

Celebration of the Centennial of the Signing of the Constitution.

The subjoined history of proceedings preliminary to the celebration in this city of the Centennial Anniversary of the Framing and Promulgation of the Constitution of the United States is timely, and will be read with interest, as well, perhaps as the review of the original celebration in 1788. The legislature of New Jersey on the 2d day of June, 1886, passed resolutions inviting the Governor and Representatives of the thirteen original States to assemble in Philadelphia to consider the propriety of a national celebration of the centennial anniversary of the framing and promulgation of the Constitution of the United States. In accordance with this invitation a convention of the Governors and Representatives of the thirteen Colonial States and of citizens was held at Philadelphia, September 17, 1886, in the Hall of the Carpenters' Company. There were present the Governors of Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia.

In consequence of resolutions adopted at this meeting letters were addressed by the Hon. Fitzhugh Lee, Governor of Virginia, as chairman of the Committee of Governors of the Colonial States, to the Governors of all the States and Territories of the Union, inviting them to appoint commissioners to be present at a convention to be held at Philadelphia, December 2, 1886.

In response to this request commissioners were appointed by the Governors of the following States and Territories, viz: Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Dakota, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming. This convention of December 2, 1886, elected Hon. John A. Kasson, of Iowa, President, and Hampton L. Carson, Esq., of Philadelphia, Secretary. A sub-commission was selected, of which Amos R. Little, Esq., was made chairman, the President and Secretary of the Convention being added as *ex-officio* members. A committee of citizens was also formed, of which Thomas Cochran, Esq., was selected as chairman. The name of "The Constitutional Centennial Commission" was adopted as the name of the Commission, and it was resolved, in regard to the proposed celebration at Philadelphia in September, 1887:

PROGRAMME MAPPED OUT.
First. That there be an Oration and Poem in commemoration of the Signing of the Constitution.
Second. That there shall be a military display, in which the United States shall be invited to be represented by each branch of its military and naval service; that the several States and Territories, and the District of Columbia shall be invited to be represented by their militia and volunteer service; that the President of the United States be requested to designate officers to command the same.
Third. That there be an industrial processional display.
Fourth. That invitations to participate in the celebration be extended to the President of the United States and his Cabinet, the Federal Judiciary, Congress and the representatives of all departments of the National Government, to the Governors of each State and Territory, to the Judiciaries and Legislatures of the same and the representatives of the several departments thereof, to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia and to the various civic organizations and associations of the Union, and that the resident representatives of foreign government having friendly relations with the United States be invited to participate.
Fifth. That there be created a suitable memorial in the city of Philadelphia, commemorative of the signing and adoption of the Constitution and of the progress of the nation since that period.

The chairman of the committee appointed by the convention to prepare an address to the people of the United States, made a stirring and patriotic report, which was adopted as follows: "The Convention of Delegates ap-

pointed by the several States and Territories to take steps towards the celebration of the signature of the Constitution, feel it their just duty to call the attention of the country, and of both press and public, to the approach of this great anniversary. "It becomes us, also, to recall the characteristics of the change in the government of States effected by the tranquil adoption of a system of checks to the heated impulses which political strife has always aroused. The barrier to hasty legislation effected by an organic law, unchangeable except by processes involving delay, and so securing an interval in which reflection might resume its sway over passion, was to all practical purposes a novelty a century ago.

"The success of the great experiment depended eventually upon the reverence with which men might be brought to regard the fundamental and supreme law, and upon the determination to consider it, in the nature of things, inviolable, except by the surrender of every respectable attribute of an upright people. "Upon the existence of this reverence the statesmen of 1787 relied, and to its existence and preservation their descendants owe whatever is valuable in the institutions they inherit. To strengthen and quicken the sense of the sacredness of this principal and the paramount duty of observing it, and to admonish our countrymen that only by intelligent perception of its transcendent importance can be assured a continuance of the blessings which make us the admiration of the world, seem a prominent duty of this commission.

"The successful formation of the constitution was the most momentous event in the history of the American people, and marks an epoch in the history of the civilized world. Under the constitution this great nation has grown up and prospered, and on the continued success of our system of constitutional government depend in large measure, the future welfare and happiness, not only of our own people, but of mankind. We believe that the people appreciate, in a solemn and grateful spirit, the character of this celebration, and that they will give it that hearty support throughout the length and breadth of the land which will make it in all ways worthy of the occasion and the event."

That the people do appreciate the character of the coming celebration is evinced by the hearty support which is now being given to the commission, both by the several States and the citizens of Philadelphia.

The State of Pennsylvania has appropriated \$75,000 for the purposes of the celebration and the entertainment of the representatives of the nation, of whom our Commonwealth will be the host. The appropriations from other States and from private citizens of Philadelphia can be relied upon greatly to increase this sum, and, considering the magnitude of the undertaking, a generous increase will be necessary.

An outline has already been given of the nature and extent of the coming celebration. A comparison, however, with the past may be useful, lest by want of patriotic zeal and fervor we permit the joyful and magnificent pageant of 1788 in honor of the adoption of the constitution, to exceed in any manner our commemoration of its centennial anniversary.

THE EVENT OF A CENTURY AGO.

On July 4, 1788, the citizens of Philadelphia celebrated both the Declaration of Independence and the establishment of the constitution, proposed by the late general convention of the States, then solemnly adopted and ratified by ten of those States. The celebration began by a salute to the rising sun by a full peal from Christ church steeple, and a discharge of cannon from the ship "Rising Sun," anchored off Market street. At the same time ten vessels, named in honor of the ten adopting States and superbly decorated, could be seen arranged the whole length of the harbor, in the following order: New Hampshire opposite to the Northern Liberties; Massachusetts opposite to Vine Street; Connecticut, to Race Street; New Jersey, to Arch Street; Pennsylvania, to Market Street; Delaware, to Chestnut Street; Maryland, to Walnut Street; Virginia, to Spruce Street; South Carolina, to Pine Street; and Georgia, to South Street.

The several divisions which were to compose the grand procession, began to assemble at 8 o'clock in the morning at and near the intersection of Third and South Streets. At this point the line of march commenced, and continued along Third Street to Callowhill Street, thence up Callowhill Street to Fourth Street, thence along Fourth to Market Street, and thence to Union Green, in front of Bush Hill, William Hamilton, Esq.,

having kindly offered the spacious lawn before his house, at Bush Hill, for the purposes of the day. About 9:30 the grand procession began to move in the following order:

First. Twelve axe-men, dressed in white frocks with white girdles round their waists, and wearing ornamented caps, and headed by Philip Pancake.

Second. The First City Troops commanded by Captain Miles.

Third. Independence, represented by John Nixon, on horse back, bearing the staff and cup of Liberty; under the cap a white silk flag, with these words, "Fourth of July 1776," in large gold letters.

Fourth. Artillery, commanded by Captain Moreland Fisher.

Fifth. French Alliance, represented by Thomas Fitzsimmons, on horseback, carrying a flag of silk, bearing three fleur-de-lys and thirteen stars in union over the words, "Sixth of February, 1778," in gold characters. The horse on which he rode was the same on which Count Rochambeau rode at the siege of Yorktown.

Sixth. Corps of Light Infantry, commanded by Captain A. G. Claypool, with standard of the First Regiment.

Seventh. Definitive Treaty of Peace represented by George Clymer, on horseback, carrying a flag adorned with olive and laurel; the words, "Third of September, 1773," in gold letters pendant from a staff.

Eighth. Col. John Shee, on horseback, carrying a flag, blue field, bearing an olive and laurel wreath, over the words, "Washington the friend of our country," in silver letters.

Ninth. The City Troops of Light Dragoons, Captain W. Bingham, commanded by Major W. Jackson.

Tenth. Richard Bache, on horseback, as a herald attended by a trumpeter, proclaiming, "A New Era" the words New Era in gold letters, pendant from the herald's staff, with an appropriate verse.

Eleventh. Convention of the states, represented by Peter Muhlenberg, on horseback, carrying a blue flag, with the words, "Seventeenth of September, 1786," in silver letters.

Twelfth. Band of Music.

Thirteenth. The constitution, represented by Chief Justice McKean and Judges Atlee and Rush, in their robes of office, seated in a lofty ornamented car, in the form of a large eagle drawn by six white horses, the Chief Justice supported a tall staff, on the top of which was the cap of liberty, under the cap the new Constitution, framed and ornamented, and immediately under the constitution the words, "The People," in large gold letters affixed to the staff.

Fourteenth. Corps of Light Infantry, commanded by Captain Heysham, with the standard of the Third Regiment.

Fifteenth. The gentlemen representing the states that had ratified the Federal constitution, each carrying a small flag, bearing the name of the State which he represents in gold letters, viz: Duncan Ingraham, New Hampshire; Jona Willms, Jr., Massachusetts; Jared Ingersoll, Connecticut; Samuel Stockton, New Jersey; James Wilson, Pennsylvania; Col. Thomas Robison, Delaware; Hon. I. E. Howard, Maryland; Colonel Feibiger, Virginia; W. Ward Burrows, South Carolina; George Mead, Georgia.

Sixteenth. Col. William Williams, on horseback, in complete armor, bearing on his arm a shield emblazoned with the arms of the United States.

Seventeenth. The Montgomery Troop Light Horse, commanded by Captain James Morris.

Eighteenth. Consuls and Representatives of Foreign States in alliance with America.

Nineteenth. Hon. Francis Hopkinson, Judge of the Admiralty, wearing in his hat a gold anchor, pendant on a green riband. He was preceded by the register's clerk, carrying a green bag, filled with rolls of parchment, the word "Admiralty" in large letters in the front of the bag.

James Read Register of Admiralty Court, wearing a silver pen in his hat, Clement Biddle, Marshal of the Admiralty, carrying a silver oar.

Twentieth. Wardens of the Port and Tonnage Officer.

Twenty-first. Collector of Customs and Naval Officer.

Twenty-second. Peter Bynton as a citizen, and Colonel Isaac Melcher, dressed as an Indian Chief, in a car-

riage, smoking the calumet of peace. Twenty-third. The Berks county Troop commanded by Captain Ph. Stubing.

Twenty-fourth. The New Roof or Grand Federal Edifice, on carriage, drawn by ten white horses. This building, thirty-six feet high, was in form of a dome, supported by thirteen Corinthian columns, raised on pedestals, the frieze decorated with thirteen stars. Ten of the columns were complete, but the left unfinished. On the pedestals of the columns were inscribed, in ornamented letters, the initials of the thirteen American States: "Around the pedestal of the edifice these words, "In union the fabric stands firm."

The Grand Edifice was followed by a corps of over 450 carpenters, saw-makers, file-cutters, &c.

Twenty-fifth. The Pennsylvania Society of Cincinnati militia officers.

Twenty-sixth. Corps of Light Infantry, commanded by captain Rose.

Twenty-seventh. The Agricultural Society, headed by their president Samuel Powel, and Major Hodgdon, bearing a banner representing industry.

Twenty-eighth. Farmers headed by Messrs. Richard Peters, Richard Willing, Samuel Meredith, Isaac Warner, George Gray, Charles Willing, and others. One of the plows in this department, drawn by four oxen, directed by Richard Willing, in the dress and character of a farmer.

Twenty-ninth. The Manufacturing Society, with spinning and carding machines, looms, &c. The carding machine, worked by two men, carding cotton at the rate of 50-pond weight per day, was placed on a carriage 30 feet long, 18 feet wide, and 13 feet high, drawn by ten horses. Also several other machines in full operation. The carriage was followed by a large number of weavers.

Thirtieth. Corps of Light Infantry, commanded by captain Robinson.

Thirty-first. The Marine Society. Ten captains, five abreast, followed by the members of the society, six abreast.

Thirty-second. The Federal Ship Union, mounting 20 guns commanded by John Green, three lieutenants and four boys in uniform. The crew, including officers, consisted of 25 men.

The ship was 33 feet in length, width and rigging in proportion. Her hull was the barge of the ship Alliance, the same which formerly belonged to the Serapis, and was taken in the memorable engagement of captain Paul Jones, in the Bon Homme Richard, with the Serapis. She was mounted on a carriage drawn by ten horses.

Boat-builders in a boat-builder's shop, 18 feet long, 8 wide, 13 feet high, drawn by four horses. Seven hands were at work building a boat 13 feet long, which was actually set up and nearly completed during the procession. Then followed large deputations of the different trades,—sail-makers, ship-carpenters, ship-joiners, rope-makers, and ship-chandlers, merchants and traders, and others.

Thirty-third. The trades formed an important feature of the procession, and were followed by officers of Congress, Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, Sheriff and Coroner Board City Warden, City Treasurer, etc., members of the bar, the clergy, physicians, the county troop of horse, command by Major W. McPherson, bringing up the rear. The length of the line was a mile and a half, the distance marched about three miles and time consumed over three hours.

Francis Hopkinson, who participated in this procession, wrote that it was "an exhibition which for novelty, splendor and decorum justly merited universal admiration and applause. If besides the magnificence of the affair itself, we take into consideration the important occasion that induced it, it must be acknowledged to have been an object most interesting and truly sublime."

It is of course but natural to expect that the celebration of 1887 will surpass that of 1788 in respect to grandeur and magnificence in every detail. To surpass it, however, in the joy and enthusiasm of the participants will not be an easy task.

The State of Pennsylvania has appropriated \$75,000; citizens of Philadelphia have subscribed over \$20,000. The following sums have been appro-

riated by other States, viz: Connecticut, \$18,000; Rhode Island, \$25,000; Delaware, 2000; Massachusetts, \$40,000. New Jersey has authorized the Governor to send its militia at the cost of the State. Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina have arranged to send troops. Up to July 1st the Governors of these States, as those of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Nebraska and Texas had accepted the invitation of the commission to come to Philadelphia.

The Governors of all the States and Territories have been invited to the Celebration as guests of the Commission, and have been asked to send representatives of their militia. It is expected that in very short time acceptance from every Governor who is not, for some good reason, incapacitated from coming, and that the majority of the States will be represented also by some portion of their troops. The great family of States should, and there is every reason to hope will appear at their gathering on this historic occasion, without the absence of a single member.

President Cleveland will preside at the ceremonies, and General Sheridan will be designated by the President to command the combined forces of and United States Troops which will take part in the grand parade. The Civic and Industrial display will be marshaled by A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.

Mr. Justice Miller of the Supreme Court of the United States, will deliver an oration, and it is expected that a poem will be delivered by a national poet.

All indications point to a great success of the celebration.

ADDRESS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CENTENNIAL COMMISSION.

To the people of the United States: The Constitutional Centennial Commission was organized at Philadelphia on the 2d of December, 1886, by the Commissioners appointed by the States and Territories, for the purpose of providing for the proper celebration by the Nation of the Centennial Anniversary of the Framing and Promulgation of the Constitution of the United States of America.

At various times, and in different places, you have been called together to commemorate by appropriate ceremonies the great events in your national history. In obedience to that impulse which bids a people do honor to its past, you have reared the lofty column, the triumphal arch, or the votive tablet to the memories of those who fought for freedom on the battlefield, or who, by their wisdom in the Senate Chamber, preserved the principles of free government for the benefit of mankind. In 1874, you were summoned by the voice of Philadelphia to meet in the Hall of the Carpenters' Company, where the first Continental Congress protested against the tyranny of the Stamp Act, the Tea Act, the Boston Port Bill, and all the vexatious restrictions upon trade, and boldly proclaimed their rights to the enjoyment of life, liberty and property, their resistance to taxation without representation, and their purpose to defend their ancient charters from assault. In 1875, you answered the call of Lexington, and Concord, and Bunker Hill, to pay the respectful homage of your gratitude to those bold farmers who "fired the shot heard round the world," and thrice drove the redecoated grenadiers to the shelter of their shipping. In 1876, you again assembled in Philadelphia, like worshipers before a shrine to bow in reverence and return devout thanks to God for the spirit which inspired the Fathers of the Republic to declare that "These United Colonies are, and of right ought to be Free and Independent States," and to the accomplishment of that grand purpose to solemnly pledge their lives their fortunes, and their sacred honor. There and then you met your ancient enemy, not in the furious shock of war, but in a time of profound peace, in honorable rivalry, with feelings of amity and generous forgetfulness of former wrongs. You called upon the nations of the earth to witness the spectacle of successful free government, the triumphs of your mechanic art, the products of your looms and workshops, the marvels of your inventive genius, the rich harvests of your fields, your mineral wealth, and

all the accumulated proofs of your material and industrial prosperity and progress. Since then you have assembled at Saratoga and Trenton, at Brandywine and Germantown, upon the sacred hills at Valley Forge, Monmouth and Stony Point, at Charleston, Savannah and Etowah Springs. Alternately you exulted in the recollection of victory as at, Cowpens, or were saddened and chastened, as at Camden by the memories of defeat. But lately, you hurried to the plains of Yorktown, the scene of final triumph, to attest your joy at the deliverance of America from bondage, and to proclaim your undying attachment to the principles which animated the patriots of our ever-glorious Revolution.

For a third time you are summoned to Philadelphia—the City of the Declaration of Independence—the City of the Constitution. It is the Mecca of America. Thither every lover of free government, every student of the political achievements of mankind, every citizen who values the blessings of liberty or who has enjoyed its protection and its benefits, should find his way. It is a National celebration. It is the People's Jubilee. But a few years ago, the inhabitants of frozen Iceland met on their Law Mound and celebrated with song and saga, their one thousandth anniversary. But a few days since, millions of British subjects rent the air with their acclamations upon the completion of the fiftieth year of the reign of their gracious Queen. Our National Memorial Celebration is of far deeper significance than these. It relates to the completion of the structure of our government by its architects and builders and its solemn dedication to the service of the people and mankind. The hour when that august convention—presided over by Washington and illumined by the wisdom of Franklin, Hamilton, Madison, Wilson, Langdon, Morris, Gerry, Sherman, Ellsworth, Livingston, Dickinson, Carroll, Rutledge, Pinckney, Baldwin and their immortal associates—completed its work, and on the 17th of September, 1787, committed to the People of the States for their approval that great Charter of Government, now known and honored everywhere as the Constitution of the United States, marked the most momentous epoch in our history. The labors of that day preserved for all time the precious fruits of freedom and self-government. Unique in origin; without a prototype in design; of enduring strength, and of phenomenal success, in the history of political philosophy the Constitution stands alone. Tested by danger and adversity, as well as by peace and prosperity, endeared to us by tradition and hallowed by experience, it has become the object of our reverential and affectionate regard. To it no American mind can be too attentive, and no American heart too devoted, and it is believed that the people will gather as they never yet have gathered, to commemorate by appropriate exercises the great work which was accomplished in Philadelphia by the statesmen of the Revolution, and to return in a devout and heartfelt manner their thanks to Divine Providence for the blessings which they have enjoyed during a century of federal constitutional government.

Animated by these feelings and conscious of the sublime meaning of the approaching event, the Commissioners have framed and outlined a programme of exercises which in their judgment are appropriate. They have provided for the delivery of an Oration by Mr. Justice Miller, of the Supreme Court of the United States, and a Poem by a National Poet in commemoration of the signing of the Constitution. There will be a grand Industrial Processional Display which will outshine in magnificence and extent in the variety and completeness of its details, the great popular rejoicings of over one hundred years ago. There will be a Military Display in which the United States be represented by each branch of its military and naval service, commanded by the General of the Army; several States and Territories and the District of Columbia will be represented by their militia and volunteer service. The President of the United States will preside in person upon the 17th of September. Invitations to participate in the celebration have

been sent to all the States and Territories, and to the District of Columbia, and to the representatives of foreign governments having friendly relations with the United States. It is expected that in very short time acceptance from every Governor who is not, for some good reason, incapacitated from coming, and that the majority of the States will be represented also by some portion of their troops. The great family of States should, and there is every reason to hope will appear at their gathering on this historic occasion, without the absence of a single member. President Cleveland will preside at the ceremonies, and General Sheridan will be designated by the President to command the combined forces of and United States Troops which will take part in the grand parade. The Civic and Industrial display will be marshaled by A. Loudon Snowden, Esq. Mr. Justice Miller of the Supreme Court of the United States, will deliver an oration, and it is expected that a poem will be delivered by a national poet. All indications point to a great success of the celebration.