

THE CENTENNIAL.

The National Glory Will Center in New York April 30.

THREE DAYS OF REJOICING.

From Washington to Harrison—Why the Constitution Was Adopted—Race Elements of the New Republic—Washington's Triumphal March—Reception and Inauguration—A Century's Growth—Outline of Events on April 29 and 30 and May 1, 1889.

George Washington was the hero of the most successful and least destructive revolution recorded in history. His inauguration was the beginning of a new era, as well as the inception of a new government. Indeed, the chief novelty of the new government consisted not so much in its form, for that contained little that was new, but the vital application of principles admitted down to that time, but generally ignored. The declaration of radical principles by which the Dutch of the Sixteenth century justified their sanguinary struggle with Spain, and the system of political ethics professed by the English in their revolution of the Seventeenth century, received but little addition in the Declaration of Independence; but what the Dutch and the English could not do by reason of their old environment, the Americans, miraculously favored by a sparse population in an immense country, and the self reliance of pioneers, resolutely set themselves to make practical.

The beginning of the American republic now stands forth an era far more important than that of Magna Charta or the Petition of Rights. Its centennial will, therefore, be celebrated in New York city with all the enthusiasm of the first inauguration added to the confidence born of a hundred years' success. President Harrison will arrive by the same route as did President Washington. He will embark in like manner at Elizabethport, N. J., and pass thence on a government dispatch boat to the foot of Wall street, among the vessels of all nations, as Washington did; will be formally welcomed by the mayor and city officials, as Washington will be received with the same salute, and generally will observe the same routine.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL FATHERS. The annexed history of Washington's inauguration will, therefore, be a sort of advance programme of the ceremonies on the coming 30th of April. The preliminary sketch will, it is hoped, enable young readers to comprehend the peculiar difficulties confronting the first president, and in the discussions which preceded and the words in which the agreement to the charter of the national government was couched may be found the germs of our national policy and the divergences of our political parties.

It is conceded by all observers of that time that the constitution never would have obtained the sanction of the needed states had there not been a certainty in the public mind that Washington would be the first president and therefore give to its terms an executive construction which would be binding for all time. Washington was therefore in a peculiar sense the principal creator of the new government. But the cause for local jealousy which went so near to defeating his object may here be briefly and profitably reviewed. It should be borne in mind that the colonies were founded by men representing at least four great branches of the Caucasian stock and six distinct and somewhat unfriendly religious bodies. The Puritan, Dutch and Swedish Calvinists and Lutherans; the English Quakers, Catholics and Episcopalians; and lastly, the French Huguenots. The Irish of the early immigration were nearly all non-Celtic and Protestant, while the Palatine Germans who located in Pennsylvania and the valley of Virginia did not in any sense constitute an alien political party.

Necessity compelled some sort of union from the first, but it was self evident that no one of the local religious elements could prevail over all the others, and thus by a most fortunate accident there was from the first a complete divorce of church and state under the old government, while the anomaly was presented of a union of the two in some of the states till long after the adoption of the present purely secular national constitution. Jealousies inherent in the religions of the original stocks were very slowly eliminated, and those growing out of local interests in trade and navigation were most persistent of all. Hence the instincts of the people looked to a man of impartial temper to hold the balance of the constitution between state rights and centralization—between the south, the west and the east—between the interests of manufacturing, commerce and navigation. There was but one man in whom the confidence of the vast classes and sections centered, a native of the south, who had won his first great laurels in the north, and that man was George Washington.

THE FIRST ELECTION.

On the 21st of June, 1788, New Hampshire, the ninth state, ratified the constitution. On the 2d of July her formal notification of that fact was read in the Confederation congress, and after long and heated debate, that congress on the 13th of September resolved that the first Wednesday in January should be the day for appointing electors, the first Wednesday in February the day for them to vote, and the first Wednesday in March the time and New York, the then seat of congress, the place to commence proceedings under the new constitution.

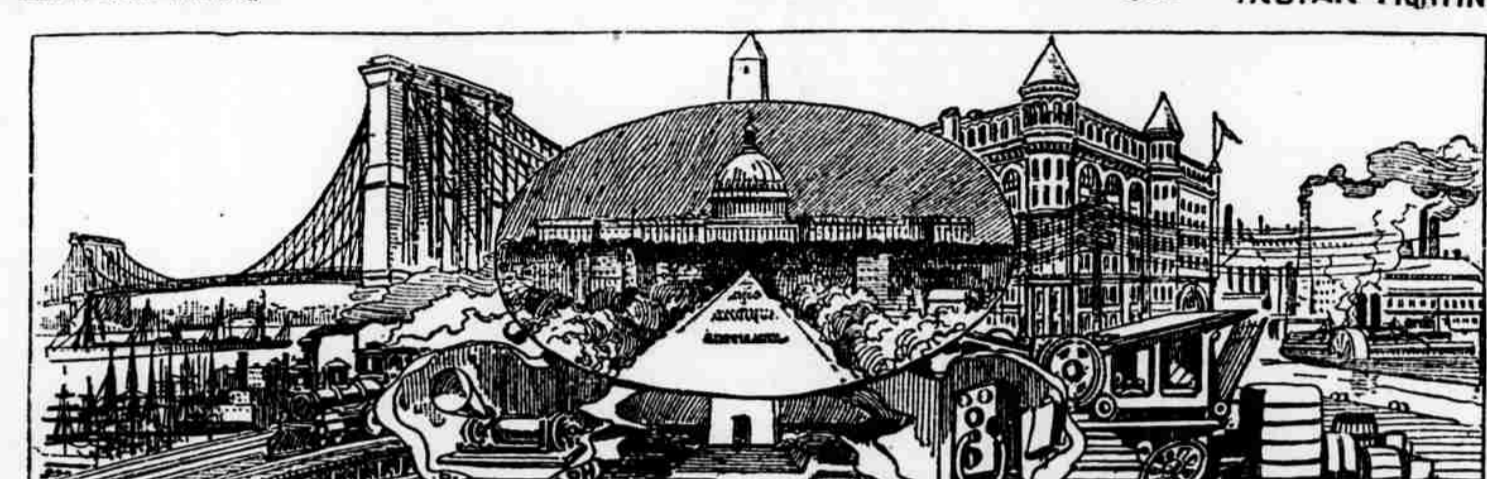
On the 4th of March but few delegates were present. On the 25th twenty-six representatives answered to their names, but thirty were necessary to a quorum, which was not



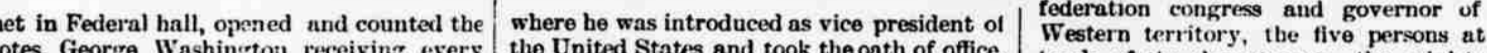
FRONT OF FEDERAL HALL, WALL STREET, 1779.

obtained until April 1. Fisher Ames says that the delegates were "composed of sober, solid old charter folk." On the 5th of April Richard Henry Lee arrived from Virginia and completed the quorum of the senate. On the 6th of April the two houses

PROGRESS OF 100 YEARS



EARLY GOLD MINING INDIAN FIGHTING



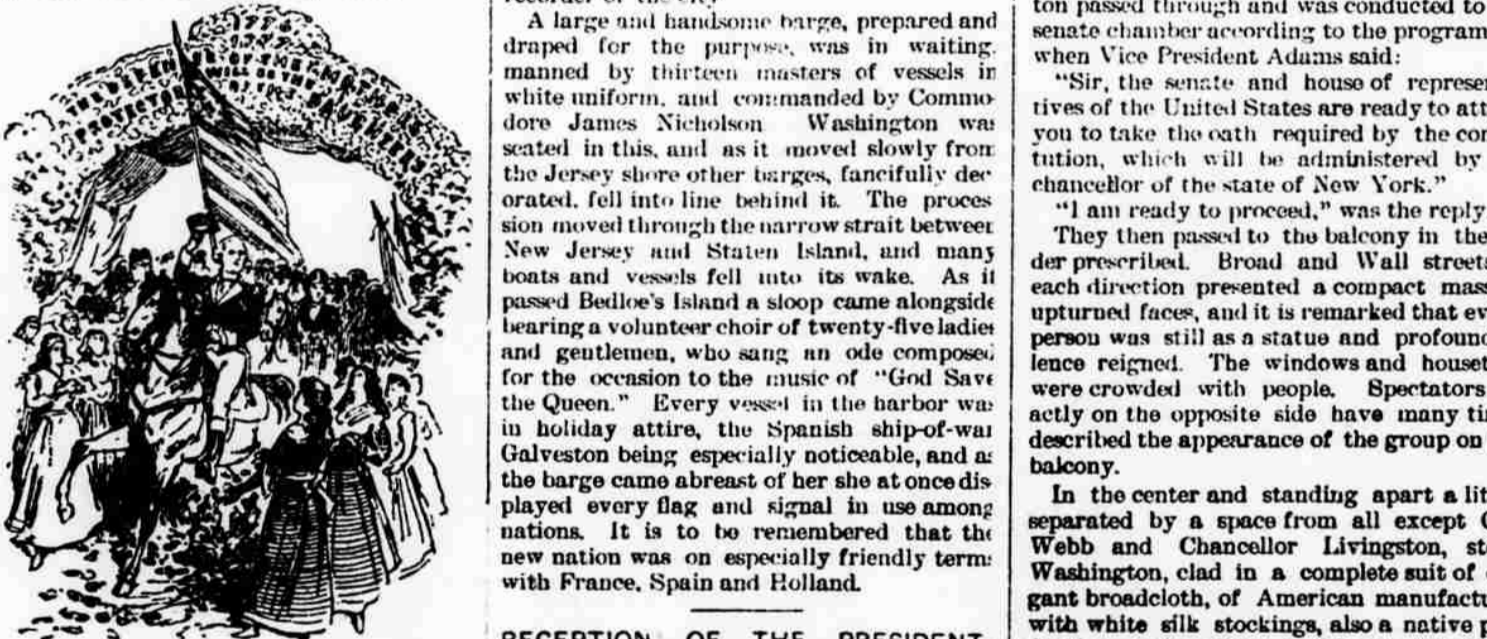
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met in Federal hall, opened and counted the votes, George Washington receiving every one for president and John Adams enough to elect him vice president. Charles Thompson, secretary of the Confederation congress, was immediately dispatched to Mount Vernon with the official notification to the president-elect, and Sylvanus Bourne sailed in a packet boat through Long Island sound on the 7th of April for Boston with the formal notice to John Adams.

Federal hall had been thoroughly refurbished and remodeled for the occasion. In front were four doric columns and a pediment, the cornices being arranged in thirteen squares, each of which contained a star, and over it was the American eagle and other insignia. Over it also were the arms of the United States with thirteen sculptured arrows, entwined in olive branches, all combining to give the imposing structure a truly national appearance. The chamber for the representatives was sixty-one feet long and fifty-eight broad, with an arched ceiling forty-six feet high in the center. The senate chamber was smaller and much more highly decorated. In the center of its arched ceiling of light blue was a sun and thirteen stars. Its fire places were lined by polished variegated American marble, and the president's chair was elevated three feet above the floor under a crimson canopy. Near it a large door opened southward upon the balcony where Washington took the oath of office. In these halls in the closing days of April, 1789, were assembled the really representative men of the United States.

ARRIVAL OF WASHINGTON.

Egbert Benson, from New York, Peter Muhlenberg, from Pennsylvania, and Samuel Griffin, from Virginia, were appointed a committee on the reception of the president, and they prepared the house of Mr. Osgood, lately occupied by the president of congress. The house stood in what is now Franklin square, at the corner of Cherry street.



WASHINGTON PASSING THROUGH TRENTON.

Washington had set out from Mount Vernon as soon as Secretary Thompson arrived, and his journey was one continuous triumphal procession. Cities, towns and villages turned out en masse. The road for many miles was lined with people from the adjacent country, manifesting their joy in many impulsive ways, by shouts, by laughter and by tears. Mothers who had trudged many miles held up their babes that they might say in after life that they had seen Washington. The sick and the aged were carried to the line and given prominent places at the windows. The veterans of the revolution and the new militia paraded everywhere. Guns were fired, triumphal arches were erected in the towns and stretched from tree to tree in the country. At Gray's Ferry, across the Schuylkill, the president-elect was escorted through a long avenue of laurels under a sort of arbor covered with laurel branches. As he passed the last arch a civic crown of laurels was ingeniously lowered upon his head from above, greatly to his surprise, and amid the deafening shouts of the multitude. At Trenton a magnificent triumphal arch had been erected. Above it was the date of his victory at that place in gold lettering with flowers twined about it, and as he passed under this thirteenth girls in white marched before him, sang a welcoming ode and scattered flowers in his pathway.

At the same time John Adams was approaching with somewhat less state from New England, and on the 20th of April he arrived in New York, escorted from the Connecticut line to Kingsbridge by the light horse of Westchester county, and from Kingsbridge into the city by all the city cavalry, commanded by Gen. Malcolm and Capt. Stokes, and followed by most of the members of congress and a large concourse of citizens. He lodged at the house of Hon. John Jay, and the next day was escorted to the senate chamber by Caleb Strong and Ralph Izard,

HIS PERSON AND CHARACTER.

Washington was at that time 57 years old, and as was stated by thousands who knew him intimately, had outgrown that awkwardness of movement which marked him all through his early life, and arrived at an attitude of most wonderful and kindly dignity. His figure was neither awkward nor stiff. He was six feet three inches high, splendidly proportioned, finely developed and straight. He had a long and muscular arm and a very large hand. His motions were somewhat slow, and his voice almost uniformly grave. His breeding, of course, was that of a gentleman. He was fond of society, enjoying the good things of life, and in the circle of his intimates he indulged in a quiet humor and was sensitive to the beauty of a good story.

After Washington's return to the senate chamber and delivery of the address, he, with both houses of congress and many others, proceeded on foot to St. Paul's chapel on Broadway, where divine service was performed by Bishop Provost, when the president was escorted to his own house. In the evening the city was illuminated in a style unparalleled in America, and a grand display of fireworks was given from the Battery and other foreigners. The theatre in John street was a blaze of light, the front covered with transparencies, one of which represented Fame like an angel descending from heaven to crown Washington with immortality. In Bowling Green were numerous transparencies representing Washington and the different branches of the new government presided over by Justice and Wisdom, Columbia, Liberty and many other characters.

It is reported that every house in the city was illuminated, the most brilliantly so being those of the French and Spanish ministers, who tried to outdo each other. All the doors and windows of the French minister's house were bordered with brilliant lamps shining upon numerous paintings representing the past and present of American history. Gathered about the door of the Spanish minister's house was a curiously elaborate group of the Graces, and in each window moved pictures arranged to pass before the eyes of the spectators so as to prevent the illusion of a panorama. One of the ships off the Battery arranged its rigging with lanterns so as to represent a pyramid of stars, and the display of fireworks under the direction of Col.

THE GLORIOUS DAY. The programme was fully carried out. A national salute ushered in the morning of the 30th of April. At 9 o'clock every bell in the city pealed for a few minutes, then in slow tones summoned the people to religious service, immediately after which the procession was formed in the following order:

- Col. Morgan Lewis, attended by two officers
Capt. Stokes, with the Troop of Horse Artillery
Maj. Van Horn
Grenadiers, under Capt. Harsin
German Grenadiers, very gayly attired, under Capt. Smith
Maj. Bieker
The Infantry of the Brigade
Maj. Chrysler
Sheriff
Committee of the Senate
President-elect, in a Chariot Drawn by Four Ponies
His Suite
Civil Officers
Committee of the Representatives
Hon. Mr. Jay, Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Gen. Knox, Secretary of War
Chancellor Livingston
Several Gentlemen of Distinction

At Federal hall the troops massed in close order on Wall and Broad streets. Washington passed through and was conducted to the senate chamber according to the programme, when Vice President Adams said: "Sir, the senate and house of representatives of the United States are ready to attend you to take the oath required by the constitution, which will be administered by the chancellor of the state of New York."

"I am ready to proceed," was the reply. They then passed to the balcony in the order prescribed. Broad and Wall streets in holiday attire, the Spanish ship-of-war Galveston being especially noticeable, and the large came abreast of her she at once displayed every flag and signal in use among nations. It is to be remembered that the new nation was on especially friendly terms with France, Spain and Holland.

RECEPTION OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT. Governor George Clinton received the President-elect at the ferry stairs, and when Washington stepped to the shore the vast multitude broke into loud and prolonged cheers. The crowds were so densely packed in the procession that it required a long time and much exertion to force the way to the president's house in Franklin square. Every house on the route was decorated; every window was filled with people, shouting and waving flags and handkerchiefs. Flowers fell in the streets in constant showers and were displayed in every kind of device. The name of Washington was presented in flowers and evergreens. At his house in Franklin square Washington spent the remainder of the day, from 4 p. m. to late bedtime, in receiving visitors and congratulations of foreign ministers, political characters, public bodies and private citizens of distinction. In the evening the entire city was brilliantly illuminated.

All this time the city was being filled with people from every part of the adjoining country and from New England. New York had never before had such a multitude. Old let never before had such a multitude. Old let later resurrected give notice of the difficulty of securing lodgings, of the breaking down of carriages and delays and hindrances on account of the bad roads of that day. All the houses in the city were soon filled and tents were pitched in vacant lots.

On the 29th the committee of the two houses reported an elaborate plan, providing that Gen. Webb, Col. Smith, Lieut. Col. Fish, Lieut. Col. Franks, Maj. L'Enfant, Maj. Blocker and Mr. John Livingston serve as aids and assistants; that chairs be placed in the senate chamber for the president and vice president, the senators sitting on that side where the vice president's chair was placed and the representatives on the other side, with the speaker at their head; also that seats should be provided in the senate chamber for the late president of the Con

ederation congress and governor of the Western territory, the five persons at the heads of the departments, the ministers of France and Spain, the chaplain of congress and persons in the suite of the president, the lieutenant governor, chancellor, chief justice and judges of the supreme court of New York and mayor of the city; also, that there should be services in all the churches in the city at 9 o'clock in the morning, which all the people were requested to attend; that immediately after the conclusion of the services the procession should move; that the oath should be taken about noon, and that the president, chaplain and both houses of congress should proceed to St. Paul's church immediately after the ceremony to hear divine service.

Washington taking the oath. Next, the brave Gen. Knox, Baron Clinton, Alexander Hamilton, Governor St. Clair of the Northwest Territory, and Roger Sherman. Behind them were the congressional celebrities; then, extending to the wings of the balcony on each side, as many members, both of the senate and house, as there was room for.

SECTION OF THE HISTORIC RAILING.

throughout the country to unite at 9 o'clock in religious services, demonstrating that the union of civil and religious liberty is now so complete that men of every faith meet under a common flag at the call of rector, rabbi, pastor or minister to return thanks to the common God of the Jew and the Christian for the liberties we enjoy. At 9 o'clock all the bells of the city will peal, and all the churches will be open for religious services. It is to be hoped this will be the case in every part of the United States. As Dr. Provost, bishop of New York and chaplain of the senate, conducted the services 100 years ago, so Bishop Potter, of New York, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix, rector of Trinity and St. Paul's church, will conduct the services on the morning of April 30.

The army committee will then take charge of the president and party, who will be escorted to the steps of the sub-treasury, at the corner of Wall and Nassau streets, but looking towards Broad, where the formal literary exercises will be held, beginning at half past 10. The Rev. Richard S. Storrs will offer the prayer. If his health permits, a poem will be read by the venerable Quaker poet, John Greenleaf Whittier. The Hon. Chauncey M. Depew will then deliver the oration and the President Harrison will speak briefly, and Archbishop Corrigan will pronounce the benediction.

On the conclusion of the literary exercises all the batteries of all the forts and the shipping in the harbor will fire a salute of twenty-one guns, and the military parade will then begin. This has given the committee more concern than any part of the ceremonies, which will be easily understood when it is known that a single state expects to have its own military band present. It was at first intended that the president should review the procession from the steps of the sub-treasury building by the Washington statue, but as this would require the somewhat unimprobable movement of breaking files to the left in narrow Wall street, it was decided that he should review from the stand erected on Broad street opposite. By this latter it was found that were even one half of the parade to pass by, the reviewing stand the entire portion of lower New York would be blocked with civic and military organizations and spectators. The review will, therefore, take place in the broader streets and larger squares, where it can be witnessed by 2,000,000 people, if so many are present. Gen. Sheridan was originally designated as grand marshal. Since his decease that honor has been most appropriately conferred on his official successor, Gen. Schofield.

The day will close with a grand banquet at the Metropolitan Opera House, where covers will be laid for 800 guests.

On the 1st of May the proceedings will be more informal, except for the grand industrial parade, of which only the general features have been arranged in advance, the details of each art and industry being left to the persons interested. From every state and territory, every noted mine, every product of the country, agricultural and manufactured, will be represented in the parade. Barges with historical groups and appropriate paintings will present every detail of national evolution from the landing of Sir Walter Raleigh and the Pilgrims to the inauguration of President Benjamin Harrison.

WASHINGTON'S CHAIR. Historical reproductions will show New York as it was when Hendrick Hudson landed in September, 1609, and again as it was in the days of the Dutch and early English occupation, the colonial days, and, in short, all its stages from the seaport town to the metropolis of the western world. Similarly visitors from every section of the country will see the progress portrayed, from the wigwag in the forest, the rude hut of the settler and the early town to the present time. It is believed that in the way of typifying a hundred years' progress of a great nation in general and detail the industrial parade will be among the most attractive features of the centennial.

Although the committees have arranged but for three days, yet a number of supplementary exhibitions of various kinds will precede and follow the centennial. During the entire month of April there will be an exhibition of historical portraits in the Metropolitan Opera House, and of portraits, letters and documents never before exhibited to the public. Among the notes relics will be the chairs which stood in Federal hall, especially that occupied by Washington during the first days of the presidency. The noted portrait of George Washington, painted by Gilbert Stuart, at Mount Vernon, in 1797, and given by Washington to Alexander Hamilton, a portrait which has never been photographed or engraved, will be on exhibition. It is now the property of Hamilton's grandson, Alexander Hamilton, of New York.

PLAN OF THE CENTENNIAL. The general outline of proceedings will be as follows, to which will be added a supplementary outline for each separate department, and directions furnished on the ground for each of the different detachments, represented by various nations and various departments of the government:

1. The president of the United States, proceeding through Philadelphia and New Jersey, halting in the same manner and stopping at the same places as did Washington, will arrive at the harbor of New York on Monday, April 23, will be met by a deputation of the officials of New York state and city and taken thence on a government dispatch boat to the foot of Wall street in the city of New York, passing en route the United States and foreign ships of war, the yachts of all the clubs which may be present arranged in proper order and a large number of other vessels suitably decorated for the occasion. In this progress he will be received by the crews of all the vessels with the honor due his office and by the ships of war with the salute prescribed by law for the president. At Wall street the president will be formally welcomed by his honor Mayor Grant, of New York, and escorted to his quarters.

On the evening of April 29 will occur the great ball at the Metropolitan Opera house, which is designed to be the greatest assembly of the kind the world ever saw. At the head of the principal committee in arranging for this ball is Mr. Ward McAllister, the recognized authority on matters of social rank, adornment and taste in the city of New York, who has devised many unique and original features, making the ball as distinctively American as possible. The dance will be opened with a quadrille, wherein the dancers will be the president, vice president and their wives, with Governor Hill and Mayor Grant

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