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CELEBRATION OF OUR NATIONAL BIRTH DAY.

The Fourth of July instant, being the eighty fourth anniversary of American Independence, was celebrated in Great Salt Lake City with the same zeal and patriotism that has ever been manifested by the people of Utah on similar occasions, whenever the circumstances that have surrounded them have not inhibited the observance of our nation's birth day in a public and appropriate manner.

So far as we were able to observe, the greatest harmony and unanimity of feeling prevailed among the thousands who were in attendance and participated in or were witnesses of the ceremonies and doings of the day; and good order prevailed and was observed without constraint or the interference of marshals or police—there being no rowdies, drunkards nor disorderly persons seen or heard at the Bowery during the exercises, neither in the streets through which the procession passed.

We are not much disposed to give lengthened details of such occurrences, nor to exhaust the English vocabulary in lauding our fellow beings or their acts, however meritorious; but on the present occasion, we consider it our duty to say that the Committee of Arrangements, Messrs. Burton, Cunningham, Staines, Caine and Sharp, who, unaided by any, officially, excepting by the presence of two or three policemen, superintended the entire arrangements, performed to the letter all that was expected of them by their especial friends, at the time they were appointed to that arduous duty.

A national salute was fired at sunrise at the Court House and at the City Hall, which was followed by music from Ballo's Brass Band, stationed near the residence of His Excellency Governor Cumming, a Quadrille Band near President Young's residence and Captain Huntington's Martial Band at the Court House, each of which, after playing several national, martial and other appropriate and favorite airs, proceeded through most of the principal streets, cheering the citizens with their music, which awakened memories of the past.

At nine o'clock, according to previous invitation, the civil officers of the Territory and County, the officers of Great Salt Lake City, and other gentlemen of distinction met the Committee of Arrangements at the Court House. From thence in carriages they proceeded to the residence of Governor Cumming and escorted him to the Bowery, near the Tabernacle, which had been prepared for the occasion, where a large concourse of people had assembled and were in waiting.

On the arrival of the escort at the Temple Block, a salute of fifteen guns, in honor of His Excellency the Governor was fired—Ballo's Band playing "Yankee Doodle."

A large and extensive platform, or stand, had been erected, on which were seated the Governor and Escort, the Orator of the day, Committee of Arrangements, and Presidents Young, Kimball and Wells, with many other distinguished and respected citizens.

All being seated, the "Star Spangled Banner" was played by the Brass Band; after which, prayer was offered by the chaplain, Elder Orson Pratt, followed by music from the Quadrille Band.

Governor Cumming then rose and said:

I do not arise to address the people, but to express my sympathies with the enthusiasm which they have manifested upon the return of this our national sabbath.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, the victims of religious and civil persecutions found an asylum upon the western shores of the Atlantic.

Eighty four years ago, a government was founded, which secured to every man the right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. That day sprang into existence the text book of liberty—the Declaration of Independence! On that day was established the foundation of that temple of civil and

religious liberty to which all may, and have been called to, worship at its altars.

Thirteen years ago, a band of weary pilgrims emerged from yonder mountain height, to seek a home in the wilderness—in the valleys of the mountains. It was indeed then a desert; to-day it blossoms as the rose, and may it be to you a perpetual inheritance.

His remarks were enthusiastically applauded, followed by a salute from the artillery.

John T. Caine, Esq., read the Declaration of Independence; followed by a salute of two guns and "Hail Columbia" by Ballo's band.

The Hon. Albert Carrington, Orator of the day then delivered the following

ORATION:

Fellow Citizens of a renowned and cherished Republic:

Deeply grateful for the choice blessings of civil and religious liberty still so beneficently guaranteed to us, we are assembled, with the tens of thousands throughout our Territory and the millions throughout our Union, to joyfully participate in celebrating this the eighty-fourth anniversary of our nation's independence.

It may be safely asserted that of all human governments ours embodies; and that too in the best form, by far the greatest number of those principles so wisely devised for developing, promoting, and increasing the welfare of the human family in their civil capacity. And, as this day's proceedings in Utah are made known abroad, every patriot within the extensive bounds of our great country, as also every lover of freedom throughout the world, will be cheered and encouraged in his arduous, though too often thankless and opposed, labors for the advancement of human rights. But most of all should our nation congratulate itself that here, in a region so forbidding to the many, amid lofty mountains and eternal snow, so large a number of her citizens have erected and are erecting their numerous, free, and happy fireside altars, wrung from the elements by most industrious toil; and are now mingling their voices and appropriate ceremonies with those of the North and South, the East and the West, in the heartfelt and enthusiastic celebration of this our national birthday.

On an occasion like this a somewhat detailed sketch of the past may be expected by some, and might be interesting and instructive to many; but this is a fast age, and one especially delighting in the briefest of brevity, a quality too commendable to be safely dispensed with. However, this safeguard against prolixity may not entirely preclude a broadly-sketched outline of a few prominent historic features, the retouching of which may the better enable us to realize the dear bought blessing of the present, and encourage us to labor with renewed energy for the perpetuity of our glorious institutions.

England, France, Holland, and Spain—enlightened and powerful nations—each expended many lives and much treasure in making discoveries and planting colonies upon the American continent. The efforts of Spain were chiefly directed to South America, and the southern and western portions of North America; France pushed her adventures across the Canadas and along the chain of the great lakes—diverging to the Ohio river at Pittsburg—then westerly from the lakes to the Mississippi, and along that river to Louisiana; while the Dutch and English chiefly confined their attention to the sea coast from Maine to Florida, gradually extending their settlements inland as their skill and increasing numbers enabled them by purchase and conquest to crowd the red man toward the setting sun. Our mother England has ever been characterized by a great fondness for making extensive land-claims, and her son Jonathan seems to have strongly inherited this family characteristic, the practical development of which by England soon wrested from Holland her settlements on the Hudson, Connecticut, and Delaware.

Meanwhile religious persecution, which we are pleased to say has never been pre-eminently intolerant in England, drove forth the Puritans and Huguenots to increase the New World's asylums from oppression at home, and to strengthen the hands of those struggling in a new field to extend the area of agriculture, commerce, science, and the arts.

As the French colonists gained strength, a plan was early formed for connecting the Canadas and Louisiana by a strong line of fortifications, with the design to confine the British colonists to the region east of the Ohio and Mississippi, and, if possible, to prevent their settling or trading west of the Alleghany mountains. This grasp was on entirely too large a scale to please England, beside drawing a fortified line across her oldest chartered grants, which extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific. These discordant designs produced what is called the old French war, which commenced in 1754 and terminated in 1760, resulting in the Canadas' becoming a British province. This war, for the prosecution of which the American colonies furnished disproportionate quotas of men and munitions, was a most excellent ordeal for the colonists, teaching them the power of union, training them in the use of arms before veteran troops, and giving them self-reliance and a measurably correct estimate of their capabilities.

As the colonies grew in importance, the Home Government, with a fatuity unaccountable by human reason, began to increase its burdens upon the colonists, to deny their

rights, and reject with contempt their loyally couched petitions for redress. The spirit of our Revolutionary fathers could no longer brook such cruel oppression, and, under the title of "United States of America," on the 4th of July, 1776, they promulgated the ever memorable "Declaration of Independence," in which usurpations through unwarrantable legislative jurisdiction were a great and just ground of complaint against the mother country. To her the colonists had ever clung with a yearning fondness; they had passed compassionately over her neglect, and thriven in spite of it; they had poured out their blood like water and expended their treasure with a liberal hand to widely extended her fame, power, and domain; for a long period they submissively remonstrated and petitioned against, while patiently enduring, unjust interference in matters solely pertaining to their internal policy; and yet England could not or would not discern that she had no right, as she also proved to have not the power, to bind with tyrannic chains the stalwart youth who had grown from infancy with but little aid from her fostering care.

These and many more facts connected with the pre-revolutionary history of our country are subjects of deep interest, are commended to your careful study, and most clearly manifest some of the dealings with the human family by that Being who controlleth the destiny of nations, who turneth the hearts of the children of men as the rivers are turned, who exalteth and abaseth kingdoms, and doeth all things in accordance with His own good pleasure.

Time and your familiarity with those events admonish not to yield to the flattering allurements to fight over again the battles of the Revolution, that long, arduous and noble struggle of freemen for their rights, the record of which is at times blazoned with brilliant success, and at times shrouded with almost impenetrable gloom; but through which, under that Providence which snapped its beginning and ever sustained them, that heroic band of true patriots battled on to the successful achievement of that independence whose blessings we this day so richly enjoy. From the opening skirmishes in Lexington and Concord, in April, 1775, to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, in October, 1781, which virtually closed the war, that noble band of Freedom's sons, amid sore privations and untold hardships, with true patriotism and unyielding perseverance jeopardized their all upon the altar of American liberty, and who in our day so recreant as to lightly esteem those sterling sacrifices?—or who can feel to withhold his aid for keeping the light upon that altar steadily burning to cheer and encourage the friends of humanity in every clime?

The labors of the patriots of the Revolution closed not with Great Britain's acknowledging the independence of the United States, on the 30th of November, 1782. Then, as since, there were not wanting many who, from various motives, caused serious dissensions in the body politic, so serious as at times to threaten the permanent establishment of those institutions which are the glory of our country and the pride of our race. But that Providence which had sustained the right in the conflict with England's power, still watched over the nation, and guided its councils.

Having noted the acknowledgment of our independence, it may prove beneficial to here remark that celebrated English writers have advocated the probability of our having remained colonies, had the mother country pursued a uniformly just and conciliatory course, refraining from meddling with our local officers, and with our internal policy, especially in the matter of "taxation without representation."

Some may imagine that our present constitution is coeval with the Declaration of Independence, or even dates back to the first assembling of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia on the 4th of September, 1774; but the powers exercised by that Congress and the "Articles of Confederation" agreed to on the 15th of November, 1777, proved inadequate for the successful conduct of governmental affairs, and as early as 1785 measures began to be agitated for conferring more power upon the general government. For this purpose delegates from the several States convened in Philadelphia in May, 1787, and on the 17th of September presented our present constitution to Congress. It was by that body submitted to the several States, and, after animated, lengthy and, at times, doubtful discussions, was finally accepted, and was appointed to take effect on the 4th of March, 1789. Under that our present constitution, George Washington, who has so truly and eloquently been pronounced "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," was elected President, and John Adams was elected Vice-President. From that period our nation has grown and flourished with unexampled rapidity and prosperity, welcoming the oppressed of every land, until our flag is known and honored in every sea, until our possessions extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific, embracing the choicest portion of this "land choice above all other lands," and the azure field of our national banner is bespangled with the starry emblems of thirty-three, in lieu of thirteen, free, independent, and United States of this powerful, peaceful and happy Republic.

Fascinating as are the pages of our earlier history, a cheerful compliance with the fitting requirements of the present occasion forbids further drafts upon their interesting and useful instructions, and prompts hastening to glance at subjects more immediately within the sphere of passing events.

As before remarked, there is no other coun-

try whose civil institutions can favorably compare with those of our own. Here are guaranteed the largest liberty and the most varied scope of acting consistent with correct public and private conduct, with a wisely devised system of laws to restrain oppression, prevent anarchy, and protect each and every, even the humblest citizen in his rights. Our land and our constitution, with their dearly purchased and highly prized blessings and privileges, are ours by inheritance and by every inalienable principle recognized by man; and we shall loyally cleave to and maintain them, as we have hitherto unshrinkingly done, until summoned from our labors here, when we will trustingly confide our bodies to this choice portion of mother earth whereon our efforts, however weak, have been expended for the promotion of the best welfare and prosperity of our nation.

With such feelings constantly actuating us in our public and private walks, it is impossible for us not to take a deep interest in the inception and progress of public affairs, and to watch with a jealous care and use every laudable effort to thwart or avert every plan or movement that threatens the integrity of our Union. But more or less in this Territory, as elsewhere, we do not as yet view all political questions in the same light, nor from the same stand point. Were this not the case, there probably would be little or no difficulty in understanding alike the usage which has generally prevailed in our government in relation to Territories. It is not altogether singular that the Revolutionary patriots, but recently freed from monarchical rule and meeting much formidable contrariety of opinion in regard to the solution of untried political problems, rested short of extending beyond the boundaries of States the full enjoyment of those rights so ably set forth in the Declaration and so clearly pervading the Constitution, and fastened upon the fellow citizens in the then north-west territory the chief of those odious governmental features which had incited themselves to revolt. But after long years of political experience, which should tend to break every oppressive yoke, and in direct opposition to fundamental truths set forth in the Declaration, established in the articles of Confederation, and re-established in the Constitution, it is passing strange that Congress persists in governing citizens in the Territories upon nearly the same plan as that pursued by England in her government of her American colonies. Territorial assemblies may pass laws, but Congress requires those laws to be submitted to them, and claims the power to disapprove them. The Territories are taxed, equally with the States, to fill the public coffers to the full extent of their use of imported articles and their purchases of public lands but when and how has their consent been obtained for such taxation? Governments are declared to derive "their just powers from the consent of the governed," but when have Territories had a voice in the election of our President? or a vote in the councils of our nation? The close parallel between the treatment of the mother country to her colonies, and that of our government to her Territories, might be drawn to a much greater length, but is not here in keeping; and we have merely alluded to a few facts to illustrate the aptness in weak humanity to mete to their fellows usages they themselves will not brook, and the indefensible position of those who disfranchise such citizens as cross certain boundaries within our common country, to reclaim and render populous and valuable otherwise useless public domain. Is this right? Is Congressional intervention in the domestic institutions of Territories politic and justifiable? If so, let the Constitution be at once amended, that consistency and even-handed justice may characterize our governmental acts throughout the length and breadth of our land, irrespective of creed or party.

Though on this day we bar political discussion, and would not knowingly make a single remark that might wound the feelings of a true patriot, still the sphere of propriety will doubtless permit the offering of a few suggestions upon some matters of general importance to our present and future prosperity.

Since population, so it be industrious, intelligent, and law-abiding, is the strength of a nation, and since population is alone sustained by the products derived from agricultural pursuits, why not magnanimously unite, and pass a liberal homestead law, and thereby prevent the too great monopoly of the public lands by speculators and classes who till not the soil, and encourage and aid the farmer with facilities enabling him to make our extensive wastes teem with abundance?

As settlements multiply and extend, there are increased requirements for more and better means for travel, for communicating information, and for the interchange of commodities, operations inseparably connected with the successful prosecution of trade and commerce, and the dissemination of knowledge. To meet these requirements the Indian trail has widened to the white man's road, pack animals have given way to vehicles, while in many localities the iron horse has distanced all competitors in the line of freight and travel, and messages flashed over telegraphic wires in turn laugh to scorn the slow progress made by steam. Then why not enlarge the circle and lengthen the lines of these great blessings?—In the east and west, and at every intermediate point, there is an anxious desire to share in the burdens and participate in the blessings of telegraphic and railroad communications across our continent. What hinders our Government from lending its powerful aid to speedily connect the telegraphic wires of Missouri and California, and at the same time be