

The Louisiana Purchase.

(Continued from page 9.)

the privilege of depot for our citizens. The Americans of the whole valley suddenly became aware of the frail tenure by which they held their commercial privileges. They became angrily excited and were ready for immediate war and the capture of New Orleans if the depot privileges were not restored.

The report of the retrocession was afterwards verified, and the title to Louisiana was again in France. It had been effected by a secret treaty executed in October, 1800, but the terms were not published until many years afterward. The Americans of the valley, foreseeing the closing of their only commercial gateway, flooded congress with their remonstrances, threatened to take measures for their security into their own hands, and boldly announced that their national allegiance depended on national protection. The more violent among them indicated the possibility of organizing an independent republic west of the Alleghenies, of seizing the control of the Mississippi and its valley, and expelling both France and Spain.

Jefferson's Idea.

President Jefferson became profoundly alarmed by the energetic action of the west. He wrote to our minister (Livingston) at Paris, that the possession by France of New Orleans would force the United States into alliance with England. He summoned Monroe to go with all speed of preparation on a special mission to Paris, the object of which was declared to be to purchase New Orleans and the Floridas, or so much of them as the powers in possession could be persuaded to part with. His purpose was wholly limited to the question of acquiring lands or permanent depots on the east of the Mississippi, and on the rivers running through Florida, for the convenience of our commerce, which required outlets to the gulf of Mexico, the northern shore of which would now be wholly controlled by Spain and France against the interests of the United States. This control by two foreign and allied powers was rightly regarded as more dangerous to American interests than was the sole dominion of Spain. France under Bonaparte, then first consul, was a much more dangerous neighbor than the King of Spain. The simple presence of French sovereignty at the mouth of the Mississippi was a provocation to the hostile fleets of Europe, and particularly an invitation to the fleets of England to enter and seize New Orleans and the mouths of that great river. This would establish Great Britain, already entrenched upon our northern frontier, on the other flank of the young republic, involving a thousand dangers to our

growing interests in the newly settled valley of the west.

French recklessness of international obligations on the high seas had already been disastrous to our commerce on the Atlantic ocean. Eastern merchants had numerous and just claims against the French for their seizures of our vessels and cargoes on the ocean, and now they were to control also the commercial outlet of the continental inland, and to invite thither the presence of warlike fleets. The instinct of danger which developed itself in the west was fully justified. Jefferson, who during his long residence in Paris had become impregnated with French ideas and French sympathies, was slower in appreciating the dangers than were the people of the valley. Indeed, his adhesion to French ideas and French interests had years be-

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ASSETS	
Loans.....	\$9,446,888.10
Bonds, Stocks and Warrants.....	1,261,290.47
Real Estate.....	1,281,914.57
Miscellaneous Assets.....	9,205.58
Due from Banks and Bankers.....	1,111,501.91
Cash.....	4,030,418.55
	\$17,091,214.18
LIABILITIES	
Capital, paid up.....	\$ 500,000.00
Surplus.....	5,750,000.00
Undivided Profits.....	1,926,895.63
Deposits, Banks and Bankers.....	1,084,015.95
" Individual.....	7,830,802.60
	\$17,091,214.18

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