IN THE OLDEN TIME.

CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY LONG AGO.

Hessian Band Furnished the Music for the First Official Jollification—Noise in the Early Days Was Given Secondary Place on Programme.

IN ye olden time they celebrated "independence day" and not the "Fourth of July." The change of name came with the change in the manner of celebrating the anniversary of the signing of the declaration of independence. Many people deplore the present method of showing appreciation of national freedom and deplore as well the fact that the rising generation speaks of the coming "Fourth" rather than of "Independence day," a name so pregnant with meaning. Perhaps the people who "deplore" are right.

One of the signers on that famous Fourth of July, 1776, declared on his deathbed that he would like to sleep a century, then wake up to find out how future generations were celebrating Independence day. If the old gentleman's wish were to be granted, when he heard the fish horns, the multitudinous snapping of John Chinaman red wrapped inventions, the reports of the dangerous torpedoes and dynamite crackers he might be willing enough to hurry back to the tomb.

When some staid New Englander finds fault with the present method of celebrating the nation's birthday the noise-making small boy may with good grace tell him that New England's patron saint, John Adams, recommended that the day be recognized by just such a din as young America is making. It is true, however, that President John suggested that the early part of the day should be given over to solemn acts of devotion. Then he said the day should be commemorated "with pomp, parade, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other for evermore." Of the first celebration of a Fourth of July by the continental congress Adams in writing to his daughter said: "The people shouted and huzzahed in a way to strike utmost terror to every lurking tory. There was a splendid illumination and while a few surly houses were dark the show would have given King George a heartache."

Hessian Band Played.

On this first official celebration of Fourth of July by Congress that body secured music for the day and at the same time afforded the people a great chance for amusement and laughter by forcing the Hessian band, which was captured by Washington at Trenton the December previous, to play in the public square all day long. There is on record a fairly full account of an Independence day celebration which George Washington attended as the guest of honor. The celebration was held at the Spring gardens, near Alexandria, Va., "with a large company of civil and military people of Fairfax County."

Things were not particularly bright for the colonial armies on the first anniversary of the declaration of independence. The soldiers at Morristown heights, however, under Washington's command each received an extra gill of rum with his ration in recognition of the day. The third anniversary of the signing of the declaration was made memorable by the issuing of an order by the commander-in-chief that all military prisoners under the sentence of death should be pardoned.

Perhaps the most enthusiastic and heartfelt celebrations of Independence day did not take place on the day itself. News traveled slowly in the year 1776, and it was some days before New York knew that the country had been declared free. When the pleasing information did reach there, however, the town went wild. The king's statue was pulled down and melted up into bullets for the American armies. Two or three days after New York had given vent to its enthusiastic feelings Boston celebrated. A British army officer who was a prisoner in the hub at the time wrote an account of the rejoicings of the "deluded people." He was escorted by a band of patriots to see the "goings on" and confesses that he enjoyed the occasion as a break in a rather monotonous life of captivity. The crowd of Bostonians tore down the lion and the unicorn from the old headquarters of the British Government, afterward the old Massachusetts state house.

It was not until after the signing of the treaty of peace with Great Britain that celebrations of Independence day were held regularly in all places. Dinners were favorite features of the day. Everybody was invited and it was seen to that there was enough for all. The citizen sat down at the outdoor table without any fear that a cannon cracker was to be exploded under him before he had finished his first course. Pandemonium had not as yet come into general use as a synonym for the features of the Fourth of July. All through Virginia the public and private feasts on Independence day had as a dish what was known as Brunswick soup or stew. The name probably arose from a desire on the part of the Virginia householders to suggest that the kingly house of Brunswick was "in the soup."

In the staid land of steady habits, Connecticut, in the town of Hartford it was the custom for years to have a great dinner "in the field." A newspaper of 100 years or so ago gives an account of one of these dinners and a list of twenty toasts. The crack military companies of the section were in attendance at the dinner.

The Boston official dinners on Independence day were held in the hub's cradle of liberty, Faneuil Hall. Edward Everett Hale tells of one of the earliest Fourth of July celebrations of his remembrance. It was that of the year 1833, and on that day for the first time a great chorus of school children sang "My Country, 'Tis of Thee."

Character of Celebration Changes.

It was just about this time that the character of the celebration of the anniversary of the birthday of American independence began to change. Parades were held as usual, but noise began to take the place of speeches and in the larger towns of the reading of the declaration of independence, which had always been a feature of the celebration. The opening of trade with China brought in the small firecrackers and American factories soon found the means of making big ones. Noise assumed the scepter and has reigned ever since. There is a strong desire on the part of many people to-day to change the character of the celebration of Independence day and to make it like unto that which it once was. All sorts of plans have been suggested for a more orderly and solemnly impressive celebration of the republic's natal day. The effort to change the methods of the day's recognition are being exerted in a virile way, and it may be that the present generation will live to find something more in the Fourth of July than a picnic, the explosion of a pack of crackers under a tin pan or the rush of a rocket which, like too many Independence day celebrations, ends in a "stick."

A Bang-Up Time.

Value of Patriotic Celebrations.

It is sometimes hard work and a good deal of expense, especially in small and not well-to-do communities, to get up a Fourth of July celebration; but every gathering of this sort pays the largest kind of interest on the investment in the cultivation of the spirit of patriotism and the proper education of boys and girls in the theory and practice of Fourth of July celebrations and similar observances that shall mean more than a simple good time.

READY TO CELEBRATE HIS BIRTHDAY.

An Episode of the Fourth.

Oh, yes, we had a glorious time, of course. We always do. We didn't begin firing till 7 o'clock, partly because it wakes people up, and partly because it is so silly to use up all your crackers before breakfast, as some boys do, and have none for the rest of the day, and have every one think you a nuisance besides.

We had no accidents; that is, nothing to speak of. Polly burned two or three of her fingers a little, but we made that all right with soda and a rag, and she never cried a bit; but there was an episode, and it happened to me. This was the way it happened:

I wanted both my hands to use, and I had a piece of punk in one of them, and there was no place to lay it down, and everybody else's hands were full, too, so I—well, I just put it into my pocket for a minute. It was lighted, but I didn't think it would do any harm just for a minute. I forgot that I had a whole bunch of firecrackers in that same pocket.

Suddenly I heard some one cry out, "Tom is afire!" and then there came a puff of smoke in my face, and I felt something hot against my leg, and then—pop! snap! bang! crack, fizz, whizz! crackety-bang! the crackers began to go off in my pocket!

Everybody was yelling, and just for a minute I didn't know what to do. I ran, but the crackers ran with me, and the faster I went the harder they popped. Then all at once I saw what to do, and I pulled off my jacket and threw it on the grass. Luckily it was my jacket, and not my trousers pocket!

Billy took it up and shook out the crackers, and then he turned out the pocket, but there wasn't much left to turn. It was just a black rag, and it dropped into little pieces. Then there was a big piece that looked as if it had once been white, and that, they said, was my handkerchief, but I should never have known it.

Well, of course they all laughed at me a good deal, but I didn't mind much, for it really was very funny, I suppose; but my advice to other boys is, don't carry crackers in your pocket, and if you do, don't put a lighted slow-match in with them!—Laura E. Richards.

Our Celebration.

The birds have been practicing glees, but today
They gave up their concert and flew away;
And the locusts and grasshoppers, noisy and shrill,
Could not make themselves heard, and so they kept still;
And the blustering wind went off in a huff,
Since nobody noticed how loud he could puff.
And the clouds rolled up from the west in a row,
For they thought that the noise in the world below
Was the voice of the thunder to call them together,
And so they began to make showery weather.
And the Man in the Moon, being greatly perplexed
To know what would happen next,
Wished for hands or feet, as well as a face,
To cover his ears up, or run from his place.
And the baby stars opened their bright little eyes,
And stared down below with the greatest surprise
To see how the rockets shot up to the sky;
But they never guessed out
What it all was about,
That we were just keeping the Fourth of July!

—Youth's Companion.

AN OLD-TIME INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION.

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The Whisky Traffic.

Henry W. Grady once said of the whisky traffic: "It is the mortal enemy of peace and order, the despoiler of men and terror of women, the cloud that shadows the faces of children, the demon that has dug more graves and sent more souls unshrived to judgment than all the pestilences that have wasted life since God sent the plague to Egypt, and all the wars since Joshua stood beyond Jericho."

Uncle Sam uses the best of everything. Uncle Sam uses Carter's Ink. He knows.

Life is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things in which smiles and kindnesses and small obligations, given habitually, are what win and preserve the heart.—Sir Humphrey Davy.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Skill in the dairy is important, but the art of butter making does not depend altogether upon skill in the manipulation of the milk, cream and butter. Inferior cows, that are half fed, or not fed properly, will not furnish milk of the desired quality for producing the best butter. On some farms, during the warm days of summer, the cows suffer from lack of water. It will not do to simply water them morning and night, but they must have an abundant supply. The food should also be varied and of the best quality.

"Very often," remarked the long-haired man, "the printer mixes up words in my poems, thus creating different meanings and thoughts from what I intended."

"That so?" inquired the practical man. "How much does he charge you?"—Indianapolis Sun.

BEST FOR THE BOWELS

If you haven't a regular, healthy movement of the bowels every day, you're sick, or will be. Keep your bowels open, and be well. Force, in the shape of violent physic or pill poison, is dangerous. The smoothest, easiest, most perfect way of keeping the bowels clear and clean is to take

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Personality.

Much is said about the supreme need of personalities in our day, instead of abstractions, theories and inanimate scholarship. It is even hinted that theological study is of secondary importance, the personal factor being the essence in the preacher. But the imperative demand of the age in enlightened personalities embodying the results of past achievements and the best thought and scholarship of the present. We need profound thought and rich learning sanctified into personality.—Homiletic Reivew.

Terrible Ravages of Opium Trade.

The terrible ravages of the opium trade in China are indicated by the number of sucides. In Yunnan province there are on an average of 1,000 attempted opium suicides per month. The average for the whole of China is not less than 600,000 per year. Dr. William Park says there are over 800,000, and that the number of deaths from opium poisoning is not less than 200,000 a year.

I am sure Piso's Cure for Consumption saved my life three years ago.—MRS. THOS. ROBBINS, Maple Street, Norwich, N. Y. Feb. 17, 1900.

A Civil War Heroine.

A few days ago Miss Lizzie Vanlew, who rendered such conspicuous services to the federal cause during the civil war, died at Richmond, Va. For the aid she gave to General Grant the latter when elected president made Miss Vanlew postmistress of Richmond. Miss Vanlew also gave substantial aid to officers who effected their escape from Libby prison just before the close of the war.—Chicago Record.

Some dairymen have a measure and give each cow the same quantity of food. There can be no uniformty in the allowance of food. Some cows consume more than others, and cows that are in full flow of milk require more food than the non-producers. The only rule to follow is to give each animal as much as it will eat up clean if it is a producer.

OIL IN CALIFORNIA.

An Interview With a Well Known Oil Expert.

A well-known oil expert has the following to say about the California oil industry:

The oil production of California is now about 4,500,000 barrels annually. This output is being increased very materially each month by the product of the new wells drilled to oil in the different districts.

The question most frequently asked me, especially by capitalists and those interested or likely to be interested in oil investments is: "Is there not a possibility of overproduction of oil in California?"

There are two main belts extending through the state, located on the eastern and western shores of ancient, prehistoric seas. One of these produces a black and essentially fuel oil, and the other a green or gas oil.

The black or heavy oil makes an ideal fuel, as has been proven by 20 years of experience in Russia and in this country.

In using oil as a fuel it is necessary to exercise considerable judgment, and to know what kind of oil as well as what kind of a burner to use.

The two oils, the black and the green, lie almost in two parallel belts in California extending on the west side of the San Joaquin valley and running north and south into northern and southern California. There is likewise a similar condition on the east side of the San Joaquin more or less in evidence as is shown by the outcroppings and geological formation. The east side of the valley, however, has not yet been prospected for oil as has the west side, where developments have already been, and where by far the largest amount of the oil output of California is at present obtained.

It is true that many far-seeing capitalists have entered into the oil business and have reaped rich financial returns already, others have been too conservative and are losing opportunities which are fast being taken up by Eastern capitalists, who are rapidly appreciating the chance California gives for investments.

Many wells are now under way, and new derricks are going up on every side, and I am satisfied that many of these new oil enterprises will be wonderfully successful and that the financial story of Oil City, in Fresno county, with its dazzling vistas of millions already made and not under prospect, will be told and retold again and again in new fields in the near future.

World to End this Year.

This is the recent decision of one of the prominent societies of the world, but the exact day has not yet been fixed upon, and while there are very few people who believe this prediction, there are thousands of others who not only believe, but know that Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is the best medicine to cure dyspepsia, indigestion, constipation, biliousness or liver and kidney troubles. A fair trial will certainly convince you of its value.

Christianity and Theology.

One of the most unfortunate mistakes ever made by the Christian church was to slide into the habit of identifying Christianity with theology. We have had brains given us to use, and there are no themes that so magnificently challenge a man's intellectual powers as the themes that associate themselves with religions and with the Christian religion. But even so, theology is not Christianity.—Rev. Dr. Parkhurst.

The most northerly city in the world is Reykjavik, Iceland, which has 3,900 inhabitants.

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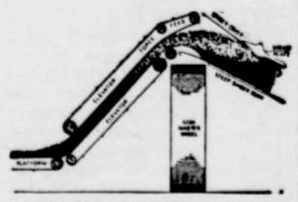

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