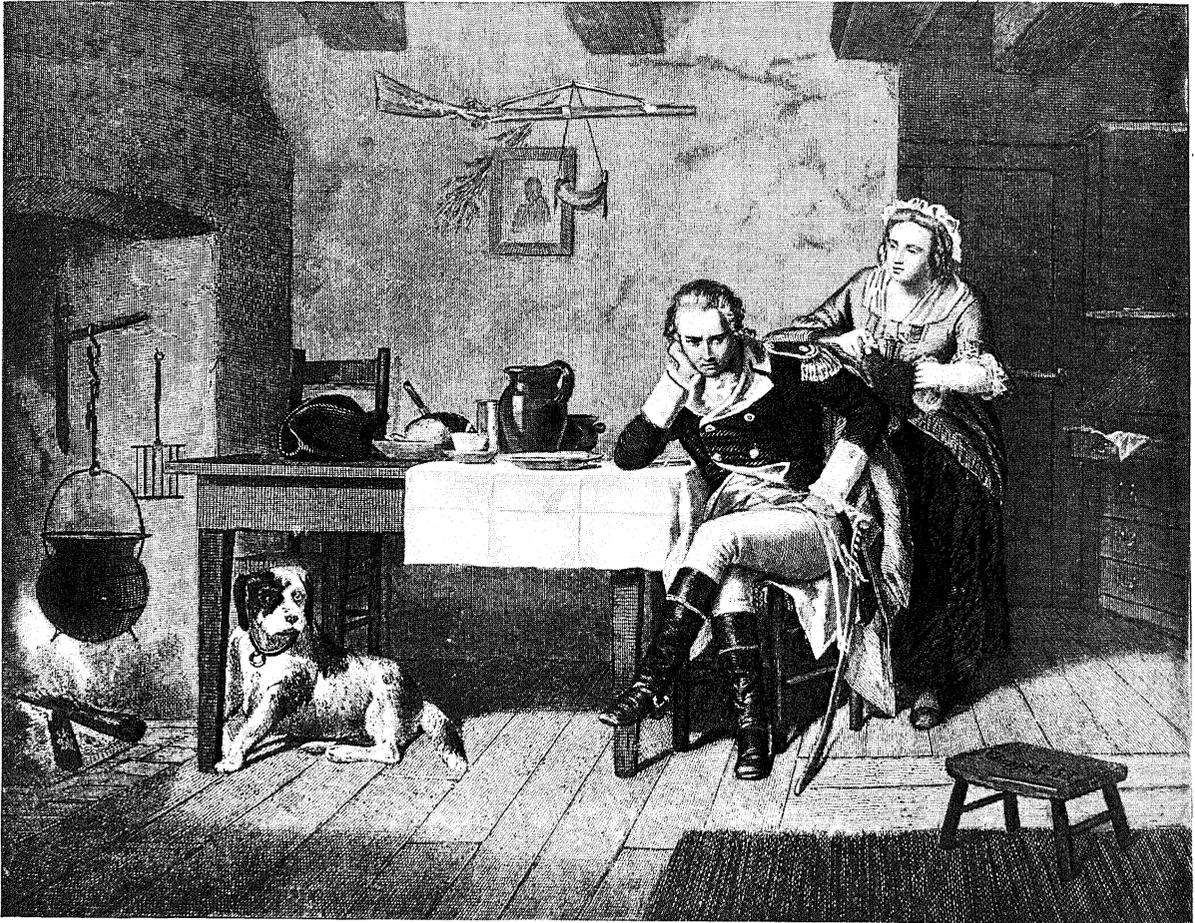


History of the Nations

During the 'forties, North America was the happy hunting-ground for numerous fantastic sects, most of which had either a socialistic or religious basis. The majority of these were harmless enough, but the sect of the Mormons, or Latter Day Saints, who settled in Utah in 1847, rapidly became a menace to the state. They founded Salt Lake City, and under the leadership of the notorious Brigham Young became very strong in numbers. The great difficulty in the way of permitting them self-government was the circumstance that they practised polygamy. Although this was backed with great professions of religious zeal, it bulked much too largely in the Mormon constitution not to have become its chief article. In 1857 armed Mormons attacked a band of one hundred and twenty immigrants on their way

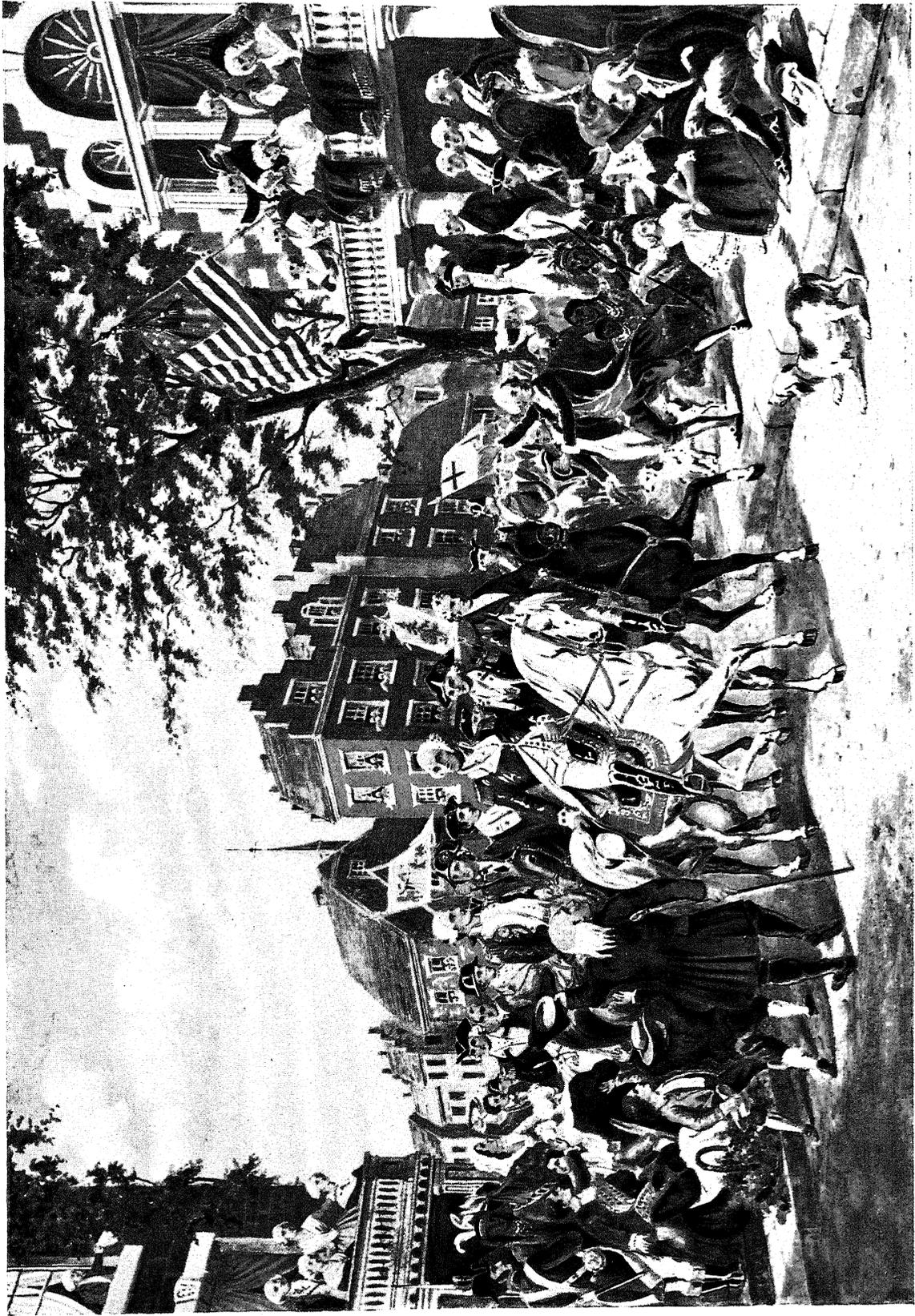


THE PATRIOTISM OF MRS. STEELE.

The following anecdote well illustrates the patriotism of the American women during the War of Independence. In 1781, General Greene was retreating towards Salisbury, where he put up at the principal hotel, which was kept by a Mrs. Steele. Greene, weary and dispirited, said he was tired out, hungry and penniless, whereupon the landlady insisted that the general should take all her savings.

to Southern California, and this incident led to the dispatch of fifteen hundred United States troops to Utah under Colonel Johnston, but Young issued a proclamation forbidding armed forces from entering the territory and declaring martial law. In 1858, however, they were induced to make formal submission to the United States.

By the year 1850 the North and the South had drifted so far apart as to be practically two separate countries: the North was prosperous, civilized, modern; the South had stood still—democracy had had no place in its councils, and in reality the old colonial spirit ruled supreme. The pretensions of its aristocracy were extreme; the slave-trade was practically its one and only "industry." The fact that a man possessed a certain number of slaves assisted his social status, and it was the slave-owning class which held practically all the political power in the country. The people of the South simply could

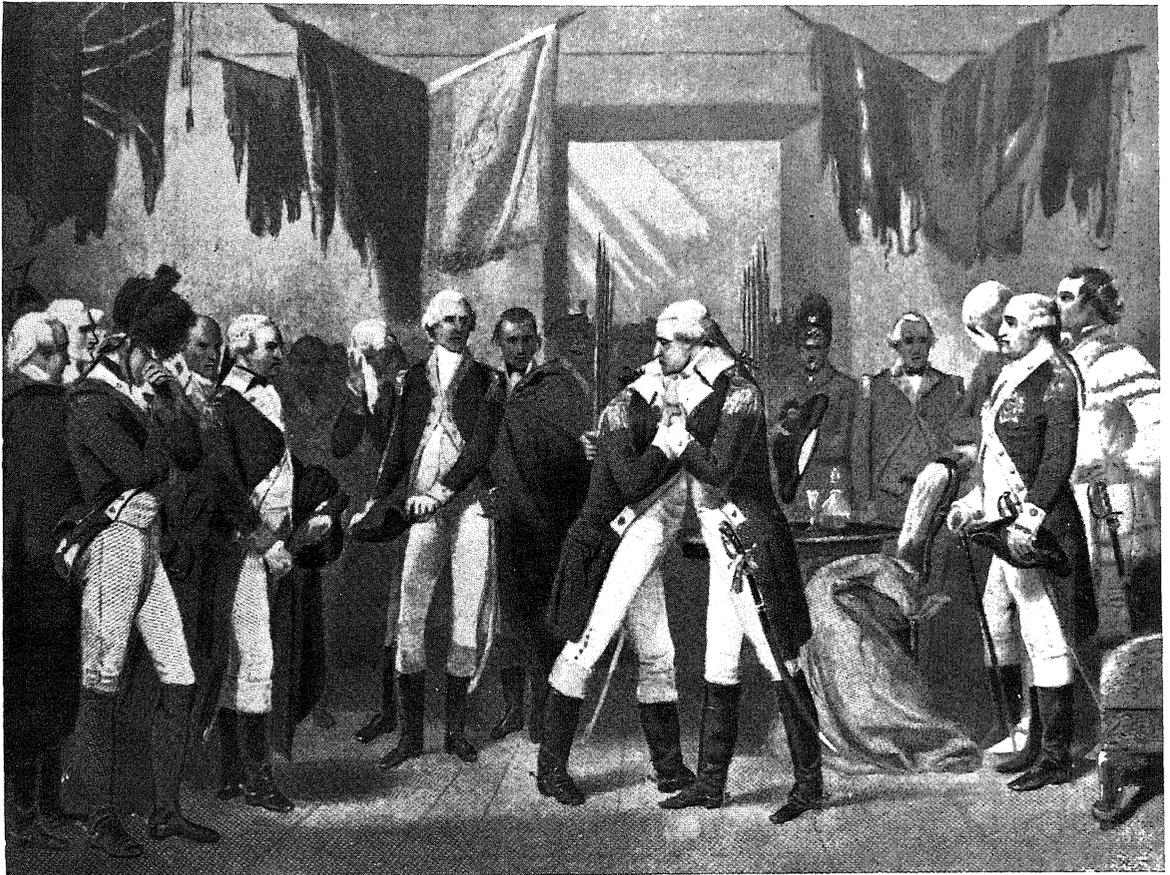


WASHINGTON'S ENTRY INTO NEW YORK.

The entry of Washington, the President elect, into New York City in April, 1789, was one huge ovation. He was escorted by the civic soldiers and principal citizens, ladies and young girls, dressed in white, waved banners and flags from the balconies of the various houses along the route of the procession. There were triumphal arches in profusion, and congratulatory addresses were read to him. Amid thunders of artillery he was welcomed by Governor Clinton, and conducted to his official residence. He was afterwards entertained by the Governor, and at night the whole city was illuminated.

not comprehend the hatred which the North evinced for the institution of slavery ; they did not regard the negro as a human being, and generations of slave-owning had made them look upon his possession as a perfectly natural ownership. Meanwhile emigration had brought to the North and West thousands of people of European stock, who regarded slave-owning with the utmost abhorrence ; but few of these found their way to the South, which remained practically isolated and abandoned to the passions and forces of the past.

Such was the condition of affairs when North and South slowly but inexorably drifted into the gigantic internecine struggle known as the American Civil War, one of the most sanguinary and relentless conflicts of the nineteenth century. This cruel and disastrous strife lasted for four years, from April,



WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL TO HIS OFFICERS.

In November, 1793, peace having been declared, the British evacuated New York, into which the American officers, civil and military, made their entry. A few days after, Washington, preparatory to setting out on his journey home, took leave of the principal officers of the army. Overcome by emotion, Washington silently shook hands with each one, then hastened to White Hall, where a barge waited to convey him to Paulus Hook.

1861, to April, 1865, and resulted, as we shall presently see, in the abolition of slavery in the United States. Directly, the *casus bellum* was the secession of eleven southern states from the union ; in reality, the rock upon which the nation split was the slavery question.

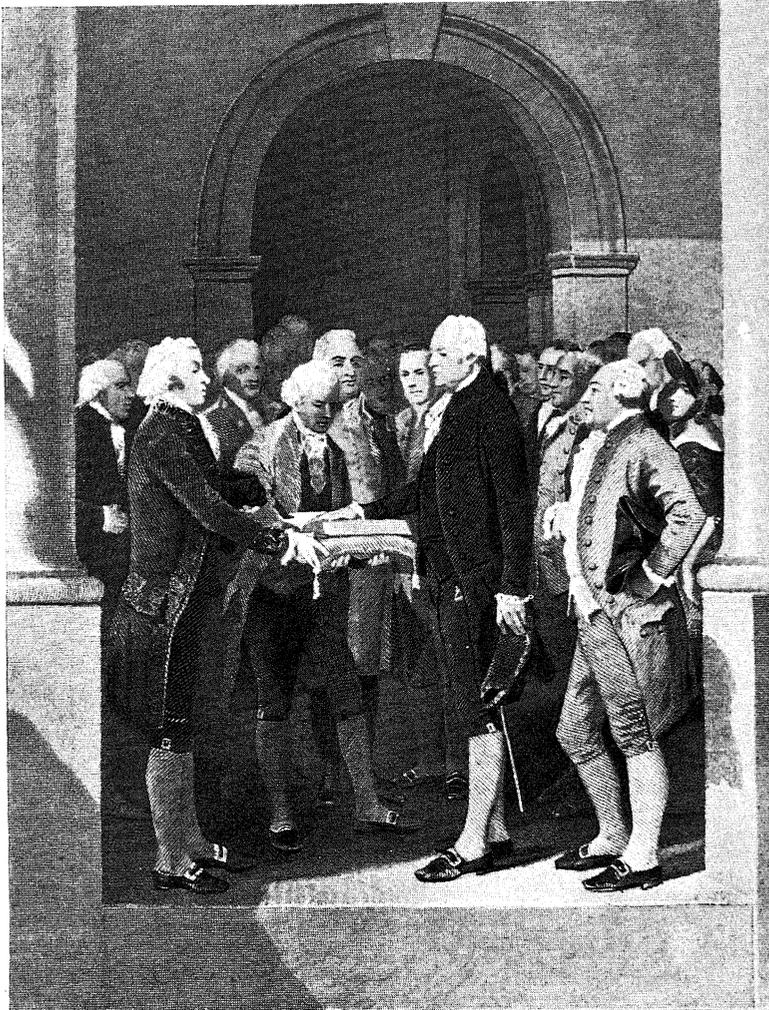
At the time of the Union it had been arranged that the states north of the Ohio should come in as free states, while those to the south entered as slave-states. When in 1820 Missouri desired admission to the Union a compromise was made (the Missouri Compromise), whereby slave-holding was to be permitted in that state, though never henceforth in any territory north of its southern line. However, on the admission in later years of Kansas and Nebraska, both of them north of the dividing line, an attempt was made to remove the restriction. In 1854 the " Nebraska Bill " was introduced to repeal the Missouri Compromise, and leave the holding of slaves optional to the settlers in the new territories. Excitement

ran very high, and by and by Kansas became the scene of political strife, and even of open warfare. North and South became ever more jealous and afraid of each other. The former was alarmed at the decision in the Dred Scott case, in which a slave, whose master had taken him to a free state, claimed freedom on that ground. The Supreme Court decided against the negro. The South, on the other hand, was incensed by the exploit of one John Brown, who with only eighteen men seized the armoury at Harper's Ferry, in Virginia, and prepared to free the slaves. His attempt failed, he himself was tried and executed, but the incident aroused deep feeling on both sides. In 1860 Abraham Lincoln, nominee of the Republican ("Free-Soil") party, was elected president.

The crisis came in December, 1860, when the seven "cotton states" (South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas) declared their independence and their separation from the Union, South Carolina leading the way. On the 4th of February, 1861, they formed themselves into "The Confederate States of America," under the presidency

numbers and equipment, and possessed, moreover, a navy which found plenty of work to do. Three border states, Missouri, Kentucky and Maryland, attached themselves definitely to neither side, though the Confederacy had looked for their support.

Until the end of 1863 the various campaigns were conducted in three separate areas—the western, the eastern and the central. The campaigns of the east centred in Virginia; those of the west had for their main object the settlement of the question: which of the opposing forces was to have command of the Mississippi? while the central campaign was fought in the valleys of the Ohio and Tennessee. Campaigns were in progress simultaneously in all these theatres.



THE INAUGURATION OF WASHINGTON AS PRESIDENT.

Congress having proved itself very inefficient, Washington was elected president. On the 23rd of April, 1789, the president-elect entered New York amid scenes of wonderful enthusiasm, and was formally installed on the 30th. Washington proceeded in state to the Federal Hall, ascended to the Senate Chamber and, in an open gallery in full view of the multitudes below, took the oath of office administered to him by Chancellor Livingston.

of Jefferson Davis. Afterwards, when the war was actually begun, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas joined the confederacy.

The first blow was struck at Charleston on the 12th of April, 1861, when Fort Sumter, garrisoned by only seventy Unionists, was besieged by a Confederate force. After a gallant resistance the little garrison was compelled to withdraw. The war had begun in real earnest. North as well as South stood united, and if the latter could boast of superior military training, the former had the advantage in



From the painting]

THE DEATH OF WASHINGTON.

[By Howard Pyle.

Washington retired from public life in 1797 to his home at Mount Vernon, where he occupied most of his time with agriculture. In December, 1799, while riding about on his estate in heavy rain he caught a chill which, owing to neglect, gave place to inflammation of the lungs. After a few days' acute suffering, Washington died, sincerely mourned by the whole American nation. Among great historical figures Washington stands out by virtue of combining in his character all the best qualities of a patriot, statesman and man. He was not an epoch-making general, but possessed undoubted courage and resource in action.