



Inauguration of Washington.

CHAPTER II.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF WASHINGTON.

ON the 30th of April, 1789, commenced the administration of the most remarkable man of these modern times. Bk. VI.
Ch. 2.

The first subject which required his attention and that of Congress was to establish a revenue, and this was chiefly raised by duties on imports. Thus, the Tariff became the first question which called out the talents and the passions of the new legislators — the absorbing subject of legislation in all popular governments — the most difficult and most important, being interlinked with the whole science of political economy — that unsettled science, concerning which there is, and probably ever will be, great discrepancy of opinions. A. D.
1789.
The revenue:
duties on im-
ports.

The first questions were, whether the duties should be imposed on foreign articles according to a specific rate or an ad valorem scale, and also, whether protection to the native manufactures should be chiefly considered; in the course of which, all those principles which still divide politicians and different sections of this great country, were discussed and agitated even as they are in these times. Debates
on the
tariff.

On the whole, Congress agreed to protective duties, though not so high as those subsequently imposed. The duties on tonnage, discriminating in favour of American Protec-
tive po-
licy.

BR. VI. commerce, were then considered, in order to encourage
Ch. 2. the growth of maritime power in the United States, and
A. D. also to favour those foreign powers who were in alliance
1789. with the country. In all these debates, Madison, Ames,
Sherman, Gerry, and Boudinot, were distinguished.

Collection of duties. For the collection of duties the whole coast was divided into seventy districts, each district to have officers in proportion to its importance, the most considerable of which were the collectors, to superintend the entrance and clearance of vessels and the receipt of duties; the naval officers, to act as checks to the collectors; and the surveyors, to attend to the duties of inspection.

Reorganization of executive departments. Having made arrangements for the collection of a revenue, Congress next turned its attention to the reorganization of the executive departments. The Department of Foreign Affairs was first established, which finally settled into that of the Department of State.

The Treasury Department was reorganized on the plan adopted by the Continental Congress of 1781, the head of which was called Secretary of the Treasury, assisted by subordinate officers, such as comptrollers, auditors, and registers, whose duty it was to manage the revenue, support the public credit, and grant warrants for all appropriations made by law. To this department the management and sale of public lands was also entrusted.

The Army and Navy being small were at first managed by the Secretary of War. The Post-Office was not reorganized until more complete information could be collected.

President's power to remove officers. Earnest debates were then made on the question, whether these heads of departments should be removed or not at the will of the President. Much to the chagrin of a large party, the recognition of the President's power of removal prevailed — for how could he execute the laws, if his subordinates were independent of him?

The federal judiciary next occupied the attention of Congress, being then established on its present system. BR. VI. Ch. 2. The Supreme Court was to hold one annual session at the seat of government; and, for the trial of cases under its jurisdiction, two sets of tribunals were instituted, called District and Circuit Courts. Every State was made a district, and every district had a judge of its own, who had cognizance of all admiralty cases and lesser crimes against the United States. The Circuit Courts, presided over by one or two of the judges of the Supreme Court, assisted by the district judge, had jurisdiction of all suits of a civil nature, at common law or in equity, between citizens of different States, or to which the United States or an alien was a party. An appeal lay, as to all points of law, in all cases where the matter in dispute amounted to two thousand dollars, from the Circuit Courts to the Supreme Court of the United States. A. D. 1789. The judiciary system.

Congress then turned its attention to the amendments of the Constitution. All the States had many to suggest, but scarcely any were of vital importance. Seventeen amendments were finally agreed to by two-thirds of the House of Representatives, and the Senate reduced them to twelve; only ten of them received the sanction of the state legislatures at that time, but the remaining two were subsequently adopted. Amend-ments of the constitution.

The question of salaries was then considered, and the President was allowed twenty-five thousand dollars per annum, and a house, this being deemed adequate to his expenses. The salaries of other officers, executive, judicial, and legislative, were somewhat lower than are now given, and even then scarcely adequate to their wants. Salaries.

The duty was confided to the President and Senate to make the appointments to the great offices of state. The first in dignity and importance, that of Chief-Justice The appointment of officers

Bk. VI.
Ch. 2. of the Supreme Court, was given to John Jay, who had been a leading member of Congress, minister to Spain, one of the commissioners for peace, and acting secretary for foreign affairs. Alexander Hamilton was made Secretary of the Treasury; Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State; General Knox, Secretary of War; Edmund Randolph, Attorney-General; and Samuel Osgood, Postmaster-General. Generals Lincoln, Huntingdon, and Williams, were respectively made collectors of Boston, New London, and Baltimore, and Colonel Lamb, collector of New York — revolutionary heroes whose virtues had kept them poor.

Commercial treaties were soon after made with foreign powers, and with the Indian tribes, although all along the western frontiers affairs long continued in an unsettled state.

Tour of
the Pre-
sident:
his re-
ception.

Congress adjourned September 24th, shortly after which the President made a tour through the Eastern States, and was everywhere received with an enthusiasm which has never since been equalled. "We have gone through all the popish grades of worship," wrote Trumbull, "and the President returns all fragrant with the odour of incense." On the day of his return to New York (November 13th), the new convention of North Carolina voted to ratify the federal Constitution.

1790.
Nation-
al debt.

Congress reassembled on the 8th of January, 1790, and the President having recommended, among other things, that provision should be made for the payment of the interest of the national debt, this became the great subject of the session. The debates relative to the payment of this debt were very animated; which, however, in spite of the different views advanced, tended to the maintenance of public credit. The foreign debt was nearly twelve millions, and the domestic was a little over

forty-two millions; in all, exceeding fifty-four millions, not including the state debts, which amounted to about twenty-five millions. An acrimonious debate followed upon the proposition that the federal government should assume the state debts, which had been incurred in behalf of the common cause. It was supported by Lawrence, Ames, Sedgwick, Sherman, Fitzsimmons, Gerry, and others, and opposed by Stone, Livermore, Jackson, and White; but it finally passed by a small majority.

In the midst of the agitation growing out of the settlement of the public debt, a still more agitating question was introduced, in reference to slavery and the slave-trade, in the form of anti-slavery petitions; which, after passionate discussion, whether they should or should not be received, were referred to a committee, who brought in the following report: —

Slavery
and the
slave-
trade:
report
on the
subject.

"That the migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit cannot be prohibited by Congress, prior to the year 1808.

"That Congress has no authority to interfere in the emancipation of slaves, or in the treatment of them in any of the States; it remaining with the several States alone to provide any regulations therein which humanity and true policy require.

"That Congress has authority to restrain the citizens of the United States from carrying on the African slave-trade, for the purpose of supplying foreigners with slaves; and of providing for their humane treatment, during their passage, of slaves imported by the said citizens into the said States admitting such importations.

"That Congress, also, has authority to prohibit foreigners from fitting out vessels in any port of the United States for transporting persons from Africa to any foreign port."

Bk. VI. A great debate followed as to the reception of the arti-
Ch. 2. cles of the report, and the affair was finally compromised
A. D. by admitting the report on the journal of the House,
1790. without any legislation on the subjects to which it referred.
 This was the commencement of that series of discussions
 which from time to time have agitated Congress, and
 which, thus far, have happily not been productive of any
 calamitous results.

Rhode Early in June, Rhode Island was admitted into the
Island Union, and now, of their own accord, all the States of
joins the the original confederacy were reunited.
Union.

Nation- Before the session closed, provision was made for
al debt, paying off the national debt; and the tariff was modified,
and the the duties being increased on most imported articles.
tariff.

Natural- An act was also passed providing a uniform rule of
ization naturalization, by which any alien white person, who had
of aliens resided within the United States for two years, on proof
 of good character and upon taking an oath or affirmation
 to support the Constitution, might become a citizen of the
 United States.

Patents Among the other acts was one which secured to invent-
and co- ors of new machines the right to enjoy for fourteen years
pyrights the exclusive use of their inventions; and then secured to
 authors, for the same time, a copyright on books, to be
 renewed, if the author were living, for an additional term
 of fourteen years. By a recent act, this term has been
 extended to twenty-eight years.

Mari- Maritime regulations were also enacted, in reference to
time re- the wages of seamen, requiring a written contract, which
gula- specified the voyage and rate of compensation, and also
tions. providing for the enforcement of obedience to orders.
Trade Congress also made regulations for trade with the Indians,
with the on the present basis, by which no sales of lands by them
Indians. were valid, unless made at some public treaty.

The criminal code of laws for the punishment of crimes **Bk. VI.**
 against the United States was also established, by which **Ch. 2.**
 death was made the penalty for treason, murder, piracy, and **A. D.**
 forgery — the latter crime being now punishable by fine **1790.**
 and imprisonment. Bribery was also made punishable
 by fine and imprisonment.

As early as this session, the salary for foreign ministers **Salary**
 was fixed, and has continued the same to these times. **of fo-**
 Nine thousand dollars and an outfit for ministers pleni- **reign**
 potentiary, and half that sum for chargés des affaires. **minis-**
ters.

Such were the principal measures of the second session
 of the first Congress, which adjourned August 12th, to
 meet in the following December.

The first Congress reassembled on the 6th of Decem- **Proposi-**
 ber, 1790, in Philadelphia, and one of the first subjects **tion**
 which came under its consideration was a national bank, **for a**
 proposed by Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, in order **national**
 to facilitate the monetary transactions of the government, **bank.**
 to provide for a redeemable currency, and to furnish a
 resource for temporary loans. At that time there were
 only four banks in the country: one at Philadelphia, esta-
 blished by Robert Morris; one in New York; one in Bos-
 ton; and one in Baltimore; the circulation of whose bills
 was confined chiefly to those cities, and did not meet the
 wants of the country.

The bill for this bank encountered but little opposition **Bank**
 in the Senate, and passed the House by a vote of thirty- **of the**
 nine to twenty. It was, however, opposed in the cabinet **United**
 by Jefferson and Randolph, as unconstitutional; yet, it **States**
 nevertheless received the signature of the President. Its **charter-**
 charter was limited to twenty years, and its capital to ten **cd.**
 millions. Subscriptions were paid, three-fourths in stock
 of the United States, and one-fourth in gold and silver —
 being thus modelled on the Bank of England, and sub-

Bk. VI substantially on the principle of the new banking law of
Ch. 2. New York, by which a deposit of government stocks is
A. D. required as security for the amount of circulating bills.
1791. The bank was forbidden to hold lands or buildings, and
 all dealing in goods and merchandise was prohibited. Its
 general business was restricted to dealing in bills of ex-
 change. Its notes were payable on demand in gold or
 silver, and were made receivable in all payments to the
 United States.

**Admis-
sion of
Ver-
mont.** The establishment of a bank was the great measure of
 the session, during which Vermont was admitted into the
 Union. Shortly after the adjournment of Congress, Wash-
 ington made a tour of three months through the Southern
 States. On his progress, he stopped several days on the
**Seat of
govern-
ment.** banks of the Potomac, and made use of the authority
 vested in him to select a site for the future seat of go-
 vernment. The new city was laid out on a magnificent
 scale, and many who anticipated its sudden and rapid
 growth were ruined by the zeal with which they embarked
 in building and speculation.

**Foreign
minis-
ters.** In August, 1791, Great Britain condescended to send
 a minister to the United States. George Hammond was
 the first who received this honour. In December, Thomas
 Pinckney, of South Carolina, was appointed minister to
 England, and Gouverneur Morris was sent to France.

**Prospe-
rity of
the
country.** Prosperity seemed now to dawn upon the country.
 The finances were placed upon a satisfactory basis; the
 credit of the country was restored, and relations of peace
 were established with various European states. Wash-
 ington had the confidence of the nation, and the great parties
 which subsequently divided it had not then attracted much
 attention, although they were in process of formation.

**Indian
affairs** The worst feature of the time was the unsettled na-
 ture of Indian affairs on the western frontiers. The Six

Nations were unfriendly, and the Cherokees complained **Bk. VI.**
 of encroachments, while actual hostilities were carried on, **Ch. 2.**
 under Generals St. Clair and Butler, among the Indians **A. D.**
 on the Wabash. Near the head-waters of this river (No- **1791.**
 vember 4th), St. Clair was unexpectedly attacked, and his **Defeat
of St.
Clair.**
 force totally routed. General Butler was killed, and St.
 Clair narrowly escaped. The loss of men during this
 enterprise reached 900—a great calamity, and one of the
 most signal defeats the Americans had ever sustained
 with the Indians. It produced the greatest alarm on the
 north-western frontiers, but the Indians failed to follow
 up the advantages they had gained.

In the mean time the second Congress assembled at **The 2d
Con-
gress.**
 Philadelphia. Among the most distinguished of its new
 members was Aaron Burr, successor to General Schuyler,
 as senator from New York; Artemus Ward and George
 Cabot, of Massachusetts; James Hillhouse, of Connec-
 ticut; and Jonathan Dayton, of New Jersey.

By this time the two great parties of the country were **Federal-
ists and
Republi-
cans.**
 fully organized—the Federalists and the Republicans.
 The leaders of the former were Adams and Hamilton;
 those of the latter were Jefferson and Burr. The former
 had an ascendancy both in the Senate and the House, and
 were the advocates of the financial schemes which were
 recommended by Hamilton and carried out by the first
 Congress: they also favoured the idea of a greater cen-
 tralization of power in the general government than was
 desired by the other party. The Republicans feared the
 abuse of power, and sought to narrow its exercise by the
 federal government, and were disposed to allow absolute
 authority to the popular judgment. They, moreover, were
 great defenders of state rights, and feared the absorption
 of the states in the general government. The latter party
 inclined to be more democratic in its views—the former

Bk. VI.
Ch. 2. was not disinclined to ceremonious distinctions and hereditary rank. The party of Adams and Hamilton distrusted the French Revolution, shuddered in view of its excesses, and absolutely abhorred the "Rights of Man" as put forth by Paine. The party of Jefferson sympathized with the French Revolution as tending to promote greater liberty throughout the world, and distrusted those financial measures of the new administration as tending to the ascendancy of an aristocracy of wealth. It denounced the funding system, the bank, and the assumption of the state debts.

Ratio of representation. One of the first measures of the new Congress was to fix the ratio of representation at one member for every thirty-three thousand inhabitants, thus increasing the number of members to one hundred and five.

Increase of the revenue. A third tariff act was also passed, increasing the duties on imported articles. This was done in order to increase the revenue — an act made necessary by the increasing expenses of government, Indian hostilities, and additions made to the army. The presence of the Indian war also led to the organization of the militia, on the basis on which it has since remained.

Mint established. By an act during this session the Mint was finally established, and the coins were made which still compose the currency of the country. A debate occurred in reference to the device and impress of the coins. There was no objection to the national emblem of the eagle, with the legend, "The United States of America," on one side; but serious exceptions were taken to having the heads of the presidents represented on the coin, as this appeared like an imitation of monarchical governments. The emblematical figure of Liberty was accordingly substituted, much to the satisfaction of the people, so jealous of all approximation to royalty, and not without the secret

indifference of great men, who preferred the reality to the blandishments of power. Bk. VI.
Ch. 2.

These were the principal acts, materially affecting the great interests of the country, passed during this session; but considerable acrimony had been manifested by the two rival parties, which now began to attract attention and divide the nation — an acrimony, which Washington seriously lamented, and did all in his power to prevent. This increased, rather than diminished, after Congress adjourned, and a bitter newspaper contest was carried on by Jefferson and Hamilton, between whom arose a personal as well as political difference. A. D.
1792.
Party quarrels

The second session of the second Congress was characterized for warm debates on the redemption of the public debt, on the right of petition, and on the slavery question. Until now, the federal party had the superiority, but the Republicans obtained a victory over the Federalists in relation to Hamilton's scheme of paying off the public debt; and such was the opposition to him, that he was openly accused of failing to account for a million and a half of public money; but this charge was triumphantly refuted, and resulted in raising the illustrious character of the Secretary of the Treasury still higher in public estimation. Relative state of the parties.

The second Congress terminated without passing such important acts as the first; nor was it to be expected, for government was now fairly organized — all things gave evidence, in spite of party animosities, of a successful experiment. Success of the government.

During the first administration of Washington, a great step had been made in the progress of the nation. Confidence in the credit of the country was restored. Commerce had greatly prospered; manufactures had arisen; the exports nearly equalled the imports; population had Washington's first administration.

Bk. V.
Ch. 2. increased; industry had received a favourable impulse; law and order reigned throughout the land, and peace and plenty added stability to those great institutions which the political genius of the age had devised. The Post-Office, the Mint, and the Bank, went into successful operation. Judicial dignity was vindicated. The Army was increased, and appropriations were made for all measures necessary to carry on an efficient government. The United States began to attract the attention of the civilized world, and diplomatic agents were freely sent to and received from the principal nations of Europe.

Second election of Washington and Adams. In view of this rising prosperity and of the pressure of domestic cares and feeble health, the venerable President desired to retire. But, yielding to the importunities of friends, and consulting the public welfare rather than his own ease and interests, he consented to preside once again over the nation he had saved by his arms and councils. On the 4th of March, 1793, he was a second time inaugurated as President of the United States, after an unanimous election. The choice for Vice-President was not made without violent party outcry; for the Federalists and Republicans were now fairly pitted against each other. The Federalists gained the day, and John Adams again became the Vice-President, in opposition to George Clinton, of New York, the republican candidate, and highest on the list.

War between France and England Soon after the second inauguration of Washington, news came of the declaration of war by France against England, which excited intense interest throughout the nation, and still more widely separated the great political parties. Five days after, Genet arrived as minister to the United States from Republican France. What course should the government adopt? Should he be received? And, should a proclamation of neutrality be issued?

Our government adopted, in view of those great com-
motions in the Old World, the course which has since
been pursued, and which has settled into a system —
that of neutrality — a friendly and impartial conduct to-
wards all foreign belligerent powers. Such, however,
was the popular enthusiasm towards France and hatred
towards England, that it would not have been difficult to
embroil the nation in war, by making a common cause
with the French Republic. But Washington was too
wise and prudent to yield to such a course, and he was
happily sustained by the great leaders of the nation.

The French minister, however, was not so prudent. He came over as an agent to draw the United States into the cause of French liberty, rather than as a diplomatist, to keep a watch over the interests of his country. He was a mere partisan, inflamed with revolutionary ideas, and full of wrong notions respecting his diplomatic duties. Hence he was guilty of various indiscretions and follies, unbecoming his position. He caused privateers to be fitted out, manned mostly by Americans, but under the French flag, to make prizes of English merchantmen. He assumed authority to grant commissions to French consuls in the United States to try and condemn prizes brought by French cruisers into the American ports. He made himself offensive to the government by various acts of folly and presumption. He even was prepared to struggle with the executive in furtherance of his impolitic mission. Supported by noisy enthusiasts and fanatical articles in the newspapers in sympathy with revolutionary France, he attempted to appeal from the President to the people. Under such circumstances, the government de-
manded his recall, and was sustained by the nation at large, in spite of the fanatical advocates of France, — a measure extremely necessary, not only to support the

Bk. VI.
Ch. 2.

A. D.
1793.

Neutral policy of the government.

Character and conduct of Genet.

His recall demanded.