

The Old Independence Bell and the Fourth of July

NO other single feature of the coming Independence day celebration at the great fair at St. Louis will be so enshrined in historical association as the old Liberty bell, which has been brought from its Philadelphia home to add dignity to the patriotic occasion. It bears with it its journey's an atmosphere of its own, a refining presence that subdues into temporary silence the most callous derider of things ancient.

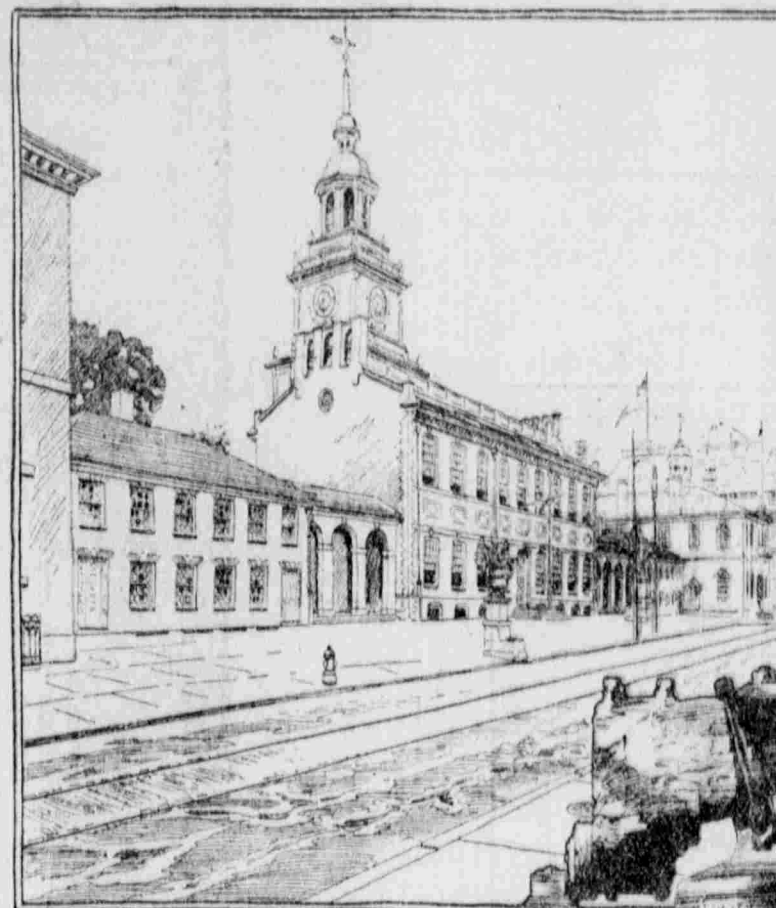
The warrant for its appearance at the exposition was drawn in the form of a monster petition signed by 50,000 children. It was a royal invitation, an earnest appeal from the unspoiled enthusiasm of the young to this patriarchal relic. As a people Americans have too few reminders of the past and make too little capital and too little ceremony of the things that make history so real to them. So it is probably a salutary thing that they are making a fetish of the old bell.

The recent journey to St. Louis was the bell's seventh since it left the statehouse steeple was not for the purpose of beginning a round of social exchanges like those which have marked its later career. That was the only occasion in its history when it left home to secure safety. It was after it had remained in undisturbed possession of its lofty quarters in the statehouse for twenty-six years. When it was known positively that the British army would occupy Philadelphia, in September, 1777, it was taken down and removed to Allentown for safety. When the enemy evacuated the City of Liberty, Love the bell was one of the earliest refugees to return.

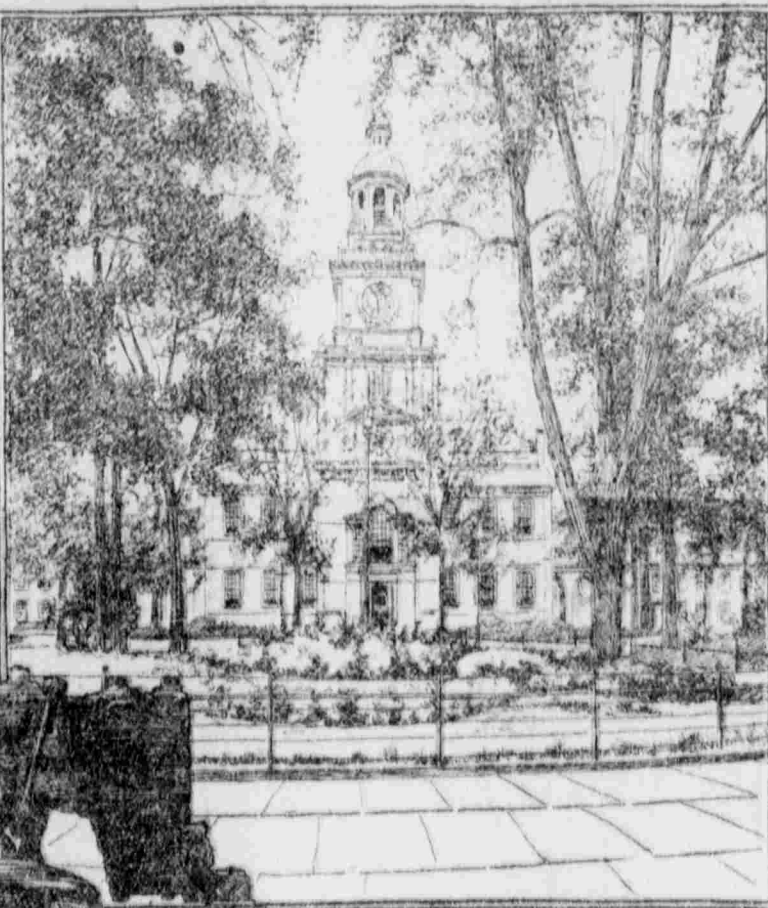
Old Liberty's other journeys were inspired by vastly different circumstances from those which made the last flight to Allentown a necessity. All of its other tours have been for exhibition purposes, and the most conspicuous and prodigious hospitality has been lavished on it. In 1835 it was taken to New Orleans to furnish the chief attraction for the great exposition there. It was Chicago's honored guest in 1855, and no distinguished visitor to the World's fair was the subject of more respectful consideration. In 1893 it went south again and exerted its beneficent influence at the Atlanta exposition. Seven years later it was made a central feature at the Charleston (S. C.) exposition.

In 1893 it was the observed of all observers at the Bunker Hill commemoration at Boston. Over a quarter of a century previous to the Allentown episode, while Pennsylvania was still a province conspicuous for its loyalty to George III., the august assembly legitimated that in future nothing less than the sonorous tones of a 2,000 pound bell should proclaim its hour of meeting. In 1751 the order was sent to a London founder, and in 1752 the bell arrived from England and was hung with much ceremony in the statehouse belfry. In April and again in June of the following year the bell cracked and was taken down and recast, both times by a Philadelphia founder. At the last recasting the famous inscription was added. Never was there a nobler or more appropriate sentiment for a law-making body's call to duty than was furnished by that extract from Leviticus xvi, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

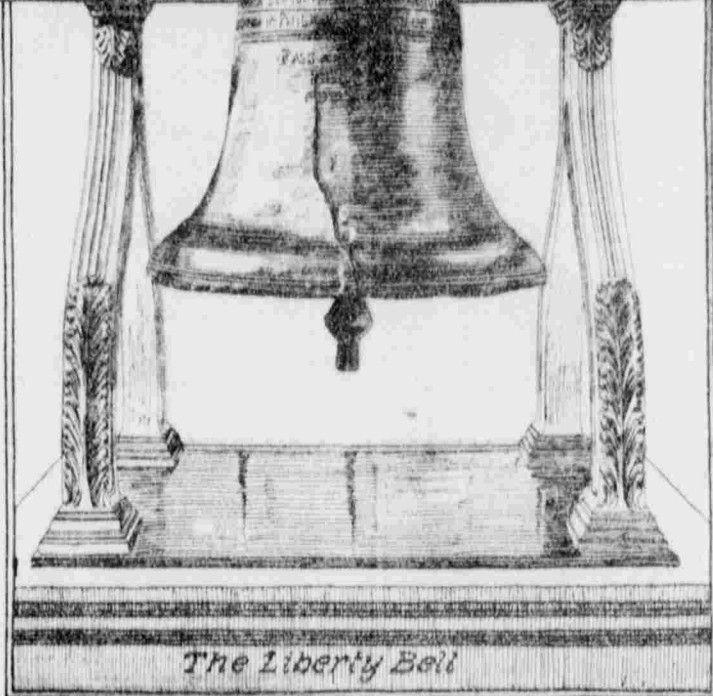
The weight of the bell after its last recasting was 2,080 pounds. The same metal was used, and in order to make the bell less brittle an ounce and a half of copper to the pound was added. The form and lettering on the original bell were preserved, with the substitution of the date of the recasting. The bell is twelve feet in circumference around the lip and seven feet six inches around the crown. It is three inches thick in the thickest part, near the lip, and an inch and a quarter in the



TWO VIEWS OF



INDEPENDENCE HALL.



The Liberty Bell

thinnest part, near the crown. The length of the clapper is two feet two inches.

Until the time of the Declaration and even a little later the bell hung in a heavy wooden frame which was ordered by the assembly when the first casting arrived from England. The steeple was demolished in 1781, and the bell was hung in the tower below. The model of the bell was one cast in the reign of Henry III. in memory of Edward the Confessor which was hung in the clock tower of Westminster and was popularly known as "Great Tom." Old Liberty's part in the drama of the succeeding eighty years was as varied as it was conspicuous. For twenty-three years it continued to summon the serious minded legislators of Pennsylvania to their public duties. On many of these occasions its loud, insistent peals brought them together for the discussion of questions whose solution meant either the weal or woe of the infant colonies. It called them with a new emphasis on Sept. 12, 1774, when the messenger of the Massachusetts Bay colony arrived with the news that the agent of that colony in London had been notified to do his ut-

most to have the sugar act repealed and the passage of the stamp act prevented. Ten days later it rang even more significantly when the assembly decided to follow the example of its more venturesome compatriots. On Sept. 9, 1765, the bell summoned the assembly to consider a plan for a congress of the colonies. A fortnight afterward it rang out indignantly to give the legislative body an opportunity to protest against the imposition of the stamp act. On Oct. 5 of the same year the bell was muffled and tolled as the ship bearing the stamps came up the Delaware, and when the act went into operation the funeral tolling was repeated. On Feb. 4, 1775, the bell called the citizens together on the statehouse square to advocate union and to protest against the right of parliament to tax the colonies. On June 1, 1774, when the port of Boston was closed, the bell was again muffled and tolled. Two weeks afterward it called together another town meeting to pledge the city to the cause of liberty.

When news of the fight at Lexington reached Philadelphia the bell once more summoned the people to the statehouse square, and an exciting meeting was held. This was the most tragical moment of the bell's existence. On May 10, 1775, it ushered in the session of the Second congress. Events were preparing for the culminating glory, the actual baptism of the bell. On June 27, 1776, Richard Henry Lee offered his resolution for the independence of the colonies. On July 4, 1776, at noon, the supreme moment arrived. The bell, now Liberty bell indeed, proclaimed in its bravest and most convincing tones the independence of the colonies.

Thereafter the bell continued to peal out its messages to the citizens of the newborn republic. It had outlived its original purpose, but it found new duties to perform. After it had rung in the peace of April 16, 1783, it was used to proclaim the national anniversary, to usher in the new year, to welcome distinguished visitors and to toll requiems for the noted dead. For Lafayette, on his visit to the spot where the Declaration was signed, it rang out its heartiest welcome. On July 4, 1825, the fiftieth anniversary of independence, it pealed forth in commemoration of that event, and on the same day it tolled the deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.

After three-quarters of a century of service in the cause of liberty the old bell became silent. On July 6, 1835, while tolling the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, it cracked. As it had announced the birth of the republic, it was fitting that its last public duty should be to announce the passing of the man who was the survivor of the leaders of the Revolution and the signers of the Declaration.

ARTHUR G. WELDON.

WONDERFUL HUNGARIAN BOY VIOLIN VIRTUOSO.

Franz von Vecsey, who is to be heard in America next season, is a marvelous young violinist who has been delighting large and critical audiences in European cities. He is only ten years of age and has already acquired the manner and technique of a virtuoso. The little wonder is a native of Budapest and comes from a musical ancestry. His father is an excellent violinist, and



FRANZ VON VECSEY.

His mother is a well known Hungarian pianist. Franz has mastered the almost appalling difficulties which accompany the conquest of his instrument, and his technique is the wonder and admiration of all the virtuosos in Europe. But most astonishing of all is the understanding he manifests in regard to the works of the great composers. The critics are at a loss to understand how it is possible for so young a child to be able to interpret the compositions of the masters.

CAN'T FLY BACKWARD.

No bird can fly for any appreciable distance tail first. The nearest approach to such a movement is shown in the tumbler pigeon when that bird shows his wings forward and suddenly turning back his head, throws a somersault. But this is not true backward flight. When a bird wishes to reverse its motion it tilts its body laterally, as a railway carriage would be tilted in taking a curve, or increases the number of beats given by one wing as compared with the other or keeps one wing extended while the other is partially flexed.

Interesting Happenings of the World Illustrated With Pen and Pencil

PUSH BALL ON HORSEBACK.



The illustration conveys an excellent idea of the game of push ball played on horseback. Horses soon cease to be afraid of the active ball and in course of time seem to enjoy it as much as do their riders. A well trained horse will even throw the ball about with chest and knees, having become satisfied by repeated contact that the great sphere can do him no harm. The game has been adopted in most of the cavalry training schools and all well equipped riding academies prepared to teach it to their patrons.

CURRENT ART IN RUSSIA.



As an example of the war illustrations which are to be found in the most widely circulated Russian papers and magazines the cut is as suggestive as it is amusing. It professes to represent the flight of a troop of Japanese cavalry before the coming of a body of Cossacks. Since it is obviously not intended for a caricature, it either marks a disgraceful movement in Muscovite art or was intended to deceive. The Russian motif is not a being possessed of the discrimination, nor indeed of average intelligence. To him the ludicrous retreat of his country's enemies as well as the picture is not only as it should be, but as it could be by no means help being. Frank even brutal realism was the distinguishing feature of Vereschagin's art, but the illustrators of the Russian press have not followed in his footsteps. As a cartoon the drawing might have a certain success—outside of Russia.

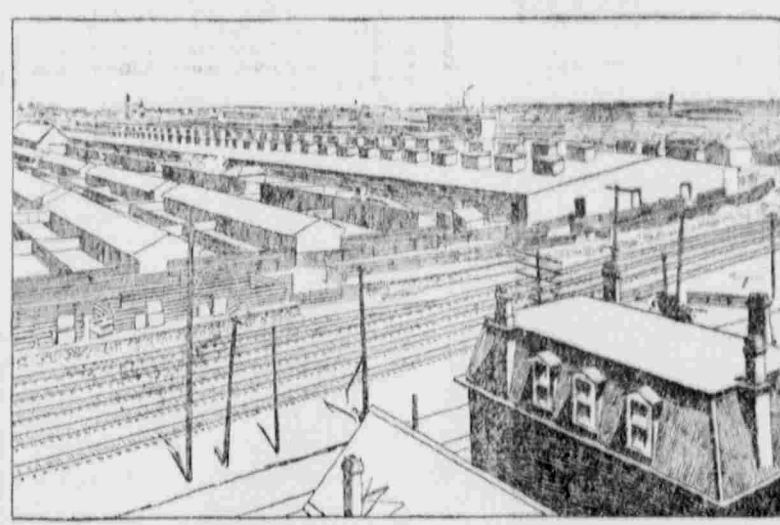
EBB AND FLOW OF EVENTS.

In certain Swiss cantons all dead persons, rich as well as poor, are buried at the public expense. Coffins and all funeral necessities are furnished by government undertakers.

Without going into the details of the crop in the various provinces of India, the average yield in buls of 400 pounds each for the last five years was 1,945, 344 bales; for 1902-03, 2,852,173 bales, and for 1903-04, 2,874,593 bales.

The Chinese are convinced that the plague is the work of demons. One way of getting even with them is to advance the date of New Year's by several days. This, they aver, confuses the demons and when they find out how they have been fooled they are ashamed and sink away with their plague.

GREATEST SHEEP HOUSE IN THE WORLD.



The new sheep house of the New York Central stockyards at East Buffalo is the largest building of the kind in the world. It will house comfortably and sanitarily 50,000 head of sheep, and its entire arrangement for the sorting of sheep is most perfect, being made on the plans of Superintendent Leigh of the stockyards, whose experience of over twenty years has made him an expert in that line of business. The building is substantially constructed in every particular, having a large water main running the entire length of the building—1,500 feet. It has a frontage of 232 feet, is electrically lighted and is the wonder and admiration of all who have seen it and who understand the handling and sale of sheep.

A FAMOUS CHURCH.

The little Norwegian church which is here represented is situated to the east of the Sogne fjord and is one of the most interesting buildings in Scandinavia. Like most of the old buildings in the Land of the Midnight Sun, it is made entirely of wood. The exact time of its erection is not known, but it is



believed to have been built some time in the eleventh century. In order to preserve it the exterior is kept painted continually with pitch. This, of course, adds greatly to its inflammability, and the greatest care must be exercised to guard against fire. Not long ago it was erroneously reported that this unique little structure had been destroyed.

A TIBETAN BABY.

The tiny native of Tibet herewith represented is more sensibly dressed than are its father and mother. The little hood with its grotesque suggestion of an infant Mephistopheles, is probably more comfortable than ornaments.



The short gown, however, with its long, wide sleeves, is almost attractive enough for a hint to American mothers. The shoes are modeled after those worn by adults and, being cork soled and wool lined, are both warm and dry.

A BORNU FRIENDLY.

This cut is a representation of one of the members of a tribe of friendly in the Blue Nile district which recently accompanied a punitive expedition against a notorious half Arab brigand. This lawless scoundrel, Ibrahim Wad Mah-mud by name, made up his mind to defy the Sudan authorities, and he succeeded in leading them a lively dance for several months. He pillaged and



devastated the native settlements and murdered or carried off the inhabitants. Finally an expedition was fitted out against him, the British acting in concert with the Abyssinians. The Bornu tribe, which had been one of the principal sufferers from the brigand's depredations, volunteered to join the party. It was more than three months before Mah-mud was captured. He escaped to the mountain fastnesses, and the services of the Bornu in effecting his capture were highly appreciated by the soldiers.

AUTHOR OF "THE SIMPLE LIFE."

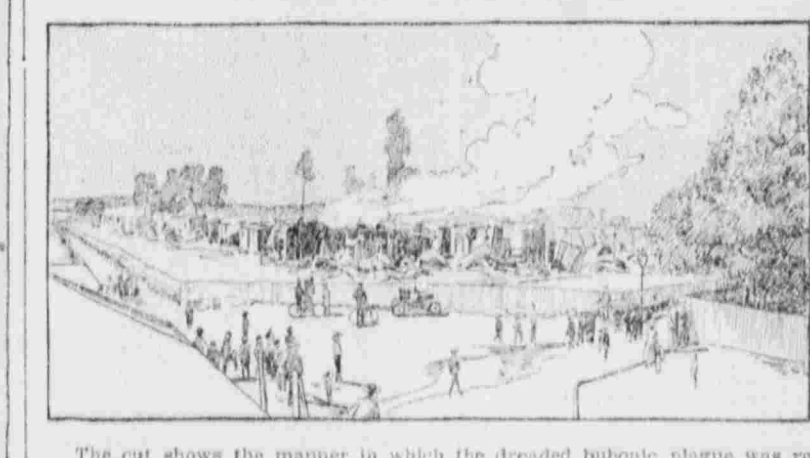
Rev. Charles Wagner, the French pastor whose books are having a remarkable popularity in this country, is a native of Alsace and was the son of poor peasants. At present he lives at Fontenay-sous-Bois, a suburb of Paris, and derives a large income from his



REV. CHARLES WAGNER.

books. He is also pastor of a prosperous congregation in the city and has received calls from many prominent Lutheran and Calvinistic parishes in France and Switzerland. Pastor Wagner is soon to visit America.

STAMPING OUT THE PLAGUE.



The cut shows the manner in which the dreaded bubonic plague was recently stamped out at Johannesburg, South Africa. As soon as the outbreak was discovered the infected district was fenced in with a tight corrugated iron stockade, and the inclosure was guarded by a detachment of infantry, which had orders to let no unauthorized person enter or leave. As fast as it could be done, all the people within the stockade were removed to quarters several miles outside the city. When every one had been taken out the place was burned to the ground. This prompt and radical treatment completely eradicated the pest, and now the city is without a single case.

from them omitted the noun and only reproduced the article. The Eskimo now have their own translation of the Bible, which has taken 150 years to complete. The Norwegian pastor Hans Egede, who went to Greenland in 1721, toward the close of his life began the work, which was completed and published by the Bible society of Denmark.

A recent attempt to reduce the daily hours of female factory workers at Freiburg, Germany, was opposed on the grounds that competition with Italy, Japan and China would not permit it. Enormous catches of mackerel have been made by the Malay fishing fleet off the west coast of Ireland. Tame snakes are used in Morocco to clear houses of rats and mice. The ribbon of the French Legion of Honor was recently bestowed by Admiral Duguere on a sailor who in connection with the lifeboat service had saved 348 lives in thirty-five years.