

**29. The American Revolution.**—The king's power reached its greatest height between 1770–1782. He made most disastrous use of it, not only at home, but abroad. He insisted that the English colonists in America should pay taxes without representation in Parliament, even of that imperfect kind which then existed in Great Britain. This determination brought on the American Revolution—called in England the “King's War.” The war, in spite of its ardent support by the “King's Friends,” roused a powerful opposition in Parliament. Chatham, Burke, Fox, and other able men protested against the king's arbitrary course. Finally Dunning moved and carried this resolution (1780) in the Commons: “Resolved, that the power of the crown has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished.” This vigorous proposition came too late to affect the conduct of the war, and England lost the most valuable of her colonial possessions. The struggle, which ended successfully for the patriots in America, was in reality part of the same battle fought in England by other patriots in the halls of Parliament. On the western side of the Atlantic it resulted in the establishment of national independence; on the eastern side, in the final overthrow of royal tyranny and the triumph of the constitution. It furthermore laid the foundation of that just and generous policy on the part of England toward her other colonies, which has made her mistress of the largest and most prosperous empire on the globe.

**30. John Wilkes and the Middlesex Elections; Publication of Parliamentary Debates.**—Meanwhile John Wilkes, a member of the House of Commons, had gained the recognition of a most important principle. He was a coarse and violent opponent of the royal policy, and had been expelled from the House on account of his bitter personal attack on the king.<sup>1</sup> Several years later (1768) he was re-elected to Parliament, but was again expelled for seditious libel;<sup>2</sup> he was three times re-elected by the people of London and Middlesex, who looked upon him as the champion of their cause; each time the House refused to permit him to take his seat, but at the fourth election he was successful. A few years later (1782) he induced the House to strike out from its journal the resolution there recorded against him.<sup>3</sup> Thus Wilkes, by his indomitable persistency, succeeded in establishing the right of the people to elect the candidate of their choice to Parliament. During the same period the people gained another great victory over Parliament. That body had utterly refused to permit the debates to be reported in the newspapers. But the redoubtable Wilkes was determined to obtain and publish such reports; rather than have another prolonged battle with him, Parliament conceded the privilege (1771). The result was that the public now, for the first time, began to know what business Parliament actually transacted, and how it was done. This fact of course rendered the members of both houses far more

<sup>1</sup> In No. 45 of the *North Briton* (1763) Wilkes rudely accused the King of having deliberately uttered a falsehood in his speech to Parliament.

<sup>2</sup> The libel was contained in a letter written to the newspapers by Wilkes.

<sup>3</sup> The resolution was finally stricken out, on the ground that it was “subversive of the rights of the whole body of electors.”

directly responsible to the will of the people than they had ever been before.<sup>1</sup>

**31. The Reform Bills of 1832, 1867, 1885; Demand for “Manhood Suffrage.”**—But notwithstanding this decided political progress, still the greatest reform of all—that of the system of electing members of Parliament—still remained to be accomplished. Cromwell had attempted it (1654), but the Restoration put an end to the work which the Protector had so wisely begun. Lord Chatham felt the necessity so strongly that he had not hesitated to declare (1766) that the system of representation—or rather misrepresentation—which then existed was the “rotten part of the constitution.” “If it does not drop,” said he, “it must be amputated.” Later (1770) he became so alarmed at the prospect that he declared that “before the end of the century either the Parliament will reform itself from within, or be reformed from without with a vengeance.”

But the excitement caused by the French Revolution and the wars with Napoleon, not only prevented any general movement of reform, but made it possible to enact stringent laws against agitation in that direction.<sup>2</sup> Finally, however, the unrepresented millions refused to endure their condition any longer. They rose in their might,<sup>3</sup> and by terrible riots made it evident that it would be dangerous for Parliament to postpone action on their demands. The Reform Bill—“the Great Charter of 1832”—was passed. It swept away the “rotten boroughs,” which had so long been a disgrace to the country. It granted the right of election to many large towns in the midlands and the north which had hitherto been unable to send members to Parliament, and it placed representation on a broader, healthier, and more equitable basis than had ever existed before. It was a significant fact that when the first reformed Parliament met, composed largely of Liberals, it showed its true spirit by abolishing slavery in the West Indies. Later (1848) the Chartists advocated further reforms,<sup>4</sup> most of which have since been adopted.

In 1867 an act,<sup>5</sup> scarcely less important than that of 1832, broadened representation still further; and in 1888 the franchise was again extended. A little later (1888) the County Council Act reconstructed the local self-government of the country in great measure.<sup>6</sup> The cry is now for unrestricted “manhood suffrage,”—woman suffrage in a limited degree already exists,<sup>7</sup>—and the demand is also for the recognition of the principle of “one man one vote.”<sup>8</sup>

**32. Extension of Religious Liberty; Admission of Catholics and Jews to Parliament; Free Trade.**—Meanwhile immense prog-

<sup>1</sup> The publication of Division Lists (equivalent to Yeas and Nays) by the House of Commons in 1836 and by the Lords in 1857 completed this work. Since then the public have known how each member of Parliament votes on every important question.

<sup>2</sup> See pages 345, 346. <sup>3</sup> See pages 349–354. <sup>4</sup> See pages 363, 364. <sup>5</sup> See pages 373, 374. <sup>6</sup> The Local Government or County Council Act: this gives to counties the management of their local affairs and secures uniformity of method and of administration. See Chambers' Encyclopædia (revised ed.) “County Councils.” <sup>7</sup> See page 373 and Note 4.

<sup>8</sup> That is, the abolition of certain franchise privileges springing from the possession of landed property in different counties or Parliamentary districts, by which the owner of such property is entitled to cast more than one vote for a candidate for Parliament.



ress was made in extending the principles of religious liberty to all bodies of believers. After nearly three hundred years (or since the Second Act of Supremacy, 1559), Catholics were (1830) admitted to the House of Commons; and in the next generation (1858) Jews were likewise admitted. Recent legislation (the Oaths' Act of 1888) makes it impossible to exclude any one on account of his religious belief or unbelief.

Commercially the nation has made equal progress. The barbarous corn-laws<sup>1</sup> were repealed in 1848, the narrow protective policy of centuries abandoned; and since that period England has practically taken its stand on unlimited free trade with all countries.

**33. Condition of Ireland; Reform in the Land and the Church Laws; Civil Service Reform; Education; Conclusion.**—In one direction, however, there had been no advance. Ireland was politically united to Great Britain<sup>2</sup> at the beginning of the century (1801); but long after the Irish Catholics had obtained the right of representation in Parliament, they were compelled to submit to unjust land laws, and also to contribute to the support of the Established (Protestant) Church in Ireland. Finally, through the efforts of Mr. Gladstone and others, this branch of the Church was disestablished (1869);<sup>3</sup> later (1870 and 1881) important reforms were effected in the Irish land laws.<sup>4</sup>

To supplement the great electoral reforms which had so widely extended the power of the popular vote, two other measures were now carried. One was that of Civil Service Reform (1870), which opened all clerkships and similar positions in the gift of the government to the free competition of candidates, without regard to their political opinions. This did away with most of that demoralizing system of favoritism which makes government offices the spoils by which successful political parties reward "little men for little services."

The same year (1870) England, chiefly through Mr. Forster's efforts, took up the second measure, the question of national education. The conviction gained ground that if the working-classes are to vote, then they must not be allowed to remain in ignorance—the nation declared "we must educate our future masters." In this spirit a system of elementary government schools was established, which gives instruction to tens of thousands of children who hitherto were forced to grow up without its advantages.<sup>5</sup> These schools are not yet wholly free, although recent legislation<sup>6</sup> practically puts most of them on that basis.

Thus England stands to-day on a strong and broad foundation of liberal political suffrage and of national education. The tendencies now indicate that before many years both will become absolutely free and absolutely universal.

This brief sketch of English Constitutional History shows conclusively that the nation's record is one of slow but certain progress. To-day England stands a monarchy in name, but a republic in fact; a sovereign reigns, but the people rule. The future is in their hands.

<sup>1</sup> Corn Laws: see pages 365-368. <sup>2</sup> On the union of Scotland with England, see page 298.

<sup>3</sup> See page 375.

<sup>4</sup> See pages 376, 377.

<sup>5</sup> See page 375.

<sup>6</sup> The Assisted Education Act of 1891. This gives such a degree of government assistance to elementary schools that the instruction in them is now virtually rendered free.

**Abstract of the Articles of Magna Carta (1215).**—1. "The Church of England shall be free, and have her whole rights, and her liberties inviolable." The freedom of elections of ecclesiastics by the Church is confirmed. 2-8. Feudal rights guaranteed, and abuses remedied. 9-11. Treatment of debtors alleviated. 12. "No scutage or aid [except the three customary feudal aids] shall be imposed in our kingdom, unless by the Common Council of the realm."<sup>1</sup> 13. London, and all towns, to have their ancient liberties. 14. The King binds himself to summon the Common Council of the realm respecting the assessing of an aid (except as provided in 12) or a scutage.<sup>1</sup> 15, 16. Guarantee of feudal rights to tenants. 17-19. Provisions respecting holding certain courts. 20, 21. Of amercements. They are to be proportionate to the offence, and imposed according to the oath of honest men in the neighborhood. No amercement to touch the necessary means of subsistence of a free man, the merchandise of a merchant, or the agricultural tools of a villein; earls and barons to be amerced by their equals. 23-34. Miscellaneous, minor articles. 35. Weights and measures to be uniform. 36. Nothing shall be given or taken, for the future, for the Writ of Inquisition of life or limb, but it shall be freely granted, and not denied.<sup>2</sup> 37, 38. Provisions respecting land tenure and trials at law. 39. "No FREEMAN SHALL BE TAKEN OR IMPRISONED, OR DISSEIZED, OR OUTLAWED, OR BANISHED, OR ANY WAYS DESTROYED, NOR WILL WE PASS UPON HIM, NOR WILL WE SEND UPON HIM, UNLESS BY THE LAWFUL JUDGMENT OF HIS PEERS, OR BY THE LAW OF THE LAND." 40. "We will sell to no man, we will not deny to any man, either justice or right." 41, 42. Provisions respecting merchants, and freedom of entering and quitting the realm, except in war time. 43-46. Minor provisions. 47, 48. Provisions disafforesting all forests seized by John, and guaranteeing forest rights to subjects. 49-60. Various minor provisions. 62. Provision for carrying out the charter by the barons in case the King fails in the performance of his agreement. 63. The freedom of the Church reaffirmed. Every one in the kingdom to have and hold his liberties and rights.

"Given under our hand, in the presence of the witnesses above named, and many others, in the meadow called Runnymede between Windsor and Staines, the 15th day of June, in the 17th of our reign." [Here is appended the King's seal.]

**Confirmation of the Charters by Edward I. (1297).**—In 1297 Edward I. confirmed Magna Carta and the Forest Charter granted by Henry III. in 1217 by letters patent. The document consists of seven articles, of which the following, namely, the sixth and seventh, are the most important.

6. Moreover we have granted for us and our heirs, as well to archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, and other folk of holy Church, as also to earls, barons, and to all the commonalty of the land, that for no business from henceforth will we take such manner of aids, tasks, nor prises but by the common consent of the realm, and for the common profit thereof, saving the ancient aids and prises due and accustomed.

7. And for so much as the more part of the commonalty of the realm find themselves sore grieved with the maletoke [i.e. an unjust tax or duty] of wools, that is to wit, a toll of forty shillings for every sack of wool, and have made petition to us to release the same; we, at their requests, have clearly released it, and have granted for us and our heirs that we shall not take such thing nor any other without their common assent and good will; saving to us and our heirs the custom of wools, skins, and leather, granted before by the commonalty aforesaid. In witness of which things we have caused these our letters to be made patents. Witness Edward our son, at London, the 10th day of October, the five-and-twentieth of our reign.

And be it remembered that this same Charter, in the same terms, word for word, was sealed in Flanders under the King's Great Seal, that is to say, at Ghent, the 5th day of November, in the 25th year of the reign of our aforesaid Lord the King, and sent into England.

#### THE PETITION OF RIGHT.

JUNE 7, 1628.

*The Petition exhibited to His Majesty by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, concerning divers Rights and Liberties of the Subjects, with the King's Majesty's Royal Answer thereunto in full Parliament.*

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY: Humbly show unto our Sovereign Lord the King, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in Parliament assembled, that whereas it is declared and enacted by a statute made in the time of the reign of King Edward

<sup>1</sup> These important articles were omitted when Magna Carta was reissued in 1216 by Henry III. Stubbs says they were never restored; but Edward I., in his Confirmation of the Charters, seems to reaffirm them. See the Confirmation; see also Gneist's Eng. Const., II, 9.

<sup>2</sup> This article is regarded by some authorities as the prototype of the statute of *Habeas Corpus*; others consider that it is implied in Articles 39-40.



the First, commonly called *Statutum de Tallagio non concedendo*,<sup>1</sup> that no tallage [here, a tax levied by the King upon the lands of the crown, and upon all royal towns] or aid shall be laid or levied by the King or his heirs in this realm, without the goodwill and assent of the Archbishops, Bishops, Earls, Barons, Knights, Burgesses, and other the freemen of the commonalty of this realm: and by authority of Parliament holden in the five and twentieth year of the reign of King Edward the Third, it is declared and enacted, that from thenceforth no person shall be compelled to make any loans to the King against his will, because such loans were against reason and the franchise of the land: and by other laws of this realm it is provided, that none should be charged by any charge or imposition, called a Benevolence, or by such like charge, by which the statutes before-mentioned, and other the good laws and statutes of this realm, your subjects have inherited this freedom, that they should not be compelled to contribute to any tax, tallage, aid, or other like charge, nor set by common consent in Parliament.

Yet nevertheless, of late divers commissions directed to sundry Commissioners in several counties with instructions have issued; by means whereof your people have been in divers places assembled, and required to lend certain sums of money unto your Majesty, and many of them upon their refusal so to do, have had an oath administered unto them, not warrantable by the laws or statutes of this realm, and have been constrained to become bound to make appearance and give attendance before your Privy Council, and in other places, and others of them have been therefore imprisoned, confined, and sundry other ways molested and distressed: and divers other charges have been laid and levied upon your people in several counties, by Lords Lieutenants, Deputy Lieutenants, Commissioners for Musters, Justices of Peace and others, by command or direction from your Majesty or your Privy Council, against the laws and free customs of this realm:

And where also by the statute called, "The Great Charter of the Liberties of England," it is declared and enacted, that no freeman may be taken or imprisoned or be disseised of his freeholds or liberties, or his free customs, or be outlawed or exiled; or in any manner destroyed, but by the lawful judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land:

And in the eight and twentieth year of the reign of King Edward the Third, it was declared and enacted by authority of Parliament, that no man of what estate or condition that he be, should be put out of his lands or tenements, nor taken, nor imprisoned, nor disherited, nor put to death, without being brought to answer by due process of law:

Nevertheless, against the tenor of the said statutes, and other the good laws and statutes of your realm, to that end provided, divers of your subjects have of late been imprisoned without any cause showed, and when for their deliverance they were brought before your Justices, by your Majesty's writs of Habeas Corpus, there to undergo and receive as the Court should order, and their keepers commanded to certify the causes of their detainer; no cause was certified, but that they were detained by your Majesty's special command, signified by the Lords of your Privy Council, and yet were returned back to several prisons, without being charged with anything to which they might make answer according to law:

And whereas of late great companies of soldiers and mariners have been dispersed into divers counties of the realm, and the inhabitants against their wills have been compelled to receive them into their houses, and there to suffer them to sojourn, against the laws and customs of this realm, and to the great grievance and vexation of the people:

And whereas also by authority of Parliament, in the 25th year of the reign of King Edward the Third, it is declared and enacted, that no man shall be forejudged of life or limb against the form of the Great Charter, and the law of the land: and by the said Great Charter and other the laws and statutes of this your realm, no man ought to be adjudged to death; but by the laws established in this your realm, either by the customs of the same realm or by Acts of Parliament: and whereas no offender of what kind soever is exempted from the proceedings to be used, and punishments to be inflicted by the laws and statutes of this your realm: nevertheless of late divers commissions under your Majesty's Great Seal have issued forth, by which certain persons have been assigned and appointed Commissioners with power and authority to proceed within the land, according to the justice of martial law against such soldiers and mariners, or other dissolute persons joining with them, as should commit any murder, robbery, felony, mutiny, or other outrage or misdemeanour whatsoever, and by such summary course and order, as is agreeable to martial law, and is used in armies in time of war, to proceed to the trial and condemnation of such offenders, and them to cause to be executed and put to death, according to the law martial:

By pretext whereof, some of your Majesty's subjects have been by some of the said Commissioners put to death, when and where, if by the laws and statutes of the land they had deserved death, by the same laws and statutes also they might, and by no other ought to have been, adjudged and executed.

<sup>1</sup> A Statute concerning Tallage not granted by Parliament. This is now held not to have been a statute. See Gardiner's *Documents of the Puritan Revolution*, page 1. It is considered by Stubbs an unauthorized and imperfect abstract of Edward I.'s Confirmation of the Charters — which see.

And also sundry grievous offenders by colour thereof, claiming an exemption, have escaped the punishments due to them by the laws and statutes of this your realm, by reason that divers of your officers and ministers of justice have unjustly refused, or forborne to proceed against such offenders according to the same laws and statutes, upon pretence that the said offenders were punishable only by martial law, and by authority of such commissions as aforesaid, which commissions, and all other of like nature, are wholly and directly contrary to the said laws and statutes of this your realm:

*They do therefore humbly pray your Most Excellent Majesty, that no man hereafter be compelled to make or yield any gift, loan, benevolence, tax, or such like charge, without common consent by Act of Parliament; and that none be called to make answer, or take such oath, or to give attendance, or be confined, or otherwise molested or disquieted concerning the same, or for refusal thereof; and that no freeman, in any such manner as is before-mentioned, be imprisoned or detained; and that your Majesty will be pleased to remove the said soldiers and mariners, and that your people may not be so burdened in time to come; and that the foresaid commissions for proceeding by martial law, may be revoked and annulled; and that hereafter no commissions of like nature may issue forth to any person or persons whatsoever, to be executed as aforesaid, test by colour of them any of your Majesty's subjects be destroyed or put to death, contrary to the laws and franchise of the land.*

All which they most humbly pray of your Most Excellent Majesty, as their rights and liberties according to the laws and statutes of this realm: and that your Majesty would also vouchsafe to declare, that the awards, doings, and proceedings to the prejudice of your people, in any of the premises, shall not be drawn hereafter into consequence or example: and that your Majesty would be also graciously pleased, for the further comfort and safety of your people, to declare your royal will and pleasure, that in the things aforesaid all your officers and ministers shall serve you, according to the laws and statutes of this realm, as they tender the honour of your Majesty, and the prosperity of this kingdom.

[Which Petition being read the 2nd of June 1628, the King gave the following evasive and unsatisfactory answer, instead of the usual one, given below.]

The King willeth that right be done according to the laws and customs of the realm; and that the statutes be put in due execution, that his subjects may have no cause to complain of any wrong or oppressions, contrary to their just rights and liberties, to the preservation whereof he holds himself as well obliged as of his prerogative.

On June 7 the King decided to make answer in the accustomed form, *Soit droit fait comme est désiré*. [Equivalent to the form of royal assent, "le roi (or la reine) le veult." See page 362, Note 3. On the Petition of Right see Hallam and compare Gardiner's England and his Documents of the Puritan Revolution.

**The Bill of Rights (1689).** — This Bill consists of thirteen Articles, of which the following is an abstract. It begins by stating that "Whereas the late King James II., by the advice of divers evil counsellors, judges, and ministers employed by him, did endeavor to subvert and extirpate the Protestant religion, and the laws and liberties of this Kingdom:" 1. By dispensing with and suspending the laws without consent of Parliament. 2. By prosecuting worthy bishops for humbly petitioning him to be excused for concurring in the same assumed power. 3. By erecting a High Commission Court. 4. By levying money without consent of Parliament. 5. By keeping a standing army in time of peace without consent of Parliament. 6. By disarming Protestants and arming Papists. 7. By violating the freedom of elections. 8. By arbitrary and illegal prosecutions. 9. By putting corrupt and unqualified persons on juries. 10. By requiring excessive bail. 11. By imposing excessive fines and cruel punishments. 12. By granting fines and forfeiture against persons before their conviction.

It is then declared that "the late King James the Second having abdicated the government, and the throne being thereby vacant," therefore the Prince of Orange ("whom it hath pleased Almighty God to make the glorious instrument of delivering their kingdom from Popery and arbitrary power") did by the advice of "the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and divers principal persons of the Commons" summon in Convention Parliament.

This Convention Parliament declares, that the acts above enumerated are contrary to law. They then bestow the Crown on William and Mary — the sole regal power to be vested only in the Prince of Orange — and provide that after the decease of William and Mary the Crown shall descend "to the heirs of the body of the said Princess; and, for default of such issue, to the heirs of the body of the said Prince of Orange."

Here follows new oaths of allegiance and supremacy in lieu of those formerly required. The subsequent articles are as follows: IV. Recites the acceptance of the Crown by William and Mary. V. The Convention Parliament to provide for "the settlement of the religion,

<sup>1</sup> The Princess Anne, sister of the Princess Mary, married Prince George of Denmark in 1683; hence she is here styled "the Princess of Denmark."



laws and liberties of the Kingdom." VI. All the clauses in the Bill of Rights are "the true, ancient, and indubitable rights and liberties of the people of this Kingdom." VII. Recognition and declaration of William and Mary as King and Queen. VIII. Repetition of the settlement of the Crown and limitations of the succession. IX. Exclusion from the Crown of all persons holding communion with the "Church of Rome" or who "profess the Popish religion" or who "shall marry a Papist." X. Every King or Queen hereafter succeeding to the Crown to assent to the Act [*i.e.* the Test Act of 1673] "disabling Papists from sitting in either House of Parliament." XI. The King and Queen assent to all the articles of the Bill of Rights. XII. The Dispensing Power abolished. XIII. Exception made in favor of charters, grants, and pardons made before October 23, 1689.

**The Act of Settlement (1700-1701).**<sup>1</sup>—Excludes Roman Catholics from succession to the Crown; and declares that if a Roman Catholic obtains the Crown, "the people of these realms shall be and are thereby absolved of their allegiance." Settles the Crown on the Electress Sophia,<sup>2</sup> and "the heirs of her body being Protestants." Requires the sovereign to join in communion with the Church of England. No war to be undertaken in defence of any territories not belonging to the English Crown except with the consent of Parliament. Judges to hold their office during good behavior. No pardon by the Crown to be pleadable against an impeachment by the House of Commons.

#### MISCELLANEOUS ACTS AND LAWS.

**I. Bill of Attainder.**—This was a bill (which might in itself decree sentence of death) passed by Parliament, by which, originally, the blood of a person held to be convicted of treason or felony was declared to be *attainted* or corrupted so that his power to inherit, transmit, or hold property was destroyed. After Henry VIII.'s reign the law was modified so as not to work "corruption of blood" in the case of new felonies. Under the Stuarts, Bills of Attainder were generally brought only in cases where the Commons believed that impeachment would fail—as in the cases of Strafford and Laud. It should be noticed that in an impeachment the Commons bring the accusation, and the Lords alone act as judges; but that in a Bill of Attainder the Commons—that is, the accusers—themselves act as judges, as well as the Lords.

**II. Statute of *Præmunire* (1393).**—This statute was enacted to check the power claimed by the Pope in England in cases which interfered with power claimed by the King, as in appeals made to the Court of Rome respecting Church matters, over which the King's court had jurisdiction. The statute received its name from the writ served on the party who had broken the law: "*Præmunire facias* A. B."; that is, "Cause A. B. to be forewarned" that he appear before us to answer the contempt with which he stands charged. Henry VIII. made use of this statute in order to compel the clergy to accept his supremacy over the English Church.

**III. Habeas Corpus Act (1679).**—The name of this celebrated statute is derived from its referring to the opening words of the writ: "*Habeas corpus ad subjiendum*" (see page 269, Note 1). Sir James Mackintosh declares that the essence of the statute is contained in clauses 39, 40 of Magna Carta—which see. The right to habeas corpus was conceded by the Petition of Right and also by the Statute of 1640. But in order to better secure the liberty of the subject and for prevention of imprisonments beyond the seas, the Habeas Corpus Act of 1679 was enacted, regulating the issue and return of writs of habeas corpus.

The principal provisions of the Act are: 1. Jailers (except in cases of commitment for treason or felony) must within three days of the reception of the writ produce the prisoner in court, unless the court is at a distance, when the time may be extended to twenty days at the most. 2. A jailer, refusing to do this, forfeits £100 for the first offence, and £200 for the second. 3. No one set at liberty upon any Habeas Corpus to be re-committed for the same offence except by the court having jurisdiction of the case. 4. The Act not to apply to cases of debt.

<sup>1</sup> This act, says Taswell Langmead, is "the Title Deed of the reigning Dynasty, and a veritable original contract between the Crown and the People."

<sup>2</sup> The Electress Sophia was the granddaughter of James I.; she married the Elector of Hanover, and became mother of George I. See page 403.

## SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL DATES IN ENGLISH HISTORY.<sup>1</sup>

[The \* marks the most important dates.]

### I. THE PREHISTORIC PERIOD.

Britain part of the continent of Europe.  
The Rough-Stone Age.  
The Polished-Stone Age.  
Age of Bronze begins, 1500 B.C.?  
Britain mentioned (?) by the name of the "Tin Islands" by Herodotus, B.C. 450.  
Britain mentioned by the name of "Albion" by Aristotle? B.C. 350?  
Pytheas visits and describes Britain, B.C. 330?  
Introduction of Iron, B.C. 250?

### II. THE ROMAN PERIOD, B.C. 55, 54; A.D. 43-410.

\*Cæsar lands in Britain, B.C. 55 and 54.  
Claudius begins the conquest of Britain, A.D. 43.  
Caractacus taken prisoner, 50.  
Slaughter of the Druids, 41.  
Revolt of Boadicea, 61.  
Establishment of the Roman power by Agricola, 78-84.  
Agricola builds a line of forts, 81.  
Hadrian's Wall, 121?  
\*Britain abandoned by the Romans, 410.

### III. THE SAXON, OR EARLY ENGLISH, PERIOD, 449-1013; 1042-1066.

\*The Jutes settle in Kent, 449.  
Ella and Cissa found the kingdom of Sussex, 477.  
Cerdic founds the kingdom of Wessex, 495.  
Arthur defeats the Saxons, 520?  
The Angles settle Northumbria, 547.  
Gildas writes his history of Britain, 550?  
\*Landing of Augustine; conversion of Kent, 597.  
Cædmon, first English poet, 664.  
Church council at Whitby, 664.

Conversion of Northumbria, 667.  
Church bells first mentioned by Bede, 680.  
Bede, the historian, dies, 735.  
Egbert takes refuge at the court of Charlemagne, 786.  
First landing of the Danes in England, 789.  
\*Egbert (king of Wessex, conquers a large part of the country (827), and takes the title of "King of the English"), 828.  
Alfred the Great, 871.  
The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle becomes important from about this time, 871.  
\*Treaty of Wedmore, 879.  
Alfred issues his code of laws, 890.  
Alfred builds a fleet, 897.  
Frithgilds (for mutual defence, etc.) mentioned about 930?  
Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 960.  
\*Britain is called England, 960?  
Struggle between the regular and secular clergy, 975.  
Invasion of the Danes—Danegeld paid by decree of the Witan for the first time, 991.

### IV. DANISH PERIOD, 1013-1042.

Swegn, the Dane, is acknowledged king of the English, 1013.  
Edward (afterward King Edward the Confessor) is taken to Normandy, where he remains until 1042, 1013.  
Canute, the Dane, chosen king, 1017.  
Divides England into four great earldoms, 1017.  
Godwin made Earl of Wessex, 1020.

### V. THE SAXON, OR EARLY ENGLISH, PERIOD (RESTORED), 1042-1066.

Edward the Confessor, 1042.  
Edward begins building Westminster Abbey, 1049.

<sup>1</sup> Many early dates are approximate only.