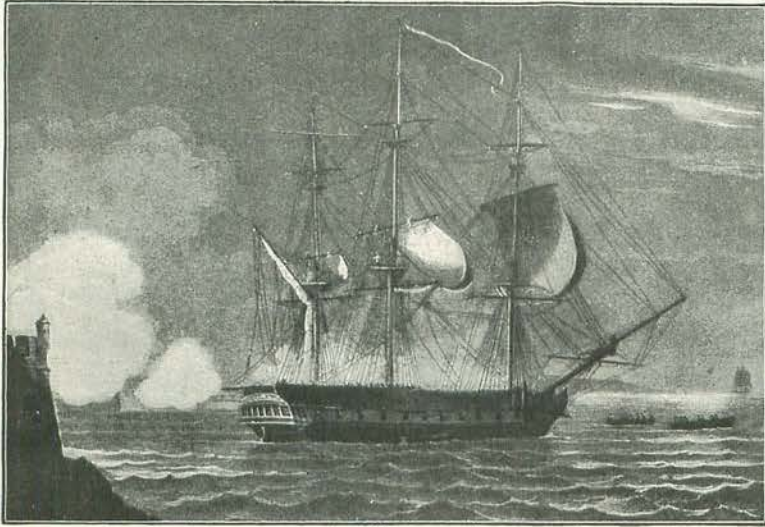


## A Hundred Years Ago (1800).

BY ALFRED WHITMAN. WITH ILLUSTRATIONS FROM OLD PRINTS.



THE CUTTING-OUT OF THE "HERMIONE," JANUARY, 1800.



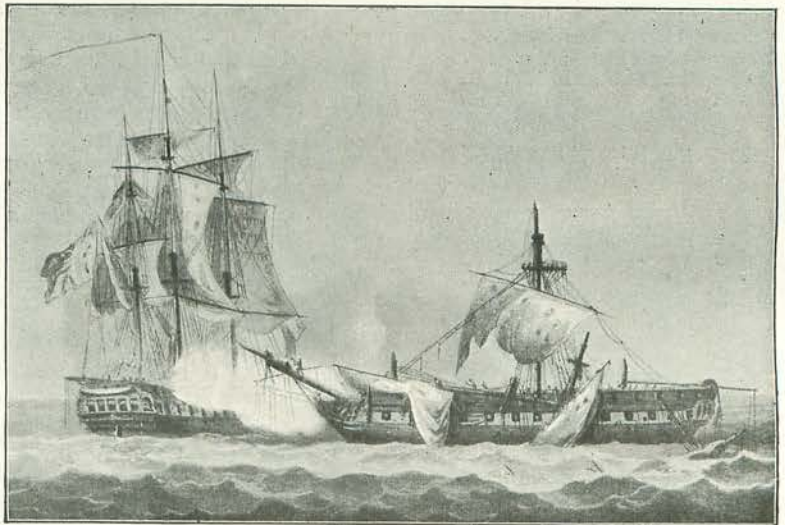
ALTHOUGH, as in the preceding and succeeding years, England was at war, during the last twelve months of the eighteenth century no great engagements took place either at sea or on the Continent. While we were taking breath after the great naval battles of St. Vincent, Camperdown, and the Nile, and after the military victories at Seringapatam and Acre, we were making our plans and completing our preparations for the campaign which was to culminate at Trafalgar. During 1800 the belligerents were closely watching each other, and many naval duels took place.

Our first two illustrations give us two brilliant naval achievements. On January 21st news reached this country of the cutting-out of the *Hermione* from Porto Cavallo, Jamaica, which the admiral truly described as "as daring and gallant an enterprise as is to be found in

our naval annals." The vessel had treacherously been allowed to pass into the enemy's hands, and the scheme of Captain Hamilton, of the *Surprise*, for her recapture was to board the *Hermione* himself with fifty chosen men, and while he was disputing for the possession of the ship the remainder of his men were to row in boats to the *Hermione's* cables, cut them, and then tow the

vessel out of the harbour to the *Surprise*, where, if necessary, the contest might be renewed on more favourable terms, as the harbour was protected by some two hundred cannon. Steady execution of the scheme, three and a half hours of determined attack, and indomitable pluck crowned the daring venture with success. Captain Hamilton reported to his admiral that "every officer and man on this expedition behaved with an uncommon degree of valour and exertion."

The capture of *La Vengeance* by Captain Milne in the *Seine*, a vessel of much inferior



THE CAPTURE OF "LA VENGEANCE," AUGUST 21ST.

force to that of his opponent, was also accomplished in the West Indies. It was a matter of a hard chase, a duel at long range, then a separation till the morning (August 21st), and then a desperate encounter. At the end of an hour and a half a French officer climbed out on the bowsprit of *La Vengeance*, as seen in the print, and signalled his surrender. The terribly torn condition of the enemy's vessel is fully borne out by the captain's despatch to the Admiralty, which says: "The behaviour of the officers and ship's company was such as has always characterized the British seaman."

Perhaps this may be the place to note that in 1800 England's naval establishment was estimated at 100,000 men, while in the Army were 168,082 soldiers and 23,370 marines, exclusive of Ireland's total of 126,500 and the Volunteers.

Great consternation was experienced when the news spread that an attempt had been made to assassinate the King. On the evening of May 15th George III., with the Royal Family, went to Drury Lane Theatre to witness the play of "She would and she would not"; and being a "command" performance, the house was extremely crowded. As the King entered the theatre the assembled company rose to receive and greet the Royal Family; when, "as His Majesty was advancing to bow to the audience, an assassin, who had placed himself about the middle of the second row of the pit, raised his arm and fired a pistol which was levelled towards the Royal box." Fortunately the bullet missed its intended mark. "The Duke and Duchess of York hastened to the King, who was eagerly surrounded by his family. A more affectionate and interesting circumstance cannot be imagined."

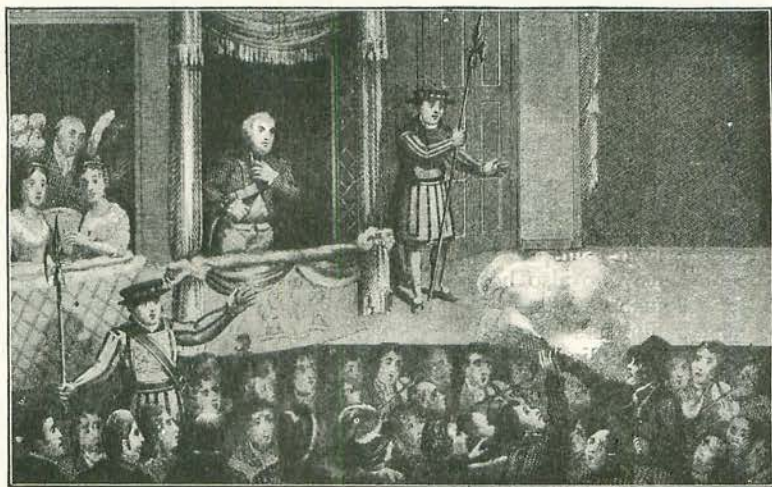
The culprit was hurried out to the music-room, where an examination was at once conducted by William Addington, the Bow Street magistrate, assisted by the Dukes of Clarence and Cumberland, and R. B. Sheri-

dan. Meanwhile, in the theatre, the audience "universally demanded the National Anthem," which was sung by all the vocal performers "and encored," Sheridan improvising the following extra verse:—

From every latent foe,  
From the Assassin's blow,  
God save the King!  
O'er him Thine arms extend,  
For Britain's sake defend,  
Our Father, Prince, and Friend,  
God save the King.

James Hadfield, the would-be assassin, was found to be insane. The coincidence has not hitherto been pointed out that Hadfield's attempt to shoot the King took place on March 15th, 1800; Sipido's attempt on the Prince of Wales on April 4th, 1900.

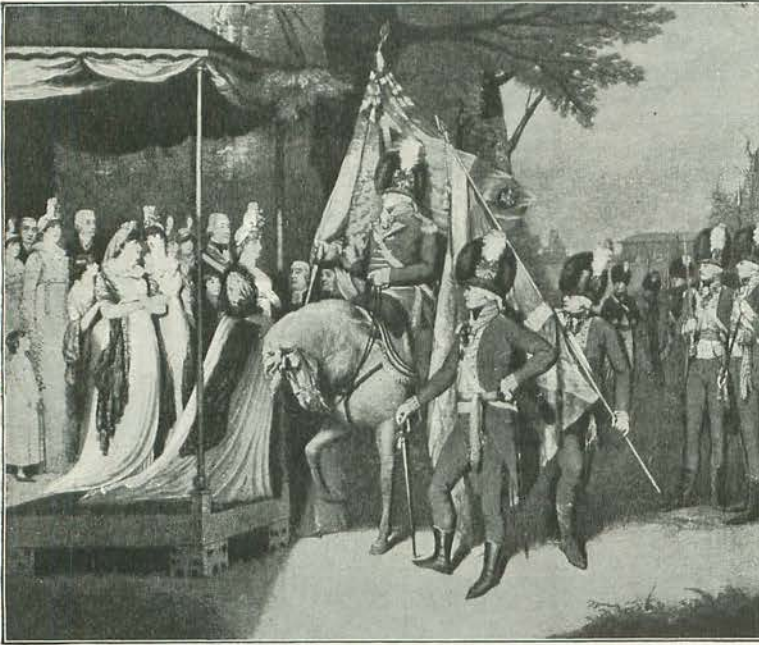
It is curious to note that in this year an attempt was made on the life of Napoleon by placing a combustible machine in a cart as he was going to the opera. The machine



THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF GEORGE III., MAY 15TH.

exploded after Napoleon had passed, but several lives were lost.

George III.'s appreciation of his corps of Volunteers was in no way diminished in 1800, for he frequently inspected them in different parts of the country near London. On his sixty-second birthday (June 4th) 12,000 Volunteers assembled in Hyde Park, and before nine o'clock the King arrived to review them. A torrent of rain was pouring during the whole time the evolutions were being performed, but it did not interfere with the enthusiasm of the King or of the "immense crowds" that gathered to do honour to the Volunteer forces. "The various orders of the day were executed with precision, and the firing was excellent."

THE KING PRESENTING COLOURS TO THE KENSINGTON VOLUNTEERS, JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>.

A fortnight later, at the invitation of the Marquis of Salisbury, George III. reviewed the Hertfordshire Yeomanry at Hatfield; and at the close of the manoeuvres the King, the Royal Family, and His Majesty's Ministers were sumptuously entertained by the Marquis, who also hospitably dined the 1,500 Yeomanry. The bill came to £3,000.

The Volunteers then, as now, performed many useful public deeds; for at a disastrous fire at Bramah's Patent Lock manufactory at Eaton Street (January 23<sup>rd</sup>), the Pimlico Volunteers were on duty all night and "saved a great deal of property, which otherwise would have been exposed to pillage," while later in the year they rendered valuable service at the time of the Bread Riots. In fact, the Auxiliary Forces were well to the front, and we give an illustration of the presentation of colours to the Kensington Volunteers, a ceremony which took place in 1800.

It was in the year 1800 that the Post Office London Directory was born; so we reproduce the title-page of this famous first edition, and can from the volume gauge something of the proportions of the London of a hundred years ago. The book is 7in. high by 4in. wide, and is only half an inch thick. It is now 10in. high by 6¾in. wide, and is no less than 6in. thick. The original volume contains between 11,000 and 12,000 names, arranged in one alphabet, and in order to

insure accuracy in the information given the proprietors sent their agents round with the letter-carriers to verify the names and addresses. The volume gives lists of aldermen, bankers, fire offices, foreign Ministers, etc., but no advertisements. Its postal information, as might be expected, is given in detail, but it is significant that in the Continental postings no mention is made of France. The preface tells us that "no exertion shall be wanting

to render this Directory invariably the most complete and useful yet published."

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE  
RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD AUCKLAND  
AND THE  
RIGHT HONOURABLE EARL GOWER,  
*His Majesty's Postmaster General.*

THE  
**New Annual Directory**

For the Year 1800.

CONTAINING

*A List, Alphabetically Arranged,*

OF THE

PRINCIPAL MERCHANTS, TRADERS OF EMINENCE, &c.

IN THE

*Cities of London and Westminster, the Borough of Southwark, and Parts adjacent:*

A LIST OF BANKERS:

GENERAL and SPECIAL INFORMATION relating to the

**POST OFFICE;**

NAMELY,

The Rates of Inland and Foreign Postage;

A List of Packet-Boats and their Commanders, &c.

THE REGULATIONS OF THE PENNY POST OFFICE,

Ship-Letter Office, Money-Order Office, &c. &c.

ALSO,

*The Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen.*

Lists of Commissioners, Directors of Companies,

Foreign Ministers, &c. &c.

LONDON:

*Printed by T. Males, Shoe-lane.*

For the Proprietors, and sold by W. J. and J. RICHARDSON,  
Cornhill, and J. WALKER, Paternoster-Row,

1800.

THE TITLE-PAGE OF THE FIRST POST OFFICE LONDON DIRECTORY, ISSUED 1800.

Among other London items that call for notice we may mention that in 1800 work was commenced upon the West India Docks, a scheme of the highest importance, as the nineteenth century has demonstrated. On Monday, February 3rd, the chairman and directors assembled to perform the ceremony of breaking ground for the entrance basin near Blackwall, and on July 12th the foundation-stone, with its customary bottles containing coins and documents, was duly laid, after which the company returned in procession in Admiralty and Navy-board barges, and terminated the proceedings with "an elegant entertainment at the London Tavern," at which the Duke of Portland was present.

The official returns for 1800 show that in the trade of the Port of London were engaged 6,547 vessels, carrying 1,327,763 tons, and in the river were employed 2,288 lighters and barges, besides 3,336 vessels for lading and discharging. The total imports and exports were £67,000,000.

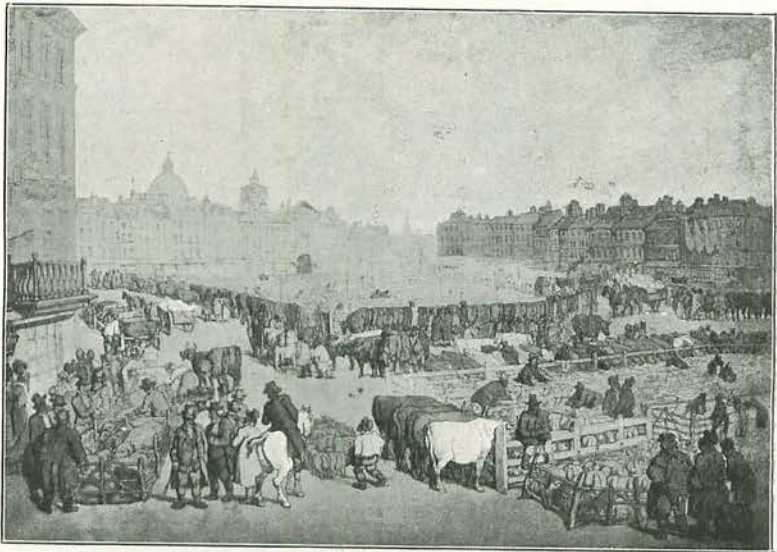
We also illustrate London with a representation of its great cattle market at Smithfield—the spot so

famous in the history of the Metropolis as the scene of the death of Wat Tyler by the dagger of Sir William Walworth, and also as the place of martyrdom.

In the English House of Commons, where the Tories on a crucial division could depend upon a majority of nearly 200, the Whigs clamoured for an investigation in reference to the military expedition to Holland of the previous autumn, and started an angry debate in favour of Napoleon's negotiations for peace which Pitt did not think was genuine; and the first Bill was passed for taking a census of the population. But the great feature of the Parliaments (Irish as well as English) of the year 1800 was the Bill for the legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland. The political struggle was a fierce one on the other side of the

Irish Channel, and meetings were held and petitions presented both for and against the measure. Galway was in favour of the Union, but a meeting of Dublin freeholders resolved that "No power on earth has a right to deprive the Irish people of their Constitution."

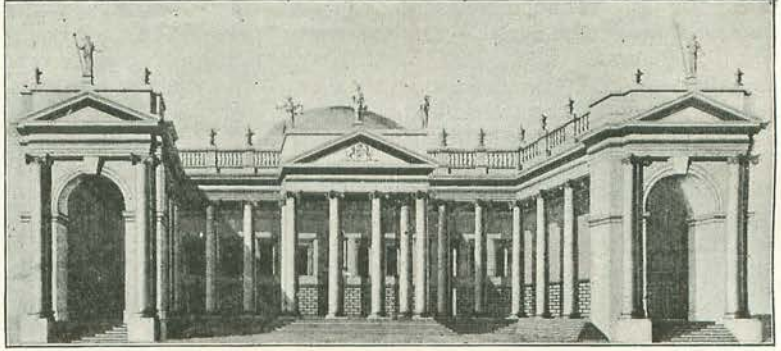
Briefly, the course of the measure was as follows: On February 5th, after a vehement debate in the Dublin House of Commons, the majority in favour of the Union was forty-three, while the Irish Lords on the 10th were in favour by a large majority. In a later discussion the heated debate resulted in a duel between Grattan and Corry, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but by March 27th the resolutions in favour received the



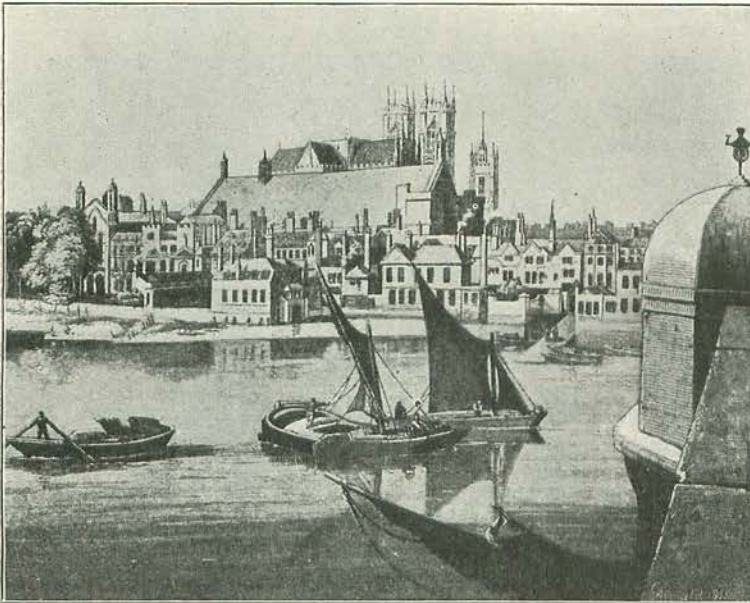
SMITHFIELD MARKET IN 1800.

definite approval of the Irish Parliament. The question was then transferred back to Westminster to be further debated, and by May, the bases of the proposal having been sanctioned by decisive majorities, Pitt moved an address to the King, acquainting him, in answer to his message, that the subject had assumed definite shape, and a Bill for the legislative union could be framed, the Bill to become law on the first day of the ensuing century. Thereupon a Bill immediately passed through both Houses at Westminster, and at three o'clock on July 2nd George III. went in State to the House of Lords, and gave his assent to it. It was intended to fire the Park guns to celebrate the important event, but the order was countermanded, as it was thought fit that the Irish Parliament should first ratify the measure.

The Bill received the Royal Assent in the Irish Parliament on August 2nd, and on that day the Session terminated, and with it the existence of the Parliament of Ireland. In connection with this all-important measure we give a



PARLIAMENT HOUSE, DUBLIN, 1800.



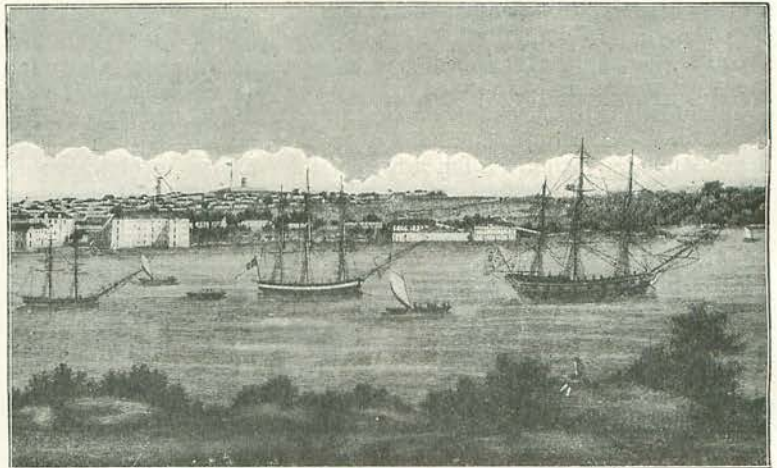
THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN 1800.

of minor importance, the Island of Malta passed under the sway of the British Crown after sustaining a blockade of two years; while in South Africa our representatives to the Kaffirs "have been everywhere received with the greatest kindness and cordiality," and "a peace has been concluded by the British Government of the Cape with the Caffrees."

In connection with the vastly important and beneficent Act for the

contemporary illustration of the Parliament House, Dublin, and, as a companion to it, a view of the Houses of Parliament, Westminster, as they appeared from the River Thames in the year 1800.

The subject of the British Empire being so prominent at the present day, we may point out that, besides one or two places



SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, IN 1800.

incorporation of our Australian Colonies into one commonwealth, so soon to be inaugurated by the Duke and Duchess of York, we give a view of Sydney as it appeared a hundred years ago, and are glad to note that even then the chaplain to the Colony in New South Wales was able to report home that the condition of the Colony was most promising, and grain of all kinds was abundant; while another correspondent speaks strongly in favour of "speculation by the consignment of British goods thither."

Passing along the year we come to November—the month which brings with it the Lord Mayor's Show, an event of no small importance in 1800 on account of the presence of Lord Nelson. November 9th falling on a Sunday, the Show had to take place on the following day, and we give a representation of the procession as seen on the river. The fine day drew together a great concourse of people, and among the spectators was Lady Nelson, who viewed the procession from the terrace at Somerset House. On the return journey

the company landed at Blackfriars, and at the top of Ludgate Hill the horses were taken from the carriages of the Lord Mayor and of Lord Nelson and they were drawn in triumph to the Guildhall. Nelson had only just landed in England for the first time since the great Battle of the Nile, and by permission of the King he was permitted to attend the Guildhall banquet before even paying his homage at Court. He was the idol of the people, and was received with the loudest acclamation. We are told that "the mob prevailed upon his lordship to put his hand out of the carriage that they might kiss it."

After the banquet Lord Nelson was presented with "a very elegant sword voted to his lordship by the Corporation" for his great services to his country; and, in acknow-

ledging the gift, Nelson said, "he received with satisfaction that mark of their approbation of his conduct, and hoped with that sword shortly to make one in reducing our insolent and implacable foe within her proper limits." Two days later, when attending the King's levée, Nelson, dressed in full naval uniform, "wore the sword presented to him by the City of London for his gallant services."


But the people of England were far from happy during the months the century was ebbing to its close, for, with the burdensome taxation caused by the war, the failure of harvests, and the dearness of provisions,



THE LORD MAYOR'S PROCESSION PASSING ST. PAUL'S, NOVEMBER 10TH.

distress was keenly felt throughout the land. Coals went up as high as £3 9s. 6d. a chaldron; while bread, which in January was 1s. 3d. a quartern, rose in price gradually as the year advanced, until it reached the famine price of 1s. 10½d. In consequence, Bread Riots occurred in London and many provincial towns, regular troops and Volunteers were called out to quell disturbances, the Riot Act was read in several places, and Parliament and the City authorities took the matter into serious consideration and petitioned George III. to take some public action.

As the result, he issued a proclamation on December 3rd exhorting his people to exercise the greatest economy in regard to food, and, among other things, to confine the consumption of bread to one quartern loaf each person per week. We give a repro-



**By the KING.**

# A PROCLAMATION.

**GEORGE R.**

WHEREAS an Address has been presented to Us by Our Two Houses of Parliament, requesting Us to issue Our Royal Proclamation, recommending to all such Persons as have the Means of procuring other Articles of Food the greatest Economy and Frugality in the Use of every Species of Grain; We, having taken the said Address into Consideration, and being persuaded that the Prevention of all unnecessary Consumption of Corn will furnish One of the fittest and most effectual Means of alleviating the present Distress, and of providing for the necessary Demands of the Year, have, therefore, in pursuance of the said Address, and out of Our tender Concern for the Welfare of Our People, thought fit (with the Advice of Our Privy Council) to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, most earnestly exhorting and charging all those of Our loving Subjects who have the Means of procuring other Articles of Food than Corn, as they tender their own immediate Interests, and feel for the Wants of others, to practise the greatest Economy and Frugality in the Use of every Species of Grain: And We do, for this Purpose, more particularly exhort and charge all Masters of Families to reduce the Consumption of Bread in their respective Families, by at least One Third of the Quantity consumed in ordinary Times, and in no Case to suffer the same to exceed One Quarter Loaf for each Person in each Week; to abstain from the Use of Flour in Pultry, and, moreover, carefully to restrict the Lard thereof in all other Articles than Bread: And do also, in like Manner, exhort and charge all Persons who keep Hives, especially Hives for Plate, so far as their respective Circumstances will admit, carefully to restrict the Consumption of Oats and other Grain for the Substitution of the same. And We do hereby further charge and command every Minister, in his respective Parish Church or Chapel, within the Kingdom of Great Britain, to read, or cause to be read, Our said Proclamation, on the *Lard's Day*, for Two successive Weeks after receiving the said Proclamation.

Given at Our Court at *St. James's* the Third Day of December One thousand eight hundred, in the Forty-fifth Year of Our Reign.

## God save the King.

**LONDON:**  
Printed by GEORGE LYKE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty.

A PROCLAMATION EXHORTING THE PEOPLE TO PRACTISE ECONOMY, DECEMBER 3RD.

duction of this proclamation, which will be read with interest.

Fortunately the distress was not aggravated by a severe winter, for at Christmas we read, "So mild a season has not been remembered as the present, which is highly advantageous to the poor," and we find that at Gresham in Norfolk a pear-tree, "which bore fruit in the summer, blossomed again since Michaelmas, and has now (December 27th) six pears on it."

We give the play-bill of Drury Lane Theatre for Boxing Night, but the *Times* slashingly criticised the pantomime as having "no claim either to humour or contrivance"; and among odd items culled from various sources we may mention that, according to the Board of Agriculture, in England alone in the year 1800 were 7,800,000 acres of land uncultivated and profitless; that Margate was swept by a hurricane in October, which partly destroyed the jetty and caused a collier to break

from her moorings in the harbour and demolish a number of ships, while the waves dashed away at least half the parade; that the whole of Bognor in Sussex was put up for sale and realized £64,000; that Hoppner the artist was painting a portrait of the Princess of Wales in January, and in July broke his arm; and that the Prince of Wales bought the Pavilion at Brighton.

**Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.**

This night **FRIDAY** December 26th, 1800.  
*Two Nights Successive of the*

## GEORGE BARNWELL.

Thoughtful, Mr. POWELL. Fearful, Mr. PARKER.  
George Barnwell, Mr. C. KEMBLE.  
Truman, Mr. HOLLARD. - Blum, Mr. TRUEMAN.  
Maria, Miss E. ARD.  
Mildred, Mrs. POWELL.  
Lucy, Miss P O P P E.

*After the Play will be a new Pantomime called*

### HARLEQUIN-AMULET;

or,  
**THE MAGICK OF MONA.**

With New SCENERY, MACHINERY, DRESSES and DECORATIONS, to conclude with  
**A MOVING PANORAMA.**

*The New Overture, Songs, and Choruses, by Mr. SHAW, with Selections from the late Mr. STODOLLE and Mr. KELLY. The Pantomime being selected from the Works of Mr. BRYCE, accompanied on the HARP by Mr. WIEBEAT.*

Harlequin, Mr. B. R. N. E. E.  
Pantolon, Mr. GOODMAN. The Bard, Mr. COOKE.  
Mouster, (the Magician) Mr. D. E. C. A. M. F.  
Peter, Mr. CHIPPENDALE. Scaramouch, Mr. MORTRAM.  
Glowry, Mr. G. R. I. M. A. L. D. I.  
Columbo, Mrs. B. M. E. N. A. G. E.  
Janu, Mr. B. A. T. Z. A. N. D. I.  
With a variety of Pantomimick Characters by  
Messrs. Fisher, Evans, Sparks, Rhodes, Webb, &c;  
Masters Clatterley, W. Clatterley, Waller, Ellis, Wells, Johnson, Toley, West, Smith, Betton, &c.

Messrs. Chippendale, Coates, Muddock, Currier, Haffey, &c.  
**THE FUNDRAISING.**

Mr. DRUMMUM. Mr. FREDMAN.  
**THE PRINCIPAL SCENES.** and **Missa DE CAMP.**  
**CHORUS OF WAIZERS.**

Messrs. Coates, Two Cornells, John, Thomas, the Actors, Jones, Ellis, Hanks, An. CHARLES OF BOSTON.  
Misses Cook, Hadden, Wynn, Green, Misses Gable, Dancy, Mrs. Malloch, Evans, &c.  
**CHORUS OF GIGGLES and GASSETS.**

Misses Ann, Mingo, Budge, Susan, Harcourt, Matilda, Jenks, Wilson, &c.  
**THE DANCERS** comprised by and under the Direction of Mr. BLYNE.

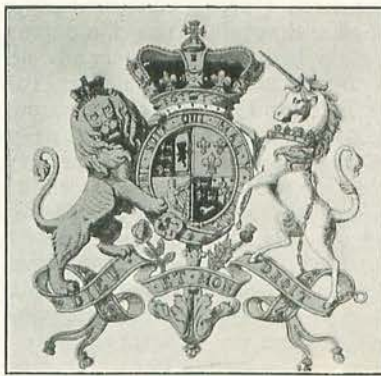
The SCENES designed by Mr. GREENWOOD, and painted by him, Mr. BARKS, and others.  
The MACHINERY, DRESSES and DECORATIONS, designed by Mr. GREENWOOD.

and executed by him, and under his Direction,  
Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. GAY, and Artisans.  
The FUNDRAISING by Mrs. BRYCE.

**BOOKS OF THE SONGS, &c.** to be had in the Theatre, from Mr. P. C. G. Gable, on Every Evening, and may be ordered every Evening till further notice.  
To-morrow, the Comedy of SHE WOULD AND SHE WOULD NOT.  
On Monday, the Tragedy of HAMILTON.  
On Tuesday, (with music) KING JOHN, or, ENGLAND'S VALENTINE.  
On Wednesday, THE WEST INDIAN.  
On Thursday, the Tragedy of PIZZARO.  
*The Tragedy of CYMBELINE is in rehearsal, and will be produced immediately.*

PLAY-BILL OF THE DRURY LANE PANTOMIME, 1800.

On December 31st George III. went in State to the House of Lords, and dissolved the last Parliament that contained representatives of only England, Scotland, and Wales, and in commemoration of this event we give an illustration of the Royal Arms as used for the last time on that occasion. From that day forth the three fleurs-de-lis were to disappear, and the emblem of Ireland was to take their place, and our Monarch was to drop the too-long-retained fiction of "King of England, Scotland, Ireland, and France."



THE ROYAL ARMS AS USED FOR THE LAST TIME, DECEMBER 31ST, 1800.