

The downfall of Napoleon in 1815, followed as it was immediately by a re-arrangement and re-organization of Europe, a re-organization in which the rights of the people of Europe were scarcely considered by the monarchs and statesmen who carried out the "healing and settling," was another blow which went to prove that the day for the complete triumph of republican principles was still far removed.

The United States, then, seemed to be the one home of democracy, and the preservation of this refuge for oppressed humanity, the first duty of its citizens. Nevertheless, in spite of the interest taken by the United States in European affairs, it seems to have been the policy of all the early Presidents to occupy a position of dignified neutrality. It is probably true that in the desperate struggle which England waged for twenty odd years against the colossal power of France and her allies, a struggle in which the very existence of European, and therefore of American, freedom was at stake, the sympathy of the United States was with the enemy of liberty, and against its most gallant and staunch defender. But the share the United States took in this struggle was confined to sympathy so long as her individual rights were not involved. The war of 1812, of so great interest to all Canadians, was, as we all know, provoked by the high-handed proceedings of England on the seas towards American vessels and seamen. In Dr. Gilman's life of Monroe, there is a summary given of the attitude taken by the United States Presidents prior to Monroe, with respect to foreign affairs. There is not even a hint of the principle soon to be known as the "Monroe Doctrine." There are, however, several very distinct declarations from Washington, Adams (J.), Jefferson, and Madison, to the effect that the

true policy of the United States is to maintain a dignified neutrality in the struggles and complications so frequently arising in European affairs. At the same time it is recognized that the United States has a special set of interests to guard, if her dearly bought independence was not to be sacrificed. This, however, was a very different attitude from that taken by Monroe in his famous message in 1823; while Monroe's position is very far removed from that recently assumed by Secretary Olney and President Cleveland, and endorsed by the United States Congress.

Let us now review the circumstances which led to the enunciation of the "Monroe Doctrine." The downfall and permanent exile of Napoleon in 1815, was followed by a congress of the great powers of Europe, to restore or re-arrange the boundaries of the different states. Of these great powers, perhaps no one claimed and received so much credit for the destruction of Napoleon's supremacy, as Russia. Russia, at this time, was governed by the Emperor Alexander, a man of curiously mingled qualities. Just at this time he was much under the influence of one Madame Krüdener, who filled his mind with all manner of quixotic and chivalrous ideas. Of these, one took a very strong hold, and through him found expression in an alliance between the monarchs of Russia, Austria and Prussia, and subsequently of France, to bring about a golden age in Europe—an age in which the principles of Christianity would be recognized and practiced. This Holy Alliance, as it was called, bound the monarchs mentioned to "exercise their power according to the principles of religion, justice, and humanity; to afford one another on all occasions aid and help; to treat their subjects and soldiers with fraternal feeling, and to regard their people as members of a great