

CHAPTER XLII

PEACE AND ITS SEQUENCES

THE negotiations for the treaty of peace were fully as irregular and partook of the same opera-bouffe qualities as the other features of this war. The Czar of Russia had been very much shocked by the action of the United States, with which Russia was on most friendly terms, in declaring war against England, which was practically an ally of Russia. As early as September, 1812, Nicholas offered mediation to the United States and Great Britain through the ministers from those countries at St. Petersburg. The American minister there was John Quincy Adams, and he responded quite promptly in favor of taking up the matter, but the English held off. However, because of this action of the Czar, the United States Government subsequently appointed three peace envoys, consisting of Adams, J. A. Bayard of Delaware, and Albert Gallatin, who had been Secretary of the Treasury, but whose prestige became so diminished that he was glad to take up this work, and, in fact, suggested his own appointment to Madison. From June, 1813, to January, 1814, these three commissioners or envoys remained in St. Petersburg, awaiting the action of Great Britain on the sole question of making peace. At last,

The preliminary negotiations

American envoys marking time