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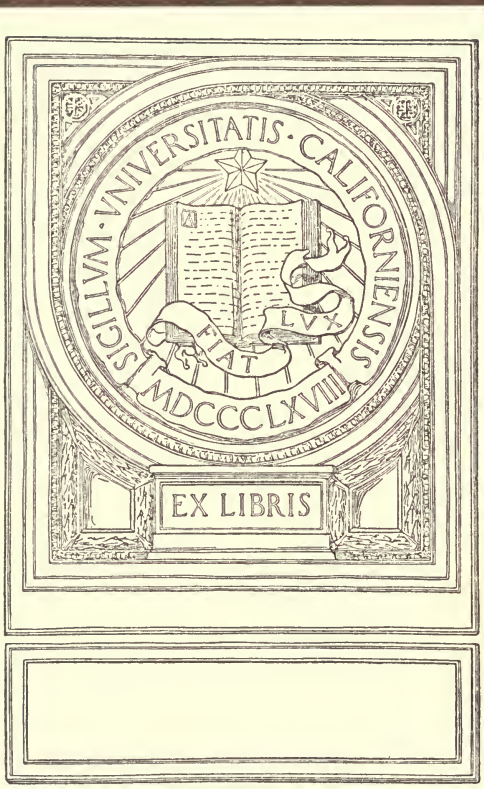
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DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

of the cession of

LOUISIANA

to the

United States

till it became an American Province.

with an Appendix

by

RUFUS BLANCHARD.

RUFUS BLANCHARD | GEO. F. CRAM.
169 RANDOLPH ST. | 552 WABASH AVE.
CHICAGO, U.S.A.

PRICE, 25 CENTS.

PERRY'S VICTORY ON LAKE ERIE, 1813.

Taken from "The Discovery and Conquest of the Northwest," Etc.

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CHICAGO:

R. BLANCHARD

1903

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DEDICATION

Emile Loubet, President of France:

It seems appropriate that at the Centennial Celebration at St. Louis of the French cession of Louisiana to the United States our national reminiscences of such pleasant memory should not be lost sight of.

Ever since the treaty of alliance between France and the United States in 1778 there has been an uninterrupted friendship between the Government and the people of both countries, respectively, and to you, the Representative of the French people, I dedicate this work, with a confidence that by so doing I represent the sentiment of the American people, which is, universally, friendly to France. I sign myself, WITH GREAT RESPECT,

YOURS FRATERNALLY *in behalf of the American people,*

RUFUS BLANCHARD.

M152318

MEDAL

TO COMMEMORATE THE TRIUMPH OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE—STRUCK BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, 1783.

DEVICE—*Head of Liberty; the hair blown back as if by the wind, against which the goddess seems to be running to announce to the world the tidings of her victories. On the right shoulder she bears a liberty cap.*

LEGEND: *"Libertas Americana, 4 Juil., 1776."*

REVERSE—*Pallas holding in her left hand a shield, on which are three* fleurs de lis *(the arms of France); opposite to her is a leopard (England) in the act of springing, into whose breast she is about to plunge a barbed javelin that she holds in her dexter hand. Beneath the shield is an infant strangling with one hand a serpent, which he is holding up, whilst he stoops and chokes another found at his feet.*

LEGEND: *"Non sine Diis Animosus Infans."*

Exergue

17th Oct., 1777.

19th Oct., 1781.

Hercules, according to Grecian mythology, was said to have strangled whilst in his cradle two serpents which had assaulted him, having been assisted by the protection of the goddess Pallas. Infant America, like Hercules in his cradle, had destroyed two British armies. The two epochs of those exploits are marked in the exergue, 17th Oct., 1777. Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga; 19th Oct., 1781, Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown, Va. The motto is from Horace, Ode 4, Book III, v. 20.

This medal is now in the Worden collection of the New York State Library.

INTRODUCTION

At a time when the political conditions of Europe and America were evanescent, when the heart of the American Continent was in the germ cell, then fortuitous circumstances came up unexpectedly to decide an issue that involved the destinies of the United States, and the men capable of giving directions to these political issues were brought into the arena to solve them. Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of the Independence of the United States, and Napoleon Bonaparte, the supreme ruler of France, were the two great actors for their countries respectively.

Robert Livingston, who had been one of the committee to formulate the Declaration of American Independence, and James Monroe, destined to a world wide fame as the author of the Monroe doctrine, were the actors under Jefferson on the part of the United States, and Barbé Marbois, a great and farseeing statesman, on the part of France. In the following pages the immense work which these remarkable men accomplished will be told as briefly and plainly as the facts can be stated without omitting any link in its chain. To this end much pains has been taken to obtain official records, and here it is but just that I acknowledge obligations to Henry Vignaud, Secretary to Hon. Horace Porter, our present Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to France, for searching among the archives of a hundred years back to secure for me a fac simile of the autograph of Marbois, taken directly from the original treaty.

The appendix of this work contains a brief outline history of the American acquisition of Oregon, made possible by the purchase of Louisiana; also the history of other foreign acquisitions to the United States since that time.

RUFUS BLANCHARD.

Chicago, June, 1903.

LOUISIANA

France was the first owner of the Mississippi valley. She became vested in its title by priority of discovery and exploration by La Salle, in 1682; who navigated the Mississippi to its mouth, naming it Louisiana in honor of his sovereign, the King of France. This immense domain included the valley of the Ohio river and all its tributaries; as well as the Missouri, Arkansas and Red river valleys, and their tributaries, extending to the western water shed of the Pacific Coast.

Spain had already settled East Florida in 1565 at St. Augustine; hence the Spanish title to Florida rested on the basis of priority. Immediately adjoining this settlement on the north was the Georgia Colony, settled by Gov. Oglethorpe in 1732. This colony included the present state of Alabama, the southwestern point of which extended to the Gulf of Mexico. Spain also owned Mexico as a result of its conquest by Cortez, in 1521, the northern boundary of which was indefinite. The English owned a narrow strip of land along the Atlantic Coast, where they had first settled at Jamestown, in 1607, and at Plymouth, in 1620, and a few years later on this coast, her thirteen colonies were laying the foundation of a great nation—a nation whose power was not then foreseen. France then had a foothold on the St. Lawrence river. Each of these peoples, the English and the French, had a laudable ambition to extend their settlements to the west, which, as a consequence, produced a rivalry between them which ultimated in the French and Indian war, begun in 1755. Before hostilities commenced a compromise was attempted, and January, 1755, opened with peace pro-

UNIV OF CALIFORNIA

posals from France, by which she offered, as an ultimatum, that the French should retire west of the Ohio, and the English east of the Alleghenies.

This offer was considered by England till the 7th of March, when she agreed to accept it on condition that the French would destroy all their forts on the Ohio river and its branches. The French, after twenty days, refused to do this.* But while the fruitless negotiations were pending, both sides were sending soldiers to America.

The issue involved in the French and Indian war interested every nation in Europe, no one of which wished to see either of the participants in it secure too much of the territory in dispute, lest the victor should become sufficiently powerful as a European nation to destroy its equilibrium. France had positive purposes at which she aimed, the chief one of which was to preserve her American possessions, and the means to be used in the achievement of this end were definitely settled upon, which, in brief, were to attack the allies of England on the Continent, by which diversion New France in America was to be made invulnerable against her rival, whose strength must be largely occupied on the defensive at home.

The ultimatum of England was not less clearly defined than that of France, but the means by which it was to be brought about were more complicated. The tenacity with which the American colonists had clung to their political rights at the Albany convention of 1754, as well as the able statesmanship of the Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania Assemblies, not always in harmony with the crown, had awakened a sense of caution in the English court, in their dealings with their trans-Atlantic children, and the question came to the surface whether it was better to drive France entirely out of America, or allow her to retain enough there to become a

*Plain Facts, p. 52.

rival to the English colonists, and thereby insure their loyalty through their obligations for assistance in defending themselves from the French. King George II. shared these apprehensions, while William Pitt had always been in favor of pushing the war in America without fear of adverse consequences.

England and Russia had long been friends, and, as soon as war with France appeared inevitable, she made a treaty with the empress of Russia, by the condition of which Hanover (England's ally) was to be protected by Russian troops in the event of a European war, for which service England was to pay her. This treaty bore date of September 13th, 1755. A few months later both France and Prussia manifested dispositions to invade portions of Germany, the French incentive to which was to keep England busy at home, while she (France) made her American possessions secure, as already stated.

Russia was now alarmed lest she might be attacked by Prussia, and, conscious of her inability to fulfill her treaty stipulations with England, as to the protection of Hanover, she applied to France for the preservation of the neutrality of that electorate.

These accumulating evidences of the rising power of Frederick stimulated England to make an alliance with him, which was done January 16th, 1756, although by this treaty the interests of Russia, as well as those of Hanover, were left unprotected.* The effect was to unite the interests of Russia with France, and also those of Austria with the same power, although the two had long been enemies.

All this plotting and counter-plotting, which by a paradoxical combination, transposed the friendships and enmities of the great powers of Europe, grew out of the issue between

*Smollet's History of England, vol. 4, p. 178.

England and France, as to which should take possession of the upper Ohio country, although the fortunes of war ultimately brought into question the patent to the title of Canada itself.

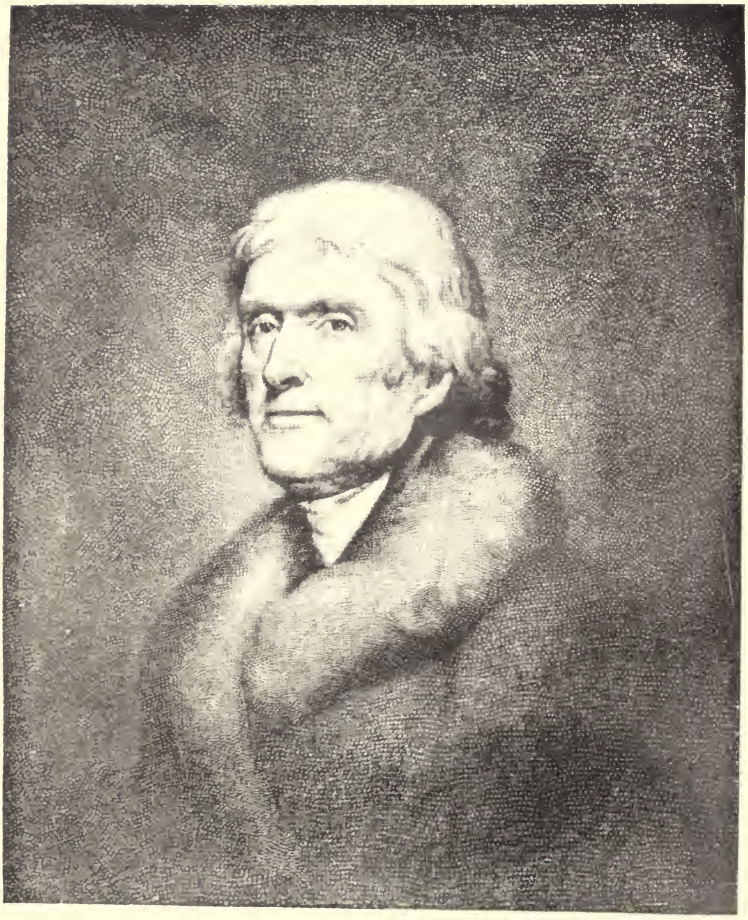
It began in a land speculation of the Ohio company, whose regal title to lands on the Ohio river was not honored by the French Court. The issue broadened as the war progressed, and after it closed, a new theater, unexpectedly, opened before the world, that justified the arming of Europe to take a hand in its settlement.

The sequel proved that the fears of George II., King of England, were not without foundation. It has also proved, that if the policy of Pitt, the world's greatest statesman at that time, did not advance the interests of England, it was elementary to the birth of a new nation, not less powerful. The American Revolution was the result. It terminated in the definitive treaty of peace held at Paris, September 3rd, 1783. To the consummation of this treaty, America owes a lasting debt of gratitude to France for her aid in the American Revolution. The French Revolution of 1789 was one of the momentous results of the American Revolution. Napoleon Bonaparte came into power, when the revolutionary spirit in France, though burnt out like a spent volcano, had left the vital forces of that country unimpaired. He commenced his rule in France, in May, 1802, under title of First Consul.

In 1761 a treaty had been concluded between France and Spain called a "Family Compact," by the 18th article of which either power was obligated to indemnify the other power for any loss it sustained by conquest.[13] Each of these nations was governed by a Bourbon King. This compact was in full force during the various transfers of the province of Louisiana, previous to its sale to the United States, in 1803. This sale by the French Republic was the first act on the part of France that was not in harmony with the spirit of this compact. The

relations between the United States, France, Spain and England were in a very critical condition. Both the American and the French Revolutions had brought new issues to the great nations of the world. America in the plenitude of her rising power in the western continent, had now become a factor in the deliberations between France, England and Spain. Spain on the 1st of October, 1800, concluded a treaty at San Ildefonso with France, by which, she retroceded to the latter power the entire province of Louisiana, which province had been ceded by France to Spain in 1763. No limits had ever been set to Louisiana, on the west, except general geographical limits by water sheds; but on the north, by the treaty of Utrecht, the forty-ninth parallel had been considered the northern boundary, and this line had not been disputed by any nation. But the limits of Louisiana on the east by the treaty of 1783, between Great Britain and the United States, had been fixed on the Mississippi river as far south as the thirty-first parallel; which parallel eastwardly to the Perdido river was the southern boundary of the United States as far as it went, and the United States never claimed any territory south of this parallel until by the treaty with Spain in 1819, Florida was ceded by her to the United States for a consideration of $5,000,000.

France and England being at war at the time of the San Ildefonso treaty, the retrocession of Louisiana to France by that treaty was not made public, and Bonaparte was careful not to divulge it by taking possession of the province lest it might be attacked by England, whose navy was far superior to that of France. The rising power of Napoleon had made the nations of Europe anxious to make peace with the French, and England, with the rest, felt the necessity of doing the same thing. To this end she concluded a treaty with France October 1st, 1801, which was called the treaty of Amiens. Had Eng-



First Printed in McClure's Magazine.

Th. Jefferson

land known of the treaty of San Ildefonso, it is probable she never would have signed the treaty of Amiens, at least until she had by means of her fleet taken New Orleans from the French, in which event the whole province of Louisiana would have become English territory. The ambition of France to again possess the west bank of the Mississippi river was made manifest by the treaty of San Ildefonso, and Napoleon, inspired by this ambition, looked forward to an important accession of power for France in this restoration of French territory. To the same end his attempt to make the conquest of Santo Domingo was made. This attempt, owing to the stubborn courage of the celebrated Toussaint L'Ouverture, who had been bred a slave, miscarried. Meantime, the English began to be jealous of the power of France. They feared that the reintroduction of French power in America might endanger the safety of Canada itself, and the celebrated Lord Hawkesbury declared, "that the treaty of Amiens was only experimental on the part of England," which declaration was equivalent to an acknowledgment that a subtle treachery underlay the peaceful professions of England in the signing of this treaty.

All this time Napoleon had his fingers on the pulse of Europe, and during these palmy days of peace took measures to colonize New Orleans with French colonies, and others favorable to his designs. Here we will leave him in his happy reveries, till the irresistible current of events awakened him from his illusions.

On the accession of Thomas Jefferson to the presidency of the United States, in 1801, he appointed Robert R. Livingston as Minister to France. Mr. Livingston was one of the ablest statesmen of that period, and it is fortunate for the United States that a man of such ability represented its interests at the French Court.

At the Treaty of Peace between England and United States, in 1783, Spain had protested against the Mississippi river as the western boundary of the new nation; declaring that the United States should be limited on the west by the Alleghenv Mountains. Later, when American settlements extended to the west, so as to require a highway to the ocean, by way of the Mississippi river, to market their produce, she erected forts on its east bank, and persisted in retaining these forts, one at Natchez, and the other at Walnut Hills. This unfriendly attitude of Spain affected the interests of the western states to such an extent that it was difficult to keep them from marching an army to take possession of New Orleans, in order to obtain what they declared to be their natural rights, namely, to use the Mississippi as a great highway to the sea. This state of things grew worse, till Jay's treaty of 1795, in which Spain conceded the right of deposit at New Orleans; which temporarily modified the situation. But this treaty even if made in good faith on the part of Spain, could not have permanently settled the real issues at stake between the two countries. The treaty, however, was not lived up to by Spain and old scores were opened up afresh.

January 7th, 1803, the House of Representatives took action on this matter, as follows:

"Resolved, That this house receive with great sensibility the information of a disposition in certain officers of the Spanish government at New Orleans to obstruct the navigation of the River Mississippi, as secured to the United States by the most solemn stipulations:

"That adhering to that humane and wise policy which ought ever to characterize a free people, and by which the United States have always professed to be governed; willing at the same time to ascribe this breach of compact to the unauthorized misconduct of certain individuals, rather than to

a want of good faith on the part of his Catholic Majesty; and relying with perfect confidence on the vigilance and wisdom of the Executive, they will wait the issue of such measures as that department of the government shall have pursued for asserting the rights and vindicating the injuries of the United States—holding it to be their duty, at the same time, to express their unalterable determination to maintain the boundaries and the rights of navigation and commerce through the River Mississippi, as established by existing treaties."

January 10th, 1803, James Monroe was appointed by President Jefferson to act with Mr. Livingston in the delicate and uncertain negotiations with France for the purchase of Louisiana. The following letters to Mr. Monroe show his confidence in him to execute the important commission required of him:

"WASHINGTON, January 10th, 1803.

"GOVERNOR MONROE:

"Dear Sir: I have but a moment to inform you that the fever into which the western mind is thrown by the affair at New Orleans, stimulated by the mercantile and generally the federal interest, threatens to overbear our peace. In this situation we are obliged to call on you for a temporary sacrifice of yourself to prevent this greatest of evils in the present prosperous tide of our affairs. I shall to-morrow nominate you to the Senate, for an extraordinary mission to France, and the circumstances are such as to render it impossible to decline; because the whole public hope will be rested on you. I wish you to be either in Richmond or Albemarle till you receive another letter from me, which will be within two days hence, if the Senate decide immediately; or later, according to the time they take to decide. In the meantime, pray work night and day, to arrange your affairs for a temporary absence—perhaps for a long one. Accept affectionate salutations.

"THOMAS JEFFERSON."

"WASHINGTON, January 13th, 1803.

"GOVERNOR MONROE:

"Dear Sir: I dropped you a line on the 10th, informing you of a nomination I had made of you to the Senate, and yesterday I enclosed you their approbation, not having then time to write. The agitation of the public mind on occasion of the late suspension of our right of deposit at New Orleans is extreme. This, in the western country, is natural, and grounded on operative motives. Remonstrances, memorials, etc., are now circulating through the whole of that country, and signing by the body of the people. The measures which we have been pursuing, being invisible, do not satisfy their minds; something sensible, therefore, has become necessary, and indeed our object of purchasing New Orleans and the Floridas is a measure likely to assume so many shapes that no instructions could be squared to fit them. It was essential, then, to send a minister extraordinary to be joined with the ordinary one, with discretionary power, first, however, well impressed with all our views, and therefore qualified to meet and modify to these every form of proposition which could come from the other party. This could be done only in frequent and full oral communication. Having determined on this, there could not be two opinions as to the person. You possessed the unlimited confidence of the administration and of the western people, and were you to refuse to go, no other man can be found who does this. All eyes are fixed on you; and were you to decline, the chagrin would be great, and would shake under your feet the high ground on which you stand with the public. Indeed, I know nothing which would produce such a shock; for on the event of this mission depends the future destinies of this republic. If we cannot, by a purchase of the country, ensure to ourselves a course of perpetual peace and friendship with all nations, then, as war cannot be

far distant, it behooves us immediately to be preparing for that course, without, however, hastening it; and it may be necessary (on your failure on the continent) to cross the channel. We shall get entangled in European politics, and figuring more, be much less happy and prosperous. This can only be prevented by a successful issue to your present mission. I am sensible, after the measures you have taken for getting into a different line of business, that it will be a great sacrifice on your part; and presents, from the season and other circumstances, serious difficulties. But some men are born for the public. Nature, by fitting them for the service of the human race on a broad scale, has stamped them with the evidences of her destination and their duty.

"THOMAS JEFFERSON."

Mr. Monroe accepted the appointment of President Jefferson and immediately made preparations to sail for Paris.

Meanwhile, Napoleon, now fully aware of the uncertainty with which the peace of Amiens held England in check, was ready to open negotiations with Livingston and Monroe, for the purchase of Louisiana. This conviction had been forced upon him by the action of a party in England that had sworn implacable hatred to France. On March 8, 1803, the King of England sent a message to the two Houses of Parliament, in which he gave intimation of an approaching rupture. Soon after England made a call for 10,000 seamen. M. Talleyrand and the French Minister now threw off all disguise and acknowledged to the British Minister that the embarkation of troops, destined for America, had been countermanded in consequence of the action of the English Court. The critical situation between France and England was discussed in a private conference in the Tuileries, in which discussion Napoleon took a prominent part. He said to his counselors: "The

principles of maritime supremacy are subversive of one of the noblest rights that nature, science and genius have secured to man. I mean the right of traveling every sea with as much liberty as the bird flies through the air; of making use of the waves, winds, climates and productions of the globe; of bringing near to one another by a bold navigation, nations that have been separated since the creation; of carrying civilization into regions that are a prey to ignorance and barbarism. This is what England would usurp over all other nations." Here, the English Minister asked him if the English had not the same motive for dreading a continental supremacy as the French? Continuing, he said, "France obliges us to recollect the injury which she did us twenty-five years since, by forming an alliance with our revolted colonies. Jealous of our commerce, navigation and riches, she wishes to annihilate them." After this English retort, Napoleon said to his advisers, "Propose your theories and your abstract propositions, and see if they can resist the efforts of the usurpers of the sovereignty of the sea. Leave commerce and navigation in the exclusive possession of a single people, and the globe will be subjugated by their arms, and the gold which occupies the place of armies." Napoleon then for the first time announced his policy to be pursued respecting the United States. He said, "To emancipate nations from the commercial tyranny of England, it is necessary to balance her influence by a maritime power that may one day become her rival; that power is the United States. The English aspire to dispose of all the riches of the world. I shall be useful to the whole universe, if I can prevent their ruling America as they rule Asia." The English people were pronounced through the English press against the policy of Napoleon. Both nations under the resentful influence of these recriminations began to make preparations for war which might result from the breaking of the peace of Amiens.

April 10, 1803, after having attended the solemnities of Easter services, Napoleon called together his two principal ministers, and declared to them in plain terms his determination to cede Louisiana to the United States, and after a long rehearsal of the political conditions of England and France, he said: "Irresolution and deliberation are no longer in season. I renounce Louisiana. It is not only New Orleans that I will cede, it is the whole colony without any reservation. * * * I renounce it with the greatest regret. * * * I direct you to negotiate this affair with the envoys of the United States. Do not await the arrival of Mr. Monroe, but have an interview this very day with Mr. Livingston." The plenipotentiary then by way of getting further instructions asked of Bonaparte, whether the rights of sovereignty were to be considered in the cession, to which Bonaparte replied, "You are giving me in all its perfection the ideology of the laws of nature and nations; but I require money to make war on the richest nation in the world. Send your maxims to London. I am sure they will be greatly admired there; and yet, no great attention is paid to them when the question is the occupation of the finest regions of Asia. Perhaps it will also be objected to me that the Americans may be found too powerful for Europe in two or three centuries; but my foresight does not embrace such remote fears. Besides, we may hereafter expect to hear of rivalries among the members of that union. The confederations that are called perpetual only last till one of the contracting parties finds it to his interest to break them,* and it is to prevent the danger to which the colossal power of England exposes us that I will provide a remedy." Napoleon was fully aware that the cabinet at Washington did not know of his willingness to sell the whole

*This prophecy was fulfilled when the Rebellion of the Southern States came in 1861.

Rob. K. Livingston

province of Louisiana, and he seemed to be well aware that Mr. Monroe must have secret instructions from his government, and authority to use his own discretion, as to unexpected points that might arise in the course of the negotiations. In this premise Napoleon had a just conception of the entire case at issue.

The conferences between Mr. Livingston and M. Barbé Marbois, to whom Napoleon had confided the negotiations, began immediately; but Mr. Livingston had not received his instructions—naturally cautious, he became suspicious that the pretension to cede Louisiana to the United States was an artifice to lull his country into an ill founded security, while the French were making preparations to defend Louisiana. It was too good to be true, as he thought, when M. Marbois made a proposition to him for a cession of the whole province. At the beginning of these preliminary discussions, news came that Mr. Monroe had arrived at Havre, when Mr. Livingston at once wrote him the following letter:

"PARIS, April 10, 1803.

"Dear Sir: I congratulate you on your safe arrival. We have long and anxiously wished for you. God grant that your mission may answer yours and the public expectation. War may do something for us; nothing else would. I have paved the way for you, and if you could add to my memoirs an assurance that we were now in possession of New Orleans, we should do well. * * * I have apprised the minister of your arrival, and told him you would be here on Tuesday or Wednesday. Present my compliments and Mrs. L.'s to Mrs. Monroe, and believe me, dear sir,

"Your friend and humble servant,

"ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON.

"To his Excellency James Monroe."

Mr. Monroe arrived in Paris on the 12th of April and immediately held a conference with his colleague Mr. Livingston, finding him still anxious with doubt and misgiving. These two distinguished men enjoyed a mutual friendship and confidence perfected by years of labor in one common cause, the Independence of the United States. Mr. Monroe's arrival at Paris had aroused the suspicions of the English Ambassador, although the object of his arrival could not positively be known at London until the resolutions of the American Congress became public.

M. Marbois had been much interested in American Independence, having resided in Philadelphia during the progressive steps that brought it about, assisting the cause by every means in his power, in doing which he acted on the principles of the Treaty of Alliance of 1778, between United States and France. Both Mr. Livingston and Mr. Monroe were well acquainted with him. Here we behold three negotiators acting together to bring about one of the most important treaties that the United States ever entered into with a foreign power, with the single exception of the treaty of 1783, at Paris, which sheathed the sword of the American Revolution. M. de Marbois opened these negotiations by proposing to CEDE THE ENTIRE TERRITORY TO THE UNITED STATES, instead of the territory south of the parallel of 31 degrees which contained New Orleans, the latter being all that Mr. Jefferson had expected; and even the cession of that had been considered a matter of great uncertainty. This offer on the part of M. de Marbois was a most agreeable surprise to the American negotiators. As the deliberations were continued, all doubts as to the good faith of Napoleon in this transaction vanished. While Marbois' proposition broadened the arena in which the American negotiators were unexpectedly to act, a new perplexity was thrust upon them. It was impossible for them to get farther

James Monroe

instructions from their government, while it was necessary to act promptly, as delay might defeat their whole plan. The Treaty of Amiens might be broken at any day by England, in which case an English fleet might sail up the Mississippi river, take New Orleans, and thereby secure Louisiana to the British Crown, against which attack the Americans were defenseless. Spain was still in possession of New Orleans. The Treaty by which she had ceded it to France two years before being a secret Treaty, a formal transfer of this territory from Spain to France had never been made, the better to preserve this secrecy. Meantime the American negotiators were well aware that inasmuch as Spain might protest against the transfer of it to France by the United States, it was quite possible that Spain might refuse to surrender the territory in question to the United States. In this exigency the American negotiators took upon themselves responsibilities unknown and unpracticed by plenipotentiaries acting for their government. Nothing definite as to the western limits of Louisiana could be arrived at, but the negotiators on each side agreed to leave such limits to be decided in the future, using only the general expressions, that the boundaries of the province should be the same as existed in former transfers between Spain and France. The great issue at stake, and points to be settled, were harmoniously made by the negotiators on both sides, without providing for incidents that might arise in the practical fulfillment of the Treaty, and April 30, 1803, each of them signed it with a genuine feeling of good fellowship towards each other, as well as with a consciousness that they had served the best interests of the two nations which they represented. This done, they all arose and shook hands, when Mr. Livingston said: "We have lived long, but this is the noblest work of our whole lives. The treaty which we have just signed has not been obtained by art or dictated by force; equally advantageous to the

Barbé Marbois

two contracting parties, it will change vast solitudes into flourishing districts. From this day the United States take their place among the powers of the first rank. The English lose all exclusive influence in the affairs of America. * * * But if wars are inevitable, France will hereafter have in the New World, a natural friend." The English Government did not suspect that a cession of the United States had been made; and they did not know that Spain had ceded Louisiana to the French two years before, owing to the well kept secrecy as to the terms of the treaty of San Ildefonso. Four days after the signing of the Louisiana Treaty, Napoleon made a demand upon the British Government that the Independence of the Island of Malta should be guaranteed by Austria, Russia and Prussia, the allies of England; an issue which had been pending between France and England a long time. "If this proposal is rejected," said Bonaparte, "it is manifest that England has never wished to execute the Treaty of Amiens." On the 22nd of May, less than a month after the signing of the Treaty, England commenced hostilities by the capture of some French merchantmen. On the same day Bonaparte ratified the Louisiana Treaty of Cession, as it was important that this formality should take place on the part of France, in order to leave no ground for considering Louisiana as still French. When the English Ministers had been informed of the object of Mr. Monroe's mission (previous to the publication of the treaty), they made a proposition to Rufus King, the American Envoy at London, to the effect that they take the province of Louisiana with the concurrence of the United States, in which case Mr. King was given to understand that if his government gave its consent to this design the province should be retroceded to the United States after having been taken from France. Of course, such a proposition was rejected, nor was it necessary to state the reason why. Soon after this the

British Government were officially informed by the United States of the ceding of Louisiana by treaty, when Lord Hawkesbury gave a satisfactory answer respecting the cession. The treaties were forwarded to Washington for ratification, arriving there July 4, 1803. M. Pichon, the *chargé d'affaires* of France, had orders to transmit them to M. Laussat, the prefect of the Province of Louisiana. Meantime the Spanish Minister at Washington stated that he had orders from his government to warn the United States against the ratification of the treaties, on the ground that France had contracted an engagement with Spain not to cede it to any other power without the consent of Spain.

Pending these attempts on the part of Spanish officials to prevent the consummation of the treaty, President Jefferson called an extra session of Congress, which was opened on the 17th of October. Measures were immediately taken to justify and carry into effect the treaty, but not without some opposition. No provision had ever been made by the Constitution of the United States for accession of territory, notwithstanding which the Senate approved the treaties by a vote of 24 against 7. President Jefferson ratified the treaty October 21, 1803. The House of Representatives, after some opposition, concurred. This prompt and hasty action of President Jefferson was not consistent with his intense democratic convictions. But the end justified the means. Imperialism could hardly have taken a greater responsibility than President Jefferson was obliged to take for the general welfare of the nation, and any opposition that either England or Spain could make would have caused a war with the United States, a result which neither of these powers dared to face in the unsettled condition of Europe at that time.

This firm action on the part of the American Congress had its effect upon Spain, who did not dare to take the respon-

sibility of arousing the war sentiment of Europe. Accordingly, a few months later, the King of Spain instructed his Minister as follows:

"Extract from a Letter Written by Don Pedro Devallos, Minister of State of His Catholick Majesty, to Charles Pinckney, Esq., Dated at the Prado, February 10, 1804.

"At the same time that the Minister of His Majesty in the United States is charged to inform the American Government respecting the falsity of the rumour referred to, he has likewise orders to renounce his opposition to the alienation of Louisiana, made by France, notwithstanding the solid reasons on which it is founded; thereby giving a new proof of his benevolence and friendship towards the United States."

"Copy of a Letter from the Marquis of Casa Yrujo to the Secretary of State.

"Sir: The explanation which the Government of France has given to His Catholick Majesty concerning the sale of Louisiana to the United States, and the amicable disposition on the part of the King my master toward these States, have determined him to abandon the opposition, which at a prior period, and with the most substantial motives, he had manifested against that transaction. In consequence and by special order of His Majesty I have the pleasure to communicate to you his royal intentions on an affair so important; well persuaded that the American Government will see, in this conduct of the King my master, a new proof of his consideration for the United States, and that they will correspond with a true reciprocity, with the sincere friendship of the King, of which he has given so many proofs.

"God preserve you many years.

"Philadelphia, 15th May, 1804.

"To James Madison, Esq."

President Jefferson and the two Houses of Congress now ordered that the laws of the United States should be proclaimed and executed in the ceded province of Louisiana. Before this could be done it was necessary that Spain should formally cede the province to France, and that France in turn should cede the same to the United States. On the 30th of November, M. Laussat, commissioner of the French Government, at New Orleans, announced a proclamation to the Louisianians, as follows: "The approach of a war which threatens the four quarters of the world has given a new direction to the beneficent views of France towards Louisiana. She has ceded it to the United States of America. The treaty secures to you all the advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States. * * * May a Louisianian and a Frenchman never meet now or hereafter in any part of the world, without feeling sentiments of affection, and without being mutually disposed to call one another brothers." On the same day the Spanish troops and militia were drawn up in front of the City Hall in New Orleans. The French and Spanish commissioners came to the place, followed by a procession of the citizens of their respective nations. Three chairs were arranged in the Council Chamber, the Spanish Minister occupying the middle one, when the French Minister presented to him the decree of October 15, 1802, by which the King of Spain ordered his representative to deliver the colony to the French plenipotentiary. Next the French Minister produced the authority of Napoleon to take possession of the country in the name of the French people. After these formalities the Spanish Governor, leaving his seat, delivered to the French commissioner the keys of the city. The citizens of Louisiana, who wished to remain in the province, were then absolved from their oath of fidelity to the Spanish King. A signal was then given by the firing of cannon, when the Span-

ish colors were lowered and the French hoisted. The French sovereignty lasted from the 30th of November to the 20th of December. This change of nationality and government was not well understood, especially in the rural districts along the river, and it was only by action on the part of M. Laussat, the French Governor, that anarchy was prevented. The United States had taken the precaution to send a detachment of soldiers under the command of General Wilkinson, to take a position on the 17th and 18th of December, on the bank of the Mississippi river, just above New Orleans. On the 20th of December, on the day appointed for the delivery of the colony to the United States, M. Laussat, the French Governor, accompanied by a numerous retinue, went to the City Hall, where he introduced the American troops into the Capital. M. Claiborne, the American Governor of Mississippi, and General Wilkinson, were received in the City Hall and placed on the two sides of the French prefect, when the Treaty of Cession, the respective powers of the commissioners and the certificate of the exchange of ratifications were read, M. Laussat pronouncing these words: "In conformity with the Treaty, I put the United States in possession of Louisiana and its dependencies. The citizens and inhabitants who wish to remain here, and obey the laws, are from this moment exonerated from the oath of fidelity to the French Republic."

During the twenty days of French sovereignty, the French flag had been displayed from the City Hall, where it had been beheld by French citizens with a homage, patriotism and affection that always must command the respect of every person, to whatsoever nation he owes allegiance. When the change of flags came the United States flag was raised, while at the same instant the French flag was lowered; and when they met midway, both were kept stationary for a few instants, while the artillery and trumpets celebrated the union to emblematize the

harmony between the two nations as the one resigned its authority and the other assumed its authority over the Province of Louisiana. Next, the flag of the United States rose to its full height. The Americans shouted with joy; the colors of the French Republic were lowered and received in the arms of the French, who had guarded them, while their regrets were openly expressed; and to render a last token of homage to their flag, the French sergeant-major wrapped it around his body as a scarf, and ornate with its folds, traversed the principal streets of the city till he came to the house of the French commissioner. A troop of French patriots accompanied him and were saluted in passing before the American lines, who presented arms to them as a token of respect. When M. Laussat received the flag that had been wrapped around the body of the sergeant-major, the latter said to him: "It is into your hands that we deposit this symbol of the tie which has transiently connected us with France. We deposit it with you as the last proof of our affection." M. Laussat replied, "May the prosperity of Louisiana be eternal."

Mr. Claiborne, the American commissioner who administered the government, now issued a proclamation guaranteeing to the inhabitants religious, civil and private rights. During these ceremonials the Spanish, French and American officials had neglected nothing to maintain harmony between the three nations.

The conditions which had brought about this immense accession to the territorial growth and wealth and power to the United States were dramatic. The power of the British nation was the basic foundation for the whole. This power had been the means of dispossessing the French of the Island of Santo Domingo, which Bonaparte had intended as a base of operations wherewith to make invulnerable his defenses of the Province of Louisiana. But there was a limit to Bonaparte's

ambition, and it is not strange that knowing he could not retain Louisiana, he took effective measures to secure it to the United States, who had never been his enemy, and from whom he had a reasonable assurance of friendship. England had boasted that she had but one enemy in France, and that enemy was General Bonaparte, which title she always gave him, instead of His Majesty, the Emperor.

There was a law of nature that made it inevitable that the entire territory intervening between the Louisiana Province and the Pacific coast, must ultimately fall into the hands of the possessors of Louisiana. Had the English possessed this province, it meant in quick succession the whole country between the Mississippi river and the Pacific ocean.

Though the English conquered Napoleon at last, at Waterloo, this victory was a small offset for having been deprived of an empire larger than the United States, and making its power transcendent on the continent of America.

The friendship between the United States and England, commendable as it is universal, is the result of commercial affinity. The friendship between the United States and the French, only in part from commercial affinity, is abiding and permanent, because, that it was through her assistance, first, that we gained our Independence, and next that our domain extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific, which must ultimately assure the verification of Napoleon Bonaparte's prophecy.

Treaty Between the French Republic and the United States, Concerning the Cession of Louisiana, Signed at Paris the 30th of April, 1803.

The President of the United States of America, and the First Consul of the French Republic, in the name of the French people, desiring to remove all source of misunderstanding relative to objects of discussion, mentioned in the second and fifth articles of the convention of the Eighth Vendemiaire, an 9

(30th of September, 1800), relative to the rights claimed by the United States, in virtue of the treaty concluded at Madrid the 27th of October, 1795, between His Catholic Majesty and the United States, and willing to strengthen the union and friendship which, at the time of the said convention, was happily re-established between the two nations, have respectively named their plenipotentiaries; to wit, the President of the United States of America, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the said States, Robert R. Livingston, minister plenipotentiary of the United States, and James Monroe, minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary of the said States, near the government of the French Republic; and the First Consul, in the name of the French people, the French citizen Barbé Marbois, minister of the public treasury, who, after having respectively exchanged their full powers, have agreed to the following articles:

ARTICLE I.

Whereas, by the article the third of the treaty concluded at San Ildefonso, the 9th Vendemiaire, an 9 (1st October, 1800), between the First Consul of the French Republic and His Catholic Majesty, it was agreed as follows: "His Catholic Majesty promises and engages, on his part, to retrocede to the French Republic, six months after the full and entire execution of the conditions and stipulations herein relative to his Royal Highness, the Duke of Parma, the Colony or Province of Louisiana, with the same extent that it now has in the hands of Spain, and that it had when France possessed it; and such as it should be after the treaties subsequently entered into between Spain and other States." And, whereas, in pursuance of the treaty, and particularly of the third article, the French Republic has an incontestable title to the domain, and to the possession of the said territory: The First Consul of the French Republic, desiring to give to the United States a

strong proof of his friendship, doth hereby cede to the said United States, in the name of the French Republic, for ever and in full sovereignty, the said territory, with all its rights and appurtenances, as fully and in the same manner as they had been acquired by the French Republic in virtue of the above mentioned treaty concluded with His Catholic Majesty.

ARTICLE II.

In the cession made by the preceding article are included the adjacent islands belonging to Louisiana, all public lots and squares, vacant lands, and all public buildings, fortifications, barracks, and other edifices which are not private property. The archives, papers, and documents, relative to the domain and sovereignty of Louisiana and its dependencies, will be left in the possession of the commissaries of the United States, and copies will be afterwards given in due form to the magistrates and municipal officers of such of the said papers and documents as may be necessary to them.

ARTICLE III.

The inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated in the Union of the United States, and admitted as soon as possible, according to the principles of the federal Constitution, to the enjoyments of all the rights, advantages, and immunities of citizens of the United States; and in the meantime they shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and the religion which they profess.

ARTICLE IV.

There shall be sent by the Government of France a commissary to Louisiana, to the end that he do every act necessary, as well to receive from the officers of his Catholic Majesty the said country and its dependencies, in the name of the French Republic, if it has not been already done, as to transmit it in the name of the French Republic to the commissary or agent of the United States.

ARTICLE V.

Immediately after the ratification of the present treaty by the President of the United States, and in case that of the First Consul shall have been previously obtained, the commissary of the French Republic shall remit all the military posts of New Orleans, and other parts of the ceded territory, to the commissary or commissaries named by the President to take possession; the troops, whether of France or Spain, who may be there, shall cease to occupy any military post from the time of taking possession, and shall be embarked as soon as possible, in the course of three months after the ratification of this treaty.

ARTICLE VI.

The United States promise to execute such treaties and articles as may have been agreed between Spain and the tribes and nations of Indians, until, by mutual consent of the United States and the said tribes or nations, other suitable articles shall have been agreed upon.

ARTICLE VII.

As it is reciprocally advantageous to the commerce of France and the United States to encourage the communication of both nations for a limited time in the country ceded by the present treaty, until general arrangements relative to the commerce of both nations may be agreed on, it has been agreed between the contracting parties, that the French ships coming directly from France or any of her colonies, loaded only with the produce or manufactures of France or her said colonies; and the ships of Spain coming directly from Spain or any of her colonies, loaded only with the produce or manufactures of Spain or her colonies, shall be admitted during the space of twelve years in the ports of New Orleans, and in all other legal ports of entry within the ceded territory, in the same manner as the ships of the United States coming directly from

France or Spain or any of their colonies, without being subject to any other or greater duty on merchandise, or other or greater tonnage than those paid by the citizens of the United States.

During the space of time above mentioned, no other nation shall have a right to the same privileges in the ports of the ceded territory: the twelve years shall commence three months after the exchange of ratifications, if it shall take place in France, or three months after it shall have been notified at Paris to the French Government, if it shall take place in the United States: it is, however, well understood that the object of the above article is to favor the manufactures, commerce, freight, and navigation of France and of Spain, so far as relates to the importations that the French and Spanish shall make into the said ports of the United States, without in any sort affecting the regulations that the United States may make concerning the exportation of the produce and merchandise of the United States, or any right they may have to make such regulations.

ARTICLE VIII.

In future, and for ever after the expiration of the twelve years, the ships of France shall be treated upon the footing of the most favored nations in the ports above mentioned.

ARTICLE IX.

The particular convention signed this day by the respective ministers, having for its object to provide for the payment of debts due to the citizens of the United States by the French Republic, prior to the 30th of September, 1800 (8th Vendemiaire, an 9), is approved, and to have its execution in the same manner as if it had been inserted in the present treaty; and it shall be ratified in the same form, and in the same time, so that the one shall not be ratified distinct from the other.

Another particular convention, signed at the same date

as the present treaty, relative to the definite rule between the contracting parties, is in the like manner approved, and will be ratified in the same form, and in the same time, and jointly.

ARTICLE X.

The present treaty shall be ratified in good and due form, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in the space of six months after the date of the signature by the ministers plenipotentiary, or sooner if possible.

In faith whereof, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed these articles in the French and English languages; declaring, nevertheless, that the present treaty was originally agreed to in the French language; and have thereunto put their seals.

Done at Paris, the tenth day of Floreal, in the eleventh year of the French Republic, and the 30th of April, 1803.

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON.
JAMES MONROE.
BARBÉ MARBOIS.

CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, OF THE SAME DATE WITH THE PRECEDING TREATY.

The President of the United States of America and the First Consul of the French Republic, in the name of the French people, in consequence of the Treaty of Cession of Louisiana, which has been signed this day, wishing to regulate definitively everything which has relation to the said cession, have authorized to this effect the plenipotentiaries, that is to say: the President of the United States has, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the said States, nominated for their plenipotentiaries, Robert R. Livingston, minister plenipotentiary of the United States, and James Monroe, minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary of the said United States, near the Government of the French Republic; and the First

Consul of the French Republic, in the name of the French people, has named as plenipotentiary of the said Republic, the French citizen, Barbé Marbois, who, in virtue of their full powers, which have been exchanged this day, have agreed to the following articles:

ARTICLE I.

The Government of the United States engages to pay to the French Government, in the manner specified in the following articles, the sum of sixty millions of francs, independent of the sum which shall be fixed by another convention for the payment of debts due by France to citizens of the United States.

ARTICLE II.

For the payment of sixty millions of francs, mentioned in the preceding article, the United States shall create a stock of eleven millions two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, bearing an interest of six per cent. per annum, payable half yearly in London, Amsterdam, or Paris, amounting by the half year to three hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred dollars, according to the proportions which shall be determined by the French Government, to be paid at either place, the principal of the said stock to be reimbursed at the treasury of the United States, in annual payments of not less than three millions of dollars each; of which the first payment shall commence fifteen years after the date of the exchange of ratifications; this stock shall be transferred to the Government of France, or to such person or persons as shall be authorized to receive it, in three months at most after the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty, and after Louisiana shall be taken possession of in the name of the Government of the United States.

It is further agreed, that if the French Government should be desirous of disposing of the said stock to receive the said

capital in Europe, at shorter terms, that its measures for that purpose shall be taken so as to favour, in the greatest degree possible, the credit of the United States, and to raise to the highest price the said stock.

ARTICLE III.

It is agreed that the dollar of the United States, specified in the present convention, shall be fixed at five francs 3333-10000, or five livres eight sous tournois. The present convention shall be ratified in good and due form, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in the space of six months, to date from this day, or sooner if possible.

In faith of which the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the above articles both in the French and English languages; declaring, nevertheless, that the present treaty has been originally agreed on and written in the French language; to which they have hereunto affixed their seals.

Done at Paris, the tenth of Floreal, eleventh year of the French Republic (30th April, 1803).

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON (L. S.).
JAMES MONROE (L. S.).
BARBÉ MARBOIS (L. S.).

CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, ALSO OF THE SAME DATE WITH THE LOUISIANA TREATY.

The President of the United States of America and the First Consul of the French people, having by a treaty of this date terminated all difficulties relative to Louisiana, and established on a solid foundation the friendship which unites the two nations, and being desirous, in compliance with the second and fifth articles of the convention of the 8th Vendemiaire, ninth year of the French Republic (30th September, 1800), to secure the payment of the sum due by France to the citizens

of the United States, have respectively nominated as plenipotentiaries, that is to say: the President of the United States of America, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, Robert R. Livingston, minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary of the said States, near the Government of the French Republic, and the First Consul, in the name of the French people, the French citizen Barbé Marbois, minister of the public treasury; who, after having exchanged their full powers, have agreed to the following articles:

ARTICLE I.

The debts due by France to the citizens of the United States, contracted before the 8th Vendemiaire, ninth year of the French Republic (30th September, 1800), shall be paid according to the following regulations, with interest at six per cent., to commence from the period when the accounts and vouchers were presented to the French government.

ARTICLE II.

The debts provided for by the preceding article are those whose result is comprised in the conjectural note annexed to the present convention, and which, with the interest, cannot exceed the sum of twenty millions of francs. The claims comprised in the said note, which fall within the exceptions of the following articles, shall not be admitted to the benefit of this provision.

ARTICLE III.

The principal and interests of the said debts shall be discharged by the United States by orders drawn by their ministers plenipotentiary on their treasury; these orders shall be payable sixty days after the exchange of the ratifications of the treaty and the conventions signed this day, and after possession shall be given of Louisiana by the commissioners of France to those of the United States.

ARTICLE IV.

It is expressly agreed that the preceding articles shall comprehend no debts but such as are due to citizens of the United States, who have been and are yet creditors of France for supplies, embargoes, and for prizes made at sea, in which the appeal has been properly lodged within the time mentioned in the said convention of the 8th Vendemiaire, ninth year (30th September, 1800).

ARTICLE V.

The preceding articles shall apply only, first, to captures of which the council of prizes shall have ordered restitution; it being well understood that the claimant cannot have recourse to the United States otherwise than he might have had to the Government of the French Republic, and only in case of the insufficiency of the captors; second, the debts mentioned in the said fifth article of the convention, contracted before the 8th Vendemiaire, an 9 (30th September, 1800), the payment of which has been heretofore claimed of the actual government of France, and for which the creditors have a right to the protection of the United States; the said fifth article does not comprehend prizes whose condemnation has been or shall be confirmed. It is the express intention of the contracting parties not to extend the benefit of the present convention to reclamations of American citizens who shall have established houses of commerce in France, England or other countries than the United States, in partnership with foreigners, and who by that reason and the nature of their commerce ought to be regarded as domiciliated in the places where such houses exist. All agreements and bargains concerning merchandise which shall not be the property of American citizens are equally excepted from the benefit of the said convention, saving, however, to such persons their claims in like manner as if this treaty had not been made.

ARTICLE VI.

And that the different questions which may arise under the preceding article may be fairly investigated the Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States shall name three persons, who shall act from the present and provisionally, and who shall have full power to examine, without removing the documents, all the accounts of the different claims already liquidated by the bureau established for this purpose by the French Republic; and to ascertain whether they belong to the classes designated by the present convention and the principles established in it, or if they are not in one of its exceptions, and on their certificate declaring that the debt is due to an American citizen or his representative, and that it existed before the 8th Vendemiaire, ninth year (30th September, 1800), the creditor shall be entitled to an order on the treasury of the United States in the manner prescribed by the third article.

ARTICLE VII.

The same agents shall likewise have power, without removing the documents, to examine the claims which are prepared for verification and to certify those which ought to be admitted by uniting the necessary qualifications, and not being comprised in the exceptions contained in the present convention.

ARTICLE VIII.

The same agents shall likewise examine the claims which are not prepared for liquidation and certify in writing those which, in their judgments, ought to be admitted to liquidation.

ARTICLE IX.

In proportion as the debts mentioned in these articles shall be admitted, they shall be discharged with interest at 6 per cent by the treasury of the United States.

ARTICLE X.

And that no debt which shall not have the qualifications above mentioned, and that no unjust or exorbitant demand may be admitted, the commercial agent of the United States at Paris, or such other agent as the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States shall think proper to nominate, shall assist at the operations of the bureau and co-operate in the examination of the claims; and if this agent shall be of opinion that any debt is not completely proved, or if he shall judge that it is not comprised in the principles of the fifth Article above mentioned; and if, notwithstanding his opinion, the bureau established by the French Government should think that it ought to be liquidated, he shall transmit his observations to the board established by the United States, who, without removing the documents, shall make a complete examination of the debt and vouchers which support it and report the result to the Minister of the United States. The Minister of the United States shall transmit his observations, in all such cases, to the Minister of the Treasury of the French Republic, on whose report the French Government shall decide definitively in every case.

The rejection of any claim shall have no other effect than to exempt the United States from the payment of it, the French Government reserving to itself the right to decide definitively on such claim so far as it concerns itself.

ARTICLE XI.

Every necessary decision shall be made in the course of a year, to commence from the exchange of ratifications, and no reclamation shall be admitted afterwards.

ARTICLE XII.

In case of claims for debts contracted by the Government of France with citizens of the United States since the

8th Vendemiaire, ninth year (30th September, 1800), not being comprised in this convention, they may be pursued, and the payment demanded in the same manner as if it had not been made.

ARTICLE XIII.

The present convention shall be ratified in good and due form, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in six months from the date of the signature of the Ministers Plenipotentiary, or sooner if possible.

In faith of which, the respective Ministers Plenipotentiary have signed the above articles, both in the French and English languages, declaring, nevertheless, that the present treaty had been originally agreed on and written in the French language, to which they have hereunto affixed their seals.

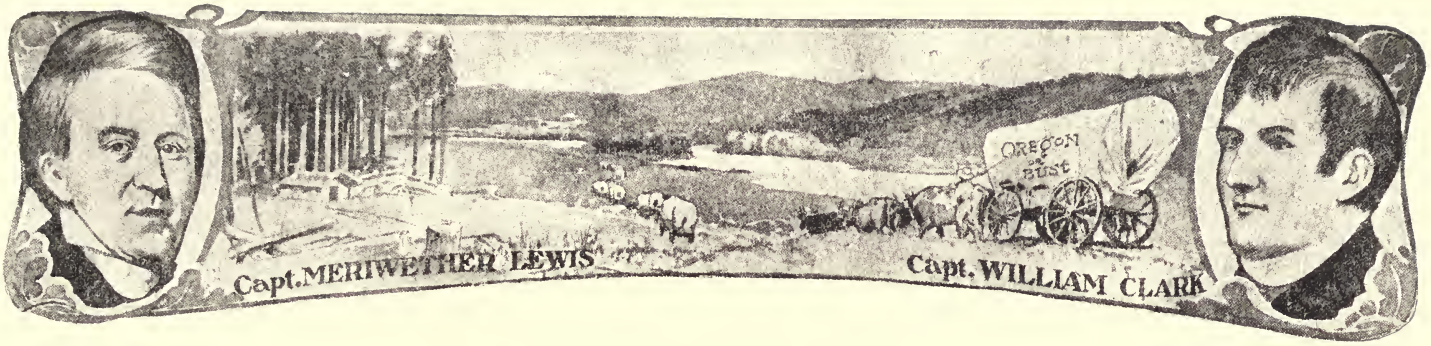
Done at Paris the 10th day of Floreal, eleventh year of the French Republic (30th April, 1803).

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON (L. S.).
JAMES MONROE (L. S.).
BARBÉ MARBOIS (L. S.).

APPENDIX

GIVING A BRIEF HISTORY OF OREGON AND ACQUISITIONS OF TERRITORY TO THE UNITED STATES

WITH A MAP



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OREGON

American ownership of Oregon is the most important result that came from the cession of Louisiana to the United States, and the history of how this result came about forms an interesting sequel to the record of that cession. Three nations have laid claim to the Oregon country, as it was first called, which embraced the territory along the Pacific Coast from the forty-second parallel northward to the parallel of 54° 40′; being the southern limits of the Russian possessions, which that power owned by virtue of priority of discovery by Behring, the celebrated Russian navigator, after whom Behring Straits were named. Spain claimed this country on the ground that Juan de Fuca, in 1592, discovered and entered the straits which bear his name, and that Bruno Heceta sailed along this coast in 1775. The English claims rested on the voyages of Meares in 1786, and later, on those of Vancouver in 1789, along the coasts and into the Straits of Fuca. The claims of the United States, which came in last, transcended all these in the principles of national rights, especially as to priority of interior exploration as against England.

At St. Petersburg, April 5, 1824, Russia having relinquished any right which might accrue to her south of 54° 40′, the question of ownership to the coast south of that parallel was left open to negotiation to the other powers just named.

After Spain, in 1819, had sold Florida and all her claims on the Pacific to the United States, as told in previous pages of this work, then came a contest between Great Britain and the United States for this immense empire, slumbering in obscurity, inhabited by savage tribes of Indians, some of them hitherto unknown to civilization. The claims of the United

States rested, first, on the explorations of Robert Gray, who sailed from Boston on September 30, 1787, with two vessels, the "Washington" and the "Columbia," under the patronage of J. Barrell, S. Brown, C. Bulfinch, J. Darley, C. Hatch and J. M. Pintard. Their destination was the northwest coast of America, by doubling Cape Horn. The object of the expedition was to establish trade relations, which it did to the entire satisfaction of the proprietors; but these objects were insignificant compared to the national character destined to grow out of it. The expedition arrived at the mouth of the Columbia River in 1792, up which stream Captain Gray with difficulty sailed over the sandbar at its mouth and made his way along its meanders till the snowcapped peak of Mount Hood became visible. He named this river the "Columbia," after the vessel which he had the honor of commanding in the service of its proprietors; but in the sublimer service of America, as history shows it to have been. He returned to Boston by a western passage around the world. No American vessel had circumnavigated the world before, and to him belongs the distinguished honor of first carrying the stars and stripes on such a voyage.

Thomas Jefferson, when Secretary of State under Washington, in 1792, had proposed to send an expedition up the Missouri for the purpose of securing the fur trade with the Indians; and when he became President of the United States, even before Louisiana had been purchased, he took measures to send an exploring expedition to the Pacific Coast. For this purpose the services of Meriwether Lewis, a captain in the regular army, and afterward private secretary to President Jefferson, and Capt. William Clark, were secured by Jefferson to explore the Missouri River to its sources, thence to cross the divide of its watershed and find some stream that led to the Pacific. They had a command of forty-four men, a few

of whom were to accompany the expedition no farther than the headwaters of the Missouri. A few days after President Jefferson had given Captain Lewis his instructions as commander of the expedition news of the conclusion of the treaty for the cession of Louisiana reached the United States, and without further delay the expedition started. Their route lay up the Missouri river as far as they could go with their boats, thence across the divide to the headwaters of the Columbia River with horses purchased from the Indians. From the headwaters of boat navigation on the Columbia River they navigated this stream to its mouth, arriving at Cape Disappointment, situated on its north bank, November 15, 1805, where they remained till March 26, 1806. Previous to their departure from St. Louis, President Jefferson had given Lewis and Clark authority to purchase necessary supplies for the return of the expedition, either across the country or for passage in vessel around Cape Horn for the whole company; but, thanks to the good management of the commanders of the expedition, there was no necessity for using this authority, and they commenced their return up the Columbia River to its sources; thence across the divide to the headwaters of the Missouri River; thence down that stream to St. Louis, arriving there September 23 same year, their return thus having been by the same route on which they had advanced into the unknown two years before.

In 1811 John Jacob Astor established a fort, which he named Astoria, on the south bank of the Columbia River, ten miles above its mouth. This fort was captured by the British and named Fort George during the War of 1812, but was restored at the treaty of Ghent, in 1814, after which it became a permanent point of American occupation under its original name, and as such an evidence of American ownership.

Much has been said and written on international law, the binding force of which is a resort to arms if diplomacy fails; there is an unwritten law of nations that priority of discovery, exploration and occupation is an acknowledged national title to lands thus discovered, explored and occupied. On this basis rested the title to the Pacific Coast between the parallel of 42° on the south to the parallel 54° 40′ on the north. Both England and America based their claims on this priority, as above stated, controlling which was a boundary line between the two nations on the north, which was established in a preliminary way when Astoria was restored to the Americans by the treaty of Ghent.

At this time the forty-ninth parallel was first mentioned between the American and British commissioners, but at the treaty of Utrecht, negotiated in 1713, between Great Britain on one side and Spain and France on the other, the forty-ninth parallel was assumed to be the dividing line between the French Province of Louisiana and the British possessions to the north. Some historians have denied the binding force of that treaty in establishing the line of the forty-ninth parallel, but that this demarkation began here no one who studies the intricate meshes of this question can doubt. In the debates at the ratification in the British House of Commons on the Ashburton treaty mention was made of a map which had belonged to the late King George III, made by Mr. Faden, the King's geographer, after the peace of 1783. This map had hung in the King's library during his lifetime, and subsequently in the foreign office; but it had disappeared about the time of the Ashburton treaty. On it was written, in the handwriting of King George III, "This is Oswald's line," referring to a red line on the forty-ninth parallel, immediately above these words. Mr. Richard Oswald was one of the British Commissioners who negotiated the provisional treaty of peace of 1782 between England and America. In 1843 Sir Robert Peel and

Lord Aberdeen showed this map to Edward Everett, United States Minister to the Court of St. James. On it was the red line as fixed at the treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

Mr. Rush and Mr. Gallatin acted on the part of the United States and Mr. Goulburn and Mr. Robinson on the part of Great Britain at the first English and American negotiations on the forty-ninth parallel. The American plenipotentiaries proposed that a line should be drawn from the northwestern extremity of the Lake of the Woods, thence to the forty-ninth parallel, which might be to the north or the south of that point, and that a dividing line between the two nations should be on this parallel to the Pacific Ocean. Subsequently, in running a line from this point on the Lake of the Woods to the forty-ninth parallel, it was found that this parallel was about a degree to the southward; hence that tangent point running into the Lake of the Woods on all accurate maps of the United States showing its northern boundary. This line ran substantially along the ridge dividing the northern watershed from the Mississippi watershed. It was a natural boundary, never questioned by either nation, as far as the Rocky Mountains.

When the issue as to the ultimate ownership of Oregon became a matter of discussion between Great Britain and the United States, certain principles in our political and financial statecraft hinged upon these final negotiations.

The Hudson Bay Company had been chartered by King Charles II in 1669, whose limits on the south had never been defined; but whose ambitions in that direction were in rivalry not only with the American Fur Company, but with American settlements as they tended westwardly. This opulent company had a strong influence with the British Cabinet; on the other side, American emigrants to this country had an equally strong influence with the American Congress. Here was a collision of interests that must be settled by diplomacy to pre-

vent violence between the emigrants of the two respective countries. According to Gray's History of Oregon some emigrants from America had already been killed by agents from the Hudson Bay Company. Under this strain the two Governments concluded a treaty October 20, 1818, agreeing that emigrants from each country should be allowed to settle in the disputed territory for the space of ten years. Pending this joint occupation, the Hudson Bay Company, through their advantages of wealth and a large force of fur hunters, gained almost complete possession of the disputed territory to the exclusion of the American fur hunters and trappers. The first object at which they aimed was to convince the outside world, and especially the people of the United States, that this country was useless for agricultural purposes, a task which continued to grow more and more hopeless in proportion as American settlers emigrated to the country.

Mr. Rush, when Minister to England, in 1824, received a proposition from the British Government that the line of separation between the two Governments should be on the forty-ninth parallel, from the Lake of the Woods westward to the northeasternmost branch of the Columbia; thence down that river to the sea, substantially the same line as had been considered by Mr. Rush and the British Commissioners in 1814, but not agreed to. In reply to this proposition the Americans demanded the line of the forty-ninth parallel through to the Pacific Coast. Mr. Gallatin, Plenipotentiary to the British Court, under instructions from his Government, did not accept this proposition, although the British declared they would not settle the boundary on any other line. Under these circumstances, after much diplomatic caviling on the part of the British, both nations, by convention, August 6, 1827, agreed to extend the terms of the joint occupation indefinitely, with a proviso that either nation should be at liberty to abrogate the

agreement by giving one year's notice. As there was at this time an increasing disposition on the part of the American people to emigrate to Oregon for the purpose of permanent settlement, this temporary compromise of the issue was considered to be prudential and wise, as the sequel proved. The Americans, through their Minister, Mr. Rush, had made no claim north of the parallel 49°, which line had already been conceded by the British. The Plenipotentiary from the United States, Mr. Gallatin, had substantially acceded to this line, but denied the claim of the British of the Columbia River as the boundary from its termination to the sea.

And now came the real tug of war, the issue being divided in responsibility between the people and the Government on the American side, while on the British side the responsibility was shared practically between the Court of St. James and the Hudson Bay Company. These conditions augmented the interest felt by each nation, and from this time onward the Americans had the advantage, inasmuch as the strong hold they had on the territorial question grew out of the desire of the American pioneer to advance into the western wilds for the purpose of farming, while the Hudson Bay Company's strongest incentive was to reap a harvest of furs, with but a remote prospect tending toward agricultural development. Political conditions, the missionary spirit in harmony with the pioneer spirit, had deep root in the destiny of Oregon. Greenhow, in his "History of Oregon," page 361, says: "In 1835 Mr. Parker, a Presbyterian minister from Ithaca, N. Y., proceeded by way of the Platte and the South Pass to the mouth of the Columbia, and thence returned to the United States; and from his reports Messrs. Spalding, Gray and Whitman were sent by the American Board of Foreign Missions to prosecute the objects of that society in the Oregon regions. Other missionaries, with their families and friends, soon followed

them and formed settlements at various points, in all of which schools for the education of the natives were opened; and a printing press was erected at Walla Walla, on which were struck off the first sheets ever printed west of the Upper Missouri north of Mexico. Meantime Congress continued to discuss the Oregon question, especially as to the necessity of abrogating the treaty of joint occupation. From this discussion those wishing to emigrate to Oregon felt confident of the protection of their Government; and under this assurance nearly 1,000 men, women and children formed a caravan, consisting of about 200 wagons and a large number of horses and cattle, at Westport, Mo., June, 1843. From this point they started up the Platte River, thence through the South Pass across the Rocky Mountains, their destination being the Willamet Valley, where they arrived with slight loss the following October."

April 3, 1842, Lord Ashburton arrived at Washington as Plenipotentiary from Great Britain to settle the boundary line between British America and the United States. Mr. Webster, Secretary of State, acted in behalf of the United States on this question. Although it was generally expected by the people of the United States that they were to define the boundary westward to the Pacific, they did nothing more than to establish a boundary between the two countries, starting from where the forty-ninth parallel intersected the Lake of the Woods, thence southeastwardly by the waters connecting this lake with Lake Superior, thence eastwardly through the center of the entire chain of lakes and their connections till the source of the St. Lawrence River was reached, thence down that stream to where it intersects the northern line of the State of New York. From this point the present northern boundaries of New York, Vermont and New Hampshire had already been established; but the boundary between Maine and New Brunswick, in Canada, which had remained in doubt ever

since the treaty of 1783, was now defined by the Ashburton-Webster treaty, made at Washington August 9, 1842, and ratified by Great Britain October 13, and proclaimed at Washington by the President of the United States, November 10, same year.

Congress now no longer hesitated to give the required year's notice of abrogation of the treaty of 1827, which was done April 27, 1846, as a necessary link in the chain of negotiations. The American people were always sensitive on great national issues. The purchase of Louisiana had whetted their appetite for more territory to the West,* and it cannot be said that this appetite was morbid, as it had international law as well as justice back of it. The time had now come when the arts of diplomacy were exhausted. No more evidence could be brought to bear upon the question, and it must be apparent to every judicial mind that the British had none on which to base a claim for territory south of the forty-ninth parallel. Mr. Polk, then President of the United States, had demanded 54° 40′ as the line. The English had never demanded anything south of the Columbia River. Negotiations had progressed by piecemeal, and now seemed to culminate on the forty-ninth parallel. On the part of America the line of 54° 40′ was relinquished by the advice of Mr. Benton, Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Webster, each of whom took strong ground in favor of negotiation to prevent war. Although Mr. Polk agreed to this concession, it was done with apparent reluctance. It was an abandonment of the ground on which the presidential canvass that had elected him had been con-

*To show the English opinion at that time on the Oregon question, it is pertinent to quote from the Edinburgh *Review* of July, 1843, which says: "However the political questions between England and America as to the ownership of Oregon may be decided, Oregon will never be colonized overland from the United States. * * * The world must assume a new face, before the American wagons make plain the road to the Columbia, as they have done to the Ohio. * * * Whoever, therefore, is to be the future owner of Oregon, its people will come from Europe."

ducted. It was a proof that partisan ties must give way to patriotism; for, when we examine the evidence on both sides, it must be confessed that the claims of America north of the forty-ninth parallel were not superior to those of Great Britain, and perhaps not equal. In the settlement of this question, England having yielded up her claim of the Columbia River, the issue between the two nations had been honorably negotiated to the satisfaction of the representative men of each nation. The final treaty was executed at Washington, June 15, 1846. No former treaty between the United States and any foreign power had ever been negotiated under such a crucial test as to international rights as this, and none since the days of the American Revolution, in which the people had taken so much interest.

James Buchanan acted on the part of the United States and Richard Pakenham on the part of England. It was ratified at London, July 17, 1846, and officially proclaimed at Washington, August 5, 1846.

THE TREATY.

"The United States of America and Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, deeming it to be desirable for the future welfare of both countries, that the state of doubt and uncertainty which has hitherto prevailed respecting the sovereignty and government of the territory on the northwest coast of America lying westward of the Rocky or Stony Mountains, should be finally terminated by an amicable compromise of the rights mutually asserted by the two parties over said territory, have respectively named plenipotentiaries to treat and agree concerning the terms of such settlement; that is to say, the President of the United States of America has, on his part, furnished with full powers James Buchanan, Secretary of State of the United States, and

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland has, on her part, appointed Right Honorable Richard Pakenham, a member of Her Majesty's most honorable Privy Council, and Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States, who after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, framed in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following articles:

ARTICLE I.

"From the point on the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, where the boundary laid down in existing treaties and conventions between Great Britain and the United States terminates, the line of boundary between the territories of Her Britannic Majesty and those of the United States shall be continued westward along the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude to the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's Island, and thence southerly through the middle of said channel and of Fuca Straits to the Pacific Ocean; provided, however, that the navigation of the said channel and straits south of the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude remain free and open to both parties.

ARTICLE II.

"From the point at which the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude shall be found to intersect the Great Northern branch of the Columbia River the navigation of the said branch shall be free and open to the Hudson's Bay Company, and to all British subjects trading with the same, to the point where the said branch meets the main stream of the Columbia, and thence down the said main stream to the ocean, with free access into and through the said river or rivers; it being understood that all the usual portages along the line thus described shall in like manner be free and open. In navigating the said river or rivers British subjects, with their goods and produce,

shall be treated on the same footing as citizens of the United States; it being, however, always understood that nothing in this article shall be construed as preventing, or intended to prevent, the Government of the United States from making any regulations respecting the navigation of the said river or rivers not inconsistent with the present treaty.

ARTICLE III.

"In the future appropriations of the territory south of the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, as provided in the first article of this treaty, the possessory rights of the Hudson's Bay Company, and of all British subjects who may be already in the occupation of land or other property lawfully acquired within the said territory, shall be respected.

ARTICLE IV.

"The farms, lands and other property of every description belonging to the Puget's Sound Agricultural Co., on the north side of the Columbia River, shall be confirmed to the said company. In case, however, the situation of those farms and lands should be considered by the United States to be of public and political importance, and the United States Government should signify a desire to obtain possession of the whole, or any part thereof, the property so required shall be transferred to the said Government at a proper valuation, to be agreed upon between the parties.

ARTICLE V.

"The present treaty shall be ratified by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and by Her Britannic Majesty; and the ratifications shall be exchanged at London at the expiration of six months from the date hereof, or sooner if possible.

"In witness thereof, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto the seals of their arms.

"Done at Washington, the fifteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-six.

"JAMES BUCHANAN.
"RICHARD PAKENHAM."

The peaceful settlement of the Oregon question was a grand example of the candor which marked the diplomacy of both the nations interested from 1818 to 1846. Much animadversion had been ventilated through the newspapers of both countries; but the spirit of justice shown by the diplomats of each was equal to the occasion. Had either nation been aware of the immense value of the country in dispute, the issue might have had a different termination. It was fortunate they were not, otherwise blood and carnage might have tarnished the pages of Anglo-American history for the third time. The conclusion of the Oregon treaty was the last link in the chain that had, step by step, brought under the Stars and Stripes the fairest portions of North America. The power of Spain had vanished as America had advanced westward, the reason for which was that her political tyranny, as well as religious intolerance, were not suited to the wants of the pioneer spirit, so jealous of liberty and so able to maintain it as were the American people.

ACCESSIONS OF TERRITORY TO THE UNITED STATES.

At the Treaty of Peace that closed the American Revolution Great Britain was not without a lingering hope that by the subtle logic of diplomacy she could arrange terms with her rebellious colonies without granting them absolute independence; but the American Commissioners proved their ability to cope with their English fathers without any letting down of their purposes. Accordingly, the first point they made was that they should be received as the representatives of a nation *"de facto"*; but, said the British Commissioners,

this is conceding the point at issue in advance. To which the Americans replied: We do not ask independence; we have won it already. This assertion surprised the English, and they took time to consider it.

After laying this issue before the throne the King, George III, reluctantly consented. The all-important question now to be considered was the boundary of the new nation; and in this issue the ambitious spirit of Young America was manifest at his birth by his determination to demand the Mississippi as its western limits. This was really an accession of territory to the original thirteen colonies, inasmuch as their limits did not extend thus far to the West. Spain protested against this demand of the colonies, but England had little friendship for that power, and after considerable hesitation granted the demands of the American Commissioners, and the treaty was signed at Paris, September 5, 1783, by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and John Jay on the part of the United States, and by David Hartley on the part of Great Britain.

FLORIDA AND PART OF PACIFIC COAST CEDED TO THE UNITED STATES.

By a joint resolution in Congress, January 15, 1811, and by acts of the same date and of March 5 same year, passed in secret session, the United States claimed the right to take possession of territory in dispute with Spain as to the limits of Florida. This resolution was not published till 1818, at which time it produced a belligerent feeling between the two countries. The controversy was settled by the treaty of February 22, 1819, wherein Spain ceded Florida to the United States for the consideration of $5,000,000. By the same treaty she conceded to the United States any territory she might claim through priority of discovery or otherwise along the Pacific Coast north of the forty-second parallel.

RUSSIAN CONCESSION SOUTH OF 54° 40″.

On April 5, 1824, Russia conceded to the United States any territorial claim she might hold south of 54° 40″. The treaty conveyed no definite territorial title, but was given in a spirit of international courtesy to provide against future disputes.

ANNEXATION OF TEXAS.

By joint resolution of Congress, March 3, 1837, the United States acknowledged the independence of Texas, although Texas was then at war with Mexico as a revolted province. December 29, 1845, this province, still at war with Mexico, was admitted into the Union as one of its States.

TERRITORY PURCHASED OF MEXICO.

War with Mexico ensued, but peace was restored between the two Governments by the treaty of Guadaloupe Hidalgo, February 2, 1848. It stipulated that $3,000,000, cash down, should be paid to Mexico, and $12,000,000 more in four annual installments; and, in addition, to assume debts due certain citizens of the United States to the amount of $3,500,000; the Mexicans, on their part, ceding to the United States all territory to which they had laid claim from the Gila River northward to the forty-second parallel, which territory embraced our present States of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona and parts of Colorado and New Mexico. The eastern portion of New Mexico not being included in the original claim of Texas became, by a special clause in the treaty, a part of the territory purchased by the United States. No indemnity was given to Mexico for the entire Province of Texas.

GADSDEN PURCHASE.

Independent of this treaty, the Mexican Government ceded to the United States a tract of land south of the Gila River, as shown on the map accompanying this work, called

the Gadsden purchase of 1853, for a consideration of $6,000,000.

ALASKA PURCHASED FROM RUSSIA.

By the treaty of March 30, 1867, negotiated by William H. Seward, Russia, for a consideration of $7,200,000, ceded Alaska to the United States, including the Pribyloff Islands, with their valuable seal fisheries.

HAWAII TRANSFER.

At Honolulu, August 12, 1898, the formal transfer of the Hawaiian Islands was made to the United States by Sanford B. Dole, President of the Provisional Government of Hawaii. Mr. Sewell, United States Minister, accepted the cession of the islands in behalf of the United States with solemn formality. There are eight principal islands in the group; area, 6,740 square miles; 109,020 population of mixed races. The group is in midocean, between the western coast of the United States and the eastern coast of Asia, 2,089 nautical miles from San Francisco.

SPANISH CESSIONS TO THE UNITED STATES.

At the treaty of peace that closed the Spanish War of 1898, held at Paris, Spain on her part ceded to the United States the Island of Porto Rico in the West Indies, the Island of Guam of the Ladrone group in the Pacific Ocean, and the archipelago known as the Philippine Islands. The treaty was signed by the Commissioners of their respective countries December 10, 1898, and ratified at Washington, January 4, 1899, the United States on her part agreeing to pay to Spain $20,000,000 within three months after the ratification of the treaty.

MERIWETHER LEWIS.

Captain Meriwether Lewis was murdered and robbed while on his way to Washington, D. C., by Joshua Grinder, October 11, 1809, in what is now the county of Lewis, Tenn.

It was rumored at this time that he committed suicide, but doubtless this originated in the east, where he was known to be of a hypochondriac disposition, but which affliction had entirely disappeared with his active, out-of-door life in the

west. It was a theory, groundless and cruel, that even the perpetrators of the crime did not stay to urge in their own defense. In erecting the only monument* in this broad land that stands to the memory of the great explorer, the state of Tennessee recognized the value of local evidence over groundless theory.

*Since the above was written news has come to the writer that the people of Portland, Ore., are about to erect a memorial monument to Lewis and Clarke, Theodore Roosevelt, president of the United States, assisting in laying the corner stone.

The monument was built at the cost of $500, appropriated by the general assembly of Tennessee in 1848. Its base is of uncut sandstone, surmounted by a plinth of Tennessee marble, on which were cut the inscriptions. Above this rises the marble shaft, about twelve feet in height, roughly broken at the top, emblematic of the violent and untimely end of a glorious career. Five years before erecting the monument the general assembly passed an act creating the county of Lewis. The introductory clause of the act read as follows: "In honor of Captain Meriwether Lewis, who has rendered distinguished services to his country, and whose remains lie buried and neglected within its limits." The new county was carved out of four others cornering near the grave, in nearly a circle with it as a pivotal point.

Of him Thomas Jefferson said: "His courage was undaunted; his firmness and perseverance yielded to nothing but impossibilities. A rigid disciplinarian, yet tender as a father to those committed to his charge. Honest, disinterested, liberal, with a sound understanding and a scrupulous fidelity to truth."—Verne S. Pease, *in The Southern Magazine, February, 1894.*

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CHICAGO, May, 1881.

RUFUS BLANCHARD,

Dear Sir:

We have received and read your book, "The Discovery and Conquests of the Northwest, with the history of Chicago," and take this means of bearing our testimony to the zeal, industry, thorough research and faithful record made by you, of the times and events covered by your volume. We think you are entitled to public gratitude for the ability with which you have collected this store of historical detail concerning the early history of the Northwest, especially of Illinois and Chicago, and for the entertaining manner in which you have presented that history for the instruction of present and future generations.

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The above is a copy of a circular presented me at the time of the publication of the book described. It is now to be republished with revisions and another volume added to it—the whole to be complete in twelve parts.

R. B.

CHICAGO, January, 1899.

RUFUS BLANCHARD,

Dear Sir:

Realizing, as we do, the importance of an authentic history of Chicago from cotemporary sources, to be handed down from our own times to futurity, we, the undersigned, hereby approve the opinions given, in the above circular, by the signers thereof, and we confide to you our assistance in continuing the work.

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