THANKSCIVING.

The National Festival To-Morrow.

It Will be Observed.

Some Account of Its Origin

and History.

Proclamations by the Presidents and Resolutions by Congress.

Bte., Etc., Etc., Etc.,

Its Origin.

The annual testival of Than asgiving is cminently a Puritanical institution, which dates back for its origin to the early colonial days of New England. The sett'ers of that section of our country, by the religious persecutions to which they were sabjected in their native land, imbibed a thor ough and uncompromising hatred of almost every teature of the established mode of worship. The great festival of Christmas has from tir ae immemorial been the happiest and merr'est sesson of the year in "Merrie Oid England a_the period to which old and young alike have looked forward for a brief relaxation from the labors and cares of their daily life. For this very reason, if for no other, the Pur Aans came to regard it with feelings of peculi a hestility. So, upon establishing themselves, in their new homes in the wilderness, they gravely resolved that the whole thing was no! himg short of a relic of Papistry, without ar o joundation in Holy Writ; and they forthwith proceeded to do away with it.

Still they deemed it necessary that there should be set apart some particular day in the year on which the people should manifest their thankfininess to the Creator for the crowning mercies and favors of their lives. The latter part of November was the period at which the chief labors of the year were ended, and its substantial fruits fully garnered. It was naturally a period of rest and relaxation; and what time could be more fitting than this for returning to an allmerciful Providence the thanks with which their hearts were swelling? For this reason, Thanksgiving-Day was fixed at this particular season of the year, above all others.

It became by degrees an established in-titution of the State, the precise day being fixed and its faithful observance enforced by express legislation. The time was not uniform, however, in all the New England States. In two of them, we believe, it occurs on the Thursday next preceeding the last in the mouth; while in the others, including Mussachusetts and Counecticut, it is fixed upon the last Thursday of the month. In none of the other States in the Union, as far as we are aware, has the subject been thought an appropriate one for the interference of the law-making power. But in all the Middle and Northwestern States, the chief element of the population of which has been drawn from New England sources, the day has been regularly observed for many years past, on the voluntary recommendation of their respective Governors. The time fixed upon outside of New England for the observance of the custom has generally been the last Thursday in

the present month. Its Observance in Olden Times

was in no especial particular different from that which now prevails, although in the earlier days of New England history it was undoubtedly somewhat more austere than at present. It was necessarily tinctured by all the severity which then marked the Puritan character and training. In the Paritan creed idleness was set down as "the worst form of original sin," and frivolity did not hold a much higher rank. Hence Thanksgiving-Day was about the busiest and the soberest of all the year; and its main feature in the days of the Mathers consisted of a doctrinal sermon of from two to four hours' duration. But this was compensated for, in some measure, by the royal feast to which all the members of the family circle sat down upon its conclusion. As Bancroft has aptly said:-

"A lovely picture of prosperity, plety, and domestic happiness was presented. Every family was taught to look up to God as to the fountain of all good; yet life was not sombre. The spirit of frolic mingled with innocence; religion itself sometimes were the garb of gayety, and the annual thankstrian to Contain the spirit of and the annual thanksgiving to God was, from primitive times, as joyous as it was sincere.

The Puritan character, as resulting from the peculiar training to which a child was invariably subjected, has been vividly portrayed by the late Dr. Brainerd, in his "Life of John Brainerd, the Missionary." We reprint, as particularly interesting in this connection, the following passages, which were read on last Sunday afternoon by the Rev. Albert Barnes, in his sermon on Dr. Brainerd's Life and Character:-

"Its activity was bliss, its growth was a spring of life; its achievements were victories. Each day garnered some benefit; and rising life, marked by successive accumulations, left a smile on the conscience, and bright and reasonable hopes for

'We might have desired that this Puritan training had left childhood a little larger indul-gence—had looked with interest at present en-joyment as well as at future good—had smiled a little more lovingly on the innocent gambols, the ringing laughter, the arrepressible mirth of boyhood; and had frowned less severely on im-perfections clinging to human nature itself. We might think that, by insisting too much on obi-gation, and too little on privilege—too much on the law, and too little on the gospel—too much on the severity, and too little on the goodness of the Deity, the conscience may have been stimulated at the expense of the affections, and men fitted for another world at an unnecessary sacriacc of their amiability and happiness in the pre-sent life. But in leaving this Puritan training, the world 'has gone farther and fared worse.'

From such a picture, we can easily imagine the character of the only great religious and social festival in the Puritan calendar,

The Universality of Thanksgiving.

Considering the origin and early character of this great festival, it may be a matter of wonder to some that it has become a national and universal institution. Restricted at first to the Puritans and their descendants and religious adherents, it has in the course of two centuries established itself on a firm tooting in every creed. By Catholic as well as by Protestant, it is new observed in an appropriate manner, and even the adherents of Judaism do not ignore it. Nearly every place of Christian worship in the Northern States

is now regularly opened for special reli- | a day of Thanksgiving for the capture of Lord gious services, which always have particular reference to the day and its grand objects. And teing one of the great events of the year, the ministers of all denominations have been accustomed to deliver for their Thanksgiving sermons the ablest productions of their thought and study.

This universal prevalence of its observance, however, has only been gained at the expense of a compromise on the part of its original founders. Christmas, the very institution to Supplant which it was established, has likewise come into good repute with the descendants of the Puritans, and is now almost as generally observed throughout New England as it is in Old England, and in the other sections of the Union.

The Anomalies of Thanksgiving-Day, The festival, as originally established, was almost distinctively of a religious character. But this was soon changed. The occasion, even in early times, was considered an appropriate one for family reunions-a custom which has long prevailed in New England and in other portions of the country. The children of the household, who have been scattered here and there by that eminently American spirit of family disintegration, by the prevalence of which alone has the vast extent of our territory been so thoroughly settled in so short a space of time, embrace this occasion, in preference to all others of the year, to gather around the parental table, and there recall in social converse the love and sorrows of bygone days. From this custom, more than from any other, perhaps, the modern Thanksgiving has derived the somewhat irreligious character which now distinctly marks it. Fun and frivelity, instead of devotion and sobriety, are the only aspects which it assumes to many minds. To enable such to celebrate the event in a manner in accordance with their tastes, places of amusement of all kinds and characters greet the depizens of the city with open doors. Double, and even triple bills, are favorite schemes, by resorting to which theatrical managers and showmen in general have found it easy to replenish their purses. Hence we have the For-

We have thus far considered Thanksgiving-Day as an institution of the different States in their individual capacity. Of late years, however, the occasion has received, and in all probability it will for many years retain, a national character.

saken Henriette, the Little Barefoot, the Pro-

teen Paul Family, the Black Crook, His Last

Legs, and a host of other oddities served up at

matinees and repeated in the evening: while

wizards, acrobats, and magic-lantern showmen

perform for the benefit of the public and them-

selves, in the morning, in the afternoon, and

The First National Thanksgiving, December 18, 1777.

The first national Thanksgiving dates back to the third year of our Revolutionary War. On Friday, October 31, 1777, Congress adopted the following resolution:-

"Resolved. That a committee of three he appointed to prepare a recommendation to the several States to set apart a day for thanksgiving for the signal success lately obtained over the enemies of these United States."

As Washing ton was then on his dreary march to Valley Forge, it might have been thought that the rebellious Colonists had but little in the way of success for which they could reasonably be expected to give thanks. Yet Trenton and Princeton had been fought, and the enemy held at bay, if nothing more; while at Saratoga, the army of Burgoyne had Surrendered to a man. And such was the faith of those heroic men in the righteous cause which they upheld, that even such faint glimmers of light were viewed as heralding the coming dawn. So Samuel Adams, R. H. Lee, and Mr. Roberdean were duly appointed on the committee for drafting the document, and by them Thursday, the 18th day of December following, was recommended to beliset apart "for solemn thanksgiving and

By further order of Congress, duplicates of this recommendation, signed by their President, were forwarded to the several States, and to Generals Washington and Gates, the latter of whom at that time held the chief command in the Southern army. Henry Laurens, then Pre sident of Congress, in transmitting this recom mendation to the Governors, officially requested them to secure the adoption of such measures as would cause each State to join heartily in the celebration.

The observance of the day in the main army under Washington was particularly impressive. The Commander-in-Chief halted his whole column, and requested every officer and soldler "to attend with reverence the solemnities of the day," The chaplain of each brigade conducted religious services, which were fully attended; and thus the world was presented with a scene which, for moral grandeur, has but few counterparts in history.

The Second National Thanksgiving. December 30, 1778.

About a year subsequent to this event, Congress adopted a similar measure, recommending that Wednesday, December 30, 1778, be set apart "to be observed as a day of public thanksgiving and praise, that all the people may, with united hearts, on that day, express a just sense of God's unmerited favors, particularly that it has pleased Him, in His overruling Providence, to support us in a just and necessary war for the defense of our rights and liberties, by affording us seasonable supplies for our armies, by disposing the heart of a powerful monarch to enter into an alliance with us and our cause, by de feating the counsels and evil designs of our enemies, and giving us victory over their troops, and by the continuance of that Union among these States, which, by His blessing, will be

their future strength and glory." Congress likewise set apart, as a day of national Thanksgiving, Thursday, December 9,

Thanksgiving for the Failure of Arnold's Treason, December 7, 1780.

On the 18th of October, 1780, Congress again recommended that Thursday, the 7th of December following, be observed as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God for the blessings with which He had crowned the nation, "more especially," as the resolution ran, "in the late interposition of His watchful Providence in rescuing the person of our Commander-in-Chief and the army from imminent danger, at a moment when treason was ripened for execution."

The Subsequent Revolutionary Thanks-

Still recognizing the hand of Providence as manifestly interfering in behalf of the cause of independence, Congress again recommended as

Cornwallis and his army, Thursday, the 13th of December, 1781; and for the "cessation of all postilities by sea and land," the second Thursday of December, 1783.

Thursday, October 19, 1787, was subsequent set apart by a committee of the delegates rathe States then assembled in the Cons' atutional Convention, for returning thanks or the general pachication which then pre sailed throughout the world, and particu' arly on account of of the "definitive treat" of peace between the United States of America and his Britannic Majesty, whereby a finishing touch was put to the great work, of peace, and the freedom, sovereignty, and independence of these States fully and completely established."

On Thursday, November 26, 1789, another national Thanksgiving was observed, on the recommendation of Congress.

The First Thanksgiving by Presidential Proclamation, February 19, 1795. Congress being, hitherto, the supreme executive, as well as the supreme legislative branch of the Government, it had fallen within its sphere to establish the national Thanksgiving. But, during the Presidency of Washington, the suppression of the Whisky Rebellion in Western Pennsylvania was considered by him as an occasion which warranted a similar observance. He therefore set apart Thursday, February 19, 1795, as a day of Thanksgiving "for the seasonable control which had been given to a spirit of discord, in the suppression of the late insurrec-

Thanksgiving for the Close of the War

The close of the second war with Great Britain was also recognized by the national authorities as an appropriate occasion for the return of thanks by the entire nation. President Madison, therefore, by request of Congress, set apart the second Thursday in April. 1815, as a day of Thanksgiving, "more especially for the restoration of the blessings of peace."

From that date up to the outbreak of the late Southern Rebellion, we believe there were no regular Thanksgiving days recommended by national authority, although the nation, at times, was called upon to engage in fasting and prayer for the averting of threatened disasters, National Thanksgivings During the Great Rebellion,

But if ever the American people had reason to be truly thankful for the interposition of Providence in their national affairs, it was surely for the glorious victories which our armies achieved from time to time over the forces of slavery and secession. Mr. Lincoln clearly recognized this fact, and as soon as the loyal troops had obtained a substantial success, he issued his proclamation for this purpose. It bore the date of April 10, 1862, and appointed the Sunday following its receipt as a day of thanksgiving for the victories of Mill Spring, Fort Donelson, Pittsburg Landing, and Pea Ridge. The remembrance of these events is still fresh in the mind of every loyal man, and it needs no word of ours to recall the heartfelt gratitude with which the loyal nation then bowed in prayer and thanks,

Mr. Lincoln's next proclamation of this character fixed Thursday, the 6th of August, 1863, as a "day for national thanksgiving, praise, and prayer," for the signal victories of Gettysburg and Vicksburg, achieved on the previous anniversary of our national independence.

Thursday, November 28, 1864, the next national restivat of the kund, was an occasion of mingled fasting and prayer, as well as of thanksgiving; as the President then requested the people to "offer up penitent and fervent prayers and supplications to the Great Disposer of Events, for a return of the inestimable blessings of peace, union, and harmony, throughout the land, which it has pleased Him to assign as a dwelling-place for ourselves, and for our posterity throughout all generations."

President Johnson's First Proclamation of Thanksgiving.

The custom thus inaugurated by his predecessor, has happily been followed by Mr. Johnson since his accession to the Presidential chair. In his proclamation setting apart Thursday, the 7th of December of last year, as a day of national Thanksgiving, he enumerated the following as among the blessings for which the nation should be truly thankful to an all-merciful God:-

"It has pleased Almighty God, during the year which is now coming to an end, to relieve our beloved country from the fearful scourge of civil war, and to permit us to secure the blessings of peace, unity, and harmony, with a great enlargement of civil liberty. "Our Heavenly Father has also, during the

year, graciously averted from us the calamity of oreign war, pestilence, and famine, while granaries are full of the fruits of an abundant season,

And as a crowning argument for the observance of this time-honored custom, he recalled the maxim that "Righteousness exalteth a nation, while sin is a reproach to any people."

Thanksgiving-Day in the Future. As a general thing, the Governors of the respective States have appropriately responded to the call made by the national Executive, by fixing the State festival upon the same day appointed by the President. This custom has been varied from only in those New England States in which the occasion is fixed by express legislation upon a different day.

This custom of a National Thanksgiving having now become firmly established by several successive precedents, it is to be hoped that it will never be permitted to fall into disuse through the neglect of an incumbent of the Presidential chair. It is eminently fitting that this nation, in whose history the hand of God has been shown so plainly and so repeatedly, should once a year as a united people acknowledge His all-controlling power and His all-pervading goodness. Let the National, as well as the State Thanksgiving-Day, continue henceforth a distinctive American institution.

THE NATIONAL THANKSGIVING TO-

MORROW. Although both documents have been before the public for some time past, we again publish, as appropriate in this connection, the proclamations of President Johnson and Governor Curtin, by which the annual festival has been fixed for to-morrow:-

The President's Proclamation. Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, hav been Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has been pleased to vouchsaie to us as a people another year of that national life which is an indispensable condition of peace, security, and progress. That year, moreover, has been crowned with many peculiar blessings. The civil war which was so recently among us, has not been anywhere recepend. Foreign intervention has ceased to excite alarm or apprehension. Intrusive peatilence has been benignly mitigated. Domestic tranquility has improved, soutiments of conciliation have largely prevailed, and affections of loyalty and patriotism have been widely diffused. Our fields have yielded quite abundantly; our mining industry has been richly rewarded; and we have been allowed to extend our rail

road system far into the interior receives of the country; will our commerce has resumed its customary activity in foreign seas. Those great national blessings demand a national acknowledgment. Now, therefore, I. Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do hereby recommend that Thursday, the 20th day of November next be set apart and be observed everywhere in the several States and Territories of the United States, by the peop'e thereof, as a day of Thanks living and praise to Almighty God, with due remembrance that in His temple doth every man speak of His noner. I recommend also that, on the same solemn becasion, we do humbly and devoully impore Him to grant to our whole peop e that divine wisdom which alone can lead any nation into the ways of all good. In offering these national innkesivings, praises, and supplications, we have the divine as urance that the Cord remaineth a king forever; those that are mock shall the grant. a king forever; those that are mock shall He guide in judgment, and such as are gentle shall He judge in judgment, and such as are gentle shall He learn His way. The Lord shall give strength to his people, and the Lord shall give to His people the blessing of peace. In witness whereof I have hercunto set my hand and causest the seal of the United States to be affixed.

caused the seal of the United States to be affixed Done at the city of Wathington this eighth day o Ostober, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixt, six, and of the inde, endence of the United States the ninety-first.

Andrew Johnson

William H. Sevard, Secretary of State.

The Governor's Proclamation. Whereas, It hash been the good and worthy ustom of the Commonwealth to set apart. anou

ally, a day for the special acknowledgment of the goodness of the Almighty, and for expressing, by the whole people, at one time and with a common woice, the thanks and praise which throughout the year are springing from the hearts of men; there-I, Andrew G. Curtin, Governor of the Common wealth of Penusylvania, recommend that the good people of the Commonwealth observe Fhursday, the 29th day of November next as a day of Thanks-giving and Prayer, and do then assemble in their

giving and Prayer, and do then assemble in their respective churches and places of worship, and make their humble thank-offering to Almighty God for His blessings curing the past year.

For the abundant gathered fruits of the earth. For the thus far continued activity of industry. For the general preservation of health. And especially for that in His dyine mercy He hath stayed the threatened pestilence.

And, moreover, that they do beseeth Him to continue unio us all His blessings, and to confirm the hearts of the people of these United States, that by the lawful force of their will, deeds of good justice, wiscom, and mercy may be done.

Given under my hand and the Great Scal of the State, at Harrisburg, this twenty-ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, and of the Commonwealth the ninety-first.

wealth the ninety-first. By the Governor.
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

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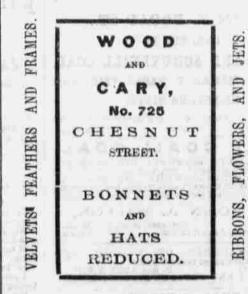
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JAMES W. THOMAS.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

The Occupation of Matamoras Unauthorized by the United States Government.

To the U.S. and European Associated Press. WABHINGTON, November 28 .- The occupation of Matamoras by the United States troops, if true, was without any authority or approval from either General Sheridan or the Government.

Last night a despatch was received by General Grant from General Sheridan stating that the latter had been informed that General Sedgwick contemplated such a movement, and that orders had been immediately forwarded by telegraph to arrest it, as an upauthorized and unwarranted proceeding. General Sheridan stated that if the movemen

was made before the telegraphic order reached the officer in command, he should meantly relieve the latter from duty. It is believed that General Sedgwick was induced

to take this course by the importunities of parties in Matamoras who had compromised themselves by affillation with the Impera'ist, and desired rotection. The proceeding is totally disapproved by the military and civil authorities here

Collision Between French and American Troops in Mexico.

WASHINGTON, November 28 - A report prevails washington, november 25—a report prevails that a collision has actually occurred between the United States and French troops, but nothing reliable has been received. Sheridan has despatched troops on his own responsibility. General Sherman is intrusted with large discretionary powers, and his original instructions comprehended a project for a joint French and United States pretacterate pending the popular vote on Juarez or Maximilian.

milian
A special Washington despatch to the Post says,
the Government has received a despatch from Sneridan wherein he mentions the rumors of the occupation of Mexican soil by American troops, but discredits it. The reports are no doubt exaggerated.

From San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, November 28. — The next steamer heave takes 500 barrels of flour for New Panama, the order having been received York via Panama, the order having been received for the finest grades for shipment to England The measage was transmitted by the cable and overland telegraph, and the order fieled and advices returned sender of the order on the same day by telegraph. (vaston d'Arte's commenced a suit against the

Alia Cantornia newspaper for \$27,000 damages, for alleged libei in regard to the sensure of the brig Basco by D'Artois and his party, for which the plaintiff is designated as a pirate and a robber.

Cholera at Palermo. By the United States Associated Press. NEW YORK November 28 -A letter received here

from Palermo says:"After the postical disturbances that look place
"After the postical disturbances that look place here in September last, the Asiatic choices broke out in this town and has done considerable have for the last eight weeks, averaging from 100 to 200 cases daily, more than one-half of whom have died. One hundred cases occurred among the American shipping, except in the case of the mate of the barque C. iro, Mr. John C. Chipman, of Bucksport, Maine." The Fenian Excitement.

BUFFALO, N Y., November 28 — The news, as telegraphed in the New York World's special At antic cable telegraph, in regard to the Feniaus, has created quite a siri swong the Brotherhood in this c ty, and private despatches it om various portions of Canada say there is quite an excitement there in military and other choices. The Head Centre in this locality has been active in ely. The Cholera at Washington.

Washington, November 28.—A case of cholera occursed here yesterday, on the island, waich term nated fatally. The victim was a colored man. Occasiona deaths from cholera occur here, but it almost entirely confined to the destination of the colored colors. people, and arises from destitution and the excesses of those attacked. The Cholera on Shipboard at New York.

New York November 28,—The barque Jessie, which arrived to day from Humburg, had eighboen deaths from cholera on the passage, and one case upon her arrival.

The Health Officer has ordered her to the lower quarantine for fumigation. The U. S. Steamer "Ashuelot." WASHINGTON, November 28—Despatches have been received at the Navy Department, from Com-mander J. C. Nebinger, commanding the United States steamer debucket, announcing her arrival at Port Louis, Mauritius, on October 2. All were well,

The New York Money Market.

The New York Money Market.

New York, November 28.—The Commercial's financial article has the following:—Money is getting easier. The banks are offering amounts free y at 5 per cent, and leading firms find no difficulty in supplying wants at 6 on stock co laterals. The banks are receiving currency from the interior. The rate on call ranges from 5 to 7 per cent. Discounts are moderately active. Prime names are current at 6; to 7.

Foreign exchange nominal. Gold has rather a sharp dewnward turn, and the improvement made in stocks yesterday was not sustained to-day, the market generally being weaker. There is a disposition to deler operations until the opening of Congress, and until some light is thrown on the inture tolicy of the Ireasury Department. Gold is quiet at 1412. Railroad list prices are 1 \$\psi\$ cent. lower, and after the board still further-declined. Governments are fairly active at yesterday's prices. The miscellaneous list is dull and lower.

BEFORE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER HIBLAR TO DAY. - United States vs. Robert Phillips. A whisky case, the particulars of which are set forth in the following testimony.

William Levitt, ceing sworn testified as follows:—I am an officer of the second Police District, No. 77; this morning, about 5 o'clock, I saw this man (Phillips) and another roll a barrel of whisky out of a still at the corner of Swanson and Beck streets; they rolled it across Beck streets; they rolled it across Beck street to a house on the opposite corner of Beck and Swanson streets; I saw them roll it up the cellar door; they had the ropes all ready to put it down the cellar; I ran across the street to them, and asked what they were going to do with the whisky; the other man ran off; this man (Phillips) stood on the steps; I said, "There are no Government marks on the steps;" I said, "There are no Covernment marks on the barrel;" he said, "No, there are not;" I then rolled the barrel to the Station House, and took him with me; Officers Theodore Maxwell and O'Conner assisted me to take the barrel and the defendant to the Station House; the whisky is at the South-wark Hall, Second street, below Queen. The case was continued until November 30. Defendant was held in \$1000 bail.

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