

Bk. VI. French a century before, and which then composed a part-
Ch. 7. of the Northwestern territory.

A. D. At the close of Madison's administration great efforts
1817. were made in the cause of education, which had languished
for several years, and a spirit of religious inquiry, un-
Com- known for half a century, once more aroused the country.
mence- The arts of life, too, received a great impulse, and the
ment of nation, now amounting to nine millions five hundred
prosper- thousand people, made new strides in civilization and
ity. power. The tide of emigration set strongly towards the
West, and the great valley of the Mississippi and its
branches were rapidly filled with enterprising inhabitants
from the Old World and the Atlantic States. With the
establishment of peace was also a breaking up of the old
Reflec- political parties. The Federalists ceased to be a political
tions on organization with the dissolution of the Hartford Con-
Mad- vention, and new interests demanded new advocates. The
son's ad- ancient animosities in a measure disappeared with the re-
minis- tirement of Madison from the office which for eight years
tration. he had held with so much honour. It was his fortune to
conduct affairs at a critical period, and when he retired to
that private life which he knew so well how to enjoy, he
bequeathed to his countrymen an unusual degree of tran-
quillity, prosperity, and happiness. In the midst of liter-
ary and agricultural occupations he spent his declining
days, honoured by the respect of the nation, and cheered
by the society of cultivated friends. With his retirement
from office, March 3d, 1817, and the accession of James
Monroe, a new era commenced in American affairs.

BOOK VII.

THE LATTER PRESIDENTS.

CHAPTER I.

ADMINISTRATION OF MONROE.

THE election of James Monroe, of Virginia, to the **Bk. VII.**
office of chief magistrate took place at a period of tran- **Ch. 1.**
quillity unexampled since the second election of Washing- **A. D.**
ton. He was a statesman of great moderation, and aimed **1817.**
to heal the divisions which had distracted the country.
In the formation of his cabinet he made choice of John **Mon-**
Quincy Adams as Secretary of State; Mr. Crawford was **roe's**
continued in the Treasury Department; Governor Shelby **cabinet.**
was made Secretary of War; Mr. Crowninshield, Secre-
tary of the Navy; and Mr. Rush was appointed Attorney-
General. Mr. Rush was soon after sent to England, and
Mr. Wirt took his place.

After arranging affairs at Washington, the President
made a tour of inspection through the Middle, Eastern,
and Western States, and was everywhere received with
demonstrations of respect.

The fifteenth Congress assembled on the 1st of Decem-
ber, 1817, and Henry Clay was unanimously chosen

Bk. VII. Speaker of the House. Daniel D. Tompkins, as Vice-Ch. I. President of the United States, presided over the Senate.

A. D. On the 11th of December, Mississippi, having adopted 1817. a State Constitution, was admitted into the confederacy—a State which was first visited by Ferdinand de Soto, in 1539. The first settlement was at Natchez, where a fort was erected by the French. The French retained their title until 1763, when they ceded the territory to the English. The Spaniards, however, claimed the territory, after the treaty of 1783, and occupied Natchez until 1798.

Mississippi admitted into the Union.

Early in the year 1817, a band of smugglers and privateers had taken possession of Galveston, in Texas, under authority, it was pretended, of the Spanish colonies, and with the view of a hostile enterprise against Florida. But the United States government deemed itself authorized to disperse the band.

Tariff modified

The subject of internal improvements early occupied the attention of Congress, and an additional protective duty was imposed on various articles with great unanimity.

Changes in the cabinet.

During the session of Congress further changes were made in the cabinet. Governor Shelby declined his appointment as Secretary of War, and John C. Calhoun was appointed. Mr. Crowninshield resigned the situation of Secretary of the Navy, and Smith Thompson, of New York, was appointed in his stead.

War with the Seminoles.

Repeated outrages having been committed on the Southern frontiers, during the summer of 1817, by the Creek and Seminole Indians, who had taken refuge in Florida after their defeat by General Jackson, he was again sent against them. He accordingly pursued the Indians into the Spanish territory, and, by vigorous and severe measures, restored tranquillity. One of his acts produced considerable excitement at that time. Two Englishmen were found in Florida, exciting the Indians

to insurrection, one of whom was sentenced to be shot and the other to be hung. General Jackson's severity was much censured by those who supposed he had transcended his powers; but Congress sanctioned his proceedings.

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Ch. I.

A. D.

1818.

The Seminole war and the seizure of Spanish posts did not prevent an amicable treaty with Spain. On the 22d of February, 1818, Florida was ceded to the United States, on a consideration of five millions allowed for spoiliations. In the same year, December 3d, Illinois was admitted into the Union, which had been first settled by the French, in consequence of the discoveries of La Salle.

Florida ceded.

On the 14th of December, 1819, Alabama was admitted into the Union—a territory which had long been the hunting ground of the Indians, and over which Georgia laid claim after the Revolutionary war.

1819

Admission of Alabama.

The most important question which was discussed by Congress, during the administration of President Monroe, was that which related to the admission of Missouri into the Union. It was maintained by a large class, chiefly northern men, that no additional State tolerating the existence of slavery ought to be received into the confederation, thus reviving the agitation of the slavery question. The war, which has not yet ended, was then fairly opened. The congressional debates were exceedingly warm. The champions of the South were William Pinckney, James Barbour, Henry Clay, and John Randolph; those of the North were Rufus King, John Sergeant, John W. Taylor, and Samuel A. Foote. "The waves of anarchy began to surge violently over the ramparts of the Constitution, and Cassandras were not wanting to predict the fall of Troy." Neither party gained the day. Mr. Clay proposed a compromise, and hushed the strife. His amendments were adopted, and the President approved the bill.

The Missouri question.

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Ch. I. Missouri was subsequently admitted (August 10th, 1821), with the clause that slavery should be for ever prohibited in that part of the territory, except the State then formed, lying north of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude—a line which formed the southern boundary of the State. Maine became an independent State the previous year (March 3d, 1820).

The administration of Monroe had been one of unexampled peace and tranquillity, few acts of importance having been passed by Congress, and few events of political interest having occurred. No serious opposition was made to his re-election, and he was inaugurated a second time, March 5th, 1821.

New members of Congress. 1821. The seventeenth Congress assembled on the 3d of December, 1821, and three new Senators, of subsequent fame, took their seats—Martin Van Buren, Samuel S. Southard, of New Jersey, and Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri. Among the other prominent members who were re-elected were Messrs. J. W. Taylor, Sergeant, Mallery, M'Lane, Barbour, Randolph, Cambreleng, Walworth, M'Duffie, and Poinsett.

New political parties formed. Divisions now began to be more apparent in the republican ranks, and six candidates appeared for the next presidential contest—John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, William H. Crawford, William Lowndes, and John C. Calhoun. The great questions of a protective tariff and a general system of internal improvements now became the leading subjects of discussion. The old federal party was broken up, and John Q. Adams and Henry Clay, both republicans, stood forth the champions of that party which finally settled into what is now called the Whig. Their chief opponents were the friends of General Jackson and Calhoun.

1822. In March, 1822, the President recommended the public

recognition of the independence of the revolted States of South America, against the protest of the Spanish minister, and Congress, by an almost unanimous vote, appropriated one hundred thousand dollars to defray the expenses of a mission to those newly declared republics.

Few acts of general interest were passed by either the seventeenth or the eighteenth Congress, all being absorbed in the election of a new President. But some eminent men were elected to the national legislature, among whom were Robert Y. Hayne, of South Carolina, Andrew Jackson, of Tennessee, Daniel Webster, of Massachusetts, Forsyth, of Georgia, Rives, of Virginia, and Livingston, of Louisiana.

Neither of the presidential candidates succeeded in obtaining a majority of the electoral votes, and it was therefore left to the House of Representatives to make a selection from the three highest on the list, and the influence of Henry Clay being thrown in favour of J. Q. Adams, he was accordingly chosen President. Mr. Calhoun had already received a majority of the electoral votes for Vice-President.

Before the administration of Monroe came to an end, the country was visited by an illustrious guest—the Marquis de la Fayette, whose services in the Revolutionary war had secured him the gratitude of the nation. His visit occupied about a year, during which he visited each of the twenty-four States, and was everywhere hailed with enthusiasm. Congress treated him with marked attention, and bestowed a grant of a township and two hundred thousand dollars as a remuneration for his past services. No foreigner ever visited our shores who was received with such universal respect.

Mr. Monroe left the helm of state when the country was making rapid strides to greatness and wealth. A

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Ch. I.
A. D.
1823
to
1825.

Adams
chosen
President.

Arrival
of La-
fayette.

Bk. VII. large accession of territory had been made during his
 Ch. I. administration, and the national debt had been greatly
 A. D. reduced. Meanwhile schools and colleges had been en-
 1825. dowed in every quarter, and philanthropic societies had
 everywhere been established, to ameliorate the condition
 of the miserable, or to send the gospel to the heathen.
 Progress in arts, wealth, education, and literature. Many of the States made large appropriations for public
 instruction, and a new class of authors arose — those who
 devoted their talents to the improvement of school-books.
 Newspapers, devoted to the advancement of the various
 objects of religion and philanthropy, as well as politics
 and literature, increased wonderfully during this adminis-
 tration. The North American Review was commenced
 in 1815; Silliman's Journal in 1817; The Christian
 Spectator in 1819, afterwards merged into the Biblical
 Repository. Sabbath-school Unions were formed in 1817,
 in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore. In
 1817, Mr. Gallaudet introduced a system of instruction
 for the blind at Hartford, and, in seven years after, there
 were six insane retreats established in various parts of the
 country. About this period the American Education So-
 ciety, the American Peace Society, the Tract Society,
 Sabbath-school Society, and the Missionary Society, were
 either incorporated or received a great impulse. Steam-
 navigation also fairly commenced during this period,
 ploughing the mighty waters of the Mississippi as well
 as inland lakes and ocean bays. In 1819, Captain Shreve
 made a trip in twenty-five days from New Orleans to
 Louisville, and in 1820 the first steamer ascended the
 Arkansas. Lake Erie was first navigated by steam in
 1818. Railroads were not constructed until 1827, and
 the application of electro-magnetism to the communica-
 tion of intelligence was made at a still later date.

One of the most exciting and interesting subjects which

Steam-
 naviga-
 tion.

came under general discussion at this time was the Uni-
 Bk. VII. tarian question. The war was commenced in Boston in
 Ch. I. 1815, and Drs. Channing and Ware led the van, opposed
 A. D. by Drs. Woods and Stuart as the principal leaders among
 1825. the adherents of the ancient faith. In 1822 the Chris-
 tian Register opened its batteries, which were answered
 by the Spectator and the Spirit of the Pilgrims. Since
 1824 the controversy has declined in character and in-
 terest.

Thus, reviving commerce, arts, science, literature, and
 great popular movements in education, philanthropy, and
 religion, closed the peaceful administration of James
 Monroe—a man whose mind was “unwearied in the
 pursuit of truth; patient of inquiry; courteous, even in
 the collision of sentiment; sound in its ultimate judg-
 ments, and firm in its final conclusions.”