

# A NATION'S CHARTER

## STORY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

A Glorious Document That Has Been Neglected—Its Words Said to Have Faded Almost Beyond Recognition.

THE original Declaration of Independence, of which Bancroft, the historian, said that it had "received a renown more extended than that of any other State paper in existence," has faded away beyond the possibility of restoration. The names of the signers to this great charter of American liberties are no longer legible. After 118 years of careless guardianship, in various custody—during the greater portion of which period it was thoughtlessly exposed to the destroying influences of light, air and heedless handling—now when the irreparable havoc is done and the precious

few sentences were stricken out and the Declaration was then adopted. It was at once entered upon the journal of Congress; but the engrossed copy, on parchment, was not prepared and signed until August 2. During the first twenty-four years of its existence the Declaration was preserved among the archives of the Government at Philadelphia, and during all or part of that time it was undoubtedly rolled up, as it shows by the cracks in the parchment that it must have been rolled for a long period, and it is known that subsequent to that time it was hung up exposed to public gaze. When, in the year 1800, the National Government was transferred to Washington, the Declaration was carried there and deposited in the Department of State, where it remained for forty-one years. In the year 1841 a substantial building having been erected for the use of the United States Patent Office, which had formerly been in the State Department, and the State Department being in a

document to the Exposition to be placed on exhibition. The Secretary of the Interior, Hon. Zachariah Chandler, wrote a letter to President Grant, setting forth the reasons why this request ought not to be complied with, but this request was granted, and, on its hundredth birthday, the great charter, faded and scarcely legible, returned to the place of its birth, and there was exposed to the gaze of the American people, its pitiful condition a standing rebuke to the National Government. In 1877, at the close of the exposition, the Common Council of Philadelphia petitioned Congress for authority to retain the Declaration and to place it in Independence Hall. This request was refused, and the document was brought back to Washington, but upon request of Hamilton Fish, then Secretary of State—the Secretary of the Interior consenting—it was again returned to the State Department, where it has since remained. While the Declaration was in the Patent Office an excellent photolitho-

# GIVE HONOR TO THE BRAVE.

## MEN FROM THE WEST.

Interesting Figures as to Their Part at Gettysburg.

As the battle of Gettysburg, was fought and won by the army of the Potomac, made up mainly of Eastern troops, the important part taken in that momentous contest by Western troops is not generally known nor always duly acknowledged. Eastern and Western troops alike did their duty, and no one who saw the charging columns of the men in gray will dispute the fact that they too fought well. In the ranks of the two great armies that confronted each other on this historic field—the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia—were men from every State east of the Mississippi, with the exception of Kentucky. The States west of the Mississippi that had troops in the Confederate army were Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, and far-off Minnesota one regiment—the gallant 1st—in the Union army. The greatest number of casualties of any regiment at Gettysburg occurred in the 24th Mich. It was a comparatively full regiment, entering the fight with 28 officers and 464 men. It lost 21 killed and mortally wounded, 69 were killed outright, 247 wounded, 47 missing, total 335. There were eight officers killed and 14 wounded; four color-bearers killed and three wounded—one of them being Col. Morrow, who was captured. The 26th N. C. had 11 color-bearers shot in this battle, and the colors captured in the charge on the third day of the battle. Of the Wisconsin regiments at Gettysburg, the 24, commanded by Col. Lucius Fairchild, sustained the heaviest loss, 233. Gen. Fairchild lost his arm in the fight near the Seminary, July 1. This regiment, as well as the Michigan, belonged to the celebrated Iron Brigade. The 2d Wis. enjoys the distinction of having lost the most men in proportion to its numbers of any regiment in the Union army during its entire term of service. The 26th Wis., a German regiment, of the 11th Corps, lost 27 in this battle, 16 being killed. In considering these numbers it must be borne in mind that the regiments were sadly depleted at this stage of the war. The greatest regimental loss in any battle, in proportion to its numbers engaged, occurred in the ranks of the 1st Minn., at Gettysburg, when 352 officers and men broke the Confederate column that was advancing upon an exposed portion of our line in the afternoon of July 2. When it was over only 17 men clustered around their colors and 205 lay dead or wounded on the field. In Gettysburg, when 352 officers and men broke the Confederate column that was advancing upon an exposed portion of our line in the afternoon of July 2. When it was over only 17 men clustered around their colors and 205 lay dead or wounded on the field. In Gettysburg, when 352 officers and men broke the Confederate column that was advancing upon an exposed portion of our line in the afternoon of July 2. When it was over only 17 men clustered around their colors and 205 lay dead or wounded on the field.

# FOR THE HOUSEWIFE

## THE DIRT MOP.

A woman who has never used a dish-mop has no idea how easy it makes dish-washing, and how it saves the hands. With a mop you may have the dish water scalding hot. If dishes are greasy I use soda or borax, and soap of a good quality, to make a froth, and rinse in clean hot water. The mop costs but few cents, and frees the work of its old-time horrors. Growing girls often acquire a distaste for housekeeping because they dislike putting their delicate hands in dish water.—The Home Queen.

## MOISTURE PAN IN THE OVEN.

In our own experience in baking, says a writer in the Albany Cultivator, we find that a small pan of water placed in the oven, and filled as often as it becomes dry, is a great help. It prevents the bread or cake from burning, even with a full oven and very hot fire, saves nearly one-half the labor in watching and turning the loaves, and prevents a thick, hard crust. It is usually filled with water from the teakettle, but if the oven seems too hot, throw out the hot water, fill with cold, and put back. The pan we use is ten inches long, one inch wide, and one deep. It is made by folding the tin at the ends, and pounding lightly until the folds are so close that the pan is water tight. A pan made with solder will not do, for with the heat of care it will sometimes become dry, and the solder melt and run out. This pan slips in beside the pans of bread, next to the fire box, and takes very little room. Always have a holder to handle it with, and handle carefully when pouring in water after it has become dry, or a bad scald will result.

## CANNING FRUIT.

Pineapples and strawberries and all kinds of fruits and berries should never be cooked before canning. I can nearly two hundred cans every summer by the following recipe, and I never lost a can. Red raspberries are delicious, and taste as though just picked.

For all fruit, except currants and cherries, and all fruit that is extra tart, take one third of a pound of granulated sugar for every pound of fruit. For currants and extra tart, use one pound sugar to one-half pound of fruit. Before you commence to can fill a common wash boiler two-thirds full of water and let it come to a smart boil, and when you commence to can remove it from the stove. After weighing fruit and sugar, fill your cold cans two-thirds full with fruit, then make your syrup, allowing three or four tea cups of water to each pint can. Never let the syrup boil over three or four minutes. Then fill your cans that have the fruit in with syrup; fill them so they can run over, seal at once and put the cans in the boiler of hot water. After the cans are all in, cover the boiler, let the water become cold before removing the cans, which will be about twenty-four hours. After taking them out of the water put them in a cool place at once; be sure the hot water covers the cans. The fruit will be cooked all this is necessary to keep it well. For pineapples shred them, after peeling with a silver fork, on an earthen platter, and can as above. To can pears this way they should be cut into eight pieces. Never allow the water to boil after the cans of fruit are in.—New York Recorder.

## RECIPES.

Fried Raw Potatoes.—Slice thin six raw potatoes. Fry in hot butter or lard twenty minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent burning.

Scalloped Potatoes.—Place in a dish a layer of raw sliced potatoes, sift on a little salt and add crumbs of butter. Continue this process until the dish is full. Cover with milk and bake nearly an hour in a moderate oven.

Graham Gems Without Eggs.—One tablespoonful sugar, one tablespoonful butter, pinch of salt, one cup of sweet milk. Thicken with graham flour into which has been sifted one teaspoonful of baking powder. Bake in a quick oven and serve hot.

Strawberry Pie.—Lino deep pie dishes with good, plain paste, fill them nearly full of strawberries, sprinkle over two large tablespoonfuls of sugar and dredge this lightly with flour. Cover with the upper crust rolled out as thin as possible, turn the edges neatly with a sharp knife; make a dent in the center, press the edges tightly together so that the juices of the fruit may not run out while baking. Serve the same day as baked or the under crust will be heavy.

# QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

The Atlantic takes its name from Mount Atlas.

The Japanese religion demands that a man must worship on the soil every day.

Silk is so cheap in Madagascar that the poorest people wear clothing made of it.

One of the eccentricities of the Chinese appetite is to eat live shrimps.

The water of the Mediterranean contains greater proportions of salt than that in the ocean.

No part of the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and Newfoundland exceeds 2,400 fathoms.

When the Gulf Stream passes out of the Gulf of Mexico its temperature is about 70 degrees.

A bunch of eleven rattlers was killed recently within two blocks of the Columbus, Ohio, postoffice.

Only about one man in every twenty-five who seeks to enlist in the United States Army is accepted.

Bicycles are so common on Broadway New York City, nowadays that nobody pays any attention to them.

Carpets were introduced into England during the reign of Mary, in 1553. They were then considered effeminate.

A wealthy Englishwoman has married a colored man, who, previous to this union, has made his living as a eugeneer in variety halls.

The British Museum possesses a collection of old Greek advertisements printed on leaden plates which show that the practice is very ancient.

The remedial effects of laughter are really wonderful. Cases have been known where a hearty laugh has banished disease and preserved life by a sudden effort of nature.

At Gubbio, in Italy, a spiritualistic medium recently promised to put a mother in communication with her dead son. When she saw flames and sulphurous smoke coming out of the cabinet she was convinced that he was lost, went staring mad, and will not recover. The medium is to be prosecuted.

The Ghost of a Tree.

While on a visit to London I was asked by a Mr. S. to call upon him at his home in a town some miles from the city. He lived in a detached villa with a large garden at the back of it. We had just got there when he asked me to have a look at his garden so I went out along with his wife and himself. But no sooner had I stepped onto the plot of grass immediately adjoining the house than, right on the upper edge of the this plot, I thought I saw a large and beautiful fruit tree covered with white blossoms and on walking nearer to it I found the tree dissolved away, and actually no tree was there. I was so astonished at this phantom spectacle that I spoke about it to Mr. S. and immediately both he and his wife exclaimed: "That is extraordinary," as there actually stood there, on the very spot, a large fruit tree, which was cut down and taken away a month ago, as it never bore fruit, but was at spring time a mass of blossom; but its branches overhung the grass plot so that it was thought best to move it." I had never seen this place before, or knew anything of the tree, or the circumstances connected with its removal. I thought this incident peculiar, and wondered how the ghost of a tree could be sensed as an existent thing on the atmosphere. Since then I have learned that the spiritual embodiment of the tree had as much right to exist as our own spiritual body. Several incidents of the same kind have taken place since that time, and I conclude that nothing exists matter ally but has a spiritual counterpart.—New Age.

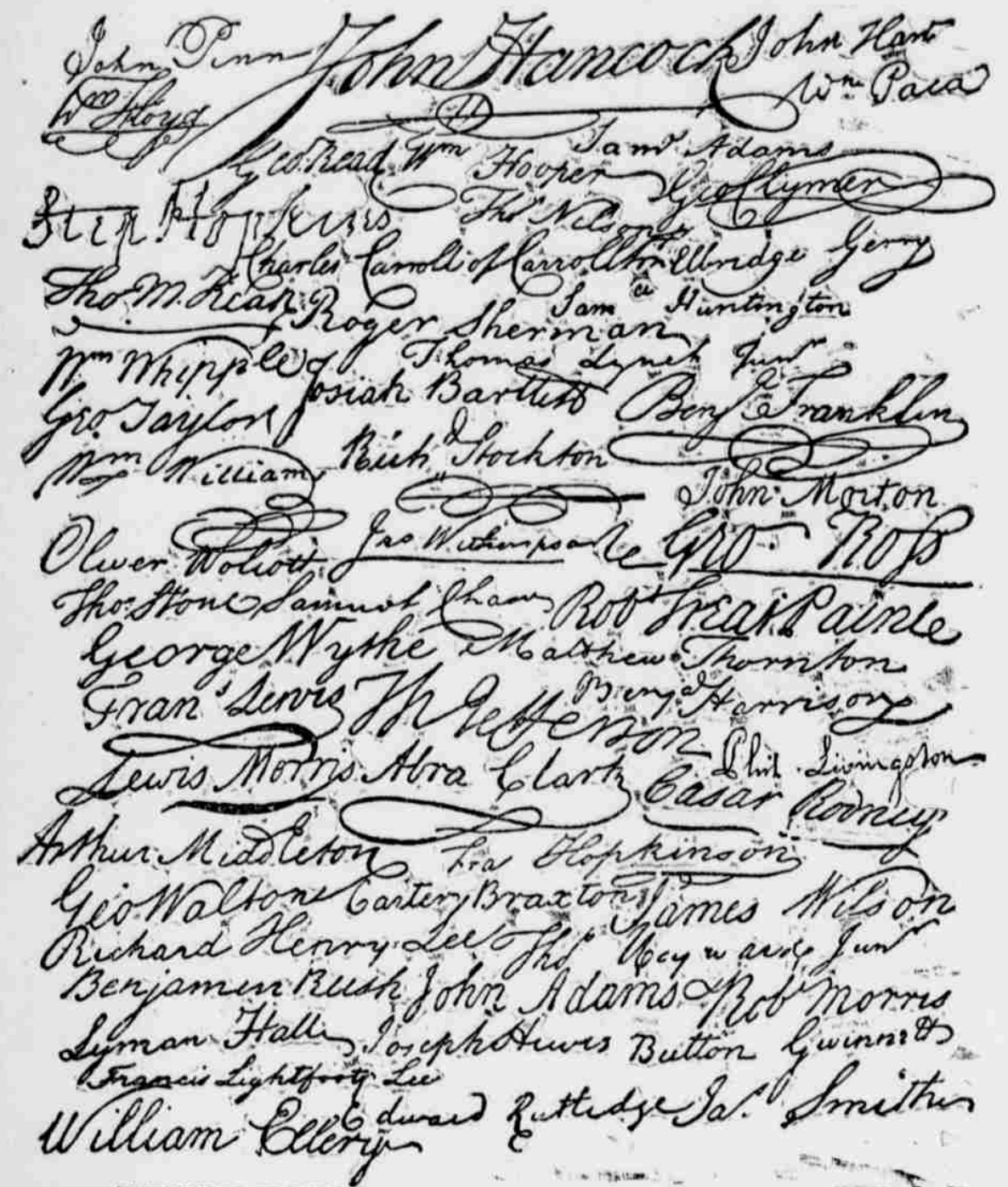
A Provoking Fellow.

Clara—What's the matter, dear?  
Dora—It's too much to bear. Mr. Faintheart hasn't proposed yet.  
Clara—But you told me you wouldn't marry him.  
Dora—Of course I wouldn't. But, after all the time I've wasted on him, I think he might at least give me a chance to refuse him.—New York Weekly.

And Was Speedily Shorn.

"You used to do a little trading on 'Change, didn't you, Higgs?"  
"Yes."  
"Were you a bull or a bear?"  
"Neither, Blobs. I was a lamb."—Chicago Tribune.

Foreign papers say that the fastest speaker in the world among public men is Signor Grimaldi, the Italian Deputy. He can speak 203 words a minute with ease.



FAC SIMILES OF THE SIGNATURES TO THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

archive has become hardly more than a blank and wrinkled sheet of paper, solicited for its preservation has begun to be felt, and at last it is cared for as it should have been cared for years ago.

It was my privilege some time since—a privilege then accorded to few, and now, under the strictest prohibition accorded to none—to see and touch this precious document, says a writer in the Detroit Free Press. It is kept locked up in a steel safe in the library of the Department of State. It is spread out flat in a mahogany portfolio, made to slide in and out of the safe, and over it is a sheet of thick paper and a plate of glass. It is now never exposed to the light, and is as little exposed to the air as is possible without placing it in a vessel from which the atmosphere has been exhausted.

The document is a single sheet of parchment, thirty-six inches long and and thirty-two inches wide, and bears no scrolls or decorations such as are seen upon many of the copies that are so common. The body of the writing having been evenly and clearly written when the instrument was engrossed, is still, even, though badly faded, and can hardly be made out, but the signatures, which were written perhaps with a different ink and another pen, are faded and beyond recognition, many of them being wholly gone, and others partly so. The heavy stroke of the pen in the J of John Hancock's bold autograph is still visible, but that is the only line that is distinct.

The history of the origin of this great State paper is well known to most Americans, but is always interesting. The story of the varied and disastrous fortunes of the document itself during the past 118 years is less known, and is here told. On the 26th of June, 1776, a committee, of which Thomas Jefferson was Chairman, was appointed by the Continental Congress, then sitting at Philadelphia, to draft a declaration setting forth the reasons why the thirteen colonies should become independent of England. Jefferson was requested by the other members of the committee to prepare the draft, and this draft when presented was at once approved by a majority of the committee, a few verbal alterations only being suggested. On July 2d a copy of this draft was laid before Congress, and, after a hot debate of three days, a

brick building, and not fire-proof, Daniel Webster, Secretary of State, addressed a letter to Henry L. Ellsworth, the Commissioner of Patents, and requested him to receive the Declaration and other valuable documents into his custody for safe keeping. This request was complied with, and for the next thirty-five years the Patent Office retained charge of the precious paper, but it was while there it suffered its greatest injury. It was hung up, exposed to public view, behind the glass in one end of a case of Patent Office models. At certain hours of the day the sun shone directly upon it, and, of necessity, it gradually faded. It is amazing almost beyond the power of belief that of the dozen Commissioners of Patents who had the custody of this document during those thirty-five years, not one of them saw that it was being ruined, and not one of them had the forethought to take it out of the sunlight and put it away in darkness. In England such treatment of an important State paper is unheard of. Magna Charta, the death warrant of Queen Mary and other archives in the British Museum four or five times as old as our Declaration of Independence, are still kept in a condition of perfect preservation.

In 1875 Congress voted up to the outrage that was being perpetrated and appointed a commission consisting of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution—Professor Joseph Henry—and Ainsworth R. Spofford, the Librarian of Congress, "to have resort to such means as will most effectually restore the writing of the original manuscript of the Declaration of Independence, with the signatures appended thereto." Experts were consulted by this commission, and finally the matter was referred to the National Academy of Sciences. It having become known that the great Declaration was fading away, the public became interested in the effort made for its restoration, and the public press urged the importance of prompt action, but years went by and nothing was done. The National Academy of Sciences reported to the commission that portions of the restoration was impossible. Meanwhile, in 1876 George W. Childs, of Philadelphia, and Frank M. Etting, in charge of the historical department of the Centennial Exposition, requested the Government to send the

graphic copy, reduced to about half its size, was made by the Government photolithographer. Later, a full sized copperplate engraving was prepared, and the copies printed from this plate are perfect fac-similes of the original. It is believed that in making this engraving the original was seriously damaged by a chemical application to restore the fainter lines; but it may be said that if this engraving had not been made there would not be an exact copy of this most important document in existence. A framed copy of this engraving may be seen in the library of the State Department, and, what is even more interesting in a frame beneath it, is shown Thomas Jefferson's original draft of the declaration, in his own handwriting and with all of his erasures and interlineations just as it left his hand.

The signing of the Declaration of Independence was a solemn act. The signers were subjects of King George, and their act was treason. If the King could have caught them he would have hung them every one, and this they knew; but according to the traditions that have come down to us, this knowledge did not deter certain of them from relieving the solemnity of the occasion with the natural flow of their wit and humor. The remarks attributed to them are not exactly authenticated by history, but they are too good not to be believed. It is said that when John Hancock affixed his bold autograph he remarked: "The Englishmen will have no difficulty in reading that;" when Franklin signed he said: "Now we must all hang together or we will hang separately;" and that Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, when asked why he wrote his place of residence, replied that there was another Charles Carroll and he didn't want them to hang the wrong man.

The most enthusiastic advocate of the great measure, and the one who led the debate in its support was John Adams, of Massachusetts, and when the Declaration was adopted he wrote to his wife: "This will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America; celebrated by descending generations as the great anniversary festival, commemorated by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty, solemnized with pomps, shows, games, sports, guns, bells, fires, and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other, from this time forward, forever."

# STREET FIGHT.

An Editorial Criticism Leads to Murder Oklahoma.

W. R. Patterson, register of the United States land office at South End, Okla., and City Marshal Williams, are dead, while J. L. Isenberg, editor of The Daily News, is badly wounded, the result of a street fight. Isenberg will recover. The cause of the tragedy is a criticism of Patterson written by Isenberg, in his paper. When Patterson read Isenberg's article he was so enraged that he started on a search for Editor Isenberg. The men met on the main street at 7 o'clock in the evening. A prelude of angry words was immediately followed by blows. Patterson finally flashed a revolver and began shooting. Several shots were fired before Isenberg could seek cover, one ball taking effect in the outer edge of the left eye and producing a painful wound. In the midst of the fracas Marshal Williams appeared upon the scene, when Patterson turned his gun upon him. His first shot caught Williams in the right breast, passing clear through the lung. Before Williams dropped he whipped out his revolver and fired at his would-be murderer. His bullet hit Patterson in the forehead killing him instantly. Williams died within an hour. Patterson leaves a widow and three little girls. Williams leaves a widow and one child.

Thirteen prominent citizens of Denver have been indicted for renting houses for immoral purposes.