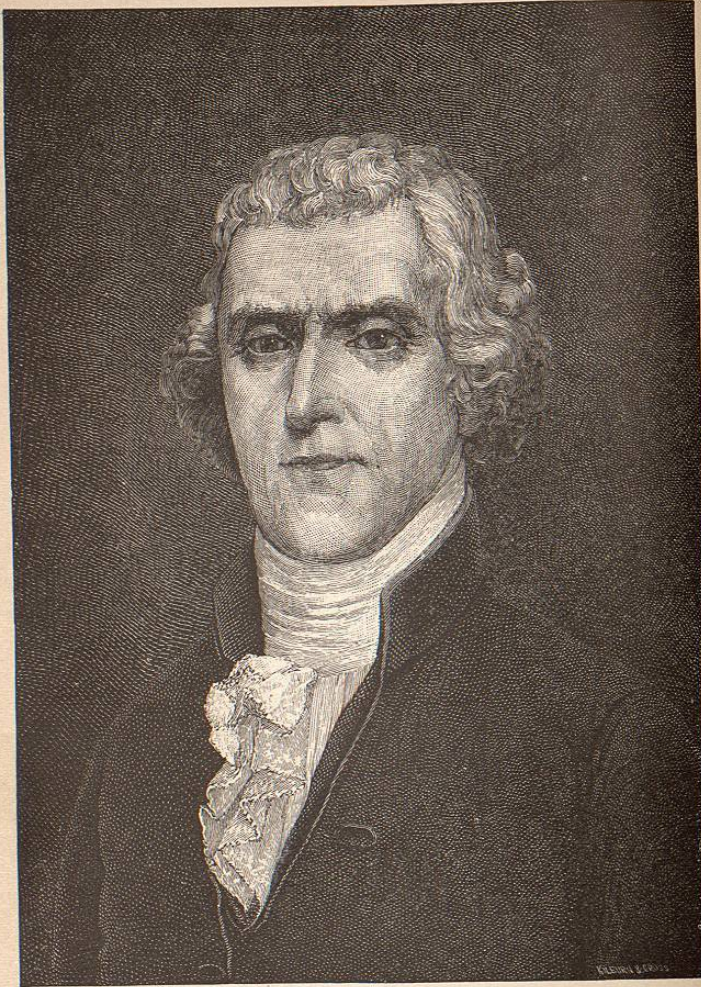


step; that the Alien and Sedition Laws were an usurpation of power in direct violation of the Constitution; that it was the duty of the states to interpose and maintain their rights against the encroachment of the federal power. They asserted the right of the states to judge of violations of the Constitution and of the mode and measure of redress. The two laws caused the defeat of the Federalist party, that had passed them and was active in their execution.

**367. A New Treaty.** — In 1800, Napoleon Bonaparte, who had secured control of the French government, received a new embassy from our country in the most cordial manner. A treaty vowing "firm and universal peace" between France and the United States was soon effected. The question of payment for the confiscation of some of our merchant-vessels was left to future negotiation.

**368. Election of a New President.** — The Constitution provided that the electors should vote for two candidates for president; that the candidate receiving the highest number of votes — if a majority — should be president, and the one receiving the next highest number should be vice-president. In the election of a successor to Adams, Jefferson and Burr, both belonging to the same party, each had a majority of the votes, each receiving seventy-three. It fell upon the House of Representatives to decide between them, each state having one vote. In the House, Jefferson had the greater number of votes from the beginning, but it was some time before he had a majority of all the votes. Burr became vice-president. It was seen that our method of electing a president was very faulty. The Constitution was amended (1804), so that electors vote for president and vice-president separately.

**369. Summary.** — Washington, on the Potomac, became the capital. France, under the Directory, refused all reasonable terms for a treaty. Preparations for war were made by the United States. When Napoleon gained



THOMAS JEFFERSON.

control a treaty was made. Washington died December 14, 1799. The Alien and Sedition Laws, granting arbitrary powers to the president and to the courts, were passed by the Federalist party, then in power. Indignation against these laws led to the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, which declared the laws unconstitutional and beyond the rightful power of Congress to enact. The election of a president was thrown into the House; Jefferson was elected.

**370. Thought Questions.** — Why was not the new capital placed farther west? What provision in the first amendment of the Constitution was violated by the Sedition Law? Which amendment was violated by the Alien Law? In the Kentucky Resolutions, what was meant by the “mode and measure of redress” for violations of the Constitution? The Republican electors of 1800 wanted Burr for vice-president; how did it happen that their votes made a tie between him and Jefferson for president? What do you consider the most important event of this administration? Why?

#### JEFFERSON'S ADMINISTRATION.

Two Terms: 1801-1809.

**371. Services and Character of the New President.** — Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia, had been a prominent member of the Continental Congress. He was the author of the Declaration of Independence. He was the founder of the University of Virginia. He was governor of Virginia during part of the Revolutionary War. He was one of the commissioners sent to Europe, after our independence was declared, to treat with European powers. He succeeded Franklin as our minister to France. He was secretary of state in Washington's cabinet. He was vice-president under Adams.

**372. Republican Simplicity.** — Jefferson was the first president elected by the Republican or Democratic party. He was inaugurated in the new capital at Washington. Previous inaugurations had been conducted with a great deal of ceremony. But Jefferson, one of the most dignified of men, disapproved of all forms and ceremonies. Former presidents had held recep-

tions conducted with great formality; but Jefferson was readily accessible to the humblest citizen. He received foreign ministers in a simple, matter-of-fact way that was very wounding to their vanity. He had declared that all men are created equal; he looked upon a public officer as a public servant, and consequently he could see no reason why office-holding should be marked with pomp and haughty behavior.

**373. Trouble with the Pirates of the Mediterranean.**— Along the north coast of Africa bands of Mahometan pirates had intrenched themselves. They sailed forth from their ports and harbors and captured the rich merchant-vessels from other countries. European nations had ceased resisting them by force of arms, and had adopted the method of paying yearly tribute as a means of buying protection for their trading-vessels. American commerce and American citizens had suffered very much from them. Some of our vessels had been captured and confiscated and the seamen sold into slavery. The United States had paid tribute for some years for protection and had used large sums of money in paying the ransom of captives. Finally, the demands of the pirates grew to such unreasonable amounts that our government refused to pay them. Then the Pasha of Tripoli declared war against the United States. In 1803, a number of our war-vessels were sent to the Mediterranean to bring the pirates to terms. Our seamen showed great skill and courage and made our prowess respected by European nations. Lieutenant *Decatur*, particularly, distinguished himself. The frigate *Philadelphia* chased one of the pirate vessels out of the open sea to the protection of the batteries of Tripoli. But in the pursuit, the *Philadelphia* ran on a reef and fell an easy prey to the pirates. The officers of the frigate were held in captivity. The Mahometans then manned the vessel with their own people and added it to their fleet. Some months later, in a small vessel, with only seventy-four men,

*Decatur* surprised the *Philadelphia* at night and killed or drove away all of the pirate crew. Then the vessel was set on fire. As *Decatur* sailed away in the light of the flames, he was fired upon by all the available guns of the fort; but not a man was killed. Later, the whole American fleet appeared before Tripoli and besieged it. A land force of the Pasha's enemies had also been enlisted in the service of America. Tripoli could not hope to withstand the double attack and the Pasha sued for peace. A treaty was made in 1805 that gave us immunity from these annoying and destructive depredations. So that a new nation, from another continent, had done more to subdue the pirates than the old European nations had done with the buccaneers at their own doors.

**374. Ohio Admitted.**— In 1802, some territory west of Pennsylvania was admitted into the Union as the State of Ohio. It was the first state cut out of the great Northwest Territory (§ 330).

**375. The Louisiana Purchase.**— When Jefferson became president the Mississippi was the extreme limit of our country on the west. Spain owned the great territory of Louisiana, lying west of the Mississippi. This territory included New Orleans and the mouth of the Mississippi; and in those days, when wars were so frequent and railroads unheard of, the control of a great river on the border of a country was vital to its interests. We have seen (§ 333) how the proposed surrender of the navigation of the Mississippi aroused the people of the West. In 1800, the territory of Louisiana was ceded back to France. President Jefferson thought it would be bad policy to allow our country to be hemmed in by a powerful European nation. In 1803, an attempt was made to purchase a part of the territory, including New Orleans and the mouth of the Mississippi. Napoleon, who was involved in a war with England, stood in much greater need of money than he did of



American vessels and take from them any English seamen that might be found among their crews. Officers were, of course, not very careful to distinguish between English-born and American-born seamen. Several hundred men were seized within a year. The frigate *Chesapeake* refused to be searched by the officers of an English man-of-war. It was fired upon, searched, and some of its crew taken away. Retaliation could no longer be deferred. Congress decreed that no American vessels should carry goods to foreign countries. It was hoped that this embargo would materially injure both England and France; but it hurt the United States more than it did either of them. As New England was more heavily engaged in foreign commerce than any other section of the country, it suffered the most. New York City was the chief port of entry of the country; this embargo brought its commerce to a stop and ruin stared it in the face. After a little more than a year's trial the act was repealed and a new act called the non-intercourse act, allowing commerce with all nations except England and France, was passed.

**378. Aaron Burr's Treason.** — Aaron Burr, a brilliant but unprincipled man, had been vice-president during Jefferson's first term. He and Hamilton became bitter political rivals. The feeling on Burr's side grew to such intensity that he challenged Hamilton to a duel: in the encounter he shot Hamilton, who did not attempt to harm Burr. Afterward he was suspected of forming a conspiracy to detach some of the southwestern states and form a new nation, of which he should be the chief officer. He was arrested and tried for treason. Though the charge could not be proven in the courts, the public believed it true and he lost the respect of every one.

**379. Importation of Slaves.** — In 1807, Congress forbade the importation of slaves after the beginning of 1808. Slaves were still bought and sold in our own territory; but negroes cap-

tured in Africa could no longer legally be brought to the United States and sold into slavery. Jefferson and the leaders of both parties looked forward to the gradual emancipation of slaves already on our soil.

**380. The First Steamboat.**— After the steam engine was invented in England, attempts were made in all civilized countries to apply steam-power to boats. The first successful steamboat was the creation of an American, Robert Fulton.



The "Clermont."

His boat, called the "Clermont," was a rude affair, with uncovered wheels on the sides, showing no architectural beauty, and carrying sails to aid the new power. The people had no faith in its success while it was being built and derisively named it Fulton's Folly. Fulton announced that on a certain day he would start from New York for Albany, and great crowds gathered at the wharves to see what would happen. At the appointed time, the boat steamed off up the

river and made the journey to Albany in thirty-two hours. Steamboats multiplied rapidly from this time, and by their means our commerce was developed with enormous rapidity. There were no railroads in the country at the time; our carrying agents were wagon trains, flat boats (rude rafts) pulled or rowed up and down the rivers, and sail-boats on the lakes and coasts. Steamboats were put on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and were instrumental in hastening greatly the development of the western country. With the growth of railroads later, steamboats became less and less useful in domestic commerce, and are gradually disappearing from our rivers.

**381. Summary.**— Jefferson adopted simple manners and customs in his bearing as president. The pirates of the Mediterranean were defeated by our ships and our commerce was freed from their robberies. The State of Ohio was admitted into the Union. Louisiana, a territory lying west of the Mississippi and extending to the Rocky Mountains, was purchased from France at a cost of \$15,000,000. Lewis and Clark led a party out into this wilderness and penetrated through to the western coast. They prepared a description of the country they had explored. Trouble with England caused an embargo to be laid upon our commerce. This proved to be a very unpopular measure, and after a little more than a year it was repealed. Aaron Burr shot Alexander Hamilton in a duel. Further importation of slaves was prohibited. Robert Fulton invented the first steamboat. The administration is chiefly noted for the growing prosperity of the country and the great extension of its limits.

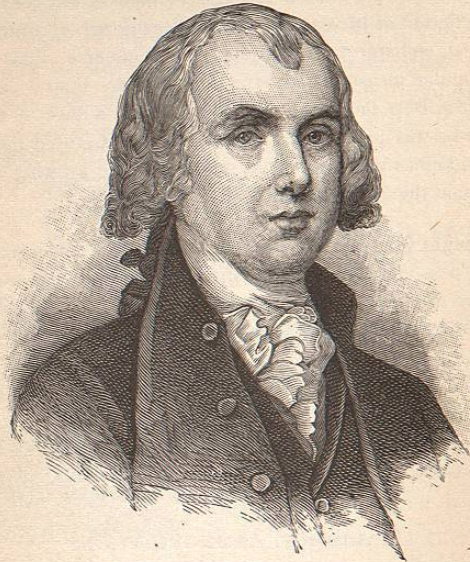
**382. Thought Questions.**— By what nation was Louisiana first claimed? When did it pass into the hands of Spain? Why was this transfer made? When and to whom was the second transfer made? The third? Give two reasons why the United States was anxious to get Louisiana. If Louisiana had fallen into the hands of England, would the United States have been able to acquire it? Why was the Embargo Act so unpopular? What does the Constitution say about the importation of slaves? What do you consider the most important event of this administration? Why?

#### MADISON'S ADMINISTRATION.

Two Terms: 1809-1817.

**383. Services and Character of the New President.**— Three members of the Republican party, James Madison and James Monroe, both of Virginia, and De Witt Clinton, of New York, were conspicuous candidates for the presidency; but Jefferson preferred Madison, as his views were known to harmonize with those of the retiring president; and he was the one elected. The new president was one of the most distinguished statesmen of the day. He had served his state in the state Legislature, the Continental Congress, the constitutional convention, and the national Congress. He was secre-

tary of state during Jefferson's two terms as president. He was the author of many of the *Federalist*<sup>1</sup> papers, of the Virginia Bill of Rights, and of the Virginia Resolutions (§ 366), — all enlightened and significant writings, important in their times, and destined to influence the future course of the



James Madison.

republic. He received nearly three-fourths of the electoral votes, but forty votes fewer than Jefferson had received for his second term.

**384. The Condition that Confronted the Administration.** — Jefferson had been unable to settle the disputes with England and France; and Madison fell heir to them, and was expected to pursue the same policy in regard to them. The method of this policy was to avoid war, and to seek to gain what we wanted by

<sup>1</sup> See footnote, p. 228.

diplomacy and commercial retaliations. England had forbidden our ships to trade with France and her allies, and France had laid the same prohibition on our commerce in regard to England and her allies; our Congress had sought to retaliate, first, by prohibiting all foreign commerce, and afterward by limiting the prohibition to England and France.<sup>1</sup> The people of the northeastern states were largely engaged in commerce, and they suffered heavily under this condition of things; it became a vital national matter to afford relief.

**385. The Process of Relief.** — Madison, shortly after his inauguration, entered into an agreement with the British minister by the terms of which commercial relations with England were to be resumed. Immediately upon the announcement of this agreement more than a thousand of our vessels, heavily laden with precious cargoes, sailed from our ports for foreign shores. But England promptly repudiated her minister's agreement, and reasserted the former provisions and restrictions; and only the vessels that had been fortunate enough to get away upon the first announcement of the agreement were allowed to sail unmolested. Then negotiations were opened with France, and terms were offered us that seemed to make some concessions, and we accepted. But the result was even worse than in the English agreement, for we gained no real commercial concessions, and we further offended and alienated England. England seemed to play with us, and France duped us, and the result of the negotiations was nothing but humiliation and exasperation. A feeling was growing that our interests and our honor demanded stronger measures.

**386. The Tippecanoe Incident.** — In 1811, through the immediate influence of the great chief, Tecumseh, the Indian tribes of

<sup>1</sup> England and France were at war; the United States had declared herself neutral; neither country was willing that we should sell any kind of supplies to the other.

the Northwest united in a great uprising. Their purpose was to drive the white settlers from the country. General Harrison was sent against the Indians. He was surprised at night in his camp at Tippecanoe, in the Territory of Indiana; but his men rallied quickly and defeated the Indians with great slaughter. It was believed that English agents had encouraged the Indians with arms and advice, and the feeling against England in the West was intense.

**387. The Wrongs to our Seamen.** — England continued to seize seamen from our ships and force them into her own service. During the seven years preceding this time more than four thousand American seamen had been taken from American ships and pressed into British service. She also continued to seize our merchant vessels as prizes, and finally became so insolent as to enter our own waters and capture some of our ships.

**388. The Declaration of War.** — The time was ripe for war. Years of negotiations and retaliatory legislation had gained us nothing. Those of our merchant vessels that ventured beyond our ports were captured and confiscated, and our seamen were taken from our ships and forced to serve England in her war against France. The Tippecanoe incident, and the discovery of the Henry letters,<sup>1</sup> purporting to reveal a plot of the governor of Canada secretly to influence New England to secede from

<sup>1</sup> Henry represented himself to have lived a few years in New England as the secret agent of Canada and England, acting under instructions to note the signs and expressions of discontent with the administration of affairs in the United States, and of New England's leaning toward the mother-country; and further, to use his influence in increasing the discontent and strengthening the regard for England. He claimed to be able to prove these things by authentic official letters in his possession. The president paid him \$50,000 for the letters.



the Union and annex itself to Canada, caused great excitement. Those who had been opposed to war — including the president — were obliged, finally, to abandon their position and join the war party. In a speech before Congress, Henry Clay asked, "What are we not to lose by peace? Commerce, character, a nation's best treasure, honor." War was declared in June, 1812.

*SECOND WAR WITH GREAT BRITAIN*

*Events of 1812.*

**389. The First Movement against Canada.** — General Hull, governor of Michigan Territory, an old officer of Revolutionary fame, was instructed to invade Canada. But the general was inefficient and cowardly. He was besieged in Detroit by a force

of British and Indians, and without firing a gun surrendered Detroit and Michigan (August 16), thereby covering his name with shame<sup>1</sup> and greatly discouraging the American army.



Isaac Hull.

**390. The First Sea Fight.** — At this time the American people believed that they could march into Canada and easily conquer it, but so far as sea fighting was concerned they had little hope of accomplishing more

than a weak defense of our coast. England was, at this time, the greatest maritime power in the world. She had nearly a

<sup>1</sup> General Hull was afterwards tried by a court of army officers on the charge of treason, cowardice, and conduct unbecoming an officer, convicted on the two latter charges, and sentenced to be shot. President Madison pardoned him in consideration of his services in the Revolution.