

# The HARP on the SHIELD

BY PROF. BERNARD J. CIGRAND

St. Patrick's day, March the 17th, belongs to the Sons of Erin by world-wide assent, but few Americans, outside of those descended from natives of the Emerald Isle, pause to consider what memorable services were rendered by Irish during the Revolutionary war. With the single exception of our French allies, they merit the highest commendation for their aid to the cause of freedom; and only because the former people hailed from an already established government are their claims granted precedence. Irish historic emblems, both in device and tincture, are woven unalterably into the fabric of the evolution of American history. Here, for the first time, are set forth items of great heraldic importance, giving the proper credit to Erin's emblems, as they have formed an equation in the development of the present governmental devices of heraldic or symbolic meaning.

It is generally supposed that the only important matter which engaged the attention of the first Continental Congress, on the fourth day of July, was the adoption of the Declaration of Independence; but the records show that no less essential national problem—a government signature, or seal—was a part of the considerations of that eventful occasion. It was about three o'clock in the afternoon, when the Liberty Bell was still sounding the call to arms and proclaiming the dawn of freedom, that John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, arose from his chair and said:

"We are now a nation, and I appoint Dr. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson a committee to prepare a device for a great seal of the thirteen United States." The committee immediately proceeded



Device Proposed by Benjamin Franklin.

Six thousand Irish came to this country in 1729, and dispersed and settled throughout the colonies, principally in Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas. From among those devout settlers sprang some of the most prominent and influential colonists. The musical instrument which symbolizes the land of Erin was an attribute of the Goddess Hibernia, the patroness of early Ireland. As early as the fifth century, the harp was so common in Erin that hardly a peasant house was without one. In the old laws of Wales and Erin the Triads specified the use of the harp as one of the three things necessary to distinguish a freeman or gentleman from a slave. Pretenders were

rejected to as an American emblem on account of the harp being representative of Ireland. But this, like many other devices, was not reported from the committee. There is good reason to believe that the following design came as a later proposal from Doctor Franklin, as he refers to it in his writings: "Supporters.—In the dexter side: the genius of America (represented by a maiden with loose auburn tresses), having on her head a radiated crown of gold encircled with a sky blue fillet, spangled with silver stars, and clothed in a long, loose white garment bordered with green. From her right shoulder to her left a scarf, semee of stars, the tinctures

the national banner was taken until June 14, 1777. But Jefferson was so impressed with the idea of recognizing the countries from whence America was peopled, and to show definitely admiration for their patriotism in the fight for liberty, that he placed below the Du Simitier idea the motto, "E Pluribus Unum," to indicate "From Many (People), one (people);" or "From Many Nationalities, one nation;" or "From England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany, and the Netherlands—the United States." The motto does not mean "From many Colonies, one nation," as the basic definition is clearly indicated in the device and in Jefferson's description. Still, Congress was hard to please, and the report of the distinguished committee was set aside and a new committee assigned to the task. Though Jefferson continued deeply interested in the matter and submitted several other devices, no less than twenty designs were under discussion, and four subsequent committees labored with the seal problem.

Then in 1782 a committee called to their aid a certain Mr. William Barton, a patriot, soldier and heraldic expert, and he designed a seal which again incorporated the emblems in token of the Irish allies of the Republic. His design was elaborate and practically became the basis of our present seal. In the shield the Stars and Stripes appear and the eagle and eye of Providence. But the special consideration of the Irish is found in the two figures supporting the proposed design. The harp and the fleur-de-lis relate to the assistance rendered by Ireland and France, and are blazoned on a green banner. However, this committee's report fared no better than its predecessors, and finally the entire question of evolving an appropriate seal was placed in the hands of the secretary of the Continental Congress—the Irishman, Charles Thomson. He, with the aid of William Barton, gave to the world our present emblematic signature. Americans in general, and those of Irish ancestry in particular, will be in-

The ONLOOKER  
WILBUR D. NESBIT



She was after a hat,  
Just a simple spring bonnet  
With the brim bent or flat  
And some flowers upon it;  
She had looked all the morn  
For she went shopping early,  
But some hats roused her scorn  
And some hats made her surly.

There were wonderful brims,  
There were crowns that were quaint,  
There were marvelous "tutus"  
Though the hues might be fainter,  
There were hats that were plain  
And were daintily simple—  
Though not anyways vain  
In delight she would dimple.

When she tried on each one,  
For they truly became her;  
(She was pretty, and none  
Who beheld her could blame her.)  
There were hats whose high price  
Any nurse would embarrass,  
There were hats neat and nice  
Just brought over from Paris.

There were hats that had things  
That were sewed on and tied on,  
Hats with flowers and wings—  
And all of them she tried on.  
And the saleslady gushed  
And the saleslady flattered—  
Though she said she was rushed,  
She denied that it mattered.

Still no bonnet was quite  
What the lady was seeking,  
Some had not enough height,  
Others made her look peaking,  
Others were quite too low  
(Not in price, but dimension)  
Others didn't quite show  
Any art comprehension.

But at last she found one  
That became her completely,  
"I'll take this; I must run,"  
She decided, quite sweetly.  
And the saleslady's roar  
We put down to her shame here:  
"It's the hat that you wore  
Long ago, when you came here!"

### Mixed Answers Again.

Inadvertently last week we contrived to affix the right answers to the wrong questions, or vice versa. Mrs. Heloise Partridge of Pasadena, Cal., asked us what was good for hives on her child, and Mrs. Lizzie Binks of East Wind, Ind., wanted instructions for dull finishing a table.

Inadvertently, as we say, we told Mrs. Binks to bathe it in lukewarm water, powder it with pulverized starch and see that it was not covered too warmly at night. Mrs. Partridge was advised to rub her baby down with fine sandpaper, give it a coat of hard oil and next morning rub thoroughly with wax. The ladies will kindly accept this as a combined explanation and apology. We would separate the explanation from the apology, but fear we might again be inadvertent.

### Columbus and the Egg.

Columbus having promised to stand an egg on end, failed at the first trial, but he reversed the egg and it balanced perfectly. "Tell me, Chris," said King Ferdinand, "why did you turn the egg over?" "Because, your majesty, the chicken could not stand on its head."

It is said that Columbus got the idea of discovering America from this incident. But, of course, theories are not always what they are cracked up to be.

### Hannibal's Oratory.

"Forward, my brave men," shouted Hannibal; "beyond the Alps lies Italy!" "Bah, you talk like a sweet girl graduate," growled a Carthaginian colonel on the general's staff. Later on Hannibal completed the resemblance by discovering that Rome was not built in a day.

### In the Museum.

"Ha! Ha! Ha!" The sword swallower was laughing as if he had swallowed a pointed joke. "Why so hilarious?" queried the inquisitive half of the two-headed girl. "The legless man says he is taking steps to secure an inheritance," replied the dagger digester.

Wilbur D. Nesbit.

## POULTRY

FAVOR INDIAN RUNNER DUCKS

Few Breeds Better Suited to Farm Raising—Imported From West Indies Fifteen Years Ago.

Much has been said through the different farm and poultry journals in favor of the Indian Runner duck, but I believe there are few who realize the possibilities and advantages of rearing ducks of this breed.

As I have been raising this breed of ducks for a few years, I can testify that they deserve all the praise given them.

They are not an entirely new variety, having been imported some 15 years ago from the West Indies, thus it receives the name of "Indian" with the "Runner" added to denote its chief peculiarity, its rapid movement over the ground.

They are great foragers and pick up innumerable bugs and insects. This alone should give them an important place on every farm.

Owing to their extreme hardness, it is quite an easy task to raise a large flock of Indian Runners, with very little trouble.

They are never bothered with lice, there are no roosts to keep clean, and no expensive houses are needed; just a low-roofed shed to protect them from the severe winds and snows in winter, says a writer in the Farm Progress. The houses should have a dry floor covering of straw or some kind of litter, as they must have a dry place on which to sleep.

While they are not a land fowl, it is not at all necessary to have running water for them to swim in, all that is needed is plenty of clean water to drink, placed in a vessel deep enough



Indian Runner Drake and Duck.

for them to cover their heads, as the nostrils are liable to become clogged with mud or feed.

The young ducklings grow and mature so quickly it is indeed very interesting and fascinating to raise them. We have had young ducklings that weighed three and one-fourth pounds when 60 days old; when matured they will weigh from four and one-half to five pounds.

Being a quick maturing fowl makes their meat exceedingly tender, and juicy, of fine flavor, equal or superior to spring chicken.

Their eggs are large, about one-third larger than the average hen egg, and perfectly white. And, contrary to the general idea of duck eggs, they are of mild, delicate flavor, making them very desirable for the table or cake baking, puddings, etc. The eggs under ordinary conditions are very fertile and will hatch exceedingly well in incubators.

## POULTRY NOTES

Renew the nests often with clean material.

Field peas make most excellent feed for laying hens.

Feeding clover is a preventive of soft shelled eggs.

It takes knowledge, experience and skill to produce a good egg.

The more comfortable and happy the hen, the more eggs she will lay.

A hen should have all the green feed she will eat every day of her life.

A turkey will consume more grit than any of the poultry kept on the farm.

New blood is a necessity, if one intends to build up the egg-laying and market qualities of his flock.

After mated, give your birds the best sanitary conditions possible and keep the houses free from lice and mites.

Great care should be exercised that breeding stock, young chicks, or eggs for hatching, be secured from flocks which are free from white diarrhea infection.

Air-slaked lime sifted or scattered over the dropping boards will assist the cleaning process materially, and also take up much of the dampness from the droppings.

Save the small potatoes and other vegetables that would otherwise go to waste and feed them to the fowls. They will help in keeping up the egg yield in cold weather.

A scratching hen and opportunity to get out in the sun in moderate weather are important to the health and thrift of hens in winter, and consequently to winter egg production.

Room, exercise, food, warmth, kindness, pure water and a management that will conduce to the comfort of the hens generally, will keep the egg basket full in winter and make winter poultry growing profitable.



Du Simitiere's Design of Seal.

ed to perform its assigned duty, and after six weeks of labor, during which time many designs were considered, it was announced that the device ar-



One of the Proposed Harp Designs.

anged by Jefferson, based on the compilation of a Huguenot named Du Simitier, he reported to Congress on August 10, 1776. The design in question was quite elaborate and indicated fundamental knowledge of the laws of heraldry, besides containing primal symbolic language, and one important element which appealed strongly to the Irish pride of race. The proposed shield carried an emblem to represent the six great nationalities taking part in the war for independence, or those who populated the colonies and were earnest in the fight for American freedom. Thus, for England appeared a rose, for Scotland a thistle, for Ireland a harp, for France a fleur-de-lis, for Germany a black eagle, and for the Netherlands a lion. Du Simitier, who was the heraldic artist, placed Ireland third in this important subdivision of that proposed shield for the Union, and it is interesting to note the reasons set forth for this recognition of the patriotism of the colonial inhabitants who came here from Ireland:

The third Quartering, green, with a harp of gold, was to be the respected symbol of Ireland, and was placed upon the shield as a token to the Irish patriots who took an active part in the war for independence; in fact, having brought over with them a spirit of dislike and revenge against England, they fought most bravely in our strug-

discovered by their unskillfulness in "playing the harp."

That the heraldic device of which Du Simitier was the author pleased his critics is proved by the fact that Franklin at once withdrew his design. Adams abandoned his and Jefferson relegated his diagram to oblivion in favor of the compilation offered by the French expert. Also there were other designs placed in evidence by distinguished colonists. Among them was an emblem of Ireland, a "Harp" with thirteen strings, and the motto, *Majora Minoribus Consonant*, meaning "The greater and lesser ones sound together." The strings of the harp were of different lengths, yet they composed one instrument in a strong frame and sounded in harmony. This appropriate device was intended to represent



Barton's Second Design.

the new government under the Continental Congress, as composed of provinces of various sizes and strength, but all working and responding harmoniously for the general good—made united in strength and purpose by the framework of Congress. This design no doubt was ob-

thereof the same as in the canton; and round her waist a purple girdle, fringed or embroidered, argent, with the word "Virtute," resting her interior hand on the escutcheon, and holding in the other the proper standard of the United States, having a dove argent perched on the top of it.

"On the sinister side: a man in complete armor, his sword-belt azure fringed with gold, his helmet encircled with a wreath of laurel and crested with one white and two blue plumes; supporting with his dexter hand the escutcheon, and holding in the interior a lance, with the point sanguinated, and upon it a banner displayed, vert; (green), in the fess-point a harp strung with silver, between a star in chief, two fleurs-de-lis in fess, a pair of swords in saltire, in bases, all argent.



Barton's Second Design.

The tenants of the escutcheon stand on a scroll on which is the following motto: "Deo Favente," which alludes to the eye in the arms, meant for the eye of Providence."

The Congress evidently counted it more important to possess the seal than a flag, for no definite action on



Thompson's Design, the Basis of Present Seal.

terested in the following sketch of the career of the man who solved the problem of providing a seal for the Government of the United States:

Charles Thomson was born at Maghera, Ireland, November 29, 1729, and came to America with his three elder brothers in 1741. They landed at New Castle, Delaware, with no other dependence than their industry. Thomson was educated by Doctor Allison, the tutor of several of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He had a great passion for reading and when yet a young man he had gleaned sufficient knowledge to be counted among the "literati." He was afterwards a teacher in the Friends' academy, at New Castle, Delaware. From thence he went to Philadelphia, where he became acquainted with and obtained advice from Benjamin Franklin; he soon became the intimate friend of the "learned Philadelphian" and their friendship seemed to increase daily. In 1772 he served as negotiator with the Iroquois and Delaware Indians, and his good, conscientious work among the natives brought for him the worthy nickname, "Truth-teller," by which name the Indians always after called him. He was a man of rare abilities and had the peculiar requisites to make and keep friends wherever he happened to wander. He was called to the responsible duty of keeping minutes of the proceedings of the first Continental Congress in 1774, and from that time until he resigned his office in 1789—then fifty-nine years old—he was the secretary of that dignified and important body.

John Adams called him "the Sam Adams of Philadelphia, the life of the cause of liberty." This certainly was a compliment, coming as it did from a tried and honest patriot. Thomson, it is true, made a most diligent secretary, and in that position he had the rare pleasure of taking notes of all the important congressional actions. For the first year's work he received no pay. He served as permanent secretary during the eventful fifteen years that followed. His seal was accepted officially on June 20, 1782.