

of infantry, the stand of the legissought and found by our forbears over many a cup of coffee in many a coffee house session.

A heritage, that, for the coffee houses springing up today. Environment is changed. Clothes and customs are altered. Vastly different problems have arisen. But human nature has seen no transformation in nigh 150 years. The ideals of 1776 are the ideals of 1923. The coffee of today is no different than the refreshing drink our ancestors sipped.

Revolutionary Coffee Houses. Imperishably entwined with the romance and deeds of the Revolution are three famous coffee houses:

The Sign of the Green Dragon, in Boston.

The Merchants' Coffee House, in New York.

The London Coffee House, in Philadelphia.

The Sign of the Green Dragon Green Dragon. saw the birth of resentment, the crystallizing of determination, the decision to resist. Its era was the period from 1765 to 1775.

Shorter was the epoch of the Merchants' Coffee House. Six in history as the Boston Massacre. nonths of 1776 saw its greatest An incident, indeed, but it turned New York against Toryism.

+ Drank Their Coffee Black.

But it was around the London which met thereafter in the Green Coffee House that the waves of the Dragon. Wheren, the two Adams, Revolution beat highest. Philadel- Hancock, Quincy. Revere came phis, seat of the Continental Con- oftener to the coffee house, met in gress, drank its coffee black session daily, corresponded with through the years of the struggle the other towns of the colony, with and exchanged its hopes and fears the other provinces of the crown, around the board in William Bradford's popular establishment. Backbone of the Revolution it, with the great lights of the nation its habitues.

'To tell the story of these coffee houses is to tell the story of the Revolution, its causes, its progress and its results. Sketchily then, let us touch the high points in coffee house history; the color, the glamour, the romance, with the scenes permeated always by the fragrant odor of the beverage brewed therein.

Boston's Coffee House.

Boston's Sign of the Green Dragon stood on Union street in the heart of the old Colonial town. Through Union Street passed the traffic from the Neck to the Town House and back again. All persons stopped at the Green Dragon for it was the centre of all inter-

ests. Here met also Boston's first Masonic Lodge, and, in the upper floor where the Masons gathered. no one was held in greater respect than Joseph Warren, the first Grand Master, the same Joseph Warren who was to die so gloriously at Bunker Hill.

lature and the deliberations of the first Continental Congress in New York-were subjects fanned to flames of fury or patriotism in the

From it went forth angry men on that March day in 1770 when Brit-How they treatish soldiers fired upon the populace ed the Tories beand shed the first blood of the Revfore the London olution in that incident now known Coffee House, Philadelphia.

men toward thoughts of union and armed resistance, and it led to the Committee of Correspondence

Between eleven and twelve this forenoon about thirty of our associators waited upon and conducted Isaac Hunt from his tea importation. dwelling to the Coffee House. where having placed him in a cart, he very politely acknowledged he had said and acted wrong, for which he asked par-

don of the public and committed and promising lawyer, spoke imhimself under the protection of pressively over the coffee cups, as the associators, to defend him did Francis Lewis and Philip Livfrom any gross insults from the ingston. A youth named Alexanpopulace. This, his behaviour, der Hamilton came there and they approved him, and conductdrank in words of patriotism and ed him in that situation with cups of the pleasing beverage at drums beating, through the printhe same time.

cipal streets, he acknowledging In the Merchants' Coffee House his misconduct in divers places. the Sons of Liberty heard of the Diary of Christopher Marshall, arrival in 1774 of the tea ships,

reached immediate decision. It laid the foundation for the unity of was demonstrated when the the thirteen colonies, visioned in- Nancy, from Boston, was met by a dependence and planned for it with delegation and its captain heeded all the abilities of their statesmen the grim warning and turned out to sea. The obdurate master of The "Tea Party" Signal.

Colonial Governors, red coats of ance of Samuel Adams when the resting place in the bottom of New nelius Bradford, who began his the 29th Regiment of British foot, Town Meeting learned the govern- York harbor. Drinking coffee was tenure with the announcement that wealthy manufacturers from the or would not send the tea ships bad for tea in those days.

natures.

Philadelphia, Sept. 6, 1775.

A restless, impetuous, daring New York drank its coffee in the new coffee house from 1772 onward. Conversation turned not to trade and commerce, but to the obnoxious duty on tea, the oppression of England, the attitude of the loyalists. And there was more than conversation; there was plotting with the leaders of the Sons of Liberty-Isaac Sears, John Morin, John Lamb-sipping the fragrant brew and laying plans for the seizure of arms, the suppression of Toryism, and resistance of

Famous Men There.

Names later famous in the annals of the Revolution were on the tongues of the frequenters of the Coffee House. John Jay, young

one turned away from Boston, the

other direct from England. They

tinental bullets. the London, the other tea ship, Where was framed that utter. elected to stay. His tea found rari sold out in May, 1776, to Cor-

for that when Sears and the Boys when, on April 23, 1789, governor, of Liberty, fresh from the coffee mayor and other officials of the house, broke into his printing es- state and city of New York gathtablishment, destroyed the forms ered there to receive the nation's and carried away his type for Con- first president, the same Washington who had led his beaten army It was too much excitement for from the city thirteen years be-

The London Coffee House. "What are they doing in Phila-

mark upon which directions for finding other places were based. The old Evening Post identified itself during the troublesome years as being "printed by Benjamin Towne, in Front Street, near the London Coffee House." Merchants in that section of the old town advertised themselves as being near, or next to, or across from the coffee house. Visitors found the coffee house first and shopped after. wards.

What a gathering spot it was! Franklin gave it his patronage. Delegates to the Continental Congress sipped their brew and met in committee in its upper floors. Its bar and tables knew Commodore Hopkins, John Paul Jones, Lambert Wickes, Nicholas Biddle and all the rest of the gallant seamen of the Continental navy. Here came Putnam, LaFayette, Greene, Gates and other general officers of the line. Colonel Proctor, of the Pennsylvania Artillery; Colonel Miles, of the Riflemen; Anthony Wayne, of the Pennsylvania Infantry; others, who could be named by the score, discussed campaigns and outlined strategy under the stimulant of the beverage brewed for them.

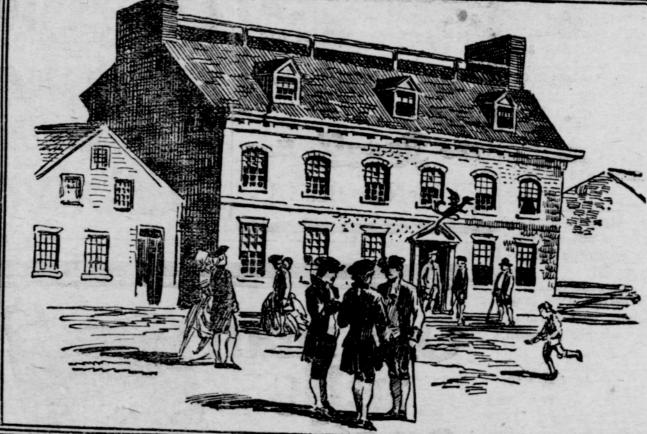
Extracts From a Diary.

In 1775 six sub-committees of inspection and observation were organized and one sat each day at the coffee house. To these committees the Committee of Safety delegated the maintenance of loyaity to the Continent. Christopher Marshall, aged a n d militant Quaker, kept a diary of those days and, as a member of one of the sub-committees, gives graphic descriptions of the occurrences. They used no kid glove methods on the Tories then.

When Barry Sailed the Sea. During the entire struggle it was

the scene of the sale of most of the prizes brought into the port of Philadelphia. The first capture by a Continental ship occurred off the Virginia Capes on April 7, 1776, when John Barry, in the brig Lexington, took the sloop Edward, tender to the Liverpool, frigate. He sent her into the Delaware, a letter entrusted to the prize master, stating "we shattered her in terrible manner as you shall see." A month later "the Edward. her tackle and equipment," was sold by the marshal of the Admiralty at the Coffee House. There. also were displayed fragments of the frigate Roebuck, battered loose by Yankee cannonball during the picturesque but drawn engagement between two of the King's ships and the Pennsylvania Navy in the Delaware off Wilmington.

Yankee Coffee Cups. During the year of British occupation, the Tories held high festiv-



Boston's Famous Coffee House-The Sign of the Green Dragon Harbored the Noted Revolutionary Spirits of Massachusetts.

enough. James Rivington, the hands of the enemy. Distinction turn-coat publisher, could answer came to it again after the war

a woman proprietress. Mary Fer- fore.

