

The Louisiana Purchase.

(Continued from page 12.)

fore caused a certain alienation of sentiment between him and Washington. The terrible excesses of the French revolution, its gross infidelity and its shocking bloodshed in the effort to abolish christianity and law, had offended all Washington's sentiments of religion and humanity. The sympathies of Washington were on the side of the religious civilization of his English forefathers; while Jefferson looked complacently upon the violent destruction of all that was sanctified by ages of faith and of custom. So now, after Washington's death, himself in the president's chair, Jefferson was far behind other responsible citizens of the republic in his appreciation of the perils arising from French recklessness in resort to war and international violence. He did not lead, but followed, the people in their protest against the fresh introduction of the power of France into the very center of our continent.

The West not Wanted.

Jefferson's proposed measure of relief was limited and altogether inadequate to provide for the future interests of the United States. His instruction to his envoys was to obtain "a cession to the United States of New Orleans

and of west and east Florida, or as much thereof as the actual proprietor can be prevailed on to part with." That is to say, their attention was called exclusively to the gulf coast line extending from the Mississippi to the Atlantic. This appeared to be the maximum of his wishes. There was no hint of our requiring or of purchasing the great territory west of the Mississippi. He then proceeded to instruct them touching a possible reduction of even this demand, if necessary. If no grant of territorial jurisdiction could be obtained they were to secure mere rights of deposit, with the privilege of holding real estate for commercial purposes. In respect to the Floridas, the envoys were to secure depots at the mouths of the rivers which ran from the United States through Florida to the sea, together with their free navigation. And the sum within which they were to negotiate for any or all of these concessions was \$2,000,000.

It thus appears that Jefferson had never contemplated the acquisition of what is called the "Louisiana purchase." Popular opinion has attributed to him a remarkable and statesmanlike foresight in negotiating for that vast tract of country west of the Mississippi in order to provide for the future needs of the then young republic. The truth, however, compels us to recognize the

fact that neither the American people of that day—who were few in number compared with the extent of their existing territory, and who already possessed ample lands beyond their power of cultivation—nor their statesmen, in their farthest vision foresaw the amazing development destined to come before the end of the century. Jefferson's plans, not anticipating but following the demands of the "west," only sought to provide for an existing emergency, and to acquire in perpetuity a right which had been once conceded to the United States by Spain—the right of a free depot and transfer of their products. That was the attitude of our government when Monroe sailed for France. Its eyes were directed to the south, not to the west.

Bonaparte and Livingston.

The real scene of the story of the Louisiana purchase is on the other side of the Atlantic. It is laid in Paris, where the proposal of the greater transaction had its origin in the breast of the powerful master of the French republic.

(CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK.)

The editor of THE CONSERVATIVE has been in the hands of a physician during the past ten days, and has not been at his office during that time. Remissness in attending to correspondence and other duties is thus made excusable.

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