

of O'Connell. Accordingly, in 1829, the Catholic Relief Bill was passed, and received, after some opposition, the assent of the king. At last it was possible for a Roman Catholic to have a voice in making the laws for his country. All political offices except that of the throne, the regency, the lord chancellorship, and the lord lieutenantancy of Ireland were, from this time, open to Roman Catholics.

249. Death of George IV.—King George died in the summer of 1830, little regretted by the British nation. He had squandered millions of the people's money and had stood in the way of every reform.

SUMMARY

The social unrest of the country still continued, although many changes for the better were made. The criminal laws became less severe and the trade of the country was increased by wise legislation. The Catholic Relief Bill was passed in 1829.

5. WILLIAM IV. 1830-1837

250. The "Sailor King."—William was a bluff, hearty old man of sixty-five when he began to reign. His life had been spent in the navy, so that the people gave him the name of the "Sailor King." He was a friend of the people, and throughout his reign used his best efforts on their behalf.



WILLIAM IV

251. Reforms in electing members of Parliament.—Reforms and inventions, and not wars, make up the history of William's reign. The first reform was in the method of electing members of Parliament. In the time of Henry III, two knights repre-

sented each shire, or county. Later, representatives were sent from some of the towns, or boroughs. Which towns