

South Carolina he said: "Please give my compliments to my friends in your State and say to them that if a single drop of blood shall be shed there in opposition to the laws of the United States, I will hang the first man I lay my hands on engaged in such treasonable conduct upon the first tree I can reach." But no blood was shed. Before any blows were actually struck, Henry Clay, always ready to settle quarrels by a compromise, came forward in Congress with a tariff that was more favorable to the South. The new tariff law was passed, South Carolina obeyed it, and the nullification movement of 1832 came to an end.

178. Jackson and the Bank of the United States.—At the time Jackson was having so much trouble with South Carolina, his first term was drawing to a close. He was growing old and feeble and did not really care for a second term. But there was one thing he had set his heart upon doing that he had not yet done: he desired before he left the Presidency to destroy the Bank of the United States. This bank had been chartered in 1816 for a period of twenty years. Jackson was always its enemy. So great was his hatred of it that he could not bear even to hear its name mentioned. In 1832 he refused to sign a bill to renew the bank's charter, which was to expire in 1836. The bank continued its efforts to secure a new charter. Jackson, in order to defeat the plans of the bank, consented to be a candidate for reëlection. Clay, a strong friend of the bank, was nominated for the Presidency in opposition to Jackson.

It will be remembered that it was this bank question that caused the people to divide into two political parties in Washington's time (p. 162). In 1832 also the bank question caused a sharp division. The enemies of the bank, the Jackson men, belonged to the old Democratic party; the friends of the bank, the Clay men, took the name of National Republicans.

The presidential election of 1832 was remarkable for several reasons. It was the first election in which the candidates were nominated by great national conventions as they are now. It was also the first election in which the parties set forth their principles in platforms as they do now. Then, too, the candidates in 1832 were both remarkable men. Clay was a popular