

# ENGLAND

IN THE

## NINETEENTH CENTURY.

---

### CHAPTER I.

#### THE PEACE OF AMIENS.

WHEN the nineteenth century opened, on New Year's Day 1801, England was still engaged in the weary war with revolutionary France. The struggle had already raged for eight years, and seemed as far from an end as ever. It made little difference to its character that the government with which the contest had to be fought out was no longer the corrupt Directory of Barras. The military despotism of the new First Consul, Napoleon Bonaparte, was quite as hostile to England, and infinitely more formidable. Till he had tried his strength against her and learnt the limitations of his power, Bonaparte was not likely to come to terms.

**The struggle with France.**

Moreover, we had just ascertained that we should have to fight him single-handed. The last of our powerful continental allies was now about to withdraw from the struggle. Austria had already opened negotiations for peace with the First Consul; since the defeat of

**Isolation of Great Britain.**