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THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL

THE MOST DRAMATIC OF INDEPENDENCE DAY INCIDENTS.

The Author and the Chief Advocate of the Declaration of Independence—Their Deaths Were So Remarkable That Many Saw a Providence in It.

Beyond question the most interesting fact in the history of Independence day is that the man who drafted the Declaration and the man who stood at his side when he introduced it into congress, and who predicted with accuracy its future fame, died upon the same day and exactly fifty years after completing the greatest act of their lives.

They differed in almost every element of character, yet both were ardent patriots, upright law makers, and, in their ways, able statesmen. The Massachusetts man, with a Puritanical education and inherent distrust of universal suffrage, and the Virginian, of extremely liberal training and unbounded faith in democracy, worked their way to exactly the same conclusion in regard to Great Britain and the colonies.

The popular instinct, however, was sound; the mind of Adams was reverential—to a degree far greater than that of Jefferson. Some old writer has summed up their alliance in the Revolution, for different reasons, by saying that Adams wanted the existing liberties of Englishmen secured by establishing a greater and better England in America, while Jefferson wanted a new system, root and branch, to secure the absolute liberties of human nature.

John Adams was born Oct. 19, 1735, and Thomas Jefferson April 2, 1743; the former also lived a few hours the later, his age at death being within three months of 91, while that of Jefferson was but 58. Jefferson was an extreme blonde, Adams somewhat darker; the former was tall and in youth somewhat ungainly, while the latter was rather below the medium size, firmly knit and graceful from his youth.

John Adams, as the first American minister to England, was, to put it bluntly, snubbed; Thomas Jefferson, on the contrary, was received with enthusiastic welcome at the court of France. The former denounced George III and his ministers, but bestowed high praise on the British government and people; the latter passed King Louis XVI over with



ABIGAIL ADAMS. something very like a sneer, and railed at his queen. When Minister Adams, after long delay, met George III for the first time the king said abruptly:

"Mr. Adams, I wish you to understand that I was the last man to consent to the independence of America."

Adams made an equally brusque reply: "I have no feeling or affection save for my own country."

"An honest man will have no other," rejoined the king, and so they soon became good friends.

When Minister Jefferson was introduced to Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, his queen, they overwhelmed him with compliments and good wishes for "our dear allies, the Americans," to which he replied with only official courtesy, and was soon intensely interested in the signs of the coming French revolution.

It was plain, even then, that Thomas Jefferson would defend that revolution.

That Adams wanted a stronger central government for the United States and Jefferson a larger measure of local independence is a fact known to all. Two parties formed, and then came the French revolution and roused political passions to the boiling point. If the two had been superior to human nature and intent on remaining friends, their furious partisans would not have allowed it. They exchanged only the coldest official courtesies, and for thirteen years did not correspond. The indignation of Mrs. Abigail Adams over a wrong done to her son, John Quincy, was indirectly the cause of reconciliation. She asked for an explanation; Jefferson wrote and convinced her that he was in no way responsible, and soon the old confidence was restored. Thus harmonized, the two old states-

men and patriots descended hand to hand, as it were, to the grave. On the evening of July 8, 1826, it became evident that Jefferson was dying. A little after midnight he revived and remarked, "This is the Fourth of July." Early in the forenoon he became unconscious and soon after noon expired—within one hour of exactly fifty years after presenting the Declaration to congress. About 8 o'clock the same day Mr. Adams was roused by hearing the shouts of the people in a distant grove, celebrating the day. He mentioned the fact and added, "Thomas Jefferson still lives." Soon after he breathed his last.



The same old tale of heart and hand. Love is the burden of this ditty; The girl, her small boy brother and An ardent lover from the city.



The lover (once a boy himself) Straightway applied the power of money. And then prone at her feet he laid His heart (for years he'd danced attendance), And though it was the Fourth he made A declaration of dependence.



It happened once upon a time, on a certain Fourth of July, that there were two dogs strolling along by the wayside, and one of these dogs, who was the proud possessor of a fine curly tail, looked with much disdain upon his companion, who utterly lacked that appendage. This conduct was noticed by dog number two, who at last gave vent to the following sentiments:

"Know you, my worthy companion, that while you look with disdain upon my deformity, there is a certain adage observed among men that a haughty spirit goes before a fall, and I warn you that today, being the day known to mankind as the Fourth of July, there are certain bipeds who are lying in wait for your tail. I will see you later." So saying, dog number two proceeded on his way rejoicing.

MORAL. The boy didn't catch the dog.



Agent for the Razzle Dazzle Fireworks Company—Want any family fireworks for this evening? Head of Family of Sixteen—No; we make 'em ourselves.

Charles Carrol, of Carrollton. Charles Carrol, of Carrollton, was the last survivor of those who signed the Declaration, dying in 1832 at the age of 95. It is an interesting fact that he had just been chosen and entered congress on the morning of July 4, 1776. On July 4, 1821, the fact was mentioned in many addresses that only four of the signers were living. Of these William Floyd, of New York, died on the 31 of August following, Adams and Jefferson on July 4, 1826, and Charles Carrol on Nov. 14, 1832.

HUMOR

RIGHTEOUSLY INDIGNANT.

He Either Wanted a Stop Over or a Good Reason Why.

A man who boarded a cable car at the corner of State and Madison streets the other afternoon had traveled about five miles south when something he hadn't thought of before seemed to occur to him, and he jumped up and called out to the conductor: "Put me off at the street just ahead."

A Classical Wedding Tour.

Mr. Webster Tracy, of Rome, has married Miss Carrie Adams, of Carthage. This classical event took place at Wilton, Me. We would suggest that the "happy pair" so plan their wedding journey that they may spend a day or two in Athens, Belgrade, Corinth and Damascus; behold the glories of Etna, travel a bit in Egypt, indulge in sentimental reveries at Giload, Hebron, Jerusalem and Lebanon; visit Mars Hill, see Naples, pause a while at Palmyra, pass through Poland, eat figs at Smyrna, and inspect the ruins at Troy and other famous old Maine towns ere they settle down for a quiet and uneventful life in Amity, Friendship, Harmony, Hartland, Lovell, Moderation, Union or Unity.—Mt. Desert Herald.

Why Is It

That the little girl who, at the age of 4, looks something like this— should develop at 16 into a vision of beauty, while— the little boy who, in his kiddy days, was a perfect Fauntleroy-erab— into an object which is chiefly useful in training horses to be afraid of nothing?—Puck.

Asked for a Lock and Got a Switch.

Father—So your teacher punished you in school today? Hopeful—Yes, sir. "What were you doing?" "Nothing, sir." "What else?" "I asked her for a lock of her hair." "Well?" "She gave me a whole switch."—Yonkers Statesman.

Children Welcome.

Wearry Searcher (looking for board)—I hope, madam, you do not object to children. Boarding House Mistress—Oh, not in the least. I have nine myself. Wearry Searcher (backing off)—Um—er—if I decide to take the rooms I will send you a postal. Good day.—New York Weekly.

Contradictory Orders.

Patrol Duty—Adjutant—How often have I told you that the duties of a non-commissioned officer consist in implicit obedience to orders. For instance, if I were to say, "Corporal, take your men up to the top of that tree," don't ask "How?" but do it like a flash of lightning, even if it takes you all day.—Pick Me Up.

Poor Mr. Henpeck.

Little Fanny—Ma, are you going to take pa with you to Saratoga this summer? Ma—No, my dear; he will stay at home with you. Little Fanny—Well, I want you to take him along, for when you are away he doesn't mind me at all.—Texas Siftings.

He Knew.

Calino is about to get married. "My dear, do you snore?" his sweetheart asked him the other day. "Never, my sweet!" "But how do you know?" "I once kept awake all night to make sure."—Le Figaro.

A False Alarm.

Wife (from the other room)—Dear, the house must be on fire. I smell burning cloth. Husband—Reassure yourself my dear. It is only one of the cigars you gave me.—Clother and Furnisher.

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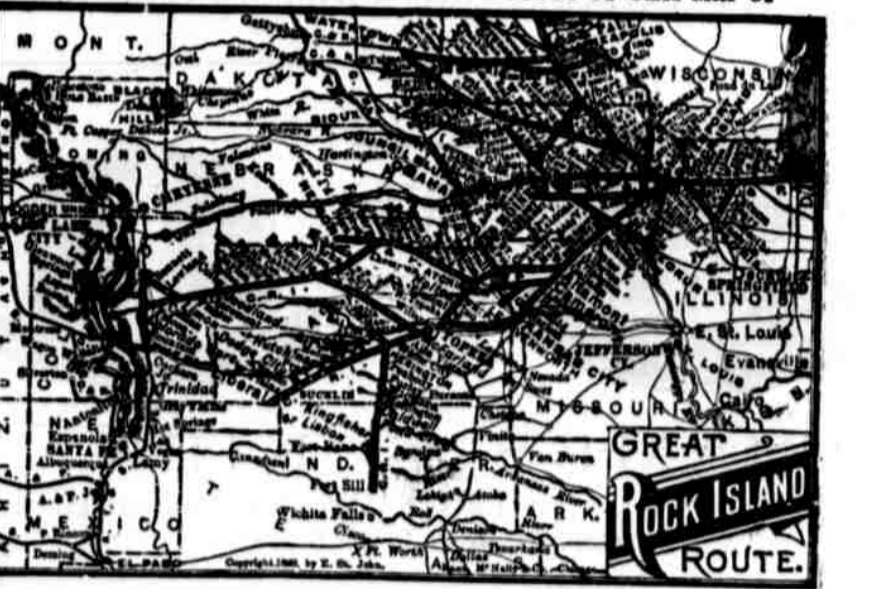
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A MAN

UNACQUAINTED WITH THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE COUNTRY, WILL OBTAIN MUCH VALUABLE INFORMATION FROM A STUDY OF THIS MAP OF



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