

The allies were forced to join in the peace negotiations, and finally, in 1713, the treaty of Utrecht was signed. Substantial advantages were gained by Great Britain. Nova Scotia was given up by France, and all claims to Newfoundland and the Hudson Bay Territory were abandoned. Spain ceded Gibraltar and Minorca and agreed to allow one English ship each year to trade with the Spanish possessions in America. The French king also promised that the crowns of France and Spain should not be united, and that he would recognize the Protestant succession in Great Britain.

210. **Social progress and customs.**—It is difficult for us to picture the England of two hundred years ago. The population was about equal to that of London to-day. There were no large factories, no steamboats, no canals, no railways, not even good roads. Coaches were coming into use, but people of quality usually travelled in sedan chairs. Wool was extensively raised and made into cloth in the same valleys where the sheep pastured. The hum of the spinning-wheel and the click of the shuttle made music in every cottage; even children of six or eight years were taught to earn their own living. Eleven hundred looms were in operation in Taunton alone. Stockings, introduced in the time of Elizabeth, were becoming common in the reign of Anne, and nine thousand stocking-looms were now in operation.

Some iron was smelted, but only by charcoal, and this took so much wood that the smelting business was not carried on to any extent. Very few articles of iron were made in Britain; even frying-pans and anvils were imported. Coarse pottery was becoming common, but the peasants still ate off wooden trenchers. Fine porcelain was brought from Holland for the wealthy classes.

The peasants lived in miserable hovels with mud floors and thatched roofs. They received less than one shilling a day, and in summer worked from 5 a.m. to 7.30 p.m., with two hours off for meals. They had few comforts, wore coarse homespun clothes, ate little wheat bread, never tasted tea or coffee, and had meat perhaps twice a week. They were ignorant and often vicious; their pleasures were coarse but