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In 1814 British troops landed at Pensacola to begin operations against the United States. In retaliation General Andrew Jackson captured the place, but in a few days withdrew to New Orleans. The British then built a fort on the Apalachicola River and there directed expeditions of Indians and runaway negroes against the American settlements which continued long after peace was concluded in 1814. In 1818 General Jackson, believing that the Spanish were aiding the Seminole Indians, and inciting them to attack the Americans, again captured Pensacola. By the Treaty of 1819 Spain formally ceded East and West Florida to the United States; the Treaty was ratified in 1821 when the United States took formal possession, but civil government was not established until 1822.