

UNCLE SAM'S RECEPTION.

AN EXERCISE FOR PATRIOTIC AMERICANS FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY.

Uncle Sam and Miss Columbia entertain the Citizens of the World and Explain the Significance of American Institutions to Them.

STAGE entertainment is, after all, a prominent feature of a Fourth of July celebration. The following programme is designed for representation either in a school house or hall, and admits of very effective costuming. Music can be introduced at the discretion of those preparing it, and may include our national pieces only, or more elaborate songs and instrumental music.

As the curtain rises, Uncle Sam should be on the stage. His costume may be copied from any picture of him. It consists of white or light trousers, a blue coat (swallow tailed if possible), a vest made of the stars and stripes, and a big, old-fashioned collar, with gray neckerchief. On a table near by should rest his hat (an out-of-date white beaver) and a huge cotton umbrella. He sits by the table, and near him stands a boy who seems to be his attendant. Uncle Sam rises and says to audience:

"I've a hundred years and more since first my pride did swell. To my country's freedom gained by heroes I loved well. To leave their daughters and their sons a precious gift they died. 'Twas liberty—a greater boon than all good things beside."

"I send my cards out weeks ago for a reception grand. To all the representatives of every race and land. To-night they come to see us, Miss Columbia and me. And tell us how they like their home—the country of the free."

"As he finishes speaking the boy steps forward and reads or sings the following invitation. The words are taken from an old song, and are by Jesse Hutchinson and were adapted for the piano by N. Barker:

"O all the mighty nations in the east or in the west. O this glorious Yankee nation is the greatest and the best! We have room for all creation, and our banner is unfurled; Here's a general invitation to the people of the world."

"The south shall raise the cotton and the west the corn and pork. New England manufactures shall do the finer work. Her deep and flowing waterfalls that course along our hills. Are just the thing for washing sheep and driving cotton mills."

"The people do the voting and the children go to school. When this is finished Miss Columbia, surrounded by a group of children, comes in. She is dressed in white, with train, and has a gilt paper diadem over her forehead and a red, white and blue sash. The children enter singing, one the solo and all the chorus of "Three cheers for the red, white and blue." It will add to the effect if they bear a large banner in front of her. Miss Columbia takes place beside Uncle Sam to help receive the guests, and as they sing the chorus the last time march out again. Then the boy beside Uncle Sam steps forward and says:

"Columbia, Columbia, to glory arise. The queen of the world and the child of the skies! Thy genius commands thee with rapture behold! While ages on ages thy splendors unfold."

"This reign is the last and the noblest of times. Most fruitful thy soil, most fertile thy clime; Let freedom, and science, and virtue thy name; Be freedom, and science, and virtue thy fame."

"A Scotchman then enters. He should be clothed in full Scottish costume, with short trousers, kilt and a tartan fastened to shoulder with large buckle or pin. His Scotch cap may be decorated with a stiff feather. All shake hands and Uncle Sam bids the visitor welcome."

"Scotchman—Thank you, Uncle Sam. I heard of your invitation and decided to accept it. (Sings, or says: "O come along, come along," etc., the chorus of the invitation.) Is that true, sir?"

"U. S.—Well, I am rich enough, as the verse says, but I don't give farms away. That would do more harm than good. They can have farms, but they must earn them. Isn't that fair?"

"Scotchman—Yes; now, what can I do to earn money?"

"U. S.—Look at our trade, our commerce, our manufactures; think of our mechanical inventions; remember our schools and colleges, our churches and offices. These are workshops where the mind and hand of man are busy unceasingly. Take your choice, and remember that intelligent and persistent effort generally wins its object."

"A German girl now comes in. She should be dressed as if for kitchen work, with bright calico, large white apron, and sleeves rolled up. She must be courteous to Uncle Sam and Miss Columbia, and say: "Good evening, mein friends. I had heard of do—do—that you call it—do invite to all of do peoples, and so I come."

"Uncle Sam and Miss Columbia reply to her greeting and ask her how she likes the country, to which she replies: "O do was no country like it—So do peoples said to me. And I left mein fader's country. Quick they finds for me a place. And I soon did learn do English. And der people's funny ways. O do was no country like it. And I never will it leave. For my mistress—she do like me, if I go she then will please. Now, mein Herr and Mees Columbia, do visit you very well. And to all my country peoples will fill all your greatestness. An English lord now enters. The person taking this part may wear a dress suit, with an eye glass. He greets Uncle Sam and Miss Columbia with great courtesy."

"A French boy comes in, poorly but neatly dressed. He bows gracefully to Uncle Sam and kisses Miss Columbia's hand, saying: "Pardou, Monsieur and Madame, for entering your fine company, but I wanted to come, for I mean to be an American citizen, and to mount as high as I can the ladder of success."

"U. S.—That is right, my son; in this glorious country any boy, however poor he may be, if he have a clear head, a true heart and a strong arm, may rise through all the grades of society and become the crown, the glory, the pillar of the state."

"The finest and largest and in all respects the most economically constructed edifice erected in Cincinnati last year (excepting only the great chamber of commerce), is the new armory building of the First regiment Ohio National Guards. For years this crack regiment of the Buckeye state has had its home in an old rocky that could not sustain the tread of marching feet, and would barely support the stacked arms of the regiment, so that the drilling squad, company and regimental, has been done on one of the large market squares."

"The humble acquiescence of the soldier boys in their fate, added to their undaunted persistence, at length touched the hearts of the legislators, and a bill was passed giving Hamilton county authority to issue and sell bonds to the amount of \$100,000, the proceeds to be expended by a commission in building and furnishing an armory building upon a lot secured by the county for that purpose, upon a 5 per cent. lease, with perpetual privilege of purchase at \$50,000. Since

"Miss C.—We have arranged to entertain our friends with a series of tableaux representing the special days in our calendar. They will now be given. The tableaux will be arranged behind a curtain in rear of group already on stage. As the curtain is drawn Uncle Sam's guests may express their wonder in pantomime in different ways. They should group themselves so as to see the tableaux, but not to obscure the view of audience. As the scenes are being represented, the guests may enter, if the number of those who take part and the size of stage will permit. They should go up in groups or singly, greet Uncle Sam and Miss Columbia quietly, and then step aside to look at tableaux. There may be several Italian bootblacks, dressed raggedly, with torn hats, faces darkened and blacking boxes slung over shoulders, an Italian woman with bundle on her head, a Chinaman with pig tail and the usual costume, etc. If ornamental ladies cannot be represented, let more German, Scotch, etc., come in."

"The tableaux of the holidays should be presented in the order of their dates, beginning with New Year. NEW YEAR.—A young lady, elaborately dressed, receiving two gentlemen. Table of refreshments in rear. WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.—Boy declaiming, pointing to a picture of Washington, hanging with flags. ALL FOOLS' DAY.—Man with placard "April Fool" pinned on back of coat. Boy pointing to it and laughing. ARBOR DAY.—Group of children planting a young tree. MAY DAY.—Children with flower garlands surrounding one on an elevated seat, who is being crowned with flowers by two girls. DECORATION DAY.—Group of children with flags and flowers following two boys who are drawing a wagon full of flags. The wagon should have tiny flags at each corner. FOURTH OF JULY.—A boy with a small flag in buttonhole; firecrackers in one hand, a toy pistol in the other; small cannon nearby. THANKSGIVING.—A party of people at dinner. HARVEST HOME.—Group of boys and girls carrying fruits and grains. CHRISTMAS.—Children in the act of filling a row of stockings. ANNE L. WELLS.

"AN AFFLICTED EMPRESS. Elizabeth of Austria, Who is Said to Be Insane. VIENNA, June 8.—A clean swept street, a compact mass of humanity waiting patiently in the blinding white sunshine, a royal advance guard of glittering cavalry, a silence only broken by the patter of hoofs, the jingle of spurs and the rattling of sabres, then twelve men, covered with gold lace and medals, on coal black horses with yellow trimmings, guarding a royal open berouche, in which sat the beautiful empress of Austria. The galloping horses gave but a swift glimpse of the noble and patrician face of the most beautiful queen in the world, as she sat bowing and smiling to her people, who broke out into cheers so loud that the very air pulsed with them as the vision of their beloved empress in her black and yellow robes passed by. This ovation was repeated every day, and every hour whenever the lovely queen made her appearance in public for years, until one day last April, when a close carriage with drawn blinds was swiftly whirled away through quiet streets to the station on the way to Wiesbaden. In it, hidden from public gaze, sat the shrunken and stricken specter of the empress whose beauty and grace had been a world's marvel, and instead of the pomp and glitter of military escort sat three strong keepers, for the unfortunate empress of Austria, who had been so unhappy a wife and so wretched a mother, is now hopelessly insane. The curse of her house has fallen upon her just as it has upon twenty-seven of her family within a century, and her villa in Wiesbaden will be guarded by police and soldiers, just as has been her home in Dornberg ever since her mad lady began to manifest her insanity. Some years ago the empress took an intense dislike to the royal palace in Vienna, which is a gloomy, prison like place, and whenever it became necessary to remain here she never slept at night, but kept her maids about her the whole night long with brilliantly lighted rooms, as she imagined she saw specters. At Dornberg, about six or eight miles from here, the palace is surrounded with beautiful gardens, lawns and trees, and the situation charming, as it stands upon a hill overlooking a lovely valley. At this delightful place the empress was apparently as happy as a child, and could be seen any sunny day walking or riding about the neighborhood, or playing with the dogs and the little children who gathered around. Her favorite horse was a thoroughbred gray, and when she was on horseback she was a picture of grace and symmetry, and her feats of horsemanship were world renowned. From the time when she came to the throne, a girl of 16, until since the death of her son, the Archduke Rudolph, she has been peerless in regal beauty and adored by her subjects, whose love for her was the only sunshine of her existence, but her eccentricities have always been marked as her simple good nature to every one with whom she came in contact. Now, it is all over with her, and her condition leaves no hope that she will ever regain her mental balance. MARGARET LOWELL.

"There are 650 open glasses scattered through the auditorium of the Academy of Music in New York, and they have been in use several months. During this time but sixteen have disappeared. As there is nothing to prevent a person so inclined from walking off with a pair if he chooses, this record speaks well for the honesty of the general public. Members of the audience can obtain a glass for the evening's use by dropping a dime in the slot.

EUROPE.

Lord—Good evening, my lord; good evening, my lady.

U. S.—Good evening. But you mistake, I am no lord.

Lord—What do they call you, then? U. S.—Just plain Uncle Sam. And this is Miss Columbia.

Lord—So you are not even a lord. Have you no title? U. S.—Do you think that I want one when the greatest American that ever lived refused to accept a crown and a kingdom when he could have had both? No, sir. "An American citizen" is the proudest title that a citizen of these United States craves.

Lord—May I ask, sir, what your policy is? U. S.—Our policy is peace. A kind providence has cast our lot on a portion of the globe sufficiently vast to satisfy the most grasping ambition, and abounding beyond all others in resources which only require to be fully developed to make the greatest and most prosperous people on our continent.

Lord—Well, this is a strange country. I think I'll go back to my landed estate in England when my trip here is ended. I did think of settling with you, but America is not like old England. Enter an Irishman dressed as a laborer, who says: "Sure, it's glad I am to mate ye to-night, Uncle Sam and Miss Columbia. Me old woman told me ye would be havin' so many fine folks here that I couldn't git in, but I tould her we wuz all invited."

U. S.—Yes, indeed. How do you like America? Irishman—It's the finest country I ever set me two eyes on. I kin over jist in jime to see the cintinmal parade, and moighty fine it was. But will ye let me ask ye a question? U. S.—Certainly, certainly.

U. S.—Tell me where ye got yer flag, the purliest banner that flies. U. S.—Its origin is not exactly known, but we like to think that its design was taken from the skies above us. One of our citizens has said: "All nations have taken the design of their banners from natural objects. Egypt took an eye, Rome an eagle, England a lion, some mountains, some landscapes, and all selected objects of nobility or grandeur corresponding to the degree of intelligence existing in the nation. God has hung his banner over the world, but

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NEW QUARTERS OF THE FIRST REGIMENT OHIO NATIONAL GUARDS.

The Largest Infantry Drill Room in the United States—A Description of the Most Modern Building of Its Kind in the Country.

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"There are 650 open glasses scattered through the auditorium of the Academy of Music in New York, and they have been in use several months. During this time but sixteen have disappeared. As there is nothing to prevent a person so inclined from walking off with a pair if he chooses, this record speaks well for the honesty of the general public. Members of the audience can obtain a glass for the evening's use by dropping a dime in the slot.

"The Cincinnati Armory. The passage of the bill the work has not been sufficient to lag, and the building is now practically finished. The armory building covers the entire lot of 175,000 feet, fronting on Freeman avenue and extending through to Denman street. The building presents some new features in armory construction. In the first place, it is the only armory of its size that is a combination of facilities for both infantry and artillery, and thoroughly equipped with the United States army regulation supplies. The building is fitted to accommodate a full regiment and a battery of artillery of six guns, and is arranged to give to each company a liberal sized dressing room in which each soldier is provided with a locker for his effects, and also a large parlor or club room. In addition to these company accommodations there is room for each commissioned officer and abundant comforts and conveniences for the staff and non-commissioned officers. There are also provided separate official headquarters for the colonel, major of artillery and all the administrative officers, a large general parlor, a reception room and a room that will probably be devoted to features distinctive of club life. From the headquarters floor a half flight of steps ascends to the level of the infantry drill room, which presents the largest superficial area of any armory in the United States, unobstructed by post or pillar, and capable of accommodating 21,000 men. The hall is 155,229 feet, and 48 feet from floor to dome of ceiling. To secure this area it was necessary to extend the hall over the battery drill room in the basement. In order to do this and preserve the battery drill room clear of the infantry drill room is supported by a system of six double trusses, resting upon piers built from the foundation to the center of the main hall, and having no point of contact with the walls of the building proper. The roof of the drill room is also supported by trusses. The floor is double, the under course being pine laid diagonally; and the upper of hard maple 1 inch thick and 2 1/2 inches wide. From the headquarters floor stairs lead to the basement corridor, extending to the center of the building to the battery drill room. This room is 100,140 feet, without pillared obstruction. The floor is an experiment in the United States, being made of a mixture of equal parts of hard pan clay and plaster's hair, and presents a springy, hard surface. It is the same as used in English armories for cavalry drill. The room opens on Denman street by four large doors so adjusted that all the guns of the battery can be run out at the same time. On the same floor, and on either side of the corridor, are lavatories and kitchen, furnace, guard and store rooms, magazine, gymnasium, shops, forges, etc., and two rooms for squad drill each 50 x 60 feet. On the south side there is a rifle range 16 feet wide and 100 yards in the clear, provided with steel shutters and all proper appliances for target practice. On the north side there are stables and feeding accommodations for twenty-six horses. The front of the building rises 100 feet from the curbline, and is surmounted by a square Norman tower, in which are the rooms of the band of the regiment, and also three fine rooms for the janitor. The facade of the building is built of stock brick. This was accomplished through the self sacrifice of E. Cort Williams, Esq., one of the commissioners. The chief contractor, William H. Smith and S. P. Kinison, devoted their services without reserve to the project, and the result is that the First regiment Ohio National Guards has an armory worth from \$34 to 50 per cent more than its actual cost. A quite remarkable thing for these days of extravagant recklessness in public building is that the work has been done without the appropriation.

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