

# PROBLEMS OF A NEW NATION



# Saddleback's *Graphic American History*



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ISBN: 978-1-59905-359-2

eBook: 978-1-60291-687-6

Printed in Malaysia

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At noon on March 4, 1801, Thomas Jefferson left his boarding house for his inauguration as third president of the United States.

Pomp and ceremony are for kings, not Republican presidents.

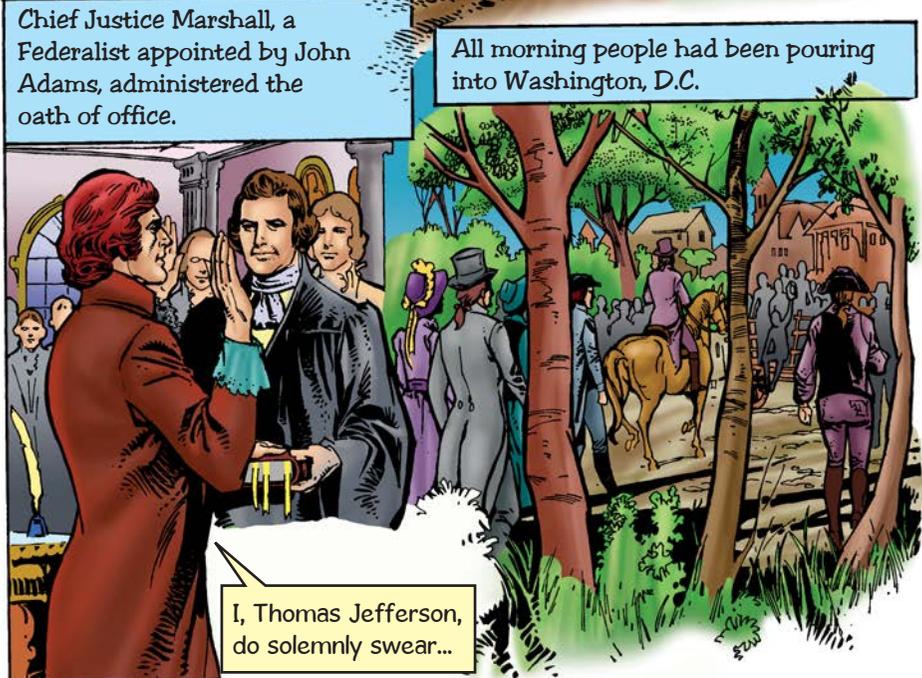
But, sir where is your carriage?

Oh, I am walking. It is only a short distance.



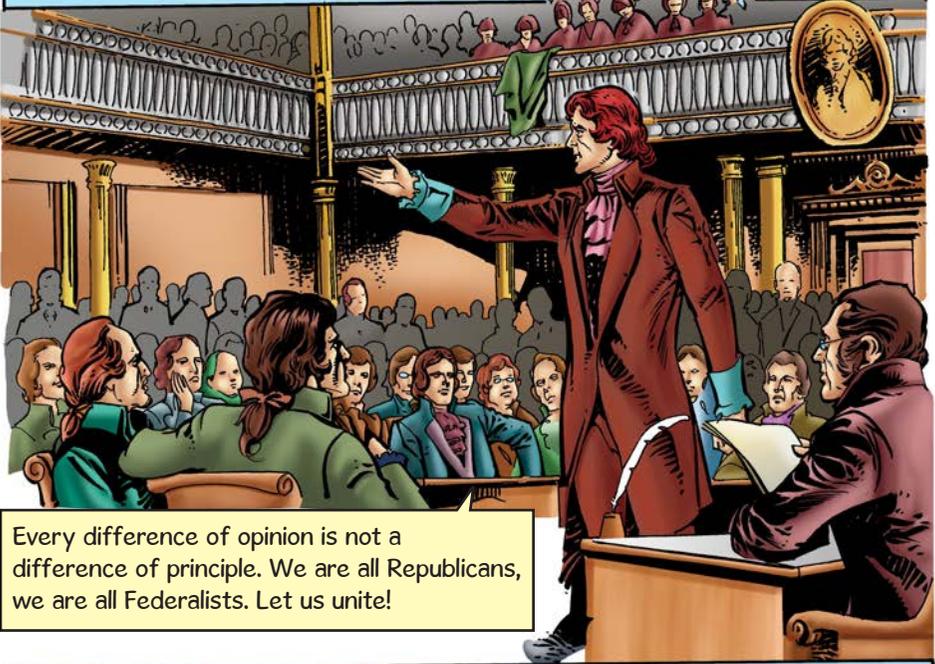
Chief Justice Marshall, a Federalist appointed by John Adams, administered the oath of office.

All morning people had been pouring into Washington, D.C.



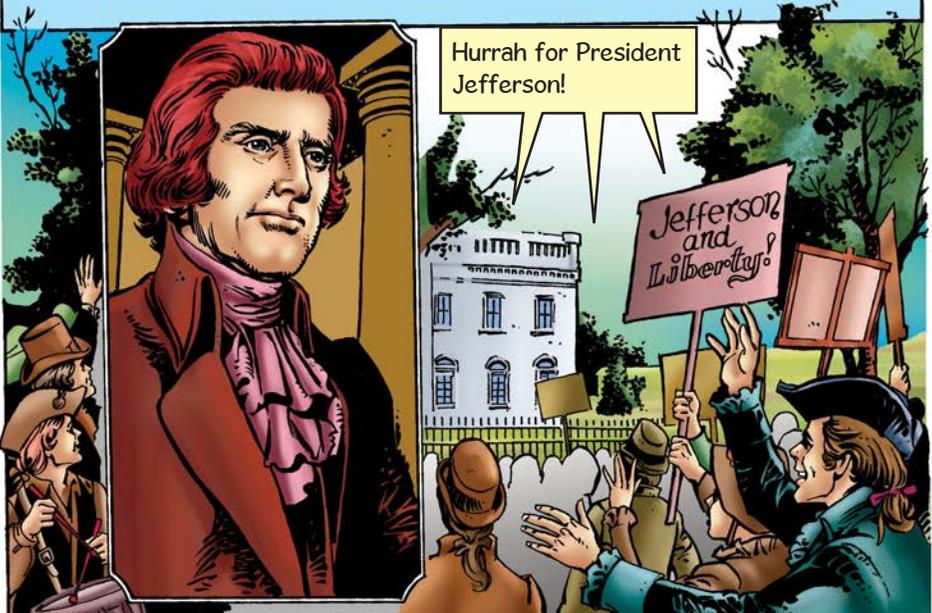
I, Thomas Jefferson, do solemnly swear...

Jefferson was the first president to be inaugurated in the new capital city. He addressed himself to the nation, as well as to Congress and the crowded gallery.



Every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle. We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists. Let us unite!

He had not wanted a demonstration, but the people had come to cheer and shout and sing.



Among the crowd were Patty Clark, her brother James, and their parents. They had come from nearby Baltimore.

It's exciting! Papa, is this a revolution?

Of course not. What gave you that idea?

Mary Ames said if Mr. Jefferson was elected there'd be a revolution and heads would roll in the streets.



Mary Ames' father is a wealthy Federalist and people tend to exaggerate in the heat of an election campaign.

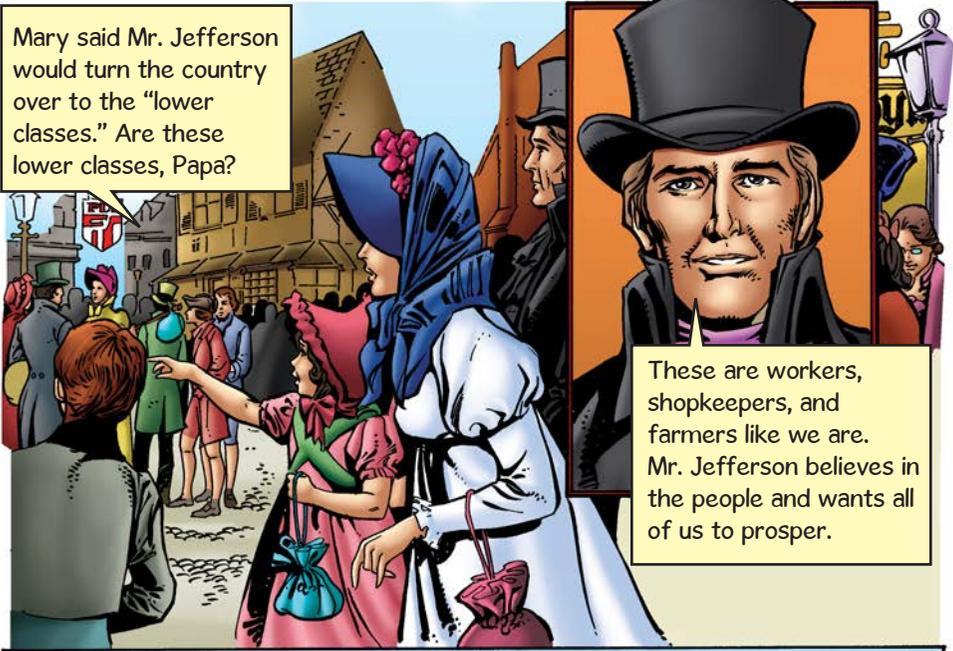


I would hardly have brought you two if I had expected heads to roll.

I'd like to see that!

Hush, James!



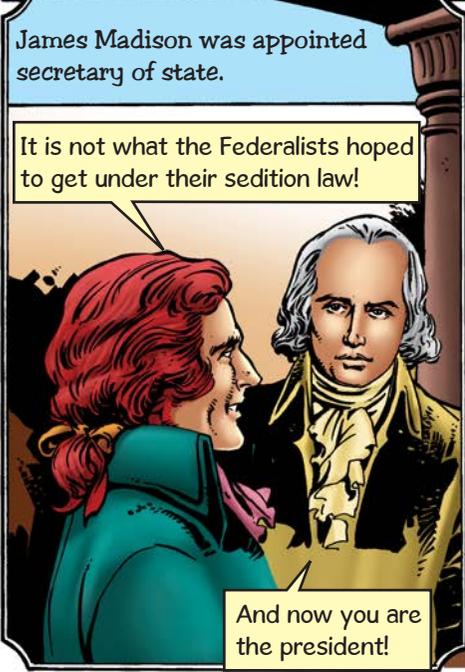


Mary said Mr. Jefferson would turn the country over to the "lower classes." Are these lower classes, Papa?



These are workers, shopkeepers, and farmers like we are. Mr. Jefferson believes in the people and wants all of us to prosper.

Among the first acts of Jefferson's administration were the repeals of the whiskey tax and the Naturalization Act. People imprisoned under the Sedition Act were pardoned.



James Madison was appointed secretary of state.

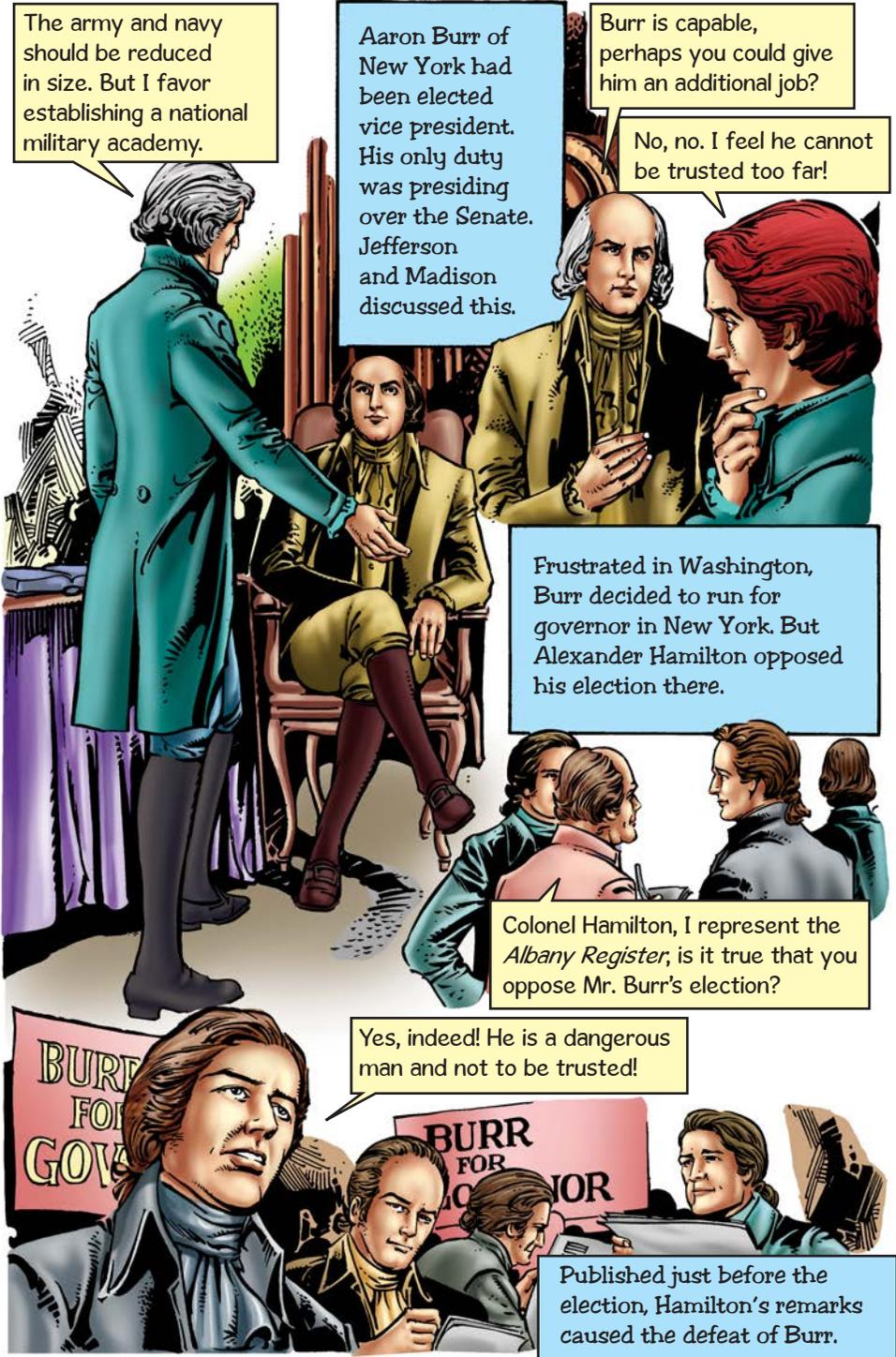
It is not what the Federalists hoped to get under their sedition law!

And now you are the president!

But the goals set for the new secretary of the treasury, Albert Gallatin, were conservative.

We must reduce government spending, reduce the national debt, lower taxes.





The army and navy should be reduced in size. But I favor establishing a national military academy.

Aaron Burr of New York had been elected vice president. His only duty was presiding over the Senate. Jefferson and Madison discussed this.

Burr is capable, perhaps you could give him an additional job?

No, no. I feel he cannot be trusted too far!

Frustrated in Washington, Burr decided to run for governor in New York. But Alexander Hamilton opposed his election there.

Colonel Hamilton, I represent the *Albany Register*, is it true that you oppose Mr. Burr's election?

Yes, indeed! He is a dangerous man and not to be trusted!

Published just before the election, Hamilton's remarks caused the defeat of Burr.

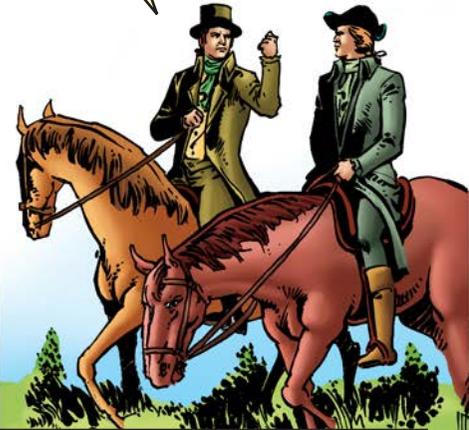
In those days, duels were commonplace. It was the accepted way to answer attacks on one's character. And there had been many such attacks in that campaign. Earlier, Burr had talked to Charles Biddle.

Burr and Hamilton had been enemies for years. Hamilton's attack was the last straw. Burr spoke to his friend, William Van Ness.

I am determined to challenge the next man concerned in such publications!

I intend to challenge Hamilton to a duel. Will you act for me?

Certainly. But I hope the matter can be settled peaceably.



After an exchange of angry letters, the challenge was issued and accepted. Nathaniel Pendleton acted as Hamilton's second.



Nathaniel, I don't believe in dueling, but I cannot refuse to meet him.

The meeting place was just across the river in New Jersey, a popular spot for dueling.



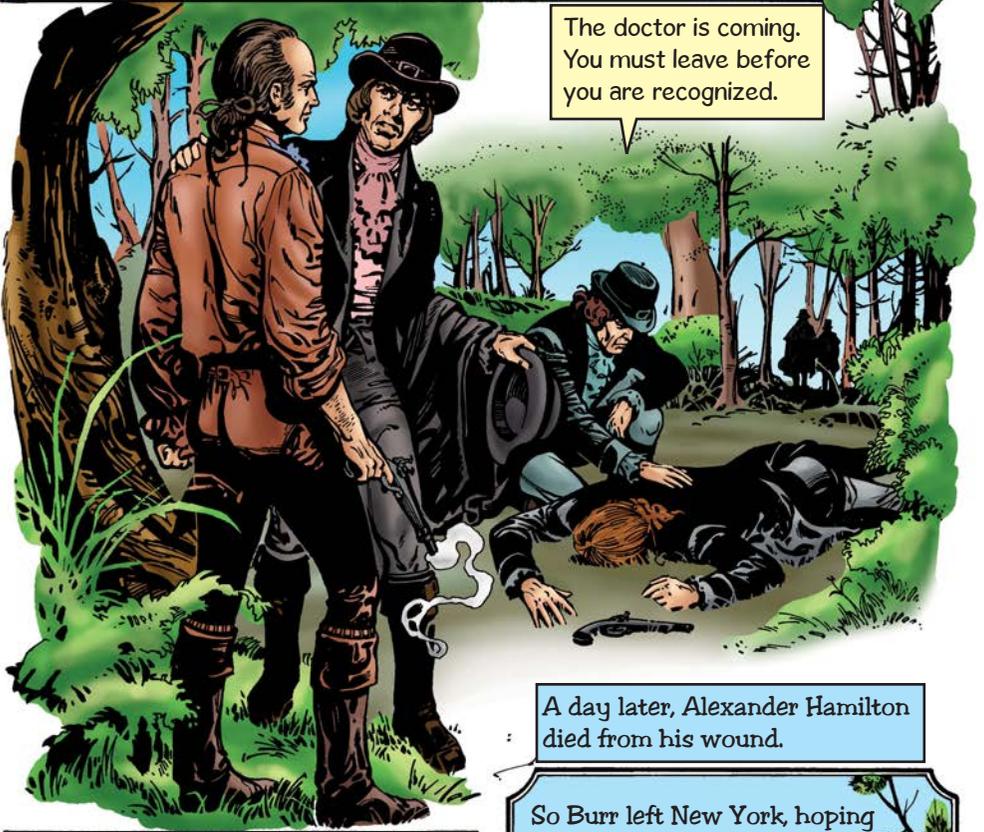
My affairs are in order. I have made my will.

I hope that will prove unnecessary!



Pistols loaded, the two men took their positions. The word was given. Both men fired. Hamilton staggered and fell to the ground.

The doctor is coming. You must leave before you are recognized.



A day later, Alexander Hamilton died from his wound.

Although duels were commonplace, this one caused a furor. Burr's enemies saw a chance to discredit him forever.

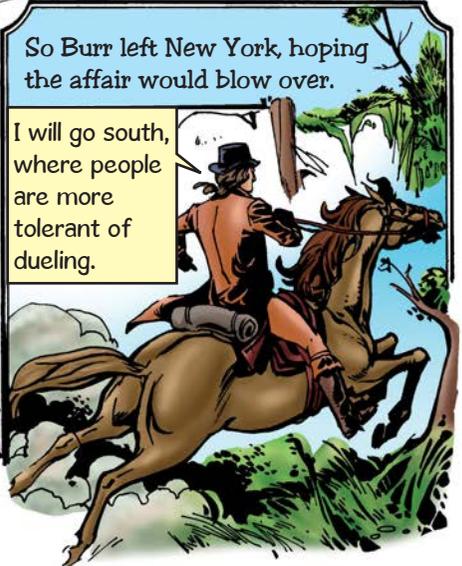
It was a fair duel! And I had every reason to challenge him!



That's true, but you will be accused of murder. Mobs are threatening your house. You must leave for a while.

So Burr left New York, hoping the affair would blow over.

I will go south, where people are more tolerant of dueling.

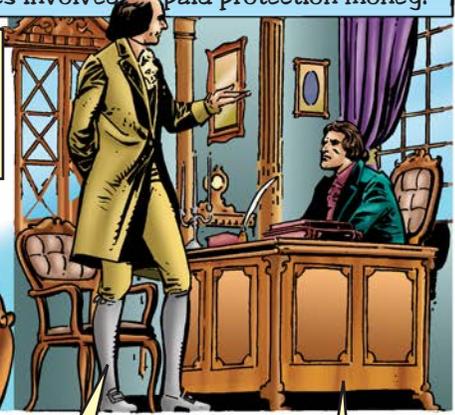




For many years, the Barbary states had been seizing ships that entered the Mediterranean Sea and holding their crews for ransom, unless the countries involved paid protection money.

In the past ten years, the country has paid ten million dollars in tribute money.

I protested when I was minister to France, and I still protest!



Now the pasha of Tripoli has raised the price we must pay!

The only answer is a stronger navy.

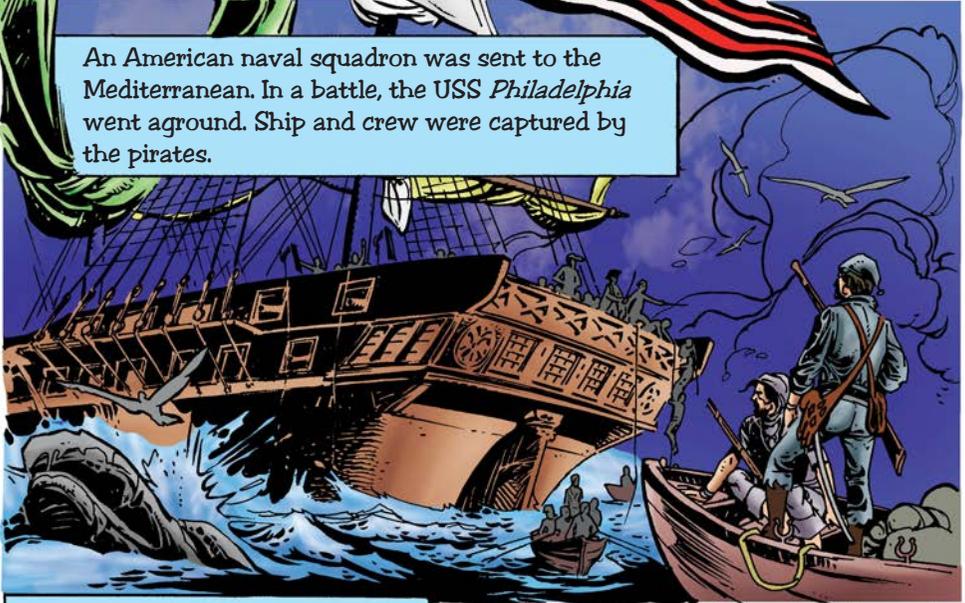


At the pasha's orders, the flag on the United States consulate was cut down.

Tripoli pirates boarded American ships and seized crews and passengers.



An American naval squadron was sent to the Mediterranean. In a battle, the USS *Philadelphia* went aground. Ship and crew were captured by the pirates.



The captured warship was anchored at Tripoli. On a dark February night, Lt. Stephen Decatur of the United States rowed into the harbor.

There she is, careful!



They boarded the *Philadelphia* under the guns of the pasha's palace, set her afire, and escaped safely.

Admiral Nelson called this the most daring act of the age.



Finally Congress voted money for a stronger navy. The pirates were defeated. When peace was made, it put an end to their raids not only on United States ships, but also on those of other seagoing nations. But more serious problems on the high seas lay ahead.

On June 22, 1807, our frigate *Chesapeake* set out to sea from Norfolk, Virginia.



Step lively there! Get these supplies put away and our guns mounted!

Ten miles offshore, the British frigate *Leopard* overhauled her.

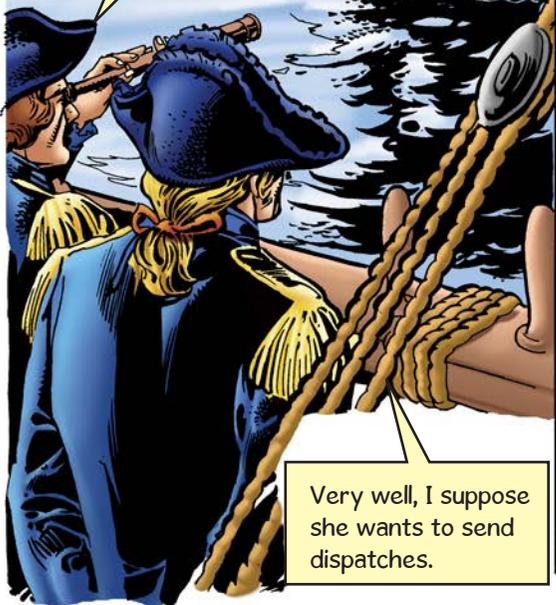
She's signaling us to stop, sir.



A small boat from *Leopard* came alongside and officers boarded the *Chesapeake*.

Sir, we demand to search your ship for British deserters.

There are only native Americans aboard, sir!



Very well, I suppose she wants to send dispatches.

