

ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

A Model for Boy Scouts.

July 11 marked both the birth and death anniversaries of Alexander Hamilton, to whom the United States constitution is indebted for its existence more than to any other man. He was born in 1757 on the Island of Nevis, West Indies, and died forty-seven years later, 1804 in New York. His whole life furnishes a splendid example for Boy Scouts; for he combined with an extraordinary degree of humaneness an unswerving devotion to high ideals, and was the very embodiment of the spirit of organization.

When he was twelve he was put to work in a business office at Christiansted, Island of St. Croix, West Indies. He had received but little schooling; and, yet, before he was thirteen, he wrote so brilliant an article on a hurricane which had swept the island that it was not only printed in the local paper, but gained him admiration even beyond the bounds of the West Indian islands.

To afford him an opportunity to cultivate so excellent a mind, he was sent to the "Colonies" arriving at Boston in October, 1772, and going thence, at once to New York. For one year he attended a grammar school in Elizabethtown, N. J., and from there went to King's College (now Columbia University) in New York city.

When he was seventeen years old he attended a mass meeting, July 6, 1774, in the field which is now City Hall Park, in New York. The meeting had been called to discuss the advisability of establishing a general congress for the colonies. Young Hamilton was so thoroughly in sympathy with the movement for separation from England that he felt inspired to address the meeting. And so eloquently, and logically, and in such burning words did he lay bare his feelings and his views, that he at once leaped into popularity and was lionized by some of the foremost patriots.

He was not yet eighteen when he wrote two pamphlets—"A Full Vindication of the Measures of Congress from the Calumnies of their Enemies" and "The Farmer Refuted,"—which were received with boundless enthusiasm.

In them he endeavored to prove that the colonies owed allegiance only to the king and not to Parliament, and that they were justified in resorting to extreme measures in defense of their rights.

Hamilton had not signed these articles, and their wonderful masterfulness may be judged from the fact that they were at first believed to have been written by such eminent statesmen as John Jay or Robert Livingston. When it became known that Hamilton was the author, he became firmly established in the hearts of the people as one of their most admired friends.

Besides a clear head, which was capable of taking in every angle of a subject and analyzing it until it lay before his hearers or readers with nothing hidden, young Hamilton had a heart of the right kind. He was full of sympathy for all who suffered, no matter what the form of their suffering; and, above all things, he was just to the point of risking his own life rather than see injustice done even in cases which did not concern him directly.

For instance, while he was denouncing the British government and declaring against British oppressions, he twice took a bold stand against mobs which were threatening to do violence to British sympathizers. He came near losing his own life each time. And later, after the War of the Revolution was won and the state of New York enacted a law allowing patriots, dispossessed during the British occupation of New York, to collect back rent from tenants who had paid the rent to the British, he boldly braved public opinion by opposing the enforcement and calling for the abolition of such vindictive a law. He argued that the tenant should not be made to pay twice, should not be held responsible for having been compelled to pay one landlord instead of another.

So tender-hearted was he that, it is said, he never allowed the pressure of any business, no matter how important, to interfere with his attention when an appeal was made to him by one in need of human aid. Nor did he ever refuse aid when it was in his power to give it. Nor did he first make long-winded investigations to find out whether the person asking for aid was worthy. He gave the needed relief first, and then made inquiries, believing that it was better to be generous to a dozen cheats and discover afterward that they had taken a gross advantage of him than to allow one really worthy sufferer to linger on in agony for fear that he too, might be a fraud.

It was Hamilton who drafted the report at the Annapolis convention in 1786 which led to the assembling of the constitutional convention at Philadelphia in the following year. Guizot the French historian, says of Hamilton's share in the framing of that greatest document of liberty ever devised by the brain and hand of man: "There is not one element of order, strength and durability in the constitution which he did not powerfully contribute to introduce into the scheme and cause to be adopted."

And, after it was drafted, it was he who won over the New York convention to adopt it in the face of an opposition which almost any other man would have despaired of overcoming. The anti-federalist majority against him was sixty-five to nineteen. And yet, so sublime were the depth and sincerity and the vehemence of his appeals to the delegates that in the end even the leader of the opposition, Melancthon Smith, voted for the adoption of the document. Several times in the course of his public career Hamilton had found it necessary to check the overweening ambition of Aaron Burr, and had

thereby irritated this brilliant but scrupulous man to such an extent that Burr at last challenged him to a duel.

Nothing was so foreign to the nature of Hamilton as to wish to shed blood in a private feud. And yet so deep-rooted was the prejudice of the age that even Hamilton regarded the acceptance of the challenge as unavoidable if he were not to forfeit the respect of the public and thus lose the influence which he believed he required to be able to serve the people in the crisis which were threatening. "My ability to be in the future useful either in preventing mischief or effecting good is inseparable from a conformity to prejudice in this particular," he had written in a farewell letter, which was found after his death. He had also intended not to fire at his adversary, his letter said; but, as he was falling, wounded in the side by Burr's bullet, his own pistol was accidentally discharged into the air. He died within a few hours.—Public Ledger.

Extermination of Wild Life.

Dr. William T. Hornaday, Director of the New York Zoological Park, and a recognized authority on wild life, warns that the end of game is near at hand in America unless immediate steps are taken to diminish its slaughter. He places on the "bag-limit" the responsibility for the rapid extinction by rod and gun of the objects sought by the sportsmen. He avers that hunters and fishermen will have to restrain their zeal and confine themselves to what they can consume or be faced with the entire extermination of that which draws them afield. As he puts it sportsmen must cease shooting to the limit or cease shooting altogether. It is not a question of what one would like but what is necessary to preserve wild life from extinction. He estimates that there are 5,000,000 men and boys annually in the field, armed and equipped for killing of game of every kind. The slaughter is rapidly declining not only game used for food but also animals that yield valuable pelts.

The remedy as he sees it lies in reducing all bag-limits 50 per cent., reducing hunting seasons in the same measure, that hunting be permitted the individual only one year out of two, and hunting license fees be doubled. Even this would not stop the illicit slaughter which is certainly no inconsiderable factor. Should the game birds be exterminated, should the deer and other denizens of the forest be reduced to zero, should the lakes and streams be robbed of their finny inhabitants it may be readily appreciated that the sportsman would be robbed of his pleasure. As Dr. Hornaday avers, the way to prevent such a condition is to stop the wanton slaughter in time. Sportsmen might not get quite so much game as they would like, but a little better than none. Did Dr. Hornaday occupy a less conspicuous position as an authority on the subject on which he speaks his words might be considered as voicing needless alarm, but his name is a guarantee that he speaks with full knowledge of the gravity of the situation.—Gazette-Times.

More Farm Laborers Than There is Demand For.

More persons are looking for jobs on farms in this State than the farmers want to hire, according to figures for June, compiled by the free labor employment bureau, operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. Dr. Clifford B. Connelley, the commissioner, has issued a statement showing that 1,664 applications were made for farm jobs, while the farmers sought the services of 1,504 agricultural workers.

The State bureau of employment, however, reported an increase of 184 per cent. in agricultural placements in June over May figures. There has been a 408 per cent. increase in similar placements, as compared with the record for April. Last month, 1,492 jobs were found for persons who wanted to work on farms in this State.

In June, 16,392 positions were procured for applications in all parts of Pennsylvania. Work was found for 3,741 ex-service men; 10,715 male civilians and 1,916 women.

Although Commissioner Connelley's statement indicated a decrease of 4,405 in the total number of persons placed in positions during June, as against the May placements, the report showed a 50 per cent. labor shortage in this State. Employers of labor applied for 49,480 workers, and only 19,140 persons asked the State employment service to help them find jobs.

Step by Step.

"Supposing," said the man who wants to see everybody happy, "that we somehow arrange to give you a six hour day. Are you sure that you will be contented?"

"For the present. Of course, I shouldn't think of asking for less than six hours' work to the day. But I have an impression that in the course of time our chronological system will need revision so that we'll have twenty-five or thirty minutes to the hour."—Washington Star.

Lifelike.

"And this?"

"A portrait of Mr. Jagsby, done in oil."

"In a favorite pose, I presume?"

"Exactly. You will notice he holds a walking stick in his right hand, but substitutes a glass for the cane, and you will have Mr. Jagsby in the identical pose he used to assume when crooking his elbow."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Farm Hands in Northwest Help Harvest Wheat Crop.

A land army of 100,000 farm hands is moving northward across the western wheat belt harvesting the nation's grain crop in better time than in many years. The land army was recruited and organized by Agriculture Department officials working with Chambers of Commerce and farmers' organizations in the west.

Women May Vote This Fall.

A Harrisburg dispatch says that preparation of registration books and blanks of County Commissioners to permit speedy registration of the women of Pennsylvania in the event that suffrage is ratified was advised by Attorney General Schaffer, when a report reached the capitol that the Governor of Vermont would call a special session of the Vermont Legislature August 1 to ratify suffrage. Mr. Schaffer is understood to believe that it is not necessary for a special session of the Pennsylvania Legislature to pass enabling legislation before the women of the State can vote.

One of the qualifications for voting provided in the constitution is that a State and county tax must be paid one month before election, which shall have been assessed at least two months before election. Only a small portion of the women of the State, those who own property, are on the assessment lists, and if the Vermont Legislature should ratify suffrage, the first week in August, only three weeks would remain in which to assess and register the women voters.

The Attorney General is understood to believe that women in the State can vote provided they are assessed and pay a tax in the time required by the constitution and are registered in the districts where registration is required. While declining to give an official opinion, Mr. Schaffer in an interview said: "In view of the report as to the likely ratification of the suffrage amendment by the Vermont Legislature it seems to me that it would be the part of wisdom on the part of all County Commissioners in the State to have prepared the necessary registration books and other blanks to enable them to meet promptly the situation which will be on our hands in Pennsylvania if ratification shall take place."

A late dispatch says: "Of course no State official has received informa-

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tion that suffrage is to be ratified without fail, but indications are that it may be ratified soon, and both the Governor and the Attorney General are interested in seeing that the women of the State get the franchise to which they will be entitled next November if suffrage is ratified in time to permit assessment and enrollment of the new voters. Should ratification take place in August assessment and enrollment of the women will be possible only through advance preparations by county officials."

—If you see it in the "Watchman" you will know it's true.



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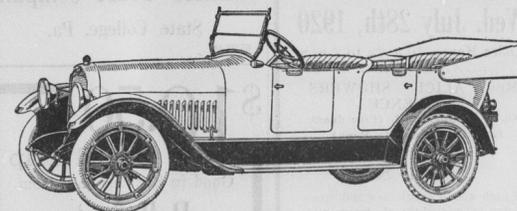
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