

Bk. VI. dignity of the American government, but to prevent a  
Ch. 2. rupture with Great Britain.

A. D. Great Britain, at that period, was both sensitive and  
1793. arrogant as to her claims on the ocean, and had her own  
interpretation as to belligerent rights — claiming the right  
Arrogance of to seize French property in American vessels, against all  
Great Britain. the settled laws of nations; and also the still more ques-  
tionable right of seizing neutral vessels bound to France,  
when loaded with bread-stuffs. The English govern-  
ment also made itself obnoxious by pressing into its ser-  
vice British-born seamen when found on the ocean even  
in American ships, which made vessels liable to vexatious  
detention and subject to constant insult; and, as this  
pretended right was liable to much abuse, American sea-  
men were frequently absolutely pressed into the English  
naval service.

Its effect This arrogant and unjust claim, and which afterwards  
on the was no small cause of the late war, led to considerable  
public sympathy with Genet and France, and came near precipi-  
mind. tating the United States into a premature contest with  
the country with which they had but lately made peace.  
Genet, however, had proved himself so insolent, rash, and  
headstrong, that but little sympathy was found for him  
among the more considerate and intelligent of the people.

Meeting Amid the agitations produced by Genet and the French  
of the Revolution and rival parties, the third Congress assembled  
3d Con- (December 2d, 1793), and, soon after, Jefferson retired  
gress. from his post, alleging his disgust of politics and desire  
Jefferson re- for the pleasures of a rural life, with the respect of all  
tires. parties for his abilities, and with the full confidence of  
the President in his patriotism and integrity. His place  
was supplied by Randolph, the Attorney-General, and  
his again by William Bradford, of Pennsylvania.

The first business of importance after the affair of

Genet was disposed of, was in reference to the piracies Bk. VI.  
of the Algerines. It was a question, whether peace with Ch. 2.  
them should be purchased by giving a ransom for those A. D.  
whom they held in bondage, or whether a squadron should 1794.  
be fitted out to demand restitution. It was determined  
to adopt both measures — to purchase a treaty, and also  
to provide for a naval armament. A bill was passed, March 4.  
which authorized the building of six frigates of forty-four Creation  
guns each, and two of thirty-six guns each — the first of a  
step towards the creation of a national navy. A bill was Har-  
soon after reported for fortifying the harbours, and works bours  
were commenced at Portsmouth, Portland, Gloucester, fortified.  
Salem, Boston, Newport, New London, New York, Phi-  
ladelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore, Alexandria, Norfolk,  
Georgetown, Charleston, Savannah, and St. Mary, being  
then the principal cities on the coast. Arsenals and ar- Arse-  
mories were added to those at Springfield and Carlisle. nals  
These belligerent operations were undertaken to protect erected.  
commerce against the Barbary pirates, to inspire bellige-  
rent nations with respect for our rights as neutrals, and  
to secure us from insult in our harbours and coasts.

At this time a great excitement existed against Great British  
Britain in consequence of the British orders in council, orders  
which authorized the detention and examination of all in coun-  
ships laden with the produce of French colonies. These cil.  
tended to destroy the rights of neutrals, and war was ap-  
prehended. But these orders were soon superseded by  
new ones, which restricted the capture of French produce  
in neutral vessels which belonged to France. Still the  
excitement against England continued, and Washington,  
wishing to avert the gathering storm, proposed to send a  
special minister to London, and Hamilton was the person  
whom he desired to send. But such an outcry was raised  
against him, that Jay was selected in his stead.

Special  
minister  
to Lon-  
don.

Bk. VI.  
Ch. 2. Soon after the adjournment of Congress, an insurrection occurred in Western Pennsylvania, called the Whiskey Insurrection, which arose from the difficulty of collecting excise-duty from the distillers. The marshal of the district was intercepted in the discharge of his duties by a party of armed men, and he and his officers compelled to flee for their lives. They were afterwards attacked by the mob, and blood was spilled. Various other outrages were perpetrated, and the rioters, headed by some prominent men opposed to the excise-duty, appealed to the militia, actually mustered 7000 men, and stood out in open resistance to the laws. These outrages appeared to be alarming symptoms to the government, who decided on rigid and prompt measures, to prevent the popular contagion from spreading. A proclamation was issued, and a demand made on the governors of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia, for a force of 13,000 men — soon raised to 15,000. The insurgent counties had about 16,000 men in the field. The President, wishing to prevent bloodshed, also sent commissioners to settle the difficulties. The counties called a convention, and two hundred delegates assembled, and appointed a committee of fifteen to meet the commissioners. Several conferences were held, not very satisfactory to either party, although the demands of the government were moderate. Consequently, resort was had to more decisive measures. The government troops advanced in earnest upon the rebels. Fear and alarm seized them, in view of the great preparations which were made to subdue them; and they laid down their arms, in unconditional submission to the laws. The prompt measures of the President had a great moral effect, which much strengthened the arms of government, as all unsuccessful rebellions do, and occasioned great rejoicing, especially to the Federalists.

Insurrection in Pennsylvania

Prompt action for its suppression.

Law and order restored.

Scarcely was this rebellion suppressed, before news arrived of the complete victory of General Wayne over those Indians who had defeated St. Clair. A great battle was fought, on the Maumee, which broke for ever the power of the Indians in that quarter.

Congress reassembled on the 4th of November, and immediately proceeded to the consideration of the President's message, which was mainly occupied by an account of the late insurrection in Pennsylvania, and which traced the disturbances in part to the secret societies of which Genet, the French minister, had been one of the chief promoters — societies inimical to the conservation of true liberty. But these ultra democratic societies received a blow, soon after, more effectual even than the one given by Washington, through the downfall of Robespierre and the Jacobin clubs, with whose sentiments these secret societies sympathized.

Before Congress adjourned, information was received of an important treaty which Jay succeeded in making with the government of Great Britain, but which had been made only with great difficulty and by mutual concessions — not in all respects desirable, but the best which could be obtained.

By this treaty, signed by Jay November 19th, 1794, the north-eastern boundary was fixed; mutual losses sustained by merchants in consequence of seizure were indemnified; reciprocity in trading with the Indians was guaranteed; American vessels were to be received into British ports on an equality with English vessels; contraband articles were specified, and the maritime code respecting the rights of neutrals was modified to the advantage of the United States. This treaty, which removed many of the causes of irritation between the two countries, and which, on the whole, placed the United States on a

Bk. VI.  
Ch. 2.  
A. D.  
1794.

Secret societies of the Jacobins

Treaty with Great Britain.

Its stipulations.

Bk. VI. footing of greater equality, encountered much opposition  
 Ch. 2. from the republican party, who saw in it injury to France,  
 A. D. a base compliance with English arrogance, and ignomi-  
 1795. nous cession of American rights. But what excited the  
 fiercest opposition, especially from the South, was the re-  
 cognition by Jay of the debts due British merchants by  
 citizens of the United States, previous to the Revolution,  
 which amounted to £600,000, and, by the treaty, were  
 guarantied by the government, but which the debtors had  
 hoped to escape. This obligation to pay those old debts  
 much inflamed party animosity, and was one of the causes  
 of hostility to England; and, as the South was more in-  
 debted than the North, the hatred there was proportion-  
 ally greater.

Speech  
 of Fisher  
 Ames.

The treaty was not immediately ratified, on account of  
 its great importance, and Congress had again reassembled  
 before it was finally acted on. No subject had, since the  
 adoption of the Constitution, called out so much feeling,  
 talent, and eloquence. Fisher Ames, of Massachusetts,  
 made himself memorable by his wonderful speech on the  
 occasion — one of the most able ever made in Congress.  
 Vice-President Adams, who heard the speech, thus de-  
 scribed it, in a letter to his wife: "Judge Iredell and I  
 happened to sit together. Our feelings beat in unison.  
 'My God! how great he is,' says Iredell. 'Noble!' said  
 I. 'Bless my stars!' continued he, 'I never heard any  
 thing so great since I was born.' 'Divine!' said I; and  
 thus we went on with our interjections, not to say tears, to  
 the end — not a dry eye in the House. The situation of  
 the man excited compassion. The ladies wished his great  
 soul had a better body."

1796. In spite of the opposition, and much to the chagrin of  
 the Republicans, the treaty was ratified (April 30th, 1796)  
 the most important which the nation had yet made, since  
 Treaty  
 ratified.

it favoured peace with England, and conciliatory mea-  
 Bk. VI. sures. Jefferson, who had retired to Monticello, to write  
 Ch. 2. letters to all parts of the country and organize a more  
 A. D. effective opposition, as well as to seek repose in farming, 1796.  
 was independent and bitter, and thus wrote — "In place  
 of that noble love of liberty which carried us through the  
 war, an Anglican, monarchical, aristocratic party has  
 sprung up, whose avowed object is to draw over us the  
 substance, as they have already done the forms of the  
 British government. Against us are the executive, the  
 judiciary, two of the branches of the legislature, all the  
 officers of the government, all who want to be officers, all  
 timid men, who prefer the calm of despotism to the bois-  
 terous sea of liberty, British merchants, and Americans  
 trading on British capital, speculators and holders in  
 the banks and public funds — a contrivance invented  
 for the purpose of corruption and for assimilating us in  
 all things, to the rotten as well as sound part of the Bri-  
 tish model. It would give you a fever, were I to name  
 to you the apostates who have gone over to these heresies  
 — men who were Samsons in the field and Solomons in  
 the council, but who have their heads shorn by the har-  
 lot of England."

Bk. VI.  
 Ch. 2.  
 A. D.  
 1796.  
 Jeffe-  
 son's  
 views of  
 the Fe-  
 deralists

Such was the bitter and strong language with which  
 Jefferson and the heads of the republican or democratic  
 party, in those days, attacked the Federalists and their  
 principles. Such was the party spirit succeeding the re-  
 volutionary strife. No matter for the virtues or the  
 greatness of the men belonging to the federal party — it  
 was said of them, as Jefferson said of Ames, when he  
 electrified the House and urged peace and moderation,  
 "Curse on his virtues! they have ruined his country."

Bitter-  
 ness of  
 party  
 spirit.

Yet, amid these conflicting strifes of politicians, Wash-  
 ington was neither duped nor perplexed. He alone stood

Bk. VI.  
Ch. 2.  
A. D.  
1796.  
Policy  
of Wash-  
ington. above all parties and all sects. He alone had an eye to the highest good of the country, and inflexibly pursued his course, calmly, wisely, although occasionally yielding to bursts of indignation and passion. Washington sought liberty, but also sought peace and justice, and steered a middle course between parties, not because it was a middle course, *in mediis tutissimus ibis*, but because it was a true and wise course. Still, he felt deeply the evil of that partisan warfare, which has not yet passed away, and never will pass away, in a free country, so long as men have power and men are degenerate. Said Washington, "I had no conception, till within the last year or two, that parties would or could go the length I have been witness to; nor did I believe that it was in the bounds of probability, hardly within those of possibility, that, while I was using my utmost exertions to establish a national character of our own, as far as our obligations and justice would permit, with every nation of the earth, and wished, by steering a steady course, to preserve this country from the horrors of a desolating war, I should be accused of being the enemy of our country, and subject to the influence of another; and to prove it, that every act of my administration would be tortured, and the grossest and most insidious misrepresentations of them made, by giving one side only of a subject, and that, too, in such exaggerated and indecent terms as could scarcely be applied to Nero, a notorious defaulter, or even a common pick-pocket."

Party  
misre-  
presen-  
tations.

Inter-  
course  
with  
Great  
Britain  
secured. Such the animosities of party — such, in Washington's own language, the misrepresentations to which it would lead. Still, wisdom had not left the land, and, in spite of all opposition, a treaty with Great Britain was made, and peace and profitable intercourse guaranteed for the next ten years.

Other treaties, also, were ratified with different nations and with the Indians. Eleven hundred Indian warriors, of twelve distinct tribes, met General Wayne in council, at Fort Grenville, and settled the boundaries of their respective territories. A tract of 25,000 square miles, in the eastern and southern part of Ohio, was ceded to the United States; for which, and for various posts or trading-houses, \$20,000 in presents, and \$9500 annually, were given to the Indians. A treaty was made with Algiers, but only by payment to that piratical state of nearly \$800,000. By a treaty which Mr. Pinckney made with Spain, the Florida boundary, long in dispute, was settled, and the navigation of the Mississippi made free to both parties, through its entire length. The Indian boundary was also determined, on the basis of Wayne's treaty, which secured to the Indians full one-half of the territory between the Atlantic and Mississippi, and beyond which citizens of the United States were prohibited to hunt, or fish, or settle, without permission — nay, even to trade, without a license. This Indian peace led to the sale and settlement of public lands north of the Ohio. By the terms of the act constituting the territory south of the Ohio, the inhabitants claimed the right to be admitted into the Union whenever their number reached 60,000. A constant tide of immigration having set into that territory, a convention was held, and a state constitution adopted, and Tennessee was added to the United States (January 11th, 1796).

The French government had requested the recall of Morris, after the difficulties with Genet, which request was acceded to, and James Monroe, a warm advocate of France, was sent to fill the vacancy, arriving soon after the fall of Robespierre. He found American affairs in confusion, and zeal for America much abated, since the

Bk. VI.  
Ch. 2. American government had not rendered any assistance, as was hoped, to the French revolutionists. But he endeavoured to soothe French prejudices; and in the attempt he made promises which his government could not fulfil, in justice to England or in accordance with its uniform policy; on account of which, and partly to give satisfaction to Washington, he was recalled, and Charles C. Pinckney appointed in his place (September, 1796).

Farewell  
Address  
of Wash-  
ington. Meanwhile the time for an election of a President drew near, and Washington resolved not again to be a candidate. Accordingly, he issued (September 19th) his famous Farewell Address to the American people, in which he especially enjoined them to maintain the integrity of the Union and of the Federal Constitution, and to keep free from sectional jealousies and animosities, as well as passionate attachment to and inveterate antipathy against particular foreign nations.

Election  
of Presi-  
dent  
Adams. This address, appearing so late, did not give much time for electioneering. Still, parties were very busy. The undoubted leader of the Federalists was Hamilton; but, as Adams was older, had performed great Revolutionary services, was already Vice-President, was a man of acknowledged ability and patriotism, and the great representative of New England, his claims were highest, and he became the chief candidate of his party. His great opponent was Jefferson, over whom he gained his election by a majority of one — so greatly had the democratic party increased.

The last session of the fourth Congress commenced, as usual, early in December, 1796; but nothing of consequence was enacted — all parties being full of the approaching inauguration of the new President.

His in-  
augura-  
tion. It took place on the 4th of March, 1797, in presence of both houses of Congress, judges and other dignitaries,

as well as of Washington himself. He delivered an elaborate and effective speech, alluding eloquently to the exalted character and deeds of the ex-President, and professing his determination, with the aid of Heaven, to defend and support the Constitution.

All parties felt deeply the retirement of Washington, and rendered him every mark of gratitude and respect. In a few days after the inauguration of his successor, he retired to Mount Vernon, to spend the evening of his glorious life in peaceful and quiet pleasures, in the dignity of a gentleman farmer, with books, and friends, and nature — cheered by the voice of conscience and of the world, and constantly refreshed by splendid recollections — by the consciousness of having rendered the greatest blessing to his country which God, in his providence, had ever given it into the power of man to bestow. It was during his military career that the battles of Independence were fought. It was during his administration as President of the United States that the Constitution was established, and those great acts passed by Congress which gave direction to the future progress of the country. It was Washington who delivered the nation from a foreign yoke. It was Washington who directed the helm of the ship of state in the most eventful periods of the civil and constitutional history of the country. Surely, to him the world has hitherto furnished no parallel. Let us, let future generations, venerate his name — for by his spirit, his wisdom, his courage, and his strength of character, he, more than any other mortal, laid the foundation of American greatness.

Bk. VI.  
Ch. 2.  
A. D.  
1797.

Wash-  
ington  
retires.

His  
claim to  
our ve-  
neration