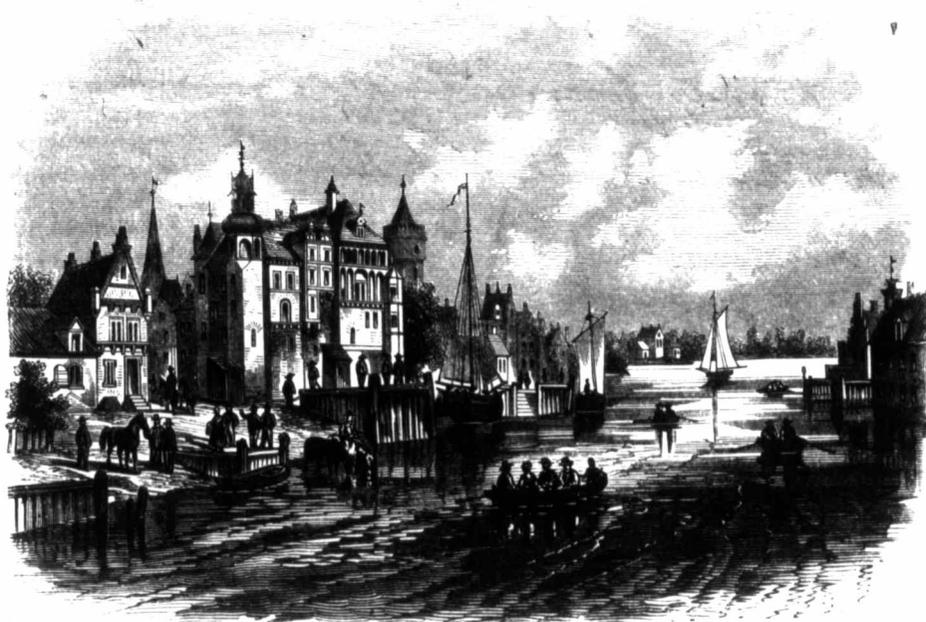


Delay in the Negotiations.      Sympathies of the People of Ghent with the Americans.      The Treaty concluded.

ened the most formidable obstructions to agreement. At times it seemed as if the effort to negotiate a treaty would be fruitless. The discussions continued several



VIEW OF THE CITY OF GHENT, FROM THE SCHELDT.

months. The leading citizens of Ghent (whose sympathies were with the Americans<sup>1</sup>) took great interest in the matter, and mingled their rejoicings with the commissioners when their work was ended.<sup>2</sup> That result was reached on the 24th of December, 1814, when a treaty was signed by the respective commissioners.<sup>3</sup> It was immediately transmitted to London by the hands of Mr. Baker, secretary to Lord

the Republican leader of it. Jefferson appointed him Secretary of the Treasury in 1801, which office he held until 1813, when he was sent to St. Petersburg as a commissioner to treat for peace. His communications from Europe on public affairs at that time were mostly written in cipher, composed of numbers, of which (copied from one of them in the State Department at Washington) a fac-simile is here given from a letter dated at London, June 13, 1814. Each number rep-

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resents a word or sentence, perfectly intelligible to a person with a key. Mr. Gallatin assisted in negotiating the treaty at Ghent. He remained in Europe, and from 1816 until 1823 he was our resident minister at the French court, and was employed in other diplomatic services. He declined offices of high honor at home, and remained abroad until 1828, when he returned to the United States, and fixed his residence in the city of New York, where he engaged in the business of banking. He took an active part in literary pursuits, and at the time of his death, which occurred at Astoria, Long Island, on the 12th of August, 1849, he was President of the New York Historical Society.

<sup>1</sup> On the 27th of October, 1814, the Academy of Sciences and Fine Arts at Ghent invited the American commissioners to attend their exercises, when they were all elected honorary members of the Academy. A sumptuous dinner was given, at which the Intendant, or chief magistrate of Ghent, offered the following sentiment:

<sup>2</sup> *Our distinguished guests and fellow-members, the American ministers—may they succeed in making an honorable peace to secure the liberty and independence of their country.* The band then played "Hail, Columbia." The British commissioners were not present.

<sup>3</sup> After the treaty was concluded the American commissioners gave a dinner to the British commissioners, at which Count H. Von Steinhuyse, the Intendant of the Department, was a guest. Sentiments of mutual friendship were offered. A few days afterward the Intendant gave an entertainment to the commissioners of both nations.

<sup>4</sup> On the next two pages is a fac-simile of the last paragraph of the treaty, with the signatures of the respective commissioners, and representations of the seals set opposite their names. These were carefully copied by the writer from the original in the Department of State at Washington City. The impressions of all the seals on the red wax were imperfect, as the engravings represent them.

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