#### THE SIDE LIGHTS OF 1787.

The Proceedings Which Led to the Adoption of the Constitution.

IMPORTANT HISTORY.

Prayer as a Panacea for Conflicting Views of Statesmen-A Paper of Peculiar Interest in View of the Centennial Celebration.

From the Philadelphia Times: The personnel of the convention which framed the constitution of the United States consisted of sixty-five members, of which number, ten never attended. The largest number in any one delegation was eight from Pennsyleania. Virginia had seven. New York sent but three after a stubborn contest. The smallest delegation was two from New Hampshire, two not attending. Rhode Island made no ap-The members of the convention best known in history are George Washington, James Madison and Edmund Randolph, of Virginia. Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris and Thomas Mifflin, of Pennsylvania; Alexander Hamilton, of New York; Elbridge Gerry, of Massachusetts; Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth, of Connecticut; William Patterson, of New Jersey; George Read and Gunning Bedford, of Delaware; John Rutledge, Charles Pinckney and Pierce Butler, of South Carolina.

Although the convention was called to meet at Philadelphia, May 14, 1787, it was May 25 before a quorum of the states But nine states out of the twelve, Rhode Island having ignored the convention entirely, and but twenty-nine out of the attending membership, were present at organization. The only state represented by its full delegation at the opening was Virginia. Of Pennsylvania's eight but four appeared in the organization, Dr. Franklin, one of the number, being ill.

The tardiness of the members of the convention in getting together was not redeemed by any very emphatic ex-pressions that they expected that their work would amount to anything after it was all done. Having spent one hundred and fifteen days in conven-tion or committee as one of the very last acts of the body. President Washington having asked what the con-yention meant should be done with the journal, it was resolved "that he retain the journal and others papers subject to the order of congress if ever formed under the constitution.'

But two names were thought of for president of the convention, George Washington, of Virginia, and Benjamin Franklin, of Pennsylvania, Dr. Franklin was to have made the nomination of Washington, but being ill Robert Morris did so in behalf of the deputation. John Rutledge seconded the motion, apologizing for not making some observations on the subject on account of the presence of General Washington. The choice was unanimous. He was escorted to the chair by Mr. Morris and Mr. Rutledge, and opened the deliberations with an appro-priate speech. There were two candi-dates for secretary. Temple Franklin was nominated by Mr. Wilson, of Penn-sylvania, and Major William Jackson by Alexander Hamilton, of New York. The former received the votes of two and the latter of five states. A committee on standing rules and orders was appointed which were adopted three days after. One rule stands in contrast with the par-liamentary courtesy of these latter day congresses. It was provided "when the congresses. It was provided "when the house shall adjourn, every member shall stand up in his place until the president pass him." In these modern days rep-resentatives and even senators cut for the doors without even waiting for the formal announcement of adjournment by the presiding officer.

As the convention had originated from Virginia, that delegation took the initia-tive in opening the business of the meeting and proposing a form of government, which was done by Edmund Randolph, subsequently Washington's attorney general and secretary of state. In introducing the subject Mr. Randolph suggested that in revising the federal system four that in revising the federal system four considerations were paramount, viz., the properties which such a government ought to possess; the defects of the confederation; the dangers of the situation of the government in its relation to the states and the remedy. He then elaborated his views under each of these heads and proposed, as conformable to his ideas, a series of resolutions which he explained one by one. These resolutions formed the embryo from which developed the constitution of the United States. They had in tion of the United States. They had in them the frame-work of a supreme government, composed of three co-ordinate branches—legislative, executive and judi-clal—with defined powers and duties. He closed by urging that the present op-portunity should not be lost.

On the same day Charles Pinckney, of South Carolina, submitted a draft of a federal government, which was an elab-oration of the plan proposed by Mr. Randolph. On the next day, the lifth of the meeting the convention went into committee of the whole "to consider the state of the American union," discussing each of the propositions of Mr. Randolph, which were called "the Virginia plan." The very opening of the debate, strangely enough, was on the question of state rights, introduced by South Carolina, declaring that its deputies would not feel authorized to discuss a system not founded on the federal constitution. Pennsylvania contended that in all communities there must be one supreme power, that a federal system was a mere compact resting on the good faith of the parties, and a national supreme government had a supreme and compulsive operation. New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and North Carolina, in these incipient movements, held to the national

After nearly three weeks' discussion the deputations, or part of their members, of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Delaware, led by New Jersey, submitted what they designated a purely federal system, as contra distinguished from the one being considered, which became known as the "New Jersey plan." Connecticut and Lansing, of New York, who was chosen a deputy as a check to the vigorous ideas of Hamilton, favored adding some additional powers to the old congress instead of a new government. New Jersey and Delaware opposed a national government because proportionate representations. ment because proportionate represen-tation of the states was its basis. At one time this question threat-ened to break up the convention. The Virginia plan originally contemplated the election of the senate by the people in proportion as to the number of "free inhabitarts." The lower branch, or house, was to be elected by the senate out of a certain number of individuals nominated to them by the legislature of the state. This contest led ultimately to the compromise of equal representation nominated to them by the legislature of the state. This contest led ultimately to the compromise of equal representation of states in the senate and proportionate in the house. One of the most characteristic features of the two systems was the Virginia plan of removing the executive by impeachment and conviction, with the safeguards against partisan excess, and the New Jersey plan proposing the removal of the president upon the simple "application of a majority of the Executives of the States." According to that plan the President would state the smallness of the proportion of the exceptional parts of the plan, and the second at all into the discussions. It was to advocate a proposition just made by Nathaniel Gorham, of Massachusetts, to substitute 30,000, instead of 40,000, as the quota of original representation. He apologized for offering his sentiments, but thought that the smallness of the proportion of representation of a majority of the Executives of the States." According to that plan the President would

be at the mercy of every change of party denomination in the States. Mr. Lans-ing, of New York, who belonged to that class of early politicians known in these days as a Bourbon, denied the power even of the convention to discuss the Virginia plan, and urged the improbability of its adoption. Hamilton, of New York, now came forward as a champion of a national system. He however, went to the extreme of a centalized form.

Among his ideas was the apointment of Governors of States by the President, and the power of veto of acts of State Legislatures. He favored the English model adapted to Republican forms.

entauglements of discussion and divergence of views had become so discouraging that Dr. Franklin, after reviewing the melancholy proofs that their deliberations were given of the imperfection of human wisdom, proposed a season of prayer and suplication as a motor to the throne of the "Father of Lights" to illuminate their understandings. He re-verted to the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when, sensible of their danger, they had daily prayers in that room for divine protection. Hamilton thought it was rather late in the day to talk about introducing prayer, which would look as if the embarrassments of the convention and not the merits of the proposition had led to its adoption. Hugh Williamson, of North Carolina, in-terjected as a fact that the omission was not due to an unappreciative sense of the efficacy of prayer, but to want of funds. Edmund Randolph, in order "to give a favorable aspect to the measure," pro-posed a sermon at the request of the conence and thenceforward prayers to be read every morning, which was sec-onded by Dr. Franklin. The convention, however, adjourned without a vote on the motion.

The convention then turned from prayer to proportional representation with fruitless results for several more weeks. There was now serious talk on the part of the supporters of the New Jersey plan of Breaking up the conven-tion by adjournment sine die. As the anniversary of the natal day of indepen-dence drew near the differences of the convention seemed to multiply. The con-flict between the great and the small states had culminated. The convention was at a full stop. Notice had been served that no modification whatever could reconcile the smaller states to the least diminution of their equal sovereighty. The states were equally divided on an equality of votes in the second branch of the legislature. The question of compromise was referred to a committee of a member from each state, and an adjournment for inspiration taken over the celebration of the anni-versary of independence. The motion of Dr. Franklin, giving proportional representation in one branch and an equal vote of states in the other, at last prevailed by a bare majority, but it removed the most dangerous of all the questions which agitated the convention. On July 27 the proceedings of the convention, except as related to the executive, had gone so far as to be referred to a committee to prepare a draft of a constitution.

Another threatening aspect of affairs turned on the creation of an executive to consist of a single person, mode of election and term of office, which, however, was ultimately adjusted in a spirit of compromise. It was as late as August before the committee on details were able to report the constitution. In this draft provisions were made for a supreme legislative judiciary and executive and covered the main features of the constitution as finally adopted.

The friends of a federal system by dilatory methods again attempted to frustrate the progress of business. The quesdebate. South Carolina was opposed to admitting foreigners into the public councils at all. James Wilson, of Pennsvivania, cited his own state as proof of the advantage of encouraging emigra-tion. Being the youngest state except Georgia it was among the foremost in georgia it was among the foremost in population and prosperity; that almost all the general officers of the Pennsylvania line in the war for independence were foreigners, and Robert Morris. Mr. Fitzsimmons and himself were not natives. A lively discussion sprang up on the exclusion of members of state legislatures from holding offices under the United States. Mr. Randolph opposed inviting men into the legislatures posed inviting men into the legislatures by the prospects of being appointed to offices. Mr. Baldwin, of Georgia, argued that such on exclusion would not leave proper men for offices. Colonel Mason, of Nirginia, replied that, instead of excluding ment, the ineligibility would "keep out corruption by excluding office-

The dawn of triumph now appeared over the deliberations of the convention of 1787. On September 8 Dr. William S. Johnson, of Connecticut; Alexander Hamilton, of New York; Gouverneur Morris, of Pennsylvania; James Madison, of Virginia, and Rufus King, of Mas-sachusetts, were elected to revise the style and arrangement of the articles agreed to. On September 10 their power were increased by authority to prepare an address to the people to accompany the constitution and to be laid with the same before the United States in con-gress. On September 12 they reported to

Mr. Randolph was opposed to the in-definite and dangerous power given to congress, was pained to differ at the close "of the great and awful subject of their labors" and favored a second con-vention for amendments offered by state conventions after the ideas of the people were ascertained. Colonel Mason and Mr. Gerry supported this position, but sense of the convention pointed out the dangers of hazzarding the dis-cordant impressions of the people in a second convention, which might plunge the infant state into an "ultimate decis-ion by the sword." On the proposition to provide for a second convention all the states voted no. On the question to agree to the constitution as amended all the states voted aye. The constitution was then ordered to be engrossed.

The next day was Monday, September 17, 1787. The engrossed constitution was read. Dr. Franklin arose with a written speech, which his colleague, Mr. Wilson read. He confessed to objections to cer tain features, but was not sure that he should never approve them, and after a stirring appeal hoped that every objecting member would with him "doubt a little of his own infallibility" and make manifest their unanimity by putting their names to the instrument. He then moved that the constitution be signed by the members and offered as a form: "Done in convention by the unanimous consent of the states present, etc. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names." This ambiguous form was drawn up by Gouverneur Morris, of Pennsylvania, and given to Dr. Franklin to gain the dissenting members. tain features, but was not sure that he

George Washington, president of the convention, at this solemn moment arose. It was the only time he entered at all into

was for admitting amendments, "it would give him much satisfaction to see it adopted." Without a dissenting voice this knotty problem, which had consumed weeks of discussion and fever heat of feeling, upon the simple wish of Washington was granted and the last act of deliberation of the convention of 1787 deliberation of the convention of 1787 had been consummated. Randolph apologized for refusing to sign it because of the alternative which it presented to the people. Hamilton was anxious that all should sign it; although most remote from his own ideas, yet it was possible to deliberate between anarchy and con-fusion on one side and the chance of good on the other.

On the motion of Dr. Franklin to sign ten states represented voted age and South Carolina voted no on account of the equivocal form of signing. New York did not vote, Hamilton being the only deputy present, but he signed the consti-tution, being the only name from the now empire state of the Union.

The constitution was signed by all the forty-three members present, except Randolph and Mason, of Virginia, Gerry, Randolph and Mason. of Virginia, Gerry, of Massachusetts, and Elsworth, of Connecticut, declining. As the last members were appending their names Dr. Franklin, pointing to a picture of the sun at the back of the president's chair, said: "I have often and often, in the course of the session and the the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears as to to its issue, looked at that sun behind the president without being able to tell whether i was rising or setting, but now, at length, I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting know that it is a rising and not a setting sun." RANDOLPH KEIM.

BLUE GRASS FOR KANSAS FARM The Only Salvation For Those of Mod-

erate Means. Meadow Brook Farm (Kan.) letter to the Chicago Tribune: While Kansas is pre-eminently a corn-producing state, while oats and the native grasses on the bottoms and in the wet seasons on the high lands are a certain crop, it is nevertheless apparent that Kansas cannot pend noon either or all of these crops for future success in agriculture. It is quite true that in the native grasses every prai rie state has still a source of great wealth which has not been appreciated or un-derstood. That the plow has been put into this precious primeval sod mos recklessly and to the general hurt, that in the prairie grass lies the chief de-pendence of the farmer for his stock in summer, especially in seasons of drouth. in the middle and western parts of the s.ate, and every farm should reserve a good share os area sacred to the preservation of the native grass for stock in July and August, yet it is true that Kansas must in future depend chiefly on the tame grasses, and especially blue-grass, as in Kentucky, so famous for its herds and its wealth. Nature provided well enough for the buffalo, but man must provide something better for the domestic animals. The builalo went south in winter; the domestic herds cannot migrate, but must remain. On what shall they feed? The answer is blue grass. Prairie grass dies and worthless at the touch of frost. Yet it stands the hot winds and sun better than any known grass. It lives and grows green and fresh in severe drouths, where all tame grasses wither and become worthless. But the rainfall is becoming more uniform and certain as the vast plains are settled and nuclel of moisture are established in the shape of artisian and other wells, groves, cultivated fields and growing crops, and the danger of domestic grasses drying up in summer becomes less and less every year. If the blue-grass is not overfed in the summer, but left to grow five or six inches high and become a solid and complete sod by years of careful pasturing, it stands the summer heat and drouths

very well.

The blue grass starts and becomes greener in spring much earlier than the native grasses, and in fall grows most inxuriantly from September to the middle of November, and, in fact, al winter, unless the ground is frozen solid. It furnishes the best kind of winter feed for all kinds of stock; cattle, horses, and hogs thrive better on it than on the usual cut and dried feed obtained at such severe labor and high costs. Kansas farmers now "put up" prairie hay, which, with corn, constitute the almost universal winter feed for stock. The crop is expensive to raise and uncertain. The cheap grass-fed stock of the great ranches renders it impossible for the small farmer to compete in raising beef or horses successfully with the ranchmen by feeding in winter hay and corn. He can no longer live in Kansas and pay expenses by so doing. The only financial salvation for the moderate farmer is blue grass. If he will get his farm well sodded in the grass and depend upon it for winter feed he will be able to compete with the western ranchmen, and

compete with the western ranchmen, and in no other way can he do so.

The Kansas climate and soil are admirably adapted to blue-grass. It is making its way steadily from the Missouri river westward almost without help or much appreciation. Thoughtful farmers are beginning to see that in the blue grass will be found the coming wealth of the state. Probably Kentucky itself is no better adapted to it than Kansas. Corn cannot be raised for 15 to 20 cents per bushel. At present prices it is ruincorn cannot be raised for 15 to 20 cents per bushel. At present prices it is ruinous to feed it to cattle for beef. At \$3 per hundred for logs it cannot he used to feed them in winter and to fatten them in summer, at any profit. The entire system of westerm farming must and will-be soon radically changed, or it will be very largely abandoned. At present the small farmers are the poorest ent the small farmers are the poorest class in the country. Burdened with debt, eaten up by interest, working six-teen hours out of the twenty-four, living on the cheapest possible fare, selling their crops at the prevailing low prices, they are well-nigh bankrupt and dis-couraged. They must abandon grain-raising, put their land into blue-grass sod, stop buying reapers and thrashing machines, stop building corn cribs and granaries, stop feeding rats and railroad robbers, let the cattle do the mowing and reaping in winter as well as in summer, winter the steers, colts, pigs, and sheep on a thick mat of blue-grass,



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