

LIFE OF AMERICA'S MOST USEFUL CITIZEN EPITOMIZED

A NUTSHELL VIEW OF FRANKLIN'S CAREER

1706 (Jan. 17)—Born in Boston, a youngest son, and the 15th child of 17.

1716—Taken from school to help his candle-making father.

1718—Apprenticed to his brother James, a printer. "I was resolved I should not be bred to divinity, and my bookish inclinations determined my father to make me a printer."

1722—Began secret contributions in the "Courant," signing "Silence Do-good."

1723 (October)—Ran away to Philadelphia, where he became a journeyman printer.

1725-26—First visit to London, printing while there his "Liberty and Necessity."

1729—Set up business of his own (Philadelphia), buying the "Pennsylvania Gazette."

1730 (September 1)—Married Deborah Read, daughter of his landlord.

1731—Founded a debating society, "The Junto," and the Philadelphia library.

1732—Began "Poor Richard's Almanac." (Richard Saunders, Philomath.)

1734—Suggested organized fire companies, and municipal street lighting.

1736—Elected clerk of the Philadelphia Assembly.

1737—Made Postmaster of Philadelphia.

1742—Invented "an open stove for the better warming of rooms."

1743—Developed the American Philosophical Society out of "The Junto."

1748—Retired from business.

1749—Founded the Academy of Philadelphia, later the University of Pennsylvania.

1752—Discovered the identity of lightning and electricity, and invented the lightning-rod. "There are no bounds to the force man may raise and use in an electrical way."

1753—Made Deputy Postmaster-General of the colonies, elected to membership in the Royal Society (London), and given the Copley Medal.

1754—As Delegate from Pennsylvania to the Colonial Conference at Albany, brought forward the first coherent scheme for securing a permanent Federal Union of the thirteen colonies.

1756—Chosen Colonel of a regiment of volunteer militia of his own raising.

1757-62—Successful political mission to England.

1762—Given the degrees of LL. D. by Edinburgh and Oxford Universities.

1762—Introduced the yellow willow into this country.

1764-75—As Colonial Agent in England of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Georgia and New Jersey, opposed the passing of the Stamp Act, and assisted in its ultimate repeal.

1774—Dismissed by the Crown from his post of Deputy Postmaster-General.

1774 (December 19)—Death of Deborah (Read) Franklin.

1775 (May 5)—Welcomed home to Philadelphia.

1775—Elected a member of the Continental Congress.

1776—Served with Jefferson, Adams, Sherman and Livingstone on a committee to draw up the Declaration of Independence, and signed that document. "We must all hang together, or we shall all hang separately."

1776 December 21.—Landed in France.

1777—Issued (by authority of Congress) commissions to foreign naval officers.

1778 (February 6)—Obtained the Treaty of Agreement with France, under which that country was pledged to assist the colonies with men and money.

1782 (November 30)—With Jay and Adams, signed the preliminaries of the Treaty of Peace with Great Britain.

1783 (September 3)—The definitive treaty of peace (with England) signed in Paris.

1785 (September)—Sailed again for America.

1785-86-87—President of Pennsylvania.

1787—Delegate to the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia.

1788—Finished his "Autobiography." (First published in 1817.)

1789—Invented the "Armonica."

1790 (February 12)—Petitioned Congress to abolish the slave trade and emancipate all slaves held in this country.

1790 (April 17)—Died in Philadelphia, aged 84 years and 3 months.

His self-written epitaph (which, however, was never used):

The body of
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, Printer,

Its contents torn out, and stripped of its lettering and gilding, lies here, food for worms.

But the work shall not be lost; for it will, as he believed, appear once more in a new and more elegant edition, revised and corrected by the Author.

Benjamin Franklin, Scientist and Philosopher, Statesman and Diplomat, Man of Letters and Wit 1706-1790



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

"He was some five feet, nine inches tall, with fair complexion, gray eyes and a figure inclined to stoutness. In manner, speech and dress, he was at once plain and pleasing.

"An omnivorous reader, Defoe, Bunyan, Addison and Locke were his favorite authors. In spite of a busy life, he taught himself Spanish, Italian and French, in addition to his schoolmaster's Latin.

"He rarely went to church; he doubted the divinity of Jesus, but believed implicitly in God, and held that the most acceptable service we can render him is to do good to his other children."

HIS ADVICE TO THE WORLD

Time is money.
 Make haste slowly.
 Forewarned, forearmed.
 Little strokes fell great oaks.
 There are no gains without pains.
 He has paid dear for his whistle.
 Eat to live, and not live to eat.
 A good example is the best sermon.
 Three removes are as bad as a fire.
 One today is worth two tomorrows.
 God helps them that help themselves.
 Constant dropping wears away stones.
 Married in haste, repent at leisure.
 He that goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing.
 Fools make feasts and wise men eat them.
 God heals, and the doctor takes the fees.
 Keep thy shop and thy shop will keep thee.
 There never was a good war or a bad peace.
 It is hard for an empty bag to stand upright.
 When the well's dry we know the worth of water.
 Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time.
 In this world nothing is certain but death and taxes.
 Never leave that till tomorrow which you can do today.
 If you'd have a servant that you like, serve yourself.
 If you would have your business done, go! If not, send!
 Those have a short Lent who owe money to be paid at Easter.
 Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship.
 Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other.
 Idleness and pride tax with a heavier hand than kings and parliaments.
 Early to bed and early to rise,
 Makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.
 Vessels large may venture more.
 But little boats should keep near shore.

THE WORLD'S OPINION OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Franklin is the world's best type of good sense.—Professor Fisher.

Antiquity would have raised altars to his mighty genius.—Mirabeau.

He invented the lightning-rod, the hoax and the Republic.—H. de Balzac.

That crafty American is more than a match for all my Ministers.—George III.

Where is the master who could have instructed Franklin? Every great man is unique.—Emerson.

He snatched the thunderbolt from heaven, and the scepter from the hands of the tyrants.—Turgot.

This self-taught American is the most rational of all philosophers. He never loses sight of common sense.—Lord Jeffrey.

Franklin is one of that very small class of men who can be said to have added something of real value to the art of living.—Lecky.

Franklin, type of the age, of the movement of Locke and Rousseau; a philosopher, but philosophy with a religious element.—Martin.

He is one whom all Europe holds in high esteem for his knowledge and wisdom, ranking him with our Boyles and Newtons. He is an honor not to the English nation only, but to human nature.—Lord Chatham.

America has sent us many good things: gold, silver, sugar, tobacco and indigo, but you are the first philosopher, and, indeed, the first great man of letters, for whom we are beholden to her.—Hume.

The subject of this inquest conducted an advice factory in the shape of an almanac. His product was unusually good. His speciality was to advise everybody to get busy, keep busy, and save all he could.—G. A. Post.

A singular felicity of induction guided all his researches; by very small means he established very great truths. The style and matter of his publications are almost as worthy of admiration as the doctrines they contain. He has written equally for the uninitiated and the philosophers.—Davy.

It is quite certain that Franklin had a genius for putting things which made him almost independent of schools. In clearness, in precision of statement, in capacity to clear his current writing of all useless words, he was, I think, about the first among Americans to prove himself a master of art in language.—D. G. Mitchell ("Ik Marvel").

SIX YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Personal Recollections of Judge George H. Williams, No. IX—The Fourteenth Amendment: the Magna Charta of the United States

SECTION 1 of the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States is as follows:

All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States, nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Several propositions had been made in both houses of Congress containing in one form or another most of the ideas incorporated in this amendment, but the section as it now stands in the Constitution was reported from the committee on reconstruction, of which I was a member. I do not claim to be the author of this section, as has been stated, but I had as much to do with its preparation as any other member of the committee. I consider this section the most important and most valuable provision in the Constitution of the United States, so far as individuals are concerned.

According to the Dred Scott decision, the African race in this country and their descendants were not citizens, though they were free persons, nor were they entitled to any of the rights or privileges of a citizen of the United States. It was further held that a person might be the citizen of a state and not a citizen of the United States, but this section abrogates all these refined distinctions and makes every person born or naturalized in the United States a citizen of the United States and also a citizen of the state in which he resides. According to the above-named section, a man accused of a capital crime has a right to

be heard in a tribunal established by law before he is condemned; if he is charged with a crime involving his liberty he has a right to be heard before he is committed to prison; if it is proposed to take his property he has a right to have it judicially determined whether or not it shall be taken, and these rights are equally effective for the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the white and the black, and all classes and conditions of persons.

Magna Charta of the United States.

This section is the magna charta of the United States. It is no respecter of persons, but puts all alike under an equal protection of the laws. The making of this section a part of the Constitution of the United States, if our Civil War had produced no other result, would be some compensation for the losses of that war. There was a protracted discussion in Congress over this section, the chief objection being that it was an infringement upon the rights of the states. Another question raised was as to whether or not it made Indians citizens, and over this there was a long debate. Numerous amendments were prepared, intended to emasculate the section, but they were all voted down; the solid Democratic eleven voting for everything intended to weaken or defeat the section, but it was finally adopted as it now stands in the Constitution.

No question was before Congress in reconstruction times that elicited so much controversy and so much discussion as section 2 of the 14th amendment. Mr. Stevens opened the subject in the House on the 9th of December, 1865, by proposing that legal voters should be the basis of representation in Congress, and the matter was not finally disposed of until the 13th of June, 1866. Most of the intervening time was taken up by speeches, in which this subject was made the text for

a discussion which in amplitude and eloquence has never been excelled in Congress. Numerous propositions touching this question were made in the House, and also in the Senate, all of which were referred to the joint committee on reconstruction.

Basis of Representation.

On the 21st of January, 1867, said committee reported an amendment to the Constitution in which there was this proviso: "That whenever the elective franchise shall be denied or abridged in any state on account of race or color, the persons therein of such race or color shall be excluded from the basis of representation." There was a good deal of opposition to this among Republicans. Mr. Shellabarger, of Ohio; Mr. Pike, of Maine, and some others in the House made speeches against it, chief upon the ground that it recognized the right of a state to disfranchise some of its citizens. Notwithstanding this opposition, the report with the proviso included passed the House by a vote of 156 to 46. When it came over to the Senate, Mr. Sumner spoke against it in a speech that fills more than 40 columns of the Congressional Globe. The subject was debated at great length, but finally the report was rejected by the Senate, and the whole matter referred again to the committee on reconstruction.

Another report was made by that committee with some modifications, but not differing essentially from its first report. This opened again the flood-gate of debate in the Senate. Mr. Henderson, of Missouri, proposed a substitute conferring upon all persons the right of suffrage without dis-

franchisement of race and color, and made a long and able argument in support of his substitute, but it was rejected by a decisive vote. All sorts of amendments were proposed, some by Republicans and some by Democrats. One proposition was to make legal voters instead of population the basis of representation, and this was supported by Senator Sherman, Senator Howe and some others in the Senate, but the proposition was rejected by the Senate.

A Substitute That Passed.

Things were in somewhat of a muddled condition, when the following appears on page 291 of the Congressional Globe for 1865-6: "Mr. Williams—I beg to be excused for not yielding the floor. I move to strike out the second section and substitute these words."

I then offered my substitute, which I modified a day or two afterwards so that it would read:

"Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed; but whenever the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a state or members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to the male inhabitants of such state being 21 years of age and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the

number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens 21 years of age in such state."

This substitute was passed with great vehemence by Senators Johnson, Hendricks, Cowan, McDougal and others, but it went over to the House and was there passed without much debate by a vote of 139 to 23, and this substitute, as it was prepared and offered by me, now stands as section 2 in the 14th amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Removing Disabilities.

Section 3 of the 14th amendment as it was originally reported from the committee on reconstruction provided in substance that those who had voluntarily been in the Rebellion should be denied the right to vote for Representatives in Congress, Electors for President and Vice-President, until 1870. This restriction upon the elective franchise was objectionable, and did not meet the approval of many Republicans, myself among others. Consequently the committee made another report as a substitute for the first, in which the right to hold office was denied to those who had taken an official oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and had afterwards engaged in the Rebellion. The right to vote was unaffected by this section or any part of the 14th amendment. Said section also provided that Congress, by a two-thirds vote, might remove the disabilities herein specified.

These disabilities were soon after removed by Congress, and everybody who had been in the Rebellion excepting a few who refused to accept pardon, so far as political or civil rights were concerned, was put upon an equal footing with ev-

erybody who had been opposed to the Rebellion. This section, of course, encountered the unavailing opposition of the Democrats in Congress.

Section 4 of the amendment, which was intended to protect the public debt of the United States and prevent raids upon the Treasury for the payment of slaves emancipated, passed with very little opposition. The passage of this amendment was accompanied by a bill to the effect that whenever an insurrectionary state had adopted this amendment it should be restored to its representation in Congress. Tennessee accepted the amendment and thereupon was admitted to representation, but ten of the rebellious states, as I have heretofore stated, contemptuously rejected it, but after the Johnson governments were displaced by those organized under the reconstruction act of Congress it was adopted, and on July 28, 1868, the State Department declared that it had been duly ratified and was a part of the Constitution of the United States.

Sumner's Great Speech.

I have referred to the speech of Mr. Sumner, which occupied the greater part of two days in its delivery. It was a wonderful display of learning and rhetoric. Our own history, the history of Greece and Rome, and the history of modern Europe, especially France, were explored for arguments and illustrations, many of which seemed more ornamental than useful, the point to be proven being that colored people should have equal political and civil rights with white men in this country. Taken together, it was probably the greatest speech ever delivered by Mr. Sumner. His oration was as follows:

"The Roman, Cato, after declaring his belief in the immortality of the soul, added that if this were an error it was an error which he loved. And now, declaring my belief in liberty and equality as the God-given birthright of all men, let me say in the same spirit, if this be an error, it is an error which I love. If this be a fault, it is a fault which I shall

be slow to renounce; if this be an illusion, it is an illusion which I pray may wrap the world in its angelic forms."

GEORGE H. WILLIAMS

Brotherhood of Man.

Is there, for honest poverty,
 That hangs his head, and a' that?
 That hangs his head, and a' that?
 We dare be poor for a' that!
 For a' that, and a' that!
 Our toils obscure, and a' that!
 The rank is but the guinea-stamp,
 The man is the gowd for a' that!

What though on hamely fare we dine,
 Wear hoddin gray and a' that?
 Gie fools their silks, and knaves their w'
 A man's a man for a' that!
 For a' that, and a' that!
 Their tinsel show, and a' that!
 The honest man, though e'er sae poor,
 Is king o' men for a' that!

Ye see your briske, ca'd a' lord,
 What struts, and staves, and a' that!
 Though hundreds worship at his foot,
 He's but a coof for a' that!
 He's riband, star, and a' that!
 The man o' independent mind,
 He looks and laughs at a' that!

A king can make a belted knight,
 A marquis, duke, and a' that!
 But an honest man's aboon his might,
 Gude faith he mauna fa' that!
 For a' that, and a' that!
 His dignities, and a' that,
 Are higher ranks than a' that!

Then let us pray that come it may—
 As come it will for a' that!
 That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,
 May bear the gree, and a' that!
 For a' that, and a' that,
 It's comin' yet for a' that,
 That man to man, the world o'er,
 Shall brothers be for a' that!

—Robert Burns

Bank Book Luck.

Atchison Globe.
 Life would be all right if it wasn't for the disappointment that follows the balancing of one's bankbook.