

a fleet to demand satisfaction. The frightened Algerines promptly signed a treaty and promised to pay for the ships which they had captured and to stop their privateering. Decatur sailed away to Tripoli and Tunis, and those powers agreed to the same terms. Since this expedition of Commodore Decatur to the Barbary States, we have had no further trouble from those pirates.

Baltimore toasted Decatur with these words: "Renowned for his action; beloved for his virtues." He received a sword from Congress for burning the *Philadelphia*; another for the attacks on Tripoli; a medal for the capture of the *Macedonian*; from the city of New York a box containing the freedom of the city; the medal of the Order of Cincinnati; a sword from Pennsylvania, another from Philadelphia, and a third from Virginia; and both the cities of Baltimore and Philadelphia sent him services of plate for closing the Algerine war. The American people are not ungrateful.

Explain the cause of the war with Tripoli.

Tell the story of the burning of the *Philadelphia*; of the rescue of the "man overboard"; of the boy, Jack Creamer.

Describe Decatur's early life; the battle with the *Macedonian*; the conquest of the Barbary States.

Give accounts of some of the naval commanders in the War of 1812.

Why do we call Tripolitans pirates? Why was it better to burn the *Philadelphia* than to capture it? What is a midshipman? Which required the more bravery, to burn the *Philadelphia* or to rescue the drowning man? Why did Jack Creamer suppose that there would be prize-money that he might share? Why did Decatur say that Jack's proposed use of his money was "noble"? What effect did the naval War of 1812 have upon Great Britain?



CHAPTER XXVI

Andrew Jackson

1767-1845

IN the Revolutionary War, after the surrender of General Lincoln at Charleston, the whole of South Carolina was overrun by the British army. Among those captured on one of these raids was a small boy, thirteen years old. He was carried prisoner to Camden, and nearly starved. While in Camden a British officer, with a very imperious tone, ordered the boy to clean his boots, which were covered with mud.

"Here, boy! You young rebel, what are you doing there? Take these boots and clean them, and be quick about it, too!"

The boy looked up at him and said:

"Sir, I won't do it. I am a prisoner of war and expect proper treatment from you, sir."

The enraged officer drew his sword and aimed a blow at the boy's head, which would doubtless have killed him on the spot had he not thrown up his left arm to protect himself. As it was, he received a severe cut on the arm, the mark of which he carried to the day of his death.

His brother, for a similar offence, received a deep cut upon the head, from the effect of which he died a few days later. Some weeks afterward, his mother, worn out by grief,

anxiety, and need, yielded up her life. His father had died before he was born. He was thus left an orphan with no relatives, no human being in the wide world with whom he could claim a near relationship. He was confined to his bed by sickness and the sufferings he had undergone while a prisoner in the hands of the British, and then, to cap the climax, he took the small-pox, which wellnigh ended his sorrows and his life.

But from all these troubles, trials, and afflictions he rallied, and became one of the most notable leaders in military and political affairs that this country has ever produced.

This boy, first brought to our attention in the Southern campaign of the American Revolution, afterward became famous in the Creek War, in the War of 1812 with England, in the Seminole War in Florida, and was twice elected President of the United States. He held this high office for eight years, at a time of great party strife, when measures of the utmost importance were before the country. This boy was Andrew Jackson.

Two years before he was born, his father and mother had come to this country from the north of Ireland and had set-



BRITISH OFFICER ORDERING YOUNG JACKSON
TO CLEAN HIS BOOTS.

tled near the boundary line between North and South Carolina. Early left an orphan and obliged to earn his own living, Andrew's opportunities to attend school were very limited. He learned to read, to write after a fashion, and to figure a little. In all his life he was never able to write good English.

As we have seen, his career as a fighter began early. He was a firm patriot. He never liked the British, and after that blow from the officer's sword his hatred of the government of England was always kept alive and burning brightly.

What sort of a youth must we suppose Andrew Jackson was up to this time? He was strong, he had health, he was active, but he had no great ambition to rise. He was described as rollicking, noisy, and mischievous. But his boyish pranks were soon laid aside for the great deeds he wished to perform.

When just of age, Andrew moved into the territory of Tennessee. He had previously studied law, and in this new country he soon had plenty of business. The rough settlers of the frontier usually prefer to settle their disputes with their fists, or with knives or firearms. They are too hasty to be willing to wait for the slow decisions of courts of justice. But when life becomes a little quieter in such regions, the pioneers are more willing that their disputes should be settled in accordance with the law. Then the lawyer, if he is popular among the rude frontiersmen, finds his hands full; Andrew Jackson was popular.

Tennessee was admitted into the Union as a State. Jackson was elected to Congress, first as a representative and then as a senator. Soon he was appointed judge of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. After six years as judge he resigned in order to attend to his private business. He had fallen into debt, but after a time he paid all that he owed.

He had a clear head for business, and he successfully managed his large plantation. At the same time he became noted for his fair and honorable dealings with all men.

After the war with England broke out (1812), Jackson was ordered to Natchez with two thousand men. He went South in high spirits, intending to plant the flag upon the ramparts at Mobile, Pensacola, and St. Augustine; for he had long desired that Florida should be a part of the United States.

But soon after his arrival at Natchez he was ordered to disband his troops. Jackson was angry at this order, because it prevented his attacking Florida. He also felt that it was wrong, because it left the soldiers at Natchez; this town was many miles from their starting-point, and the men had no money to carry them home. He refused to obey the order and marched the troops back in a body.

During this march he became the idol of his men, and his determined will and strength of character brought to him the nickname of "Old Hickory." From this time onward through his whole life his friends and admirers called him by that name, and gloried in it.

While the war was going on, the Western Indians arose in their might, determined to drive back all the white men who had crossed the mountains. The Creek Indians, one thousand strong, captured Fort Mimms in Alabama, and massacred more than five hundred men, women, and children.

Jackson now took the field again at the head of twenty-five hundred men. His difficulties and dangers were great. Provisions were lacking; in that new country it was difficult to hold privates to strict military obedience, and quarrels between the generals prevented the necessary united action. Jackson, however, here showed that he had great ability as a general; he was always awake and watchful; he never lacked

patience; and he proved that he knew how to lead men and obtain from them faithful obedience.

He soon gained a decisive victory over the Indians in a great battle at Horse-Shoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River, and the strength of the Creek Nation was broken.

This campaign of Jackson's marks the downfall of Indian power in that section of the country. It also had a decided



GENERAL JACKSON AT THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS.

effect upon our war with Great Britain, since up to this time the English had received much assistance from the Indians. Jackson was now made major-general in the regular army.

At Mobile and Pensacola he defeated the British and drove them entirely out of Florida. They determined to capture New Orleans, in order to make a permanent conquest of the whole lower Mississippi Valley.

Jackson consequently brought his entire force to New Orleans, and soon fought one of the most notable battles of the whole war.

Sir Edward Pakenham, in command of the British forces, tried to overwhelm Jackson and his army by a direct attack. In less than an hour the British were in full retreat, leaving twenty-six hundred men killed and wounded on the field, while the American loss was only twenty-one killed and wounded. Perhaps in the history of the world no other battle was ever fought where one side lost so many and the other side so few in proportion.

It was the most complete defeat the British army had ever experienced. Our other land battles in this war had not been very favorable to us, but this great victory fully restored the reputation of the American armies.

Until now General Jackson had not been widely and popularly known throughout the whole country. Many asked the questions, "Who is this great man? To what State does he belong?"

From this time until the day of his death he occupied the most prominent place in the popular mind. During Monroe's second term as President of the United States (1821-1825), Jackson began to be talked of for President. When he first heard of the suggestion he was thunderstruck. He knew himself to be a rough, uneducated, military man, with little knowledge of state affairs. At first he ridiculed the idea.

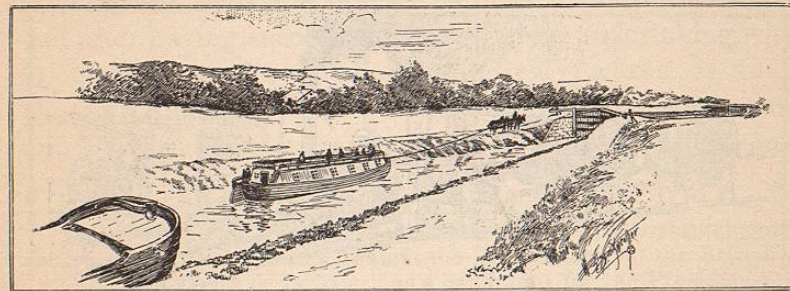
"Do you suppose," said he, "that I am such a fool as to think myself fit to be President of the United States? No, sir! I know what I am fit for. I can command a body of men in a rough way, but I am not fit to be President."

Jackson really had less personal ambition than many men,

but he was very popular, and without doubt flattery went far to influence him to accept the nomination.

But he was defeated and John Quincy Adams was elected President. From this time onward Jackson devoted himself to politics; and in the next campaign he was elected President by a large majority, and John C. Calhoun was made Vice-President.

Jackson was so liked that he was reelected. Neverthe-



TRAVELING BY CANAL BOAT IN JACKSON'S TIME.

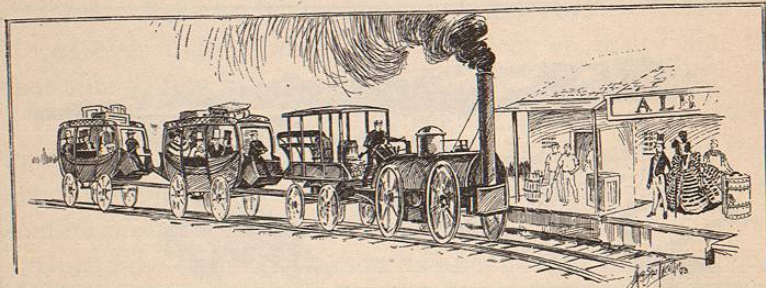
less, during the eight years that he was President (1829-1837) he had a stormy time.

Among the many important events during his Presidency was the trouble with South Carolina. Then, as now, people were divided in their opinions concerning the tariff. The politicians of South Carolina did not like a tariff bill which the Congress of the United States had passed. Therefore a convention was held in that State which voted that the tariff law should be "null and void" in South Carolina. By this was meant that they would not allow the United States government to collect the import taxes upon goods entering that State.

This act was called nullification. It really declared that

the laws of the United States could not be enforced in South Carolina unless that State was willing. It made the State greater than the United States.

Jackson immediately sent Lieutenant Farragut with a naval force to Charleston Harbor, and ordered General Scott to have troops in readiness to enter South Carolina if necessary. Jackson believed that a State had no right to "nullify" a law of the United States, and that such action was contrary



THE EARLY RAILWAY TRAIN.

to the Constitution and, if permitted to become a precedent, would finally destroy the nation.

A bill to modify the tariff, sometimes called the "Clay Compromise Tariff Bill," passed Congress and was accepted by the nullifiers, and South Carolina remained in the Union. Thirty years afterward South Carolina went a little further, and declared her right to withdraw altogether from the Union. That last act was followed by a four years' war (the Civil War), which finally determined the question; now the United States is acknowledged by everybody to be a nation, and every State is subordinate to the national power.

The two terms during which Jackson was President form a remarkable period in the history of the country. Besides the great political events of these years, important changes

in daily life were taking place. Steam railroads were begun, anthracite coal was brought into use, friction matches were invented, and the reaping machine was patented.

At the end of this time Jackson retired to private life, much more popular even than when he became President. He spent the remaining eight years of his life on his plantation, "The Hermitage," near Nashville, Tennessee.

Jackson died at the age of seventy-eight, after having held more power than any other American had ever possessed, and after having succeeded in every great undertaking which he attempted. The name of Andrew Jackson is to-day classed with those of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Thomas Jefferson in the hearts of the American people.

Give an account of the patriotic prisoner of war.

Tell the story of Jackson's education; of his early character; of his campaigns against Florida, against the Creeks, against the British.

Give an account of Jackson: as a candidate for the Presidency; as President.

Had the British officer a right to order Andrew to black his boots? Can you understand why Jackson was popular with the pioneers of Tennessee? Could not Judge Jackson have properly attended to his private business and still remained a judge? Why was Jackson called "Old Hickory"? Why was the obedience of privates harder to obtain in the new country than in longer-settled regions?