

THE STATES REUNITED.

RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

(JOHNSON, GRANT.)

JOHNSON'S ADMINISTRATION.

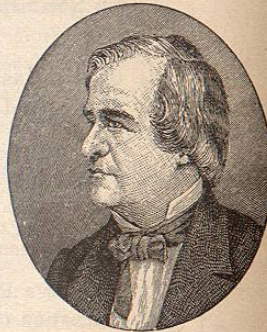
One Term: 1865-1869.

604. Services and Character of the New President: Andrew Johnson was born in North Carolina in 1808, and removed in 1826 to Tennessee. He was a tailor by trade, but

was drawn early in life to take a deep interest in politics. He is said to have been taught reading and writing by his wife after marriage. He served his adopted state for many years in various positions. He was congressman for ten years, 1843-1853, governor for four years, 1853-1857, and he was twice chosen U. S. senator. His death in 1875 interrupted his second term as senator. Johnson

was a devoted friend to the Union, and at the same time a firm believer in states' rights. He was bold to the point of rashness, stubborn in the maintenance of what he believed to be right, and so aggressive as to provoke rather than to conciliate opposition.

605. Lincoln's Plan of Reconstruction.—Long before the war closed Lincoln had devised a plan for restoring the seceded states to their places in the Union. In his message



Andrew Johnson.

to Congress in 1863 he outlined the following policy: all who would take an oath to support the Constitution were to be allowed to vote; if they numbered ten per cent of the voting population of 1860, they could reorganize a state government. If he had lived there is little doubt that he would have been strong enough to carry out his plan, and that the Southern states would have been speedily restored to the Union.

606. Johnson's Political Position.—In electing Johnson vice-president the Republicans made a mistake similar to that made by the Whigs in 1840 (§ 455). Before the war he had been a Democrat, but he refused to give up his seat in Congress when his state, Tennessee, seceded, because he believed secession to be the work of the aristocratic element, which he thoroughly hated. He was placed upon the ticket with Lincoln in recognition of the Southerners who had been loyal to the Union, and not because he was a Republican. Johnson had been very vindictive in his utterances against the Southern leaders, and claimed that the majority of the people had been misled by them. He desired that the conquered states might be at once restored to the Union. He proclaimed amnesty to all except a few classes to whom pardon was to be granted only upon personal application. He wished, as Lincoln had done, to restore peace as soon as possible. He declared that reconstruction was the work of the president, not Congress. His plan was to turn the states over at once to the people, trusting them to manage their own affairs. In conformity with his proclamation, all the seceded states formed new state governments and elected representatives to Congress,—but when Congress met in 1865 it ignored the president's plan, and refused to recognize the Southern representatives. The "Radicals" had a large majority in Congress, and easily passed measures over the president's veto, thus rendering him powerless.

607. Congress's Plan of Reconstruction.— A resolution was passed in Congress that "the seceded states have, by their own actions, temporarily lost their right of self-government, and it is the duty of Congress to restore it to them under such conditions as will secure to each state a republican form of government, as provided for in the Constitution." The conditions were embodied in the 14th amendment to the Constitution, which gave citizenship to the negroes and disfranchised most of the prominent whites of the South. Tennessee was the only Southern state that ratified the amendment at this time, and it was restored to the Union in July, 1866. The other states rejected the amendment. By act of Congress then the ten states were divided into five military districts, under the control of Federal officers, and ratification of the 14th amendment was made a condition of their restoration to the Union. This bill, and others like it, were passed over the president's veto.

608. Distrust of the President.— The Thirty-ninth Congress adjourned March 4. Under the law the next Congress would not meet until the first Monday in December. Johnson was so distrusted by the Radicals that they feared to leave him without a Congress for so long a time, and so, before their adjournment, they changed the time of meeting of the Fortieth Congress to March 4, thus allowing no *interim* between the sessions of the old Congress and the new one. This session, however, lasted but one month, and adjourned.¹

609. States Readmitted; a New State.— The Southern states, at last, seeing that Johnson was powerless to help them, and finding their position under military rule hard to bear, complied with the demands of Congress and ratified the 14th amendment, which was declared adopted in 1868.² By June, 1868,

¹ It held a short session in July (3d to 20th) and then adjourned to November.

² "The Fourteenth Amendment has revolutionized the character of our political system. It declares that all persons born within the limits of the United States are citizens. Prior to that amendment, one was a citizen of the United States only

all the states had acquiesced in the demands of Congress except Georgia, Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas. Before the close of 1870 those states had also regained their places in the Union.

The new state of Nebraska was admitted in 1867.

610. The Result of Reconstruction Policy.— The "reconstructed" state governments were altogether unsatisfactory to the white people of the South. The "iron-clad" oath, which required every candidate for office to swear that he had not taken any part in secession, excluded nearly all who were fit to hold offices. A swarm of greedy and mostly unprincipled men from the North—the "carpet-baggers"¹—poured into the South, and, by misleading the ignorant and credulous negro voters, got control of the state and local governments. Extravagance and corruption in public affairs became the order of the day. This was the darkest time in the history of the South. The "carpet-bag" governors were able to keep their places only with the help of Federal troops, and this was not wholly withdrawn until 1877.

611. Impeachment.— To make the president as helpless as possible, Congress passed the "Tenure of Office" bill, providing that the president could not remove any of the leading officials, his appointees, without the consent of the Senate.

President Johnson considered the bill unconstitutional, and refused to submit. Overruling the action of the Senate, he removed Stanton from his position of secretary of war.² In con-

by virtue of his citizenship in a particular state, and a primary and paramount allegiance was due to that state. The changed or amended constitution accepted by the states has consigned the doctrine of secession to the tomb of the Capulets, and we have one flag, one constitution, one Union, one national government, one destiny." — (Hon. J. L. M. Curry's Richmond Address to Confederate Veterans.)

¹ Called "carpet-baggers" because at first, moneyless and with no permanent home, all their effects were carried in a valise, or "carpet-bag."

² "For the first time in the history of the United States an officer distasteful to the president, and personally distrusted and disliked by him, was forced upon him as

sequence of this, and other similar acts of opposition to Congress, the House of Representatives preferred charges of impeachment against the president. He was tried before the Senate, Chief Justice Chase presiding, and after a trial of six weeks he was adjudged not guilty. Conviction requires a two-thirds vote of the senators; thirty-five of the fifty-four senators voted him guilty, and he thus came within one vote of being removed from his office as president of the United States.

612. Jefferson Davis Brought to Trial. — On the 3d day of December, 1868, Mr. Davis was brought to trial in the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Virginia, before Chief Justice Chase of the Supreme Court of the United States and District Judge Underwood. Several indictments for treason and for conspiring with Robert E. Lee and many others to levy war against the United States were preferred against him. He was brought to trial on all of them. A motion to quash the indictments was made by his counsel, one of the most distinguished of whom was Charles O'Connor of New York. After argument, Chief Justice Chase announced that the Court "had failed to agree upon a decision in regard to the motion to quash the indictments against Mr. Jefferson Davis," and instructed the reporter of the Court to record him as "being of opinion that the indictment should be quashed." Judge Underwood, being of a contrary opinion, the case was certified to the Supreme Court of the United States for decision. No further proceedings were ever taken in the cases. The Attorney-General of the United States never asked the Supreme Court for a hearing on the certificate; and, at a subsequent

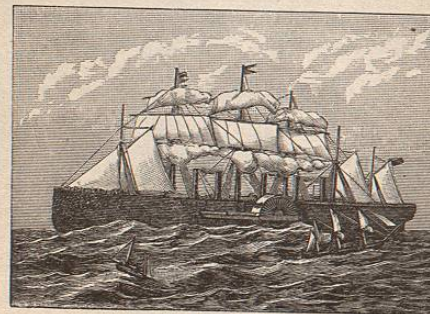
one of his confidential advisers in the administration of the government. . . . The history of every preceding administration, and of every subsequent administration of the Federal government, proves that the Senate was in the wrong." (Blaine's "Twenty Years in Congress.")

When Grant became president this bill was practically set aside at his request; and in 1885 it was entirely repealed.

term of the Circuit Court of the United States for Virginia, all the indictments against Mr. Davis were dismissed.¹ It is manifest from these proceedings that the counsel for the United States became satisfied that they could not procure a conviction of Mr. Davis before their own tribunals. He had long previously been fully vindicated by the enlightened public opinion of the world.

613. Maximilian in Mexico. — Louis Napoleon, the French Emperor, had taken advantage of the war in the United States to subjugate Mexico. At the close of the war the United States government demanded the withdrawal of the French troops (§ 420). Napoleon yielded, leaving to his fate Maximilian, Arch-Duke of Austria, whom he had made Emperor of Mexico. Maximilian rashly remained in that country, and was captured and shot by the Mexicans.

614. The Atlantic Cable. — Several attempts had been made to connect the New and Old World by telegraph.



Great Eastern.

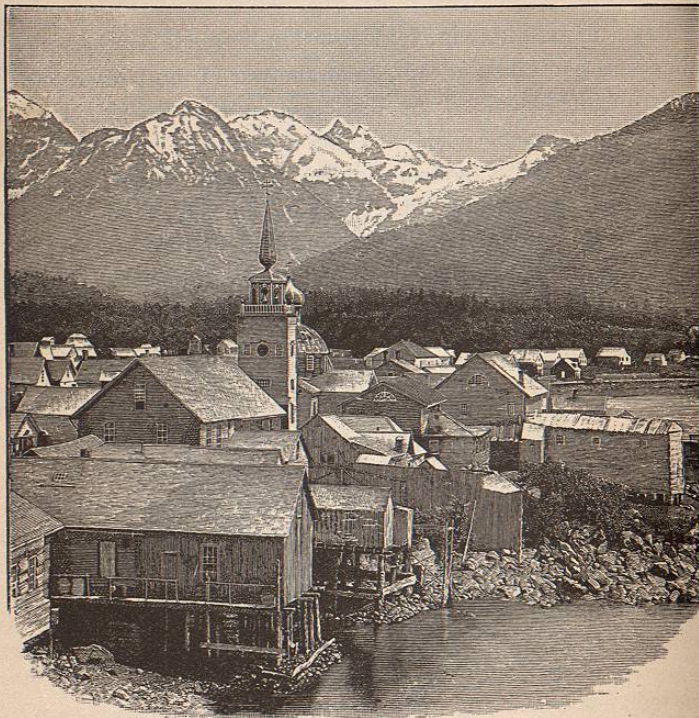
These efforts finally proved successful in 1866. Cyrus W. Field² was the active leader in the great enterprise of laying the submarine telegraph-wire between the coasts of Newfoundland

¹ Authorities: Federal cases in the Circuit and District Courts of the United States, Vol. VII, pp. 63-102, inclusive.

² Field modestly said of this great achievement: "Matthew F. Maury furnished the brains, England gave the money, and I did the work." (See § 503.)

and Ireland. The steamship *Great Eastern* — at that time the largest vessel ever constructed — was used for this purpose.

615. Purchase of Alaska. — This territory had been discovered in 1741 by Vitus Behring, a Russian explorer. Its name was changed from Russian America to Alaska at the time of its purchase by the United States.



Sitka, Alaska.

In 1867 the United States purchased Alaska from the Russian government for \$7,200,000. Alaska consists of about 500,000 square miles. Part of it, the Aleutian Islands, extends so far west into the Pacific Ocean as to make the meridian of

longitude passing through San Francisco nearly midway between the extreme eastern and extreme western parts of the United States. Alaska has proved valuable on account of the seal fisheries.

616. Election of 1868. — General U. S. Grant, of Illinois, to whom the chief credit for the final success of the Union arms was due, had won thereby great prestige, and had become very popular with the masses of the people of the United States. He was nominated for the presidency by the Republicans in 1868. Schuyler Colfax was the Republican nominee for vice-president. The platform endorsed the reconstruction acts of Congress.

The Democrats nominated Horatio Seymour, of New York, and Francis P. Blair, of Missouri, as their candidates for president and vice-president. Their platform favored the "immediate restoration of all the states to their rights in the Union under the Constitution." They declared the reconstruction acts "usurpation, unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void."

Of the 294 electoral votes Grant received 214, Seymour, 80. Mississippi, Texas, and Virginia were not allowed to vote because they had not been readmitted.

617. Summary. — A conflict soon arose between President Johnson and Congress as to the method of readmitting the seceded states. A bill was passed over the president's veto dividing the South into five military districts under the control of Federal officers. Nebraska was admitted in 1867. It was 1870 before all the Southern states were restored to their places in the Union. During this reconstruction period and for some years later, the South was a victim of the rascality and corruption of "carpet-bag" governments. The quarrel between the president and Congress reached its climax in the impeachment of the president, which resulted in his acquittal by one vote. Jefferson Davis was brought to trial, but the cases against him were finally dismissed. The Fourteenth Amendment, conferring the right of citizenship upon the negroes, was declared adopted. France complied with the demand of the United States for the withdrawal of French troops from Mexico. The Atlantic cable was successfully laid. Alaska was

purchased from Russia for \$7,200,000. General Grant, the Republican candidate, was elected next president.

618. Thought Questions. — If Lincoln had lived to the close of his second administration, in what respects would the history of the seceded states have been different? In what respects were the ex-slaves of the South unfit to vote? When only can universal suffrage result in good government? What presidents besides Johnson had bitter opposition in Congress? Were any of these impeached? In what way did the United States enforce the Monroe Doctrine during this administration? In what presidential elections did Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas take no part? Why? Why were the cases against Jefferson Davis dismissed?

GRANT'S ADMINISTRATION.

Two Terms: 1869-1877.

619. Character and Services of the New President. — Ulysses S. Grant was born in 1822 at Point Pleasant, in Ohio. Graduated from West Point in the class of 1843, he fought with credit in the Mexican War. In 1854 he resigned his place in the army and engaged in the leather trade. He re-entered the army in 1861, and was made a colonel. He was rapidly advanced in rank and responsibility until he was placed in command of all the Union armies. After serving two terms as president he made a tour of the world. His last years were clouded by business reverses. He died on July 23, 1885.

Grant was a very successful general. To him, more than to any other commander, was due the final success of the Union forces. He was a simple-hearted soldier, loyal to his friends, but unversed in civil life.

620. Treaty of Washington. — In 1871 commissioners from England and the United States met at Washington to settle "all causes of difference between England and the United States." The treaty agreed upon provided for the settlement of the disputes between the two nations by arbitration, a mode

