

THANKSGIVING.

The National Festival To-Morrow.

How It Will be Observed.

Some Account of Its Origin and History.

Proclamations by the Presidents and Resolutions by Congress.

Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

Its Origin.

The annual festival of Thanksgiving is essentially a Puritanical institution, which dates back to its origin to the early colonial days of New England.

Still they deemed it necessary that there should be set apart some particular day in the year on which the people should manifest their thankfulness to the Creator for the crowning mercies and favors of their lives.

It became by degrees an established institution of the State, the precise day being fixed and its faithful observance enforced by express legislation.

The first National Thanksgiving, December 15, 1777.

As Washington 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.

Its observance in Olden Times was in no special 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.

"A lovely picture of prosperity, plenty, and domestic happiness was presented. Every family was taught to look up to God as to the fountain of all good; yet He was not sombre.

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."

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.

"We might have desired that this Puritan training had left childhood a little larger indulgence—had looked with interest at present enjoyment as well as at future good—had smiled a little more lovingly on the innocent gambols, the ringing laughter, the irrepressible mirth of boyhood, and had frowned less severely on imperfections clinging to human nature itself."

The University 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.

is now regularly opened for special religious services, which always have particular reference to the day and its grand objects.

This universal prevalence of its observance, however, has only been gained at the expense of a compromise on the part of its original founders.

The Anomalies of Thanksgiving-Day.

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.

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.

We have thus far considered Thanksgiving-Day as an institution of the different States in their individual capacity.

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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 observance of the day in the main army under Washington was particularly impressive.

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a day of Thanksgiving for the capture of Lord Cornwallis and his army, Thursday, the 18th of December, 1781; and for the "cessation of all hostilities by sea and land," the second Thursday of December, 1783.

Thursday, October 19, 1787, was subsequently set apart by a committee of the delegates to the States then assembled in the Constitutional Convention, for returning thanks to the general pacification which then prevailed throughout the world, and particularly on account of the "definitive treaty" 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.

Thanksgiving for the Close of the War of 1812.

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Thursday, November 28, 1864, the next national festival of the kind, was an occasion of mingled fasting and prayer, as well as of thanksgiving; as the President then requested the people to "offer up penitential 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."

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."

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 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.

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, has been pleased to vouchsafe to us as a people another year of national life which is an indispensable condition of peace, security, and progress.

road system for the interior of the country; will our commerce have resumed its customary activity in foreign seas. These great national blessings demand national thanksgiving.

The Governor's Proclamation. Whereas, It has been the good and worthy custom of the Commonwealth to set apart, annually, 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 voice, the thanks and praise which throughout the year are springing from the hearts of men; therefore, I, Andrew G. Curtin, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, recommend that the good people of the Commonwealth observe Thursday, the 29th day of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving 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 during the past year.

For the abundant gathered fruits of the earth. For the safe continuation of activity of industry. For the general preservation of health. And especially for that in His divine mercy He hath stayed the threatened pestilence.

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SHOTWELL SWEET CIDER. Our usual supply of this celebrated CIDER, made from Hartson Apples, just received.

FIFTH EDITION. IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

The Occupation of Matamoros Authorized by the United States Government.

To the U. S. and European Associated Press. WASHINGTON, November 23.—The occupation of Matamoros by the United States troops, if true, was without any authority or approval from either General Sheridan or the Government.

Collision Between French and American Troops in Mexico. WASHINGTON, November 23.—A report prevails that a collision has actually occurred between the United States and French troops, but nothing reliable has been received.

Cholera at Palermo. By the United States Associated Press. NEW YORK, November 23.—A letter received here from Palermo says:—After the political disturbances that took place here in September last, the Asiatic cholera broke out in this town and has done considerable havoc.

The Cholera at Washington. WASHINGTON, November 23.—A case of cholera occurred here yesterday, on the island, which fortunately resulted in the recovery of the patient.

The Cholera on Shipboard at New York. NEW YORK, November 23.—The barque Jessie, which arrived to-day from Hamburg, had eighteen deaths from cholera on the passage, and one case upon her arrival.

The New York Money Market. NEW YORK, November 23.—The Commercial's financial article has the following:—Money is feeling easier. The banks are offering amounts free at 5 per cent, and leading firms find no difficulty in supplying wants at a discount of one or two per cent.

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

William Levitt, being sworn, testified as follows:—I am an officer of the Second Police District, No. 77; this morning, about 6 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 street to a house on the opposite corner of Beck and Swanson streets; saw them roll it up the cellar door; they had the rope 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 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'Connor assisted me to take the barrel and the defendant to the Station House; the whisky is at the South-west Hall, Second street, below Queen.

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