Americas II hanksgiving II ymn

God of our Homelands and Harvests. Master of Loom and Mart. What the oblation we give Thee, born of a grateful heart? Though hunger still lurk in our household and war be rampant abroad Shall we raise not once our voices when the world gives thanks (O God?

The year is aging and palsied and tottering on to the tomb. Withered and feded the season, grown dark with autumnal gloom:

Through fields where the wheat waved golden, where harvest and sun lay warm,

Where the golden wheat lies garnered, where the laden ships go forth.

And Plenty joins hands with Freedom, and the South joins hands with the North?

The hand of Winter has loosened the leash of the howling storm.

Many have gone from our firesides, and others, perchance, shall leave, Abroad has our blood been given, for sons shall our mothers grieve; And the hands that would plant far distant the new-world flag of the free Still seek the hand of a thankless folk in islands beyond the sea.

But. God of Homeland and Harvest, of Forge, and Loom, and Mart, Ah. shall we not give oblation still out of our grateful heart.

Still, out of our sorrow, shall we not-nowise in childish glee-For ell of the blessings Thou givest, give our own poor thanks to Thee, Who watched where Caesar and Nineveh and Tyre their season reigned. Yet keeps the flag of the Stars and Stripes today, as of old, unstained?

JOHN ARBUTHNOTT.

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATIO

many years in "the remote wilderness"

It sounds rather strange in American

Famous Documents From the Time of the Pifgrim Fathers Down to the Present Day. Causes For Giving Thanks.

O REALIZE just what a long es- | contains no less than 24 big black erareally is one has only to turn over the musty leaves of a certain old book in the archive room of the secretary of in the archive room of the secretary of glous diseases, for protection during so state at Washington.

and yellow parchments, one of the most | us in the eyes and heart of our gracious interesting of which is a time faded sovereign lord and king." sheet covered with crooked characters in which is set forth an official proclamation beginning as follows:

"Whereas, the Lord our gracious God hath lately bestowed several publick mercies upon our dear native country,"

The date of this ragged little sheet is Sept. 20, 1654, and it is the order of the court setting apart a day of thanks. giving. That is in all probability the earliest Thanksgiving day of which this

country has any record. One does not again hear of a Thanksgiving day proclamation until 1661. The In the majority of the proclamations

documents they are-it is the king of fact, before the Declaration of Inde- mind. pendence there is a prayerful reference to King George and Queen Mary. But the change was soon to come. In 1776 the usual thanksgiving proclamation is very unequivocal in its expression of tablished institution Thankegiv- sures, arguing that it was written out | thankfulness for deliverance from kinging day in the United States amid much discussion and after great ly rule. After a long preamble the docdeliberation. It set apart July 19, 1661, ument of 1776, somewhat after the manner of the Declaration of Independence

"Especially that whilst British avarice openly and British tyranny vigor-In that strange volume are many dry and for the "favor that God hath given ously endeavors to wrest from us the free exercise of those rights which heaven alike bestowed on all mankind, and without which human life is less a ears today to hear of their forefathers favor than the grave, God has given thus praying for the health and salva- these States a just sense of their worth tion of their gracious lord and sover- and of the impossibility of resigning eign. Six years later there was an- those rights to man without the guilt other proclamation setting apart Nov. of rebellion against God, treason to the 5, 1667, as a day "of selemn and hum- present and treachery to all future gen-

ble thanksgiving unto Aimighty God" erations." and also invoking thanks for the pre-The proclamation then goes on to invention of the "common enemy of our voke thanks for the preservation of the habitations." There are also proclama- for the soldiers, reflecting, not without tions for 1669 and 1670. The issuance of its touch of quiet trony, the troublous such a document at this time seems to times through which the country was have become an established thing, and then passing. In those early Thanksin 1671 the proclamation begins, "The givings turkey gobbiers and guns must council of this commonwealth, consid- have been somewhat incongruously manuscript of this proclamation is still ering the many kindnesses of the Lord mixed up. Still this particular procla-in existence at the archive room, and toward His poor people of this colony" matter gives thanks to that Providence

which "enabled the armies to make issued by Governor Caleb Strong in such stands as have baffled the efforts of our inveterate foes and protected the frontiers from the sword and the wilderlesses and the seacoast from the depredations of an hostile fleet," and also compelled the enemy to vacate the capthanks for the blessings of the past ital and delivered the same from the "mortal distemper" which had visited it. There are a dozen signers to this of this time-and very solemn and staid paper, which refers again and again to circumstances and incidents of the war England who gets most of the space in of the Revolution, showing well what the document. Only three years, in was foremost in every man's heart and

The Book of Common Prayer, revised

'a form of prayer and thanksgiving to

Almighty God for the fruits of the

in 1789 for the use of the Protestant be spared "from further effusion of hu-

Episcopal church in America, directed man blood." In fact, taken as a whole,

earth and all the other blessings of His merciful providence, to be used yearly on the first Thursday in November, or on such other day as shall be appointed by the civil authority." All the thanksgiving proclamations issued by the different presidents of the republic are kept in the library of the state department in one of the large bookcases there. Each document is in a big brown envelope and is carefully filed away, a series for each year. The first official proclamation issued in this connection is dated Jan. I, 1795, and, in one sense of the word, this date might be called the birth year of the real American Thanksgiving day. This first locument is signed by George Washington and indorsed by Edward Randolph, his attorney general. There is a nation from infesting our coasts and commander in chief of the army and second proclamation by James Madison, after which the chief magistrates of this country appear to have forgotten the day, or else the proclamations establishing the same have been lost, for

the same time a noble proclamation proclamation of thanksgiving, and this, and copied them, and the language it- 2,400 years.

there is none until we come down to the

to making it windproof. It is said to the portrait will be hung among the and many of them."

ities of sudden and civil war."

others if donated to the academy.

of Sharon, Mo., has just completed the in constant dread of cyclones, and he written to President McKinley and Sec- library for the ship. The desire is to dren, all boys, and instead of construction of a four story brick desired to dren, all boys, and instead of construction of a four story brick designed his novel dwelling with a view retary Root, and received answer that have the subscriptions "in small sums

The people of Hartford, Conn., raised has made application to the court to names changed by the courts Mr. Four Miles of Bridgeport, Conn., discovered that there was no portrait of General Robert E. Lee among those on the United States of States is the youngest looking bishop of the but intends to hold most of it, awaiting stone and coment—the house walls being separated from those of the pit by at West Point of the former superin- Hartford, and now they are contrib- tion is frequently used to hold him up James S. Galloway of Hillsdale, Mich., | Ezra Wilkinson, an eccentric resident a four foot areaway. Wilkinson lives tendents of the Military academy, has uting more funds for the purchase of a to ridicule. His father had five chil- become of age.

which was dated July 15, like all of self is always a fine example quent and lofty English. Lincoln's documents, has a certain sin-President Harrison's first The day set apart for national thanksgiving, praise and prayer was Aug. 6. This proclamation, unlike all

cerity and solemnity about it.

which thanks were given to the gods for plentiful harvests. The appropriateness

did not seem to occur to the American mind until the year 1863, when President Lincoln issued a proclamation

calling attention to the fact of the

fields and healthful skies in the midst of civil war of unequaled magnitude and severity." The president then goes on to point out the blessings which have

befallen the United States, and sets forth the last Thursday in November, without naming the actual date, as "a

day of thanksgiving and praise to our

beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens." But during all that time the

shadow of war hung darkly over the land and the hearts of the people, and

even the president could not help referring again and again in his message of thank offering to those troubles

which lay so heavily on his own heart at the time. He fervently implores the interposition of Almighty God to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore

it as soon as might be consistent with

the divine purpose to the full enjoyment

of peace and harmony, tranquillity and

The third regular thanksgiving proc-

lamation was issued by Andrew John-

son on Oct. 28, and appointed the first

tional thanksgiving "to the Creator of

ances and blessings." This seems to be the latest Thanksgiving day ever cel-

ebrated in this country. The original

draft of this proclamation is written on

handwriting of Secretary Seward. It is

interesting to note the different changes, emendations and interpola-

tions made by the secretary of state.

Mr. Seward seems to have changed his mind several times during the framing

of the document, for the page is full

of scratches and erasures. The procla-

mation was finally made very short,

the original document scarcely filling

its one page. The secretary seems to have had trouble in starting the doc-

ument, which chanced to be the first

one after the war. He first begins with to save the," then changed the "save"

to "withhold from" and, finally making a third correction, put in "to re lieve the," but, scratching that out, he

makes a clean start again by rewriting, Whereas it has pleased Almighty God during the year which has now come to an end to relieve our beloved country in the great," but again he changed his mind and wrote "from the fearfu scourge of civil war and to vouchsafe to us the promise." Here again another change had to be made, changing the the last sentence to read, "and to per-

largement of civil liberty." It is also

to be noticed that Mr. Seward intended

inserting another sentence before the

word "blessings," but apparently wrote it so badly that the copying clerk in desperation left it out entirely. The

rest of the proclamation is made up of

a recommendation for prayer and

Johnson's second proclamation was

the first to name definitely a date, Thursday, Nov. 29, 1866, as a day of

thanks, but does not mention it as the

last Thursday in November, the day

The first official thanksgiving procla-

mation of President Grant was issued

Oct. 5, 1869, and is written on heavy

of this parchment and sets forth Nov. 18 as the national holiday. General

Grant seems to have followed a stereo-

typed form of expression in all of his

documents of this character, and most

A special Thanksgiving day was or-

dered in June, 1876, setting forth the fol-

anniversary of the independence of the

thank offering. In this proclamation

Grant says, "The founders of the gov-

ernment at its birth and in its feelings

invoked blessings and the protection

of the divine Providence to the 13 col-

onies, and the 3,000,000 have expanded

commanding a position which was then desired and for which fervent prayers

were then offered." In view of the ful-

fillment of those prayers the president

invites the good people of the United

States to celebrate the Fourth of July,

in addition to their usual observances

of the day, in such a manner and in

such a time as their respective localities

and religious associations make most

convenient, to mark the occasion by

some public, or religious, or devout thanksgiving to Almighty God for the

blessings which have been bestowed

'upon us as a nation during the cen-

tury of our existence and humbly to de-

vote the continuance of His favor and

The first proclamation issued by Pres-

ident Hayes covered four closely writ-

ten pages of large foolscap and is still

tied with a large white ribbon. The doc-

ument is most beautifully executed. All

four of this president's messages were

couched in conventional language,

The original copy of the first procla-

mation of President Arthur, issued Nov.

4, 1881, bears corrections in the hand-

writing of Mr. Blaine, with also a few

emendations by the president himself

markable on account of its brevity, for,

states, "In recognition of this custom

I, Chester A. Arthur, president of the

United States, do hereby designate as

such a day of general thanksgiving

Thursday, the twenty-seventh day of the present November." That, prac-

When we come to the regime of

President Grover Cleveland, we find

that the Thanksgiving day proclama-

His protection.

much alike.

ica had a great deal to be thankful for graceful and studied, and all were very

1862, when Lincoln broke silence with The last proclamation of Arthur is re-

pressions of thanks from his people for after a short introduction, it succinctly

people implore spiritual consolation in | tically, is the entire proclamation.

it us to secure the blessi

thanksgiving.

now observed.

of them, too, are brief.

in appearance, being types its predecessors, was written on a gilt ing of three rather bile edged sheet of parchment of unusual It was, at was also his ser size. Up to this time Nevember did not appear to be a popular time for thanksgiving, though, as is well known, Kinley's messages in this conn in classical times it had always been the autumn, and very fitly, too, in of holding such thank offering cere- that historical inter monies at the time when all the her- can bestow upon a do This year, instead vests and fruits had been gathered in

country "being blessed with fruitful be called upon to greater than ever Sam will not have to look far for s dences of the good will and love of divine Providence

cle Sam's flag. The it in the good old fashioned style, wh means that the dinner is the chief for ture of the jollification

The extra expense attached to the layout with which the ordinary ratio Thursday in December as a day of na- men themselves.

the universe for these great deliver- provident creature who to eat tomorrow enough for today. brations like Thanksgiving, Christone page of plain foolscap and is in the and Fourth of July unusual effort and saves something put into the common treasury for occasion. His comrades however, and if, as someti tributions are being taken up, he is n allowed to miss the feast, but may have his share charged up against him, be paid when convenient

One way by which the men save mor government is extremely liberal in t amount of food furnished, so that t circumstances. like Thanksgiving,

giving dinner on board an Ameri warship is well worth seeing. The de orations of the messroom and take would often do credit to a much mon pretentious assembly. the enamel cloth, such as is used for ordinary days, spotless linen is laif of the board, and if the ship is in port the celebration can be made very elaberal for in that case the men can buy ! borrow many ornaments to beautify

tables, and flowers can be had too. Enormous turkeys stand watch it each end of the tables at the beginning of the feast, but they become fearfully wounded early in the action, and the places are supplied later by relays \$ mince and pumpkin pies, "Spuds" parchment. It covers two large pages all sailors call potatoes, are pleaty a fording ample proof of Jack's trafftional fondness for this vegetable. Be sides tea and coffee, the only drink ! beer. The men are allowed to have this money to pay for it at the general canteen. At dinner time on simost any lowing Fourth of July, the centennial day a few of the men may be seen with

open bottles of beer before their place United States, as a day of national at the table. When an American ship is in a for eign port on Thanksgiving or o hollday, there is even greater enthre siasm than when at home, for the men are proud of their country and are ansious to show their love of their native into a nation of strength and power, land and its institutions before the for

EXCESS OF HOSPITALITY.

A popular Scotchman visiting this country says: "The one drawback to American hospitality is that it is ass to be too profuse. I have more than once had to offer a mild protest against being entertained by a hardworking brother journalist on a scale that would have befitted a millionaire. The poss bility of returning the complime kind affords the canny Scot but poor consolation. A dinner three times more lavish and expensive than you want not sweetened by the thought that pomay in turn give your host a dish three times more expensive and lavish than he wants. Both parties, on this system, suffer in indigestion and in pocket, while only Delmonico is the gainer. It seems to me, on the whole that in this country the millionaire too commonly allowed to fix the stable ard of expenditure. Society would not be less, but more agreeable if, instead of always emulating the spleaders Luculius, people now and then studied the art of Horatian frugality."

THANKSGIVING THURSDAY.

The fact that Thanksgiving day he nearly always been held on a Thursday is curious, but there seems to be b real explanation of the fact except the of custom. This Thursday threat might a thousand years or so ago bat been explained as some sort of step is ward propitiation to Thor the Thusden er, whose day it is, but the America holiday hardly runs back far enough admit of any such explanation

Authentic history and biography China embraces a period from the rewas written in a bold, clerical hand and orate. Even the manuscripts themselves 122 of our era back to the remote per signed by the president and Source of the period of of 2,697 years before Christ. The bi are, were most carefully ornamented torians of China embrace a success by the clerk or clerks who prepared of uninterrupted series of more

ABOUT MEN OF NOTE,

The Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Williams, who | has purchased the whole of Morgan dwelling for himself underground. The has been consecrated Episcopal bishop county, Ont., 3914 square miles, for the roof of the house is on a level with the coadjutor of Nebraska, is the son of a white pine fimber upon it. He could street, and the whole structure stands Presbyterian clergyman. It is said he cut nearly if not quite 100,000,000 feet, in an excavation 40 feet deep, lined with

have cost him \$20,000.

which he refers at some length to the

war which was at that time taking

place. This document prays "that our

national rulers and the government of

Great Britain may be influenced by a

spirit of moderation and justice and

that the people of both countries may

remember that they are descended from

the same ancestors and believe in the

same gospel of salvation and that all

obstructions to the establishment of an

equitable and lasting peace may be

removed." It further prays that God

may preserve the lives of the soldiers

and sailors, and asks that the country

the different proclamations of thanks-

giving issued in this country stand out

unique among state documents for their

Although the United States of Amer-

during those long years between the

date of Madison's thanksgiving procla-

mation and that of Lincoln, no pres-

cared to issue a proclamation for gen-

eral public thanksgiving until April 10,

his now historic message soliciting ex-

the blessings of the past. In this mes-

sage the president especially recom-

mended to the people "on their next

weekly assemblages in their accustom-

ed places of public worship that service

of thanks be made, and also that the

behalf of all who have been brought

into affliction by casualties and calam-

signed by the president and Secretary

Seward. One year later the president

was called upon to issue his second

solemn beauty and lofty tone.

them ordinary Christion names he ed them by the first five numerals. and Three Miles have already had the unique cognomen, and Five Miles cal not take a new name until he shall have