

In 1774, John Adams, afterward president of the United States, visited the college, and the following appears with reference to it in his journal:

The apparatus is the most complete and elegant I have seen. The scholars sing as badly as the Presbyterians of New York. The president is as high a son of liberty as any in America. Princeton's patriotism, however, was not confined to words and demonstrations. In 1775 its president, John Witherspoon, and Richard Stockton, one of its trustees, were members of the legislature which deposed Franklin, the last tory governor. A few months later these were enrolled among the signers of the declaration. On the 9th of July the news reached Nassau Hall, where the Committee of Safety were holding its sessions." The building was grandly illuminated, and independence proclaimed under a triple volley of musketry, all with the greatest decorum." On the 27th of August the first provincial congress of New Jersey met in the college library and elected the first state governor and chief justice. But legislature and study were soon interrupted by the approach of the British and the college forced to disband for the time being, as we are told by one of the students at that time. "On November 29th," he says, "New Jersey college, long the peaceful seat of science, was visited with the melancholy tidings of the approach of the enemy. The president, deeply affected, entered the hall where we were collected and giving us suitable instruction and good advice, bade us farewell."

On December 1 the forsaken halls were filled once more, for Washington, halting from his retreat before Cornwallis, quartered his exhausted soldiers there and refreshed them for a week. Scarcely had he withdrawn when old Nassau which had gladly sheltered the blue was unwillingly forced to harbor the redcoats of Cornwallis. For almost a month the British stayed pillaging and destroying; but the battle of Princeton on January 3, put an end forever to their depredations. The engagement began about a mile from the campus, but the British soon retreated to the sheltering walls of the college which still bears the scars of the cannon balls fired to discharge them. One of these, it is said, entered the chapel and struck off the head of George the Second's picture, which it is believed was taken with them by the soldiers on their retreat. It is a fact well worth remembering that the history of the battle was written by George Bancroft while a guest of the late Senator John R. Thompson at Princeton. After this battle Nassau hall remained as a hospital until the close of the war, under the successive commands of Generals Sterling, Putnam, and Sullivan. In 1783, however, all traces of war were banished and the Continental Congress, then holding its sessions in the library, proclaimed from its steps that peace was at last concluded with Great Britain. In the library, also, Peter Van Berckel, minister plenipotentiary from the states general of the United Netherlands, presented his credentials to congress and was "welcomed with solemn and imposing ceremonies", and almost within the shadow of its wall Washington wrote his celebrated farewell orders to the armies of the United States. It was the commencement of this year that congress attended in a body, having adjourned its sessions "in honor to the college president, once a member of this body, and to our own, still a trustee of the institution." Imagine the throng of distinguished visitors. Washington, Suzerne, Madison, Lee, Carroll, Gerry and others honored the exercises with their presence as no college has been honored since; and Washington, to still further show his appreciation and approval, presented fifty guineas to the institution, which the trustees ordered to be expended in a full-length portrait of him by the elder Peale. The picture still hangs in Nassau hall in the same frame from which that of George II. was so readily torn.

Congress left Princeton on October 4, and for many years the college remained undisturbed by echoes from the outside world, save the visits of several noted French travellers. In 1812, however, commencement was again honored by the presence of a nation's hero. General Scott, when returning wounded from his victory at Lundy's Lane, paused for a day or two at Princeton, receiving an enthusiastic ovation from the students, and from the faculty the honorary degree of Master of Arts. In 1824 the Marquis de Lafayette paused here during his famous progress through the United States, and received from the hands of President Carnahan the diploma of Doctor of Laws. Thus we might continue, did space continue, telling of Washington Irving's visit to and description of the college; of William Henry Harrison's campaign speech delivered from its steps; of John Tyler, Chester A. Arthur, Eliphalet Watt, Matthew Arnold, Bancroft, Henry Ward Beecher and many others who have been honored guests at Nassau hall.

Such are the scenes the old halls have witnessed, standing still among their clinging ivys, memories of brave deeds and noble words, of a history too deeply interwoven with that of the nation to bear a separation of a story which Nassau's sons may tell with living pride.

A. CHURCH.

Inspiration.

"The charm of the best courages," says Emerson, "is that they are inventions, inspirations, flashes of genius." Is not this the charm of all our best doings? Doubtless there is a certain power in humdrum plodding; happily for most of us in this every-day world, the greater number of our duties can be fairly well performed without much enthusiasm. But what a difference, not only in the pleasure of the doing, but in the beauty of the things done, that are done in our "higher moods!" How they affect the lives around us!

Is it so difficult to keep up to the higher mood? How is it when the doors and windows of the soul are thrown open for the exhilarating influences of the outer world to pour in? "Inspirations," what are they but a breathing in of something external to oneself? "Flashes of genius"—whence do they come?

One kneels before the fire-place trying to coax a blaze. The wood is all piled up. The embers crossed the glowing coals beneath and yet no sign of flame; only thick volumes of smoke, clogging and stifling. A touch is brought from without—a single breath from the bellows, a tiny scrap of paper beneath the coals, and lo! the blaze leaps up and flashes along the pile, far beyond the point of the enkindling influence. So in life, it is the touches from without that we need in our lives, for then comes the "higher moods."

The Hartford *Courant* is the oldest American newspaper.

Edgar Allen Poe's poems have been translated into Italian.

Already ten editions of Emily Dickenson's first volume of poems have been sold.

Professors Bryce and Jebb, of Cambridge university, are personally interested in the work of university extension.

Through the kindness of the pope, the first map that was made which included America will be exhibited at the Columbian exposition.

It is understood that Charles Dudley Warner is to take charge of the editor's study in *Harper's Magazine* sometime during the first part of the year.

The Strasburg library, which was destroyed during the Franco-Prussian war, is being replaced through the liberality of an American, Colonel M. R. Muckle. He has thus far given more than 36,000 volumes printed in English.