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FOUR AMERICAN SONGS.

TWO WERE WRITTEN IN BATTLE AND TWO DURING PEACE.

One of Them Averted a War—The Sources of Inspiration of the Four Writers—Strange Fact About the Music of "America"—How Key Composed His Lyric.

The four great lyrics of our country are "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean," "Hail Columbia," "The Star Spangled Banner" and "America."

The first named was written by Timothy Dwight, ancestor of Timothy Dwight, the present president of Yale college. He wrote other patriotic anthems, but "Columbia" is the only one by which he became famous. Dwight was a native of Massachusetts and a graduate of Yale.

He studied law, intending to adopt it as a profession, but there being a dearth of chaplains in the Revolutionary army he became one in Parson's brigade of the Connecticut line and served some time there. It was during this service that he composed the immortal song "Columbia," which at once attracted general attention, and from the first became famous.

It was composed without much thought, the times being full of patriotic feelings, which inspired the poet, and he is said to have expected no more than passing fame for his production. It was caught up, however, by the patriots, and soon became known throughout the struggling colonies. After the war Dwight went back to the pursuits interrupted by his entering the army, and eventually became president of Yale college, a position which he held until his death in 1817.

The author of "Columbia" was a voluminous writer, turning out many extended poems and books, but all seem to have been forgotten but the great lyric which he gave to his country during the struggle for freedom. It will ever remain his monument.

A SONG THAT TOLD.

The words and music of "Hail Columbia" were composed under the American flag. Its author, Joseph Hopkinson, was a native of Philadelphia and the son of a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Like the composer of "Columbia," he was the author of many other things in prose and verse, but nothing has come down to our day with any fame but his national song.

"Hail Columbia" was written in the summer of 1798, when we were having complications with France which threatened to end in war. Hopkinson had an actor friend named Fox, who was to have a benefit at a theater, and it was for him that the song was composed.

The music which accompanied the song, and to which it is sung today, was originally the "President's March," which was written ten years before, on the occasion of Washington's visit to New York, by a German orchestra leader named Fyles. "Hail Columbia" sprang into sudden popularity, and it is said to have averted the threatened war, as it incited national pride and roused the whole country.

Joseph Hopkinson lived until 1842, filling various important offices and loved by all for the great song he had given to his nation. He helped to revise the constitution of Pennsylvania, was a warm friend of Joseph Bonaparte's during the ex-king's sojourn in this country, and at the time of his death was holding the office of United States judge for the eastern district of his native state.

INSPIRED BY BATTLE SMOKE.

Of the many national song writers none have enjoyed more enduring fame than the author of "The Star Spangled Banner." It is perhaps the greatest and most popular of all our songs and lyrics. It was composed amid the roar of cannon and the bursting of bombs, and seems to have sprung without effort from the mind of its author.

Francis Scott Key, the author, was a prisoner in the hands of the British when the song was composed. He had gone down the bay at Baltimore, then being attacked by the British fleet, for the purpose of securing the release of a friend who was held by the enemy. He carried a message from President Madison asking for the prisoner's release. The British commander agreed to the request, but told Key that he must be detained during the attack. Key and his friends were therefore held back, and it was while they watched the terrific bombardment of Fort McHenry, now and then losing sight of the flag that waved over its ramparts, that he wrote "The Star Spangled Banner." This took place in 1814.

When he was released Key took his poem back to the city, where it was speedily printed to the music of an old English song, "Anacreon in Heaven," and in a short time was being sung all over the country.

Dr. Smith's beautiful ode "America" was also adapted to an English air, that of "God Save the Queen." Strange to relate, this same melody answers for the national song of the German empire, Great Britain and Ireland, Bavaria, Switzerland, Brunswick, Hanover, Norway, Prussia, Saxony, and does service in the United States as "My Country, 'Tis of Thee."

"America" has no stirring history surrounding its composition. It was composed in 1832, and was first sung at a children's celebration at the Park Street church, Boston, on the Fourth of July the same year. Samuel Francis Smith, its author, is still living. He is a native of Massachusetts, where he was born in 1808. His famous missionary hymn, "The Morning Light Is Breaking," was written at the same time and place as "America." Dr. Smith has filled many important stations in the church, and has written voluminously, his contributions embracing nearly every branch of good literature.—New York Telegram.

A Case of Necessity.

Visitor (to convict)—What are you in for, friend?

Convict—I'm an ex-policeman, sir; I'm in for stealing.

Visitor—That's bad. Can I do anything for you?

Convict—If you could send me in a pint of peanuts, sir, you would save my life. I was on the force so long, I can't live without 'em.—The Epoch.

School Children in China.

Little girls who don't like to go to school should live in China, little boys who don't like to go should keep away from the Celestial empire. There the girls do not have to go at all, and the boys begin when they are 6 years old. School begins at daylight, and closes when it is too dark to read. There are no vacations, no half holidays, and not much fun of any sort.—New York Sun.

WHERE JEWSHARPS ARE MADE.

A Family of Smiths Do All the Manufacturing Outside of New York.

The village of Bath-on-the-Hudson, though its manufacturing interests are few, can boast of possessing the only jewsharp factory in the United States outside of New York city. Simple as the jewsharp is, it requires, nevertheless, no little skill in construction.

The proprietor of the factory in Bath is John Smith, and he has perfected himself to such an extent that his work is recognized as among the best in the world. The factory is a small building situated a short distance off Third street, and although unpretentious contains every facility for the manufacture of jewsharps.

Twenty years ago, in England, Mr. Smith began his apprenticeship at the trade. Hearing from friends in this country that here would be found a better market for the sale of his specialty, he determined to emigrate. Arriving in New York he failed to secure employment, and deciding to start in business for himself he went to Troy and opened a factory there. He was but moderately successful in Troy, and after a short time moved to Bath, built a factory and is perfectly satisfied with the location. The Smith jewsharp is sold principally to firms in New York, Boston and Chicago. These firms sell the goods to retailers throughout the United States.

When the factory is running at its fullest capacity over two gross a day are turned out. The busiest time of the year is that just preceding the holidays. During this season the factory employs five people—the proprietor, his two sons and two other Englishmen, who live near the factory.

The manufacture of the "harps" is an interesting process, and but few people are aware of the large amount of work expended in making a jewsharp of good tone. The frames of the instrument are not made by Mr. Smith. He buys them from a foundry. Upon these frames is bestowed the least work; it is in setting the steel tongue in the frame and filing the lower portion of the frame to fit the tongue that the most care and skill are required.

The first work done on a jewsharp is to place the frame in a vise, file off the roughness and taper down the points, so that each side presents a sharp edge, between which the tongue is to vibrate. The more delicate work then begins. A piece of steel wire is cut from a coil, hammered flat at one end and left round at the other, and tempered with the greatest care. The flat end is then set in the arc of the frame, and then the two ends are carefully pressed and hammered until they come as close as possible to the tongue without touching it.

The round end of the tongue is then bent in the form of a right angle, the point is turned over, and the "harp" is ready to be placed in the hands of a finisher. There are seven sizes and four kinds of finishing—the common, gold bronze, lacquered and tin plated. The harp can be toned to any pitch. To make the tone high the tongue is made small and pressed back toward the frame; to make the tone lower it is bent forward. Mr. Smith is not only a good maker of the harp, but can extract quite a little music from the little instrument. He can also play two at once, which he tunes so that they are in harmony, by filing the frames.

When business is rushing Mr. Smith's whole family is pressed into service, and each member excels in his or her particular work. Mr. Smith prophesies that within a few years the instruments he makes will be in more general use than now. He has once enlarged his factory, and expects to do so again.—Albany Journal.

Conversational Equality.

For conversation society must not be very unequal. By inequality I do not refer to the doubtful distinction of banking accounts or family trees. So far as these are concerned there is nothing so democratic as conversation. But it does demand some approach to a similarity—not in opinions; with good temper these may widely differ—but in manners and taste, and, above all, in intellectual capacity. When people are brought together without care for these similarities we know what happens. If their number be large enough they invariably split up, not by cold exclusiveness, but by natural selection, into mutually appreciative groups, of which each member has some affinity for the rest.

Where this instinctive distribution is, through smallness of numbers or the fussiness of a host, impossible we may expect a dull time. All know Bret Harte's tale of a man who had never heard of Adam before and asked "What was his other name?" But there have been talkers in real life also who had to endure much at the hands of the ignorant.—Gentleman's Magazine.

Superficial Judgment of Men.

In our judgment of men we are to be ware of giving any great importance to occasional acts. By acts of occasional generosity weak men endeavor to redeem themselves in their own estimation; vain men to exalt themselves in that of mankind. It may be observed that there are no men more worthless and selfish, in the general tenor of their lives, than some who, from time to time, perform feats of generosity. Sentimental selfishness will commonly vary its indulgences in this way, and vainglorious selfishness will break out into acts of munificence. But self government and self denial are not to be relied upon for any real strength, except in so far as they are found to be exercised in detail.—New York Ledger.

The Moon Frozen.

Mr. S. E. Peal, of Sibsagar, Asam, supposes the moon to be entirely covered with snow, with frozen and floe covered seas, and thus accounts for the chief features of the lunar landscape, including the absence of water.—Arkansaw Traveler.

A College Course.

In the United States one man in every 200 takes a college course; in England, one in every 500; in Scotland, one in every 600; in Germany, one in every 213.

Renan said recently that "France will perish in a literary sense because of her young writers. It is impossible to write well before the age of 40."

Judges are the ones who lay down the law, and when it is nicely laid down the lawyers jump on it.—Phil Welch.

"Irish stew, a la Parnell," is on the bill of fare of an inexpensive New York restaurant.

Justice is every man's due, but would ruin most people.—Uncle Esek.

THE BASKET MAKERS.

VISIT TO A COLONY OF PRIMITIVE AND UNREFINED FOLK.

Homes Which Are Old, Tumble Down and Untidy Affairs—View of an Interior. Table Etiquette—The Basket Maker at Work—Method of Manufacture.

Dantown is eighty-five miles from New York, and is reached by the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, via Stamford and New Canaan. A colony of basket makers there inhabit a district beginning about four miles north of New Canaan, running in length about eight miles, and in width about three miles. In this bailiwick is included another settlement called Jumptown, but the whole district is known as Dantown. The settlement derives its name from the first settlers, whose name was Dan, and ninety-nine hundredths of the people who live there now are also Dans.

We drove over to Dantown to see if they were really the uncouth people they were credited with being. The roads are narrow and full of rocks; in fact, the whole country is nothing but rocks and an almost impenetrable jungle. The homes of the basket makers are old, tumble down, ramshackle affairs, unpainted, built of oak shingles, one-half of them fallen off, and the balance in a state of irretrievable decay, fences falling down, gates with no hinges, the whole settlement looking as if a cyclone had struck it away back in revolutionary war times, and not a stroke of repairs been put to it since.

VIEW OF AN INTERIOR.

For furniture of these houses there is nothing but the plainest straight backed chairs, with basket woven seats, some of them handed down from great-grandfather's time, and some of late domestic manufacture, but all presenting the same style and discomfort. The old fashioned fireplaces are built of wood and plastered inside and out. The Dantowners are not high livers. They eat because it sustains life. They do not sit long at table, and they dispense with all of the conventionalities of table etiquette. The writer sat down to dine, or, as the host expressed it, "to take pot luck," and was told to "pitch in and help yerself," which he did. The bill of fare was pork and beans, potatoes, bread and molasses, and apple sauce, the young girl of the family remarking: "Say, maar, ef it's dark t'night I'll git mather bag o' them there apples." Whereupon maar replied: "Dry up yer yawp."

The people live frugally, because they are compelled. A basket maker must work early and late to make $5 a week, and as there are generally a dozen "young 'uns" about the house, this does not go far, though the "young 'uns" were all in a semi-state of nudity.

Yet these people are as content with their lot as a North Carolina clay eater. There is always a market for their baskets, and they manage to squeeze along on the commonest food so that they can indulge in tobacco and get the little brown jug filled. The latter is of more absolute necessity to the majority of the Dantowners than the sack of flour or the flitch of bacon. Years ago they were famous for their store of Medford rum, but it is never seen now. In its place is rye whisky, and not the best, either, and now that New Canaan is a prohibition town, they are sometimes put to desperate straits for the wherewithal to wet their whistles.

THE BASKET MAKER AT WORK.

There are no organized workshops, and the business of setting up baskets is carried on in the kitchen, dining room and parlor, which is generally all in one room. They are very particular about their timber. They use hickory, white and black ash and black oak. They use the first cut of the log and no other. The bark is peeled off, and the log, which is never over ten inches through, is split into sections, making it easier to handle. They take a section and pound it over a log or rock until it slivers. It is then segregated by peeling the slivers off, which are used for what is called "filling" for the baskets. The "standards" are peeled much thicker, and have the appearance of a flour barrel hoop. They are tied in bundles, and, if not used when green, are soaked in water over night, which makes them pliable and easy to weave. If they do not cut this wood themselves they are compelled to pay $16 a cord for it; but it is said that a great many cut their own wood and are not particular whose land they cut it from. Times have changed with the basket makers, and competition has cheapened their product from $15 a dozen twenty years ago to $3.50 a dozen now. And then wood was only $6 a cord.

The mode of basket making is simple. First the thick sticks are cut to the required length and laid on the ground, looking like a gigantic starfish. At the point of contact they are fastened, and then comes the work of weaving the light or side strips in and out. One strip is woven in several times around the basket before it gives out, when another one is lapped on. As the weaving continues the standards are raised and bent or "shaped" until it has reached the required height. Then two thicker strips, flat on one side, rounded with a draw shave on the other, are clapped on. The standards, which project above this band, are twisted around it and securely fastened. The handles are put on before the band is. These are made of a thick strip trimmed down smooth, with a notch cut in them, which abuts against the band. Then the basket is turned upside down, and another star shaped set of strips is pushed up through the woof of the basket. This is done so that the basket can sit on its own bottom. A basket maker has to hustle to make two dozen baskets in a week. They make all kinds—the corn, the market and the oyster basket, but the latter takes precedence over the two former, as the demand along the sound is never filled.—Dantown (N. Y.) Cor. New York Sun.

Amazons to the Front.

The insolence and inefficiency of men servants in England have long been so vividly realized by all heads of households, that any step which shall be an advance in the direction of getting rid of them ought to be hailed with rapture by all chatelaines and housekeepers. Many ladies have given them up altogether, and content themselves with female servants, selecting a peculiarly stalwart specimen of the genus amazon to fulfil the duties of butler. She is, moreover, in many cases, dressed in a livery coat and waistcoat, which look very smart, although perhaps rather suggestive of the stage. Quite recently, at an afternoon party given in London, the guests were entirely served by a bevy of female servants, all dressed alike in black gowns, white waistcoats, and white caps trimmed with black ribbons. The effect was, on the whole, very pleasing, and the waiting was much more efficiently and neatly done than if it had been intrusted to a cohort of waiters.—The Argonaut.

Granddaughter's Granddaughter.

William Bunce, of Cochituate, became a happy great-great-grandfather lately, and Mrs. Neal, of this place, a lady sixty-eight years old, his daughter, becomes a great-grandmother. Her daughter is Mrs. Dean, and Mrs. Dean's daughter is Mrs. A. Lyons, who has just given birth to a little daughter. Mr. Bunce is ninety-three years old and still hearty and strong.—Farmingham (Mass.) Tribune.

He Has None of the Symptoms.

Maud—Does Jack play football much?

Agnes—I don't know. Why?

Maud—I never see him walk lame.—Epoch.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?

Should any one ask your opinion about the Histogenetic system of medicine, just answer boldly that it is no good. Should he ask you the reason why it is no good, tell him—just because. If this answer does not confound him by its profundity and he still persists, tell him that it is a new fangled idea. This will probably prove effective, as it bankrupted the first iron plow establishment. Should you fail in that, too, don't give up, but insist with the powerful argument that your grandmother never heard of it; that you can't see how mercury, arsenic, strychnine, etc., can be improved upon, and that the old schools of medicine must necessarily have exhausted all the stock of wisdom, and that there cannot possibly be anything left to learn. And if all your powerful arguments have failed to convince him of the reasonableness of your position—you have still one Parthian shot—tell him that you are simply astonished; that you thought him an intelligent man.

And still there are men—and women, too—upon whom such arguments have no effect, but they are thinking people who are willing to investigate before they form an opinion.

PHOENIX, A. T., July 30, 1891.

Dr. J. Eugene Jordan, Seattle, Wash.—DEAR SIR: Having used your remedies in my family for more than two years with wonderful success, I feel that no other remedies can give satisfaction, and I inclose symptoms of my nephew's case for your consideration. FRANCES A. CURTIS.

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Remember that when we assert the value of BRANDRETH'S PILLS we at the same time refer you to the thousands of testimonials we have published supporting all and even more than we claim. The best evidence of their value lies in these testimonials. The pills have been in use in this country for over fifty years, and in that time have surely been well tested. We never heard complaint of them. They are harmless, being vegetable, and always do their work well.

BRANDRETH'S PILLS are sold in every drug and medicine store, either plain or sugar-coated.

The devil loves to make a Christian look as though he needed liver medicine.

Use Enameline Stove Polish; no dust; no smell.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder.

A Pure Cream of Tartar Powder. Superior to every other known. Used in Millions of Homes—40 Years the Standard.

Delicious Cake and Pastry, Light Flaky Biscuit, Griddle Cakes, Palatable and Wholesome.

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For sportsmen, tourists and others who spend their time in the open air, Mastiff cut plug smoking tobacco is absolutely the best. Packed in patent canvas pouches which retain the moisture and flavor. More solid comfort in one package of Mastiff than you can get out of a dozen others.

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"German Syrup"

Asthma. "I have been a great sufferer from Asthma and severe Colds every Winter, and last Fall my friends as well as myself thought because of my feeble condition, and great distress from constant coughing, and inability to raise any of the accumulated matter from my lungs, that my time was close at hand. When nearly worn out for want of sleep and rest, a friend recommended me to try thy valuable medicine, Boschee's German Syrup. I am confident it saved my life. Almost the first dose gave me great relief and a gentle refreshing sleep, such as I had not had for weeks. My cough began immediately to loosen and pass away, and I found myself rapidly gaining in health and weight. I am pleased to inform thee—unsolicited—that I am in excellent health and do certainly attribute it to thy Boschee's German Syrup. C. B. STICKNEY, Picton, Ontario."

Gentle, Refreshing Sleep.

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By local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that we cannot cure by taking Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

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Sure cure for blind, bleeding and itching Piles. One box has cured the worst case of ten years' standing. No one need suffer ten minutes after using Kirk's German Pile Ointment. It absorbs tumors, allays the itching, acts as a poultice, gives relief. Dr. Kirk's German Pile Ointment is prepared only for Piles and itching of the private parts, and nothing else. Every box is warranted. .....

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CURES SPRAINS.

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ST. JACOBS OIL
The Great Remedy For Pain,
CURES ALSO
RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, SCIATICA.

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