

# The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

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AND WASCO COUNTY.

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## Fourth of July Continued.

Americans, at Lexington, fired upon them; and thus my countrymen, was shed the first precious blood of the Revolution, a revolution replete with advantages not only to Americans in particular, but to humanity in general.

The effect on the country of the shedding of American blood at Lexington, was like an electrical shock. A cry of indignation and outrage rent the air. Volunteers from the country and from the city, flocked to Boston to aid their countrymen in distress. Then came the battle of Bunker Hill, and both sides knew that war, open and unrelenting, was inevitable. The Continental Congress, sitting at Philadelphia, appointed Gen. George Washington, of Virginia, Commander in Chief of the American armies. The appointment was an extremely judicious one, for Washington possessed bravery without rashness, had the highest order of intelligence, and a personal character commanding universal admiration and respect. Other ages and other nations may boast of their warriors, statesmen and patriots. Some may admire Alexander the Great, who, having afflicted on mankind the scourge of war for the sake of conquest; wept that he had not other worlds to conquer. Some may point to Caesar as the consummation of human greatness, but Caesar waged war to gratify his insatiable ambition, and to promote his personal aggrandizement. Some might consider the hero of Marengo and Austerlitz the foremost man of all the world, had not Napoleon plunged France into expensive and ruinous wars that he might trample underfoot the liberties of Europe. But Washington, actuated by motives pure, lofty and sublime, was filled with sentiments of unselfish loyalty and patriotism for his fellow countrymen, unparalleled in the annals of the world.

When victorious, as at Trenton, Princeton or at Yorktown, some Americans there were transported beyond the bounds of reason with joy. When in the dark valley of defeat, as at Germantown and Brandywine, others there were overwhelmed by despair; but the indomitable heart of George Washington, whether in victory or defeat, whether shocked by the treason of Arnold, or pierced with sorrow by the terrible sufferings of his troops at Valley Forge, was patient resolute and hopeful.

Surely he is the noblest man that ever lived in the tide of time, and of him with truth it was said, "First in peace, first in war, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

On the 2d day of July, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, moved that the congress of the United States, declare that these colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states. A committee was appointed to draft a declaration, consisting of the names of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. The declaration recommended by this committee was written by the immortal pen of the illustrious Jefferson. On the 4th day of July, 116 years ago, the continental congress, fellow citizens, performed its greatest and most important duty. The question before congress was, shall these states be free and independent? Shall the American people forever be blessed with the inestimable boon of liberty, or shall they sink into slavery and become the cringing serfs, of a powerful despotism, that would grind them into powder at the back of a foreign despot? The debate was long and protracted; at length the vote was taken, the result announced in awful silence, and grand old Independence bell rang out clear and loud, proclaiming liberty unto the world. Of a truth this day we commemorate is not a delusion and a snare, but a veritable reality, pregnant with everlasting benefits to mankind.

Years followed in which the half fed, half clad American soldiers, contended with the thoroughly equipped and appointed regulars of the British army. The days were cold and dark, and dreary. Washington, driven from New York, retreated with difficulty through New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Universal gloom enshrouded the nation and all seemed lost, irreparably lost; but in that

hour of darkness and despair light came from across the ocean. France the hereditary enemy of England, permeated with a love of liberty which the writings of Voltaire, Montesquieu, Diderot and Rousseau had aroused in her breast, and sympathizing with the Colonists, sent forces to our assistance, and the glorious memories of this day, ladies and gentlemen, would not be complete without the name of the pure and faithful friend of Washington, the Marquis De Lafayette. At length the British government, realizing that it would be folly to longer strive to conquer men, who, for their country, suffered in patience the horrors of war, and who, half shod, without a murmur, left on the frozen snow the bloody prints of their mangled feet, determined to abandon the further prosecution of the war, and accordingly, at Paris, in the year 1783, after eight years of hostility, a treaty was signed by the contending powers, recognizing the independence of the United States.

Peace having been established, the government of the United States was continued under the Articles of Federation; but this government, after years of lamentable failure, was found to be inadequate to cope with the exigencies of the times. The want of a strong and vigorously centralized national government was keenly felt. Under such favorable circumstances the constitutional convention met and framed a constitution, that from the first, received almost universal approval, and having been formally ratified by all the original thirteen states, our present government, with the inauguration of Washington, April 30th, 1789 entered upon a career of prosperity and glory, a career, let us hope, destined to eclipse the splendors of Greece and Rome, and to become the brightest star in the firmament of the modern world.

It has been the felicity of our beloved country to have had in the chair of the chief executive, Washington and Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, Jackson and Lincoln; it has been our happy lot that the spotless ermine of the judiciary dropped upon the shoulders of Marshall, Taney and Waite; the treasury department has been adorned by the genius of Hamilton, Gallatin and Chase; and in the hour of peril, Taylor and Scott, Grant, Sherman and Sheridan drew their swords to defend and preserve the nation.

The prosperity of the United States during the century of their existence is at once the source both of surprise and congratulation. The first census, that of 1790, showed a population of over 4,000,000 of souls; the last census, that of 1890, disclosed the fact that 65,000,000 of people rest content under the protection of the stars and stripes, and our glorious flag, instead of only thirteen stars, now sparkles with forty-four. But if we have prospered in the past, what must be our prosperity in the future. We should always remember ladies and gentlemen, that other nations and other empires have also achieved greatness, and yet have fallen "With hideous ruin and combustion," never to rise again. Egypt, Nineveh, and Carthage, Babylon, Persia and Rome, each attained to almost fabulous greatness; nevertheless, they have passed away, leaving nought but ruins to tell that once they existed. And shall this be our lot? Having reached the consummation of human greatness, will our country, "fall like a bright exhalation in the evening and no man see it more?"

It seems to me that there are influences, political, social, moral and religious, at work among us, experienced by no other nation, ancient or modern. But eternal vigilance being the price of liberty, we should always remember that our duty to preserve intact the declaration of independence and the constitution of the United States is as imperative, and almost as arduous as that of our fathers in resisting tyranny, even unto death.

The time has been when it was expedient to encourage unrestricted foreign immigration. Statistics, however, show that within the last twenty-five years the better class of immigration, namely that of France, Holland, Germany, England, Scotland and Ireland has been perceptibly diminished; while on the other hand immigration made up of the criminal and pauper classes of Russia, Italy, Poland and Hungary has greatly increased. But happily for the republic, this crying evil of the day can be remedied by timely and intelligent legislation.

Again our welfare is threatened by vast corporate powers, that aim only to enrich themselves at the expense of the people. The problem, how to deal with these powerful corporations, can be easily solved, if congress and the state legislatures preserve their honesty and integrity, and shrink from the odium of becoming the corrupt hirelings of monopolies and trusts.

The learned historian of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire points out, among others, two deadly influences; the one, that of granting citizenship unto every subject of the Emperor, thereby depriving Roman citizenship of its time honored distinction and its incentive to deeds of dignity and high exploit. The other, that of the corrupt use of money in purchasing offices of honor, trust and emolument. And, indeed, the venal and impious praetorian, who auctioned off the empire of Augustus to the highest bidder, was not a bigger scoundrel, traitor and villain than the lobbyist who bribes legislators, or the American citizen who barters away his birthright.

It has been said that the United States will fall in the twentieth century as Rome fell in the fourth. But there will be this difference, the enemies of Rome came from without, while those of the republic will come from within. To guard against domestic insurrection, and civil strife, we must have a wide diffusion of learning, and an abiding and enduring love for the Union. Thorough instructions as free as the air we breathe, not only in the rudimentary, but also in the higher branches of learning should and ought to be the heritage of the poor, as well as the privilege of the rich; for an active and vigorous youth manhood; a pure and gentle young womanhood, is molded and perfected by the genial influence of a broad and liberal education.

Lastly this glorious Union, brighter than diamonds, richer than gold, we must love more than ere Athenian loved the city of the "violet crown," or Roman the city of the seven hills. History and experience warn us to beware of local jealousies, and sectional strife. From the past we hear the pathetic voice of Demosthenes speaking fervently and eloquently, but without avail, to persuade Greece, weakened by civil war, to unite against the encroachments of the Macedonian despot. With us there should be no North, no South, no East, no West. Those who live under the sky of the sunny south, those who dwell on the shores of the great lakes, those who hear the incessant roarings of the Atlantic and the Pacific; and we who inhabit this region, where once rolled the Oregon, and heard no sound, save his own dashing; should all feel that we are bound together by an indissoluble Union of indestructible states. If we are actuated by motives such as these the republic will go on and on, until her mild and beneficent power shall extend from Greenland to Patagonia, and from ocean to ocean, aye shall circle the large circumference of the globe, and may the God of our fathers, who did comfort and sustain Washington the father, and Lincoln the savior, in the hour of tribulation and impending chaos, preserve the republic in the bloom of an eternal youth, till the consummation of ages, till time shall be no more.

It would be impossible, in the space at hand, to particularize every feature of the day. The music by The Dalles citizens band was first class. The choir singing likewise; and the event passed off pleasantly and agreeably to all. The fire-works being equal to any similar exhibit in the state undoubtedly, was a fitting termination of the festivities. The city was handsomely decorated and the citizens generally vied with one another in matters calculated to entertain the city guests.

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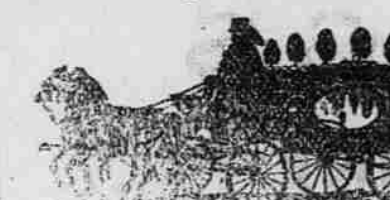
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