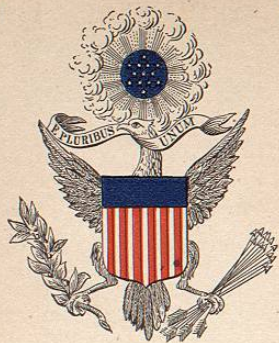




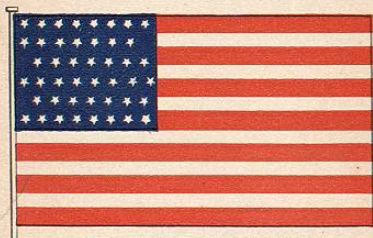
President's Flag



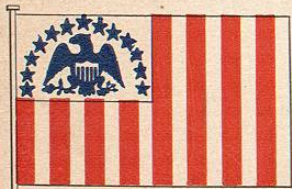
Admiral's Flag



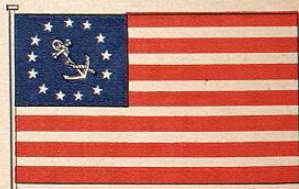
UNITED STATES COAT OF ARMS



NATIONAL ENSIGN



Revenue Ensign



Yacht Ensign

THE UNION OF THE STATES. — DEVELOPMENT. — DIVISION.

PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT.

(WASHINGTON TO J. Q. ADAMS.)

WASHINGTON'S ADMINISTRATION.

Two Terms: 1789-1797.

347. **Services and Character of the First President.** —
When the time came to elect a president, under the new Constitution, all eyes were turned to George Washington. Born in



Mount Vernon.

Virginia, February 22, 1732, Washington was descended from one of the Cavalier families that had emigrated from England to Virginia during the period of Cromwell's rule. He received

a fair English education, and became a surveyor. The hardships and dangers of his work on the wilderness frontier developed his powers, while the ability and integrity he displayed attracted public notice. By the death of an elder brother, he came into possession of the estate of Mount Vernon, on the Potomac, not far from the present city of Washington. He married Mrs. Martha Custis, a rich widow. His services in the French and Indian War first brought him into prominence as a soldier. He was member of Congress from Virginia when chosen commander-in-chief of the armies of the united colonies. His military genius, his incorruptible patriotism, his splendid reserve-power in the midst of discouragements entitle him to be called the "soul of the Revolution." President of the convention of 1787, his influence secured the final adoption of the Constitution. He was chosen first president of the United States by the unanimous vote of the electors.¹

348. The Inauguration.— A few days after he had received notice of his election, Washington left his home at Mount Vernon in Virginia, and set out for New York, which was then the capital. Accompanied by friends, he traveled across the country in a coach. The journey occupied several days and was one grand triumph. Feasts, balls, and other entertainments in his honor were given in the various cities through which he passed; arches were built, streets were decorated with flags and flowers, and everything was done to show the respect and loyalty the people felt for "the savior of the country." Though the fourth of March was the day set for the inauguration, the slow methods of travel delayed the ceremony till April 30.

349. Political Parties.— Those who had supported the new Constitution were called Federalists, those who had opposed it

¹ See Article II, Section I, clauses 2 and 3 of the Constitution, and Article XII of the Amendments.

Anti-Federalists. The Federalists believed in a strong central government that should have ample power to lay and collect taxes, raise armies, and transact the business of the government promptly and independently. The Anti-Federalists believed that the people of the states, through the states, were the source of power, that government should be instituted solely for their convenience and service, and that it must be subject at all times to the voice of the people.

After the Constitution was adopted, the Federalists were called "Loose Constructionists" because they put a very broad construction on the general provisions of the Constitution¹ and claimed rights and powers of government not specifically granted. The Anti-Federalists were called "Strict Constructionists" because they insisted upon the letter of the Constitution and denied to the Federal government any powers except those specifically granted by the Constitution. The Federalists were willing to encroach upon the powers of the states. The Anti-Federalists believed that the general government should have only such limited powers as should be specifically delegated to it by the states.

350. The New Nation.— When our country took its first step as a nation it was not rich nor powerful. In the thirteen states, the first census showed a population of not quite four millions.² The area of the country then was not quite four times that of the State of Texas to-day. But the patriots who had risked "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor"³ to create the new republic were more anxious to lead free and manly lives than they were to be rich and powerful. They cared more for the character of the nation that would result from their acts than for its size, population, or wealth.

¹ See Constitution, Article I, Section VIII, last Clause.

² In 1890, each of two states—Pennsylvania and New York—had a greater population than the whole country in 1790.

³ See the concluding clause of the Declaration of Independence, § 271.

351. **The First Cabinet.** — George Washington appreciated the necessity of moving forward slowly and carefully. He felt keenly and bore bravely the responsibility of chief officer of the nation. He leaned toward the new Federalist party, but called to his cabinet, after Congress had authorized its formation,¹ able leaders from both parties. Thomas Jefferson, the most distinguished opponent of the Federalist plans and theories, was made secretary of state. Alexander Hamilton,² the leader



Alexander Hamilton.³

of the Federalist party, who afterwards added to his reputation as a great party leader the more solid and worthy one of a great financier, was given the treasury department. General Henry Knox, a Federalist of Massachusetts, became secretary of war. Edmund Randolph, of Virginia, who was opposed to many of the strong-government theories of the Federalists, was appointed attorney general. There was opportunity

in this cabinet for the leaders of the opposing parties to unite on plans and policies and to harmonize conflicting theories of government; but there was opportunity, also, for further and more vital disagreement when the theories were to be put in

¹ The president's cabinet is not named in the constitution. It includes the heads of departments who constitute the president's advisers.

² Hamilton was one of the authors of the *Federalist*. This was a publication founded to aid in securing the adoption of the Constitution. It contained papers written by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay, explaining and advocating the provisions of the Constitution. Washington appointed Jay chief-justice of the Supreme Court. Madison was a member of the first Congress.

³ After a portrait by Trumbull, by permission, from Lodge's Works of Alexander Hamilton.

practice and the country was to take its course this way or that. One does not need to know much of politics to know that further disagreement was most likely; and, indeed, this was the result. The breach between the factions was widened as time went on. Since the time of Washington, cabinets have been formed usually from the party that elects the president.

352. **Financial Plans.** — The first thing to be done was to raise money to pay the expenses of the new government. For this purpose, Congress passed a bill laying taxes on imports. A large income was the result. To the next Congress, Hamilton proposed that we should pay our debts. These debts were divided into three classes: (1) We owed abroad about \$13,000,000, that we had borrowed; (2) We owed to our own countrymen about \$42,500,000 for debts contracted in furthering the Revolution; (3) it was proposed that Congress pay the debts incurred by the separate states in the prosecution of the war, amounting in the aggregate to about \$25,000,000. To the payment of the foreign debt all agreed. The proposition to pay the immense debt due our own countrymen caused wide-spread speculation in the depreciated securities of these debts, and there was considerable opposition to the measure; in the end it was carried. Hamilton's plan to assume the debts of the states caused a great surprise to the country and aroused bitter opposition. But after a hard struggle and some bargaining,¹ this, too, was carried.

The tax on imports, though it raised a large revenue, did not enable us to pay these large debts as rapidly as was wished.

¹ The Northern states were, in the main, in favor of the Federal government paying the state debts; most of the Southern states believed that each state should be responsible for its own debt. The North wanted the new permanent capital; the South also wanted it. Some Northern congressmen voted for a Southern location of the capital in exchange for some Southern votes in favor of assumption of the state debts. By this trade, Hamilton's third proposition carried, and by it the permanent capital — Washington — was located on the Potomac.

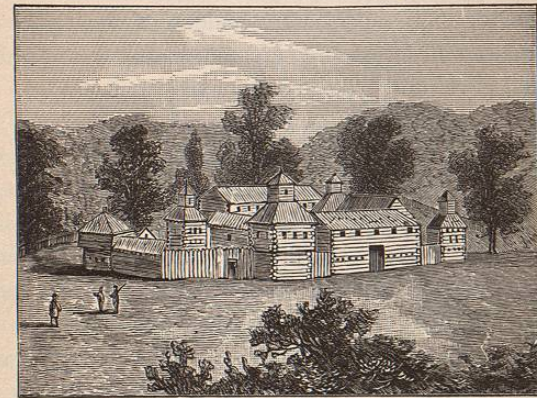
To supplement the tariff revenue, a special tax, or excise, was imposed on spirits.

A national bank, that was to be the financial agent of the government, and a mint were established for the purpose of giving us a national currency. With the establishment of the mint, Jefferson's system of decimal currency was put in operation and has proven itself to be the best in the world.

353. The Whiskey Insurrection.— The tax on spirits was very unpopular with those who had to pay it. In western Pennsylvania, where there were many stills and where whiskey was used in place of money, the opposition to the tax was very bitter. The people refused to pay the tax; government inspectors were mobbed; secret societies were formed to resist the execution of the law. A call to arms raised a band of 2000 insurgents who marched to Pittsburg, but committed no depredations. Washington called out the militia of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia to put down the insurrection; 15,000 troops took the field. Hamilton, who was anxious to vindicate the government's power to lay the tax, accompanied the troops. But before this force reached the scene of the disturbances, the ringleaders of the insurrection had fled. The people made no resistance but promptly took the oath of allegiance. A few arrests and convictions were made, but the president pardoned all who were implicated and the trouble ceased. The government had shown its power to put down any ordinary insurrection.

354. Extension of the Frontier.— New States.— Hostile tribes had long since been driven away from the sea-board, and east of the Alleghanies there was no further trouble from them. But adventurous pioneers pushed beyond the mountains into the Western wilderness; and every inch of their progress was disputed by the old enemy. Daniel Boone and his followers

had established themselves in territory that is now included in the State of Kentucky. Settlements had been made in what is now Cincinnati, and at other points along the Ohio. There were so many massacres of settlers in the Kentucky territory that it came to be called "the Dark and Bloody Ground." Washington, when he became the executive of the new nation, determined to protect these pioneers. In his early life he had become familiar with this Western country and was interested



Fort Washington (Site of Cincinnati).

in its development. He was also familiar with Indian warfare and knew its cruel and treacherous methods. General Harmer was sent against the hostile tribes of the Ohio region in 1790; but he was surprised and defeated. Next year, General St. Claire was sent against them with more than two thousand troops. He had been solemnly advised and warned by Washington, but he allowed himself to be ambushed and his army was cut to pieces. "Mad" Anthony Wayne, the hero of Stony Point (§ 306), was now put in command of the army. He defeated a large force of Indians on the Maumee (1794). A treaty of peace followed and this region was cleared of hostile forces. With greater security, immigrants poured into

the Ohio region. Kentucky was admitted into the Union in 1792. Tennessee, still further west and south, came in in 1796. Vermont had been admitted in 1791, so that at the close of Washington's second term, the Union consisted of sixteen states.

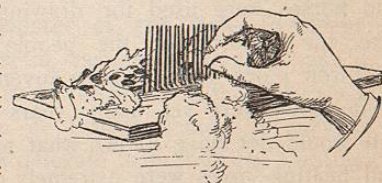
355. Foreign Relations.—The Federalist party was in strong sympathy with the principles and ceremonious methods of the English government; the Republicans¹ took the new republic of the French for their model, were jealous of the rights of the people, opposed all forms and ceremonies, and were afraid that the national government would assume too much power. When the French became involved in a war with England (1793) they asked for assistance from their old friends of the United States. Citizen Genet was sent to this country to solicit aid. Many of the Federalists sided with England, while the Republicans were enthusiastic for France. Washington, after carefully reviewing the situation, declared that the United States would be neutral. This decision disappointed some of the Federalists, and raised an outcry from the Republicans. Genet, after the declaration by the president, appealed to the people. He stirred up all the ill-feeling he could, and altogether acted in such an insolent way that he lost the approval of many Republicans who had formerly supported him. Washington objected to Genet's course, and he was soon recalled by his government. But the feelings that had been aroused during the controversy made the differences between the two parties more pronounced. Later (in 1795) the treaty with England,² secured by Chief-

¹ After the Constitution was adopted, and the government for which it provided was inaugurated, the term Anti-Federalist was no longer applicable, as all active opposition to the Constitution soon ceased. But there was a strong party, led chiefly by those who had been Anti-Federalists, who (about 1791) took the name of the "Republican" party. This Republican party was therefore the successor of the Anti-Federalist party.

² The treaty contained twenty-eight sections, and held agreements upon many matters of dispute between the two countries. Peace was declared established; the

Justice Jay, was bitterly attacked by the Republicans, and could not be warmly defended by the Federalists. It was not satisfactory to anybody, but Washington thought the terms the best that could be obtained at the time. But party-feeling ran so high over it that Washington's private character was attacked, and he became so worried by violent abuse that he declared he had rather be in his grave than in the presidency.

356. The Cotton-Gin.—A government can do nothing but plan for the prosperity of the people; the prosperity is won by the industry and good judgment of the people themselves. The people of the United States have been not only industrious and thrifty but they have been fertile in the invention of labor-saving, wealth-producing machinery. One of the most useful machines ever invented in our country is the cotton-gin, which came into use during Washington's administration. Eli Whitney, the inventor, was reared in Massachusetts. He spent his youth in going to school and in making walking-canes, nails, and pins. But after being graduated from Yale College he became a teacher in the family of General Nathaniel Greene, residing near Savannah. While here his attention was called to the difficulty of separating the seed of cotton from the fiber. The value of cotton in making cloth was well known, and many planters grew patches of it; but as one man could separate but a pound of cotton fiber a day, the cloth was very expensive. Whitney set to work to construct a machine that would do this task of separation more rapidly. The result was a cotton-gin ("gin" is from engine)



Whitney's First Contrivance for Pulling off the Cotton Seeds.

Mississippi was declared open to both countries; the northern boundary of the United States was again defined; the injury done American commerce was to be paid for, etc.

which would separate a thousand pounds of fiber a day. A new industry was given to the country. Cotton-growing developed in the Southern states till it became their chief industry, and now they furnish more cotton than the remainder of the world. The manufacture of cotton-cloth became an important industry in the New England states. Much of our cotton is shipped to England for manufacture.

357. The Second Term.—When Washington closed his first term he was again unanimously elected to the presidency. At the end of his second term he was asked to become a candidate for a third term, but refused. He kept the respect of the better elements of both parties throughout his official life, but he was unable to harmonize the differences of the two parties as he had hoped to do.

358. Condition of the Country.—The messenger who carried Washington the notice of his election rode on horseback. The overland traveling of the time was done by means of horses. In many sections there were good roads with inns at frequent intervals. Steamboats had not been invented, and there was not a mile of railway in the United States. News was carried by mounted messengers, and of course required considerable time to reach all parts of the country. There were no telegraph or telephone lines till many years later. Oxen and horses were used for drawing loads; mules were very rare, the majority of the people never having seen one. Cast-iron plows had not been invented, and riding-plows and steam-plows were yet many years in the future. A housewife would not have known what to do with a cooking-stove, and heating-stoves were extremely rare. Wood was used for fuel everywhere but at the forge, where charcoal was substituted. One of the school-books, the "New England Primer," contained the Lord's Prayer, the catechism, hymns, and so on. The pupil wrote with a quill pen made by the teacher, or by

himself, if he was skillful enough. Slate-pencils were whittled out of "soap" stone. Lead was sometimes used for marking; our graphite "lead" pencil was unknown. New York, the first capital of our country, had a population of about fifty thousand souls.

359. Summary.—When the first president took his seat our population was not quite four millions. The first cabinet was formed by the selection of leaders from both parties. The financial policy proposed by Hamilton gave us money to pay our debts and establish our credit with other nations. After the Indian were defeated emigration to the western country increased rapidly. Vermont, Kentucky, and Tennessee were admitted to the Union. A new treaty was made with England. The cotton-gin was invented, and cotton eventually became the chief crop of the Southern states.

360. Thought Questions.—Name the leading political parties to-day. Which one corresponds most closely in its beliefs to the Federalist party? to the Anti-Federalist party? What was our total public debt at the beginning of Washington's administration? Compare this with the national debt to-day. What do you think of Washington's refusal to aid France? Give reasons for your opinion. What do you consider the most important event of this administration? Why?

JOHN ADAMS'S ADMINISTRATION.

One Term: 1797-1801.

361. Services and Character of the New President.—John Adams, of Massachusetts, was one of the ablest and most fearless of the Revolutionary patriots. In all the stormy scenes preceding the Declaration of Independence, he played an important part. He was a delegate to both of the Continental Congresses. He was the chief debater in defending the Declaration of Independence before Congress. He urged the selection of Washington for commander-in-chief of the army. He was minister to France in 1778. He was one of the commissioners who arranged a treaty of peace with Great Britain after

our independence was acknowledged. In 1785, Congress sent him as minister to England, and the king had to receive as our representative a conspicuous leader of the revolution that had lost the crown the American colonies. He was the first vice-president and was a member of the Federalist party.

362. Change of the Capital. — Adams was inaugurated in Philadelphia, to which place the capital had been removed from New York. But during this administration the capital was permanently located at a site on the Potomac that had been



Washington 100 Years Ago.

chosen by Washington. This site was at the time nothing but a straggling settlement, neighbors being as much as a mile apart. The District of Columbia, in which the capital is situated, was presented to the United States by Virginia and Maryland. It was originally a district ten miles square, on both banks of the Potomac. The Virginia grant, on the southern bank, was afterwards returned.

363. Renewed Trouble with France. — Early in Adams's administration, the trouble with France took a more serious turn. The Directory,¹ feeling incensed that the United States persisted in a neutral course, ordered our minister out of the country. The president called an extra session of Congress, and laid the matter before this body. It was decided to send an embassy to France to treat with the Directory if any reasonable terms could be made. Three envoys, two Federalists and one Republican, were sent to France. They were coldly received, and little attempt was made by the Directory to reach



Washington at the Present Time.

an agreement. Finally the envoys were informed in a roundabout way that if the United States would pay a certain sum of money, a satisfactory treaty would be made. The envoys indignantly rejected the idea of paying money in the way of a bribe. One of them² said the United States "would raise mil-

¹ France had just gone through a bloody revolution, and had dethroned and beheaded her king. A new constitution had been adopted which placed the executive branch of the government in the hands of a Directory composed of five members.

² Charles Pinckney.

lions for defense, but not one cent for tribute." The two Federalist envoys were ordered out of the country, but Elbridge Gerry, who was a Republican, was invited to remain. In a short time, however, this last envoy came home without having effected anything. In the meantime, whenever opportunity offered, the French vessels captured American merchantmen on the high



John Adams.

seas and took them home and sold their cargoes. These things meant war, and the United States prudently began to defend herself. The treaties with France were annulled. American men-of-war were directed to capture any French vessel that interfered with our commerce. Steps were taken to raise an army, and Washington was made commander-in-chief.¹

¹ During Jackson's administration France paid \$5,000,000 for the injury done our commerce at this time.

364. Death of Washington. — But Washington's services to his country were ended. He died December 14, 1799. The whole country went into mourning. England and France made public acknowledgment of their great respect for him. One of the resolutions introduced in Congress said he was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his fellow-citizens." No one has arisen to dispute this proud position with him.

365. The Alien and Sedition Laws. — At the same time, Congress made two laws that ought never to have been proposed. The Alien Law authorized the president to banish, without trial, any foreigner whom he thought dangerous to the peace and liberty of the country. The Sedition Law imposed a heavy fine upon those who should combine or conspire together to oppose any measure of government, and upon those who should utter any false, scandalous, or malicious writings against the authorities of our government.

366. The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions. — The Alien and Sedition Laws had been bitterly opposed by the Republicans in Congress. It was held that the Sedition Law was an open violation of the first amendment of the Constitution, and that the right of trial by jury that was guaranteed by the Constitution was denied in the Alien Law. Prosecutions¹ under the Sedition Law aroused the fiercest indignation. The matter was taken up by the Legislatures of Virginia and Kentucky. These Legislatures declared in resolutions² that the Union was a compact between the states, and that beyond the well-defined powers delegated to it the general government had no right to

¹ Matthew Lyon, of Vermont, while a candidate for Congress, was arrested for accusing the president of having a "thirst for ridiculous pomp, foolish adulation, and selfish avarice." He was imprisoned and fined. He was elected to Congress, but was obliged to serve his term of imprisonment before he could take his seat. Editors of several papers were imprisoned and fined for criticising the administration.

² Madison wrote the Virginia Resolutions; Jefferson, the Kentucky Resolutions