

The History of Thanksgiving

President Washington established the custom officially in the United States, but men have fervently thanked their Gods for blessings in all ages and every clime



THE goddess of the Roman harvest was Ceres. Her festival was celebrated annually and was called Ceritalia. It was a day of worship and rustic sports. Men and women formed processions and went to the fields with music. Virgil refers to this festival. He mentions the sacrifices that were offered in the temples, and alludes to the joyousness of the occasion. But Roman thanksgiving days were not confined to this annual celebration of the festival of Ceritalia. Sometimes they were held in commemoration of victorious martial campaigns. Plutarch tells us of the emperor who to conceal his defeat ordered a thanksgiving, which was observed. Then when the facts of his disastrous campaign became generally known, he excused himself on the ground that he did not "wish to deprive the people of a day of enjoyment."

In one way or another, a thanksgiving day has been observed in Christian Europe for centuries before its celebration in New England. On the continent, and for a time in England, it occurred at Martinmas, which was a day of feasting and drinking. Occasionally, too, civil authorities recommended the observance of some fixed day. To celebrate the victory of King Henry V of England, at Agincourt, October 25, 1415, a public thanksgiving was held on Sunday, the feast of St. Edward, the King and Confessor. Such a day, too, was observed in Leyden, Holland, October 3, 1575, the first anniversary of that city from the siege by the Spaniards.

Many instances of a thanksgiving day can be pointed out in England during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 1559, the second year of Elizabeth's reign, Thanksgiving day entered Rogation day. Then it was ordered that thanks should be given to Almighty God "for the increase and abundance of his fruits upon the earth." In this reign, too, there was a great national thanksgiving day that is worthy of note. This occurred Tuesday, November 19, 1558, and was in commemoration of the great victory over the "Invincible Armada."

One legal and annual thanksgiving day, because of the long time it was such, deserves special mention. After the traitors in the Gunpowder plot had been tried and punished in 1605, it was ordered that because of their delinquency the English people should keep the fifth of November every year "as a public thanksgiving day to Almighty God; that unfeigned thankfulness may never be forgotten, and that all ages to come may yield praises to God's divine majesty for the same." The "fifth of November" continued a legal thanksgiving day for more than two centuries; but in later years it fell into disuse, and in 1833 was abolished by parliament.

Long before the advent of the Pilgrims in Massachusetts, all rituals contained expressions of gratitude to God for his mercies. In that of the Church of England, special prayers were provided for the Sunday service. This service, however, must be carefully distinguished from the Thanksgiving day of the Pilgrim fathers. Failure to make this distinction has led to the groundless claim that the Pilgrim colonists were "the first to keep Thanksgiving day" in America. The service at Monhegan, on which this claim is based, was the regular Sunday service of the Church of England; and while it had an element of thanksgiving, the day can in no wise be regarded as a thanksgiving day as that term is understood.

The record made in his "Breeches Bible" by William White, who came over in the Mayflower, has far more significance in determining the origin of our American Thanksgiving day than the event at Monhegan. The record reads: "William White married on ye 3rd day of March, 1620, to Susannah Tilly, Peregrine White born on board ye Mayflower in Cape Cod Harbor. Some born to Susannah White 19th ye six o'clock morning. Next day we meet for prayer and thanksgiving." This meeting "for prayer and thanksgiving" was not on Sunday, but on Tuesday. The fact that it was not a part of the regular Sunday service makes it more nearly accord with our idea of Thanksgiving day than does the Monhegan event.

The prototype of our present Thanksgiving day is found in the harvest festival at Plymouth in 1621. The long winter that followed the establishment of the colony had been so severe that less than half the settlers had survived it. "At one time during the winter only Brewster, Standish, and five other hardy ones were well enough to get about." In the spring and summer that followed, their fortunes improved, and by autumn they had cleared 25 acres and made it ready for cultivation. This industry, too, had been rewarded by a bounteous harvest. Now food and fuel sufficient for the needs of the approaching winter were laid in. Then Governor Bradford ordered a thanksgiving—the first in America.

The first thanksgiving was not for a day only. It continued a week. In a letter to a friend in England, Edward Winslow has given us a brief account of the festivities. This letter bears date of December 11, and in it Winslow wrote: "Our harvest being gotten in, our Governor sent four men on fowling that so we might after special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruits of our labors. They killed as much fowl as with a little help beside served the company about a week. At which times among other recreations we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king, Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer which they brought and bestowed on our Governor and upon the captains and others."

The records make no mention of a thanksgiving day in the next year, but in the year following, 1623, such a day was held. This, however, was not in the autumn, but in July on the arrival of provisions from England. Nearly 50 years pass before we hear of another thanksgiving day at Plymouth. There was one in 1658, and another for the accession of the Orange Stuarts, William and Mary, in 1689. An autumnal thanksgiving was held in 1690, the last in the history of Plymouth colony.

Independently of Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay colony had occasionally its own thanksgiving days. There was such a day for the "safe arrival of ships," July 8, 1630; and again the next February, when the provision ship, Ambrose, arrived. In 1632, the general court ordered a "publique" thanksgiving day in recognition of the "micy of God vouchsafed to the churches of God in Germany and the Palatinate." The next year the court, because of the bountiful harvest, appointed October 16 as a thanksgiving day—the first harvest festival in the history of the colony. By 1680 the autumnal thanksgiving had become an annual festival. No doubt in its games and sports it took the place of the English Christmas, for until comparatively recent date all that savored of Rome and the episcopacy was held in disfavor in Massachusetts.

During the Revolution Thanksgiving day became national. All through the war, congress annually set apart a day for thanksgiving; but after the "Thanksgiving for Peace" in 1783, there were no more until Washington became president in 1789. On October 3 of this year at New York he issued a proclamation asking the observance of Thursday, November 26, as a day for national thanksgiving. This was the beginning of the orthodox "last Thursday" that has since been named in presidential proclamations. By this time the festival had general official recognition throughout New England, and in this year, 1789, the Protestant Episcopal prayer books recognized the authority of civil government in the appointing of thanksgiving days.

The chief differences between the two was the want of ceremony at Plymouth that characterized the English festival. In some parts of England the merry-making was around the "noddingsheaf," or "kern baby," and in many places the last load of the harvest was drawn to the barn in a wagon called the "hoch cart." In front went pipe and tabor, and around it gathered the reapers, male and female, singing joyously as they proceeded. At Plymouth there was no ceremony.



Opinions Differ. "Men are like wagons," remarked the man who dispenses aphorisms. "They make the most noise when empty."
"Your trolley is off the wire," rejoined the contrary person. "A man makes the most noise when he is full."
His Only Hope. "Tell me," spoke the easy mark, "what sort of a girl should I propose to?"
"She should be rich," rejoined the female fortune teller. "and if you expect her to accept you, she must also be foolish."
Advice That Failed. Rich Uncle—What! Broke again? You ought to take Solomon's advice to the sluggard about going to the ant for—
Nephew (interrupting)—So I did uncle, but aunt says she is in the same deplorable condition.

PROTOCOL SIGNED BY COMMISSION

U. S. Troops to Retire From Mexico After Ratification.

BODY MAY CONFER AGAIN

President To Receive Copy From Head Of American Commission—A. J. Pani Will Present the Agreement to Carranza.

Atlantic City, N. J.—A protocol providing for the conditional withdrawal of the American troops now in Chihuahua, Mex., and for the military control of the border, but with the supplemental stipulation that United States troops shall be sent into Mexico in pursuit of bandits at any time the American government deems it necessary, was signed here by the members of the Mexican-American joint commission.

One of the official copies was taken by Albert J. Pani, of the Mexican commission for submission to General Venustiano Carranza for his approval. The other copy will be delivered to the American government by Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane, chairman of the American Commission.

For Another Session.

If the protocol is ratified by the two governments the commission will convene again on December 8, to resume the discussion of other questions affecting the two countries, especially those related to the protection of the life and property of Americans and other foreigners in Mexico. If ratification by either government is withheld the work of the conference will be declared at an end.

Where the adjourned sessions of the commission will be held was not determined when the conference was finished. The question was left to Secretary of State Lansing and Ambassador Designate Arredondo. Following is a paraphrase of the agreement:

The American troops now in Chihuahua, commanded by Gen. John J. Pershing, shall be withdrawn within 40 days from the approval of the protocol by the respective governments provided that within that time the conditions in that part of Mexico have not become such as to endanger the American border. In such event the time shall be extended.

Second—The Mexican army shall patrol the Mexican side of the border and the American army the American side, but this shall not preclude cooperation between the two forces to preserve peace upon the border.

Third—it shall be left to the commanding officers of the armies on the border of both nations to enter into such arrangements for co-operation in operations against bandits whenever it is possible.

Right To Cross Border.

The right of the American government to send troops across the border in pursuit of bandits was not incorporated in the protocol but was made the subject of a supplemental memorandum. The Mexicans had contended earnestly against signing any agreement in which they appeared to sanction what they termed the violation of their national territory. It was the agreement of the Americans finally to content themselves with stating the attitude of the United States in a separate memorandum that induced the Mexicans to sign the agreement.

TO EXPEDITE 8-HOUR SUIT.

Department of Justice and Railways Reach Agreement.

Washington.—Conferences between Attorney-General Gregory and counsel for important railway systems of the country, looking to the expedition to the Supreme Court of one of the suits attacking the constitutionality of the Adamson act were concluded here:

In the conferences here the form of the agreement between the Attorney-General and the railway lawyers was in substance decided upon, and that the only matter to be determined in Kansas City is whether the suit of the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad, decided against the Government, or that of the Santa Fe, shall be made the test case.

In substance the plan provides that both the department and the railroads agree in every way to expedite and actively press the case to be determined upon to a final decision in the Supreme Court, and that during the pendency of this suit the Government will not begin any prosecutions of carriers for failure to apply the law.

102,826,000 IN UNITED STATES.

Population January, Including Possessions, Will Be 113,309,000.

Washington.—The population of the United States and its possessions January next will be 113,309,285, against 111,597,952 in 1916, according to Census Bureau statistics. The continental United States population was placed at 102,826,309.

Some of the State estimates are: New York, 10,366,778; Pennsylvania, 8,591,629; Illinois, 6,193,626; Ohio, 5,181,220; Texas, 4,472,494; Massachusetts, 3,747,564; Michigan, 3,074,560; California, 2,983,843, and Indiana, 2,826,154.

AGED EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA DEAD

Francis Joseph's Remarkable Career Comes to An End.

REIGN OF SIXTY-EIGHT YEARS

His Reign Longest In World's History. Marked By Series Of Tragedies, Culminating In World War.

London.—Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary died Tuesday night at Schoenbrunn Castle, according to a Reuter dispatch from Vienna by way of Amsterdam.

That the Emperor's death was imminent had been indicated by a dispatch received from Berlin which reported that he had become worse during the day and that his temperature was rising. Some days ago dispatches from Vienna stated that he was suffering from catarrh, but that his illness was of a more serious character was indicated by a report received via Geneva that the last sacraments of the church were administered to him on Saturday.

Charles Francis To Succeed.

Archduke Charles Francis, grand-nephew of Emperor Francis Joseph, became heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary by the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand prior to the outbreak of the war. He has been in command of the Austrian armies on various fronts during the past two years.

Archduke Charles Francis was born on August 17, 1887. His wife was Princess Zita of the Bourbon House of Parma. His father was the Archduke Otto, who was the younger brother of Francis Ferdinand.

A report, which still lacks official confirmation, that it had been decided to associate Archduke Charles in the government of the country and that he was to assume the position on December 2, on the sixtieth anniversary of the Emperor's ascension to the throne was received recently.

So far as is known here, Archduke Charles is still at the front in command of the army.

Reign Long and Eventful.

It is doubtful if in all history there has been an active, authenticated reign longer than that closed by the death of Francis Joseph.

At 19 years of age he ascended the throne of Austria upon abdication of his uncle, Ferdinand I, December 2, 1848, his death ending an active reign of nearly 68 years, all but the first 20, during which he was also Apostolic King of Hungary.

In his own country he faced internal dissensions and external aggressions from the moment he came to the throne. By the war of 1859 with France and Sardinia he was forced to cede Lombardy to Italy; by force of arms and treaty he lost the Duchy of Holstein to Prussia and Venice to Italy; and by the revolt of Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot, he barely escaped having his dual empire cut in two.

Mr. and Mrs. London recently returned from a sojourn of several months in the Hawaiian Islands and are now living on their Glen Ellen ranch, one of the most elaborately equipped in Northern California.

"DRY CHICAGO" CAMPAIGN ON.

Opened By Bryan, Who Denies He Will Leave Nebraska.

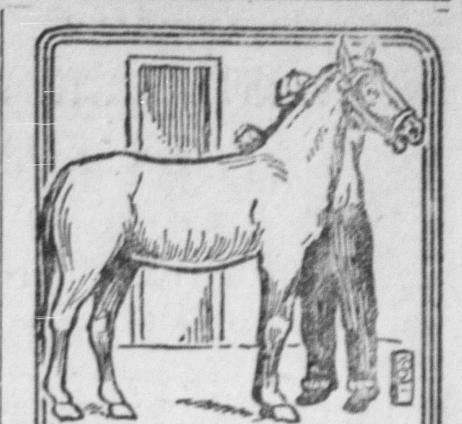
Chicago.—A "dry" Chicago campaign was opened with an address by W. J. Bryan at a meeting here of the Chicago Federation. Mr. Bryan was asked as to a recurrence of the report that he was to move his home to Asheville, N. C.

"I don't mind denying it again," said Mr. Bryan. "Why should any one leave a nice, 'dry' State like Nebraska? My home will remain at Lincoln. I will do my voting there."

WILSON WATCHES FLIGHT.

Confidential Stenographer Of President Cicles Over White House.

Washington.—President Wilson watched his confidential stenographer, Charles L. Swem, circle over the White House in an aeroplane, which bucked a high wind. The President smiled and shook his head. He had declined the invitation to fly.



For Lameness
Keep a bottle of Yager's Liniment in your stable for sprain, curb, split or any enlargement, for shoulder slip or swellings, wounds, galls, scratches, collar or shoe boils, sprains and any lameness. It absorbs swellings and enlargements, and dispels pain and stiffness very quickly.
YAGER'S LINIMENT
This liniment is the most economical to use as a 25 cent bottle contains four times as much as the usual bottle of liniment sold at that price.
Sold by all dealers.
GILBERT BROS. & CO. BALTIMORE, MD.

MEAN TRICK HARD TO BEAT

According to Fat Plumber, He Witnessed Action That Would Seem to Be the Limit.

"I have spotted another 'meanest man!'"
It was the fat plumber who spoke. "Who is it this time?" the thin carpenter asked.
"Umson."
"What's Umson been doing?"
"He took me to dinner with him in a swell hotel the other evening."
"Do you call that mean?"
"No, but listen."
"I am listening."
"When we had finished he took a small piece of tin foil that had covered a little square of cheese—"
"Oh huh—"
"I placed it on a silver dollar to get a perfect impression—"
"Yes—"
"And then left the impression on his plate so the waiter would think he was getting a fine tip."—Youngstown Telegram.

RED, ROUGH, PIMPLY SKIN

Quickly Cleared by Cuticura Soap and Ointment. Trial Free.

You may rely on these fragrant, super-creamy emollients to care for your skin, scalp, hair and hands. Nothing better to clear the skin of pimples, blotches, redness and roughness, the scalp of dandruff and itching and the hands of chapping and soreness.
Free sample each by mail with Book. Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

PUT BUSINESS LESSON FIRST

Youngster Had Excellent Defense When Hauled Before the Parental Tribunal for Fighting.

"My son—"
"Yes, pop—"
"Do you remember what your Sunday school teacher told you about fighting?"
"Yes, sir—"
"Then why did you strike that Hem-mahdway boy with your fist?"
"He struck me first."
"But what about your Sunday school lesson?"
"I thought about your lesson first."
"What lesson?"
"Your business lesson."
"I am afraid I do not know what you mean."
"You told me always to do everything in a strictly business way."
"Yes—"
"Well, when he delivered a wallop on my nose I just had to give him a receipt."—Youngstown Telegram.

Dr. Peery's "Dead Shot" is not a "strong" or "strong" but a real old-fashioned dose of medicine which cleans out Worms or Tapeworm with a single dose. Adv.

Masculine Form.

"What is a hunch?"
"A hunch is the masculine equivalent of feminine intuition."



Green's August Flower
Is the one remedy always to be relied upon for indigestion, constipation, and that dizzy feeling. 51 years test has proved it the best in many thousands of households. Try it and learn by that means how easy it is to keep well. 25c. and 75c. sizes at all Druggists and Dealers. Always keep a bottle handy.