



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

A Bit of History That Is Just Now Appropriate.

In Philadelphia, in Chestnut street, stands the famous building now known as Independence hall, which used to be called the state house.

In the month of May, 1776, the second Continental congress, which had the authority of a general government over the colonies, met in Philadelphia.

Thus there was war. But though the colonies were in arms, they were so not for separation from the British government, but for their rights under that government.

In revolutions things move rapidly, and all this fine feeling of loyalty was soon to be swept away.

Of course this feeling among the people soon found its voice in congress. On the 7th of June Richard Henry Lee, one of the delegates from Virginia, offered a resolution.

When, however, a vote was taken it was seen that congress was not yet prepared for a measure so decisive.

In the meanwhile it was thought the people of the colonies would show whether they were ready for independence or not.

During this time a delay congress had appointed a committee to draw up a declaration of independence, for it was thought very important that Lee's resolution should be prefaced by a preamble setting forth the reasons that led congress to adopt the measure.

On the 2d of July the resolution to declare the colonies independent, which had been introduced by Richard Henry Lee, the life long friend of Washington, was adopted by congress.

The discussion was long and animated, some being timid or opposed, and the debate continued until July 4, when news came that a large British force under Gen. Howe had arrived at the entrance of New York harbor.

Three Washington Statues.

A Washington statue stands at the intersection of Pennsylvania and New Hampshire avenues, Washington, and was designed by Clark Mills.

It was voted by congress in 1853, and cost \$50,000. It was cast from cannon, and represents Washington as at the battle of Princeton.

The striking thing about the fame of George Washington is, that of all Americans he is the only one that has gone into history with a non-partisan position.

The only other American of whom it can be said that he had anything like a universal or non-partisan fame is Benjamin Franklin.

George Washington was of superb physical development, absolutely free from all taint of hereditary disease, a very temperate man, and lived during most of his life in conditions favorable to longevity.

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By this solemn act the English colonies had ceased to exist, and a new nation was born.

Health of the father of his country.

Science likes to point to him as a notable illustration of the "mens sana in corpore sano" principle.

Mr. Jefferson was the author also of what is called Jeffersonian simplicity. It consisted somewhat in living well and dying in debt.

Mr. Jefferson was married, and with his wife at once set out on a bridal tour on horseback from Richmond to Monticello, arriving between 12 and 1 o'clock on the night after his wedding.

Mr. Jefferson got off his horse at the door of the little red smoke house, and walking in a stately, but fatigued and rocky manner to the door, shouts: "What, ho, within there!"

Mr. Jefferson was always regarded as a good provider. He also rode to Washington from Charlottesville in a gig, in order to avoid one of the lunch counters on the way.

When the time comes for a good but simple president, I hope to get a crack at it myself.

What could be more touching than for the president of the United States to drive in from the farm, and entering an office in the morning, with a sun burned nose and the odor of new mown hay and new milk, come still hovering about him, to grasp the hand of a crowned head and present it with a large red apple as a mark of esteem!

At the noon hour I see Mr. Jefferson as he untied a large red handkerchief and took out his dinner, consisting of bread and molasses, a hard boiled egg and a wedge of prune pie.

But there was something, after all, in the welcome of Thomas Jefferson to his bride as she landed in the new home, bare and desolate as it was, which was not humorous.

There are some men in this world who couldn't tell you that two parallel lines may be infinitely produced and never meet without either you with an earnest desire to denounce the statement as a malicious lie.

NYE AT MONTICELLO.

Not long ago I visited Monticello, and passed to weep over the grave of Thomas Jefferson, the great yet simple man who wrote the noble but impractical statement that all men are created equal.

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