

1921

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CHAPTER VIII

THE HOUSE OF HANOVER

1714—

1. GEORGE I. 1714—1727

213. **Changes in government.**—The new king was in no hurry to leave his German province of Hanover, where he had lived happily for fifty-four years. He was an honourable, well-meaning man, but coarse and lacking in intelligence.

He could not speak English, and the government of Great Britain by a king and a Parliament was a complete mystery to him. He had no choice, therefore, but to intrust the management of affairs to his Cabinet, which was made up entirely of Whigs. The rule of the Cabinet had been growing more and more independent of the sovereign. It became more so in this reign, as George could not understand English, and did not attend its meetings. Some one had to be chosen to preside in the place of the king. To him the title of premier, or prime minister, was afterwards given. The first to be so called was Sir Robert Walpole, who became the head of the Cabinet in 1721.



GEORGE I

214. **The Jacobite rising, 1715.**—The Jacobites had allowed George to be crowned without making any trouble. But the exclusion of the Tories from office, and the belief that the Whigs would repeal the laws against dissenters,