

ernment at home. As Secretary of State under Washington, perhaps there is no man who has filled the office with more ability and energy. As a diplomatist, he has never been excelled by any man in the same position. His official messages to our foreign ministers show a deepness of thought and earnestness of purpose unequalled by any of his successors.

Such had been the course of Jefferson, when called to the Presidential chair. In this part of his public service he excelled even the expectation of his friends. Although opposed by a large minority on his first election, he was hailed with joy as President by most of his enemies after the choice was announced. So pleased were the people with his first administration that a second was forced upon him. Never has there been so near a unanimous voice for a President since the days of Washington, as upon the second election of Jefferson. The impartiality of his first administration gained the favor of the most of his once bitterest opponents. The success of his second administration exceeded even the first in promoting the happiness and prosperity of the Union.

Such was the main political career of one of America's greatest statesmen. Jefferson was mostly a self-made man. Experience was his great teacher. His political sentiments, though now somewhat out of date, were in that time derived from pure motives. He established a party that has marked the course and destiny of our nation for years to come. A party that may have lost more or less of its original character, but one that has never been completely overthrown by the Ultra-Federalist principle. As a champion of liberal institutions, and the full rights of a free people, he naturally adhered to the institutions of his Southern State; yet, from the effects of a common struggle, he bore no special prejudice to any one part of the Union. All received his services alike. When elevated to the highest honor which his country could bestow upon him, he was not ignorant of

the wants of the American people. An experience of thirty years in the service of his country, at home and abroad, enlarged his views of constitutional government. The political institutions of Europe and their workings were studied with great diligence. Whatever he found useful for his country was carefully noted and preserved for future use. Thus by the blending of foreign customs with those of his own country he was enabled to pursue an unprejudiced course in his administration. As the chief executive he was always at his post of duty. His executive abilities received the approval of the whole nation. He was always prompt in his action, and sincere in his commands, although respectful to whom they were addressed. In his decision he was always firm, yet never given until the subject in hand had been thoroughly investigated. Whatever was most needed by the people, he was one of the first to discover, and give it his approval. Whatever he suggested to Congress was acted upon with the greatest deliberation. Whatever needed reform, he was its greatest advocate.

What was left unfinished by Washington that Jefferson did not complete? What error was made by Adams that Jefferson did not correct? Every quality so necessary to success was distinctly marked in him. In discussions he did not display that eloquence which leads men without consulting their judgment; his language was elegant, concise, and always addressed to the generosity of man. A judgment, guided by sincerity and truth, alone carried conviction to the hearts of his hearers. Always an advocate of peace, and a preserver of the happiness of the people, he gained their warmest sympathy. As a worker for the progress of science and the enlightenment of the people he was rarely excelled. As a promoter of industry and economy his name will long be remembered. Never influenced by selfish motives, he ever remained firm in the practice of justice and truth.