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MONROE AND JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

The Monroe Doctrine sets our compass and points the course which we are to steer through the ocean of time.—*Thomas Jefferson.*

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JAMES MONROE (1817-25)

Introduction.—After the admission of Missouri in 1821, it was fifteen years before another Western State was admitted. We therefore must leave for a while the subject of the Westward Movement and carry forward the story of national affairs from the point where that story was left off, that is, from the close of the administration of Madison (1817).

165. James Monroe, President.—Madison was succeeded in the Presidency by his Secretary of State, James Monroe, who was a Virginian by birth and who belonged to that group of great Virginians who stood so long at the head of national affairs. Monroe was not as great a man as Washington or Jefferson or Madison, yet he was fitted to make a good President. A more honest man never sat in the presidential chair. "If his soul were turned inside out," said Jefferson, "not a blot could be found upon it." Besides being thoroughly honest, Monroe was skilled in the management of public business. We saw him (p. 189) taking a leading part in the purchase of Louisiana. During the stormy years of Madison's administration it was Monroe who, as Secretary of State, attended to the difficult questions which arose between our government and foreign governments. So when Monroe entered (in 1817) upon his duties as President he was prepared by experience to take hold of affairs with the trained hand of a master.

166. The Era of Good Feeling.—Monroe found the country in a state of peace. Quarreling with foreign countries had come