

PUBLIC LEGER.

"FRIENDLY TO THE BEST PURSUITS OF MAN,
FRIENDLY TO THOUGHT, TO FREEDOM, AND TO PEACE."—*Cooper.*

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honest conflict of opposite parties, Mr. Jefferson thus pressed by the whole incumbent weight of the British Empire, and by a tremendous assault from the ranks of his late friends, aiming to embarrass him and supplant Mr. Madison, Mr. Adams came out boldly and manfully in his support.

The retirement of Mr. Adams from the Senate of the United States, although varying the direction, did not abate the activity of his uncommon powers for serving his fellow men. A life of unremitting public occupation had, by virtue of strict method, tiring diligence, and temperate habits, left him leisure to acquire, as a relaxation, a course of useful learning, which would, in its uses, have been deemed the fruit of a life of literary seclusion. Distinguished writer, among the best which the age has produced, and as a public speaker for a force, impressiveness, and eloquence not less rare, Mr. Adams, in 1806, called to the Chair of Rhetoric and Oratory, in the Seminary at Amherst, where he received his education, and delivered a course of lectures on the art of speaking well; the most important art to the youth of a free country.

But his country had higher claims upon his services. In June, 1809, he was appointed by Mr. Madison as Minister to Russia. He had the good fortune, here, to acquire the confidence of the Emperor Alexander, who was delighted with the contrast of the Republican simplicity of the American Minister with the splendor of the foreign Envoys. He admitted Mr. Adams to a degree of intimacy rarely enjoyed with despotic monarchy, even by their own Ministers. This circumstance laid the foundation of that good will toward America, on the part of the Emperor Alexander, of which the country has enjoyed, on many occasions, the important fruits. But its first fruit was the most important of all; for it was unquestionably owing to the confidential relation between Mr. Adams and the Emperor, that the mediation of Russia was tendered between England and the U. S. a mediation which, though it was declined by England, produced an offer from that country to treat directly, and thus led to peace.

It was for this reason, that he was placed by Mr. Madison at the head of the commission of five, by which the treaty of peace was negotiated, and which consisted, with a single exception, of some of the ablest men in the country. It is unnecessary to speak of the skill, with which that negotiation was conducted. Mr. Adams bore a full part in its councils and labors; and a proportionate share of the credit is due to him, for that cogency and skill, which drew from the Marquis of Wellesley in the British House of Lords, the declaration, that in his opinion the American Commissioners had shown the most astonishing superiority over the British, during the whole of the conference.

This tribute is the more honorable, because Mr. Adams and his colleagues, Mr. Gallatin, Mr. Clay, and their departed associate, Mr. Bayard, from the circumstance, that on every important point, the British Commissioners received special instruction from the Ministry at London, directing the terms in which the American Envoys were to be answered.

Having borne this important part, in bringing the war to a close by an honorable peace, Mr. Adams was employed, in conjunction with Messrs. Clay and Gallatin, in negotiating a Convention of Commerce with Great Britain on the basis of which our commercial intercourse with that country has been ever since advantageously conducted. Having been appointed our Minister at London by Mr. Madison, Mr. Adams remained in that place till the accession of Mr. Monroe to the Chair of State. On this occasion, Mr. Monroe, in the formation of his Cabinet took deliberate counsel with the most prudent and patriotic citizens of the country. Among others the opinion of General Jackson was freely imparted to him. The counsel of this distinguished citizen was expressed, in the following terms: "Every thing depends on the selection of your ministry. In every selection, party and party feelings should be avoided. Now is the time to exterminate the Monster called party spirit. By selecting characters most conspicuous for their probity, virtue, capacity and firmness, without any regard to party, you will go far, if not entirely to eradicate those feelings, which on former occasions,

drew so many obstacles in the way of Government; and perhaps have the pleasure and honor of uniting a people, heretofore politically divided. The Chief Magistrate of a great and powerful nation should never indulge in party feelings."

To this counsel, Mr. Monroe felt himself unable to accede, he thought that "the association of any of the federal party in the administration, would wound the feelings of its friends to the injury of the republican cause." He made known, however, to General Jackson his design of distributing, as far as possible, the places in the Cabinet, throughout the country. "I shall," said he, in his letter to General Jackson, of March 1st, 1817, "take a person for the Department of State from the eastward; and Mr. Adams, by long service in our diplomatic concerns, appearing to entitle him to the preference, supported by his acknowledged abilities and integrity, his nomination will go to the Senate." In reply to this intimation General Jackson, in his letter of March 13th, observes: "I have no hesitation in saying you have made the best selection to fill the Department of State that could be made. Mr. Adams in the hour of difficulty will be an able helpmate, and I am convinced his appointment will afford general satisfaction."

It was with something of prophetic feeling that General Jackson declared in 1817, "that Mr. Adams, in the hour of difficulty would be an able helpmate." It was not a long time before the conduct of General Jackson himself was the subject of solemn investigation before the grand inquest of the nation. The letters of Mr. Adams to the Spanish Minister justifying the conduct of General Jackson, as against the complaints of Spain, came seasonably to the support of this distinguished citizen, and effected the vindication of him, against every charge of a violation of the rights of Spain.

In pursuance of the intimation of Mr. Monroe, as above described, Mr. Adams was called home from England and became Secretary of State. On this arduous office he entered, as Gen. Jackson had foretold that he would "to the general approbation of the country." He retained the confidence of Mr. Monroe and acquired that of his new colleagues, particularly of the distinguished citizen, who now filled the second office in the government. In reference to all questions of the foreign relations of the country, Mr. Adams was the influential member of the Cabinet; and is, consequently, more than any other individual composing it, entitled to the credit of the measures which, during Mr. Monroe's administration, were adopted in reference to the foreign policy of the government. It is not necessary that these should here be enumerated.

One only is too important to be omitted. The recognition of the independence of the New Republics of the continent of first effectually procured by a measure in the House of Representatives, is due to Mr. Clay; that of procuring the propitious moment, when it could be proposed with the unanimous consent of Congress, and the nation, belongs in the first degree, to Mr. Adams. Nor is he entitled to less credit, for the successful termination of our differences with Spain. A controversy, of thirty years standing, which had resisted the skill of every preceding administration of the government, was thus brought to an honorable close. Indemnity was procured for our Merchants, and East and West Florida added to our Republic. Next to the purchase of Louisiana, the history of our country presents no measure of equal brilliancy, with that of the acquisition of this territory.

On every important occasion and question, that arose during Mr. Monroe's administration, the voice of Mr. Adams was for his country, for mild councils, and for union. In the agitations of the Missouri question, his influence was exerted for conciliation. He believed that by the Constitution, and the treaty of session of 1803, Congress was barred from adopting the proposed restrictions of the admission of Missouri. Of internal improvement by roads and canals, he was ever the friend, and moved in the Senate of the United States the first project of their systematic construction. To the protection of American Manufactures, by a judicious revision of the tariff, he was, in like manner, friendly. To the cause of Religion and Learning he afforded all the aid in the power of an individual not merely by the uniform countenance of every effort for

their advancement but by the most liberal pecuniary assistance to the College, founded by the Communion of Baptists, in the District of Columbia.

Such were his claims to the last and highest gift, which the people can bestow on a long tried faithful servant. Various circumstances conspired to strengthen them in the late Presidential canvass. Of nine Presidential elections, one only had given a President to a non-slaveholding state. Of the several candidates presented to the people at the last election, Mr. Adams was the only one, who represented the non-slaveholding interest. Our brethren of the slave holding interest are sacredly entitled to protection, in their rights and feelings on this subject; but they ought neither in prudence nor justice, to demand a monopoly in the government of the country. Of nine elections, one only had resulted in the choice of a representative of the commercial, navigation and manufacturing interests. Had the choice been presented to the people between Mr. Adams and any other candidate singly, Mr. Adams would have been chosen, he having been, it is believed, in almost every state, either the first or second choice of the people.

In consequence of the number of candidates, no choice by the people took place, and no candidate approached nearer than within thirty votes of a majority. Under these circumstances the selection from the three highest candidates, was made by the House of Representatives; and the claims of Mr. Adams, who eight years before had been pronounced by Gen. Jackson, "the best person to fill the department of state, that could be found," were recognized by the House on the first ballot, in fulfillment of the provisions of the constitution. Of the measures recommended by the President, such as have been adopted have been sanctioned by the nation, and others, which have been lost in consequence of the unfortunate opposition organized in the senate, against the will of a majority of the people, have been fondly called for. Among the former, the mission to the Congress of the friendly republics of the south—which was required, in consistency with the uniform policy of the country towards them, has been warmly sanctioned by the country. The acquisition of nearly five millions of acres of land for the benefit of Georgia, by friendly treaty with the Creek Indians, in preference of a war of extermination with them, has been also approved by the people. The successful adjustment of the claims of our citizens for property carried off, contrary to the provisions of the treaty of Ghent, has procured a full indemnity for the loss thereby sustained.

The Great National Road has been extended. Roads in Missouri, Arkansas, Michigan and Florida, have been opened, the project of a great National Road from Washington to New Orleans pursued, the and asked for the Canals in Illinois and Indiana granted, and numerous surveys effected, in other parts of the United States; in accordance with the liberal sentiments of the President on the great question of internal improvements.

Nor is it merely the individual policy of Mr. Adams, which has excited itself so decisively in favor of these all important national interests. They have received the support of the great mass of his political friends. Our fellow citizens, particularly of the northern and eastern states, have sanctioned the administration in all its measures, which have been adopted in promotion of the great American policy of internal improvements and domestic industry.

While the bill for the Illinois canal was lost in the Senate in 1826, by the casting vote of Mr. Calhoun, we behold the same bill brought up and successfully advocated by Mr. Webster in the House of Representatives, at the next session. The same gentlemen are also entitled to the credit of having first effectually called the attention of the House of Representatives to the construction of the Florida canal, a work which bids fair to take the first place as a great national improvement.

In addition to what has been done, during the administration of Mr. Adams, for the advancement of the best interests of the country, could the wishes of the President and the exertions of the friends of the administration have prevailed, three new Judges would have been called to the bench of the Supreme court in the West; the rights and interests of the country would have been upheld against arrogant pretensions of a foreign power, to regard