FREEDOM'S MAGNA CHARTA

Priceless Treasures Jealously Guarded in the Nation's Archives.

JEFFERSON'S DRAFT—ENGROSSED COPY

The Signatures of the Immortals Almost Faded—An Ancient Union Ode—Fourth of July Abroad—Deaths on the Natal Day.

The archives of the national government contain two priceless treasures, guarded with jealous care. They are the original and the engrossed copy of freedom's magna charta—Jefferson's draft—and the official Declaration of Independence. The original draft, now yellow and worn, and the engrossed copy signed by the members of the Continental congress are both in a glass case on the east wall of the State department library. The original draft as made by Thomas Jefferson has a number of erasures and insertions by himself and two or three verbal changes by Dr. Franklin and John Adams, as indicated in the margin. The Declaration of Independence was kept in the patent office till 1876, when it was taken to the centennial exposition, after which it was taken to the State department, where it has remained ever since.

The original draft by Jefferson is in a much more readable state than the engrossed copy, the ink on the latter having faded much more rapidly. The engrossed copy can, however, still be read, but the signatures appended to it are fading. Only a few can now be made out. Those of Lyman Hall, Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Samuel Adams, Robert Treat Paine and Elbridge Gerry, although very dim, can still be read. Jefferson's name, which should remain forever on that document as its author, is almost gone and can only be distinguished by the long f's, which are still clear.

John Hancock's name can be read on account of its monstrous size. The J is fully two inches long. The conversation which occurred just before Hancock signed his name as recorded in history is amusing. The debate as to the expediency of declaring independence was of three days' duration, and although it ended in the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on the Fourth of July the members did not sign the document for several weeks. When they came to put their signatures to it John Hancock, being the president of the Continental congress, signed his name first. As he was about to do so he said, "We must all be unanimous; there must be no pulling different ways; we must all hang together," to which Ben Franklin, who was ever ready with his wit, responded, "Yes, we must all hang together or we must all hang separately." Then John Hancock, taking the quill, signed the declaration in a large, bold hand, and although the statement is not to be found in any serious history it is said that he made the remark as he laid the quill down, "There will be no trouble in reading my name and I am willing to take the consequences whatever they may be."

Jefferson, who, it is said, always worked diligently in committee and said little in general debate, listened to all the criticism made during the discussion of the Declaration, but said not a word. The task of defending the Declaration fell to John Adams. Jefferson says in his journal: "During the debate I was sitting by Dr. Franklin, who observed that I was writhing a little under the acrimonious criticism of some of its parts; and it was on that occasion that by way of comfort he told me the story of John Thompson, the hatter, and his new sign." This story is told by Dr. Franklin in his autobiography. It is about the John Thompson, who was going to open a hat store, and on his sign board proposed to have painted a hat and the words: "John Thompson, hatter, makes and sells hats." So much objection was raised to the wording of the inscription that the sign was finally abbreviated to such an extent that there was nothing but the name "John Thompson," and the picture of a hat. So that we see that Franklin was anxious to show Jefferson that he must expect contention over the greatest question of the age when there had been so much discussion over a hat sign.

The desk on which Jefferson made his draft of the Declaration of Independence is also in the State department library. The desk is about four inches high, nine inches wide and fourteen inches long, and so compact as to be easily carried. It is of black walnut and the surface is covered with green felt. The top is arranged in two pieces or flaps so that they can be raised. One piece is so adjusted on hinges that it can be turned back from the desk so as to rest on a table, and the other piece is made so that it can be elevated slightly from the desk and held in position by small supports on either side. When so arranged these two pieces are in the same plane, and so form a large writing surface. A drawer opens at the right side of the desk and discloses ink well, quill box and paper space, so that in this little chest, which can be so easily moved about, room is provided for everything wanted in writing. In a note sent with the desk, when he gave it to a friend, Jefferson exhibits his modest and unassuming character. He even goes so far as to use the third person with an evident desire to refrain from making a statement which would show the least suspicion of self conceit. He says: "Th. Jefferson gives this writing desk to Joseph Coolidge, jun., as a memorial of affection. It was made from a drawing of his own by Ben Randall, cabinet maker of Philadelphia, with whom he first lodged on his arrival in that city in May, 1776, and is the identical one on which he wrote the Declaration of Independence. Politics as well as religion has its superstitions. These gaining strength with time may one day give imaginary value to this relic for its association with the birth of the great charter of our independence. Monticello, November 18, 1825."

This desk was presented to the United States by the heirs of Joseph Coolidge, jr., in 1880. Since that time it has been kept in the same library with the engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence and the draft which Jefferson wrote on it 115 years ago.

An Ancient "Union Ode."

The following was composed by Rev. Samuel Gilman, D.D., who preached in Charleston, S. C., from 1819 to 1858, and set to the air, "Scots wha hae."

Hail, our country's natal morn!
Hail, our spreading kindred-born!
Hail, thou banner not yet torn,
Waving o'er the free!
While, this day, in festal throng,
Millions swell the patriot song,
Shall not we thy notes prolong,
Hallowed jubilee?

Who would sever Freedom's shrine?
Who would draw th' invidious line?
Though by birth one spot be mine,
Dear is all the rest.
Dear to me the South's fair land,
Dear the central mountain-band,
Dear New England's rocky strand,
Dear the prairied West.

By our altars, pure and free,
By our Law's deep rooted tree,
By the last's dead memory,
By our Washington;
By our common parent tongue,
By our hopes, bright, buoyant, young,
By the tie of country strong,
We will still be ONE!

Fathers! have ye bled in vain?
Azes! must ye droop again?
Maker! Shall we rashly strain
Bless ngs sent by Thee?
No! Receive our solemn vow,
While before Thy throne we bow,
Ever to maintain as now,
Union, liberty!

Charleston, S. C., July 4, 1831.

A Fourth in Paris.

In Paris last Fourth of July were three Americans—a gentleman and his two nephews, George and Frank. On the afternoon of that day, writes the gentleman in St. Nicholas, Frank came into the room where I was, saying: "Uncle Jack, where do you think I got that?" He opened a paper bundle he had under his arm and unrolled a weather-beaten American flag.

"Where?" asked I.

"We took it off of Lafayette's tomb."

I opened my eyes in astonishment; while he went on:

"George says the American consul, or the American consul general, or somebody, put it on the tomb last Fourth of July, for our government, because Lafayette, don't you know, helped us in the revolution.

"They ought to put a new flag on every year, George says," explained Frank, seeing my amazement, "on Fourth of July morning. But the American consul, or whoever he is that's here now, is a new man George thinks; anyhow, he forgot to do it. So we bought a new flag and we did it.

"There were a lot of people at the tomb when we went there, and we guessed they were all waiting to see the new flag put on. We waited, too, but no soldiers or anybody came; and after awhile the people all went away. Then George said:

"'Somebody ought to put on a new flag—let's do it!'

"We went to a store on the boulevard and for 20 francs bought a new flag just like this old one. George and I each paid half. There were two women and a little girl at the tomb when we got back and we waited till they went away. Then we unrolled the new flag and took the old one off the tomb.

"We thought we ought to say something when we put the new flag on, but we didn't know what to say. George said they always made a regular speech thanking Lafayette for helping us in the revolution, but we thought it didn't matter much. So we just took off our hats when we spread out the new flag on the grave and then we rolled up the old flag and came away.

"We drew lots for it afterward, and I'm going to take it back home with me.

"Somebody ought to have done it, and as we were both American boys, it was all right, wasn't it?"

Ten days afer this adventure came the 14th of July, the great "Quatorze Juillet," which, I believe, was the day on which the French people stormed the grim old bastile and cried: "Down with the tyranny of kings!" Of course we went to see the great parade.

Before we started out Frank suggested that we should get two big flags, of just the same size—one American red, white and blue, and the other French red, white and blue, and take them along in the carriage with us. Well, we crossed the Place de la Concorde, to enter the Champs Elysees, that beautiful green avenue leading straight up to the Arc de Triomphe, when suddenly Frank gave a shout from the box.

"Look!" he called out. "There come some soldiers!"

Crowds of people were standing along the walks on either side of the avenue, all gazing up toward the Arc de Triomphe. Yes; there were soldiers on horseback coming right down toward us. Then faraway shouts reached our ears from the crowds ahead, where the soldiers were. We could see the people waving hats and handkerchiefs.

"Look at the pistols," cried Frank from the box. "They're holding them right up in the air. What's that for?"

"They're cuirassiers," George called back. "They're a bodyguard. It must be somebody—"

"C'est le president de la republique!" ejaculated the coachman, as the soldiers drew down upon us at a rapid pace.

We were within fifty yards of them now, and could see everything plainly. There, in front, were the two large cuirassiers, with shining breastplates and helmets, each with a cocked revolver held out in the air at arm's length. Behind came the president's carriage drawn by four coal-black horses, with postilions in dazzling liveries, then two more cuirassiers with drawn pistols, followed by a troop of cavalry.

On they came. The coachman stopped his horses. The people were shouting and cheering on all sides—"Le President!" "Carnot!"

He was almost abreast of us and close by, when suddenly I noticed that he was looking in our direction, and all eyes were turned toward our carriage.

It was the American flag!

There it was, floating proudly aloft in the hands of our little jolly boy on the front seat. And when Frank saw the president right abreast of him, and everybody looking at his flag, without a sign of hesitation he stood straight up, held the flag as high in the air as he could and dipped a salute to the president of the French republic! The crowd was cheering wildly. President Carnot moved forward a little in his seat, lifted his hat and bowed low to Frank and the American flag.

And then in a second he had passed.

And this flag, I think, is prized by Frank even more than the other. At least whenever he takes anybody up to his room he always says first:

"This is the flag that was on Lafayette's tomb;" and then in a more impressive voice: "That's the one President Carnot took off his hat to."

Yankee Doodle Revised.

Yankee Doodle came to town
Dancing on a dollar,
He wore the stripes upon his pants,
The stars upon his collar.
Columbia picked the good old tune,
And at it she was handy:
"Our yard-wide, all-wool Union, boys,
Yankee Doodle Dandy!"

Memorable Fourths.

The fact that the death of Hannibal Hamlin occurred on Independence day last year provoked comment, and no doubt will be referred to again in the biography of one who will be remembered as the associate of Abraham Lincoln through the civil war. Sixty-six years ago a far more memorable event was connected with the national holiday. On the Fourth of July, 1826, John Adams, the second president of the United States, died, in the 91st year of his age, and Thomas Jefferson, the third president, died on the same day, at the age of 83. Jefferson on the 3d of July, asking those around him the day of the month, had expressed the wish to live to see the dawn of the fiftieth anniversary which he had drawn and signed, while Adams, on being asked, when the bells rang and the cannon fired, if he knew what day it was, had repiled, "Oh, yes; it is the glorious Fourth of July; God bless it." It is remarkable also that James Monroe, the fifth president, died five years later on the Fourth of July, 1831, at the age of 73. The death of Madison, the fourth president, which occurred after another five years, in 1836, at the age of 85, took place during the week preceding the nation's birthday anniversary.

Dry, sparkling and delicious. Coon's Imperial Champagne. Keep it in your ice chest for your friends, they will appreciate it.

RELIGIOUS.

The Order of King's Daughters has formed a chapter in New York city devoted to tenement house work along lines not covered by any mission or charity.

Forty-six Congregational churches in Connecticut are without pastors. It seems that the pastors they can get they won't have and the sort they want won't have them, which is a melancholy state of affairs.

The United Methodist Free churches at their recent meeting reported in the denomination at home and abroad 378 ministers and 77,710 members; of these 68 ministers and 10,510 members are abroad; the income has been $131,420.

To secure regular attendance at divine service a Presbyterian church in Lancaster, Pa., decided to give a medal to each person who attended all the services throughout the year. Last year the sexton was the only person who won a medal.

Recently the Friends' meeting house in Odon, Ind., was supplied with an organ through the efforts of the younger element in the church, who believe that even Quakers should move with the times. Whereupon a number of the conservatives showed what they thought of the proceeding by smashing the windows.

D. L. Moody, the noted evangelist and founder of the Northfield seminary, has issued a call for the tenth general conference for the promotion of Christian life and service, to be held at East Northfield, Mass., from August 1 to 15. Ample accommodations will be provided. Owing to the absence of Mr. Moody in foreign lands the conference will be conducted by Dr. A. J. Gordon of Boston.

Father Mollinger, who died June 15 at Allegheny City, Pa., was one of the most noted priests of the country. Attracted by the reports of the cures made by him he was visited by people from all parts of the world, and on last St. Anthony's day it was estimated that he blessed 10,000 persons who came to visit at the shrine. Father Mollinger was born on the frontier between Belgium and Holland about sixty-five or seventy years ago. He received a liberal education and studied medicine in Italy. At the age of 18 he returned home and entered the seminary at Ghent, where he studied for the priesthood. He also studied medicine and theology in this country. He is reported to have died possessed of several million dollars, most of which will remain in this country. The funeral ceremonies over the "doctor-priest" were performed at his church on Troy Hill, Alleghany City, on June 18, and were attended by over 6,000 people.

When you go to Denver stop at the American house. Rates $2.50 to $3.50. Remodeled throughout.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD

What the Other Side Has to Say of the Verdict Against Eco.

NEBRASKA MASONS INSTALL OFFICERS

Doings of Secret Societies Throughout the City and State—Pythianism Still on the Increase—By Words and Signs.

Dr. W. O. Rogers sends the following communication for insertion in this column in reply to an excerpt from the Modern Woodman published in last Sunday's BEE:

The quotation in THE SUNDAY BEE from the Modern Woodman, a paper printed by the order, is manifestly unfair, misleading, and a direct thrust at the good name of J. C. Root of this city, the founder of woodcraft and the principal officer of the Woodmen of the World, a successful order which is regarded as a rival or competitor.

The inference to be gathered by the article would be that criminal proceedings had been instituted against the officers of the Modern Woodmen and that conviction had resulted.

Such is not the case. The lawsuit was a civil action in the county court brought by State Auditor Pavey against the Modern Woodmen of America and its officers at the instigation of P. L. McKinnie, who had been removed from office by the unanimous vote of the directors.

Incidentally another suit was begun to wind up the order and throw it into the hands of a receiver. Mr. Root borrowed $16,000 upon his personal credit, paid off its liabilities, defeated the suit and saved the life of the order of which he was the founder.

The state case was practically defeated, as the officers (except McKinnie, who was removed) held their offices to expiration of their terms, and the only controversy in the case was as to who should pay the costs. The old officers gave it no further attention, not even attending the trial, and judgment for costs was rendered against six of the eleven directors who happened to be present at a meeting of the directors that voted upon a resolution offered by McKinnie himself to allow the head clerk reimbursement for moneys expended by him and time employed in visiting and instituting new camps, which the directors held was outside of and in addition to his duties of head clerk, but which the judge held resulted in increasing his compensation as head clerk, which is construed as a technical violation of Illinois law. The directors who were present (including the head consul, Mr. Root) were the only officers against whom costs were assessed.

The other charge was in the omission of "contingent liabilities" from one of the four state reports. It was signed by Mr. Root as head consul, and by F. C. Brayton as head clerk. This report was made in the head clerk's office. There was no printed blank in the report calling for contingent liabilities, and the committee to whom the claims were referred did not report same until three months after the date the report was required. No secret was made of the unpaid mileage and per diem which constituted the principal part of the "contingent liabilities," as reference was made to same in the Echo sent to every member, and Mr. Root signed the report presuming it to be correct, but it appears that the judge differs and imposes costs upon Mr. Root for his carelessness.

The other so-called charges have not been sustained, although several attempts have been made to do so in the unhappy quarrel extending over a period of three years.

The starting of the new Woodmen society is not pleasing to the old order and has, no doubt, had much to do with the keeping alive of the controversy, which should now cease.

G. L. Marchand, the state expert, examined Mr. Root's books and made a sworn statement of their accuracy and of the fact that Mr. Root had paid into the treasury all that was due before the suit was instituted or the official investigation made. Of which fact the state auditor and attorney were advised, but refused to omit the charge from the information filed by them in the suit.

The new officers have failed to find any unpaid liability of the old officers, who remain in good standing as members of the order, which owes its existence to their unflinching care and management.

Knights of Pythias.

Monday night Marathon lodge, No. 82, gave one of the pleasantest evenings in its history. There was a good number of visitors present and the evening seemed altogether too short for all present to say what they had to say.

Several of the boys from Marathon lodge had formed themselves into a traveling troupe and visited nearly all the lodges in the city last week, and in return several members of the lodges visited attended the meeting last week and made the evening pass all too quickly.

Brother Bechtel, who was among the visitors, has promised to be with Marathon on Monday, July 11, when he will exemplify the secret work of the order, his proficiency being well known. All Knights of Pythias are cordially invited to attend.

A. O. U. W.

At the regular meeting of North Omaha Lodge, No. 159, Ancient Order of United Workmen on the 27th ult. the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: Past master workman, Robert B. Carter; master workman, William W. Christman; foreman, Robert Sauder; overseer, William J. Brown; recorder, Charles A. Walker; financier, Samuel S. Watt; receiver, Benjamin R. Perkins; guide, James Mellish; inner warden, John A. Graham; outer warden, Thomas Fitzgerald; medical examiners, C. D. Sprague, N. J. Carriker; trustee, E. H. McKenna; chorister, John J. Cole.

I. O. G. T.

Mayflower lodge, No. 1, Independent Order of Good Templars, held its regular meeting in their hall, near the corner of Thirty-fourth and Ames avenue. After the transaction of the regular business of the lodge, a short time was given to literary exercises, consisting of recitations by Mr. Cash, Mr. Gring and Mr. Allison, select readings by Mr. Flanery and Mr. Jones. Following the program Mrs. Forby of Lifeboat lodge, No. 150, gave a short talk. Also, Mr. Lee Forby expressed himself in a few witty remarks in answer to Mr. Allison's recitation. Mayflower is increasing in members and enthusiasm and expects soon to be one of the leading lodges of the city.

A. F. and A. M.

Jachin lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Holdrege had their installation of officers in their hall on last Thursday night. The new officers are: E. Temporal, W. M.; W. R. Hart, S. W.; G. E. Hunt, J. W.; H. E. Bush, secretary; Max Uhlig, treasurer; W. P. Hall, S. D.; Harry Stern, J. D., and A. P. Erickson, tyler. Refreshments were served during the evening and the boys had a jolly time.

Osceola lodge, No. 75, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, had their regular installation of officers on St. John's day, and the following named persons were selected for the ensuing Masonic year: T. H. Saunders, W. M.; M. R. Snodgrass, S. W.; J. N. Scott, J. W.; E. L. King, secretary; H. A. Scott, treasurer; L. L. Snider, S. D.; S. O. Whaley, J. D.; W. J. Conkling, T.; L. L. Iler and Lee K. McGaw, stewards; Rev. J. W. Seabrook, chaplain; J. S. Sheesley, organist; H. F. Henderson, H. P. Shore, and J. H. Anderson, finance committee. After the installation the lodge adjourned to the Hotel Musselman, where refreshments were served.

Bennet lodge, No. 94, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, on Friday evening, the festival of St. John, held a public installation and social which was largely attended by the wives, daughters and friends of the brethren. The following officers were installed for the ensuing Masonic year: Charles A. Pierce, worshipful master; J. E. Vanderlip, senior warden; A. J. Vail, junior warden; R. Rossmusson, treasurer; D. H. Harris, secretary; Harry Honnor, senior deacon; Otto D. Nelson, junior deacon; E. N. Cobb, senior steward; Charles L. Johnson, junior steward; H. Peterson, tyler. After the installation the evening was spent with music, readings, songs and social chat, ending by surprising Brother James B. Layter by presenting him a past master jewel. The evening's pleasure and enjoyment will long be remembered by the brethren and their friends.

Mason City lodge, No. 170, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, installed the following officers last Saturday evening: Worshipful master, M. C. Warrington; senior warden, James Gouley; junior warden, David Woods; secretary, W. N. Hurley; treasurer, John Castellaw; senior deacon, George Bowden; junior deacon, Judson C. Porter; senior steward, William Runyan; junior steward, Hiram T. Coffman; tyler, J. W. Wills.

Table Rock lodge No. 108, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, installed its officers for the ensuing Masonic year Monday night. They are the following: J. A. Carlock, W. M.; C. H. Barnard, S. W.; G. R. Martin, J. W.; C. S. Wood, treasurer; James Tillotson, secretary; J. B. Phillips, S. D.; William Boggs, J. D. Past Master W. H. Wilson was installing officer. The lodge ends the year in a flourishing condition.

The following officers of York lodge No. 56, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, were installed last week: W. H. Reader, W. M.; G. F. Wruck, S. W.; W. H. Davis, J. W.; John Maylard, S. D.; R. W. McGinns, J. D.; J. H. Cowell, J. S.; A. Rowley, S. S.; E. Granger, tyler.

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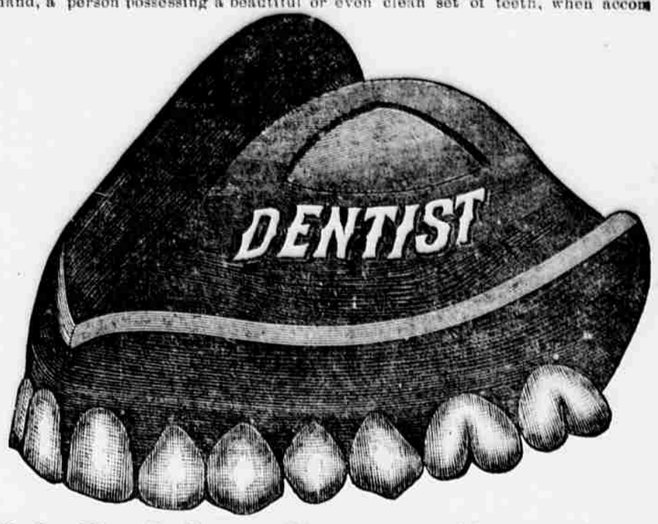

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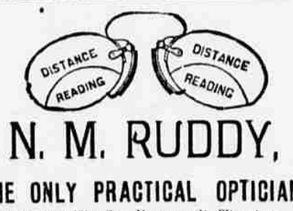

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