



THOMAS JEFFERSON.

A new century dawned, and with its dawning Thomas Jefferson became President, and Aaron Burr, of New York, Vice-President. There had been no choice by the electors chosen by the different States, and, in accordance with the Constitution, they were elected by Congress. A few months before they were elected the capitol was removed from Philadelphia to Washington, which was only a straggling village, and where the members of Congress and officers of the government had to live for a while in shanties and boarding-houses. There was only one hotel, and the President's house was only partly finished. Mrs. Adams, during the winter of 1799, used to hang her washing to dry in the great unfurnished east room.

President Jefferson was a plain man. When he was inaugurated he would have no parade of military, but rode alone and on horseback to the capitol, tied the horse to a post, entered the Capitol, took the oath of office, and rode back to his house.

He was hospitable, and so democratic that members of Congress, strangers, anybody and everybody, who called upon him were welcome to sit down to his long dining-table, where they found plain, wholesome food, and but little cake.

President Jefferson was far-sighted. People were swarming into Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, and Indiana. He saw that in time the Ohio and Mississippi were to be highways to the sea for the whole central portion of the continent. But France held Louisiana - not the state alone which now bears the name, but all the country west of the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains and the Rio Grande. St. Louis and New Orleans were inhabited by French people. The President sent Robert R. Livingston of New York and James Monroe to Paris, to see if the country along the Mississippi to the ocean could be purchased. Bonaparte wanted money, and was ready to sell all of the territory owned by France for \$15,000,000, and they quickly signed the treaty. "We have lived long, but this is the noblest work of our lives," said Mr. Livingston as he laid down the pen.



ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON.

So the United States obtained possession of the country from the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains, and from the Gulf of Mexico to the head waters of the Mississippi.

No one knew anything about the country but what had been learned from hunters. The President sent Captain Merriwether Lewis and Captain William Clark up the Missouri to make explorations. They crossed the Rocky Mountains, descended the Columbia to the sea, and returned after an absence of three years, giving to the world the first authentic intelligence of the interior of the continent - of its great rivers, far-reaching prairies, and lofty mountains. Not till their return did the world have any idea of the wonderful resources and unmeasured capabilities of the vast domain, and of the possibilities for the future greatness of the American people.