



THE FOURTH OF JULY BIRTHDAY OF THE GREATEST OF NATIONS.

Why Every Patriotic American Should Rejoice and Give Thanks—History of the Declaration of Independence—Its Signers.

One hundred and twenty-one years ago the bell rang in Independence hall in Philadelphia. To the uninitiated it



THOMAS JEFFERSON.

pealed its sonorous notes for some unknown purpose. To those who, breathless, were waiting for the sound, it told the news that liberty had shaken off her shackles in the new world, that she had taken her rightful place and that hereafter the people would acknowledge the power of no ruler except such as might be chosen by themselves.

It was on the seventh day of June, 1776, that the delegates from the colonies sitting in congress in Philadelphia considered the following resolution introduced by Virginia's statesman, Richard Henry Lee:



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

Independent states and their political connection with Great Britain is and ought to be dissolved.

There had been murmurings and threats and calm expressions of determination. But here was united action. The people, by their representatives duly chosen, formally absolved themselves from allegiance from the mother country and said to the world that they had cast off their swaddling clothes, and were now able to walk alone.

Nevertheless the resolution evoked opposition and was indorsed as stated, by the majority of one. Thirteen colonies were represented. Because seven of them voted and stood for independence, the United States is today what she is.

the tocsin of revolution. The delegates thought it wise to defer the question of final consideration to July 1, 1776, by which time they believed there might be a more united feeling among the people.

Thus it was that on June 11, that famous committee was appointed to frame the declaration of independence. Note the names, and if you are a student of the history of the United States, conceive, if you can, of a better quintet to have represented the American people: Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman, Robert R. Livingston.



JOHN ADAMS.

actly what was needed to keep the young craft on her course.

Jefferson had spoken but little in congress and he had no part in the acrimony which then prevailed. In a plain brick house, corner of Market and Seventh streets, Philadelphia, he drafted the declaration of independence.

Caesar Rodney, one of Delaware's delegates, in order to have his vote recorded, rode in the saddle from a point eighty miles from Philadelphia, all night, and reached the floor just in time on July 4 to cast Delaware's vote in favor of independence.



RICHARD HENRY LEE.

adopted by the unanimous vote of the thirteen colonies. The enthusiasm of the patriots at hearing the intelligence was unbounded. While congress had been discussing the subject, crowds assembled outside the hall and in the streets, anx-

iously awaiting the result. When it was announced at noon the state house bell, on which was inscribed "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto the inhabitants thereof," clanged deep and melodiously and the throng gave vent to long and loud shouts of exultation.

The old bell ringer had been at his post since early morning. He had placed his boy below to announce when the declaration was adopted, so that



ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON.

not an instant might be lost in transferring the glad tidings by means of the bell to the waiting multitude. A the wearisome hours passed and no sign came to him the aged bell ringer finally exclaimed "They will never do it! They will never do it!" Just then he heard his boy clapping his hands and vociferating at the top of his juvenile lungs "Ring! Ring!"

That was a gala day in Philadelphia with all rejoicings and bonfires and illuminations. The cannon boomed and messengers rode away hotly in all quarters to announce the news. Washington then was in New York with the army. By his orders it was read to the soldiers, who acclaimed it enthusiastically. The townsfolk on that night tore the statue of George III. from its pedestal in Bowling Green and it was melted into 42,000 bullets for the patriotic troops.

"Yesterday," wrote John Adams to



ROGER SHERMAN.

his wife. "The greatest question was decided that was ever debated in America; and greater, perhaps, never will be decided among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent." The day is passed. The Fourth of July, 1776, will be a memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty God. It ought to be solemnized with pomp, shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other from this time forward forever.

By a strange coincidence John Adams died on July 4, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the declaration of independence. His last words were "Jefferson still survives." But at 1 o'clock on the same day Jefferson also passed away.

WATSON GOES TO SPAIN

ORDERED TO TAKE AN ARMORED FLEET.

The Newark as the Flagship, With the Battleships Iowa and Oregon and Three Auxiliary Cruisers—Navy Makes This Announcement in an Official Bulletin.

WASHINGTON, June 28.—The navy department at 11:15 o'clock posted the following bulletin:

Commodore Watson sails to-day in the Newark to join Sampson, when he will take under his command an armored squadron with cruisers and proceed at once off the Spanish coast.

Later the Navy department issued a second bulletin, showing the ships to be placed under Commodore Watson's command. The ships named are as follows:

Flagship Newark, battleships Iowa and Oregon, cruisers Yosemite, Yankee and Dixie and the colliers Scandia, Abarenda and Alexander. The advance will be made at once from Santiago.

Admiral Camara's fleet, now reported at Port Said, is closely watched. The reports which have come to this government about Camara's force show that he has sixteen vessels under his command, armored, unarmored cruisers, troop ships and auxiliary cruisers. When the vessels left Cadiz they scattered in two divisions, eleven ships proceeding through the Straits of Gibraltar to Cartagena and the others to some unknown destination, supposed to be the Canaries. Three of the five vessels of the second division had troops on board. Later information shows that these five, or as many more which were waiting at Cartagena, are now with the main force, and that several of the vessels are carrying soldiers.

By some it is thought that the Navy department's bulletin may be for the purpose of influencing the movement of Camara. With an American fleet bound Spainward, it is deemed probable that Camara would continue on his way East, granting that he ever intended to go to the Philippines, Hawaii or San Francisco, as has been variously conjectured.

By sending Commodore Watson to harass the Spanish coast the navy starts upon a most aggressive campaign. The announcement that the Spanish coast is to be attacked caused a thrill of excitement to sweep through the Navy department. It is said that the blockade at Havana and Santiago will not suffer by the withdrawal of a flying squadron.

The sailing of the Cadiz fleet to Manila relieves the New England coast of further fright, and the vessels doing patrol duty along the northern coast have been ordered to rejoin the blockading fleet at Havana. It is believed that as soon as Spain hears their coast is to be attacked orders will be sent to stop the Cadiz fleet and recall Admiral Camara to Cadiz.

The official announcement of the intention of the United States to attack Spain is the most daring incident of the war, and shows that all talk of peace is idle speculation. The squadron will sail at once. Commodore John Crittenden Watson is well fitted to perform the duties of his new assignment. He was Farragut's flag lieutenant at 19 and was in all Farragut's fights from the capture of New Orleans to Mobile bay. In the last named fight young Watson assisted in lashing the admiral to the rigging of the Hartford.

Since the close of the war Commodore Watson has served on board of or commanded ships of our navy in all parts of the world. In 1893, when Admiral Benham with the United States fleet defied the entire Brazilian navy in the harbor of Rio and opened the commerce of that port to the world, Commodore Watson was in command of Benham's flagship and was also the chief of staff of the fleet. In the same year he was the commander of the warships sent to Bluefields on account of the trouble with Nicaragua. More recently the commodore has been governor of the naval home.

Commodore Watson is Kentucky born and 34 years old. He is a grandson of John J. Crittenden and a nephew of Thomas L. Crittenden, the staff officer who, on the field of Buena Vista, made the famous response to Santa Ana, "General Taylor never surrenders." Commodore Watson has transferred his flag from the Cincinnati to the dispatch boat Dolphin and is now issuing his orders from that craft.

CAMPOS MAY BE DICTATOR.

Said to Have Designs on the Government of Spain.

LONDON, June 28.—The Vienna correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: The latest advices from Madrid indicate that there is ground for the apprehension that Marshal Martinez de Campos will soon issue a pronouncement and attempt a dictatorship. Minute directions have been sent to the Austro-Hungarian ambassador at Madrid, Count Dubski, regarding the personal safety of the queen regent.

The latest news from Madrid is that the situation is so serious that several cabinet meetings have been held, in a desperate attempt to avert a crisis.

Kansas Negroes Under Weight. TOPPEKA, Kan., June 28.—Enough negroes to form a full company offered themselves as volunteers this morning, but many of them did not pass the required examination. Of the first thirty half were rejected because they were under weight. They were examined under the regulations that govern the enlistment of white soldiers and many of the young negroes are too slender. The surgeons say that the average young negro six feet tall is fifteen pounds lighter than the average white man of the same age and height.

WITHIN SIGHT OF SANTIAGO.

Within Four Miles From the City; 7,000 Troops are Encamped.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, June 28.—Seven thousand American troops were camped in sight of Santiago Sunday, three and a half or four miles away. Men are eager and in good health, after having been fighting since Wednesday. There will be no attack on the city for two or three days. Garcia has arrived with 3,000 men.

Probably a hundred "Rough Riders" and regular cavalry made an advance of two miles after daybreak Sunday, passing the village of Sevilla, camping at sunset in plain sight of Santiago, three miles away. The advance was without opposition. Sunday was spent in transporting machine and field guns, supplies, horses and mules toward the advanced position held by General Wheeler. This point will be supplied as a permanent camp until heavier artillery and remaining troops pass Savilla. This will occupy some time, perhaps three days, on account of the poor road. Then will come an assault on Santiago.

When the dispatch boat left Siboney many reports were current in the camp concerning our losses, some saying that forty had been killed. Colonel Roosevelt, at the front, said, however, that sixteen were killed. There is no official list as yet. Eight rough riders are likely Roosevelt's total loss. He speaks in most enthusiastic terms of his men's dashing courage. He led the way and seemed a lion in action. The top of every hill and mountain northwest of Santiago is occupied by blockhouses, from whence the Spaniards can view the movements of the American army as it advances beyond Sabanilla, while to the eastward to the city on every knoll and bit of high ground are Spanish entrenchments.

The correspondent from an elevation to the right of the American line, counted twenty-four of these entrenchments, completely fencing every approach to the city. The trenches have been dug as the conformation of the ground admitted. The end of the trenches overlap where breaks in the lines occur, thus securing comparatively safe retreat from rifle fire in case parts of the trenches are captured. Upon one of these works modern guns have been mounted. They can be plainly seen without glasses.

Spies report that inside the intrenchments are four parallel lines of rifle pits, shoulder deep, and in front of them are marked ranges and several rows of barbed wire fences.

No officers who have surveyed the field over which the advance must be made underestimate the task ahead of the Americans.

GARCIA'S ARMY WITH SHAFTER

Transports Landed 3,000 Cuban Soldiers at Juraguas Sunday.

JURAGUA, June 27.—General Calixto Garcia, with 3,000 Cuban insurgents from the mountains west of Santiago de Cuba, was landed here to-day. The Cuban troops were brought here on board the American transports. Fully 5,000 insurgents, nearly the entire available fighting force of insurgents in the southern part of Santiago province, are now concentrated at or near Juragua. Three-fourths of them are armed with modern rifles and have abundant supplies of ammunition. The soldiers are ragged almost to nakedness. Most of these men are thoroughly accustomed to the bushwhacking methods of the Spaniards, and are perfectly familiar with every trail in the vicinity of Santiago. With the intention to protect the American advance on Santiago, detachments will also be sent toward Guantanamo to give warning in case an attempt is made to form a junction with General Pando's army in Santiago.

A conference between Major General Shafter and General Garcia will be held to-morrow. The plan of co-operation of the American and Cuban armies has been agreed upon, not only in the campaign of Santiago, but in the subsequent movement on Havana and Matanzas.

General Garcia's plan is to march his entire army along the northern coast of Cuba, keeping in touch as well as he can with the United States army. As soon as possible he will effect a junction with the insurgent forces under General Maximo Gomez, who is now west of Havana.

Other bodies of insurgents, it is said, will soon be brought in. It is the plan of the Cuban leaders to have at least 20,000 men before Havana when the time comes for the investment of that city.

MANILA, June 24.—Up to the time this dispatch is sent the transports from San Francisco having on board American troops intended to reinforce Rear Admiral Dewey have not arrived here, and there is no change in the situation.

The insurgents have not made any further advance and the Spaniards have been continuing the construction of sand bank fortifications and the planting of sharpened bamboos around Manila for the purpose of stopping the insurgents' advance.

The papers here continue appealing to the natives to come to the assistance of Spain.

May Abandon Caimanera. PLAYS DEL ESTE, June 28.—It is believed in camp here that the town of Caimanera, on the upper bay, is about to be abandoned by the Spanish, who are said to be in a desperate condition owing to lack of food. The report is that they will leave the town and fall back on Guantanamo.

Lightning Kills Seven Horses.

MENDON, Mo., June 28.—A violent storm struck this place yesterday morning at 6 o'clock, doing a vast amount of damage. Jonas Long, a farmer, half a mile east of town, had seven fine work horses killed by lightning.

COST OF A WEEK AT OMAHA

Room and Board for Exposition Visitors at Moderate Cost.

Perhaps the first consideration with those contemplating a visit to the Trans-Mississippi exposition this summer is that of cost. To the few, "money is no object;" to the many it may be said that the cost of a visit to the exposition is moderate and reasonable.

The railroads have granted low rates, especially to the territory near by. Rooms can be obtained at moderate cost in any part of the city, in some cases including board, and those to whom time is money should remember that the compactness of the exposition buildings and the accessibility from the center of the city makes it possible to "see the sights" in much less time than was required at the Columbian exposition at Chicago. One day spent in each of the main buildings, with two or three days for the state buildings and other attractions, will occupy about two weeks, but a good general idea of the fair can be obtained in half that time.

Visitors should communicate immediately on their arrival in the city with the Official Information Bureau, 1319 Farnam street, which is under contract with the exposition management to furnish free reliable information in regard to rooms, board, transportation, carriage, baggage, messenger service, etc. The bureau has on its books some 5,000 rooms, mostly in private residences, to which visitors can be referred entirely without charge. Comfortable rooms can be obtained either near the exposition grounds or near the business part of the city for \$1 a night, or \$5 a week for a single person, and for \$1.50 a night, or \$4 a week for two. In some cases a light breakfast is included in these prices. There are also rooms at higher or lower figures in all parts of the city. The hotels also furnish the usual accommodations at the usual prices.

In some cases board can be obtained in the same house, and in every case the information bureau will give information as to the distance from any one of the rooms on its list to the nearest restaurant or boarding house. Good board can be had for \$5 a week for each person, or at usual prices at restaurants all over the city. Plenty of good dining halls and lunch counters are in operation in close proximity to the grounds at which visitors will be fairly and liberally treated. There are a dozen restaurants on the grounds, besides about two dozen lunch counters, tea gardens, ice cream stands, etc., at all of which prices are reasonable. At most of these the usual charges are 5 cents for tea and coffee, pie, etc., 10 cents for sandwiches, and other things at corresponding prices. Admission to the grounds is 50 cents for each person above 12 years of age. Children between 5 and 12 years, 25c. These figures include everything within the fences, except the amusement features on the midway, which are in the hands of individual concessionaries.

Paying \$5 a week for room, another \$5 for board, and 50 cents a day for general admission to the grounds, makes the cost of a week at the exposition about \$15.

RATES ARE VERY REASONABLE.

Reports That Extortionate Prices Prevail in Omaha are Erroneous.

OMAHA, July 28.—In spite of the reports that have been published broadcast that the people of Omaha have combined to charge extortionate rates for accommodations, the people who have been attracted to the city by the Kansas and Iowa day programs have found that every accommodation is obtainable at reasonable rates. One can secure a good meal anywhere around the exposition gates at 25 cents, while at the downtown hotels and eating houses there is practically no advance over the rates charged before the exposition opened. In the matter of rooms those who persist in securing quarters in the central portions of the city find that it costs a dollar to secure a room, but those who are sufficiently thoughtful to go farther out can secure good cool rooms within ten or fifteen minutes' ride of the central portion for much less money. It is a truth that there are hundreds of rooms to be had in Omaha at reasonable figures if one does not insist in getting into the heated section of the downtown districts.

The managers of the trans-Mississippi exposition have made arrangements for a rousing celebration on the exposition grounds the Fourth of July. The program will be reviewed by the governor of Nebraska, the mayor of Omaha, the president of the exposition and other executive officers as it passes the music pavilion on the south viaduct. At 11 o'clock the following exercises will be held on the grand plaza: Music—Exposition band, Prayer—Rev. T. J. Mackay. Singing—Exposition chorus of 200 voices under direction of Willard Kimball. Reading of Declaration of Independence—Hon. John C. Wharton. Oration of the day—Hon. James M. Beck, United States attorney for Pennsylvania. Music—A concert of American music has been arranged for the evening. This will be the closing event of the national congress of musicians, and is designed to mark an epoch in the history of music in this country. The \$10,000 display of fireworks which will begin as soon as the concert is over, will be one of the most brilliant pyrotechnical exhibitions ever seen in the country since 1776.

During the twenty-four days since the exposition opened up to Saturday evening the paid admissions have been 142,440. The biggest day was the opening day, 25,112. The next best day was Nebraska day, 11,726. Other days were Colorado's day 10,394, Illinois day 9,399, Iowa day 8,596. It is claimed that since the exposition opened it has cleared above operating expenses \$20,000 and that on not a single day have the receipts run below the operating expenses, which have been higher than will be the case after the exposition is thoroughly in hand.