

home life first appeared. In 1752 Great Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar, and henceforth the years began on the first of January.

3. GEORGE III. 1760-1820

229. **George determines to rule.**—For half a century, the power of the ministers, and particularly of those of the



GEORGE III

Whig party, had been constantly increasing. When George III came to the throne, he had one very distinct idea in his mind, and that was that the king, and not his ministers, should rule the land. He was, however, a good, kind-hearted man, sincerely anxious to do what was best for the country. He was obstinate, but his obstinacy was not exactly wilfulness; it was rather an inability to see that there was any other way than the one he had chosen.

230. **The treaty of Paris.**—

George was determined to drive Pitt from power, in order to put in his place a man who would be a mere mouthpiece of the court. The Earl of Bute was accordingly taken into the Cabinet, and he at once headed a strong peace party, the members of which began to clamour for the close of the war. But Pitt had information that Spain had entered into a secret treaty with France against Great Britain, and he proposed to strike a blow at once by seizing the Spanish treasure ships. The peace party would not listen to the proposal, and Pitt was compelled to resign. "Pitt disgraced is worth two victories to us," wrote a French diplomat. Three weeks later Spain declared war, but suffered several severe defeats. Bute, however, who had now become premier, was eager to end the war, and peace was finally concluded at Paris in 1763.