to be reconciled to the ancient church. The holders of church property, however, made it a condition before giving in their adhesion, that they were not to be deprived of such



property. Mary's chief agents in these changes were Cardinal Pole, and Gardiner Bishop of Winchester. The former was a near relation to the queen, and was a man of a generous and merciful spirit, and he recommended indulgence towards the professors of the Protestant religion; Gardiner, on the contrary advocated measures of severity. A court of ecclesiastical commission was appointed to put down Protestantism under the name of heresy; and although the exact number of victims cannot be ascertained, yet they were undoubtedly numerous, and the fires of Smithfield have conferred on Mary a character for cruelty which no efforts of partizanship can detach from her name. That she had some good qualities is true; but she belonged to that class of people who are changed by the possession of power from being harmless and insignificant to being wicked and mischievous. Mary died on the 17th November, 1558, in the forty-third year of her age. She reigned five years, four months and eleven days.

15. ELIZABETH.—1558—1603.—Elizabeth, the sister of Mary, and daughter of Henry the Eighth, by Anne Boleyn, succeeded to the throne without opposition. It is true that the Catholics regarded her as illegitimate; but they did not possess the power, even if they had the will, to call her right in question. One of her first acts was to convene a parliament which annulled what had been done in the last reign in matters of religion. The jurisdiction in spiritual affairs was restored to the sovereign, and stringent acts were passed, as well against the Roman Catholics as against all the Protestant sects that dissented from

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the creed of the State. Toleration was a virtue unknown in those days ; but Elizabeth and her advisers administered the cruel laws in force as leniently as circumstances and the spirit of the age would, perhaps, allow.

16. One of the most remarkable incidents in Elizabeth's reign is connected with the unhappy fate of Mary Queen of Scots. This princess, as already mentioned, was married early to Francis, the king of France, who left her a widow at the age of nineteen. Returning to Scotland, she there found the Presbyterian Religion completely triumphant, through the efforts, chiefly, of the celebrated reformer John Knox. Her profession of the Catholic faith, her French education, and her love of pleasure were ill calculated to make her popular with the professors of the new creed ; and accused of many follies and crimes, she was at last forced to seek an asylum in England. Elizabeth ordered her to be confined, first in Tutbury Castle, in the county of Stafford, and afterwards in other strongholds. Mary's right to the English crown was maintained by the great body of the English Catholics, and several attempts were made to place her on the throne, and to restore the ancient worship. In 1569, the Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland raised an insurrection having these objects in view, and it was not suppressed without much bloodshed. A scheme was afterwards devised to release Mary, raise her to the throne and marry her to the Duke of Norfolk ; but this scheme was discovered, and the Duke was tried and executed. Another and a more daring conspiracy, at the head of

which was Anthony Babington, a Roman Catholic gentleman of good family and fortune, was afterwards attempted. Elizabeth was to be assassinated and Mary to assume the crown. On the discovery of this plot the Queen of Scots was accused of being implicated in it: a commission was appointed for her trial, and she was found guilty, condemned and executed. This tragic event took place on the 9th of February, 1587. Fourteen of the conspirators also suffered death.

17. But another and a greater danger was hanging over Elizabeth and the country. Philip, king of Spain, who had been married to her sister Mary, demanded the Queen's hand in marriage, and having failed to repossess himself of England by such means, he determined to gain the kingdom by conquest. This prince, as bigotted as he was ambitious, was bent on bringing back England to the ancient faith, at whatever cost. For this purpose the whole strength of his dominions, supported by the wealth of the new world, was employed. He provided an immense navy consisting of vessels of large size, on which the Pope, after blessing it, conferred the name of the "Invincible Armada," and it was to carry over an army of the veteran soldiers of Spain, then the best in the world. The people of England were, of course, alarmed at the danger which threatened them, but their conduct and that of the Queen were worthy of themselves and the occasion. The whole country rose in arms to repel the invader, and Elizabeth appeared at the head of her troops, applauding and encouraging them. The fleet was placed under the

command of able and experienced seamen, among whom the Admiral, Lord Effingham, Drake, Hawkins and Frobisher are memorable names. As soon as they met the enemy, the English vessels being more light and manageable, attacked the Spaniards on every side, and captured and destroyed many of their ships. The rest were scattered by storms in every direction; and of this mighty armament, only about fifty shattered vessels ever returned to Spain. This was a fatal blow to Spanish supremacy in Europe, and many writers regard the defeat of the Armada as the first downward step of that nation from the high position which it then held.

18. Elizabeth, as a woman, is seldom entitled to respect, often to blame; but, as a queen, she deserves the highest praise. Her attachment to such favourites as the Earl of Leicester, Sir Christopher Hatton, the Earl of Essex, and others, caused no little scandal in her own days, and is regarded with mingled pain and ridicule by posterity. But, on the other hand, her choice of such ministers as Burleigh, and the able men, who were his colleagues, more than redeem her faults. Her own talents were of a very high order, and she was regarded as the head of the Protestant powers of Europe. While wary in expending her people's money, she seldom failed to come to the aid of her allies, when most they needed such aid. She assisted the Protestants of France, in their struggles for freedom, and in emancipating the United Provinces from the tyranny of Spain. Towards the end of the fifteenth century the Portuguese had reached the East Indies by

the way of the Cape of Good Hope, and Columbus had made the more wonderful discovery of a new world in the west. In Elizabeth's reign the English took a prominent part in maritime adventures; Drake sailed round the world; Raleigh planted a colony in Virginia; and Sir Martin Frobisher, Sir John Hawkins, and others accomplished voyages and discoveries of interest and importance. The great writers of Elizabeth's time still stand first in the literature of their country; and there are few names since, that can be placed beside those of Shakespeare, Bacon and Spenser, not to speak of many only second to them in genius. Commerce and manufactures made equal advances, and the material improvement of the kingdom was in every way observable. Elizabeth died on the 24th March, 1603, of a broken heart, it is said, for having consented to the death of her last favourite, Essex. She was in the seventieth year of her age, and forty-fifth of her reign.

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*Questions on Chapter Ninth.*

1. To what celebrated House did Henry the VII belong? When did he enter London? What is said of his character? What is said of his marriage? Who laid claim to the throne and who did he represent himself to be? Was he crowned and under what title? What became of him?
2. Who next laid claim to the throne and upon what grounds? When did he make his claims? Who acknowledged his pretensions and what did King Henry say respecting them? Where did Warbeck go and what did he do? Where did he land and how many followers had he? What became of Warbeck? What noblemen did Henry cause to be beheaded? What reason did he assign for so doing and what is sup-

- posed to have been the true reason? When did Henry VII die? What was his age and how long had he reigned?
3. Who now succeeded to the throne and what is said respecting him? What country did he invade and with what results?
  4. Who was the chief adviser of Henry the VIII? Describe the early history of this remarkable man and what high offices did he ultimately reach? What has Wolsey been accused of and what must be admitted?
  5. Who did King Henry meet with on the plains of Picardy? What name is the place of meeting known by in history? Who was Henry's alliance courted by, and did he profit by the position he then held?
  6. At what age was Henry married to Catherine of Arragon? Who had this lady previously been married to? What reasons did Henry assign for desiring a Divorce from Catherine and what others have been assigned? Who was Anne Boleyn and what is said of her? To whom did the King apply for a Divorce and with what success? What did the English Clergy do, and what followed their declaration? To whom did Catherine appeal and what was the decision? What events sprung from this?
  7. Against what power had the people of England long contended? Did that power continue formidable? Name the two Reformers whose preachings made converts and supporters to the Reformed Religion? To what did the quarrel between the King and the Pope lead? What did the King do? What reason is assigned for his inconsistencies? Why was the title of "Defender of the Faith" conferred on Henry, and do English Sovereigns still bear it? What became of Cardinal Wolsey and what led to his downfall?
  8. What communities did Henry the VIII suppress and what became of their properties? Were these changes quietly acquiesced in by the people?
  9. What child had Henry by Anne Boleyn? What was Anne accused of? What became of her and who did the King then marry? How long did Lady Jane Seymour live and what child did she give birth to? Who was Henry's fourth wife and what became of her? Who did the King next marry, and who subsequently? Was there much dissension between England and Scotland in this reign? What is said respecting the battle of Flodden?
- When did Henry VIII die? What is said of his reign and of his character? What eminent men were put to death by him?

11. Who ascended the throne and what was his age at the time? Who was appointed Protector of the Kingdom and what did he establish? What regulations of the late King were repealed? What project had the Protector and also the late King to unite all of Britain under one dominion? Were the Scots desirous of this alliance? What became of their Queen Mary, and who did she marry? What insurrections occurred during the Protectorate and to what causes were they attributed?
12. Who led a party against Somerset? What became of him and who succeeded him? In what order had Henry the VIII appointed the succession to the crown? What alteration in this succession did Northumberland persuade Edward to make and on what grounds? To whom was Lady Jane Grey married? When and at what age did Edward die and what is said of his character?
13. Who was proclaimed Queen after Edward's death and who did the nation recognise? What became of Northumberland, of Lady Jane Grey and her husband? What religion did Queen Mary profess? What was the chief wish she entertained and how did she proceed to gratify it? To whom was she married and to what outbreak did this lead? What was the fate of Lady Jane Grey and her husband? What is said respecting Lady Jane?
14. In what relation did England stand to Rome? What did Parliament do? What became of the church's property? Who were Mary's chief Agents in effecting these changes and what is said of them? What commission was appointed and with what object? When did Mary die? What was her age and how long did she reign? What is said of her character?
15. Who succeeded Queen Mary? What was one of Elizabeth's first acts, and what followed? In whom was the jurisdiction in spiritual affairs vested, and what laws were passed? What is said of these laws, and how were they administered?
16. What was one of the most important incidents in Queen Elizabeth's reign? To whom was Mary Queen of Scots married? After her husband's death where did Mary go? What rendered it necessary for her to leave Scotland and seek an asylum in England? How was Mary received in England? What body of people maintained Mary's right to the English throne, and what insurrections and conspiracies took place to effect this object? Of what was Queen Mary accused, and what followed? When did this tragic event take place?



17. What great danger now threatened England? What is said of king Philip of Spain? What armament did he fit out and what name did the Pope give it? What is said of the conduct of the queen and people of England at this crisis? Under whose charge was the English fleet placed, and what success did their courage meet with? What became of the Spanish fleet, and what is said of the effect on the nation to which it had belonged?
18. What is said respecting Elizabeth as a woman and as a queen? What of her talents? What of her expenditure of money? What Protestants did she assist? What naval commanders flourished in this reign? Name the chief writers at this time, and repeat what is said respecting them? What progress did commerce and manufactures make? When did Elizabeth die, at what age, and how long had she reigned?

## CHAPTER X.

### THE STUARTS, FROM THE ACCESSION OF JAMES I. TO THE REVOLUTION.—1603—1688.

1. JAMES I.—1603—1625.—As already mentioned, Margaret, the eldest daughter of Henry VII., was married to James IV. of Scotland. Through this marriage James VI. of Scotland, son of the unfortunate Queen Mary of that kingdom, became heir to the English Crown on the death of Elizabeth. His accession took place at a period when the public mind was undergoing a great change. The excitement which the religious convulsions had produced, had now in a great measure subsided. People began to turn that enquiring eye to Politics which they had formerly devoted to Theology; and to claim that freedom in the Government, which they had been taught to exercise in their Creed. Unfortunately for James he entertained



opinions of the most despotic nature. He looked upon the English Government as a simple monarchy. He seemed to forget that it consisted of King, Lords, and Commons. He loved to argue in favor of the Divine-right of Kings and he held himself to be only responsible to God for his conduct. His public conduct accorded as far as possible with his opinions. Nor was his appearance and manners more attractive. His self-conceit, his buffoonery, his obscene language, his waddling gait, and personal cowardice, were imperfections, which, when added to his declared vices in politics and religion rendered him, in general, an object both of dislike and contempt.

2. Three conspiracies were formed against him during his reign. They were principally planned by Roman Catholics, with the view of removing or avenging the retaliatory laws which then existed against the public exercise of their religion. The first of these was the "Bye and Surprise" plot in which the seizure and imprisonment of James was proposed. The second attempted to supersede him on the throne in favour of Arabella Stuart, a daughter of the younger brother of James' father. The third was the celebrated "Gunpowder Plot," in which Catesby, Guy Fawkes and others formed the design of blowing up the Houses of Parliament, when the king and great officers of State would be present. Fortunately all these conspiracies were discovered before they were executed, and most of the conspirators arrested and punished. James called but four Parliaments. In each, he

and the commons quarrelled. In each, the king desired that the House should only trouble itself with voting him money. In each, the Commons demanded an equivalent in the redress of certain grievances. He would not accept the money on these terms. The Commons would not give all he demanded unless the conditions were acceded to. He would then fly in a rage; abuse the members; deny the legality of the privileges claimed by Parliament; prorogue it; and sometimes send a few of its leading members to the Tower. He would afterwards adopt various unconstitutional modes of raising money without parliamentary sanction. When these failed to satisfy his wants he would call another Parliament, but only to find it still more opposed to his wishes than the one that preceded it. These unwise contests, added to other circumstances caused much discontent. Of the sources of James' unpopularity his preference of unworthy favourites was especially prominent. Carr whom he created Earl of Somerset, and Villiers, whom he made Duke of Buckingham, were objects of the people's hatred, to the same extent that they were caressed and enriched by the king. James died on the 24th March, 1625.

3. CHARLES I.—1625—1646.—On the death of James, his son's accession was not such as showed signs of the misfortunes that were to befall him and the country. On the contrary the highest hopes were entertained of him. His private character was without stain, he was grave and majestic in appearance, was a good scholar, and a lover and patron of the fine arts. But he mistook

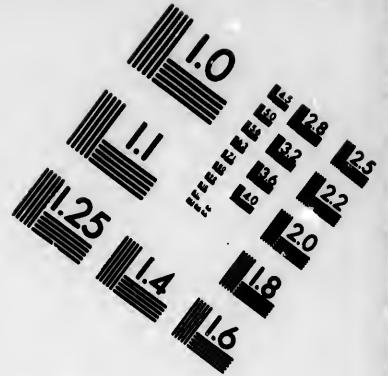
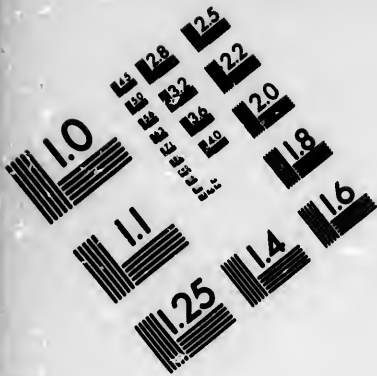
cunning for political wisdom, and was educated in notions of the divine rights of kings, wholly inconsistent with free institutions. The great fault charged against him was insincerity; and he evidently believed that no contract between himself and his subjects was binding on him. During the first part of his reign, his chief adviser and favourite was the Duke of Buckingham, who had been a creature of his father, James. This man, by his arrogance and greed of wealth and power, had become extremely odious to the whole nation, and he was assassinated by a fanatic of the name of Felton. But the ministers of Charles, whose counsels were most fatal to him, were the Earl of Strafford and Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury.

4. On coming to the throne, Charles found himself engaged in a contest, the object of which was to defend the Prince Palatine who had married his sister. Shortly after, war was declared against France. These wars required money, and the supplies granted by parliament were scanty. The king, to meet his wants had recourse to illegal means, such as forced loans and the collection of tonnage and poundage without the authority of the Legislature. In the parliament of 1628 a Bill was passed called the Petition of Rights, for the redress of these grievances and of others under which the country suffered. But in the next parliament complaints were made that the terms of the Petition had been violated; and other grievances were brought forward. The Parliament was adjourned, and some members were imprisoned. Twelve years passed before another was called.

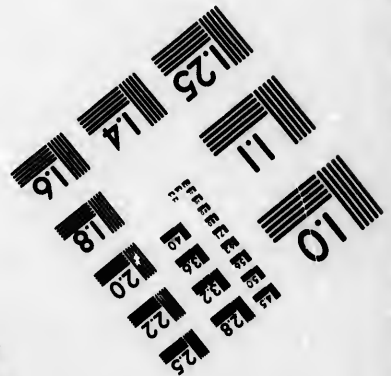
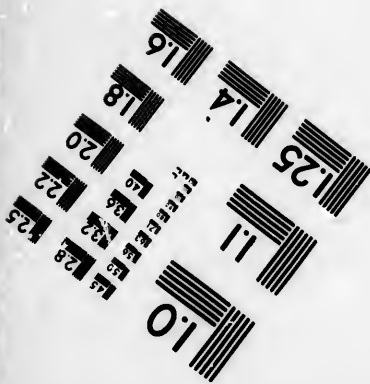
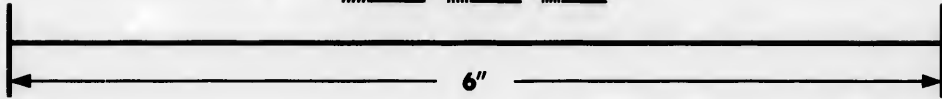
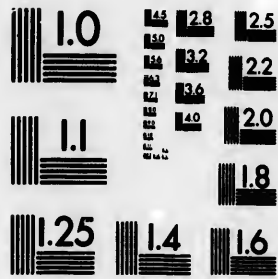
5. The difficulty now was to find money without the aid of parliament. Among other means attempted, an old tax, called ship money, which had been confined to the towns on the sea-coast, was extended over the whole kingdom. The renowned patriot, John Hampden, opposed the payment of this tax with success. To add to the king's difficulties and misfortunes, an attempt he had made to force the Episcopal form of worship on the people of Scotland, at last drove that people into open resistance. They marched a strong army into England in 1639, and Charles having no means of resisting them, was obliged to call a parliament, which assembled on the 13th April, 1640. But discontented with the king for his misconduct, and more especially for having governed without a parliament for twelve years, they were more inclined to blame him than to grant supplies. He consequently dissolved them after a month of angry altercations.

6. On the 23rd November, of the same year, Charles called together the body so celebrated under the name of the Long Parliament. Instead of granting supplies the opposition party arraigned Lord Strafford before the Lords for high treason. Charles made great efforts to save him, and the accused nobleman defended himself with extraordinary eloquence and talent. He was, however, found guilty, and the king was at last induced, not much to his credit, to sign the warrant for the execution of a servant who had been zealous in his master's cause, if not in that of the country. Parliament then proceeded to remove abuses, which they did with no sparing hand; and to add to





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the existing agitation an insurrection of the Irish Roman Catholics, attended with much cruelty and bloodshed, broke out. Charles was accused by his enemies of having instigated this outbreak, and the Commons who had hitherto attacked only abuses, now attacked the throne itself. The bishops were driven from the house of Lords, which was considered a great blow to monarchy. The king attempted to imprison some of the leading members of the house of Commons, but failed in doing so. At last, parliament insisted on wresting from him the command of the military force of the kingdom, and Charles refusing to part with this last prerogative of the crown, left London for Oxford with the view of deciding the dispute with the sword.

7. In the civil war which now commenced, the balance of success was at first with the king. His forces consisting chiefly of the gentry and their retainers, who were to some extent acquainted with the use of arms, while the parliamentary forces were mostly drawn from the cities and boroughs, whose inhabitants were new to war and warlike exercises. The parliamentary armies, however, gradually began to improve in discipline, and their cause received much aid from Scottish forces sent to their support. It were useless to give a more particular description of this melancholy contest, or of the battles fought between the parliament and the king, of which those of Edge-hill, Marston-moor and Naseby were the most considerable. At last Charles, after suffering several defeats was forced to seek refuge with the Scottish army. The Scottish leaders agreed to surrender him to the



parliament on receiving a large sum of money which they claimed to be due to them. After some delay Charles was tried before a court appointed by the House of Commons, and being found guilty of bearing arms against the parliament was condemned to death. He was executed on the 30th January, 1649, in the forty-ninth year of his age and twenty-fourth of his reign. He died with great firmness.

8. THE COMMONWEALTH.—To obtain the consent of parliament to the trial and execution of Charles, the army had thought it necessary to drive from the House of Commons the Presbyterians who had seats in that body. The remaining members were chiefly Independents, of which sect the army also now mostly consisted. The leader of the party was the famous Oliver Cromwell, who had by this time fought his way to the head of the army, and through the army, of the nation. He was the son of a country gentleman, and having taken up the part of the parliament against the late king with much zeal he was returned to the House of Commons, and when the civil war broke out joined the army. Here his talents at once became conspicuous. He opposed the religious zeal of the Puritans to the fiery courage of the Royalists, and his famous regiment of "Ironsides" was remarkable for bravery, discipline and unvarying success against every enemy that opposed them. He was now the idol of the army, and after the king's death, it was soon evident that he aimed at supreme power. In the meantime it became necessary to subdue Ireland, where a most destructive

struggle was carried on between the royalists and the republicans; and Cromwell succeeded in pacifying that country with his usual celerity and good fortune, but with more than his usual severity. He next entered Scotland, where the eldest son of Charles the First had been crowned and pursuing that young prince to England, he gained over him a signal victory at Worcester.

9. Cromwell, under the name of Lord Protector of England, exercised a far more despotic power than any of the ancient kings of the country had ever wielded. He was, in many respects, a great man, and although forced at times, to be severe, he neither loved cruelty nor oppression. He was perhaps as just in his government as it was possible for a despot to be. He boasted that he would make the name of an Englishman as much respected over the world as ever that of an ancient Roman had been; and the boast was not an idle one. His friendship was sought and his enmity dreaded by France and Spain, as well as the other powers of the continent; and the English fleet, under the celebrated Admiral Blake, carried the terror of his name to every shore from Holland to the coast of Barbary. But all his attempts to govern by means of parliaments proved failures, and the nation, in general, grew weary of being ruled by one man, however eminent he might be. He died on the 3rd September, 1658.

10. CHARLES II.—1660—1685.—After Cromwell's death, his eldest son Richard succeeded to the protectorate without opposition; but he had not the power, if he had the desire, of controlling the wishes of the people of

England for the restoration of the royal family. General Monk who commanded in Scotland marched to London at the head of his army, and after some delay, a parliament was convoked and Charles the Second was invited home. The country hailed this event with unbounded joy. Charles began his reign by rewarding some of his friends, especially those who had been the instruments of his restoration, and by punishing some of those persons who had sat on his father's trial, or the "Regicides" as they were called. Parliament, in the exuberance of the national loyalty, voted him large supplies, and the king spent the money in the most extravagant pleasures, and in gifts and grants to his numerous mistresses. Cromwell had forced the cession of Dunkirk from the Spaniards, and Charles sold it to the king of France for a sum of money. He consented to become a pensioner of that monarch, by whom several of his ministers were also pensioned and bribed. Under this influence he joined France in a war against Holland to the surprise and disappointment of the whole kingdom, and to make matters worse, his own misconduct and that of his commanders caused the war to be unsuccessful. By a disgraceful breach of faith he possessed himself of a considerable sum of money by shutting the exchequer, and taking possession of funds which ought to have been paid to the merchants, who had advanced money on the security of the taxes. In short the enthusiasm which greeted Charles on his restoration, began gradually to wear away, as his character became known. He was false and selfish, although witty and good natured to the

discontent, a great fire broke out in London, which destroyed a great portion of the city, and this calamity had been preceded by a plague which is said to have carried off 100,000 persons in London alone, independently of its ravages in other parts.

11. The chief object Charles had in view, in seeking aid from the king of France, was to reign without a parliament, though at first he found that body sufficiently obsequious. A dread of popery began to haunt men's minds, and it was rumoured that Charles himself was secretly a papist, while the Duke of York, his brother, and heir to the crown, as Charles had no legitimate children, was an avowed one. This state of things was taken advantage of by some wicked and designing persons, who pretended to discover a plot for the murder of the king, and the extermination of protestantism. The chief actor in this imposture was one Titus Oates, a protestant clergyman and a convert from the Roman Catholic religion. The alarm was universal, and many innocent persons were executed on the testimony of perjured witnesses. Several attempts had also been made by parliament to exclude the duke of York from the throne, as a professed papist; and in 1680, a bill to that effect was passed by the Commons, but rejected by the House of Lords. The *Habeas Corpus* Act was passed in this king's reign, (1678), and is one of the greatest ~~laws~~ ever conferred on a free people. In 1684 the conspiracy called the Rye-House Plot was discovered. Many noblemen and others had banded together with a view of protecting the Protestant religion and re-

forming the government ; but connected with these were some desperate characters, who contemplated the assassination of the king and the Duke of York. These last were justly punished ; but the vengeance of the court was not content with such victims, and two of the most eminent patriots of the age, Lord William Russel and Algernon Sydney, were put to death for a crime of which they were not guilty. Charles died, suddenly, on the 6th of February, 1685, having in his dying moments been reconciled to the Church of Rome, by a priest secretly introduced into his chamber by the Duke of York.

12. JAMES II.—1685—1688.—Notwithstanding the attempts made to exclude the Duke of York from the throne, his right to it, as the lineal heir, his brother having left no legitimate children, was not disputed. Nay, the nation welcomed the event with a great show of loyalty. In fact, James possessed some qualities that might have entitled him to respect, had not his mind been enslaved by religious bigotry. He was a good man of business—was considered a sincere friend—was reputed brave, and he refrained from the indecent levities which marked the conduct of his more profligate brother.

13. The Duke of Monmouth, a natural son of Charles the Second, was a great favourite with his father, and his affability and personal beauty made him no less a favourite of the people. It was pretended that his mother had been married to Charles, and on the strength of this pretension, of his own popularity, and of the dislike of the people to James, as a papist, Monmouth, set up pretensions to

the crown. Having landed on the west coast, the people of those parts, whose idol he was, flocked to him in great numbers; but the duke being destitute of the necessary talents for command, and none of those who joined him being capable of supplying this want, he was defeated at Sedgemoor with great slaughter. The cruelties perpetrated afterwards in cold blood have left an indelible stain on the character of James. He despatched his execrable tool, Judge Jefferies, to bring all who were in any way connected with the insurrection to trial, and so numerous were the persons executed that Jefferies "campaign", or "the bloody assizes," have become a bye-word for cruelty and rapacity.

14. But the chief misfortunes of this prince's reign arose from his determination to force the Roman Catholic religion on the British nation. The penal acts against all persons who professed any creed different from that of the Church of England were extremely severe, and would in the present day be considered intolerable. But we now know that the great object of James' life, and for which he was prepared to sacrifice every thing, was to bring the country once more under subjection to Rome. In his blind zeal, however, he injured the cause which he was determined to uphold;—and the more sensible Roman Catholics, nay, even the Pope himself, blamed the headlong course he was pursuing. He assumed the right of setting aside acts of parliament, such as the test act, on his own sole authority; he appointed Roman Catholics to offices and dignities in the universities and church; he



filled the army with them ; and dismissed from his councils those ministers who refused to join in his illegal proceedings, or to become converts to his religion. Seven bishops, headed by Sancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, having presented a petition to James, in which they pointed out to him that he was acting contrary to the law of the land, he imprisoned them in the Tower, on the charge of being guilty of a misdemeanour. They were tried, and after a trial which created the most intense excitement, they were acquitted amid universal rejoicings.

15. James was, however, approaching the gulf which he had been so industriously preparing for his own destruction. Hitherto his children had consisted of daughters ; but in the year 1688, his queen brought forth a son. Such was the prejudice against the Jesuits who surrounded the king, and who were believed to be his advisers in religious and political affairs, that immediate belief was given to a report circulated without any foundation or truth, that no child was born at all by the queen, but that one had been introduced into her chamber in a warming-pan. Hitherto, the country had been content to suffer James' misgovernment as a temporary evil, which would end with his own reign, his two daughters being married to protestants, the elder, Mary, to William Prince of Orange, and the second, Anne, to Prince George of Denmark ; but the birth of a son to be educated as a Roman Catholic, put an end to this hope.

16. Under these circumstances, many men of rank, wealth and station saw that a change in the government

must be effected, if the country was to be saved from insurrection and civil war. They accordingly sent an invitation to the Prince of Orange to come to England, a step for which he had long been making preparations. He landed at Torbay on the 5th November, 1688, at the head of a force comparatively small for such an enterprise. He was in a short time joined by most of the leading nobility and gentry, and James found himself deserted by the people, the army, his dependants, his friends, and even his own family. William meeting no resistance marched to London, and after some delay and attempts at negotiation James fled to France. He was declared, on the part of the nation, to have abdicated the throne, and William and Mary were proclaimed joint king and queen. The great Revolution of 1688 was thus peacefully and happily consummated.

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*Questions on Chapter Tenth.*

1. Who succeeded Elizabeth on the throne and from whom was she descended? To what had the people begun to turn their attention? What is said of the King's opinions,? What of his appearance, manners and character?
2. What conspiracies were formed against the King? Describe them and their results? How many Parliaments did the King call? Upon what did he differ with them and what means did he adopt to raise money? What added to the King's unpopularity? When did he die?
3. What is said of the accession of Charles the I. and the hopes formed regarding him? Describe his character? Who was his chief adviser in the early part of his reign and by whom afterwards were his councils chiefly directed?
4. In what war did the King engage on coming to the throne and for what object? By what means did he raise a revenue, and were the people satisfied with his conduct?



5. What farther steps did the King take and who opposed them? What added to the national discontent at this time? What did the Scots do?
6. What Parliament did the King now call? Who was arraigned for High Treason? What was the result? What did Parliament farther proceed to do? Where did the King proceed to and with what object?
7. What is said of the civil war? Of what did the King's forces consist and of what those of the Parliament? Name the principal battles that were fought? To whom did the King surrender? What became of him?
8. Who was Oliver Cromwell and under what name is the period during which he lived known in history? Describe what Cromwell did in England, Ireland and Scotland? Who did he pursue from Scotland and what great battle was fought?
9. What title did Cromwell assume? What is said of his power? Of his character and his government? What boast did he make? What Admiral flourished at this time and what was he noted for? When did Cromwell die?
10. Did Cromwell's son long retain the Protectorate? What general marched from Scotland? What did Parliament do? How was the King received? What were Charles' first proceedings? What is said of his extravagance? How did the King dispose of Dunkirk and to whom did he become a pensioner? What war did the King engage in and with what success? What breach of faith was the King guilty of. Describe his character? What two great calamities befel London in this reign?
11. What plot was pretended to have been discovered at this time? Who was the chief actor in it? What celebrated act of Parliament was passed in 1678? Describe the Rye-house plot and the designs of the conspirators? What innocent parties suffered from their supposed connection with the plot? Where did the King die and what is said of his last moments?
12. When did James the II. ascend the throne? How did the nation receive him and what is said of his character?
13. Who was the Duke of Monmouth? With what object did he rebel against the King? What cruelties were perpetrated after Monmouth's defeat and what judge presided at the trials?
14. To what are the chief misfortunes of James' reign attributable? Describe what steps he took to achieve his object. For what offence did he imprison seven of the Bishops, and what became of them?
15. What is said respecting the birth of a prince at this time and how was the intelligence received by the country?

16. Who was invited to come to England. Where and in what year did he land. By whom was he joined. Where did he march to. What became of King James. What was declared on the part of the nation and who were proclaimed joint King and Queen. In what year was this revolution effected.

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## CHAPTER XI.

### FROM THE REVOLUTION, TO THE ACCESSION OF THE HOUSE OF HANOVER.—1689—1714.

1. **WILLIAM AND MARY.—1689—1694.**—Before offering the crown to the Princess Mary and her husband the Prince of Orange, the leaders of the revolution had enforced on the future sovereigns several conditions calculated for the security of liberty and property; and a parliament being now called, the celebrated Bill of Rights was passed. By this Bill it was provided that no standing army should be maintained, and no money raised, without the consent of parliament, nor could the law of the land be set aside or dispensed with by the power of the prerogative. William at first succeeded in gaining some toleration for the dissenters, but the zeal of the legislature in favor of the existing establishment was too powerful for him to contend against with full success.

2. James, meanwhile, had landed in Ireland in the hope of regaining his lost throne, and a rising took place in the Highlands of Scotland, in his favor, under Viscount Dundee, better known in history as Grahame of Claverhouse. William went to Ireland in person to oppose James, over whom he gained the famous battle of the

Boyne, July, 1690. James immediately returned to France, and Ireland was pacified. In Scotland, Dundee gained a battle, at the pass of Killiecrankie, but being killed in the action, his followers dispersed to their homes, without gaining any advantage from their victory. Of the Irish who had fought for James, about 15,000 emigrated to foreign countries. This unfortunate monarch died at St. Germain's on the 16th September, 1700. Queen Mary died of the small-pox on the 28th December, 1694.

3. WILLIAM III.—The two great parties in the state had for some time assumed the names of Whigs and Tories. The former had been foremost in forwarding the revolution, and had since filled the chief offices of the government. The latter, who accepted the revolution rather than desired the exclusion of the lineal race of kings from the throne, began to mingle with the Jacobites.

4. William's great object, during all his life, was to oppose Louis the Fourteenth, whose ambition endangered the other states of the continent, but more especially Holland. He had taken steps soon after the revolution to embark England, in alliance with the Dutch and the Emperor, in a war against Louis. He was engaged in this contest throughout the greatest part of his reign, but the details have little to do with the history of England, the interests involved being those of her allies and not her own. At last peace was proclaimed in 1697 by the treaty of Ryswick.

5. In 1701 an "Act of Settlement" of the crown had been passed, calling to the throne in case of William and

Mary, as well as Anne, the daughter of James II., dying without heirs, Sophia Electress of Hanover and her descendants, who, being Protestants, were to succeed, to the exclusion of such Roman Catholics as were nearer to the crown by birth. After some difficulty, on the part of the king, a bill had passed both houses in favour of Triennial Parliaments, that is ordering that the House of Commons should be elected every three years.

6. William died in consequence of a fall from his horse on the 8th March, 1702. He was a prince possessed of many eminent qualities; but, from his reserved manners and other causes, he was more esteemed than loved by the people of England.

7. ANNE.—1702—1714.—As William and Mary left no children, the crown descended to Anne, the second daughter of James the Second. She immediately informed parliament of her determination to maintain the Protestant religion and to follow in the steps of the late king. At the commencement of her reign the war generally known as the war of the Succession, broke out. It was waged by the English, Dutch, and Austrians against the king of France, who wished to secure the Spanish throne to his grandson, while the allies supported the claims of the house of Austria. The allied forces were commanded by the celebrated John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, who, in the course of several campaigns, gained the famous battles of Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde, and Malplaquet. Gibraltar was taken by the English during this war, and has since continued in

their hands. But Marlborough's victorious career was suddenly ended by the result of intrigues at home. Hitherto, the Whigs, who had been chiefly instrumental in bringing about the revolution had conducted the government; but Harley, afterwards Earl of Oxford, and St. John, the famous Lord Bolingbroke, having got possession of the Queen's ear, the Whigs were turned out of office, and the Tories took their place. The latter immediately made peace with France,—England having gained little by the war except the glory of victories which were gained for the benefit of others.

8. For some time, the necessity of a legislative union between England and Scotland had been apparent, and at last, commissioners having been appointed by both nations, this great event took place in the year 1707. The treaty of union provided that the throne of the United Kingdom should be vested in the House of Hanover; that the United Kingdom should be represented by one parliament, to which Scotland should send sixteen Peers and forty-four Commoners; that all subjects of Great Britain should enjoy the same privileges; and that all laws bearing on private rights should remain unaltered, and each country should be governed by its own laws. These were the leading provisions of this treaty, which has proved so beneficial to both sections of the island.

9. On the death of James the Second in 1702, the king of France had acknowledged his son as king of England. The Pretender, as he was called, had a large

number of adherents in all parts of England, Scotland and Ireland, but the Protestants in general, with the exception of those professing high church principles, dreaded nothing so much as to see a Roman Catholic on the throne. The hopes of the Jacobites, or the supporters of the rights of the male line of the Stuarts, were high at this time, and it was expected by many that the Queen would declare in favor of her exiled brother. We know now that the Duke of Marlborough, and many of the first men in the kingdom kept up a correspondence with the Pretender. But, in the midst of these intrigues, Anne died on the 1st August, 1714. She was a woman little fitted for a throne;—and was continually leaning on some one for support. Her first confidant and adviser was Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough; the second was Mrs. Masham, by whom the Duke of Marlborough and the Whigs were driven from office, and the Tories raised to power. Her reign, however, is famous in the annals of the country, not only from the victories of Marlborough, but, above all, from the talents of the writers who adorned it. Among these Addison and Swift were the most celebrated.

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*Questions on Chapter Eleventh.*

1. What conditions did the leaders in the revolution impose on the Prince of Orange and his wife the Princess Mary before offering them the crown? What did William at first succeed in gaining?
2. What had become of king James, and where did a part of the people rise in his favour? Who went to Ireland to oppose James, and what famous battle was fought? To what country did James retire? What occurred in Scotland? Where and when did king James die? When did queen Mary die?

3. What is said of the two great political parties in England, what names did they assume, and in what did they differ ?
4. What was the great object of king William's life, and what steps did he adopt to advance it ? What is said about the war, and when was peace proclaimed ?
5. What is said of the "Act of Settlement," and how did it provide for the succession to the crown ? What act relating to the duration of parliaments was passed at this time ?
6. When did William III. die, and what is said of his character ?
7. Who succeeded to the throne ? What did she communicate to parliament ? What war broke out, how is it called in history, and for what object was it undertaken ? Who were the allied forces commanded by, what battles were fought, what fortress was taken ? How was Marlborough's career brought to a conclusion ? Who succeeded to the government, and what did they do in reference to the war. Did England gain anything by the war ?
8. When did the legislative union between England and Scotland take place ? What were the leading provisions in the treaty between the two countries ?
9. Who did the king of France recognise as the successor to James II. ? What is said about this prince and his hopes of succeeding to the crown ? Where did queen Anne die, and what is said respecting her ? What was her reign famous for ?

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## CHAPTER XII.

THE HOUSE OF HANOVER, FROM THE ACCESSION OF  
GEORGE I. TO THE DEATH OF GEORGE II.—1714—1727.

1. GEORGE I.—1714.—1727.—George, Elector of Hanover, succeeded to the throne in virtue of the Act of Settlement. He was descended from James the First, through his daughter Elizabeth, whose daughter, Sophia, was the mother of George. At the time he came to the English throne he was forty-four years of age. He had good business habits ; but his manners were reserved and



repulsive, and he was so ignorant of the English language that his ministers were forced to converse with him in Latin or French.

2. Some ardent Jacobites were anxious to proclaim the Pretender, and the ministers of the late Queen were in doubt as to what course they should pursue, when the Dukes of Argyle and Somerset entered the Council Chamber and insisted that king George should be proclaimed according to law. This was immediately done without opposition.

3. The ministry was dismissed and a new one appointed, of which the leading members were Lord Townsend, Mr. Stanhope, and Sir Robert Walpole. The Duke of Marlborough was restored to the command of the army. Preparations having been made to prosecute some members of the late administration, the Duke of Ormond and Lord Bolingbroke fled to France and joined the Pretender. Lord Oxford was sent to the Tower, where he was confined for two years, but finally released without having been brought to trial. Ormond and Bolingbroke were alienated, and their estates were forfeited to the crown. The latter was, after some time, allowed to return to England, but not to take his seat as a Peer.

4. A rebellion broke out in 1715 in favor of the Stuarts. The leader was the Earl of Mar, who had been one of the Secretaries of State in the last reign. He was a man wholly destitute of military talents. He succeeded in raising a large force, chiefly of Highlanders, in Scotland; but the Duke of Argyle having encountered him at



Sheriffmuir, at the head of the royal forces, the Jacobite cause was soon hopeless. The Pretender himself, called by his adherents James the Third, appeared for a short time in Scotland, but again returned to France. A rising of the Jacobites had also taken place in the north of England, but with still less success. At the head of this section of the rebellion were General Foster and the Earl of Derwentwater. Having collected a few followers, and having been joined by a considerable body of Highlanders under Brigadier Macintosh, and some Scottish Jacobites, they took possession of the town of Preston, and barricaded the streets and approaches. Here they were besieged by the Government forces to which they surrendered without much resistance. Among the leaders who were now in the hands of the government, were General Foster, Lords Derwentwater, Widdrington, Nithsdale, Wintown, Carnwath, Kenmuir and Nairne. The Peers were brought to trial for treason, and all except Wintown were sentenced to death. Nithsdale escaped from prison, through the devotion of his wife, who remained in his stead, while he got away in a female dress. Macintosh and others broke loose from jail, and Foster found his way to France. The other leaders were executed.

5. The South Sea Scheme next filled the attention of the nation. It was one of those ruinous delusions which at certain periods occur in all commercial countries. A company known as the South Sea Company offered to advance money to the government, and, in fact to assume the national debt, on condition of having some trading

privileges granted to them. The commerce of the South Sea, and gold mines in Peru and elsewhere were to be the chief sources of wealth. The scheme was laid before the public in such brilliant colours that the nation became excited, and at last, a universal insanity took possession of the whole people. Shares in the company that were originally valued at one hundred pounds, were bought at one hundred and fifty, two hundred, and even one thousand pounds. Then a reaction took place, and the bubble burst. Thousands were ruined not only by this scheme, but by many others equally wild, which its success had given birth to.

6. Sir Robert Walpole, who had evinced great talents in retrieving the losses arising from the South Sea and other bubble companies, became Prime Minister in 1721, which office he retained during the remainder of this reign and a portion of that succeeding it. He was a man of great capacity, especially in matters of finance, and his tact in managing the House of Commons was unequalled. But to obtain this last object he is said to have used the most extensive system of bribery ever attempted in England. Every one, according to him, had his price, which price he never hesitated to give when necessary in buying the votes of members of parliament. This practice has left a stain on Walpole's character which his great talents cannot hide from view.

7. The Septennial Act, changing the duration of parliaments from three to seven years, was passed during the panic caused by the rebellion of 1715; and the last

convocation of the clergy was held in the year 1717.

8. George the First, after succeeding to the English throne, still retained a strong affection for his native country, of which he continued to be Elector, and which he frequently visited. He died, on his way to Hanover, on the 11th June, 1727, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, and the thirteenth of his reign.

9. GEORGE II.—1727—1760.—George the Second was in his forty-fourth at the time of his father's death, and he was peaceably proclaimed king. In person and manners he was still less dignified than his predecessor, had inferior talents for business, and was of a passionate temper. He was, however, punctual in performing the duties of the kingly office, was personally brave and had a strong sense of justice and honor. He had also the advantage of speaking the English language fluently, though with a foreign accent, and understanding the institutions of England and the character of the people. His most odious vice was avarice, which he carried to an extreme extent. His wife was Caroline, daughter of the Margrave of Anspach. She was a woman of talent and refinement, and had much influence with the king.

10. In the early part of this reign the public attention was chiefly directed to disputes with Spain. The exclusive system pursued by that country in regard to her vast possessions in America, and the cruelties said to have been committed by Spanish Governors of Colonies upon British sailors and traders, exasperated the English people to such an extent, that Sir R. Walpole for many years found great

difficulty in preventing a war, which would have been attended with much mischief to both Countries. The popular passion for a rupture with Spain at last became too violent to be resisted. The minister offered to resign, but was prevailed on by the king to retain office, and war was at last declared in 1739, amid the most extravagant rejoicings. An expedition, under Admiral Vernon, was sent to the West Indies, which captured the town of Porto Bello, near the Isthmus of Darien. Another expedition consisting of a powerful fleet, under the same admiral, and of a land force under General Wentworth, was sent against Carthagena, but the quarrels and misconduct of the commanders led to the most disastrous consequences. In other parts of the world the English arms were equally unsuccessful, and the whole blame of these failures were attributed to Walpole. At length he resigned in February, 1742, and was raised to the Peerage by the title of Earl of Orford. A new ministry was formed under the auspices of his great rival, Pulteney, who became Earl of Bath.

11. In 1733 Walpole had attempted a reform in the collection of the revenue, by the introduction of what is called the excise system. The storm of reprobation which this scheme encountered caused it to be, for the time, abandoned, but its evident wisdom and utility led to its being afterwards adopted.

12. The Emperor of Germany having died in 1740, leaving as successor to his estates the celebrated Maria Theresa his daughter; the king of Prussia and other

neighbouring princes attacked her dominions under various pretences. This led to a war in which England took a prominent part on the side of the Empress-Queen. The battle of Dettingen was gained by the king, while the Duke of Cumberland, was beaten by the French at Fontenoy.

13. In the meantime, the Jacobites were anxious to take advantage of the English forces being employed abroad, by making another effort in favor of the Stuart family. The French government had promised to send an army to their aid under the famous Marshal Saxe; but the superiority of the English navy defeated this plan. Yet Charles Edward, the second son of the Pretender, as he was called, and the grandson of James the Second, determined to throw himself on the zeal and affection of the partizans of his house, and landed on the North Western Coast of Scotland in July, 1745. Although he brought with him neither an army, nor the means of raising one, he soon found himself at the head of a considerable force, consisting of many of the Highland clans headed by their Chiefs. As he advanced to the low country, several lowland noblemen and gentlemen also joined him with their followers. Giving the slip to the English army, under Sir John Cope, which advanced against him, he took possession of the City of Edinburgh. Attacking Cope shortly afterwards at Preston-pans, he gained a brilliant victory; and the world was astonished by the defeat of a highly disciplined British force by men who had no knowledge of regular military tactics. Prince Charles then marched into England

and penetrated as far as the town of Derby ; but being coldly received every where, and few joining his standard, he was forced to retrace his steps to Scotland. His fate was then sealed, and his romantic adventure was thenceforward doomed to inevitable ruin. Charles had passionately opposed this retrograde movement ; but the leading men in his army were fully bent on it, and he had to submit. But the panic caused by the march on Derby had driven the government into action. The Duke of Cumberland was at the head of 10,000 men, another considerable force was moving from Yorkshire towards the insurgents, and the Guards were encamped at Finchley Common under the king. The Highlanders were followed by Cumberland in their retreat, and his cavalry attacked their rearguard at Penrith. This attack having been repelled, the rebels reached Scotland without further molestation. Here encountering a force under Sir John Hawley, they gained another victory over disciplined troops trained in foreign wars. But this was the last of their successes. A large army under Cumberland followed them to Inverness, and on the 16th April, 1746, was fought the battle of Colloden, in which the Highlanders were wholly defeated. The rebellion was at an end. The rebels were pursued and slaughtered without mercy, and their country became the scene of the most savage military licence. The Duke has acquired an unenviable name by his cruelties on this occasion, and it must be admitted that he deserved the appellation of the "Butcher," by which he was afterwards often called. But

we must remember at the same time that it was necessary for the welfare of the rest of the country to put an end to these outbreaks on the part of the Highlanders. After former rebellions they had always returned to their mountains when defeated, deeming themselves secure from the vengeance of the government. The time had, however, arrived when such a state of things could no longer be borne; and while we blame the barbarities committed on the occasion, we cannot but allow that strong measures were demanded. Prince Charles wandered for some time through the Highlands and Western Isles in disguise, pursued by the government troops, and everywhere meeting extraordinary instances of devotion and zeal for his person and cause. He at last escaped to France, but driven from that country for political reasons, he sought a refuge in Italy. His after life was little in accordance with the brief episode of his Scottish adventure. Broken in spirit and deprived of hope, the remainder of his days were spent in idleness and dissipation. The punishment of those among his partizans, who fell into the hands of the government, now remains to be told. Lords Kilmarnock, Balmerino and Lovat, were found guilty of high treason by the House of Lords, and beheaded. Seventeen leaders of inferior rank were executed on Kennington Common; nine at Carlisle, and eleven at York.

14. A treaty of peace was signed at Aix-la-Chapelle, on the 7th October, 1748, and put a temporary stop to the war raging between the powers of Europe. The terms of this treaty were far from satisfactory to the



English nation, especially the provision for giving up all conquests made by either side. The surrender of Cape Breton, especially, to France, and the conditions attached to that act, namely the giving of hostages for such surrender, caused much discontent.

15. Accordingly war soon broke out again. France had built a chain of forts, extending from Quebec to the Mississippi, which caused great apprehension to the British government, and the British Colonies in North America. In 1755 four separate expeditions were sent against the possessions of that power; one under Colonel Monckton, for the protection of Nova Scotia; a second, under General Johnson, against Crown Point; a third under General Shirley, to reduce Fort Niagara; and the fourth under General Braddock, was directed against Fort du Quesne. Of these expeditions only that under Monckton proved wholly successful, and that of Braddock was attended with disastrous consequences. This general was led into an ambuscade where he was attacked by a large body of Indians; his army was completely routed, and all their ammunition, artillery and baggage fell into the hands of the enemy. General Braddock and about seven hundred officers and men were slain.

16. Nor was this the only disaster that the English arms now suffered. The Island of Minorca had been conquered by England in the reign of Queen Anne; and Fort St. Philip, one of the strongest fortresses in Europe, was garrisoned by British troops. It was, however, but badly provided with men, and with the necessary munitions



for a siege. The French, taking advantage of this, landed with a large force in the neighbourhood of the fort, which they vigorously attacked. The British government were determined to retain the place if possible, and despatched Admiral Byng with ten ships of war, and a body of troops for that purpose. Byng failed in this object, and even a French fleet of equal force with his own, was allowed to sail away with scarcely an attempt to attack them. The English admiral left Minorca to its fate, and the island, shortly after, surrendered to the French. Byng was ordered home, tried by a court-martial, and shot. The sentence passed on him is considered cruel, and the ministry have been supposed to have sacrificed him to popular vengeance to screen themselves.

17. Hostilities were, however, continued with great vigor under the direction of William Pitt, afterwards Lord Chatham, who joined the government. The Island of Cape Breton was captured by an armament under Lord Amherst and Admiral Boscawen. Canada was next attacked, and on the 13th September, 1759, Quebec surrendered to the British arms, after a battle fought on the Plains of Abraham, near that city, in which the English army was victorious, but with the irreparable loss of their young and gallant commander, General Wolfe. The French General, the Marquis of Montcalm, one of the most accomplished soldiers of the day, was slain at the same time. Next year the whole of Canada capitulated.

18. The continent of Europe was now involved in war. France attacked Hanover, which the king of Prussia

agreed to defend with the aid of money and troops from England. On the other hand Prussia had to defend herself from France, Austria, Saxony, Sweden and Russia, the rulers of which were bent on the destruction of that kingdom. But the history of this contest is foreign to the present-work.

19. In the East Indies the British arms were still more successful than in America. The English East India Company dates its origin from the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In the year 1599 some Merchants in London subscribed a sum of £30,000, divided into shares, for the object of trading to the East. They were incorporated by Royal Charter, which was renewed from time to time, and for a long period the Company confined themselves to matters of trade and commerce. Gradually, however, they gained important privileges from the native princes of India, and began first to build factories, then to possess forts, and finally to acquire territory. In the early parts of the eighteenth century the present city of Calcutta, then a place of little importance, became the great centre of British authority in India. But it was not until after the middle of that century that the foundations of the present mighty empire were laid.

20. The French also had established an East India Company on a magnificent scale. Their chief establishment was the town of Pondicherry, on the coast of Coromandel. Although largely engaged in commerce, the French Company, at an early period, had directed their attention to the formation of an Empire. In fact the

English have only followed in their footsteps in creating their power in that country. But the first to bring forward this scheme, prominently, was Dupleix, the French Director General, a man of great ability and unbounded audacity and ambition, whose character was well calculated for the part he undertook. In 1749 Dupleix succeeded in raising to the nabobship of the Carnatic, and the viceroyalty of the Deccan, two candidates whom he supported, dispossessing the existing occupants. He was himself invested in consequence with a large territory nominally held of the Mogul. But at this period a person appeared on the scene, who was destined to give a new aspect to affairs. This was Robert Clive, afterwards so famous in the annals of India. He had gone to that country as a clerk in the service of the East India Company; but soon relinquished the desk for the military profession, for which, by nature, inclination and talent, he was admirably calculated. He first exhibited his great capacity by driving the enemy from the Province of Arcot where he was sent to support Mahomed Ali Khan, a rival candidate for the Nabobship of Arcot, favoured by the English. This prince was soon after reinstated in the government, of which he had been deprived by Dupleix. A truce, however, put a stop for the time to Clive's progress in this quarter.

21. But a fearful tragedy, meanwhile, occurred elsewhere, which had a vast influence on the destinies of India. Surajah Dowlah, the Subahdar of Bengal, appeared suddenly, at the head of a large army, before Calcutta, which

being unprepared for defence, was soon taken. The garrison, consisting of one hundred and forty-six persons, were made prisoners, and were, by the orders of the savage Subahdar, thrust into a dungeon, eighteen feet square, called the Black-hole, and which received light by two small windows. The sufferings of the unfortunate captives from the heat of the climate, the want of air, and the crowded state of their prison, were fearful. The Indian prince was asleep, and no one dared to awake him; so their groans and shrieks were unnoticed. Next morning, when the Subahdar ordered the door to be opened, of the one hundred and forty-six persons who had entered the dungeon, twenty-three only survived, and most of these afterwards died of putrid fevers, arising from their cruel imprisonment.

22. A strong force under Clive and Admiral Watson, was sent from Madras to avenge this atrocious deed. Calcutta was speedily retaken; and Hoogley, on the Ganges, which contained the Subahdar's chief magazines, fell also into the hands of the English. Shortly after, Clive with a small force of 3000 men, defeated Surajah Dowlah, whose army amounted to 25,000. This was the famous battle of Plassy. The Subahdar escaped from the field, but was afterwards slain. Clive appointed Mear Jaffier as his successor. About the same time the two English commanders destroyed the strong-hold, and burnt the fleet, of a piratical prince, named Tullagee Angria, who had long been the dread of the Indian Seas.

23. The French taking advantage of the English

troops being thus employed in the northern part of India, attacked their allies and proceeded to besiege Madras. They had received large reinforcements from France and were commanded by M. Lally, a gentleman of Irish extraction, who was brave and possessed of considerable military talent. The English having also received reinforcements from the mother country, Lally was forced to retreat from Madras. The French suffered several defeats, and were, at last, beaten in a general action near Wandewash, by Sir Eyre Coote. Lally retreated to Pondicherry, which the English invested, and which surrendered to them on the 15th January, 1761. The French have never since attained the same power in India.

24. The British navy acquired a high character during this reign, especially under the celebrated Admirals Rodney, Boscawen and Hawke.

25. In the midst of these successes George the Second died suddenly, on the 25th of October, 1760, in the 77th year of his age, and 33rd of his reign.

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*Questions on Chapter Twelfth.*

1. Who succeeded queen Anne? From whom was he descended, and what age was he at this time? What is said of his habits and manners?
2. What did some supporters of the Pretender wish to do, and who prevented them?
3. Who were the leading members of the new ministry which was formed at this time? What became of some of the members of the previous ministry.

4. In what year did a rebellion break out in favor of the Stuarts? Who commanded the rebels? Who encountered and defeated him? By what title was the Pretender called by his followers? What became of him? Under whom did a rising take place in England in favor of the Stuarts? Where did they surrender? What rebel leaders were in the hands of government, and how were they disposed of.
5. What great "Scheme" at this time engaged the attention of the nation, describe its plans, purposes, decay and effects upon the people.
6. When did Sir Robert Walpole become Prime Minister, and what is said of his abilities and character?
7. When was an act passed changing the duration of parliaments from three to seven years.
8. When and where did George I die?
9. At what age did George II succeed to his father? What is said of his character? To whom was the King married?
10. What caused England to declare war against Spain? What is said of the English expeditions under Admiral Vernon and General Wentworth? What of England's want of success elsewhere? Upon whom did the country lay the blame of failure? What became of him, and who was appointed to the Government?
11. What reform in the collection of the revenue had Walpole endeavoured to introduce, and was it subsequently adopted?
12. What war did England engage in with Prussia, and the neighbouring Princes, and with what view? What battles were fought?
13. When the English forces were employed abroad what did the friends of the House of Stuart resolve upon? What support was promised by France? Who was Charles Edward Stuart? Where did he land in Scotland? How was he accompanied, and who joined his standard? What city did he take possession of, and what victory did he gain? Whither did he march? how was he received in England, and what did his advisers recommend? Who commanded the Royalist troops? What last battle did Charles Edward gain? Where did the Duke of Cumberland follow him to? What battle was fought and with what result? What is said of Cumberland's conduct after the suppression of the rebellion? What became of Charles Edward and what is said of his after life when in exile? What Lords were beheaded for engaging in the rebellion, and how many other leaders were executed?
14. What is said respecting the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

15. Was this peace long maintained? What chain of forts had France built in North America? What expeditions did the British dispatch against them? Which of these proved successful? What is said of that under General Braddock?
16. What other disasters did the English suffer? What Island and strong fort did they lose? Who commanded on this occasion? After his want of success what became of him and what is said of the sentence passed upon him?
17. What vigorous minister now joined the Government, and how was the war prosecuted? What conquests were made? When did Quebec surrender, and after what battle? What Generals were killed at Quebec? When did all Canada capitulate to the British.
18. What war raged in Europe at this time?
19. What is said of the success of the British in India? Describe the rise and progress of the East India Co., their acquisition of territory, and when the foundations of the present mighty Empire in the East were laid?
20. What is said of the French settlements in India, and where was their chief establishment? Who was the French Director, and how did he acquire great power in the Carnatic, and the Deccan? When did Robert Clive appear on the scene, and what is said of his previous history? From what Province did Clive drive the French, and who did he reinstate as Nabob.
21. What fearful tragedy took place at Calcutta? Give the particulars?
22. How did Clive avenge this atrocious act? What famous battle did he gain, and how many troops had he? How many troops had the enemy?
23. To what place, in the absence of the English troops, did the French lay siege, and with what success? What general action was fought? Where did the French retreat to, and where did they surrender? What is said of the French power in India after this?
24. What was the condition of the British Navy at this time, and what great Admirals flourished.
25. When did George II. die, in what year of his reign and at what age?



## CHAPTER XIII.

## THE HOUSE OF HANOVER.

*From the accession of George the III. to the Union of Great Britain and Ireland.*

1. GEORGE III.—1760—1801.—George the Third was in the twenty-second year of his age when he ascended the throne. He was the grandson of the late king, being the son of Frederick Prince of Wales, who died in 1751. The young king being the first of his family who was an Englishman by birth, was regarded by the people with warmer feelings of attachment than his two immediate predecessors could command, as the favor shown by the latter to their German dominions was viewed with great jealousy by their British subjects. George the Third was moral and religious in private life; he is now admitted on all hands to have been a man of far greater talents than his detractors were willing to admit in his own days; and was undoubtedly more popular with the great body of the nation than any monarch since Queen Elizabeth. He was inclined to exercise more authority in the government than circumstances permitted his two immediate predecessors to wield; and in this he fully succeeded. His chief characteristic was firmness, which he often carried to obstinacy. His manner of life was plain and simple to a degree seldom seen in princes; and the appellation of "Farmer George," was that, in his latter years, by which the people generally loved to call him. It must be



admitted, however, that his enemies accuse him of insincerity, with some show of truth. In 1761 he married Charlotte, Princess of Mecklenburgh Strelitz.

2. The war continued to be carried on with great energy and success, notwithstanding that Mr. Pitt retired from the ministry. France, having in vain attempted to obtain peace, entered into alliance with Spain, who thus joined the enemies of England. She was a heavy sufferer by this step: Havannah was taken by the Earl of Albemarle and Admiral Pococke, with plunder to the amount of three millions sterling; the city of Manilla surrendered to General Draper and Admiral Cornish; and two valuable treasure ships were about the same time captured by British vessels.

3. Meanwhile a change had taken place in the administration. The Duke of Newcastle, who had long been in office, was forced at last to resign his post of first Lord of the Treasury, and was succeeded by the Earl of Bute. Other changes in the ministry also took place. Lord Bute was a Scotchman, and his appointment to office revived the ancient enmity between the two nations, and gave rise to a paper war, perhaps unequalled for virulence even in party contests.

4. A treaty of peace was signed at Paris on the 10th of September, 1763, which terminated the seven years' war. England retained Canada, several ports on the Senegal, the islands of Grénada, St. Vincent, Tobago and Dominica. Her achievements in this war had been extraordinary. She had acquired the whole of the North

American Continent ; had taken twenty-five islands, nine fortified cities and towns, and about forty forts and castles ; had won twelve great battles by sea and land ; had destroyed or captured near a hundred ships of war from the enemy ; and the specie and other property she acquired is reported at ten millions of pounds sterling.

5. Peace abroad was succeeded by party dissensions at home. The Earl of Bute became daily more unpopular, although his influence with the king and in parliament seemed unabated. He resigned office, however, to the great surprise of every one, and was succeeded by Mr. George Grenville. It was supposed, nevertheless, that the Earl still governed the royal councils. The press poured forth the most violent attacks on the administration, and all the factions into which parties were divided attacked each other with equal violence. Conspicuous among those publications was the *North Briton*, a periodical paper conducted by John Wilkes, member of parliament for Aylesbury. Wilkes was a man of profligate character, but of considerable talents. Having been arrested for libel on a general warrant, he defended his cause with the utmost spirit, and succeeded in procuring a decision that such warrants were illegal. Having also been elected several times member of parliament for Middlesex he was each time expelled by the Commons, although always returned by large majorities. At a subsequent period he got all the proceedings erased from the parliamentary journals, by a vote of the House, as being subversive of the rights of the electors of the kingdom. Thus, by a strange freak of

fortune, a man of bad character, both public and private, was the instrument of securing two great safeguards of their liberties to the people of England. At a somewhat later period an anonymous writer, under the name of Junius, took a prominent part in the political contests of his day, and his productions are still admired for the elegance of his style, while his attacks on the king, his ministers and others, were marked by a boldness amounting to ferocity.

6. The vast expenditure of the late war pressed heavily on the people of England, and it was argued that the North American Colonies, which had profited so largely by the treaty of peace, should bear a portion of the expense incurred to obtain the benefits conferred on them. With this view a measure was introduced by Mr. Grenville, into the House of Commons, for imposing stamp duties on mercantile transactions in the colonies. The bill passed with little opposition; and thus commenced the unhappy proceedings which finally severed the present United States from Great Britain. When news of this transaction reached North America it caused the utmost excitement and indignation. Associations were formed to resist the law, and the Provincial Legislatures, protesting against being taxed by a body in which they were not represented, forwarded remonstrances to the king and parliament couched in the strongest language. The progress of the dispute was, however, arrested for a while by the downfall of the Grenville administration. A new ministry was formed at the head of which was the Marquis of Rocking-

ham. They immediately repealed the stamp act, and the cider tax, one of Lord Bute's measures, which was equally unpopular in England. This secured a short period of tranquillity.

7. The Rockingham administration was soon broken up (1767), and a ministry was formed under the auspices of Mr. Pitt, created Earl of Chatham, with the Duke of Grafton, as first Lord of the Treasury, at its head. The scheme of taxing the Colonies was unfortunately resumed, and an act was passed imposing duties on glass, paper, painters' colors and tea imported into the British Colonial possessions. The Americans remonstrated, and resolved not to use British manufactures until the tax was removed.

8. The Earl of Chatham, suffering from bad health, and finding that his influence was lost in the cabinet, resigned office, (1770), as did also the Duke of Grafton. Lord North took the place of the Duke, as first Lord of the Treasury. In the year 1771, the right of openly publishing the debates in parliament was established, and has ever since been continued. In 1772 the royal marriage act was passed, by which the young members of the royal family cannot marry without the consent of the sovereign. The same year Europe witnessed the disgraceful spectacle of the first partition of Poland by Germany, Russia and Prussia. In 1773 Ireland and Scotland were deprived of large masses of their population, who were forced to emigrate to the North American Colonies by the rapacity of the land-owners.

9. Matters now began to be very alarming in the American Colonies. Large quantities of tea having been shipped from London to Boston, the vessels were boarded at night by persons disguised as Indians who threw the tea-chests into the water. This act was met on the part of the British government and parliament by measures of harsh retribution. A bill for shutting up the port of Boston, and another for depriving Massachusetts of its charter were passed; and a third bill of a still stronger character, enacted that if any person were indicted for murder or any capital offence, in aiding the magistracy, such person or persons might be sent to any other colony, or Great Britain, for trial. The men of New England, at once made active preparations to resist those laws, as an infringement on their liberties; and all the other colonies with the exception of Georgia, zealously took part in the quarrel, and resolved to discontinue commercial relations with the mother country, until the statutes complained of were repealed. Delegates from the different colonies assembled at Philadelphia; they promised aid to the people of Massachusetts, and asserted their determination not to submit to oppression and injustice, (1774.)

10. In vain did Lord Chatham point out to the ministry and parliament of England the danger of the course they were pursuing; equally in vain were addresses from the corporation of London and many public bodies to the same effect. The governing powers were obdurate, and were unhappily supported in their ruinous career by a large portion of the nation.

11. The Americans made preparations for the struggle which was now inevitable, by training the militia, storing provisions, and procuring munitions of war. The first conflict took place on the 18th April, 1775. A detachment of British soldiers having been sent from Boston to seize some military stores which the Americans had collected at Concord, on reaching Lexington they were opposed by a body of provincials. After a brief skirmish the soldiers proceeded to Concord and destroyed the stores laid up there. But on their return they were attacked on all sides, and had they not been rescued by a regiment sent from Boston to their assistance, they would have all perished. They lost 65 men killed, 168 wounded, and 28 prisoners.

12. All the provinces now determined to take part in the conflict. Volunteers came everywhere forward, and the provincial delegates again assembling, assumed the title of the Congress of the thirteen United States of America. They took steps to raise an army and issued paper money to meet the expense of the war. They, however, sent an address to the king praying that he would put an end to the unnatural conflict between the two countries; but no notice was taken of their request. The war was vigorously prosecuted. The fortresses of Ticonderoga and Crown Point were surprised by the American militia, and a bold but unsuccessful attempt was afterwards made on the strong city of Quebec in Canada. The towns and villages in the neighbourhood of Boston were garrisoned by the insurgents, and the city was placed under a strict blockade,

But General Gage, who commanded the British forces in Boston, having received reinforcements, resolved to begin active operations. He attacked the American intrenchments on Bunker's Hill, from which he drove the enemy after a long and fierce struggle, with a heavy loss on both sides, (June, 1775).

13. General Washington having been unanimously elected commander in chief of the American forces, that illustrious man entered on the career which has made his name famous throughout the world. He laid siege to Boston which was evacuated by the English, after suffering greatly from famine. An expedition undertaken about the same time by the British against Georgia signally failed. On the 4th July, 1766, the Congress of the United States put forth their Declaration of Independence.

14. The war was carried on with alternate success; but it is impossible to give all its details in a work of this description. Washington was in the year 1776 so hardly pressed, that the cause of his country seemed all but desperate. Nearly all the strong places were in possessions of the Royalists, who had been successful in almost every quarter. But his prudence and fortitude, backed by the zeal of the people, saved the cause and country. On the 27th October, 1777, General Burgoyne, who entered the States at the head of 7000 men, surrendered to General Gates at Saratoga.

15. In 1778 France acknowledged the independence of the United States and entered into a close alliance with them. The English ministry brought measures into



parliament conceding to the revolted colonies all their demands, excepting only their severance from the Empire. But the concession came too late, and the commissioners sent to offer the terms were received with scorn. The discussion of the ministerial project was the cause of the last memorable appearance of Lord Chatham in the House of Lords. He fell down in a fit, from which he never recovered, while protesting against the dismemberment of the empire, in answer to a motion of the Duke of Richmond to declare the independence of the United States.

16. Spain also joined in the war against England, and the Americans, supported by that country and France, expected to bring matters to an early close. But the contest was still obstinately continued. In 1780 Holland was added to the enemies of Britain, and about the same time the northern powers entered into a confederation, called the armed neutrality, directed against the naval supremacy of England. But the spirit of the nation did not sink in this hard struggle. Admiral Rodney defeated the enemy's fleet and relieved Gibraltar; then sailing to the West Indies, he dispersed a French fleet superior to his own. South Carolina was subdued by Sir Henry Clinton; the army of General Gates was beaten by Lord Cornwallis; and another American General, Arnold, believing the cause of his country desperate, deserted to the English. Major André, the British Adjutant General, a young officer of great promise, having been taken in the disguise of a countryman within the American lines, while

on his return from negotiating with Arnold, was executed as a spy.

17. The campaign of 1781 decided the question of American independence. Lord Cornwallis was attacked at Yorktown by the combined forces of France and America, and compelled to surrender with his army.

18. This year England witnessed the disgraceful occurrences known as Lord George Gordon's riots. They were directed against the Roman Catholics, in consequence of the repeal of some penal statutes formerly passed against that denomination. From the 30th May to the 8th of June the mob was in complete possession of London, and during that time they committed the most brutal excesses. Many chapels and buildings were destroyed, and thirty-five fires were visible at one time from an eminence near Hampstead. The number killed and wounded exceeded 600.

19. The attempts to subdue America had now become hopeless, and a large majority of the House of Commons, listening to the prayers of the people, were determined on putting an end to the useless and expensive contest. A motion by General Conway, to the effect that whoever advised his majesty to continue the American war should be considered a public enemy, was carried; and the ministry resigned. A new administration was formed under the Marquis of Rockingham and Mr. Fox; but Rockingham dying a short time after, Lord Shebourne took his place in the cabinet. The independence of the United States was acknowledged on the 20th January, 1783, and

at the same time peace was effected with France and Spain. In fact, these two countries were as desirous as England to finish the war, the navy of the former having been nearly annihilated by a victory which Admiral Rodney gained over Count de Grasse on the 12th April, 1782; and the Spaniards, assisted by the French, having besieged Gibraltar, were forced to retire after failing in their attempt, and seeing the immense floating batteries they had prepared, destroyed by red-hot balls fired by the garrison.

20. The death of the Marquis of Rockingham and the appointment of the Earl of Shelburne as Premier, induced Mr. Fox and his friends to send in their resignations. Mr. Fox afterwards entered into a coalition with Lord North, whose measures he had formerly opposed with great violence, and they assumed the government of the country supported by an overwhelming majority in parliament. But their success was of short duration. Mr. Fox brought forward a bill to regulate the government of India, which was carried in the House of Commons, but rejected by the Peers, whereupon the ministry was dismissed by the king.

21. William Pitt, second son of the celebrated Earl of Chatham, was the most conspicuous member of the ministry now formed. He was only twenty-four years of age, but he had already greatly distinguished himself in parliament by his eloquence and talents. For some time, the country witnessed the strange spectacle of an administration carrying on the public business with a vast majority of the House of Commons in bitter opposition to them.

But on an appeal to the people, the elections proved highly favourable to the government. Mr. Pitt introduced into the new parliament an India Bill less objectionable than the former one, which passed triumphantly, and several other important measures were carried with little opposition.

22. In 1785 Pitt brought forward a motion for the reform of parliament, which was rejected by a vote of 248 against 174. The following year an attempt was made on the king's life by a woman of the name of Margaret Nicholson, who turned out to be insane. In the year 1787 the famous trial of Warren Hastings, formerly Governor General of India, commenced on a motion by Mr. Sheridan, assisted by Mr. Burke and Mr. Fox. He was impeached before the House of Lords for high crimes and misdemeanors in his office; and after a trial made memorable by the eloquence of Burke and Sheridan, and which lasted for no less a period than seven years, he was finally acquitted. In the month of November, 1788, the ministry made public the fact that the king had been for some time labouring under insanity. After warm debates it was determined in the English parliament, that the Prince of Wales should be declared Regent, but subject to certain restrictions, while the custody of the king's person should be confided to the queen. The Irish parliament, on the other hand, decreed that the Regency of that country should be conferred on the Prince of Wales with no restrictions whatever. This state of affairs would have led to difficulties; but, happily, on

the 10th March, 1789, the ministry were able to announce that the king had recovered.

23. Since the conclusion of the American war, the country had enjoyed peace at home and abroad, with the exception of the East Indies, where Hyder Ali, sovereign of Mysore, and his son and successor, Tippoo Saib, had shown much hostility to the English. In February, 1792, Tippoo's capital, Seringapatam, was invested by the British forces under Lord Cornwallis and General Baird; and a peace was concluded with him which deprived him of the greatest part of his dominions.

24. The attention of the British people and government had been for some time directed towards France, where the greatest event of modern times, "the French Revolution," had already made considerable progress. That country had long suffered under a misgovernment, that at last became insupportable. The despotic power of the crown over all classes was sufficiently galling; but this tyranny was far exceeded by the evils arising from the privileges enjoyed by a crowd of nobles, who trampled on the people and consumed their substance. The middle classes, too, were shut out from every path of honourable ambition. Voltaire, Rousseau, and other able writers had attacked the existing state of things, both religious and political, with the arms at once of argument and ridicule; and for a long time a reform or a revolution had become inevitable. The success of the American struggle for independence, in which the French had taken so prominent a part, hastened the crisis. The king, Louis the Sixteenth, a

weak but not a bad man, was wholly unfit to grapple with the difficulties by which he was surrounded. The finances were in a ruinous condition, and the country was on the eve of a national bankruptcy. It was at last determined to assemble the States' General, which had not been called together since the early part of the century; and they accordingly met on the 5th May, 1789.

25. This body consisted of the representatives of the clergy, the nobles and the commons, divided into three chambers. It was now resolved, however, that they should meet in one body, an arrangement which insured the preponderance of the popular party, which was, by far, the most numerous. Assuming the name of The National Assembly, they forthwith commenced the removal of the abuses under which France had so long suffered. Feudal privileges were abolished; trial by jury was introduced; monastic institutions were suppressed,—and many other changes took place. But unfortunately, power by degrees got into the hands of zealots or knaves who drove the people into phrenzy, until they committed acts which must be regarded with horror, by all good men. The Bastile, the great state prison of France, so infamous for the oppressions and cruelties of which it was the scene, was attacked by the people of Paris, and levelled to the ground. The king having attempted to escape from the kingdom, was brought back in triumph; his palace was afterwards stormed by the mob; his guards were massacred; he and his family were imprisoned; and royalty was abolished in France. Hav-

ing been brought to trial, the unfortunate Louis was condemned to death, and executed on the 21st January, 1793. The queen, Marie Antoinette, met a similar fate, and their eldest son, the Dauphin, died in prison from ill treatment, such as savages would scarcely have inflicted on a child of his tender years. Crowds of other victims were sacrificed to the popular fury, to such an extent, and accompanied with such horrid excesses, as have well earned for this era the appellation of the Reign of Terror.

26. The most of the powers of Europe were now in arms in opposition to France. The National Convention declared war against the king of England and the Stadtholder of Holland. The Duke of York was sent with an English army to join the Allies in invading France, but, though at first successful, the second campaign resulted unfavourably to them. The harbour of Toulon was indeed surrendered to the English, but they were forced to evacuate it in a short time.

27. Among the occurrences of the year 1794 were the trials of Messrs. Hardy, Horne Tooke and others, for high treason. Their real crime was an attempt to obtain parliamentary reform. They were acquitted; but in Scotland and Ireland, several persons were under similar charges found guilty of sedition and some were sentenced to transportation. To compensate for the losses by land, the British navy, under Earl Howe, gained a victory over the French fleet in the West Indies, and several French Colonies were about the same time conquered by the British forces. Other triumphs attended the navy during the succeeding year,



especially a brilliant victory under Lord Bridport at L'Orient. But an expedition, in which the French emigrants, who had fled from their country during the Revolution, attempted to penetrate into France was utterly defeated.

28. The continental powers were gradually compelled to make peace with the French Republic, and at last Austria and England were left to carry on the conflict by themselves. In 1796 the Dutch and Spaniards joined France against England. Several Dutch settlements in the West Indies were taken, but Britain lost the Island of Corsica, which had been for several years under her protection. Napoleon Bonaparte, whose wonderful career had now begun, obtained victory after victory over the Austrians in Italy, and astonished Europe by the rapidity and ease with which he drove before him the highly disciplined armies of that power, under the most experienced generals.

29. The expenses of the war and the injury to trade had caused such derangement in the finances of the country that the Bank of England, in 1797, stopped payment in specie. But more alarming still, mutinies broke out in the navy, which for a time threatened the ruin of the empire. One at Spithead was happily arranged by giving the seamen an addition to their pay; but the mutiny which took place at the Nore was attended with greater difficulty, and was not quelled without bloodshed, and the execution of some of the ringleaders. Notwithstanding these untowards events the navy maintained its high character.

Sir John Jervis encountered the Spanish fleet off Cape St. Vincent and obtained a decisive victory, while Admiral Duncan defeated the Dutch fleet at Camperdown. But England was now left to contend alone against France and her allies; for Austria, everywhere defeated, was no longer in a condition to continue the contest, and the treaty of Campo Formio was dictated to her by General Bonaparte.

30. In the year 1782, the people of Ireland had succeeded in obtaining from England the legislative independence of their country; but the repeal of the laws which deprived the Roman Catholic population of the full rights of British subjects was still denied to them. This grievance led to much dissatisfaction on the part of the numerous class of the inhabitants affected by it, while many young men of talents and education had imbibed the principles of the French revolution, and sighed for a republic. All these circumstances combined led to an outbreak in that country in 1798. After a short but sanguinary struggle, in which many atrocities were committed on both sides, the insurrection was put down, and a small French force sent to aid the insurgents were made prisoners of war.

31. In the meantime General Bonaparte had invaded Egypt at the head of a French army, having taken possession of the Island of Malta on his way. The fleet which had transported him thither was attacked by the English under Admiral Nelson, and totally destroyed or captured. Bonaparte, however, overran Egypt with his usual success; but attempting to penetrate into Syria he

was repulsed before St. Jean d'Acres, chiefly through the exertions of Sir Sydney Smith, who commanded an English squadron in that quarter.

32. In the East Indies the English conquered the dominions of their old enemy, Tippoo Saib, who fell in defending his capital, which was taken by storm. In France, Bonaparte having been appointed Chief Consul for life, offered to conclude a peace with England, but the offer was rejected. A coalition formed against him resulted in the battle of Marengo, in which he obtained a decisive victory over the Austrians; and a second defeat at Hohenlinden compelled the Emperor of Austria to sue for peace, (1800.)

33. The important question of a legislative union with Ireland had long been desired by the British ministry, and after much difficulty and intrigue was at last attained. By this measure it was provided that from the 1st January, 1801, there should be but one parliament for the British islands, in which Ireland should be represented by four Spiritual Peers, taken in rotation every session, twenty-eight Temporal Peers, chosen for life by the whole body of Irish Peers, and one hundred Commoners, elected in the usual manner. The cross of St. Patrick was added to those of St. George and St. Andrew on the national banner, which is thence called the Union Flag.

*Questions on Chapter Thirteenth,*

1. Who succeeded George II. ? What is said of the young King's age, of the place of his birth, of his character, popularity, his mode of life, &c. ? What did his enemies accuse the King of ? To whom was he married and when ?
2. What minister retired from office, and how was the war carried on ? With what country did France enter into an alliance ? What losses did Spain sustain ?
3. What changes in the ministry took place ? What is said of Lord Bute ?
4. When was the "Seven Years war terminated ?" What had England gained by the war ?
5. By whom was Lord Bute succeeded, and what is said of his Lordship's influence after retiring ? How did the press behave at this time ? Who was John Wilkes,—describe his character—what two important safeguards of the liberties of England was he the means of securing ? What is said respecting an anonymous writer under the name of Junius ?
6. What act was passed by Parliament for making the North American Colonies pay part of the heavy expenditure caused by the last war ? How was it received in America, and how was the dispute for a time arrested ? What new ministry was formed and what acts were repealed ?
7. When and by whom was the scheme of taxing the Colonies resumed ? What did the Americans in consequence resolve upon ?
8. Who succeeded as the head of the ministry ? What important right was established in 1771 ? When was the royal marriage act passed, and what is its principal provision ? When and by whom was the first partition of Poland effected ? In what year did a large emigration take place from Ireland and Scotland, and what led to it ?
9. What was the state of affairs in North America ? How did the people of Boston act with respect to certain cargoes of tea—and what did the British Parliament do in consequence ? What preparations were made for resistance by the Americans ?
10. Were the ministry and Parliament remonstrated with upon the course they were pursuing towards America, and did this produce any good effect ?
11. When and where did the first conflict take place between the British and Americans ? Describe the particulars ?
12. Did all the Provinces determine on resistance, and what title did their delegates assume ? What address did they send to the

- King, and how was it received ? What fortresses fell into the hands of the Americans ? What battle did General Gage fight with the Americans, and with what results ?
13. Who was elected Commander in Chief of the American forces ? What place did he lay siege to ? What British expedition failed of success ? When did the Congress issue the Declaration of Independence ?
  14. What was the position in which Washington stood in 1776, and what success had the British gained ? What saved the American cause ? When and where did the English General Burgoyne surrender ?
  15. When did France acknowledge the independence of the United States ? What important measure did the English Parliament pass ? How were the Commissioners received in America ? What remarkable event occurred in the House of Lords when American affairs were under discussion ?
  16. What different alliances were formed against England ? Did the spirit of the nation sink in this hard struggle ? Describe Admiral Rodney's proceedings ? What successes did the British experience in America ? Who was Major André ? Describe what occurred to him ?
  17. What campaign decided the question of American Independence ? What happened to Lord Cornwallis ?
  18. What riots occurred at this time in England ? What did they arise from ? How long had the mob control of London ? What was their conduct and how many are said to have been killed and wounded ?
  19. What important motion was made in the House of Commons by General Conway in reference to the war ? What new administration was formed ? When did Britain acknowledge the independence of the United States, and with what countries was peace at the same time concluded ? What is said in reference to the French navy, and the Spanish attack on Gibraltar ?
  20. What coalition Ministry was formed at this time ? What led to their dismissal from office ?
  21. What eminent statesman now took office ? What was his age at this time ? What strange spectacle was presented to the country ? Did the majority against the Ministry in the House of Commons long continue ? What important measure did Pitt introduce and carry through Parliament ?
  22. What motion was brought before Parliament in 1785 ? What event took place the following year and what great trial commenced in 1787 ? How long did it last ? What is said respecting the King's health in 1788 ? What about a Regency in England and Ireland ? When did the King recover ?

23. What event took place in India in 1792 ?
24. What is said of the causes that led to the French revolution ? What of the character of Louis XVI ? What of the state of the finances ? When were the States' General of France assembled ?
25. What did the States' General consist of ? What alteration was made and what new name did they assume ? State what principal changes were effected ? Into whose hands did power in France ultimately fall ? Relate what took place respecting the Bastille, the flight, capture and fate of the King, of his Queen and of his eldest son ? Were many other victims sacrificed to popular fury and what is this era usually called ?
26. Who did France declare war against ? What expedition did England fit out ? What success did it meet with ? What harbour was taken and afterwards evacuated ?
27. What political trials took place in England and Scotland in 1794 and with what results in each country ? What naval victories did Britain gain and what is said of an attack on France by French emigrants ?
28. What was the state of Europe at this time ? What countries in 1796 joined France against England ? What settlements were taken by England in the West Indies and what island did she lose in the Mediterranean ? What is said of the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte ?
29. What led to the Bank of England suspending payments in specie ? What mutinies broke out in England ? How were they brought to a close ? What two great naval actions were fought ? What treaty did Austria sign with France. Had England any allies left ?
30. What led to an outbreak in Ireland and how did it terminate ?
31. What country did Bonaparte invade ? What became of his fleet ? What success did Bonaparte meet with in Egypt ? What of his attack on Syria ?
32. What dominions did England conquer in India ? To what rank was Bonaparte raised ? What proposal did he make to England ? How was it received ? What coalition was formed against Bonaparte, what two battles did he gain and what was the Emperor of Austria compelled to do ?
33. When was the Legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland effected ? How many spiritual and temporal Peers did Ireland send to the House of Lords, how many representatives to the House of Commons ? What is said of the national banner and its new name ?



## CHAPTER XIV.

## THE HOUSE OF HANOVER.

*From the Union of Great Britain and Ireland, to the death of George III.*

1. GEORGE III.—1801—1820.—Paul, Emperor of Russia, not only deserted the alliance into which he had entered with the other European powers against France, but became an active enemy of England. He persuaded Prussia, Denmark, and Sweden to join him in reversing the old alliance known as the armed neutrality directed against the naval power of England. A British fleet, under Admirals Parker and Nelson, was consequently sent against Copenhagen, the Danish capital, which, after a fierce attack, was forced to capitulate. The death of the Emperor Paul at this moment put an end to the confederacy of the Northern powers, and his successor, Alexander, entered into friendly relations with the British government.

2. An English force, under General Sir Ralph Abercrombie, was sent to Egypt to drive the French out of that country. They effected a landing at the Bay of Aboukir, though strongly opposed by the French, who were defeated with considerable loss. But the success of the English was attended with the loss of their gallant commander, who died of a wound he received in battle. The French, having been worsted in several contests, were compelled to enter into terms of capitulation, and Egypt was restored to its ancient masters, the Turks.



3. Both England and France were now desirous of repose, and Mr. Pitt having previously resigned the station of prime minister in favour of Mr. Addington, the Treaty of Amiens was ratified on the 29th April, 1802.

4. But this pacification was destined to be of short duration. Bonaparte had been elected by the French nation Consul for life, in May, 1802, and the people and government of England looked with jealousy on the gigantic preparations for war he continued to make after the peace of Amiens. They, therefore, refused to give up the Island of Malta, which they bound themselves by strict treaty to surrender to the Maltese Knights. This and many other causes of dispute having arisen, the English Ambassador, Lord Whitworth, who had been treated with great indignity by the First Consul, withdrew from France, and war was proclaimed in May, 1803. Thus begun one of the most fearful contests in which the nations of the world have ever been engaged, and which, after deluging Europe with blood, ended in the downfall of Bonaparte in 1815.

5. A short time before the renewal of the war a conspiracy for the subversion of the government was detected in England. It was formed by a Colonel Despard, who believed himself to have been ill-treated by the ministry. His associates were men of the lowest rank, and nothing could be more wild or inadequate than the means by which they proposed to execute their insane projects. The principal conspirators were tried and executed. Shortly after alarm was renewed by the account of an insur-

reaction having broken out in Dublin. The leader of the revolt was a young gentleman of the name of Emmett, whose accomplishments and amiable qualities were accompanied by the wildest enthusiasm. The insurgents, who were badly armed and without discipline, were easily subdued, but not before an Irish nobleman, Lord Kilwarden, and his nephew, had been murdered by the Dublin mob.

6. Napoleon Bonaparte, having been crowned Emperor, resolved to concentrate the immense means and forces at his disposal for the invasion of England. With that view, he assembled an army of 150,000 men at Boulogne, and devised a scheme by which he calculated to assemble such an overpowering fleet in the British Channel that he could, for a time at least, get possession of the sea, and so land his army on the English Coast, whence he could march a force which should be irresistible. The alarm throughout Britain was great; but the exertions to meet the threatened danger were prompt, energetic, and on a magnificent scale. The whole nation took up arms to defend all they held dear, and from one extremity of the land to the other, all was preparation to resist the invaders. The English fleets blockaded the entire coast of France, and the vessels intended to convey the French army to the shores of England, so far from venturing on that feat could not remove from one French port to another without almost the certainty of being destroyed or captured. Napoleon had forced Spain to join him in the war against Britain, and her fleet having joined a French fleet under Admiral Villeneuve, they sailed for

the West Indies, pursued by Admiral Nelson, at the head of a less numerous force. He found on his arrival there that they had returned to Europe, and he continued his chase after them. The combined French and Spanish fleets were attacked off Ferrol by Sir Robert Calder, who captured two ships and disabled several others, and Villeneuve sought refuge in Cadiz. Nelson was now at the head of an increased force, and watched the movements of the Franco-Spanish fleet. Villeneuve at last put to sea at the head of thirty sail, while Nelson's fleet consisted of twenty-seven sail. They met off Cape Trafalgar, which has given its name to this famous engagement. Nelson gave forth his memorable signal "England expects every man to do his duty," and the fortune of the day was not for a moment doubtful. The victory of the English was complete, but purchased at a dear price, by the death of the greatest of the naval heroes of Britain. Nelson was shot by a rifle ball, and died immediately after the battle. The French and Spanish fleets were annihilated, and the hopes of invading Britain were for the time at an end.

7. Napoleon having failed in effecting a descent upon England, led his army against the Austrians, who had given an excuse for an attack by taking possession of Munich. The great events that took place in the ensuing continental wars it is not our business to relate here, nor shall we enter into the details of the contest on the part of England at this period, which consisted of small conflicts, in which the enemy's vessels were usually beaten

when they ventured to show themselves, and of the capture of some of the Enemy's colonies and possessions.

8. William Pitt, who had resumed his station at the head of the government, died on the 23rd January, 1806, at the early age of 45. He was succeeded by Lord Grenville, as apparent head of the new ministry, but the real leader was Charles James Fox, the old opponent of Pitt. Fox's possession of power was of short duration, as he died on the 13th September of the same year. He had great objects in view while in office, in seeking for European peace, Roman Catholic emancipation, and the suppression of the Slave trade, the last of which he had nearly succeeded in effecting when he was cut off by death.

9. The measure last named was, however, happily consummated by his remaining colleagues, who shortly after had to resign office in consequence of having attempted a measure for the relief of the Roman Catholics, to which the king was opposed.

10. Napoleon having by his numerous victories over Austria, Russia, and Prussia, placed the whole of Continental Europe under his feet, directed his power and energies to the destruction of British commerce. He now issued the celebrated Berlin and Milan Decrees. By these all the ports of the continent were closed against British goods and manufactures. Among others Denmark was prohibited from holding any commerce with England, and the British government had reason to fear that the French Emperor would seize the Danish navy for his own purposes. An expedition under Admiral Lord Gambier

and General Lord Cathcart was sent to demand the surrender of the Danish fleet, to be held by England until the end of the war. This demand was refused, and the English having bombarded Copenhagen, the king of Denmark, to save his capital, agreed to give up his fleet, and a large quantity of naval stores, which were taken possession of by the British forces. This act is only to be vindicated by the necessity of the case, England having at the time to contend for her very existence against the overpowering odds that were arrayed against her. The British arms were not at this time so successful in other quarters. Buenos Ayres having been captured by Sir Home Popham, was retaken by the inhabitants, and an armament sent out to recover it, failed disgracefully; a fleet under Admiral Duckworth forced the passage of the Dardanelles, but was compelled to retire with loss; Alexandria, in Egypt, was captured by General Fraser, but he was soon forced to evacuate his conquest; and an expedition sent to aid the king of Sweden was equally unsuccessful. This was followed by the war in Spain and Portugal, of which we have next to speak.

11. Napoleon having determined to place the crown of Spain on the head of a member of his own family, had, by intrigue and favor, got the royal family into his power, and his troops introduced into the country. His brother, Joseph Bonaparte, was finally proclaimed king of Spain, and steps were taken to secure the entire Peninsula by the seizure of Portugal. The Prince Regent of that king-

dom, alarmed by the appearance of a powerful army on the frontier, embarked on board of a British fleet, by which he was conveyed to Brazil, the Portuguese settlement in South America, and the French took possession of Lisbon without opposition.

12. But though Spain was overrun by the armies of France, and though the higher ranks in general submitted to the sway of the conqueror, the great body of the people were bent on resistance. Guerilla bands were formed throughout the kingdom, who attacked the French wherever an opportunity offered, cut off their supplies, and continually harrassed them. The Spanish armies were badly armed, without sufficient arms, discipline or efficient commanders, but on several occasions they evinced a spirit which encouraged the hope that they might finally succeed in freeing the country from their present detested masters. In Portugal the hatred to French domination was no less intense. The people of Madrid rose in insurrection, which was only suppressed after a fearful massacre. Provisional juntas were formed in all the provinces throughout Spain; by the aid of the British navy and the garrison of Gibraltar, the City of Cadiz was secured, and the French fleet forced to surrender; General Dupont with a force of 15,000 men was compelled to surrender to the patriot General Castanos; another French force, under Moncey, was forced to retire from Valencia; and a Spanish army, which had been employed by Napoleon in the north of Germany, revolted, and was conveyed by a British squadron to the Peninsula. The



flame of insurrection extended to Portugal, and though the French Generals massacred without mercy those suspected of taking a share in the liberation of their country, the spirit of resistance spread wider day by day.

13. England having been applied to for assistance, the ministry and the nation at once responded to the demand. Two expeditions were sent to Portugal; one consisting of 10,000 men, under Sir Arthur Wellesley, who had gained a high reputation in India; another of 12,000 men commanded by Sir John Moore, a brave and accomplished officer. On the 1st August, 1808, the British force under Wellesley landed at Mondego Bay; on the seventeenth the French were attacked at Roliga and defeated; and on the 21st the more important battle of Vimiera was fought, in which the English were completely victorious. But General Wellesley having been superseded in his command by the arrival, successively, of two generals of higher rank, Sir Harry Burrard and Sir Hew Dalrymple, a convention was signed at Cintra, on terms which were thought so favorable to the French that they created great complaint. By this convention the French agreed to evacuate Portugal, but they were to be sent to France at the expence of England. A Russian fleet in the Tagus was surrendered to the British Admiral, who agreed to restore the vessels six months after the conclusion of peace with Russia.

14. The Spanish patriots having formed a central government, Sir John Moore marched from Portugal with the view of reaching Madrid. But Napoleon having now



resolved to crush all opposition in Spain, marched into the country at the head of a force which swelled the French army there to 300,000 men. He took possession of the capital, and dispersed the provisional government. Moore found himself in a position of great danger, menaced on every side by the overwhelming numbers of the enemy, and without support from the Spaniards. He, therefore, retreated northward, followed by the French. After dreadful hardships the British army arrived at Corunna, on the sea coast, where transports were awaiting them. Attacked there by a superior force, they turned upon the enemy, whom they repulsed with loss; and then embarked without further molestation. Sir John Moore was killed in the engagement by a cannon ball just as victory had declared in his favor.

15. An expedition on a large scale was undertaken by England in another quarter, which was attended with signal disaster. A large fleet and army, the latter under the Earl of Chatham, proceeded to the islands and peninsula of South Holland, with the view of striking a blow at the French from that quarter. Lord Chatham proved wholly unfit for the command of such an expedition. After gaining some trifling advantages, the English took possession of the Island of Walcheren, where the troops, attacked by sickness incident to the climate, died in thousands, and at last they returned home in a condition truly wretched.

16. In 1810 George the Third was again attacked by his old malady, and thenceforth, to the end of his life, he

continued a confirmed lunatic. The Prince of Wales, afterwards George the Fourth, was declared Regent. Although he had hitherto acted with the Whigs, who expected much from him, he retained the Tory ministers of his father in office.

17. The French, after the retreat of Sir John Moore, had advanced into Portugal and taken possession of Oporto, and several other places. But Sir Arthur Wellesley, having been re-appointed to the command of the British forces in that country succeeded in expelling them. He then marched into Spain, where he gained a brilliant victory at Talavera; but being unsupported by the Spaniards, he was obliged to relinquish his conquest and the advantages he had acquired. He was elevated to the Peerage by the title of Viscount Wellington in reward for his services:

18. Napoleon next dispatched Marshal Massena, at the head of a splendid army, to expel the British from the Peninsula, or, as he said, to drive "the Leopard into the sea." Wellington, whose force was far inferior to that of the enemy, retreated liesurely before them; but being attacked at Busaco, he inflicted a severe defeat on his pursuers. He at last reached the lines of Torres Vedras, which he had strongly fortified to meet a contingency such as now had arrived. All the efforts of the French General to break through this impregnable barrier were in vain; and worn with hunger and harrassed by the natives, the French were forced to retreat, having lost 45,000 men by battle, hardships and famine. They revenged their disappoint-

ment and defeat by the most cruel treatment of the inhabitants. Wellington crossed the frontier and carried the war into Spain; and the battles of *Albuera*, *Fuentes d'Honore* and *Barossa* were successively gained by the British over the French.

19. On the 11th May, 1812, the British Prime Minister, Mr. Perceval, was shot by a man of the name of Bellingham, in the lobby of the House of Commons. He was succeeded in his office by the Earl of Liverpool.

20. Marshal Marmont was appointed to the command of the French armies in the Peninsula, in place of Massena; but this general proved even less successful than his predecessor. In spite of all his efforts the strong fortresses of Ciudad Rodrigo, and Badajos were stormed by the British, and the forts securing the passage of the River Douro fell also into their hands. Wellington then resolved to advance into the centre of Spain, and drive the enemy from Madrid. Having reached the capital, he was received by the people with the utmost joy; but the folly and incapacity of the Spanish leaders and Generals, were a bar to further success for the time. Threatened by French armies three times more numerous than his own, he retreated to the frontiers of Portugal. In the meantime Napoleon having invaded Russia, encountered those terrible disasters which ended in his downfall.

21. Some disputes between the governments of Great Britain and the United States led to a war between the two countries. The Americans unsuccessfully invaded Canada; but, at sea, their frigates, being generally larger

and of heavier armament, obtained some advantages over British vessels. In equal combats they had nothing to boast of, as the British were able to maintain their old mastery of the seas.

22. The Spanish Cortes became at last convinced that they could not obtain success under their own generals, and gave the command of their armies to Wellington. The French were compelled to evacuate Madrid; and on the 12th June, 1813, they were defeated in the disastrous battle of Salamanca. The fortresses of St. Sebastian and Pampeluna were taken by the British who then prepared to march into France. Soult was now sent by Napoleon to take command of the French armies in Spain, or rather on the Spanish frontier. He boldly attempted to penetrate through the passes of the Pyrenees, but was beaten on the banks of the Nivelle by Wellington. Soult next took up a strong position at Orthes, from which he was driven with heavy loss. Wellington pursued him, and again defeated him at Toulouse, but at this moment a stop was put to the victorious career of the British General, by the news that Napoleon had abdicated, and that the war was at end. The allied armies of the North of Europe had entered Paris; the French Emperor was sent to the Island of Elba; and the representative of the Bourbons was once again on the throne of France. The British army joined the Allies in Paris, (1814). London, shortly after, was visited by many of the sovereigns and princes of Europe, as well as by the Generals and others who had taken an important part in the war.

23. But the world had not yet done with Napoleon nor he with the world. A Congress of Ambassadors from the different states of Europe had assembled at Vienna to settle the affairs and claims of the several nations, when news reached them that the Ex-Emperor had returned to France, and was again surrounded by his old soldiers, whose devotion to him was unabated. All hopes of peace were consequently, for a time, at an end, and preparations were made for the coming struggle.

24. Belgium was destined to be the scene of contest in this war, and as the approach of the Russians, Austrians and others was necessarily slow, the English and Prussians were the first in the field. The former of these were commanded by the Duke of Wellington; the latter by Field Marshal Blücher; Napoleon attacked the Prussians on the 16th June, 1815, at Ligny, and defeated them. On the same day, the French, under Marshal Ney, engaged the British at Quatre-Bras, and though they failed in defeating them they succeeded in preventing them from aiding the Prussians. Wellington took up a position at Waterloo, where he awaited the approach of the enemy. The battle was fought on the 18th of June; and was, from its results, one of the most memorable in the annals of the age. After a protracted and bloody struggle the French army was wholly routed and dispersed. Napoleon, soon after, surrendered to a British ship of war; and it was considered necessary for the peace of Europe that he should be sent to the Island of St. Helena, where he died a prisoner in 1822.

25. The changes necessarily arising from a state of war to a state of peace were for some time severely felt by all classes of the nation, but more especially by the labouring and industrial classes. The great armaments which had been so long maintained had required such large supplies of all descriptions, and had given employment to so many people, that the sudden cessation of hostilities caused much confusion and distress. The channels of trade opened by the war were closed; the prices of manufactures and agricultural produce were, at once, greatly reduced, and labour consequently was in little demand; and want, as usual, induced the people to seek for an alleviation of their state in political changes, and the reform of the institutions of the country.

26. Public attention (in 1816) was, for a short time, directed from these calamities by an attack on Algiers by a British fleet, under Lord Exmouth, who had been sent to chastise the barbarous government of that country, for its acts of piracy and robbery, which Europe had so long disgracefully permitted. The British Admiral, after a warm contest, destroyed the strongest defences of the city, burned the piratical fleet in the harbour, and forced the Dey to come to terms, by which he was bound to liberate all the Christian slaves in his dominions; to abolish such slavery for ever; and to make reparation for his previous aggressions.

27. But discontent continued to prevail to a dangerous degree within the realm, and restlessness and turbulence marked the few remaining years of the reign of George.



the Third. Alarming riots broke out in several parts of the kingdom, and so ominous was the condition of affairs regarded by the government that the Habeas Corpus Act was suspended, and many popular leaders were arrested under charges of treason and sedition. In 1817 the country suffered a heavy loss by the death of the Princess Charlotte, who was greatly beloved by all classes of the people, and of whom the nation in general entertained the highest hopes. She was the only child of the Prince Regent, and heiress presumptive to the crown. She had lately been married to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg, and died in giving birth to a still born child, on the 6th November, 1817.

28 Public meetings were held during this period throughout the United Kingdom, and a reform in the parliamentary representation was loudly called for. A melancholy occurrence took place at one of these meetings, at Manchester, in 1819. About sixty thousand people were peaceably assembled when the yeomanry burst in among them, and many lives were lost. This outrage, which was designated as "the Manchester Massacre," roused the anger of the people and their democratical leaders against the government to a degree, which happily has never been witnessed in England in recent times. Such, indeed, was the alarm felt that parliament passed several acts for the prevention of seditious meetings, against training and arming, for checking blasphemous and seditious writings, and imposing a tax on cheap periodical publications. These were the famous "Six Acts" so fiercely attacked in the political writings of those days.



29. George the third died on the 29th January, 1820, at the age of 81, after a memorable reign of more than 59 years, the longest in the annals of England.

*Questions on Chapter Fourteenth.*

1. Who deserted the European alliance against France, and what powers did he persuade to join him? What success attended the operations of a British fleet? What occurred after the death of the Emperor Paul?
2. What success attended an English expedition to Egypt?
3. What led to the peace of Amiens, and when was it signed?
4. How long did the peace last — what led to the renewal of the war, and what is said respecting its continuance and final issue?
5. What conspiracy was formed in England at this time? Who was the leader, who his companions, and what became of them? What insurrection broke out in Dublin? Detail the particulars?
6. What army did Napoleon assemble at Boulogne, and with what object? What is said of the conduct of the English people at this time, of their fleet, &c.? What Admiral attacked the French and Spanish fleets off Ferrol, and with what success? Where did Lord Nelson meet with the hostile fleets? Narrate what occurred? What was the result of this action?
7. Against what power did Napoleon turn his arms?
8. When did Pitt die, at what age, and who succeeded him? When did Fox die, and what is said respecting the great objects he had in view?
9. What great measure was passed by Parliament, and what led to the resignation of the ministry?
10. In what position was Napoleon at this time? What measures did he adopt to injure British commerce? Why did England desire to possess the Danish fleet? How did she succeed, and what is said respecting the character of the act? What reverses did the British arms encounter elsewhere?
11. What steps did Napoleon adopt to obtain the crown of Spain for a member of his family? What became of the Regent of Portugal, and who occupied Lisbon?
12. Who offered resistance to the French in Spain, and how did they conduct the war? What took place at the same time in

- Portugal? Narrate what occurred at Cadiz, Valencia, the surrender of a French force and the revolt of a Spanish army? What occurred in Portugal?
13. What expeditions were sent by England to Portugal? What did the army under Sir Arthur Wellesley effect? What convention was signed by the belligerents, and what fleet surrendered to the British?
  14. Narrate the events of Sir John Moore's campaign? His advance into Spain, his retreat and final battle?
  15. What large expedition in another quarter was undertaken, and what success attended it?
  16. In what year, and for what reason, was the Prince of Wales declared Regent of the kingdom? Did he make any change in the ministry.
  17. What places had the French taken possession of after Sir John Moore's retreat, and who expelled them from Portugal? Where did Sir Arthur Wellesley march to, and what victory did he gain? How were his services rewarded?
  18. What General did Napoleon send against Wellington, and with what object? Narrate the campaign? How did the French behave on their retreat, to the inhabitants? What did Wellington now do? Name the battles that he gained?
  19. What happened to Mr. Perceval, and who succeeded him in his office?
  20. Who was appointed to succeed Massena as General of the French army? Was he more successful than his predecessor? What strong fortresses fell into the hands of the British? To what city did Wellington now advance, and how was he received? What cause is assigned for his leaving Madrid and returning into Portugal? What reverses had Napoleon encountered in another quarter?
  21. What led to war between the United States and Britain? What is said of the invasion of Canada—of the naval actions that were fought, and of the result of equal combats?
  22. What important command did the Cortes confer on Wellington? What great battle was fought? What fortresses were taken by the British? What General was sent to oppose Wellington? Narrate the campaign? What news put a stop to the war? What armies entered Paris? What important characters visited London?
  23. Did Napoleon long remain at Elba? Describe what occurred?
  24. Where was the scene of contest? What armies were first in the field, and who commanded them? What actions were fought and with what success? What important battle was fought? What became of Napoleon?

25. What was the state of Britain at this time, and what did it induce the people to seek for ?
26. Describe what occurred at Algiers ?
27. What disturbances took place in England, and how did the government put them down ? What Princess died about this time ?
28. For what object were public meetings generally called ? What occurred at Manchester in 1819 ? What did it lead to, and what Acts of Parliament were passed ?
29. When did George III. die, at what age, and what is said of his reign ?

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## CHAPTER XV.

### THE HOUSE OF HANOVER.

#### *From George IV. to the Death of William IV.*

1. **GEORGE IV.—1820—1830.**—The Prince Regent succeeded to the throne under the name of George the Fourth. He was possessed of considerable talents and accomplishments, but was sensual and selfish. The outset of his reign was marked by several unpleasant events. One of these was the "Cato Street Conspiracy," which contemplated the assassination of the ministry and the overthrow of the government. At its head was one Arthur Thistlewood, who had been engaged in former associations of a similar character, and his colleagues were men of low station in society, and of desperate character. The plot was discovered, and Thistlewood and some of his associates were executed.

2. The king, when Prince of Wales, had been married to the Princess Caroline of Brunswick, but dislikes and

disagreements arose between them from the first day they met. A separation having taken place, the Princess proceeded to the Continent, where her conduct was so indecorous, to say the least of it, that even the treatment she had received at the hands of a very bad husband was not sufficient excuse for it. On the decease of George III. she now returned home and demanded the rights of a Queen of England. She was welcomed with great enthusiasm by vast crowds of people, as well in London as on her road to the metropolis; for she was considered to have been deeply wronged by the course pursued towards her by the King. But on the day of her arrival, a message was sent to both Houses of Parliament, desiring that an enquiry might be made into her conduct, and after some delay, a Bill of Pains and Penalties, to deprive her of her rights and dignities, and to divorce her from her husband, was brought into the House of Lords. After a long trial the measure was carried by a majority of nine; but so intense was the feeling in favour of the queen throughout the country, and especially in London, that the measure was abandoned. Caroline having made a vain attempt to participate in the coronation of the king, in Westminster Abbey, died suddenly on the 7th August, 1820.

3. Great distress continued to be felt throughout the British islands, owing to the fall in the prices of agricultural produce; and in Ireland especially the popular distress led to scenes of violence and outrage. The king paid a visit to that country immediately after his coronation, and he was every where welcomed with acclamations.

On his return he visited Hanover; and in the following year he took an excursion to Scotland, where his presence was hailed with equal enthusiasm to that which he met in Ireland.

4. The year 1824 was marked by one of those panics, arising from wild speculations in trade, which are of periodical recurrence in commercial communities. On the death of Lord Liverpool, in 1827, George Canning, a man of humble origin, but of brilliant talents, succeeded him. He died soon after, and was succeeded by Lord Goderich. In 1828 a new ministry was formed, at the head of which were the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel.

5. The people were now fully resolved on obtaining a reform of some of the grievances of which many had been so long complaining; and with the advent of the present administration to power, there began a series of changes which have gradually worked their way into all the institutions of the country. In 1828 the Corporation and Test Act, which required every candidate for the magistracy, and for corporate offices, to take the sacrament after the form of the Church of England, was repealed. The act emancipating the Roman Catholics of the kingdom from their remaining disabilities was passed in 1829. Important reforms also took place in the criminal law, calculated to make punishments more certain by making them less savage. Hitherto, however, the great measure of parliamentary reform had been contended for without success.

6. The foreign relations of the country do not, with

few exceptions, demand particular mention during this reign. A sanguinary struggle for the liberation of Greece from the Turkish yoke had for some years called forth the sympathy of the nation, and in 1827 the battle of Navarino, in which the fleets of England, France and Russia destroyed the Turkish navy, put an end to the struggle. In the East Indies, the Burmese having violated the British territory, war was declared against them, which ended in their defeat and a considerable accession to the British Empire in the East.

7. George the Fourth died on the 25th June, 1830, in the 68th year of his age.

8. WILLIAM IV.—1830—1837.—The Duke of Clarence, who now ascended the throne, under the title of William the Fourth, was brother to the late king. He was a man of popular manners, and having been brought up in the navy, was a great favourite with the people. His talents and acquirements were not of a high order. He had scarcely assumed the crown when a revolution broke out in France, which resulted in the expulsion of the older branch of the Bourbons from that country, and the establishment in their place of the Duke of Orleans, who assumed the name of Louis Philippe the First. This movement, on the part of France, was sensibly felt in every country on the continent of Europe; and it was not without its influence on England. A reform of the Commons House of Parliament was urged on with redoubled vigour. Meetings were held throughout the kingdom; and a new parliament having been summoned, a



large number of the members returned were reformers. The Duke of Wellington having, in the House of Lords, declared himself opposed to Parliamentary Reform, the popular anger was aroused against him, and his mansion was attacked. In the House of Commons the ministry were left in a minority, and consequently resigned. A new ministry was appointed of persons favourable to reform, under the leadership of Earl Grey as prime minister.

9. On the 1st March, 1831, Lord John Russell, a member of the ministry, announced in the House of Commons a Bill for the Reform of Parliament. It was a more comprehensive measure than was anticipated. All boroughs containing less than two thousand inhabitants were totally disfranchised; those that had less than four thousand inhabitants were restricted to one member, and the members of which these were deprived were to be returned by the large manufacturing towns, by four districts of the Metropolis, and by divisions of the larger counties. The right of voting was given to all male owners of land worth £10 a year or more, and to tenants of land worth £50 a year; in the towns the occupiers of houses, whether as owners or tenants, were to have a vote. Similar changes were proposed in the representation of Ireland and Scotland. The intense anxiety felt for the fate of this bill, as well by its supporters as its opponents, had not been equalled in the country since the revolution of 1688. It was rejected in the Commons by a majority of eight. The country was in a state of excitement and uproar. A new parliament was called, and the bill passed



the Lower House by a vote of 347 to 238. But it was lost in the Lords by 199 to 158. The country was on the eve of a revolution; yet the Peers, who were deeply interested in retaining the representation of the minor, or rotten boroughs, as they were called, still held out. The ministry resigned, and the crisis was hourly becoming more imminent. At last, however, after the Duke of Wellington had failed to form a ministry, and a threat had been held out to swamp the House of Lords by a large creation of new Peers, Lord Grey, having returned to power, the opposition gave way. The measure finally became law on the 17th June, 1832. Amid these political dissensions, the kingdom, as well as the continental countries was scourged by Asiatic cholera, though in England its ravages were less than in other countries; but in Ireland agrarian outrages were added to the horrors of pestilence and famine.

10. A new election having been held, pursuant to the provisions of the reform bill, a large majority of the members returned were favourable to the government. One of the earliest measures of this parliament was an Act for abolishing slavery in the British Colonies, and twenty-five millions of pounds sterling were voted to compensate the owners of slaves for their property in them. This magnificent gift has no parallel in the history of nations.

11. In the following year (1834) the poor laws were greatly altered; and a bill having been brought into parliament by the government to put down outrages in Ireland, and being rejected, Lord Grey resigned office. He was succeeded by Lord Melbourne, as prime minister. In

the autumn, Lord Althorpe, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer, having succeeded to the peerage by the death of his father, Lord Spencer, could no longer retain that office, and the ministry was dismissed by the king. Sir Robert Peel took the head of the government, but the country expressing much dissatisfaction at the change, and the new cabinet being defeated repeatedly in the House of Commons, their resignation became necessary. In June, 1835, the Melbourne administration resumed office. With the exception of an important act for reforming municipal corporations, there are no other measures of this reign that demand special notice. King William died on the 20th June, 1837.

*Questions on Chapter Fifteenth.*

1. Under what name did the Prince Regent ascend the throne? What is said of his character? What conspiracy took place, and what became of those engaged in it?
2. What is said of the differences between George the 4th and his Queen? How was the Queen received in England? What Bill was introduced in Parliament, and what became of it? When did the Queen die?
3. In what condition was Great Britain and Ireland at this time? What countries did the king visit?
4. What was the year 1824 marked by? What ministers succeeded to Lord Liverpool?
5. What important Acts were passed by the British Parliament?
6. What struggle occurred in Europe at this time, and how was it terminated. What took place in the East Indies?
7. In what year and at what age did George the 4th die?
8. Who succeeded to the throne, and what name did he assume? What is said of his character and abilities? What revolution broke out at this time, and what were the results of it? How did it affect England? Upon what ground did the Duke of Wellington resign? What minister succeeded to him?

9. When and by whom was the Reform Bill introduced into the House of Commons? What were the principal provisions in the Bill? What became of it? What was the fate of the Bill in a new Parliament? Narrate what subsequently passed till the Bill became law in 1832. What disease first visited the United Kingdom at this time?
10. What important Act was passed by the first Reformed Parliament? What amount of money was given to compensate the owners of slaves?
11. Why did Lord Grey resign office, and who succeeded him? What changes took place in the government? When did William IV. die?

## CHAPTER XVI.

## THE HOUSE OF HANOVER.

*Victoria.*

1. VICTORIA.—1837.—William the Fourth was succeeded by the Princess Victoria, the only child of Edward, Duke of Kent, fourth son of George the Third. She was then in the eighteenth year of her age. As it would be inconsistent with the object of this work to enter on topics which must, to some extent at least, involve the political questions of the day, we shall merely give a short sketch of the chief incidents of the present reign. In 1840 the Queen was married to Albert, Prince of Saxe-Cobourg, and has a numerous family.

2. In 1837 and 1838 there were outbreaks in Canada, which resulted in the union of the Upper and Lower Provinces, and in a material alteration in the form of government. The year 1839 was marked by a depression of trade which was felt throughout the whole kingdom, but pressed especially on the working classes. A new

political party, called the Chartists, had been for some time agitating for certain changes in the national institutions, and the present crisis brought them prominently forward. These changes were vote by ballot, universal suffrage, annual parliaments, equality of electoral districts, the abolition of a property qualifications for members of the House of Commons, and the payment of members of that house. Some riots took place, but the spirit of disaffection gradually subsided.

3. The Whigs, who had been in power since 1831, had for some time been losing their popularity with the nation, and in August, 1841; were forced to resign office, having been beaten in the Commons on a bill brought in by them for the suspension of the Constitution of the Island of Jamaica, which was in a disturbed state from questions arising out of the liberation of the negroes. A Conservative administration was formed under the leadership of Sir Robert Peel. Ireland, in the meantime, was loudly demanding the repeal of the national union, and holding monster meetings of the people for that purpose, under the direction of the celebrated lawyer and orator, Daniel O'Connell. In England the cry for freetrade, especially in corn, became general; an association, called the Anti-Corn Law League was particularly active and zealous in advancing this object; and in 1845, a famine being threatened in many parts of the United Kingdom, free trade was at last conceded. Sir Robert Peel introduced a Bill into parliament which wholly repealed the duty on corn; and many of the import duties were reduced or

abolished at the same time. After effecting these sweeping measures, Sir Robert Peel resigned, and was succeeded by the Whigs under Lord John Russel.

4. The year 1847 was unfortunately distinguished by a famine in Ireland, owing chiefly to the failure of the potato crop; and by a commercial crisis in England, arising from over speculation in railroad and other stocks, by which thousands of families were ruined, and which, in some respects, resembled the famous South Sea speculations in the reign of George the First. As the country was recovering from these disasters, another revolution broke out in France, which resulted in the expulsion of the Orléans family, and in the formation of a republic. This circumstance, as usual, had considerable influence on English affairs. Trade was greatly depressed, and tumultuous meetings of the chartists had to be put down by a combination of the middle classes and others, who in London alone formed a force of 200,000 special constables. In Ireland, in 1848, an insurrection was attempted under Smith O'Brien and others, but with signal failure. Since that period the country has enjoyed an unexampled degree of peace.

5. It would be improper to pass over without mention the great exhibition of the arts, manufactures and products of all nations, which took place in London in 1851. In the early part of the same year the Whigs were again driven from power, having been defeated on a bill for the re-formation of the militia system; and the Tories, under Lord Derby, as Premier, and Mr. D'Israeli, as Chancellor of

the Exchequer, formed a ministry. On an appeal to the country the new administration was in a minority, and having resigned office, they were succeeded by a coalition of Conservatives and Whigs, Lord Aberdeen being prime minister, and Lord John Russell leader of the House of Commons.

6. On the 14th September, 1852, the Duke of Wellington died, in the eighty-third year of his age.

7. The foreign relations of the country since 1837, were chiefly of a pacific character. But in 1841, some acts of the Chinese government, which were considered oppressive and destructive of the trade between the two countries, led to hostilities, which, in 1842, ended in a commercial treaty, more favourable to British interests and those of other nations than any formerly existing. About the same time, a fleet sent against Mehemet Ali, Viceroy of Egypt, who had thrown off his allegiance to the Sultan of Turkey, and had invaded Syria, bombarded the fortress of St. Jean D'Acre, and compelled Mehemet Ali to come to terms and surrender his conquests. A great disaster overtook the British army in India in 1841. The East Indian government had considered it necessary for their safety to take possession of Afghanistan, but the warlike and savage tribes of that country attacked the British force by surprise, and massacred the great body of them. Next year the British overran the country, and destroyed the chief fortresses, but it was considered advisable to evacuate the territory. A short time after (in 1849) the East India Company conquered and took possession

of the district known as the Punjaub. A war of an expensive and harassing character was also carried on for several years against the Caffres in South Africa; but this, as well as a short conflict with the Burmese, was happily brought to a close.

8. The discovery of immense amounts of gold in California and Australia have, so far, had a most beneficial effect on the social position and comforts of the labouring population of the United Kingdom. In fact their condition has for some years been gradually improving to an extent which must be highly gratifying to the lovers of their species in every country. The attention of statesmen and philanthropists has been much directed to this object of late, and it will probably be the circumstance which will give its character to the present reign. The rule of female sovereigns has generally proved propitious to England, and that of the present queen is not likely to be an exception. Possessing many of the best qualities of Elizabeth and Anne, without their faults, she is as much beloved as she is esteemed by the nation. As a woman her private life is without reproach; and as a sovereign she is admired for her adherence to the principles and practice of constitutional government.

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*Questions on Chapter Sixteenth.*

1. By whom was William the Fourth succeeded? What was her age? Why does this book give only a short sketch of the leading incidents of the Queen's reign? In what year was the Queen married, and to whom?
2. In what years did the outbreaks in Canada take place? What important results followed these? What was the year



- 1839 remarkable for ? What is said of the Chartists, and what of the alterations they desired to have in the Constitution ? Did they succeed ?
3. Why did the Whig party resign office, and in what year ? Who formed a new Administration ? What important measure was Ireland desirous of having carried ? What is said about Free Trade, and when, and by whom was it introduced ? After these changes who succeeded Sir Robert Peel as Prime Minister ?
  4. What was the year 1847 chiefly remarkable for ? What important event occurred in France ? What is said of the Chartists at this time ? What of an insurrection in Ireland ?
  5. When did the Great Exhibition take place in London ? In what year was Lord John Russell's Ministry defeated, and who succeeded ? Did this long continue in office ? Who succeeded to this Ministry ?
  6. When did the Duke of Wellington die, and at what age ?
  7. What is said of the war with China, and how it ended ? What of the fleet sent against Mehemet Ali ? What of the disasters suffered by a British army in India ? What did the British do next year ? What country was conquered and taken possession of ? What war raged in Africa ?
  8. Relate what is said of the discovery of large quantities of gold ? What is said regarding the reign of female sovereigns in England, and particularly of that of her present Majesty.

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## CHAPTER XVII.

*(Conclusion.)*

It now becomes necessary to offer a few remarks on the recent progress of literature, science, and the arts throughout Great Britain, and to do so it will be desirable to glance back to the reign of George the Third. After the middle of the last century, most of the men whose talents, learning and genius had shed splendour on the first half of that period, had disappeared from the scene, and science and literature gradually lost every trace of originality and power. Tameness, imitation, monotony, and all the marks

of a declining literature were observable everywhere. History was perhaps the sole exception, for Gibbon, Hume, and Robertson produced works which have become, and must always be considered, among English Classics; while these eminent men have, at a later period, had worthy successors in Lingard, Hallam and Macaulay. The stirring events of the American and French revolutions aroused the national intellect from its lethargy; and the first signs of a literary revival were given by the poets Cowper and Burns, whose nervous and natural writings at once shewed the worthlessness of the tame pretenders who had, for a time, imposed on the public taste. A new generation of eminent writers followed, the chief of whom were Scott, Byron, Wordsworth, Campbell, Moore and Coleridge. Under their influence literature was endowed with a new life, with every sign of permanency. The impetus given to the science of political economy by the great work of Adam Smith, has been followed up by succeeding writers with great zeal and research, and his labours and theirs have had a most extensive influence on the commercial policy of England and the whole world. Science has advanced at an equal pace, and astronomy, geology, philosophy, anatomy, and natural history, have been studied and taught with a zeal and success equally remarkable and gratifying. In physical science the brilliant discoveries of Davy and others have changed the whole aspect of chemistry. The steam engine, which we owe to the genius of Watt, has gradually been applied to navigation, to land carriage, to manufactures, and to

the printing press. The daguerrotype compels the sun to do the work of the painter's brush. The electric telegraph carries intelligence from nation to nation, and from continent to continent with almost the speed of thought. The advance of marine and inland discovery commencing in the reign of George the Third, has since been persevered in with a success which has left little now to explore. In short the progress of England for the last hundred years has been gigantic; her ships cover every sea, her manufactures supply the wants of most of the nations of the earth; and she has never been so flourishing and powerful as she is now. We cannot close these remarks more appropriately than in the language of Macaulay, the historian: "Ever since I began to make observations on the state of my country, I have been seeing nothing but growth, and I have been hearing of nothing but decay. The more I contemplate our noble institutions, the more convinced I am that they are sound at heart—that they have nothing of age but its dignity, and that their strength is still the strength of youth. The hurricane which has recently overthrown so much that was great and that seemed durable, has only proved their solidity. They still stand, august and immovable, while dynasties and churches are lying in heaps of ruin all around us. I see no reason to doubt that, by the blessing of God on a wise and temperate policy, a policy of which the principle is to preserve what is good by reforming what is evil, our civil institutions may be preserved unimpaired to a late posterity."

THE END.

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