

OUR FIRST THANKSGIVINGS

The Proclamation Issued by General Washington Proclaiming a National Day of Praise.

PROCLAMATION
By The
PRESIDENT
Of The
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
A PROCLAMATION.

"Whereas, it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey his Will, to be grateful for his Benefits, and humbly to implore his Protection and Favour: And whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint Committee, requested me "To recommend to the People of the United States a Day of public Thanksgiving and Prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful Hearts the many Signal Favours of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a Form of Government for their Safety and Happiness.

"Now Therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday, the Twenty-Sixth Day of November next, to be devoted by the Peo-

ple of these States, to the Service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, is, or that will be. That we may then unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks for his kind Care and Protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation;—for the signal and manifest Mercies and the favourable Interposition of his Providence in the Course and Conclusion of the late War;—for the great Degree of Tranquillity, Union, and Plenty, which we have since enjoyed;—for the peaceable and rational Manner in which we have been enabled to establish Constitutions and Government for our Safety and Happiness; and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious Liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various Favours he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

"And Also, that we may then unite in most humbly offering our Prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech him to pardon our National and other Transgressions;—to enable us all, whether in public or private Stations, to perform our several and relative Duties properly and punctually;—to render our National Government a Blessing to all the People by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and Constitutional Laws, directly and faithfully executed and obeyed;—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially

such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good Government, Peace, and Concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true Religion and Virtue, and the increase of Science among them and us;—and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a Degree of Temporal Prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

"Given unto my Hand, at the City of New York, the Third day of October, in the year of our Lord One Thousand, Seven Hundred and eighty-nine.

"GEORGE WASHINGTON."

The above is the proclamation that gave us our first national Thanksgiving after the government was established. The first Continental Thanksgiving had been observed 12 years before, December 18, 1777, the winter following the autumn marked by Burgoyne's surrender. This may be



GOING TO THE FIRST THANKSGIVING SERVICE.

ple of these States, to the Service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, is, or that will be. That we may then unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks for his kind Care and Protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation;—for the signal and manifest Mercies and the favourable Interposition of his Providence in the Course and Conclusion of the late War;—for the great Degree of Tranquillity, Union, and Plenty, which we have since enjoyed;—for the peaceable and rational Manner in which we have been enabled to establish Constitutions and Government for our Safety and Happiness; and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious Liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various Favours he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

"And Also, that we may then unite in most humbly offering our Prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech him to pardon our National and other Transgressions;—to enable us all, whether in public or private Stations, to perform our several and relative Duties properly and punctually;—to render our National Government a Blessing to all the People by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and Constitutional Laws, directly and faithfully executed and obeyed;—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially

looked upon as the first national Thanksgiving day, and the one appointed by Washington as the first after the establishment of the government. In regard to the Continental celebration, Congress passed the following resolution: "That a committee of three be appointed to prepare a recommendation to the several states to set apart a day for thanksgiving for the signal success lately obtained over the enemies of these United States."

Of the very first Thanksgiving on our shores there is no formal proclamation extant, although we have valuable records which tell us how that day was kept. Long, long ago, about 280 years ago, Plymouth's ancient (book) of Laws decreed that "it be in the Power of the Governor to command solemn days of humiliation by fasting and also for thanksgiving as occasion shall be offered." Gov. Bradford, in 1621, exercised this power by appointing a day for Thanksgiving, and this was the very first American Thanksgiving, the Harvest Festival of New England. It is interestingly described in a letter written

by Edward Winslow, dated December 11, 1621:

"You shall understand that, in this little time that a few of us have been here, we have built seven dwelling-houses and four for the use of the plantation and have made preparation for divers others.

"We set the last spring some 20 acres of Indian corn, and sowed some six acres of barley and pease; and according to the manner of the Indians we manured our ground with herrings, or rather shads, which we have in great abundance, and take with great ease at our doors. Our corn did prove well; and God be praised, we had a good increase of Indian corn, and our barley indifferent good, but our pease not worth the gathering, for we feared they were too late sown. They came up very late and blossomed; but the sun parched them in the blossom.

"Our harvest being gotten in, the governor sent four men on fowling, so that we might, after a special manner, rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help besides, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king, Massasoit, with some 90 men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted; and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation, and bestowed on our governor and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God we are so far from want, that we often wish you partners of our plenty."

We believe that first Thanksgiving scene was one worthy the painter's brush, one worthy handing down to admiring posterity. That little band of white folk on the stern New England shore, together with the friendly savages partaking of the autumnal bounty. We should like to have looked upon the demure maidens and sober wives passing amongst them the smoking platters, heaped high with golden Indian corn and the flesh the hunters had brought in from the chase. Venison and fowl appeared to have been the chief dishes at that first Thanksgiving feast. It would not be out of the way, I trust, to suppose the fowl was wild turkey.

The old Plymouth laws further refer to Thanksgiving and its observance, thus: "It is enacted that none shall presume to attend servile works or labour or attend any sports on such days as shall be appointed by the Court by humiliation by fasting and prayer or for public Thanksgiving on penalty of five shillings."

A penalty of five shillings if one failed to observe Thanksgiving Day! Those old Puritans were about as intolerant as the masters they had fled, it would seem, in matters both secular and spiritual. But, come to think of it, all matters were to them, in the final analysis, of spiritual concern. If everybody was forced to be thankful, willy nilly, it was because the old Fathers thought every one ought to be thankful. And, to-day, though no fine is imposed if we neglect to keep the day, still we feel somewhat churlish if we do not lay down accustomed toil, betake ourselves to Divine service, and later to the feasting that for so many, many years has followed the religious rites.

What a contrast their Puritan Thanksgiving and ours of to-day. The Priscillas, with their demure faces looking out from the encircling hoods, walking sedately to meeting beside the erect, dignified John Aldens. No gay, roistering, chrysanthemum- and -streamer-bedecked girls and men jostling each other on the way to the football game. No, life was a very serious business then, and holidays were observed seriously, pleasures taken sadly.

For two centuries Thanksgiving Day was a peculiarity of the Eastern States. Now, that the great middle west and west are peopled by men and women of eastern extraction, and now when the south has outlived much of the old reluctance toward the adoption of anything with the Puritan mark on it, we find we have indeed a national Thanksgiving Day, a much and wide-loved holiday. In 1901, from Alaska to our wee possessions in the South Seas, from the Bay of Fundy to Manila, Thanksgiving bells will call American citizens to places of worship, and Thanksgiving dinner gongs will call them to feasts of good cheer. Men of divers races and divers colors will take part in our great Harvest Festival, whose first observance dates back almost 300 years.

OUR INTERNAL COMMERCE.

In Many Respects It is the Most Remarkable in the History of the Country.

The internal commerce of the United States during the first three quarters of the commercial year is in many respects the most remarkable in the history of the country's internal trade, while in some features there is a decline from the high tide of activity for the corresponding period of a year or two ago. The monthly summary of the treasury bureau of statistics reports that the trunk-line movement of flour from Chicago points during four weeks of September reached an average of 90,842 barrels. For the first time in the year one week's grain movement fell below 1,000,000 bushels. The provision trade shows the highest weekly average of the year, being 31,190 tons per week.

At the five chief live stock markets in the west the receipts for nine months ending September 30, were 5,236,356 cattle, 13,413,669 hogs, and 5,331,155 sheep, aggregating 23,981,180 head of these three kinds, compared with 22,239,971 head for the like period of 1900.

Chicago received 213,118 cars of the five kinds of stock, compared with 200,493 cars for the first nine months of 1900. Kansas City's arrivals of both cattle and hogs were larger than for the previous year to September 30. Omaha's packing industries consumed 2,681,431 head of cattle, hogs and sheep, against 2,590,662 head last year to September 30. The corresponding figures for St. Joseph are 2,029,405 head and 1,580,891. Nine

months' receipts at St. Louis in 1901 were 2,903,045 and 2,019,652 head for 1900.

They Cordially Agreed.

"Yes, sir, the newspapers of this country by their extended publication of sensational crimes and incidents are doing an incalculable amount of injury."

"That's right. The people shouldn't be permitted to read such details. The less they know about crime and criminals the better."

"I entirely agree with you. May I ask the nature of your business?"

"I'm a green goods man."

"And I am a dealer in gold bricks. Shake."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Those Foolish Questions!

Benevolent Old Lady—How old are you, sir?

The Youngster—Thirty-five.

Benevolent Old Lady—Bachelor?

The Youngster—Alas, yes.

Benevolent Old Lady—Ah, too bad. How long?—N. Y. Times.

A Wise Turkey

NOW this turkey lived in a wildwood glen.

He was fat, and smooth, and sleek;
He had ne'er borne love for the haunts of men,
But he loved the little creek;
Yes, he loved the creek
And its water's play,
And the forest's leafy shade,
He was king of the chase,
And lord of the place.
Where the speckled eggs were laid.



IN the turkey tongue of his elder kin,
He had heard of the day of thanks,
And he hurried away as it wandered in,
To the creek's secluded banks,
And there on the banks
Of the little creek,
He thought with his thinking brain:
"I'm a gobler now,
And one I trow,
Forever I will remain!"



SO he squat him down on a slippery log
That passed through the waters slow,
And he said, while his wattles were all agog,
"It's a risky thing, but all the same, you bet
your life I go."
And he made a sail,
A tail-spread sail,
That carried him on and on,
To the land of the leal,
And the turkey's weal,
Where other good turks had gone.



AND all of the turks that stayed behind,
In the leafy wildwood glen,
Were caught by the men who were much inclined
To render thanks, and then
Their heads were cut off, their bodies filled,
Yes, with sage were their bodies filled,
And they helped give thanks
While the bells did peal,
But one gobler was safe in the land of the leal,
For he'd left the little creek's banks.

W. H. FREEMAN.

God Guard Columbia

A New National Hymn Suitable for Popular and General Worship on Such Occasions as Thanksgiving.

By REV. HENRY C. MCCOOK, D.D., AND GEORGE BALCH NEVIN.

Sop. 123

1. At night y' Lord of All, The na-tion-aries and fall As Thy com-mand, our fa-ther's
2. From Thy the sa-cred fires Here kin-dled by our sires, Their ter-ror jaws, Faith and tri-
3. We bless Thee For the hand That led the ho-ly hand, Who made, his free, For

Staff and Staff, Keep Thou their (children's) way! God guard Co-lum-bia, Our Fa-ther-land,
ter-ni-ty, Vir-tue and in-dus-try, Love of the Truth and True, Free-dom and Law!
val-lant son Whose life our free-dom won, O God of Wash-ing-ton, We hon-or Thee!

What time the clouds of woe
Hung o'er us dark and low,
Thou, Lord, wast near.
Still be our Staff and Stay;
Hear Thou Thy People pray:
God Guard Columbia,
Our Country dear!

Hold in Thy Mighty Hand
Our troops by sea and land,
In fort and field!
Give them to do and dare;
In days of danger spare,
And guard them by Thy care
O God, our Shield!

Lord God of land and wave,
The sovereign People save!
On Thee they wait!
Do Thou perpetuate
Thy glory in the State!
Save our Chief Magistrate!
God save the State!

The authors of the above hymn have no desire to replace our beloved "America" in the hearts of the American people. Nor could they do so if they wished, for it has a place in our history almost as sacred to us as that occupied by "Old Glory" itself.

But they do believe, and with reason, that the time has come when there is room for another national hymn; that a time has come when with our broadened boundaries, our expanding commerce, our enlarged sphere in the affairs of the world, there should be another national

hymn, perhaps of secondary importance, that should give recognition to the American army and navy, to the chief magistrate of the nation, to the heroic services of those who purchased our liberty, and the times of national calamity which have sometimes befallen us. They believe that, like "America," such a hymn should contain the elements of popular and general worship, suited to the needs of great public gatherings at times of national thanksgiving and rejoicing, and these conditions we believe "God Guard Columbia" meets.