

Peace Commissioners.

Negotiations opened at Ghent.

Adams, Bayard, Clay, and Gallatin.



JAMES A. BAYARD.

latter place for the meeting. The ancient city of Ghent, in Southern Netherlands (now in Belgium), was afterward substituted.¹ There the American commissioners assembled in the summer of 1814. These consisted of John Quincy Adams, James A. Bayard,² Henry Clay,³ Jonathan Russell, and Albert Gallatin.⁴ There they were joined^{*} by the British com-
 missioners, Lord Gambier, Henry Goulburn, and William Adams; and Christopher Hughes, Jr., one of the most attractive of men in social life, and a diplomat without a rival, who was then our chargé d'affaires at Stockholm, was appointed secretary to the American commissioners.

Negotiations were speedily opened, when a wide difference in the views of the commissioners of the respective nations threat-

1817, in which office he remained until he took the chair of President of the United States in 1825. In 1831 he was elected a member of the National House of Representatives, which position he held by re-election until his death, which occurred in the Speaker's Room at the Capitol on the 22d of February, 1848, in the eighty-first year of his age. His last



words were, "This is the end of earth." His remains were buried on the family estate at Quincy. In the accompanying picture are representations of the birthplace, the later residence, and the tomb of John Quincy Adams.

¹ Ghent is the capital of the province of East Flanders, in Belgium; is situated at the confluence of the Scheldt and Lys, and is one of the most interesting localities in the ancient Netherlands.

² James A. Bayard was born in Philadelphia on the 26th of July, 1767. He was graduated at Princeton in 1784, became a lawyer of eminence, and took a seat in Congress in 1797, to which he had been elected by the Federalists. He held that position until 1804, when he was elected to the National Senate, in which he became a leader. He was opposed to the War of 1812, but cheerfully acquiesced in the action of the majority. After assisting in the negotiation of the treaty of peace he went to Paris, where he became seriously ill. When he arrived in England, on his way home, he was met with the commission of minister to Russia. He declined the honor, hastened home, and five days after his arrival (August 6, 1815) he died.

³ Henry Clay (see page 211) was born near Hanover Court-house, in Virginia, on the 12th of April, 1777. He was educated in inferior district schools. He began the study of the law at the age of nineteen years, and at the age of twenty he was admitted to its practice. He went over the mountains into Kentucky, and settled at Lexington in 1799. With a display of remarkable talents, he entered upon the practice of his profession, and as a politician, with vigor. At that early period he worked for measures for the emancipation of the slaves, and through life was an advocate of the abolition of slavery in some form. He was chosen a member of the Kentucky Legislature in 1803, and was sent to the National Senate in 1806. He entered the House of Representatives as a member in 1811, and almost immediately afterward was elected its speaker. He remained in Congress, as a member of one branch or the other of that body (with the exception of four years, when he was John Quincy Adams's Secretary of State, and a brief retirement thereafter), until his death, which occurred at Washington City on the 29th of June, 1852.

⁴ Albert Gallatin was born on the 29th of January, 1761, in the city of Geneva, Switzerland. He was graduated at the University of Geneva in 1779, came to America in 1780, and entered the military service in Maine. After the Revolution he was a tutor in Harvard College for a while, and finally settled in Western Pennsylvania. He was a member of the Convention to revise the Constitution of that state in 1789, and was elected to the State Legislature. He was chosen a member of the National Senate in 1793, but, being ineligible, he was elected a member of the other house, and became

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