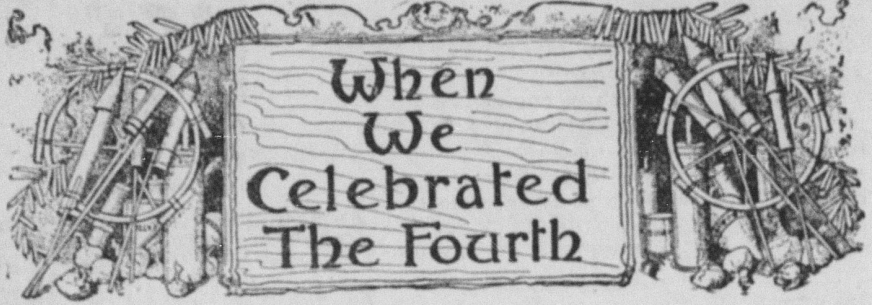


THE NATION'S BIRTHDAY



One hundred years ago, when the citizens of this land assembled to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of American independence, traces were still visible of that universal sorrow in which the country had been plunged by the death of Washington, in December, 1799. Among the toasts at several banquets was one, repeated from July 4, 1800, and worthily called sublime by the editors of several newspapers: "Washington, our late lie leader; May we follow him in slow time to the permanent cantonment, and be all found near his headquarters at the final roll call."

In the death of Washington the citizens mourned the loss of one who stood out most prominently as the chief exponent of all that the day meant to them. True, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and many other eminent patriots were never forgotten by the diners who, toward the close of the day invariably sat down to a sumptuous feast, and drank as many toasts as there were States in the Union. All were held in grateful memory, but Washington, their gallant General of the Revolution and the hero of many battles, was truly "first in the hearts of his countrymen."

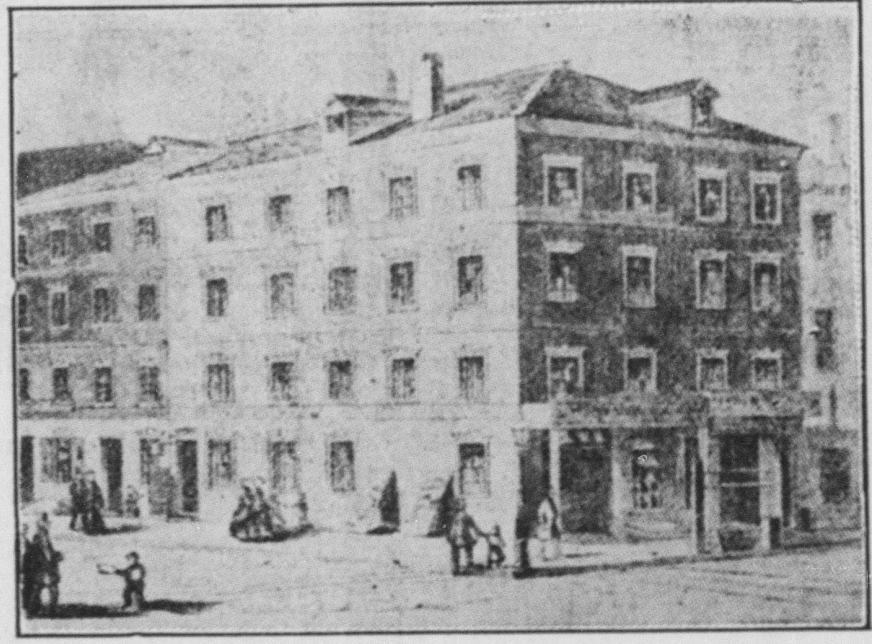
"The memory of George Washington. When we forget to speak of his virtues may our tongues cleave to the roof of our mouths," was one of the toasts at Portland, Me., and it was responded to in silence and with bowed heads, all the company rising from their seats.

Following the death of Washington the seat of Government had been moved from Philadelphia to its permanent home, named to perpetuate more clearly the memory of the founder of the Nation's line of Presidents. Just 103 years ago the first inauguration of a President took place in the town and the small population prevented the National holiday from being so joyous or jubilant in character as was the custom in the larger seaboard cities. President Jefferson, however, gave, as the newspapers stated, "a grand levee which for splendor and brilliancy has not been exceeded since the removal of the Government to this place." As the Government had been domiciled there less than two years, it was not difficult to exceed former splendors.

It is interesting to notice, in studying this memorable day, that its importance was recognized at once, and the people honored it accordingly, without waiting for future results. "The people are now convinced of what we ought long since to have known, that our enemies have left us no middle way between perfect freedom and abject slavery," was the fearless comment of the New Jersey Gazette as soon as news came that the Declaration of Independence had been signed.

the history of America. I am led to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty God. It ought to be solemnized with pomp, shows, games, sports, ringing of bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other for this time forward and forever. You will think me translated with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well aware of the toll and blood treasure that it will cost us to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet, through all the gloom I can see the rays of light and glory. I can see that the end is worth more than all the means, and that posterity will triumph."

The first Fourth of July, therefore, while greeted with shouts of joy, was



HOUSE IN WHICH JEFFERSON WROTE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

also a very serious one for those who looked beneath the surface. But the petty oppressions and clamorings for freedom of ten years had trained the people to a realization of the responsibilities they were taking upon themselves, and they accepted their finching approval. The sacrifice was to be great. The enthusiastic patriots of Philadelphia, who rang their church bells so merrily on the 5th of July, 1776, were soon to see their homes occupied and ransacked by the enemy, while in less than two months New York was to be in possession of the British troops.

In that first year of independence, the Declaration was celebrated at various times according to the rapidity with which news could travel. The young men of New York, aided, as we may infer, by many of their enthusiastic elders, made the first Fourth memorable by tearing from its pedestal the equestrian statue of George III, which had been placed in Bowling Green six years before. George Washington was in the city at that time, having lately arrived from the camp at Boston, and the Declaration was read to each brigade of soldiers, being received "with loud huzzas and the utmost demonstration of joy." This was on Wednesday, July 10, and a newspaper account of the demolition says:

"The same evening the equestrian statue of George III, which Tory pride and folly raised in the year 1770, was, by the Sons of Freedom, laid prostrate in the dirt, the just desert of an ungrateful tyrant. The lead wherewith the monument was made is to be run into bullets to assimilate with the brain of our infatuated adversaries, who, to gain pepper-corn, have lost an empire."

At Princeton the famous Nassau Hall, which then comprised all there was of Princeton University, was brilliantly illuminated, and the Declaration was read to the accompaniment of volleys of musketry and loud acclamations for the prosperity of the newly formed Republic. Throughout the thirteen colonies the Declaration of Independence was greeted with the ringing of bells, firing of guns, and earnest exhortations to maintain the principles of equal rights at all hazards. One very beneficial effect was in making the people feel that they were banded together more closely in a common cause.

In 1781 the ladies of Princeton decorated their houses with flowers and greens, and the inhabitants held a jollification meeting in the village tavern. when, to quote the Jersey Gazette: "After a draught of punch they repaired to a tree in front of Mr. Beckman's house, from the top of which a Union flag was displayed." Later in the day there was a banquet, and among the toasts was this one:

"If there are British officers who treat a traitor as he deserves, let their enemies esteem them; but perpetual infamy on the wretches who are not ashamed to consult with or to serve under Benedict Arnold."

The Fourth of July, 1789, was of exceptional importance, not only to the country at large, as it was the first to be celebrated under a stable form of Government, but to New York city in particular, because less than three months before George Washington had been inaugurated President, and was then a resident of the city. The Society of the Cincinnati held its customary meeting in the morning and elected Baron Steuben President and Alexander Hamilton Vice President. The society appointed a committee to wait upon the President, bearing the best wishes of the day, and Baron Steuben acted as a spokesman on this memorable occasion. His remarks were:

"The Society of the Cincinnati of the State of New York have directed this delegation to present to you, Sir, their sentiments of profound respect. In common with all good citizens of the United States of America they join their ardent wishes for the preservation of your life, health and prosperity. In particular they feel the highest satisfaction in contemplating the illustrious Chief of our

armies, by an unanimous vote of an independent people elected to the highest station that a dignified and enlightened country can bestow. Under your conduct, Sir, this band of soldiers was led to glory and conquest, and we feel ourselves confident that under your administration our country will speedily arrive at an enviable state of prosperity and happiness."

George Washington said in reply: "I beg you, gentlemen, to return my most affectionate regard to the Society of the Cincinnati, and assure them that I receive their congratulations on this auspicious day with a mind constantly anxious for the honor and welfare of our country, and can only say that the force of my



WASHINGTON ELM AND MEMORIAL STONE, Cambridge, Mass. (Where Washington First Took Command of His Troops).

abilities, aided by an integrity of heart, shall be studiously pointed to the support of its dignity and the promotion of its prosperity and happiness."

Later in the day public exercises were held in St. Paul's Church, where the Declaration of Independence was read and Alexander Hamilton delivered "an elegant eulogium" on Major-General Nathaniel Green, who died in 1786.

The early newspapers abound in interesting incidents on parades, dinners, church services and other ways of celebrating the Fourth during the years prior to 1800. They reveal very strongly the habits of the peo-

ple on their joyous occasions, and although we, in this rapidly progressive age, may be forced to smile occasionally both at the description and at the incidents themselves, there was, on the other hand, no lack of the deepest patriotism. The love for their young country rang out clear and true in every oration and after-dinner toast. A toast given by the merchants of New York city in 1795 at the Tontine Coffee House may be cited as a sample of many which the day always called forth:

A Patriot.



Lord De Liverus—But I'll give you a shilling to carry my luggage." Chimmy—Sorry, boss. I needs de money, but I can't work fer no Englishman on de Fourt' of July.—New York Journal.

"The auspicious day that rescued our country from the hated yoke of foreign tyranny and gave us honorable rank among the nations of the earth. May its glorious events never be effaced from our memories; may the blessings it has conferred be as lasting as the globe we inhabit, and may each revolving year find us more united, more happy and more free."

The celebration of the glorious Fourth in Boston 103 years ago is thus described in a local paper: "The morning sun advanced to the music of the artillery of this town, of Fort Independence, and of all the neighboring towns. The bells immediately took up the signal of march; care, dullness and business had fur-loughs for the day, and all classes and all ages shook slumber from their eyes, arroyed themselves in their best attire, and repaired to the festive scenes of Independence. Heaven was pleased to bestow a day as temperate and invigorating as the Government and laws which a wise people must feel they enjoy."

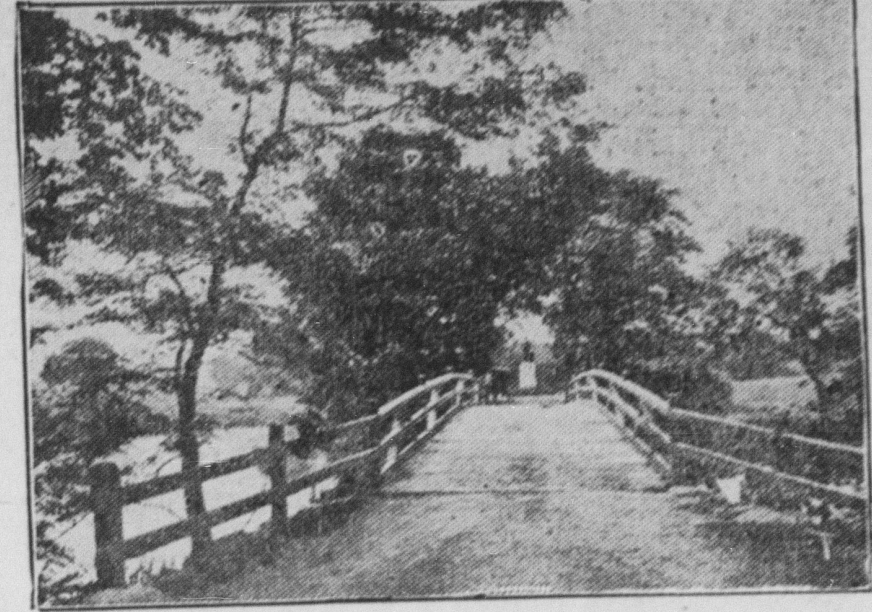
In New York there were parades and church services during the day and theatrical performances at night. The militia, with members from the Tammany and Mechanics' Societies, formed in line of march at the Battery and paraded through Beaver, Broad, Wall, Pearl and Beekman streets to Broadway, and then to St. Paul's Church, where a service of oratory commemorative of the day was held. In the two popular gardens, Mt. Vernon and Vanhall, there were fireworks displays in the evening, combined with exhibits of military scenes. The usual dinners were eaten, with toasts equal to the number of States in the Union which brought the twenty-fifth anniversary of American independence to a close.—New York Times.

A Difference in the Morning. 'Twas the Fourth of July, And with glee in his eye

And crackers galore in his jacket, Young Ted sallied out. With an ear-splitting shout, To add to the National racket.

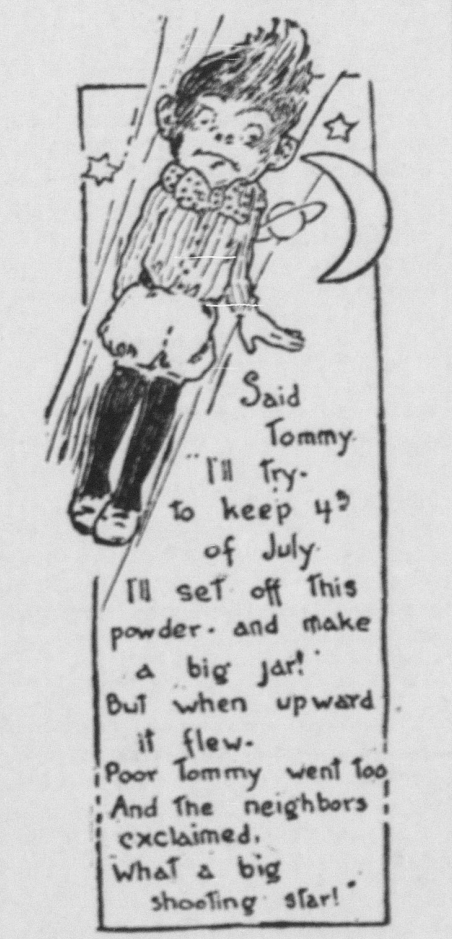
'Twas the fifth of July, With a patch on his eye That hinted of dire disaster, Poor Ted lay in bed. Closely bandaged his head, And his fingers all covered with plaster!

A Sorrow of the Moment. This is tragic 'Stead of silly; "Bang!" said fireworks; "Ouch!" said Willie.



BRIDGE AND BATTLE GROUND, CONCORD, MASS.

Freedom. Here in the forest now, As on that old July When first our fathers took the vow, The bluebird, stained with earth and sky, Shouts from a blowing bough In green aerial freedom, wild and high— And now, as then, the bobolink, Out on the uncertain brink Of the swaying maple, swings, Loosing his song out, link by golden link; While over the wood his proclamation rings, A daring boast that would unkingdom kings! Even so the wild birds sang on bough and wall That day the Bell of Independence Hall



Thundered upon the world the Word of Man, And God uttered when the world began— That day when Liberty began to be, And mighty hopes were out on land and sea, But Freedom calls her conscripts now as then: It is an endless battle to be free, As the old dangers lessen from the skies New danger rise; Down the centuries eternally, Again, again, will rise Thermopylae— Again, again, a new Leonidas Must hold for God the imperilled Pass. As the long ages run New Lexington will rise on Lexington; And many a valorous Warren fall Upon the imperilled wall. Man is the conscript of an endless quest, A long divine adventure without rest— A holy war, a battle yet unwon When he shall climb beyond the burnt-out sun. Each hard-earned freedom withers to a bond; Freedom forever is beyond—beyond! —Edwin Markham.

Fourth of July. Voices are happy, and faces are bright, Summer has brought us a day of delight. Declaration of Independence with unbunting and flags aloft, wave in the air, Old hearts grow young again, leaving their care. Little folks happily, gladly cry, "Awfully jolly," The Fourth of July!

All sorts of fireworks, purchased to see, Just what a merry old Fourth it can be. Rockets and crackers are purchased with care, All sorts of fireworks have to be there, Endless varieties, ready laid by, Just to be used, you know, Fourth of July! Mother, too, has a hand laying away,

Things that will surely be needed that day Ointment and bandages, plaster and strings, Not very pretty for holiday things, Yet they will be useful, all by and by, Ointment and bandages— Fourth of July!

An Old-Fashioned Fourth of July. These new fangled notions are giving the boys A queer kind of Fourth—one without any noise; With speeches and picnics no patience have I, And I pine for an old-fashioned Fourth of July.

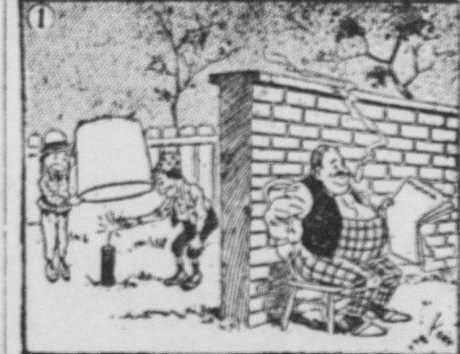
Then we rose with the dawn, and the cannon came first— We packed it with powder till ready to burst— And my! how the glass in the windows did fly When it started the echoes on Fourth of July.

We went to the barbecue—who cared for showers When the feast was a-flutter with banners and flowers; And if down came the rain in the midst of it, why, It was part of an old-fashioned Fourth of July.

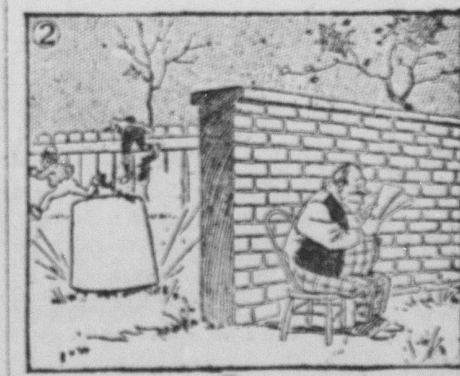
The rockets and pin-wheels and fire-crackers, too, At evening all joined in the hulla-balloo, And Washington rode on his horse in the sky— A figure in flame on the Fourth of July.

The band marching out in their uniforms gay Struck up by the light of the bonfires to play "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Sweet By and By." And so ended a glorious Fourth of July.

An International Celebration.



1. "Well, now I am safe from dose noisy boys; I vill read in peace, vonce more!"



2. The boys—"Let her go, Jimmy!"



3. "Himmel! Vot vos dot?"



4. "I'll set off this powder and make a big jar! But when upward it flew— Poor Tommy went too, And the neighbors exclaimed, 'What a big shooting star!'"



Johnnie O'Grady, one 4th of July, a great Rocket to shoot in the sky. It went off with a whizz and went off so quick, that Johnnie forgot to let go of the stick!

The temper of the country was ably expressed in a letter written from Philadelphia by John Adams on July 5, 1776, and this letter was frequently published in succeeding years by those editors who were warm admirers of the second President. The more patriotic sentiments of the letter are: "Yesterday the greatest question was debated which was ever debated in America, and a greater, perhaps, never was or will be decided among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony. 'That these colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent States.' The day is past. The Fourth of July, 1776, will be a memorable epoch in