

provision for a renewal of the *Congress of Vienna* for the general settlement of the affairs of Europe. Holland and Belgium were united into one kingdom. Norway was added to Sweden. Switzerland was declared independent. Hanover was made a kingdom.

**Second
Treaty of
Paris.**

67. The long period of war had greatly increased the national debt, which had grown from less than £300,000,000 in 1793 to nearly £900,000,000 in 1815. The burden of heavy taxation was aggravated by bad harvests, and the stagnation of trade consequent on the impoverishment of all the European

**Public
distress.**

countries. This state of things gave rise to much popular discontent, occasionally manifesting itself in acts of violence. The return of peace also revived the desire for parliamentary reform, which Pitt at the beginning of his career had sought to gratify. The Government, instead of seeking to redress the real grievances of the nation, sought to stifle criticism by the adoption of arbitrary measures. During the year 1817 the *Habeas Corpus Act* was suspended, and Englishmen were liable to be arrested and imprisoned without any opportunity for remonstrance.

68. In November 1817, the nation suffered a grievous loss in the death of the Princess Charlotte, only child of the King's eldest son and heir. This amiable Princess had been married the year before to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, afterwards King of Belgium. Her untimely death cast a gloom over the entire nation.

**Death
of Princess
Charlotte.**

69. The aged King himself died on the 29th of January 1820, in the sixtieth year of his reign. Since the year 1810 he had been permanently insane, and his son George, Prince of Wales, had performed the duties of sovereign with the title of *Prince Regent*.

**Death of
George III.**

70 The protracted wars of this long reign have left but little space for the record of domestic events not of a strictly political character.

The reign of George III. was pre-eminently a period of social improvement and scientific progress. Gas came into use in 1807. The steam-engine, the spinning-frame,

**Events of
reign.**

and the safety-lamp, have made immortal the names of James Watt, Sir Richard Arkwright, and Sir Humphrey Davy. In the region of humanitarian reform, we find John Howard freeing our prison system from the grossest abuses; Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce abolishing the slave-trade, and preparing the way for the future extinction of slavery itself; Sir Samuel Romilly and other distinguished jurists removing from our penal laws extreme and cruel punishments worthy only of a barbarous age. It was in this reign, too, that Josiah Wedgwood gave to pottery its important place among the manufactures of England, and that Dr. Jenner stayed the ravages of