

two. Thus 143 borough members were set free for distribution. Of these, 65 were added to the county representation, many counties being subdivided for electoral purposes; 22 absolutely new boroughs were created, while some of the larger towns had their representation increased to 2, 3, and even 4 members. Scotland received 53 representatives instead of 45, and Ireland 105 instead of 100. The right of voting in the boroughs was extended to all householders paying a yearly rental of £10, or occupying property rated at that sum; in the counties, freeholds worth 40 shillings a year, copyholds of £10 per annum, and leaseholds of the annual value of £50, conferred the same privilege. The Reform Bill much increased the power of the great middle class of traders, small farmers, and professional men.

5. The first Act of the reformed Parliament, which met in February 1833, was to abolish slavery throughout the British dominions. A measure to that effect had for many years been introduced almost annually by the celebrated William Wilberforce, member for Yorkshire; but the influence of wealthy planters, interested in the sugar trade of the West Indies, had prevented its passage. Wilberforce died just as his favorite Bill was at length passing through Parliament. The measure appropriated £20,000,000 to the owners of the slaves thus set free. The enfranchised blacks numbered nearly seven hundred thousand.

**Abolition of
slavery.**

6. William IV. died on the 20th of June 1837, in the seventy-third year of his age. His children having died in infancy, he left the succession to the throne to his niece, the Princess Alexandrina Victoria, only child of his deceased brother, Edward, Duke of Kent, fourth son of George III.

**Death of
William IV.**

7. William IV.'s reign is memorable for the opening of the first railway for passenger traffic. This was the line between Liverpool and Manchester. The celebration was saddened by the accidental killing by the locomotive-engine of Mr. Huskisson, the celebrated financier. Besides the great measure of freeing the slaves, much useful domestic legislation was effected by the reformed Parliament. The Poor Laws were amended in important particulars. By the *Municipal Reform Act*, the rights of self-government were conferred on the ratepayers of towns and cities. The *Marriage Act* swept away another relic of religious intolerance by permitting Catholics and Dissenters "to marry and to be given in marriage" in their own chapels according to their own rites. A system of national education was provided for Ireland, and an attempt, only partially successful, was made to institute reforms in the same direction in England. The reign of William IV. is also noted for an unsuccessful agitation carried on by Daniel O'Connell with a view to obtain a *repeal of the Union* between England and Ireland. The chief foreign events in which our country was interested were the separation

**Chief
events.**