

THAT BEAUTIFUL BIRD, THE FLAMINGO.

Have you ever heard of the creature abroad, The ridiculous bird, the flamingo— With neck long and slim, And legs long and trim, And the faintest sort of a hump?

When a fishing he goes, He thrusts to his nose— This humorous bird, the flamingo, Without hat or boot, His long neck a crook— Aloft in the air see his wing go!

A plunge and a dive! And a fish all alive, This wonderful bird, the flamingo, Brings out to the land, And gobbles it—hand, In a twinkling he makes the whole thing go.

Then his mate, the old woman, As though she were human, And not an old growing flamingo, For lack of her share, Sets up a great rattle, And makes every thing in din go.

But a screech, loud and shrill, Comes out of the bill Of the magnificent bird, the flamingo; His eyelids both close, And he stands on the toes Of one leg—his asleep, by gages!

—Humorous Herald.

1776. FOURTH OF JULY. 1876.

OLD STATE HOUSE IN PHILADELPHIA.

This celebrated building was completed in 1792 and completed in 1794. The amplitude of such an edifice, in so early a date, and the expensive interior decorations, at a cost of five thousand six hundred pounds, are creditable evidences of the liberality and public spirit of the times.

The place is consecrated by numerous facts in our colonial and revolutionary history, whose memory is to the whole, the Declaration was passed and signed, and from the yard proclaimed to the world.

This hall now contains a rare and valuable collection of National Portraits procured under many disadvantages. They have been gathered from various localities throughout the Republic, at considerable cost, and are here brought together at the common center of the nation. The series exhibits almost the only authentic portraits extant of their illustrious originals, in whom, not Americans only, but all the good and true of the world should take an abiding interest.

In addition to the portraits there are many other objects in the Hall which cannot fail to attract attention; among which may be named as prominent—the old Bell of Independence; a portion of a Pew in Christ Church used by General Washington, General Lafayette, and Benjamin Franklin; the Chair in which John Hancock sat as president of Congress, two Chairs of members of the same, and the small mahogany Table on which the Declaration of Independence was signed; a portion of the stone step from which Independence was proclaimed; and Rush's Statue of Washington. In the center of the Hall, suspended from the ceiling, is the ancient Chandelier which was used by Congress during its deliberations, and more particularly on the night prior to the passage of the Declaration.

There is also a Chair, made in 1825 by order of the commissioners of the late District of Kensington, which forms in itself quite a museum of curiosities. Among the materials used in its construction will be found a portion of a mahogany beam from a house built in 1494, near the present city of Saint Domingo, for the use of Christopher Columbus, being the first house built in America by European hands. This chair also contains fragments of the Treaty Elm Tree; of Penn's Charter in Latin; of the United States Frigate Constitution; of the Ship-of-the-line Pennsylvania; and of one of a group of Walnut Trees which formerly stood in front of the State House which were then cut down. Some portions of cane-seating from a chair once the property of William Penn, and a lock of the hair of the late Chief Justice Marshall, are also inserted in this curious piece of furniture.

THE OLD BELL OF INDEPENDENCE.

This Bell was imported from England in 1752, for the State House; but having met with some accident in the trial ringing after it was landed, it lost the tone received in the father-land, and had to be re-cast. This was done under the direction of Isaac Norris, Esq., then Speaker of the colonial Assembly; and to him we are probably indebted for the remarkable motto so indicative of its future use: "BY THE SWORD WE BRING FORTH ALL THE LAND UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF."—LEV. XXV. 10.

That it was adopted from Scripture, may to many be more impressive, as being also the voice of God—that great Arbitrator by whose signal providence afterwards attained to that "Liberty" and self-government which bids fair to ennoble our whole continent, and in time to influence and meliorate the condition of the subjects of arbitrary government throughout the civilized world.

THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

NAME AND BIRTHPLACE	AGE	DATE
John Morton, Delaware	41	April, 1737
Robert R. Livingston, New York	34	Jan. 20, 1746
George Washington, Virginia	41	Feb. 22, 1732
John Adams, Massachusetts	30	Oct. 30, 1735
Thomas Jefferson, Virginia	33	Jan. 6, 1743
Benjamin Franklin, Pennsylvania	70	Jan. 17, 1706
Richard Henry Lee, Virginia	32	June 30, 1734
George Mason, Virginia	42	Sept. 11, 1725
Patrick Henry, Virginia	33	May 29, 1736
Samuel Adams, Massachusetts	34	Oct. 9, 1732
John Hancock, Massachusetts	30	Sept. 9, 1723
Thomas Mifflin, Pennsylvania	35	Aug. 10, 1747
George Clinton, New York	38	July 26, 1739
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