# A HISTORIC JOURNEY

## CAESAR RODNEY'S GREAT HORSEBACK RIDE IN 1776.

**How the Declaration of Independence Was Saved by a Vote in the Session of the Provisional Congress in Philadelphia.**

It happened on that famous Fourth of July, 1776, the day on which the American colonies were declared free and independent states. If Caesar Rodney had not made his historic ride there might not have been any free America today.

The provisional congress was in session at Philadelphia, each of the thirteen colonies having representatives there. It was a great congress, and a momentous question was before the distinguished body. The great charter of our freedom had been written by Jefferson, and Benjamin Harrison, father and great-grandfather of presidents, had presented it to congress on Monday, July 1. What would the Continental congress do?

In order that our country should be free and independent the declaration must be adopted. This could be done if only the colonies were divided, and there were some good men who did not believe it best to take this step at this time. Four of the seven delegates of Pennsylvania were opposed to it, and, of the two Delaware delegates present, Thomas McKean was in favor of independence, but George Read was opposed to the measure. Caesar Rodney, the other member, was in the southern part of his state in the capacity of a brigadier general, organizing and drilling troops for the coming struggle.

Two of the opposing Pennsylvania delegates were persuaded to absent themselves, and thus the Keystone State would favor the declaration, but the vote of Caesar Rodney was necessary to carry the state of Delaware. A messenger was dispatched in hot haste to summon him to Philadelphia, and then for four days the "patriots of '76" talked and maneuvered to delay the final vote. On Thursday, July 4, congress was to vote on the momentous question.

On the afternoon of the 3d the messenger found Caesar Rodney in Sussex county, more than eighty miles from Philadelphia. General Rodney was at that time forty-six years old, with a tall, lean, worn figure, his face scarred by a cancer that was finally to cause his death. The brave patriot did not hesitate. "Saddle the black!" he commanded, and in ten minutes he had mounted his faithful steed and was galloping as if for life to the northward.

Eighty miles away from congress, which was waiting for him to declare the independence of the colonies. The thought caused him to drive his spurs deep into his horse's flanks and sent him flying along the long, dusty highway that stretched away toward the Quaker City. It was one of the great rides of history. That black steed bore the destinies of America, and his rider knew it, and there was neither halt nor delay.

The sun went down, and the stars came out one by one in the blue vault of heaven, and that solitary rider rushed on his way. All through the cool summer night Caesar Rodney kept up his reckless pace.

The stars faded out of the morning sky, and the sun came up red and fiery, the herald of a sultry day. And still Caesar Rodney kept on his way. He was yet many miles from Philadelphia. His horse was jaded, and he was travel worn and covered with dust, but the patriot did not slacken his rein. He must be there to vote for the independence of America. And he was there. All that hot, sweltering July day the delegates of the colonial congress were talking and voting in Independence hall. The session had begun. The president, John Hancock, was in the chair, and the clerk, John Dickinson, was calling the colonies one by one. Virginia had voted and Massachusetts and the great state of New York and the little state of Rhode Island, and now New Jersey was voting, and Caesar Rodney had not come.

Anxious and worried, Thomas McKean went out to the door of Independence hall. Would his friend and compatriot be too late? His face brightened as he heard the sound of hurrying hoof beats coming up Chestnut street. A foaming, panting steed dashed into the yard. Its dusty rider leaped to the ground. Booted and spurred and the dust of his long ride thick on his long flapped coat and iron gray hair, Caesar Rodney entered the hall of congress leaning on his friend McKean's arm.

He was just in time. The vote of Delaware was being called. George Read voted "Nay." "Aye!" called the clear voice of Thomas McKean. It was a tie. All eyes turned to Caesar Rodney. The famous rider cleared his throat, and many a patriot heart beat with pride as he declared in firm tone: "The voice of my constituents and of all sensible and honest men, I believe, is in favor of independence, and my own judgment concurs with them; therefore I vote for the Declaration."

And so Caesar Rodney by his famous ride and by his noble vote helped to settle the question of independence and insured the future celebrations of the Fourth of July.

### He Ate Often.

Doctor—You must take a quarter of an hour's walk before every meal. Stout Patient—But, doctor, you surely don't want me to walk all day long!—Fliegende Blatter.

# SIMON MAGUS.

**The Legend From Which Was Born the Story of Faust.**

Almost every renowned man of antiquity in the middle ages was believed to be attended by a spiritus familiaris and not a few were suspected of being in direct league with the devil. Probably the oldest legend of which the Faust legend is a continuous thread is that of Simon Magus, mentioned in the history of the apostles.

According to Justin, he was a native of Gitton, a village in Samaria. He was, no doubt, a man of great intellectual powers. He was the father of the school of the Gnostics. It is also reported of him that he could make himself invisible, that he could pass through flames unharmed, could transpose matter, make gold and exorcise demons—in fact, he laid claim to all these powers, and his name lived in the mouths of the people as a sort of demiurge through many centuries until some other miracle working personality took his place at the popular fireside. Unusual accomplishments, great erudition, were attributed to the supernatural influence and the general disposition to superstitious assumption was strengthened on the one hand by dogmatic affirmation on the part of the church of the existence of a personal Satan, with his numerous household, and, on the other hand, by incorporating the magic arts among the practical sciences, of which astrology and alchemy occupied no mean part.

# THE ODD LITTLE GECKO.

**A Queer Animal That Lives In Africa and Southern Europe.**

The gecko is an odd little creature. His name is seldom heard, and his form is seldom seen, for he lives in Africa and the southern countries of Europe.

This little gecko has so many strange ways and there is something so uncanny in his appearance that the people of the countries where he lives are rather afraid of him, believing his bite to be poisonous, although this is denied by naturalists.

He is a little creature, with a broad, flat head, like a snake, and a long body, with a narrow tail, with odd shaped bits of skin arranged like scallops along the sides of it. He has short legs and queer, catlike claws, which enable him to easily climb the old walls and rocks upon which he lives, catching the insects of various sorts which make his dinner.

He is a nocturnal animal, walking abroad at night and sleeping in the daytime. He moves with sudden rushes and without any noise whatever. His odd name was given him from the queer noise he makes, which is something like the noise you would make to start a horse with. The male gecko is of a gray color, so near the shade of the old walls and rocks among which he makes his home that he can barely be seen.

### Chinese Children.

The education of their children is a matter of no small interest to the affectionate Chinese mothers. They watch the little one from the day he is born, to note superstitious signs. Let him cry lustily, and he will live long, say the old grannies. If he teeths or walks too soon he will grow up unlovable in disposition. At first the little Chinese are not very attractive objects, presenting rather a scaly appearance, due to the custom of not washing them lest they catch cold. A month after his birth the boy's head is shaved. A great feast is prepared and celebrated, the child now receiving his "milk name." When he enters school his name is changed, as it is once more when he receives his degree.—Pilgrim.

Affection soothes, it hallows, elevates, subdues and bringeth down to earth its native heaven.—Lavion.



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LOST—Handkerchief with small pocketbook; please return to the Astorian office. Address "A."

### NOTICE FOR BIDS.

BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE office of the Columbia River Packers' Association for the construction of Eureka Cannery at Eagle Cliff. Plans and specifications can be seen at the Association office. Bids will be opened at 10 a. m., Saturday, February 10th. Right is reserved to reject any or all bids. Columbia River Packers Association.

CHIEF QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, Vancouver Barracks, Wash., February 5, 1906. Sealed proposals, in triplicate, will be received at this office until 11 o'clock a. m., February 26, 1906, and then publicly opened, for the construction at both Fort Columbia, Wash., and Ft. Stevens, Ore., of a building for shelter for search light trucks. Full information will be furnished on application to this office. Plans may also be seen at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, Portland, Oregon; Constructing Quartermaster, Fort Stevens, Oregon and Post Quartermaster, Fort Columbia, Wash. The U. S. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or any part thereof. Envelopes containing proposals should be indorsed: "Proposals for building for search light truck, Ft. Columbia (or Ft. Stevens)", and addressed to the Chief Quartermaster, Vancouver Barracks, Wash.

Chief Quartermaster's Office, Vancouver Barracks, Wash., January 25, 1906. Sealed proposals, in triplicate, will be received at this office until 11 o'clock a. m., February 24, 1906, and then publicly opened, for the construction, including plumbing and electric wiring, of quarters for two (2) N. C. Officers, at Fort Stevens, Ore. Full information will be furnished on application to this office. Plans may also be seen at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, Portland, Oregon, and at Fort Stevens, Ore. The U. S. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or any part thereof. Envelopes containing proposals should be indorsed "Proposals for Building at Fort Stevens" and addressed to the Chief Quartermaster, Vancouver Barracks, Wash

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