

was separated and given to three sets of men: one set to make laws (the legislative department); one set to decide on the meaning of the laws and to declare who are guilty of breaking them (the judicial department); and one set to enforce the laws (the executive department).

112. The Two Governments.—But the Declaration of Independence did not leave the State free to do everything that a government can do—did not leave it free to exercise *all* the powers of government—for the Declaration brought into the world a new nation, the United States, and this new nation had some powers of its own and a government of its own, namely, the Continental Congress. This Congress, from the first, did some things a State never did and never tried to do. For example, it conducted a war—the War of the Revolution—it made treaties with foreign nations, and it managed the post-office.

At the very beginning of our political life, then, there were two kinds of government at work in the United States—a central government, the Congress, exercising power in respect to war, treaties, and postal affairs, and State governments exercising power in respect to all other matters. The central government had but few things to do, and in its organization it was very weak. The State governments had many things to do, and in their organization they were strong.

113. The Articles of Confederation.—The statesmen of the Revolution were not long in learning that the central government was too weak to do good work, and in 1781 they succeeded in getting the States to agree to the celebrated Articles of Confederation. These articles increased the power of the central government. They gave Congress the power:

- (1) To determine questions of peace and war.
- (2) To attend to foreign affairs of every kind.
- (3) To manage Indian affairs.
- (4) To call upon the States for their share of the expenses of the central government.
- (5) To settle disputes between States concerning boundaries.
- (6) To establish and regulate post-offices.