THE FRONTIER, O'NEILL, NEBRASKA,



CHAPTER XIII—Continued -15-

derer into making one more bet-a the hall door. losing bet . . . Cheerio." And he was gone.

when Vance returned to the apart- here. Anything I can do for you?" ment.

"Everything is in order," he announced as he came in. "There Everyone here?" are no horses running today, of course, but nevertheless I'm looking | and they're all frightened to deathforward to a big wager being laid all except Hammle. He takes the this evening. If the bet isn't placed, whole thing as a lark. I wish somewe're in for it, Markham. Every- body had shot him instead of one will be present, however. The Woody." sergeant, with Garden's help, has

present yesterday, and they will him. I'll see the others presently.' foregather again in the Gardens' drawing-room at six o'clock . . ." He glanced at his watch and, ring- ing to Markham at the front door. ing for Currie, ordered our lunch.

"If we don't tarry too long at the den. table," he said, "we'll be able to hear the second half of the Phil- ing," he greeted Vance. harmonic programme. Melinoff is doing Grieg's piano concerto."

But Markham did not go with us to the concert. He pleaded an ur-Stuyvesant club, but promised to ded to him brusquely. meet us at the Garden apartment at six o'clock.

Vance; "I got it here."

cellent, Sergeant. Come into the other room."

back into the library. "So long, Mr. Vance," Heath said,

shaking hands. "Good luck to you." And he lumbered out.

I took this opportunity to come out from my corner, and just as I "I'm plannin' to entice the mur- did so Floyd Garden appeared at

"Oh, hello, Vance," he said. "I didn't know you had returned until It was a little after half-past two Zalia just told me you were in Vance swung around quickly.

"I was just going to send for you.

Garden nodded gravely. "Ycs.

"Will you send him in here," got in touch with all those who were Vance asked. "I want to talk to Garden walked up the hall, and at that moment I heard Burke speak-Markham immediately joined us in

"Hope I haven't kept you wait-

"No. Oh, no." Vance leaned against the desk. "Just in time." Markham had barely seated himself when Hammle strutted into the gent political appointment at the den with a jovial air. Vance nod-

"Mr. Hammle," he said, "we're wholly familiar with your philoso-Sergeant Heath was waiting for phy of minding your own business us when we reached the apartment. and keeping silent in order to avoid "Everything's set, sir," he said to all involvements. A defensible attitude-but not in the present cir-Vance smiled a little sadly. "Ex- cumstances. This is a criminal case, and in the interest of justice to everyone concerned, we must Heath picked up a small package have the whole truth. Yesterday wrapped in brown paper, which he afternoon you were the only one had evidently brought with him, and in the drawing-room who had even followed Vance into the bedroom. a partial view down the hallway. Ten minutes later they both came | And we must know everything you saw, no matter how trivial it may seem to you."

Hammle gave in.

"First of all, then," said Vance, We arrived at the Garden apart- without relaxing his stern gaze, ment a few minutes before six "when Miss Graem left the room, o'clock. Detectives Hennessey and ostensibly to answer a telephone call, did you notice exactly where she went?" "Not exactly," Hammle returned; 'but she turned to the left, toward the den. You understand, of course, that it was impossible for me to see very far down the hall, even from where I sat."

"Well, Vance, to tell you the by Detective Burke was fired from truth, it wasn't very much. Just the same revolver, with the same toward the study; and almost im- same spot." mediately he went back downstairs. Then Zalia Graem passed the door on her way to the study. Five or cut in Siefert. ten minutes later the detectiveby the door, carrying a coat over of the windows on this floor."

his arm. A little later-two or three minutes, I should say-Zalia Graem and the nurse passed each fert looked perplexed. other in the passageway, Zalia going toward the stairs, and the nurse toward the study. A couple of minutes after Floyd Garden passed the door on his way to the study again-"

ed. "You didn't see the nurse return downstairs after she passed Miss Graem in the passageway?" Hammle shook his head emphatically. "No. Absolutely not." "One more thing, Mr. Hammle: while you were out there in the

garden, did anyone come out on the roof from the terrace gate?" "Absolutely not. I didn't see anybody at all on the roof."

"And when Garden had returned downstairs, what then?"

"I saw you come to the window and look out into the garden. I was afraid I might be seen, and the minute you turned away I went over the gate. The next thing I knew, you about the crime?" you gentlemen were coming out on

the roof with the nurse." "Thank you, Mr. Hammle, You've told me exactly what I wanted to know. It may interest you to learn that the nurse informed us



people coming and going. First I cartridges, that the murderer used saw Garden go up the passageway yesterday - and from about the "But this shot sounded as if it were fired down here somewhere,"

"Exactly," said Vance with sat-Heath, I think his name is-went isfaction. "It was fired from one

"But I understand that the shot yesterday came from upstairs." Sie-

"That was the general, but erroneous, assumption," explained Vance. "Actually it did not. Yesterday, because of the open roof door and the stairway, and the closed door of the room from which "Just a minute," Vance interrupt. the shot was fired, and mainly because we were psychologically keyed to the idea of a shot from the roof, it gave us all the impression of coming from the gar-

den." Zalia Graem turned quickly to Vance.

"The shot yesterday didn't sound to me as if it came from the garden. When I came out of the den I wondered why you were all hurrying upstairs."

Vance returned her gaze square-

"No, it must have sounded much closer to you," he said. "But why didn't you mention that important to the far corner of the garden, by fact yesterday when I talked with

"I- don't know," the girl stammered. "When I saw Woody dead up there, I naturally thought I'd | you might get it done." been mistaken."

"But you couldn't have been mistaken," returned Vance, half under she was struck over the head in his breath. "And after the revolver had been fired yesterday from a downstairs window, it was surreptiously placed in the pocket of Miss Beeton's top-coat in the hall closet. Had it been fired from upstairs it could have been hidden to far better advantage somewhere on the roof or in the study." He turned again to the girl. "By the by, Miss Graem, didn't you go to that closet after answering your telephone call here in the den?" The girl gasped.

"How-how did you know?" "You were seen there," explained

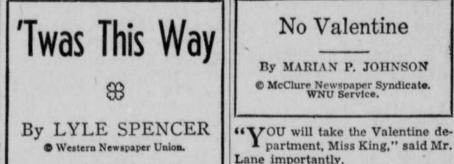
Vance.

The girl turned back to Vance with flashing eyes.

"I'll tell you why I went to the hall closet. I went to get a handkerchief I had left in my handbag. Does that make me a murderer?"

"No. Oh, no." Vance shook his head and sighed. "Thank you for the explanation . . . And will you be so good as to tell me exactly what you did last night when you answered Mrs. Garden's summons?"

Zalia Graem glared defiantly at Vance. "I asked Mrs. Garden what



No Valentine

By MARIAN P. JOHNSON

© McClure Newspaper Syndicate. WNU Service.

I partment, Miss King," said Mr.

Maisie King emitted a sharp little

"At once, Miss King!" snapped

A short time later she stood

among the valentines and glared.

first serious quarrel with Jim just

yanked bodily from the frothy col-

lars and cuffs she adored to be

planted ruthlessly among the val-

entines was-well, it was just plain

sickening, decided Maisie rebel-

She was deluged almost at once

"Something for mother," demand-

ed a smooth masculine voice. And

Maisie's heart did a neat flip-flop

almost over the counter and back

again. She gritted her teeth and

"How's that?" she inquired. Cool-

ly, she hoped. And lifted her eyes

"O. K.," said Jim, grinning.

"Does it matter?" inquired

"Maybe not." remarked Jim, his

Maisie icily. After all, this was the

mouth tightening into that straight

grim line it had held so doggedly

during last night's battle. "Well,

if that's the way you feel, so long!"

stalked away. Six feet of blue-

eyed, brown-haired outraged man-

Picking up his valentine he

That night Jim took Lou Ryder

to the movies. Maisie saw them

anger grew. She suffered night-

mares crowded with the faces of

hearts surrounded by little flying

cupids and bows and arrows of shin-

Going back to the valentines next

morning was a hollow mockery. Es-

"After all, what's the difference?"

pecially since her small calendar re-

minded her it was February 14.

'How're you feeling, honey?"

shoved a valentine at him.

gasp and opened her mouth to pro-

Mr. Lane. "Follow me!"

Maisie followed.

test.

liously.

to Jim's.

hood.

ing gold.

very last straw!

with customers.

Little Church Around

the Corner

NEW YORK'S 'Little Church Around the Corner" is probably the world's most famous and romantic spot to be married in. And of all things, its popularity It was bad enough, having her first started from a funeral!

This historic place of worship, before Valentine's Day. But being whose real name is the Church of the Transfiguration, is a picturesque, rambling, brown structure on Twenty-ninth street near Fifth avenue. About 1870, the great actor. George Holland, died in New York. His sister wanted his funeral to be held at her own church- a then fashionable temple on aristocratic

Fifth avenue. Joseph Jefferson, an old friend of the Holland family, called on the high-toned rector of the church to make arrangements for the funeral. But that reverend gentleman refused to hold services for what he termed a "common actor."

"There is," he said, "a little church around the corner where

"Then," said Mr. Jefferson solemnly, "God bless the little church around the corner!"

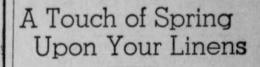
A few days later the service for the dead actor was held in the "little church," before a congregation that included many of the city's most prominent people. Attracted by the human interest angle, newspapers gave it headlines. Mark Twain wrote a touching piece about it. So what might have been a tragedy turned out to be a triumph. From that memorable incident, and her eyes became bright and her the "Little Church Around the Corner," got its name. Many noted theatrical people joined its congregation, and all found a cordial, warm reception. Where they went, publicity followed. Many a theatrical wedding was performed before its altar. Somehow the congenial, friendly air of is atmosphere has been maintained down to this very

day.

The First Love Letter

HUMAN nature seems to be the same at all times and in all places. Numerous clay tablets nearly 4,000 years old, which were re-

That afternoon a voice broke suddenly through the others. "A Sweetheart Valentine, please." were asto



Could you ask for a daintier, more Springlike wreath? Here's a bit of embroidery that's unfailingly lovely, and always easy to do!-Pattern 5570, which will give an old or new bedspread a quick

Pattern 5570

beauty treatment. You can use gayly colored floss both for the lilac clusters and their dainty bow, and just the easiest of stitches-blanket, single, outline, lazy daisy and French knots.

In Pattern 5570 you will find a transfer pattern of one large spray 15 by 201/2 inches; one bowknot 41/4 by 123/4 inches; two sprays 3 by 51/2 inches and two sprays 3¼ by 3¼ inches; color suggestions; illustrations of all stitches used; material requirements.

To obtain this pattern send 15 cents in stamps or coins (coins preferred) to The Sewing Circle Household Arts Dept., 259 W. Fourteenth St., New York, N. Y. Write plainly your name, address and pattern number.

Chinese Currency

There is no legally recognized standard of currency in China. The money system varies with the region. The Chinese have used money as a medium of exchange of 5,000 years, but they have never for 5,000 years, but they have never standardized it. At the time of Christ they were using 30 different kinds.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a tonic which has been helping women of all ages for nearly 70 years. Adv.

Levity in Best Minds

There is always some levity, even in excellent minds; they have wings to rise, and also to stray .- Joubert.

TO EASE

with protruding front teeth lisping some sort of mushy sentiment. The girl looked amazingly like Lou Rycently dug up from the ruins of

der.

she demanded. "It's just another day." Sorting her stock she paused suddenly over a line of humorous cards. One of them pictured a girl

Babylon, show that the habits and problems of that ancient people

to come home and be forgiven.

letter in the world:

sake, live forever."

America's First Presidents

an obscure man most of us have

never even heard of-Thomas Mc-

Our present Constitution did not

go into effect until March 4, 1789.

Washington was the first President

under its provisions, and served un-

til his voluntary retirement in 1797.

But before that time our country,

such as it then was, had been held

not represented at the first con-

gress) met in Philadelphia and or-

ganized what has since been called

the Continental congress. Its pur-

pose was to organize the colonies in-

Burke were in the front hall Vance nodded and started up the stairs.

"Wait down here for me, Van," he said over his shoulder. "I'll be back immediately."

CHAPTER XIV

I wandered into the den, the door of which was ajar, and walked aimlessly about the room, looking at the various pictures and etchings. Just then Vance entered. As he came in he threw the door open wider, half pocketing me in the corner behind it, where I was not immediately noticeable. I was about | coming or going." to speak to him, when Zalia Graem came in.

name in a low, tremulous voice. He turned and looked at the girl with a quizzical frown.

"I've been waiting in the diningroom," she said. "I wanted to see the dining-room. After a few moyou before you spoke to the oth- ments they came out. Swift seemed

ers." I realized immediately, from the him, and then he disappeared down tone of her voice, that my presence the hall toward the stairs. Floyd had not been noticed.

Vance continued to look squarely at the girl, but did not speak. She came very close to him now.

"Tell me why you have made me suffer so much," she said.

"I know I have hurt you," Vance der." returned. "But the circumstances made it imperative. Please believe that I understand more of this case than you imagine I do."

"I am not sure that I understand." The girl spoke hesitantly, now let's go to the roof-garden, fig-"But 1 want you to know that I uratively speaking. You were in trust you." She looked up at him, the garden, waiting for a train, and I could see that her eyes were when the nurse was almost suffoglistening. Slowly she bowed her cated with bromin gas in the head. "I have never been inter- vault. The door into the passageested in any man," she went onand there was a quaver in her looking in the direction you could voice. "The men I have known easily have seen who passed up and have all made me unhappy and down the corridor." Vance looked from the things I longed for . . ." She caught her breath. "You are through that door, Mr. Hammle. the one man I have ever known Your reaction of astonishment when whom I could-care for."

So suddenly had this startling con- overdone. And you couldn't have authoritative voice was saying: fession come, that I did not have seen much of the city from where time to make my presence known, you had been standing, don't y' and after Miss Graem finished know." speaking I remained where I was, lest I cause her embarrassment.

Vance placed his hands on the girl's shoulders and held her away admitted with familiar good-humor. from him.

ously suppressed quality in his stick around for a while to see voice, "I am the one man for whom | what happened. I went out on the mistaking the finality of his words. through the door into the passage-

"Would you mind waiting in the ing to get hell next, and what

drawing-room a little while? . She gave him a searching look

went from the den.

"Quite." Vance nodded. "And when she came back to the drawing-room?"

"I saw her first opposite the den door. She went to the hall closet where the hats and wraps are kept, and then came back to stand in the archway until the race was over. After that I didn't notice her either

"And what about Floyd Garden?" asked Vance. "You remember he "Philo Vance." She called his followed Swift out of the room. Did you notice which way they went, or what they did?"

"As I remember, Floyd put his arm around Swift and led him into to be pushing Floyd away from

stood outside the dining-room door for several minutes, looking after his cousin, and then went down the hall after him; but he must have changed his mind, for he came back into the drawing-room in short or-

"And you saw no one else in the hall?"

"No. No one else."

"Very good." Vance took a deep inhalation on his cigarette. "And group. way was open, and if you had been

grinned.

"You have me there, Vance," he 'Since I couldn't make my train, I "My dear," he said, with a curi- thought I'd satisfy my curiosity and you should not care." There was no roof and stood where I could look it like you wanted it?"

Vance smiled wistfully at the girl. | way-I wanted to see who was gowould come of it all."

"Thanks for your honesty. whatever plans he had formulated. Again Hammle cleared his throat you to know that the shot just fired duced into England by the Danes.

She Gave Him a Searching Look.

the passageway, on leaving the which was full of bromin fumes." Zalia Graem was the first to en- asked her if there was anything ter the den. She glanced at Vance else she wanted. She thanked me appealingly and seated herself without a word. She was followed by to the drawing-room."

Miss Weatherby and Kroon, who sat down uneasily beside her on the davenport. Floyd Garden and his father came in together. Miss Beeton was just behind them and stopped hesitantly in the doorway, looking uncertainly at Vance. "Did you want me too?" she

asked diffidently. "I think it might be best, Miss Beeton," said Vance. "We may need your help."

At that moment the front door bell rang, and Burke ushered Doctor Siefert into the den.

"I just got your message, Mr. Vance, and came right over." He looked about the room questioning-

"I thought you might care to be present," Vance said, "in case we can reach some conclusion about the situation here. I know you are personally interested. Otherwise I wouldn't have telephoned you." "I'm glad you did," said Siefert blandly, and walked across to a chair before the desk.

Vance lighted a cigarette with

aimlessly about the room. There was a tension over the assembled The taut silence was broken by

Vance's voice. He spoke casually, but with a curious emphasis. "I have asked you all to come here this afternoon in the hope that we could clear up the very tragic

situation that exists." He was interrupted by the startling sound of a shot ominously seemed always to lead me away at the man significantly. "And I like that of the day before. Everyhave a feelin' you were looking one in the room stood up quickly, we don't seem to be getting any aghast at the sudden detonation. Everyone except Vance. And bewe came out on the roof was a bit fore anyone could speak, his calm "There is no need for alarm. Please sit down. I expressly ar-

bearing on the case . . . " Burke appeared at the door.

"Was that all right, Mr. Vance?" "Quite all right," Vance told him. "The same revolver and blanks?" "Sure. Just like you told me. And from where you said. Wasn't aid and abet the murderer."

"Yes, precisely," nodded Vance. 'Thanks, Burke.'

The detective grinned broadly and moved away down the hall.

"That shot, I believe," resumed and, without speaking, turned and Vance's face was coldly formal. Vance, sweeping his eyes lazily eight inches long, which might be Vance stood for some time gaz- you saw through that doorway while the one we heard yesterday after- a walking stick. It was a perpetual

could do for her, and she requested me to fill the water glass on the little table beside her bed. I went study, and forced into the vault into the bathroom and filled it;

then I arranged her pillows and and shook her head; and I returned

"Thank you," murmured Vance, nodding to Miss Graem and turning to the nurse. "Miss Beeton," he asked, "when you returned last night, was the bedroom window which opens on the balcony bolted?"

The nurse seemed surprised at the question. But when she answered, it was in a calm, professional tone.

"I didn't notice. But I know it was bolted when I went out-" He turned leisurely to Floyd Garden. "I say, Garden when you left the drawing-room yesterday afternoon, to follow Swift on your errand of mercy, as it were, after he had given you his bet on Equanimity, where did you go with him?"

"I led him into the dining-room." The man was at once troubled and aggressive. "I argued with him for a while, and then he came out and went down the hall to the stairs. I watched him for a couple of minutes, wondering what else I might do about it, for, to tell you the truth, I didn't want him to listen slow deliberation, his eyes moving in on the race upstairs. I was United States. That honor goes to pretty damned sure Equanimity wouldn't win, and he didn't know I hadn't placed his bet. I was rather | Kean. worried about what he might do. For a minute I thought of following him upstairs, but changed my mind."

Vance lowered his eyes to the desk and was silent for several moments, smoking meditatively.

"I'm frightfully sorry, and all that," he murmured at length, without looking up; "but the fact is, forrader. There are plausible explanations for everything and everybody. Assuming-merely as a hypothesis-that anyone here could be guilty of the murder of Swift, of the apparent attempt to murder ranged that shot for all of you to Miss Beeton, and of the possible Hammle cleared his throat and hear-it will have an important murder of Mrs. Garden, there is nothing tangible to substantiate an individual accusation. The performance was too clever, too well conceived, and the innocent persons seem unconsciously and involuntarily to have formed a conspiracy to

> Vance looked up and went on. (TO BE CONTINUED)

> > Clog Almanac

A clog almanac was a square piece of wood, brass or bone about "Please tell us now exactly what over those present, "was similar to either hung in a room or fitted into ing at the floor with a frown of in- you were waiting, as you've con- noon-the one that summoned us to almanac, showing the Sundays and decision, as if loath to proceed with fessed, for something to happen." Swift's dead body. It may interest other fixed festivals. It was intro- serve.

ningly like our Maisie jumped. Jim! She shoved These tablets, written in cuneisome valentines at him without form inscriptions, have been laborilooking up. ously translated by scientists. One

"Haven't you something a little tells of the complaint of a young nicer?" inquired Jim critically. man about the bad food he receives "Something sort of special, you in his boarding house and how he know."

longs for the food he used to get With trembling fingers Maisie at home. Another tablet is the plea pulled out the very best in the store. of a mother for her wayward son "That's better." decided Jim offering a bill.

And most familiar of all is the Suddenly Maisie couldn't bear it. tablet written by a young man who As she turned to wrap up the sickhas gone to Babylon to make his ening thing her eyes rested momenfortune, who wants his sweetheart tarily on the card with the picture of to join him there and become his Lou-well, it might as well be Lou wife. Here it is, the oldest love -Ryder. On a sudden wild impulse Maisie slapped Lou and her "To Bibeya from Gimil Mardukfront teeth into the box, wrapped Nay Shamash and Marduk grant them up and shoved the mushy one thee, for my sake, to live forever. under the counter.

I write this to inquire after thy "There!" she exclaimed, and health. Let me know how it goes handed the box to Jim. with thee. I am now settled in Now she'd done it. Made him Babylon, but I am in great anxiety mad for ever and ever. It was all because I have not seen thee. Send finished. Their love. The little home news when thou wilt come, that 1 they'd planned. Maisie took long, may rejoice at it. Come in the deep breaths and didn't care. It month of Arakhsamna (Novemberserved Jim right. Going out with

December). Mayest thou, for my Lou Ryder the very next night after-On the way home she had time to realize what she'd done. Jim

was going to be wild. She wouldn't be surprised a bit if he came right A LTHOUGH George Washington was the father of our country, over and howled things at her. Well, decided Maisie grimly, stretching he was not, as is often mistakenly her aching feet, she'd howl right assumed, the first President of the back. She'd tell him!

Oh, what was the use? Jim would just never speak to her again. The days stretched before her in one solid blank. No laughter. No joy. No Jim.

Reaching her rooming-house at last Maisie started to walk determinedly past the mail box. There wouldn't be anything in it. But out of the corner of her eye she saw together by the Articles of Confed- a white edge protruding.

Maisie grabbed. She dashed into her room and riddled the flap of On September 5, 1774, delegates the envelope with a shaking forefrom twelve states (Georgia was

finger. "It can't be a bill," she muttered. "It isn't the first of the month." It wasn't a bill. It was a valentine. "To Mother," it proclaimed in soft gilt letters amid flying doves and delicate sprays of flowers. Maisie's heart sank. "Mistake," she muttered, and turned it over. On the back were scrawled these words: "I tried to buy a valentine but the one you gave me doesn't seem to fit. So I had to use this. I'll be over about seven. Thaw out, honey. I love you. Jim."

True Hospitality

A spinster encountered some boys in the old swimming-hole, minus everything but nature's garb, and was horrified.

"Isn't it against the law to bathe without suits on, little boys?" "Yes'm." announced freckled Johnny, "but Jimmy's father is a policeman, sp you can come on in."

RHEUMATIC PAINS



Their Wisdom

Angels do not "fear to tread" anywhere; only, being angels, they know better.

Don't Sleep on Left Side, **Crowds Heart** GAS PRESSURE MAY CAUSE DISCOMFORT.

RIGHT SIDE BEST.

If you toss in bed and can't sleep on right side, try Adlerika. Just ONE dose relieves stomach GAS pressing on heart so you sleep soundly. Adlerika acts on BOTH upper and lower bowels and brings out foul matter you would never believe was in your system. This old matter may have poisoned you for months and caused GAS, sour stomach, headache or nervousness.

caused GAS, sour stomach, headache or nervousness. Dr. H. L. Shoub, New York, reports "In addition to intestinal cleansing, Adlerike greatly reduces bacteria and colon bacilit." Mrs. Jas. Filler: "Gas on my stom-ach was so bad I could not eat or sleep. Even my heart seemed to hurt. The first dose of Adlerika brought me relief. Now I eat as I wish, sleep fine and never feit better." Give your bowels a REAL cleansing

and never felt better." Give your bowels a REAL cleansing with Adlerika and see how good you feel. Just ONE dose relieves GAS and constipation. At all Leading Druggists.

WNU-U

10-37

Vagabondage

"All the vagabondage of the world begins in neglected childhood."-Victor Hugo.

> Watch Your Kidneys!

Help Them Cleanse the Blood of Harmful Body Waste

of Harmful Body Waste Your kidneys are constantly filtering waste matter from the blood stream. But kidneys sometimes lag in their work—do not act as Nature intended—fail to re-move impurities that, if retained, may poison the system and upset the whole body machinery. Symptoms may be nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness under the eyes—a feeling of nervous anxiety and loss of pep and strength. Other signs of kidney or bladder dis-order may be burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

order may be burning, scanty or too frequent urination. There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use Doan's Pills. Doan's have been winning new friends for more than forty years. They have a nation-wide reputation. Are recommended by grateful people the country over. Ask your neighbor!



land.

eration

son.

meetings carried the title and signed papers as "The President of the United States." Thomas McKean was the first man to be elected to that post. Altogether, there were eight different men who held the office, in addition to John Hancock who was elected but declined to

to a federation for united action against their common enemy, Eng-The Continental congress met irregularly until March 2, 1789. Its most important single act was drawing up and adopting, on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence,

written largely by Thomas Jeffer-The delegate in charge at the

