

and animal substances included in the *materia medica*, can assist nature, interfering only when absolutely necessary and certainly safe; too learned and honest, when not knowing what to do, ever to do he knows not what.

They will also prefer a physician who can relieve their pains when incurable, smooth their pathway to the inevitable end, or, when he has the happiness to see them convalescent, will be able to give them such hygienic hints as may prevent a recurrence of the malady, or save them from something worse.

The verdict of mankind, excepting minds prone to vagaries on the borderland of insanity, will be that pronounced by Ecclesiasticus more than two thousand years ago:

“THE LORD HATH CREATED MEDICINES OUT OF THE EARTH; AND HE THAT IS WISE WILL NOT ABHOR THEM. MY SON, IN THY SICKNESS BE NOT NEGLIGENT; BUT PRAY UNTO THE LORD, AND HE WILL MAKE THEE WHOLE. LEAVE OFF FROM SIN, AND ORDER THY HANDS ARIGHT, AND CLEANSE THY HEART FROM ALL WICKEDNESS. THEN GIVE PLACE TO THE PHYSICIAN, FOR THE LORD HATH CREATED HIM: LET HIM NOT GO FROM THEE, FOR THOU HAST NEED OF HIM. THERE IS A TIME WHEN IN THEIR HANDS THERE IS GOOD SUCCESS. FOR THEY SHALL ALSO PRAY UNTO THE LORD, THAT HE WOULD PROSPER THAT WHICH THEY GIVE FOR EASE AND TO PROLONG LIFE.”

J. M. Buckley.

OVER THE HILLS.

“OVER the hills fair pastures lie
Beneath a softer, sunnier sky;
From balmy woods more freshly green
To sweeter songs of birds unseen
The rousèd echoes make reply.

“The men are gentler: there might I
Be happy yet — could I but fly
From this my story’s tedious scene
Over the hills!”

O human Child! on this rely:
Over the hills no rarer dye,
No richer bloom, no brighter sheen!
Nothing but this that still hath been:
Space where you still may stand and sigh,
“Over the hills!”

Gertrude Hall.

AN INCIDENT IN THE LIFE OF JOHN ADAMS.



IN the spring-time of 1818, I passed a long afternoon in the company of the second President of the United States and his family in the parlor of his home at Quincy; and on that occasion the patriarch, then three or four years younger than I am now, displayed one side of his character in so strong a light that I am not willing to omit making a record of it.

John Adams had striking faults, and he wore them on the outside, where they could be seen of all men. He writes of his own character with simplicity and unreserve: “I have looked into myself, and I see weakness enough; but I see no timidity, no meanness, nor dishonesty there.”

His grandson and biographer counts among his weaknesses, quick temper and talkativeness,

often carried to indiscretion. Jefferson, after a seven months’ intimacy with him in London and Paris, writes to Madison: “He is vain, irritable, and a bad calculator of the force and probable effect of the motives which govern men. This is all the ill which can possibly be said of him.”

And in the same letter he dwells on the merits of one about eight years his senior: “He is disinterested, profound, accurate in judgment, except where knowledge of the world is necessary to form a judgment, and so amiable that you will love him, if ever you become acquainted with him.”

His vanity, it may be added, sometimes showed itself in impatience at the superiority of another; but if he could occasionally write disparagingly of some of his great contemporaries, he has in his moments of reflection scattered along the way honorable tributes to their powers and their services.

As a consequence, the popular imagination has never shaped for itself an image of the man in an idealized form; nor has he as yet nestled himself so closely in the public affection as Jefferson seemed to predict for him; but when the services which he has rendered his country are summed up, he is found to hold a most honorable place among its ablest statesmen.

His political sympathies were, from the morning twilight of our Union, on the side of the people. In the year before the formation of our present Constitution, he wrote:

"It has ever been my hobby-horse to see rising in America an empire of liberty, and a prospect of two or three hundred millions of freemen, without one noble or one king among them. If it is impossible, I would still say, let us try the experiment, and preserve our equality as long as we can."

Industry was his fixed habit; as a lawyer he prepared his cases most thoroughly; and he took this habit with him into public life, greatly to the advantage of his country in his various negotiations. He was brave and fearless, but "his head, his heart, and his hands" were ever "guiltless of the crime of provoking" war.

Human life on earth he held to be a most desirable stage of being, and of his own share in it he says: "It has been sweet and happy on the whole, and calls for gratitude to my Maker and Preserver."

In the early months of 1796, while his nomination for the Presidential chair was as yet uncertain, his mind turned upon other public duties besides those of an executive character. "If I had eloquence, or humor, or irony, or satire, or the harp or the lyre of Amphion, how much good could I do to the world!"

When he doubted his nomination to the Presidency, he turned his mind for consolation to the very course which his son, John Quincy Adams, adopted after defeat as a candidate for reelection. He writes:

"If Mr. Jefferson should be President, I believe I must put up as a candidate for the House. I feel sometimes as if I could speechify among them. If I were in that house I would drive out of it some demons that haunt it. At times there are false doctrines and false jealousies predominant there, that it would be easy to exorcise."

John Adams did not begin the controversy with Hamilton. In January, 1793, when both Houses were making strict inquisition into the management of the treasury, Adams claims for Hamilton that which is due from a generous nation to a faithful servant. "I presume," he says, "his character will shine the brighter."

Before the close of Washington's Administration John Adams made remarks, which amount to an assertion, that the Constitution was already so perfectly established by Wash-

ington that the system of government introduced by him could not be departed from by any one, whoever it might be, who should be elected his successor. His exact words are: "If Jay or even Jefferson should be the man, the government will go on as well as ever. Jefferson could not stir a step in any other system than that which is begun."

John Adams refused to believe that there was any necessity of a third term of service, as President, by Washington, saying: "There is no more danger in the change than there would be in changing a member of the Senate, and whoever lives to see it will own me a prophet."

Happily for the country, and for the establishment of republican institutions, Washington inflexibly persisted in setting the example of moderation which is needed for the safety of our institutions.

At one time of his life John Adams was in the closest contact with Franklin, whose imperturbable tranquillity of manner fretted the impulsive nature of his younger fellow-laborer. A collision between them took place in Paris, whither Adams repaired with commissions as superb as ever were intrusted to a single diplomatist; for he was made sole minister to form with Great Britain the treaty of peace with the independent United States of America, and the sole minister plenipotentiary from the United States to the same power with the special purpose of forming a treaty of commerce between the two nations. To those commissions were soon added full powers as minister to Holland. The use to be made of these accumulated trusts would be of the very highest importance to his country, and, it may be said, to mankind. The time had not arrived for opening negotiations for peace, which formed one object of his mission; and inactivity was hateful to him. From Paris, where for the moment he had nothing to do, he sent letters to Congress proposing a new and rougher manner of dealing with the government of the king of France, and involved himself in the discussion of questions that more properly belonged to the American legation in France. Congress was thus led to question whether it was wise to intrust to one man the sole negotiation of peace for a country extending so far, and composed of so many States; and it substituted a commission representing the several sections of the country. Accordingly, Adams, the favorite of New England, received as his colleagues Jay and Franklin of the central States, and Laurens of South Carolina. Adams himself has given expression to his exquisite pain at the decrease of his dignity, to which at the moment it was impossible for him to reconcile his feelings; while, as a question of public

policy and interest, he readily acknowledged that Congress had acted wisely. But while he gave the approval of his judgment to the change, he has himself recorded the intensity of his disappointment and mortification; and he could never reconcile his mind to a cordial acceptance of Franklin as his associate in the negotiation, and could never do justice to the services which Franklin rendered in bringing about the peace. Each of the two wrote to Congress of the conduct of the other; but it was certainly John Adams who began the obnoxious representations; Franklin did but avert erroneous impressions which might otherwise have been harmful and abiding. Nor would Adams ever see the wisdom with which Franklin opened the negotiation for peace and carried it forward almost to completion.

In 1818, Andrews Norton, then the librarian of Harvard College, was preparing for the "North American Review" an article on the life and writings of Benjamin Franklin. His own special studies had been those of theology. He was a man of singular purity of mind and integrity of character, reserved in his manners, retreating from general society, and not courting familiar intercourse even with other officers of the university; yet capable of strong attachments, and in his own circle confiding, affectionate, and generous. Moreover, he was the strongest possible assertor of the rights of the individual to absolute freedom of mind, and permitted no one to interfere with his own exercise of the right. He did not surrender his judgment to party prejudices. For example, he treated the character of Jefferson with a candor that was not common among the New England Federalists of that day, and on one occasion publicly vindicated Jefferson's private character against recklessly false aspersions. In his writings he showed more care for the distinct presentment of his own opinions than zeal for making proselytes. The Harvard students of that day gave him the palm as the ablest writer among the younger generation of the Harvard graduates then residing in Cambridge.

At this period of his life he was diligently revolving in his own mind the character and career of Franklin. Various stories adverse to Franklin's conduct in negotiating the treaty of peace in 1783, had from the time of ratification circulated through Massachusetts. The tribute of John Adams to the merits of Franklin in the negotiation was inadequate; but stories unfavorable to Franklin, which passed from one to another, and in the transit had been enlarged and molded into very homely and clear English words of reprobation, were falsely and without any authority attributed to

John Adams. Their total want alike of his authority and of truth was not known, and they still went from mouth to mouth as the emphatic language of John Adams himself. It very naturally and most properly occurred to Andrews Norton, who, ill as he thought of Franklin's character, was too wise to accept rumor as the herald of historic truth, to repair to Quincy and ascertain the conduct of Franklin in the negotiation with Great Britain from the ex-President himself.

One day, in the season preceding the summer of 1818, he invited me to accompany him in an excursion to Quincy. I joyfully accepted the invitation, and we drove across the country from Cambridge to the homestead of John Adams. On the way he detailed to me some of the points most unfavorable to Franklin which had circulated through Massachusetts under the pretended authority of Adams.

We arrived early in the afternoon. The venerable ex-President received us cordially in the parlor of his homestead at Quincy; and so did the wife of his youth, the accomplished woman now known to the world by the publication of two volumes of her own letters, and two more of letters which she received from her husband. Several younger persons, seemingly their grandchildren, came in and went out as occasion served, and it was plain that the aged man was thoroughly well ministered to by youthful attendants whose whole demeanor was marked by reverence and affection. A more respectable or a more lovely family group, of which the head is an octogenarian, can hardly be conceived of.

I was presented as one who before many days was to embark for purposes of study at a German university. With a frankness which did not at all clash with the welcome of my reception, the venerable man broke out in somewhat abrupt and very decisive words against educating young Americans in European schools, insisting, and from a certain point of view very correctly, that a home education is the best for an American.

Mr. Norton soon entered upon the errand on which he came, by leading conversation to the career and character of Franklin. The ex-President listened and answered; but not one single word unfavorable to Franklin fell from his lips. His visitor pushed his inquiries, striving to come nearer to details; but still Adams had not a word of evil to say of his former colleague. With no man in his life had he had so vexatious a rivalry. There at his side sat a scholar of varied culture, in the opening years of manhood, of great ability, a very skillful writer, of the highest repute for integrity of character and fidelity to his convictions, prepared to accept views unfavorable

to the character and statesmanship of Franklin, and through the "North American Review" able to present them to the American public as final truth. But, to every renewed questioning, Adams in his answers steadfastly put the inquiries aside, and uttered not one word that in the least reflected on the public or private character of Franklin.

Presently the tea-table was spread in the middle of the room, and my friend and I sat down with the family. It was indeed a great privilege for one just out of college to sit at table with the venerated man under whose colossal courage and inspiring eloquence the men of the Congress of 1776, who had not the gift of speaking in public, confidently sheltered themselves. He did not look younger than the record of his birth indicated, but he was hale and vigorous; and as I sat near him I could not but notice that he carried his full cup of tea to his lips as safely as any one around him, without spilling a drop from tremor. The table was spread with the neatness and simplicity that prevailed at that day in New England homes. Could a foreigner have looked in and seen the second President of the United States at his sufficient but simple and unostentatious meal, the central figure in the group of his own family, it must have been confessed that his manner of life presented a perfect pattern for a republican chief magistrate in retirement.

When we had arisen from the table and were preparing to depart, the honored statesman, standing upright in the family group, spoke to us a few words. He cursorily referred to the official letter of Franklin, then our minister in France, to Robert R. Livingston, at that time our secretary for foreign affairs, in which Franklin had sketched his character and complained of his conduct.*

He then added that for a long time after the letter was written he had known nothing about it, but when it came to his knowledge he printed in the "Boston Patriot" all that he had to say in reply; and he referred Mr. Norton to his articles in that paper respecting Franklin. With that reference he closed the conversation.

* The words of Franklin to which Adams referred are as follows: "If I were not convinced of the real inability of this court to furnish the further supplies we asked, I should suspect these discourses of a person in his station might have influenced the refusal; but I think they have gone no further than to occasion a suspicion that we have a considerable party of anti-Gallicans in America, who are not Tories, and consequently to produce some doubts of the continuance of our friendship. As such doubts may hereafter have a bad effect, I think we cannot take too much care to remove them; and it is, therefore, I write this, to put you on your guard (believing it my duty, though I know that I hazard by it a mortal enmity), and to cau-

In the communications to the "Boston Patriot" on the career and character of Franklin, which were then referred to, the treatment of Franklin is unfair, and, from having been written too much from memory, is not altogether accurate. But its very bitter inculpations are tempered by concessions like these: "Mr. Jefferson has said that Dr. Franklin was an honor to human nature; and so indeed he was." And again: "Mr. Franklin, after all, and notwithstanding all his faults and errors, was a great and eminent benefactor to his country and mankind."

The impression left upon my mind by the interview was, that while Adams at the time of active antagonism might be ready to treat an adversary roughly, there remained on his mind no enduring malice; and when those who seemed to him to have wronged him had passed away from the world, he had no ignoble desire to wreak revenge on their memory, but impartially left their controversies to the jurisdiction of history.

This article was undertaken simply to preserve the record of an interview with ex-President Adams, where he showed a noble refusal to recall his strifes with the greatest of his rivals. But let us not leave him without a word on his administration of affairs, both foreign and domestic, during his four years' service, and on his relations with the man by whom he was superseded as President.

As to the initiation of the alien and sedition laws, John Adams writes:

"I recommended no such thing in my speech. Congress, however, adopted both these measures. I knew there was need enough of both, and therefore I consented to them." After they were passed he made no scruple about giving effect to them, especially the sedition law, believing that they were "constitutional and salutary, if not necessary."

The international result, which forms the glory of the administration of our foreign affairs while confided to John Adams, was the restoration of friendly relations between the United States and France. The first attempt at negotiation had been a failure; but revolutions had succeeded each other in Paris,

tion you respecting the insinuations of this gentleman against this court, and the instances he supposes of their ill-will to us, which I take to be as imaginary as I know his fancies to be, that Count de Vergennes and myself are continually plotting against him, and employing the news-writers of Europe to depreciate his character, etc. But, as Shakspeare says, 'trifles light as air,' etc. I am persuaded, however, that he means well for his country, is always an honest man, often a wise one, but sometimes, and in some things, absolutely out of his senses."—Benjamin Franklin to Robert R. Livingston, in the edition of Franklin's Works, by Jared Sparks, Vol. IX., pp. 534-5.

and Adams was encouraged by Washington to renew the attempt at an agreement. On this point of reconciliation with France, Washington spared no effort to support, encourage, and assist his successor. Receiving in a letter from Lafayette assurances that the Executive Directory of France were disposed to an accommodation of all differences between the United States and France, Washington, on Christmas day of 1798, answered :

"I would pledge myself, that the government and people of the United States will meet them heart and hand at a fair negotiation; having no wish more ardent than to live in peace with all the world, provided they are suffered to remain undisturbed in their just rights."

Being further confirmed in his expectations by a letter which he received from Joel Barlow to the like effect, and which, as he thought, could not have been written without the privity of the French Directory, Washington, in a note to President Adams, not only favored bringing on a negotiation upon an open, fair, and honorable ground, but offered himself to be the intermediary channel of communication for restoring peace and tranquillity between the United States and France upon just, honorable, and dignified terms. He was sure that the renewal of negotiations with France was the ardent wish of all the friends of the rising American empire. Talleyrand, who, it will be remembered, knew the people of the United States from his own residence among them, gave, through the American minister at the Hague, the invitation to prepare the way for friendly intercourse, and Adams resolved at once to continue the negotiation for which Talleyrand had so urgently smoothed the way.

Oliver Ellsworth had been distinguished in public service for two and twenty years. In earlier life he was placed by Connecticut on its bench, but he was soon set apart for service connected with the United States; in 1777 he became a delegate to the Continental Congress. He served as a member of the convention which framed the Constitution of the United States; and there he more than any other shaped the policy which alone could have reconciled the great States and the small ones, and bound them both equally to the Union by reciprocal concessions. He too it was who, in the convention which framed our Constitution, joined with Sherman and successfully entreated that body to bar and bolt the doors of the United States against paper money, so that the prohibition was made perpetual and placed beyond the caprices of transient assemblies, by establishing it as one of the conditions of the Constitution itself. When the Constitution was referred to the several States, Ellsworth, in Connecticut,

explained its character to the convention of his State, and eminently assisted in securing full heartiness in its adoption. In the great work of carrying the Constitution into effect, the law for the organization of one of the three great departments of government is emphatically his work. He alone, or almost alone, framed the bill under which the department of the judiciary was organized; and it is worthy of remark, though I believe now for the first time noticed, that that law which Ellsworth had laboriously framed with the minutest attention to every detail gave no warrant for the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the United States to try any citizen for the offenses enumerated in the fatal Seditious act. Washington did not leave the chair of state till he had appointed Oliver Ellsworth the Chief Justice of the United States.

The first French mission which Adams had instituted arrived in Paris at a period in the revolution when the faction which for the time held control was willing to slight the overtures of the government of the United States; and, from a just self-respect, John Adams was unwilling to institute a second mission except after the most positive assurances that the mission would be heartily welcome. Adams, having received the amplest assurances from Talleyrand, the French minister of foreign affairs, through Murray, the American minister in Holland, that an American commission would be welcomed by France with the most perfect respect and cordial regard, and having the encouragement of Washington to proceed, wisely determined to renew the negotiation. Throwing aside his first thought of sending no one but the American minister through whom Talleyrand had sent his pressing invitation, he determined to constitute a mission of three. To impart to it the highest dignity, he named as its chief Oliver Ellsworth, who, as the head of the judiciary department, was a coordinate in dignity with John Adams himself. At the side of Ellsworth he placed William Richardson Davie, of North Carolina, a man of energy, a soldier in the war of our revolution, during which he had served with honor as a cavalry officer in the legion of Pulaski, an able member of the convention which framed our Federal Constitution, a favorite of his State, where he had just been elected governor. With them he joined Murray, through whom Talleyrand had invited the mission.

Oliver Ellsworth, though the delicate state of his health required careful attention, dared to sail through the specially rough storms of midwinter of 1799-1800 to Lisbon, and to encounter an almost equally severe voyage from Lisbon to a bay near Corunna. At Bergos, in

old Castile, they were met by a courier who brought from Talleyrand assurances that they would be received in Paris with an eagerness of cordiality. Arriving in Paris on the second of March, they were gladly welcomed by Talleyrand, and from their first arrival to the end of the mission nothing was wanting in the friendliness with which they were met and the respect and courtesy with which they were treated. No time was lost in entering upon the negotiations. Joseph Bonaparte, the eldest brother of the First Consul, was placed at the head of the French delegation. The labor on the American side was mainly done by Oliver Ellsworth; and after more than six months of labor, 1800, the treaty of peace, so fraught with present and prospective advantage to the United States, was signed.

It defined and asserted the rights of neutrals. It was agreed that the flag of the nation shall protect the merchandise of the ship, with the exception only of contraband of war, and that contraband was strictly limited. Another part of the treaty was of inestimable value to the United States; they in their hour of distress in the revolutionary war had bound themselves to protect France in all her possessions in the West Indies. This guarantee was generously renounced. Finally, the restoration of cordiality between France and the United States opened the way for the next Administration to negotiate for the acquisition of Louisiana. Shortly after the signing of the treaty, the American envoys prepared to leave Paris to embark for America.

The French government resolved to give them on their departure the clearest proof of the enduring good-will of France for the American republic. It chanced that Joseph Bonaparte, who was the richest of the family, possessed a magnificent country seat at Morfontaine, which lies some leagues from Paris on the road to Havre. There, on their way, at the chateau of Joseph Bonaparte, under whose lead the treaty with the United States had been concluded on the part of France, the American ministers were invited to be the guests at a farewell festival before their embarkation.

The American envoys arrived at the village of Morfontaine about two o'clock in the afternoon, and found there a large number of the French magistrates already assembled. At four o'clock Napoleon Bonaparte, the First Consul of France, who in November of the former year had overthrown the Council of Five Hundred and made himself the First Consul; in February, 1800, draping in mourning all standards and flags throughout the French republic, had announced to the French army in a general order that "the memory of Washington is dear to all freemen of the two worlds"; in

May had led an army with heavy artillery across the great St. Bernard; had entered Milan on the 2d of June, and after gaining on the 14th of that month a victory at Marengo, of which the fame rung through not Europe only but the world, had in the following July returned to Paris, and two days before this banquet had completed the treaty for the retrocession of Louisiana from Spain to France; and in less than thirty months more was to change the history of the world by transferring Louisiana, even to the Pacific Ocean, to the United States,—entered the chateau amidst salutes from artillery and bands of music. During the evening the castle and adjacent buildings were brilliantly illuminated. The approval of the treaty by the First Consul, of which assurance was formally given about eight in the evening, was followed by the firing of cannon. After this the guests, about 150 in number, were seated at tables in three large halls. To the largest of them the name was given of the "Hall of Union." It was superbly decorated with wreaths and numerous inscriptions commemorating the Fourth of July, 1776, and other days famous for important actions in America during their struggle for independence. The initial letters of France and America were inscribed in many places. The city of Philadelphia which was then the seat of the Federal Congress, and Havre de Grace which was the port for the embarkation of the American ministers, were represented with an angel on the wing from Havre de Grace to Philadelphia, bearing an olive branch. The second hall was called the "Hall of Washington," and was adorned with his bust and the French and American flags standing side by side. The third hall was called "The Hall of Franklin," whose bust was its ornament. All the decorations were specially designed to commemorate the independence of the United States and French liberty. In that spirit the First Consul, Napoleon, then just thirty-one years of age, gave as the first toast: "The memory of those who have fallen in the defense of French and American liberties." The second toast was proposed by the Third Consul, Lebrun: "The union of America with the powers of the North to enforce respect for the liberty of the seas." Last of all, Cambacères, the Second Consul, in honor of the President of the United States, proposed "The successor of Washington." After supper there was a brilliant and ingenious display of fireworks in the garden. Next followed an exquisite concert of music; and about midnight the private theater was opened for the performance of two short comedies, in which the best of the actors and actresses from Paris played the parts. At the conclusion of one of the plays a song com-

plimentary to the United States was sung; and thus the evening came to an end.

To Chief Justice Ellsworth, the chief guest of the evening and the principal American negotiator of the treaty, his success brought highest honor; but the price at which he purchased it was his life. He fell a martyr in the service of his country and of peace. His sufferings in the long and terrible voyages which he had made in the winter across the ocean, and again from Portugal to the borders of France, and his prompt and continued assiduity in the negotiation of the treaty, wrecked his constitution. Unable at that season of the year to return to America, he was forced at once to send home the resignation of his post as Chief Justice of the United States. At a later day he was able to return to his country and to take some easy part in affairs; but for him, who more than any other had assisted to restore relations of friendship between France and the United States, and prepare the way for the cession of Louisiana to his country, the rest of life was but a slow and lingering passage through infirmities to the tomb.

At this cost peace and pleasant relations were restored between France and the United States. The establishment of good feeling in the foreign relations of this country, and especially with France, constitutes the crowning glory of the Administration of John Adams. Just before retiring from office, he wrote to a friend:

"After the 3d of March I am to be a private citizen. I shall leave the State with its coffers full, and the fair prospects of a peace with all the world smiling in its face, its commerce flourishing, its navy glorious, its agriculture uncommonly productive and lucrative. O my country! May peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces."

The picture is not too favorably drawn. I have repeatedly heard Albert Gallatin, Jefferson's Secretary of the Treasury, assert that, before going out of office, John Adams had settled every difficult question, so that Jefferson as he entered upon office embarked upon the smoothest sea, with no winds but prosperous ones to fill his sails, with not a wave to disturb the public quiet. A similar train of thought beams through Jefferson's inaugural address, when he declares that he finds "this government, the world's best hope, the strongest government on earth, in the full tide of successful experiment."

War measures being at an end, the army reduced, the alien and sedition laws dead, domestic tranquillity and prosperity established, the first object of Jefferson in negotiating with France could be the cession of Louisiana to the United States.

The retirement of John Adams from the Federal city in the early morning of the 4th of March was not the act of a runaway; he never wanted courage, but he was obliged to vacate the President's mansion before the morning of the 4th of March, 1801; and the Federal city was then a new settlement in the woods, with scarcely five hundred inhabitants, with not one good hotel, and as there was no member of his cabinet in a house which could receive the departing President as a guest, he had nothing better to do than to start for his own home. Jefferson almost immediately sent him the homage of his high consideration and respect; and Adams, only twenty days after Jefferson had entered upon the office of President, wrote to him:

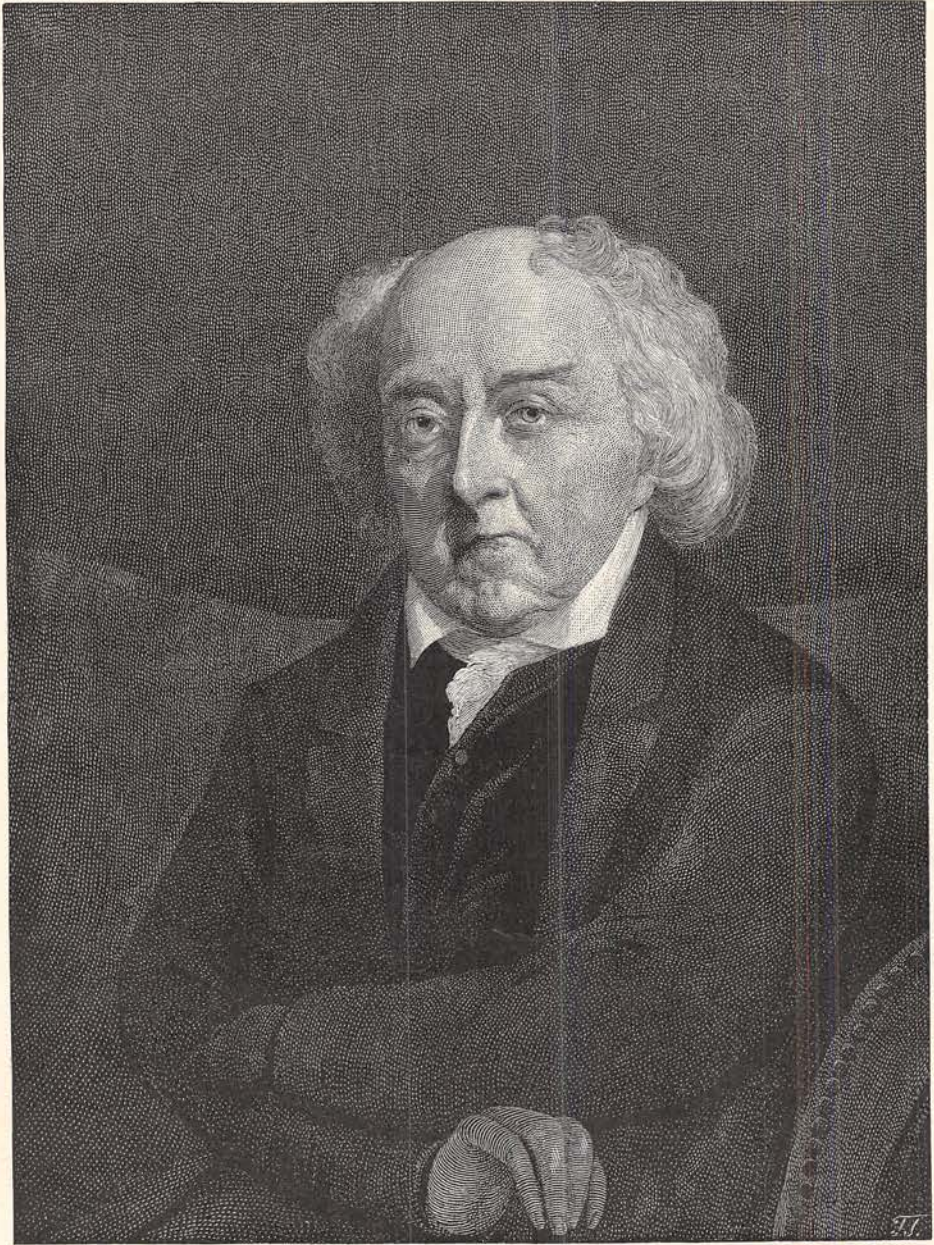
"This part of the Union is in a state of perfect tranquillity, and I see nothing to obscure your prospect of a quiet and prosperous administration, which I heartily wish you."

The life of John Adams was prolonged beyond the period which any other President has reached. In earlier life he and Jefferson had stood together in Congress, when the one spoke with overwhelming power for national independence and the other wrote the declaration of it with matchless felicity.

When Jefferson and Adams met in Europe, they were equally engaged in carrying on negotiations for their country; and the intimacy between them was such that each of them gave his portrait to the other. When, in an advanced age, they had both retired to private life, after years of rivalry and contest for the highest honor in the gift of the United States, Adams could not submit to any permanent estrangement between them, and they soon found themselves engaged in the most intimate private correspondence. The morning of the jubilee of our Declaration of Independence found both of them still alive; and as Adams on that day, at the age of ninety-one, became aware he was dying, his last words were: "Jefferson still lives." But Jefferson, the younger man, had gone a few hours before him.

George Bancroft.





PAINTED BY GILBERT STUART.

ENGRAVED BY T. JOHNSON.

John Adams