



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

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CELEBRATION OF THE
4th JULY.

Impatient youth could not wait for the advent of the memorable 4th to commence its celebration, for hours before the 3d had glided into the ocean of the past, the usual sounds that are heard on mornings of the 4th were stirring the drowsy atmosphere of early night. The detonating of fire crackers, squibs and miniature "torpedoes," mingled with the louder reports of fire arms, and both were kept up probably all night. At sunrise the celebration proper began, according to programme, with a salute of one gun for each Territory, by the artillery, which was immediately followed by a display of "bunting," as the city threw its starry standards to the morning breeze. At 5 a.m. Captain Croxall's and Captain Parkman's brass bands, and Captain Beesley's martial band, treated the citizens to beautiful music, executed in a very excellent style, extending their favors to the principal parts of the city.

Later on and the whole city seemed moving around. The streets were lined with happy pleasure seekers; and pretty juveniles, tastefully attired, were speeding to their various school houses, to take their places in the ranks as members of Sunday, District or Select Schools, when boom! bang! went the artillery, as thirteen guns were fired, announcing that nine o'clock, the hour appointed for the assembling of the schools, had come. All were agog to see the procession of the schools, and a most interesting sight it was, as they filed along towards the Temple block, with banners and bannerets, flags and flagelets, plain, fancy, artistically painted and decorated, and bearing mottoes expressive of the faith, hopes, feelings and sentiments of the people of the various wards represented.

As they filed into the New Tabernacle and took their seats, the moving picture was intensely interesting. The thousands of beaming faces, ever changing, and sparkling with joy, life and buoyancy; the multitude of little national flags, fanning loyalty to and veneration for the dear old "Stars and Stripes;" the mixture of adult and childish animation, as teachers and scholars manifested their interest in the celebration in which they were active participants; and the banners and mottoes borne in and placed in conspicuous positions around the building, carried the mind away from the past and the present to the future in which these same little ones, mighty in their honesty, virtue, patriotism and union, may bear aloft the "Stars and Stripes," shape the destinies of millions, and carry liberty to groaning nations afar. We tried to make a copy of the mottoes, but the task was interminable. Such as these met the eye at every turn: "Love at Home." "Our God and our Country, we worship the first and defend the last;" "The Lord shall judge the people with equity—Equal Rights;" "The flowers of Utah—Virtue and Innocence;" borne by young ladies; "The Maidens of Utah; modesty and virtue are their adornments."

The stands were occupied by Presidents Young and Wells, Elder Orson Pratt, Chaplain of the day, Elder John Taylor who had been named as chaplain being north; Colonel F. H. Head, Orator; Governor Durkee, General Chetlain, Hon. Geo. A. Smith and Hon. Geo. Q. Cannon, Speakers on the occasion; Col. D. McKenzie, Reader of the Declaration; J. M. Hardie, Esq., Singer; The Committee of Arrangements, Gen. R. T. Barton, Isaac Groo, Esq., Col. S. W. Richards, Warren Hussey, Esq., Gen. A. L. Chetlain, Col. H. S. Beatie, and H. W. Naisbitt, Esq.; J. D. T. McAllister, Marshal; Hon. Wilford Woodruff, President Joseph Young, Sen., and President Daniel Spencer.

The front of the stand and the shafts supporting the canopy over it, were draped with the national flag; while the flowers and evergreens which de-

corated some of the school banners, added variety and beauty to the scene. The general stand gave seats to a large number of influential gentlemen, Captain Croxall's brass band having a position on the left and Captain Parkman's brass band with Captain Beesley's martial band, on the right of the principal stand.

Captain Croxall's band executed some music for the opening, and Marshal McAllister called the vast assemblage to order, when the exercises on the programme were commenced with "Hail Columbia," by Captain Croxall's band. The Chaplain prayed, and the Choir under the leadership of R. Sands, Esq., sang a song, written for the occasion by H. W. Naisbitt, Esq.

Col. D. McKenzie then read the Declaration of Independence, in an effective manner, with sonorous and distinct elocution, followed by music by Captain Parkman's band. The Marshal announced His Excellency, Governor Durkee, for a speech, who spoke as follows:

GOVERNOR DURKEE.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have seen it announced through the press that I would deliver an address here to-day. Let me disabuse your minds on this subject. A committee called upon me and requested me to make some remarks. I did not promise to do so, but I promised to be here, and I view it as a privilege to briefly utter a few of my sentiments. We have orators here prepared to enlighten you on the condition of the country, on the history of its past, and on other topics of interest suitable to the occasion. What I may desire to say is with regard to our Glorious Fourth of July, the anniversary of our nation's birth. You have just heard read the Declaration of Independence. It was a liberal war which followed it, a progressive element in the British people rising against the aristocratic idea. They threw off this tyranny and declared their independence. This was a great era in American history, in advancing civilization and in the cause of Christianity, for it delivered the masses and gave freedom of speech and of the press; and to the people the right to govern themselves, where they were capable of exercising such a right.

I do not wish to eulogize this government over all others. I believe it is the best, where the people are enlightened and prepared to sustain it. There may be other governments more despotic, better suited to the people where they prevail. Here the people are sovereigns. This is an idea that it would be well for all of us to fully comprehend: and we should understand the duties and responsibilities of sovereigns. To meet together once a year and have a celebration, and let that be all there would be of our citizenship, would amount to no more than to have a little religion which we kept in a band-box through the week and brought out on Sunday to air. (Applause.) We must study to understand our duties and responsibilities as sovereigns and as citizens; and as parts of the great machinery of government. We must have practical democracy in our lives. (Applause.) We must understand the objects and principles of government; and the object of government as we understand it, is to protect the rights of the people. King George would not do this. He practically said: "You must go to my mill, go to my church, and pay my tax." We believe in going to what church we please and in going to what mill we please. This is what is set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

The only necessity there is for government is because some would infringe upon the rights of others. If every man would do right there would be no need for civil government: God's government would govern us all. What is the principle of civil government? To restrain those people who will not govern themselves. Not to treat them cruelly, but to restrain them. The principles of government are to some people mysteries, when it is their very simplicity which troubles them. The way to make good government is to be kind, industrious, good citizens, and to respect the rights of others as we wish our own respected. We might have a republican government all over the world, and it would not be the form, it would be the administration of just principles that would make it a good government. In the immortal words just read, "We hold these truths self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed," and "that when-

ever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it."

There is a great mission for the people of the United States; there is a great and glorious mission assigned to us as American people. If we will discharge our duty by others faithfully, all the duties of our lives as good citizens, and honor the principles that have been committed to us, we may become the liberators of nations. It is a duty assigned us, and we should discharge it. We need not compare ourselves with the people of other countries. Great blessings have been bestowed upon us, great privileges conferred upon us; and if we will be true to those principles, we will exert an influence beneficial to ourselves, to the truth and to our country. I hope we will dedicate ourselves anew on this interesting occasion to the great principles of civil and religious liberty. Some say that political duties have nothing to do with religion; but we must faithfully perform every duty, religious, social and political, day by day, to act the part of good citizens; and we must be conscientious in the discharge of our duties, and consistent in our political conduct as well as in our religious.

Let us resolve to-day, in the sight of God our everlasting Father, to be more united in the cause of duty, of benevolence, of charity, of industry, and the maintenance of the principles of civil and religious liberty; and no matter who the man may be, whether Methodist, Baptist, Mormon, or anything else, who lives according to these principles, he is a true man; those who live them are true Saints and doers of the Almighty's will, and they have revelation, joy and peace.

I have spoken longer than I intended. I thank you for your attention. (Applause.)

This was followed by the "Star Spangled Banner," sung by Marshal McAllister, Capt. Croxall's band in chorus; after which, Col. F. H. Head, Orator of the day, delivered the following

ORATION.

Thousands of men yet dwell upon the earth, who were living on the 4th day of July, 1776; ninety-two years ago this day.

Less than the span of a single mortal life has passed away, since the sun rose upon the group of statesmen at Philadelphia—Independence Hall—who were affixing their names to that Declaration of Independence which has just been read in your hearing, and which announced to the nations, the birth of a new Empire.

I have often pictured to myself what must have been the thoughts and feelings of Hancock and his associates, as they signed that great historic document. They were Englishmen, one and all; born upon then English soil; English by prejudice and education; proud of the historic greatness of their mother land; glorying in her wealth of illustrious names and heroic memories; claiming as their own the words and works of Bacon and Milton and Shakspeare, the victories of Cressy and Agincourt, and the national traditions of a thousand years.

For them had Alfred laid the foundation of English greatness; for them had the Barons wrested the Magna Charta from a reluctant king at Runnymede; for them had Richard, the lion-hearted, made the Anglo Saxon name feared, even to the gates of Jerusalem; for them had Hampden and Cromwell taught crowned monarchs, that they were but the servants of the people; for them had Sidney perished, that religious freedom might not die; for them had Raleigh lived a chivalric life and died a knightly death; for their endowment, had been wrought that long series of providences by which, through means unseen by mortal men, incomprehensible to our weak, erring vision, God exalts His favored nations.

As they signed their Declaration of Independence, for them, all the historic past was blotted out. They relinquished their nationality; they became outlaws and aliens; anathemas were hurled upon them and prices set upon their lives; and this, that they might build up and bind together thirteen feeble, discordant struggling provinces, into an independent nation.

With what heroic perseverance they wrought out their faith, I need not recall. It is the brightest page in our national annals.

And so for nearly a century, have a grateful people, yearly commemorated this anniversary, yearly met together and with waving banners, and the sound of jubilant music, borne their testimony, that not in vain did our fathers put in pledge "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor." This observance is

most fitting and most just. The children come forth to learn, through what perils and trials the nation sought and won its right of life. The middle aged and the old, to indulge in mutual felicitations upon our national progress, and to discuss together the means to make such progress perpetual. The ladies to cheer by their gracious presence, to garland the scene with flowers, and to impress upon their children the value of that trust, soon to be confided to their charge. In no other nation or age, have women exercised so potential or so beneficent an influence as among ourselves. That man, who does not upon such occasions as this, and upon all suitable occasions, (and all occasions are suitable,) fervently give utterance to the time honored sentiment, "The ladies—God bless them" is but "fit for treason, stratagems and spoils."

Our American ladies are the queens of the world. Upon them have all the seasons showered their most beneficent and costly gifts. Winter has given to them the brilliancy and purity of its snows and ice; the spring, the beauty and freshness of its fields and flowers, and the summer, the genial warmth of their kind and loving hearts.

It was a custom among the ancients, to place in a seat at their tables, on occasions of great festivity, a skeleton, that in the midst of their revelry, when wit and wine had done their work, and bacchanals became as gods, they might be constantly reminded, that they were but mortal men. In like manner it may not be amiss for us when we to-day contemplate with pardonable pride, our national prosperity, to glance for a moment at the nation in its early and convulsive struggle for life.

Thirteen small colonies dotted the coast of the Atlantic. At scarcely any point were settlements more than 100 miles distant from the sea board. The entire population was less than the present population of the State of New York. The colonies were without credit, without a navy or foreign commerce, without that community of interests which springs from compact nationality. Jealous of each other and of foreign powers. They had won their independence through the aid of France and more because of their great distance from England, than because of their prowess in arms.

Each separate state aimed to be the head of the new confederacy. Each sought to shirk its proportion of the public burdens. Anarchy bade fair to take the place of law, and the hardly won nationality to be lost amid the strife of petty factions, ambitious for power.

Little was known of the real resources of the country—the great west was unexplored. The valley of the Mississippi was foreign soil and less known than the Alaska of to-day—Florida, also a foreign territory, was known but as the land where Ponce-de-Leon had sought in vain the fountain of perpetual youth. The infant nation, ignorant of its inherent wealth and elements of greatness, already in the eyes of foreign powers, was adding one other name to the long list of republics, whose obituaries fill so considerable a place in the pages of history. We may note very briefly some of the causes which saved us from that hereditary fate. First and most immediate in its effects was the labor of that Convention of statesmen who gave to the country our Federal Constitution, defining and guarding the rights of the States and the central authority, and as if by magic, infusing order and harmony into the complex machine of government. That Constitution has now stood well nigh every test to which it may be exposed, and still remains the sheet anchor of our hopes. You have recently seen how, rather than that one jot or tittle thereof should fail; before that a State should be allowed to renounce its allegiance to that Constitution, the whole people sprang to arms, and though every river in the land flowed onward to the sea, red with the costliest blood of the nation, and every household mourned a brother lost, yet not for an instant did the people falter or count the cost.

Another most potent agency for our national progress has been the education of the people. School houses and churches were dotted all over the land; upon the uttermost frontier the school-house stood beside the cabin of the pioneer; colleges rose in view of Indian villages and camps; the people, to an extent never before known, were trained to habits of independent thought. Educate thoroughly the people, and the republic is safe. A despotic government may be permanent, if its governing class be intelligent and sagacious, but the intelligence of the common people is the salvation of a republic.