

THE CELEBRATION.

Yesterday morning the sun rose bright and glorious, as if to welcome, with his full splendor, the anniversary of Independence, and with the first gleam of his rays over the eastern mountains a salute of thirteen guns, was fired by a detachment of Major Ladd's artillery, and the stars and stripes were unfurled from the public buildings and many of the principal stores of the city; and from that time on there was every indication that the people, young and old, were alive to the business of the day, and were determined to celebrate the Fourth with becoming demonstrations.

At 8 o'clock a salute of three guns was fired, as a signal for the assembling of the children at their respective schoolhouses; and at 1/2 past 9, the civil officers met at the City Hall, whence they were escorted by the Committee of Arrangements to the Lion House, where the party were joined by Presidents Smith and Wells, and thence proceeded to the

NEW TABERNACLE,

Whither they had been preceded by the schools, numbering some 4,000 children, and a large concourse of citizens.

On the Stand were Presidents Young, Smith, and Wells, Elders Orson Pratt, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Geo. Q. Cannon, B. Young, junr., of the Quorum of the Twelve; the City Council, the Committee of Arrangements, Marshal of the Day and others.

At about 1/2 past 10 o'clock, the audience, numbering not less than ten thousand, was called to order by the Marshal, when the exercises commenced with "Hail Columbia," by Croxall's brass band, which was followed by the following National Hymn, words selected, music composed for the occasion by Professor G. Careless:

HYMN

For the Fourth of July.

WORDS SELECTED. MUSIC BY PROF. G. CARELESS.

Bless unto us this day, whose birth
First dawned upon that great decree,
Whose stirring words proclaimed us
free—

A sovereign people of the earth.
Bless thou our land! from east to west,
Make fruitful all the teeming soil:
Bless to the farmer all his toil:
Our harvests, Lord, O, make them blest!
Oh!

Bless thou our rulers! May they serve
With largest wisdom to fulfil
Thy holy cause with strength of will,
And power of brain, and iron nerve.
Bless thou the Union! May its cause
Be thine, O Lord, thro' good and ill;
Firm fixed upon the people's will,
And be sustained by righteous laws. Oh!
Prayer, by the Chaplain.
Music, by 10th Ward band.

Col. David McKenzie read the Declaration of Independence, when, after a salute of three guns, and "Yankee Doodle" by the Martial Band, the Orator of the Day, Hon. Geo. Q. Cannon, delivered the

ORATION.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—

Ninety-four years ago this day the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of their intentions, did, in the name and by the authority of the good people of the Colonies, solemnly publish and declare that the United Colonies were, and of right ought to be, FREE and INDEPENDENT STATES. Conscious of the justice of their cause, these heroic men pledged to each other their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to maintain this glorious declaration of freedom at all hazards. This was no idle pledge. Those who made it knew full well the terrible

consequences which awaited them in case of failure. It was an easy matter to declare the colonies free and independent; but it was not so easy a matter to maintain that Declaration. The power with which they had to contend was a nation in the plenitude of its strength, whose flag swept every sea and whose armies had gained the title of invincible on many a hard-fought field. It is eminently proper that we, who have so large an interest in liberty and have suffered so much for its sake, should assemble together, as we have on this occasion, to solemnize the anniversary of this day. We would not detract from the value which others may place upon this grand palladium of rights, which was the electric touch that thrilled all nations and awakened a latent but inexpressible yearning for freedom in the hearts of the slaves who dwelt under the shadows of despotism; but who can better appreciate the sublime courage, self-denial and the steadfast devotion to liberty of the men of '76 than the people of this Territory? or who, in view of present events, ought to feel more grateful to the Almighty than they for that glorious manifesto in the signing and proclamation of which even the first Napoleon, skeptic as he was, had to acknowledge that "The finger of God was there?" To such a people the celebration of the Fourth of July is no hackneyed theme. It is consolatory and inspiring to listen to the stirring and courageous words of the men who made that day historic, to ponder upon their deeds and properly estimate the greatness of the sacrifices which they were willing to make to secure and perpetuate the freedom which we now enjoy. The examples of men who loved Liberty more than life, and who thought that Freedom was a counter-balance for poverty, discord and war, can always be studied with profit by any people, and most of all by a people such as we.

There is nothing plainer in history than the fact that it was not for the gratification of ambition that the Revolutionary Fathers sought to dissolve their connection with the mother country. Up to a few months before the Declaration was made, the idea of political independence, when expressed, met with little favor even among many of the most ardent patriots. In the original bent of their minds was a strong attachment to the mother country, mingled with devoted loyalty to the government, under which they had been born and reared. No stronger proof of this can be given than the evidence of Franklin, himself one of the Revolutionary Patriots, before the British House of Commons. When asked, "what was the temper of America towards Great Britain a few years previously?" He replied, "The best in the world." The people "were led by a thread. They had not only a respect but an affection for Great Britain,—for its laws, its customs and manners—and even a fondness for its fashions, that greatly increased the commerce. Natives of Britain were always treated with particular regard; to be an Old England man was, of itself, a character of some respect, and gave a kind of rank among us." From this it will be seen that separation was a painful step, and involved consequences, from the contemplation of which they, in the beginning, shrank back appalled. But by the working of that providential law which overrules the errors and passions of men for the accomplishment of its grand designs, they were urged irresistibly forward to the great consummation involved in the Declaration.

Let us for a few moments consider the causes which led to this change of feeling, and we can do so with the more profit because there are many features in the history of those times which are paralleled by events in ours.

We have seen that only thirteen brief years had passed since the feelings of the Colonists towards Great Britain were, according to Franklin, "The best in the world." The mass of the people, proud of their political and social birthright, as children of the British Empire, maintained a loyal spirit and regarded "Old England" with filial reverence. But paramount to these feelings of loyalty and affection was their love of liberty. This was an intense feeling with the people of every colony; but especially so with the people of New England. One hundred and twenty-eight years after the discovery of America, and one hundred and fifty-six years before the Declaration of Independence, their fathers fled from oppression and became exiles for religion. Previous to their leaving the cabin of the

Mayflower they formed themselves into a body politic by a solemn voluntary compact. Being equal in rank as in rights and bound by no code but that of religion or the public will, they instituted government on the basis of equal laws for the general good. That compact has been regarded as the first instrument of civil government ever subscribed as the act of a whole people. It was democracy pure and simple.

"And can we deem it strange, That from their planting such a branch should bloom As nations envy?"

It followed as a necessary sequence that from such seeds the great truths should spring that all men are by nature equally free and have inherent rights; that religion can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence, and therefore all men are equally entitled to it according to the dictates of conscience. A people of such a parentage, entertaining such views, and breathing an atmosphere in which tyranny could not thrive, were ready to uphold and defend the theory of the British Constitution, not as rebels, but as free Englishmen standing up for the liberty which it guaranteed. They had rights and they were conscious that if they permitted those rights to be infringed upon, they but encouraged the growth and development of a despotic exercise of power hostile to liberty, and hence when encroachments were attempted by Britain, they were met with prompt and energetic protest, and, that failing, with armed resistance.

On the one hand the Colonists regarded their charters as solemn contracts between the Crown and themselves; on the other hand the minions of British power, repudiating this doctrine, declared the charters not contracts between two independent parties, but grants of powers and privileges from the King, which the people of the Provinces could claim only so long as the Sovereign chose to ratify them, and which he always had the power to annul,—a doctrine of tyrants all the world over, the enunciation of which is not confined to times earlier than our own.

Where such differences of opinion existed there were not wanting instruments to increase and misrepresent them, whose chief aim seemed to be to make the King, Lords and Commons totally "deaf to the voice of justice and consanguinity." The most active of these were the officers who had been sent out in various capacities to the colonies by the British Government. Their letters to the government and their friends gave a most unfavorable picture of the state of affairs amongst the patriots, the temper of the people and especially of their leaders, whom they accused of making up, by their audacity and turbulence, for their want of respectability and influence. These men were determined to rule or ruin. They urged the necessity of the most coercive measures, and also that a change of Constitution and system of Government should be made; and they even went so far as to suggest the carrying of popular leaders from the Provinces to England for trial. Our experience enables us to understand what effect such letters as these would have upon a King and Parliament, already exasperated because of the firm stand which their subjects had taken in resisting the Stamp and other tax acts and in protesting against taxation without representation. The result was a public opinion was created unfavorable to America.

It was an easy matter after that for the ministry to push bills through Parliament, having for their object the complete subjugation of the colonies. Hardly a dissentient voice was lifted against the bill closing the port of Boston. This was the thin edge of the wedge which was to be mercilessly driven until, divided asunder, crushed and reduced to abject serfdom, the Americans should be brought helplessly prostrate to the feet of a tyrannical King. Another bill shortly followed which deprived the people of New England of almost every vestige of their ancient liberties. By this act the royal Governor was empowered to appoint all the civil authorities whatever, and these authorities were also to have the nomination of juries, functions which previously had been vested in the people themselves. Town meetings were also entirely prohibited, except for the purpose of electing representatives. Another act followed, designed, ostensibly, "for the more impartial administration of justice," which provided that the Governor might send any person indicted for murder, or any other capital offence,

to another colony or to Great Britain for trial. This was followed by the appointment of a Governor, who embodied within himself civil functions and the command of the King's troops.

Against all these acts of injustice America pleaded, remonstrated and petitioned in vain. The papers transmitted to England drew forth eulogiums from the elder Pitt, who found nothing to prefer to them in the celebrated writings of antiquity. It was obvious to him that all attempts to impose servitude upon the men who wrote and the bodies who adopted them would be vain and futile. The agents of the colonies also represented the actual condition of feeling and of affairs in America. A few British statesmen also warmly advocated the justice of their cause, and protested against the arbitrary measures of the King and his ministry, predicting that the Americans would not endure them; if they did, "they would no longer deserve the reputation of being descended from the loins of Englishmen." But all in vain. The feeling of the influential portion of the nation was expressed by the University of Oxford, when it addressed the King against the Americans as "a people who had forfeited their lives and fortunes to the justice of the State."

It was the will of Heaven that political connection or union between the two countries should be severed; and George the Third, and his bigoted, short-sighted advisers were as much the ministers of the Supreme Ruler of the world in effecting this object as Washington, the two Adamases, Jefferson, Franklin, Lee, or any of the other Revolutionary leaders.

The conflict came: an appeal to arms was made, and the Colonists carried out by their acts the principles and resolves which they had proclaimed in their Immortal Manifesto. God was with them, giving wisdom to them in council and valor in the field, raising them up friends and controlling and overruling circumstances for the accomplishment of His divine will in making them a nation of freemen. No one can read the history of the revolutionary war without being impressed with this fact. Raw, and undisciplined in the art and science of war, inspired by Heaven and the hope of liberty, the armies of the Republic ignominiously routed well trained troops, who on many fields and in many lands had established the most unquestionable character for bravery. The like success attended the efforts of the patriots on the ocean, which is the more remarkable that England, at that day, had acquired for herself the proud appellation of "Mistress of the Seas."

Upon the foundation they built; under the sheltering care of the Constitution they promulgated, whose divine inspiration is demonstrated by its thoroughly cosmopolitan and catholic character, their descendants have reared a superstructure which has been the admiration of all mankind. Among the chief glories of a true civilization are learning, art and science, and in these respects the United States occupy a front, if not the foremost, rank among the nations. There are four names; which, if they stood alone in art and science, would occupy such a proud pre-eminence as to gratify the most lofty ambition. I allude to Franklin, Fulton, Morse and Howe, for to America the world is indebted for the steamboat, electric telegraph and sewing machine, inventions which have done more for the improvement of the race than all tohers combined, excepting, always "the art preservative of all arts"—printing.

To these might be added a long list of illustrious names whose united labors, discoveries and inventions have conferred benefits unspeakable on universal man. But it is not only in the arts and sciences, in the improvements in agriculture, manufactures and commerce that America stands pre-eminent. She taught the nations the freedom and equality of man; she became their pioneer in great discoveries, and it was most fitting that from her bosom should come forth the new revelations of an ancient and long-lost faith. The circumstances and wants of the people, the age of the world and the progress which liberty had made, marked the beginning of the nineteenth century as a fitting time for Joseph Smith to be born, the chosen instrument to reveal the pure gospel in its fulness. All these developments in free government, in the arts and sciences and in pure religion were the natural outgrowth of the liberty secured to us by the Revolution. And in these things do we see the glories of the mere warriors of that eventful period eclipsed, for in the progress of the arts of peace and civilization there is joy without mourning, and benefit and blessing to all without exception.