

very coarsest, had been imported from other countries. Now it was discovered that the finest of potteries could be made from the clays of England. Soon after Josiah Wedgwood had established the extensive works that still bear his name, there were twenty thousand potters employed in a single shire.

At the beginning of George's reign, the roads of Britain, with few exceptions, were often impassable, but at the close, the whole kingdom was covered with a network of excellent highways. Part of the credit of building these new roads belongs to a Scotsman, named Macadam, who invented the roadway now called by his name. Formerly it had been impossible to transport coal in wagons over the roads, so it was generally carried in bags slung over the backs of mules. With good roads, and still more by the cutting of numerous canals, the price of coal dropped, so that it was possible to obtain it in any part of the kingdom at a reasonable cost. In this way, also, the great coal and iron deposits could now be brought together. The first canal had been constructed by James Brindley, who was laughed at when he began his work, but who persevered and in the end met with success.

These inventions and improvements brought many evils in their train. Many men were, at first, thrown out of employment; the people herded into the villages and towns; workmen were crowded together in ill-ventilated factories; women and children were employed not only in the factories, but also in the mines. In fact, many of the most troublesome questions with which the government had to deal early in the next century grew out of the industrial development of this period.

238. Prison reform.—In the early days of George III, the jails were generally in the most disgraceful state, filthy beyond description, and alive with rats and vermin. Men, women, and children were huddled together in small, damp, sunless rooms. The jailers were paid by fees, and were allowed to practise every cruelty to extort money from the unfortunate prisoners. Even when discharged, a prisoner was often dragged back to jail because he could not pay the