

coaches, and post-chaises, throughout the kingdom, we deem them and their visionary schemes unworthy of notice. It is a gross exaggeration to say that a locomotive could be made to go fifteen miles an hour, and even if it should, the danger of bursting boilers and broken wheels would be so great that the people would suffer themselves to be fired off on a rocket about as soon as they would trust themselves on a machine going at such a rate of speed." But the bill allowing the railway to be built passed, and Stephenson's new locomotive, the "Rocket," was found to be able to go at the rate of thirty-five miles an hour without hurting any one. In the ten years after 1830, more than two thousand miles of road were built and equipped in England alone.

During this reign also the first iron ship was built and the first friction match invented. A company was also formed in London for the purpose of manufacturing from coal illuminating-gas to light the streets of the city.

254. **Separation of Hanover and Great Britain.**—William had passed his threescore and ten years, and died in 1837. Up to this time, the kings of Great Britain had been rulers of Hanover also. But by the law of Hanover, only males could succeed to the throne; therefore, when William's niece, Victoria, became queen of England, his younger brother, the Duke of Cumberland, became king of Hanover, thus separating the two countries.

#### SUMMARY

The reign of the "Sailor King" was noted chiefly for its reforms. The principal ones were the extension of the franchise, the abolition of the "rotten boroughs," of some of the worst features of child-labour, and of slavery in the colonies. Men accused of crime were then, for the first time, allowed to have the aid of a lawyer. The general character of these reforms indicated a gain in public sympathy for those that needed help. Railways began to be built about this time.

#### 6. VICTORIA. 1837-1901

255. **Early life and marriage.**—When Victoria was yet a little girl, it was almost certain that she would become