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THE Declaration of Independence! The interest which in that paper has survived the occasion upon which it was issued, the interest which is of every age and every clime, the interest which quickens with the lapse of years, spreads as it grows old, and brightens as it recedes, is in the principles which it proclaims. It was the first solemn declaration by a nation of the only legitimate foundation of civil government. It was the corner-stone of a new fabric, destined to cover the surface of the globe. It demolished at a stroke the lawfulness of all governments founded upon conquest. It swept away all the rubbish of accumulated centuries of servitude. It announced in practical form to the world the transcendent truth of the inalienable sovereignty of the people. It proved that the social compact was no figment of the imagination, but a real, solid, and sacred bond of the social union.—John Quincy Adams.

**How Great
Struggle
Was Won**

In 1765 the passing of an act of parliament for collecting a colonial revenue by stamps caused general indignation and led to riots. The first Colonial congress, consisting of 28 delegates representing nine colonies, made a statement of grievances and a declaration of rights. The stamps were destroyed or shipped back to England. In 1766 the stamp act was repealed, to the great joy of the colonists; but the principle of colonial taxation was not abandoned and in 1767 duties were levied on glass, papers, printers' colors and tea. This renewed attempt produced in 1768 riots in Boston and Gov. Gage was furnished with a military force of 700 to preserve order and enforce the laws. In 1773 the duties were repealed excepting a 3 pence a pound on tea. It was now a question of principle, and from north to south it was determined that this tax should not be paid. Some cargoes were stored in damp warehouses and spoiled; some sent back; in Boston a mob disguised as Indians threw it into the harbor.

Britain Sends More Troops.
It was now determined to enforce the government of the crown and parliament over the colonies; and a fleet containing several ships of the line and 10,000 troops was sent to America; while the colonists, still asserting their loyalty and with little or no thought of separation from the mother country, prepared to resist what they considered the unconstitutional assumptions of the government. Volunteers were drilling in every direction and depots of provisions and military stores were being gathered. A small force being sent from Boston to seize one of these depots at Concord, Mass., led to what is called the battle of Lexington, and the beginning of the Revolutionary war, April 19, 1775. The British troops were attacked on their return by the provincials and compelled to beat a hasty retreat. A congress of the colonies assembled at Philadelphia, which resolved to raise and equip an army of 20,000 men, and appointed George Washington commander-in-chief. On June 17 Breed's hill in Charleston, near Boston, where 1,500 Americans had hastily entrenched themselves, was taken by assault by the British troops, but with so heavy a loss (1,054 men) that the defeat had for the provincials the moral effect of a victory. After a winter of great privations, the British were compelled to evacuate Boston, carrying away in their fleet 1,500 loyal families.

The British government now put forth a strong effort to reduce the colonies to submission. An army of 25,000, including 17,000 German mercenaries ("Hessians"), was sent under command of Sir William Howe to put down this "wicked rebellion." The thirteen colonies adopted constitutions as independent and sovereign states. On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia offered a resolution in congress declaring that "the united colonies are, and ought to be, free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown; and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, dissolved."

Birth of Declaration.
This resolution, after an earnest debate, was adopted by the votes of the delegates of nine out of the thirteen colonies. A committee consisting of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston was instructed to prepare a declaration in accordance with the above resolution; and the celebrated Declaration of Independence, written by Mr. Jefferson, based upon the equality of all men and the universal right of self-government, and asserting that "all government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed," on July 4, 1776, received the assent of the delegates of the colonies, which thus dissolved their allegiance to the British crown and declared themselves free and independent states.

Dark Days for Patriots.
After the evacuation of Boston by the British, Gen. Washington, with the remains of his army, thinned by the hardships of winter, hastened to New York. On July 2 Gen. Howe—being joined by his brother, Admiral Lord Howe, and Sir Henry Clinton—found himself at the head of 35,000 men; defeated the Americans on Long Island Aug. 27, 1776, compelled the evacuation of New York and secured possession of its spacious harbor and the Hudson river.

On Christmas night Gen. Washington by crossing in boats among floating ice made a successful night attack upon a Hessian force at Trenton and gave new courage to the despairing Americans, who recruited the army and harassed the enemy with a winter campaign.

In the meantime Silas Deane and Benjamin Franklin had been sent to France to solicit recognition and aid. The recognition was delayed, but important aid was privately given in money and supplies, and European volunteers—the Marquis de Lafayette, Baron Steuben, Baron de Kalb, Kosciuszko and Pulaski—rendered the most important services.

While Washington was contending unsuccessfully against disciplined and overwhelming forces in New Jersey, Gen. Burgoyne was leading an army of 7,000 British and German troops—with a large force of Canadians and Indians—from Canada into northern New York to form a junction with the British on the Hudson and separate New England from the rest of the confederacy. After two sharp actions at Stillwater and Saratoga, with but three days' rations left he was compelled to capitulate on Oct. 17; and England, in the midst of victories, heard with dismay of the loss of an entire army. The Americans gained 5,000 muskets and a large train of artillery.

France recognized American independence and sent a large fleet and supplies of clothing, arms and munitions of war to their aid; and Gen. Clinton, who had superseded Gen. Howe, finding his supplies at Philadelphia threatened, retreated to New York, defeating the Americans at Monmouth, N. J.

Patriots' Hands Strengthened.

Spain and then Holland joined in the war against England and aided the Americans. But the king and parliament were determined to maintain the honor of the crown and the integrity of the empire. In 1780, 85,000 men and 35,000 additional troops were sent to America, and a strong effort was made to subjugate the Carolinas, where the war assumed a bitter partisan character and was conducted with spirit by Sumpter, Marion and other southern chieftains. Lord Cornwallis with a large army marched from Charleston through North Carolina pursuing and sometimes defeating the American general Gates. Worn out with his success he arrived in Virginia where he was confronted by the Marquis de Lafayette. In the meantime Admiral de Varney had arrived upon the coast with a powerful French fleet, and 6,000 soldiers, the elite of the French army, under Count de Rochambeau, while Washington hurried from New York. Cornwallis was obliged to fortify himself in Yorktown, blockaded by the fleet of Count de Grasse, and besieged by the allied army of Americans and French, waited for Sir Henry Clinton to send him relief from New York. October 19, 1781, he was compelled to surrender his army of 7,000 men—an event which produced such a change of feeling in England as to cause the resignation of the ministry and the dispatch of Gen. Sir Guy Carleton to New York with offers of terms of peace. The preliminaries were signed at Paris Nov. 30, 1782, and on Sept. 3, 1783, England concluded peace with France, Holland and America. The independence of each of the several states was acknowledged, with a liberal settlement of territorial boundaries. In April, 1783, a cessation of hostilities had been proclaimed and the American army disbanded. New York, which had been held by the British through the whole war, was evacuated Nov. 25; on Dec. 4 Gen. Washington

took leave of his companions in arms and on Dec. 23 resigned into the hands of congress his commission as commander-in-chief.

A Prayer of Washington's

Almighty Being, Benign Parent of the human race, Who rules over the Universe, Who presides in the Councils of Nations, Whose providential aid can supply every human defect, We come to Thee in humble supplication that since it has pleased Thee to favor the American people in forming this Government, that Thy benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States, a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes, and that every instrument employed in its administration may execute with success the functions allotted to his charge. We acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand, which conducts the affairs of men. We gratefully acknowledge that every step, by which we have advanced to the character of an independent nation, has been distinguished by some token of providential agency. Give us Thy divine blessing, and may it be conspicuous in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of the Government must depend. God save the United States!

What would the original signers of the Declaration of Independence have thought, if any at the time, had predicted their action would be celebrated with good will and enthusiasm in England, and with Old Glory flying over the Houses of Parliament?

The Lee Stock Co., who satisfied three big audiences here recently will be at the People's Theatre, Estacada, June 30th. Of course you will go.

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To develop this section of the county, to provide an incentive for this development, and to bring the results to the attention of the greatest number of people interested in this county.

THE BENEFIT—

Cash Prizes and Ribbons to the winners in each class for the exhibitors, and a knowledge of the productiveness of this country, and what can be done with a little extra effort with a view toward interesting prospective homeseekers.

Date, September 8th, 9th, 10th.

ARE YOU PLANNING YOUR EXHIBITS?

For Information, see the following:—S. E. Wooster, C. R. Lovell, C. E. Kilgore, A. W. Botkin, Sylvester Lawrence, Herman Davis, Chris Johnson, Thos. Watson, Roy Meyers, Prof. F. E. Burns.

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