

## CHAPTER IV.

FROM THE FALL OF NAPOLEON TO THE GREAT REFORM BILL.

1815-1832.

THE England which emerged from the great war of 1793-1815 was a very different country from the England of the days before the French Revolution. In all her history there has never been a period of twenty-two years into which so many changes have been compressed. Not merely in matters political and economic, but in all social matters—in literature, in national feeling, in everyday thought and life—there was a profound alteration visible. For the most part the change had been for the better: the great war had exercised a most wholesome and sobering effect on the national character. Few men had watched the atrocities of the French Revolution, or lived through the long period of suspense in 1802-1805, when foreign invasion was daily expected, without taking a profound impression from those times of storm and stress. In the eighteenth century we often hear complaints of the want of patriotism and public spirit in Great Britain: no such reproach could be made to the generation which had fought through the great French war. The slackness and cynicism of the eighteenth century had been completely lived down. Political morality had been enormously improved: in the latter years of the war Whig and Tory had learnt to work together for the common national good despite of mere

England  
after the  
great war.

Improve-  
ment in  
political  
morality.