

vessels in the same manner as they had suffered themselves to be treated by the English. Under this order many American vessels were seized in the West Indies by French cruisers, and their crews treated with great indignity and cruelty. Indeed, at this period the French Government showed a strong disposition to take entire charge of the politics of the United States, and Commodore Joshua Barney, an American in the naval service of France, who came into Philadelphia in 1796, with two frigates which he commanded, told the citizens of that place that if Jefferson was not elected President, war would be declared by France against the United States within three months. So true was this, that the election of John Adams, a Federalist, who was chosen instead of Jefferson, resulted in the issuing of a decree by the French Directory which was equivalent to a declaration of war. It not only authorized the capture of American vessels under certain conditions, but declared that any American found on board of a hostile ship, although placed there without his consent by impressment, should be hanged as a pirate. The American Minister was ordered to leave France and three Envoys Extraordinary, who were sent in his place to arrange all matters in dispute, were treated with contempt and refused an audience. All these circumstances produced great indignation in the United States, and in the spring of 1798, although no actual declaration of war was issued, war with France was commenced on the ocean. The fall of the Directory and the assumption of authority by Bonaparte as First Consul, however, speedily put an end to hostilities.

This brief summary of the progress of events after the Revolution will serve to show more clearly the character