

and that of Turkey, in October 1827. This battle, which was fought in the harbor of Navarino, on the south-west coast of the Morea, resulted in the total destruction of the Turkish fleet, and the subsequent acknowledgment of the independence of Greece.

9. George IV. died on the 26th of June 1830, in his sixty-eighth year. His influence on public affairs was not very marked. During his reign he visited both Ireland and Scotland, where he was received with outward demonstrations of loyalty, but his character prevented the public from attaching very much weight to his professions of interest in their welfare.

**Death of  
George IV.**

10. This reign was marked by continued improvement in the laws, especially in those relating to crime. Forgery ceased to be a capital offence. The *Metropolitan Police Act* of Sir Robert Peel led to the formation of police forces in all the cities and chief towns of the kingdom. Commercial matters excited great interest, and trade was freed from some of the shackles which had previously hampered it. Mr. Huskisson, President of the Board of Trade, ardently devoted himself to the securing of important changes in the Navigation Laws. It was no longer unlawful for artisans to emigrate, and for machinery to be exported from the kingdom. In 1824 a great rage for speculation in stocks seized on the nation. This resulted in a disastrous financial panic the following year, in which a great number of banks closed their doors, and hundreds of merchants became insolvent.

**Events of  
reign.**

## CHAPTER XLIX.

### HOUSE OF HANOVER.—WILLIAM IV. 1830-1837 A.D.

1. The death of the Princess Charlotte, the only child of George IV., in 1817, and of Frederick Duke of York, the second son of George III., without issue, in 1827, left the succession to the throne to William, Duke of Clarence, third son of George III. As William IV. had served in the navy, he became popularly known as the *Sailor King*. He began to reign at the advanced age of sixty four. In 1818 he had married Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen, by whom he had two daughters, both of whom died in infancy. William was plain in person, undignified in his bearing, and exceedingly blunt in his manners. At the same time his sincerity and frankness made him a very popular King.

**Accession  
and  
character of  
William IV.**

2. The great question attracting public attention at the time of William IV.'s accession was *parliamentary reform*. Large towns and