

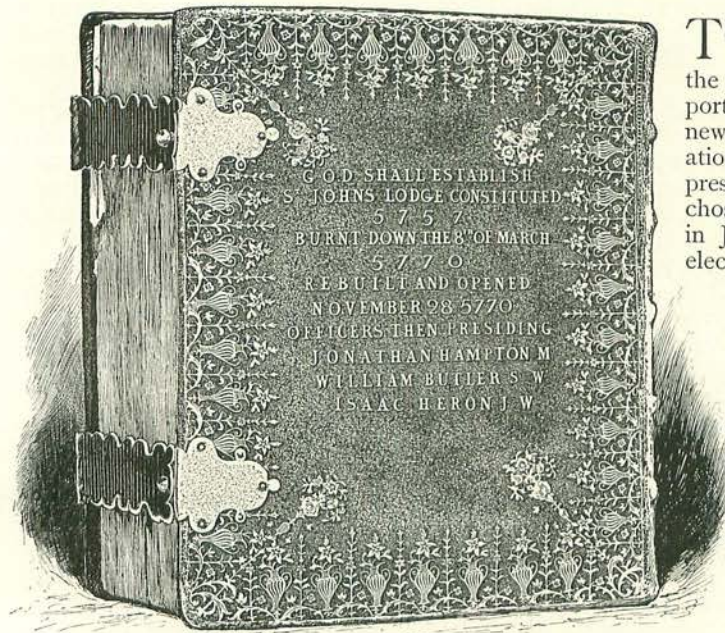
# THE CENTURY MAGAZINE.

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No. 6.

## THE INAUGURATION OF WASHINGTON.



THE BIBLE UPON WHICH WASHINGTON TOOK THE OATH AS PRESIDENT. (COPYRIGHT, 1889, BY ST. JOHN'S LODGE NO. 1, NEW YORK CITY.)

THE requisite number of States having adopted the Constitution, Congress reported an act for putting the new Government into operation. It was decided that presidential electors should be chosen on the first Wednesday in January of 1789, that the electors should choose a President

on the first Wednesday in February, and that the two Houses of Congress should assemble in New York on the first Wednesday in March. The last days of the old Congress were now numbered. It had been kept barely alive during the winter of 1788-89—sometimes less than half a dozen members being in the city. In fact, the last real meeting had taken place October 10, 1788. It was indeed a

Rump Congress. After the 1st of January there was never a quorum present.

At sunset on the evening of March 3 the old Confederation was fired out by thirteen guns from the fort opposite Bowling Green in New York, and on Wednesday, the 4th, the new era was ushered in by the firing of eleven guns in honor of the eleven States that had adopted the Constitution. The States of Rhode Island and North Carolina were now severed from the American Union and were as independent of each other as England and France.

Not only were guns fired and bells rung on the morning of March 4, but at noon and at sunset eleven more guns were fired and the bells were rung for an hour. The citizens of New York were happy. The new Constitution was considered a "sheet anchor of Commerce and prop of Freedom," and it was thought that "Congress would again thrive, the farmer meet immediately a ready market for his produce, manufactures flourish, and peace and prosperity adorn our land." "After a long night of political apprehension" was at length seen "the dawn of national happiness."

But where was the expected quorum? Only eight senators and thirteen representatives put in an appearance at 12 o'clock, the hour of meeting. The senators from New Hampshire were

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John Langdon and Paine Wingate. Langdon was forty-eight years old and was made president of the Senate till the arrival of John Adams. He had been a member of the Continental Congress and of the Constitutional Convention and a governor of New Hampshire. A Revolutionary patriot, he had pledged his plate and the proceeds of seventy hogsheads of tobacco to render possible General Stark's victory at Bennington. Paine Wingate was fifty, a graduate of Harvard, a Congregational minister, and a member of the old Congress. His letters from New York to his brother-in-law Timothy Pickering show him to have been a patriotic statesman. He survived all of the United States senators of 1789. Langdon left Portsmouth on the 16th of February, and after being escorted out of town several miles, where a collation was served, he proceeded on his journey to New York. Four days later he and Wingate passed through Worcester.

The only senator from Massachusetts present at the opening of Congress was Caleb Strong, forty-four years old, graduate of Harvard College, lawyer, member of the Massachusetts legislature during the Revolution, member of the great convention of 1787, afterwards eight years United States senator and ten years governor of the old Commonwealth. When he left his home at Northampton to go to New York his neighbors appeared before his door at sunrise and escorted him in sleighs to Springfield. Tristram Dalton, the other senator from Massachusetts, was also a Harvard graduate, fifty-one years of age, and a lawyer. He was prevented by illness from leaving home until early in April of 1789. He represented Massachusetts in the Senate nearly two years and was succeeded in 1791 by George Cabot.

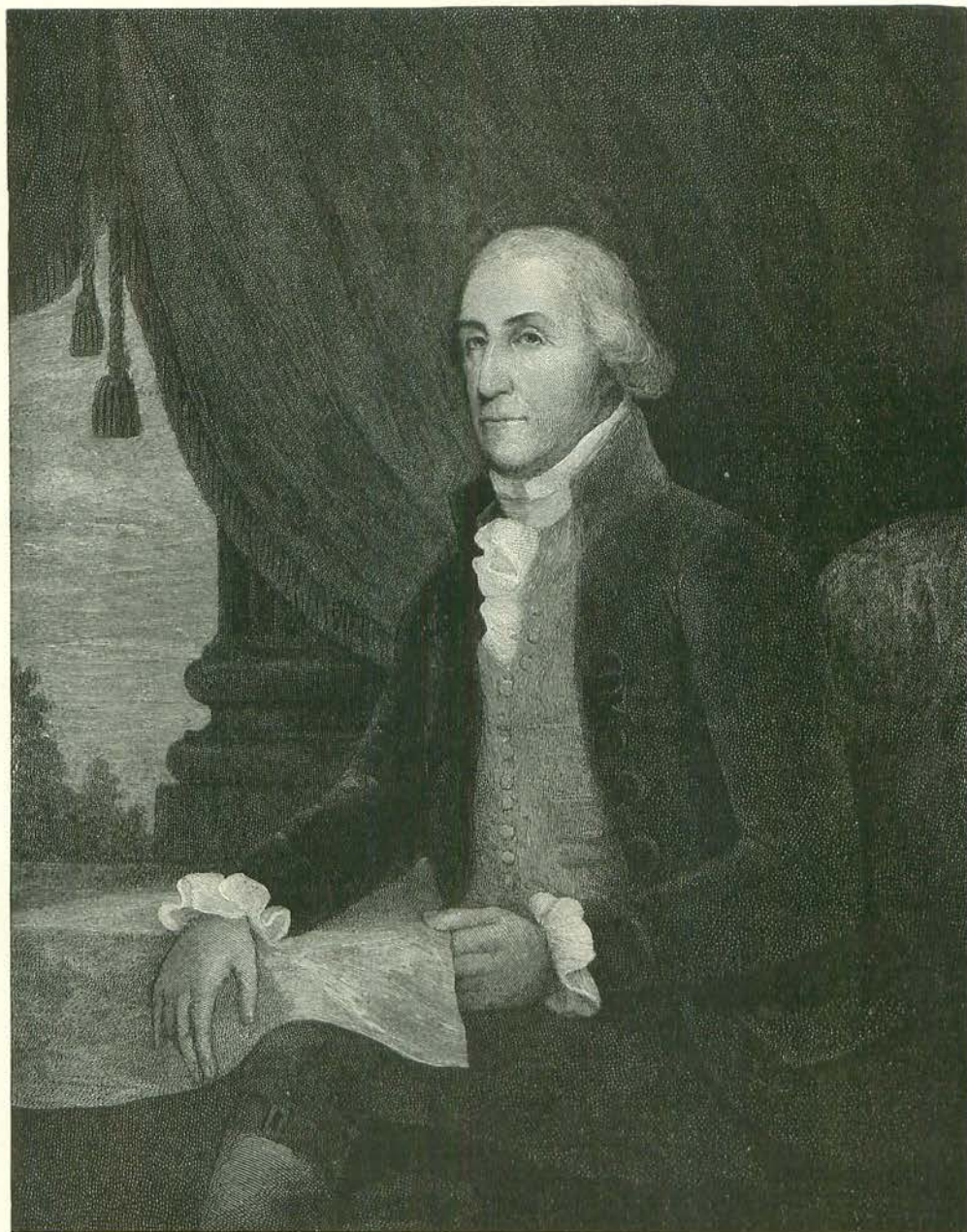
Connecticut's two senators, William Samuel Johnson and Oliver Ellsworth, were both present at the opening of Congress. Johnson was sixty-one, a graduate of Yale and a brilliant scholar, lawyer, and orator. As a representative of Connecticut in the Convention of the Colonies in New York in 1765, he wrote most of the Remonstrance against the Parliament of Great Britain. In 1766 he represented Connecticut in England, where he received from the University of Oxford the degree of Doctor of Laws. While a member of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia he first proposed the organization of the Senate as a distinct body. While senator of the United States he held the position of President of Columbia College and presided at the annual Commencement of the college in St. Paul's Church a week after the inauguration of Washington. Oliver Ellsworth, a student at Yale and a graduate of Princeton, a lawyer of forty-three, a member of the Continental Congress, one of the framers

of the Constitution, and later Chief-Justice of the United States, was a gentleman remarkable for his intellectual gifts and absolute purity of character. John Adams called him the firmest pillar of Washington's whole administration. He organized the judiciary of the United States.

The sixth senator present was Robert Morris of Pennsylvania, fifty-six years old, a signer of the Declaration, a framer of the Constitution. During the Revolution and the years immediately succeeding it his services in rendering financial aid to the Government were invaluable. "I want money," said Morris during the war to a Quaker friend, "for the use of the army." "What security can thee give?" asked the lender. "My note and my honor," responded Morris. "Robert, thee shall have it," was the prompt reply. Morris's colleague in the Senate was William Maclay. He was born in Pennsylvania, was fifty-two, and had married a daughter of John Harris, the founder of Harrisburg. He was a lawyer and held various offices of trust in the State of Pennsylvania. But he is best known for his "Sketches of Debate," one of the few books that give an insight into the character of the Congress of 1789.

The only Southern State represented in the Senate at the opening of Congress was Georgia, in the person of William Few, a man of forty-one, a Revolutionary officer, a delegate to the Continental Congress, and a member of the Federal Convention.

Of the thirteen members of the House present, the delegations from Massachusetts and Connecticut were the most distinguished: George Thacher, Fisher Ames, George Leonard, Elbridge Gerry, Benjamin Huntington, Jonathan Trumbull, and Jeremiah Wadsworth. George Thacher, a Harvard man of thirty-five, had been a member of the old Congress. Fisher Ames entered Harvard College when twelve years old and the first Congress under the Constitution at thirty-one. He was the brilliant orator and leader in debate. George Leonard graduated from Harvard and was sixty years old. Elbridge Gerry, a Harvard graduate of forty-five, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a member of the Constitutional Convention, later an ambassador to France, governor of Massachusetts, and Vice-President of the United States, was listened to with the utmost confidence in the Congress of 1789 when he spoke on the great financial questions of the day. Benjamin Huntington was a Yale man of fifty-three and a member of the old Congress. Jeremiah Wadsworth had also been a member of the Continental Congress. Jonathan Trumbull was a graduate of Harvard College, was forty-nine years old, had a good record in the Revo-



[This portrait was painted by the artist Joseph Wright during Washington's first administration and was exhibited in the New York Museum, or Gardner Baker's Museum, as it was called after 1795. After the death of Gardner Baker, in 1798, the picture came into the possession of a creditor, John Bailey, in whose family it remained for three generations, until bought in 1887 by Clarence Winthrop Bowen of Brooklyn. The portrait represents Washington in civil dress as President of the United States, with the badge of the Society of the Cincinnati on his coat and with one hand resting on the plan of

the future city of Washington. An engraving of a portrait of Washington by the same artist, called the "Powel portrait," appeared in THE CENTURY MAGAZINE for November, 1887. Wright painted other portraits of Washington, one for the Count de Solms's gallery of military heroes in Europe, another which belongs to the Massachusetts Historical Society, and another owned by Mrs. Biddle of Philadelphia. Wright's portraits, though unideal, have always been pronounced faithful likenesses. He never flattered. Wright was born in Bordentown, New Jersey, in 1756, and died in Philadelphia, in 1793.]

lution, was the son of the old war governor "Brother Jonathan," and became Speaker of the House, United States senator, and governor of his native State. Of Pennsylvania's four representatives present Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, president of the State convention of Pennsylvania which ratified the Constitution, was thirty-nine and was soon to be elected the first Speaker. His brother, Peter Muhlenberg, was forty-three, was ordained in England by the Bishop of London, and at the end of the Revolution was a major-general. Thomas Hartley of Pennsylvania, a colonel in the Revolution and a lawyer; Daniel Hiester, also of Pennsylvania; Alexander White of Virginia, a member of the Continental Congress; and Thomas Tudor Tucker of South Carolina, likewise a delegate of the old Congress, completed the list of representatives in their seats at the opening of Congress.

The Senate waited from day to day for more members to appear, and on the 11th of March addressed a circular letter to the absentees, urging their immediate presence in New York. A similar summons was sent out a week later. The first senator to respond was William Paterson of New Jersey, forty-four years old, a graduate of Princeton College, a lawyer, a governor of his State for three years, and afterwards for thirteen years one of the associate justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. In the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia he was the author of the New Jersey plan for the preservation of the sovereignty of the States in the new Government. On the 21st of March, or two days after Paterson's arrival, Richard Bassett of Delaware took his seat in the Senate. A member of the Continental Congress, of the Annapolis Convention, of the Constitutional Convention, he afterwards became Chief-Justice of the Common Pleas and governor of his native State. He was the great-grandfather of Thomas F. Bayard. Jonathan Elmer of New Jersey, forty-four years old, and an eminent physician, was prevented by illness from taking his seat in the Senate until the 28th of March. Before leaving home a banquet was given him by the gentlemen of his county.

Though Richard Henry Lee of Virginia left Baltimore March 2 he did not arrive in New

York until Sunday, April 5, so difficult was the traveling. In fact, the great quantity of ice in the rivers to the southward of New York made the passage of boats across them dangerous, and was one of the reasons for the tardiness of gentlemen from the South. Indeed, a congressman was obliged to go nearly a hundred miles up one of the rivers before he could cross on the ice. Lee's arrival in Congress was notable for two things: because he

was the twelfth senator—enough to make a quorum—and because he was a man of the greatest distinction. He was fifty-seven years old. He received a classical education in England. As a member of the House of Burgesses he made a brilliant speech opposing the institution of slavery. He became famous in 1766 under the leadership of Patrick Henry. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1774. In 1775, as chairman of the committee, he drew up the commission and instructions to George Washington as Commander-in-Chief.



ELBRIDGE GERRY. (FROM A MINIATURE IN POSSESSION OF ELBRIDGE T. GERRY OF NEW YORK.)

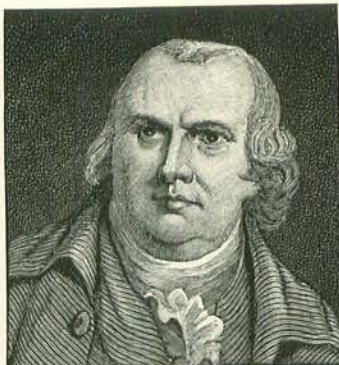
In 1776 he moved the great Declaration of Independence. He afterwards signed the Articles of Confederation. He was president of one of the Continental Congresses and served on all the important committees in most of the other Congresses under the Confederation. He was not a member of the Convention in Philadelphia in 1787, and he was opposed to the Constitution of the United States because he thought it would destroy the independence of the States. But it was a noble patriotism that inspired him to accept the position of senator, and he introduced certain amendments to the Constitution that seemed to remove much of the threatened danger.

Meanwhile the House of Representatives had likewise formed a quorum. Of the 59 members 17 were needed besides the 13 present on the first day to make the required quorum of 30. Let us look at these seventeen.

On the day after the opening Nicholas Gilman of New Hampshire, Benjamin Goodhue of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman and Jonathan Sturges of Connecticut, and Henry Wynkoop of Pennsylvania made their appearance. Gilman had been in the old Congress the two previous years and was only twenty-seven—



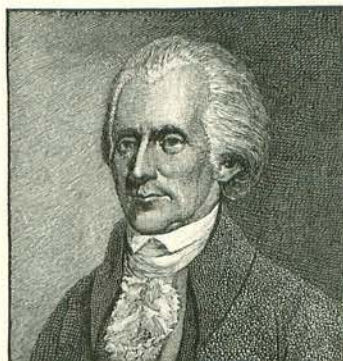
OLIVER ELLSWORTH.  
(FROM A MINIATURE BY TRUMBULL IN  
THE YALE SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS.)



ROBERT MORRIS.  
(FROM "THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT  
GALLERY," PUBLISHED IN NEW YORK.)



FISHER AMES.  
(FROM "THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT  
GALLERY.")



RICHARD HENRY LEE.  
(FROM A PORTRAIT IN POSSESSION  
OF DR. T. A. EMMET.)



SAMUEL A. OTIS.  
(FROM A PRINT IN POSSESSION OF  
DR. T. A. EMMET.)



ELIAS BOUDINOT.  
(FROM DURAND'S ENGRAVING OF A PAINT-  
ING BY WALDO AND JEWETT.)

the youngest member present. Goodhue, a Harvard man of forty-one, represented the Essex District, and was afterwards United States senator. Roger Sherman of New Haven began life as a shoemaker, and was sixty-eight years old. He was the only man who had signed the four great state papers of his day—the Articles of Association of the Congress of 1774, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution of the United States. Wynkoop and Sturges, the latter a Yale man of forty-nine, had both been in the old Congress.

On Saturday, March 14, three Virginians—James Madison, John Page, and Richard Bland Lee—took their seats in the House. The most notable of them all—in fact, the leader of the House—was James Madison, a Princeton graduate of thirty-eight. The services he rendered in the formation of the Constitution of the United States can never be forgotten. Patrick Henry had kept him out of the Senate, but he was of more value to the country where he now was. A week after the organization of the

House he introduced a resolution regarding the revenue, in order to rescue "the trade of the country in some degree," he said, "from its present anarchy."

Following Madison came straggling into the House through the remainder of the month other members in the following order: Andrew Moore of Virginia, Elias Boudinot of New Jersey, William Smith of Maryland, Josiah Parker of Virginia, George Gale of Maryland, Theodoric Bland of Virginia, James Schureman of New Jersey, and Thomas Scott of Pennsylvania. The most distinguished of them all was Elias Boudinot, forty-nine years old, Commissary-General of the prisoners during the Revolution, one of the presidents of the old Congress, and widely known at the beginning of the present century as a philanthropist and the President of the American Bible Society.

On Wednesday, the 1st of April, the House of Representatives formed a quorum and immediately proceeded to the transaction of business, the most important of which was the counting



OLD CITY HALL, WALL STREET, 1776. (FROM "VALENTINE'S MANUAL.")

of electoral votes for President and Vice-President of the United States.<sup>1</sup> George Washington of Virginia was the unanimous choice for President, having received sixty-nine, or the total number of votes cast. The next highest number, or thirty-four votes, were cast for John Adams of Massachusetts, and he was declared elected Vice-President of the United States. The electoral votes of ten States only were cast for the first President and Vice-President. North Carolina and Rhode Island, as has been before stated, would not ratify the Constitution. New York, owing chiefly to Governor Clinton's Anti-Federalism, had neglected to appoint Federal electors. None of New York's representatives were in the House at the counting of the electoral votes, nor were her senators in their seats at the time of the inauguration. The State Senate of New York appointed in January General Philip Schuyler and Robert Yates as senators, but the Assembly would not agree, and in July James Duane was substituted for Yates. Finally Philip Schuyler and Rufus King were elected to represent the State of New York in the Senate.

Only one man was thought of to carry the notice of election to Mount Vernon, and he was Charles Thomson. Several messengers were suggested to go to Braintree in Massachusetts, the home of the Vice-President; but the question was left to the Senate, who selected Syl-

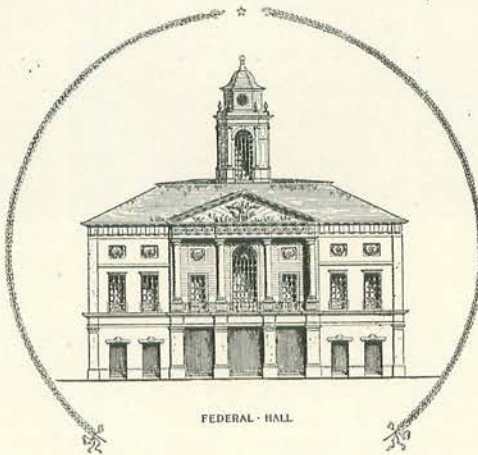
1 April 6.

vanus Bourne, "a young man of handsome abilities."

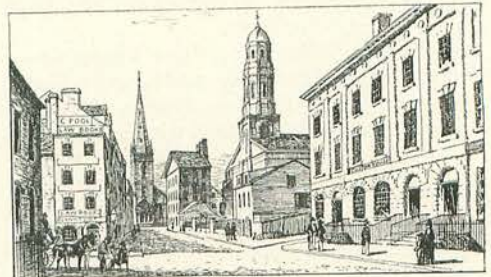
While these gentlemen are on their way let us look at the new Federal Hall occupied by Congress. The building stood on historic ground. The Common Council of New York presented a petition to the provincial authorities in 1699 asking that the old fortifications on Wall street and the bastions which had been erected upon them might be torn down in order that a new City Hall could be speedily built. The stones from the bastions were immediately appropriated in building the second City Hall of New York. On Broad street, nearly opposite, stood the whipping-post, cage, and pillory. Up to the end of the last century the old City Hall was the center of political life. The building served as the municipal and Colonial Court House, the debtors' and county jail, and the capitol of the province. It also contained the public library. Here in 1735,

at the trial of John Zenger, was established the freedom of the American press. The protest against the Stamp Act was here made in 1765, and on the same spot was also read to the people of New York, in 1776, the Declaration of Independence. The Continental Congress sat here. Here, in the last years of the old Congress, the Rev. Manasseh Cutler, LL. D., visited the building and wrote a description worth quoting :

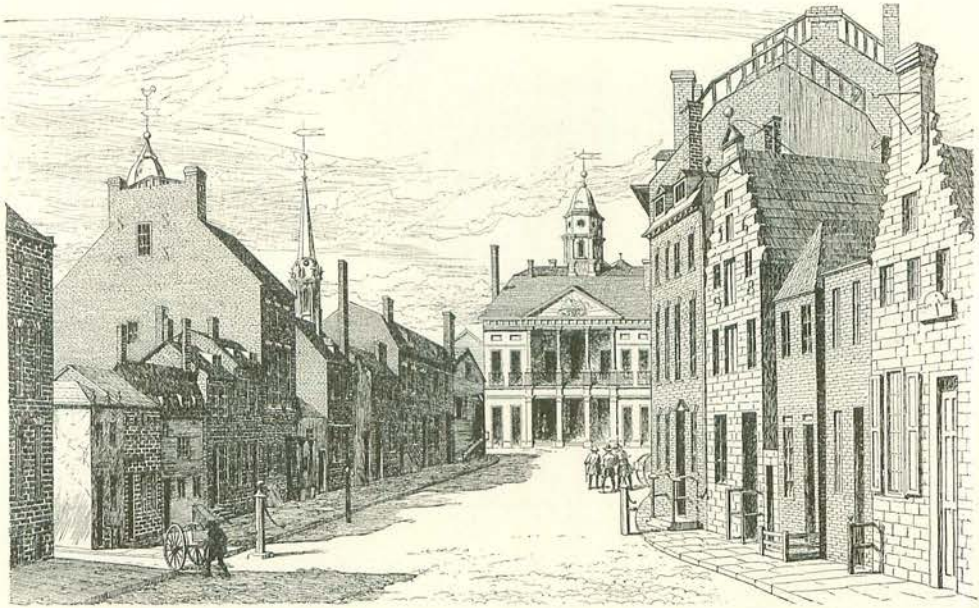
Congress chamber is an apartment in the second story of the City Hall. This Hall is a magnificent pile of buildings in Wall street, at the head of Broad street, near the center of the city. It is more than



VIEW OF THE FEDERAL EDIFICE IN NEW YORK. (FROM THE "MASSACHUSETTS MAGAZINE," MAY, 1789.)



CUSTOM-HOUSE, WALL STREET, BUILT ON SITE OF FEDERAL HALL IN 1831. ("VALENTINE'S MANUAL.")

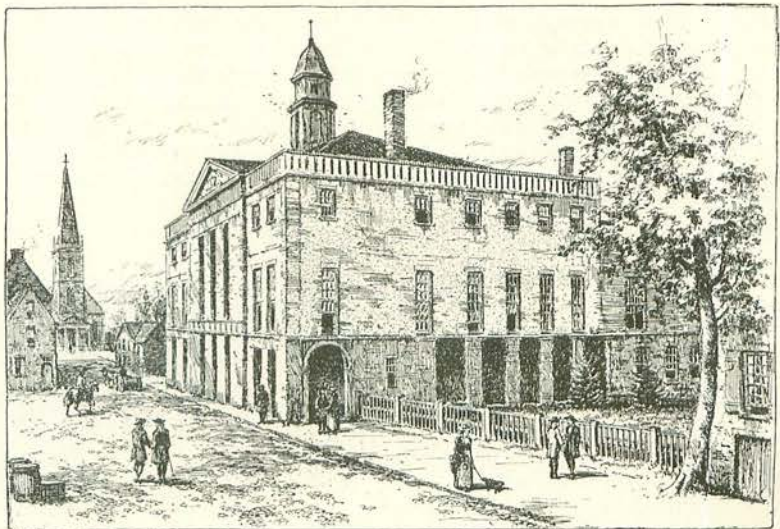


VIEW OF FEDERAL HALL, 1797. (FROM A PRINT IN POSSESSION OF DR. T. A. EMMET.)

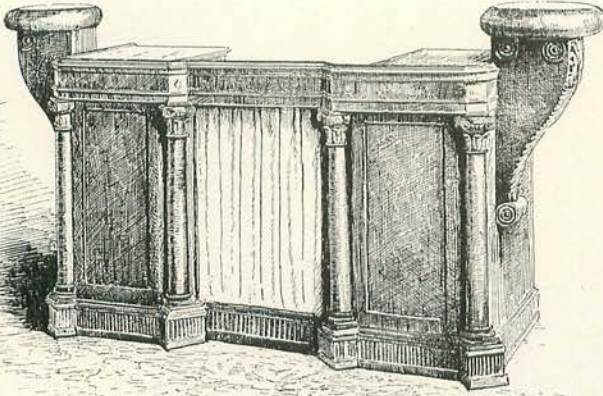
twice the width of the State House in Boston, but I think not so long. The lower story is a walk; at each corner are rooms appropriated to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City and the City Guards. Between the corner rooms, on each side and at the ends, it is open for a considerable space, supported by pillars. In front is a flight of steps from the street, over which is a two-story piazza, with a spacious walk, which communicates with Congress chamber at the east end, and with the chamber where the Mayor and Aldermen hold their courts at the west end.

After the city of New York had been selected by the old Congress for the meeting of the new Congress, it was at once determined to transform the old City Hall into the new Federal Hall. A number of wealthy gentlemen advanced the thirty-two thousand dollars needed for repairs, and the architect chosen was a French officer of engineers, Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the architect of St. Paul's Church and of some of the public buildings at Washington. The jail prisoners

were removed to the "new jail in the park." The transformation of the building was eagerly watched and its progress duly recorded in the newspapers of the day. When thrown open for the inspection of the public, a short time before the inauguration, it was seen to be an imposing structure. The arched basement on Wall and Nassau streets formed a promenade for citizens. There were seven openings to the basement in Wall street. The four heavy Tuscan columns in the center extended to the second story, or grand balcony, where the inauguration oath was administered. These col-



"A PROSPECTIVE VIEW OF THE CITY HALL IN NEW YORK, TAKEN FROM WALL STREET."  
(FROM A PRINT IN POSSESSION OF THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.)



DESK IN FEDERAL HALL USED BY WASHINGTON AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, NOW IN THE GOVERNOR'S ROOM, CITY HALL, N. Y.

umns supported four high Doric pillars, over which, in the pediment, were ornamental figures and a great American eagle carrying thirteen arrows and the arms of the United States. Within the building were the Representatives' room, the Senate Chamber, the committee rooms, audience room and antechambers, a library, and a marble-paved hallway extending from the bottom to the top of the building and roofed by a glass cupola so that a strong light might be thrown down upon the lobby adjoining the Senate Chamber.

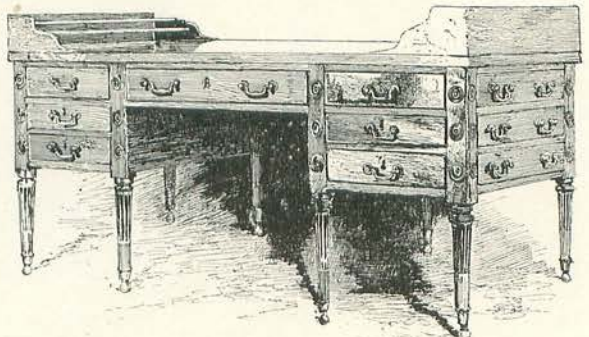
The Senate Chamber was forty by thirty feet and fifteen feet high, with fireplaces of American marble of "as fine a grain as any from Europe." On the ceiling were a sun and thirteen stars.

The Representatives' room, or Federal Hall proper, was 61 feet deep, 58 wide, and 36 high, and contained four fireplaces. On the Broad street side were two galleries for spectators; at the north end was the Speaker's chair, and arranged in circular form in the room were seats for the fifty-nine representatives. The most elegant and most talked-of ornament of the building was the eagle on the outside. The day it was reared, a troop of horse, a company of grenadiers, and a company of light infantry attended, so memorable was the occasion. On the 22d of April news was sent from New York to the Salem *Mercury* as follows: "The Eagle in front of the Federal State House is displayed. The general appearance of this front is truly august." After Congress had begun the transaction of business the building was crowded with visitors, so eager were all to inspect this wonderful structure. It might

be added that after Congress moved to Philadelphia, Federal Hall was altered to receive the courts and the State Assembly, and was taken down in 1813 to make way for buildings which in turn gave way to the old Custom-house and to the United States Sub-Treasury building of to-day.

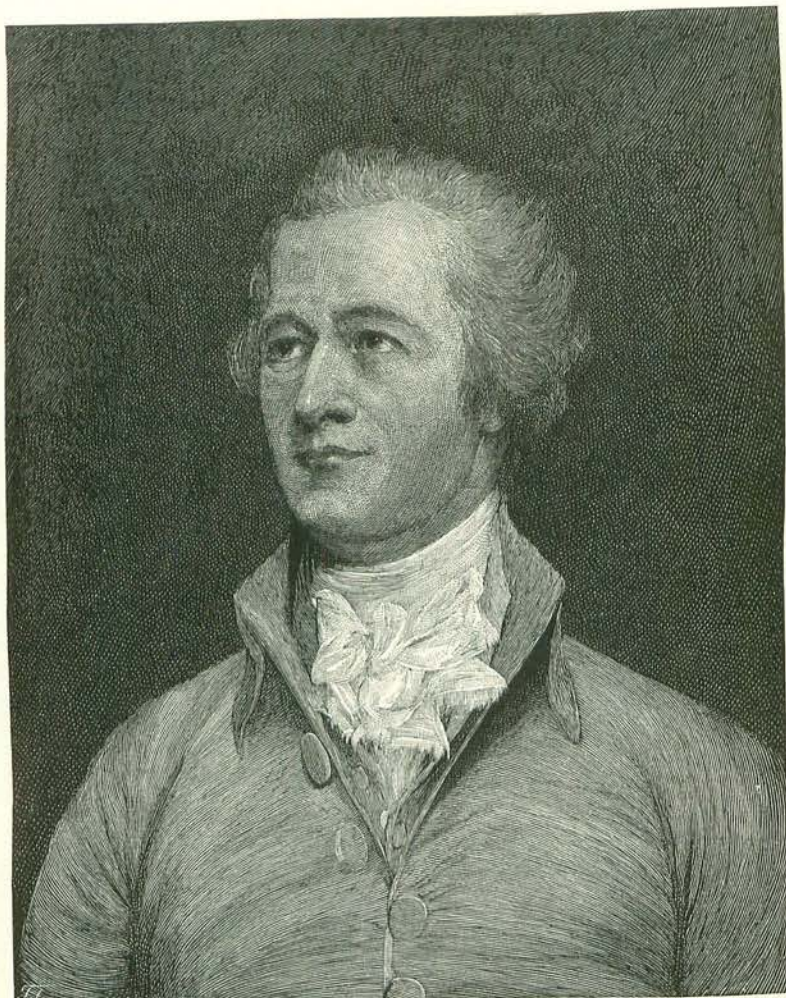
On Tuesday afternoon, April 7, the day after the counting of the votes, Sylvanus Bourne "set out in a packet-boat, with a fair wind and a brisk gale, for Boston," bearing official notification of election to John Adams and letters and dispatches to gentlemen and newspapers in Massachusetts. Late Wednesday evening the

packet, under the command of Captain Fairbanks, arrived at Warwick Neck in Rhode Island, and by traveling overland the rest of the journey Sylvanus Bourne was able to reach Braintree at 6 o'clock on Thursday evening, making the journey from New York in fifty hours—express time indeed one hundred years ago. The following Monday morning at 10 o'clock Mr. Adams started for New York, not forgetting to take with him an elegant suit of broadcloth manufactured in Hartford in which to make his appearance as Vice-President of the United States. A troop of horse came out from Boston to serve as escort, and in returning through Dorchester with Mr. Adams the party was saluted with a "Federal discharge" of artillery. On the arrival of the procession at the fortification gates of Boston the bells began to ring, and a large body of gentlemen on horseback met Mr. Adams and accompanied him to the residence of Governor Hancock, where a collation was served. Here there was another discharge of artillery, and the citizens "with loud huzzas" testified their appreciation of "the great republican virtues"



WASHINGTON'S WRITING-TABLE, NOW IN THE GOVERNOR'S ROOM, CITY HALL, N. Y.



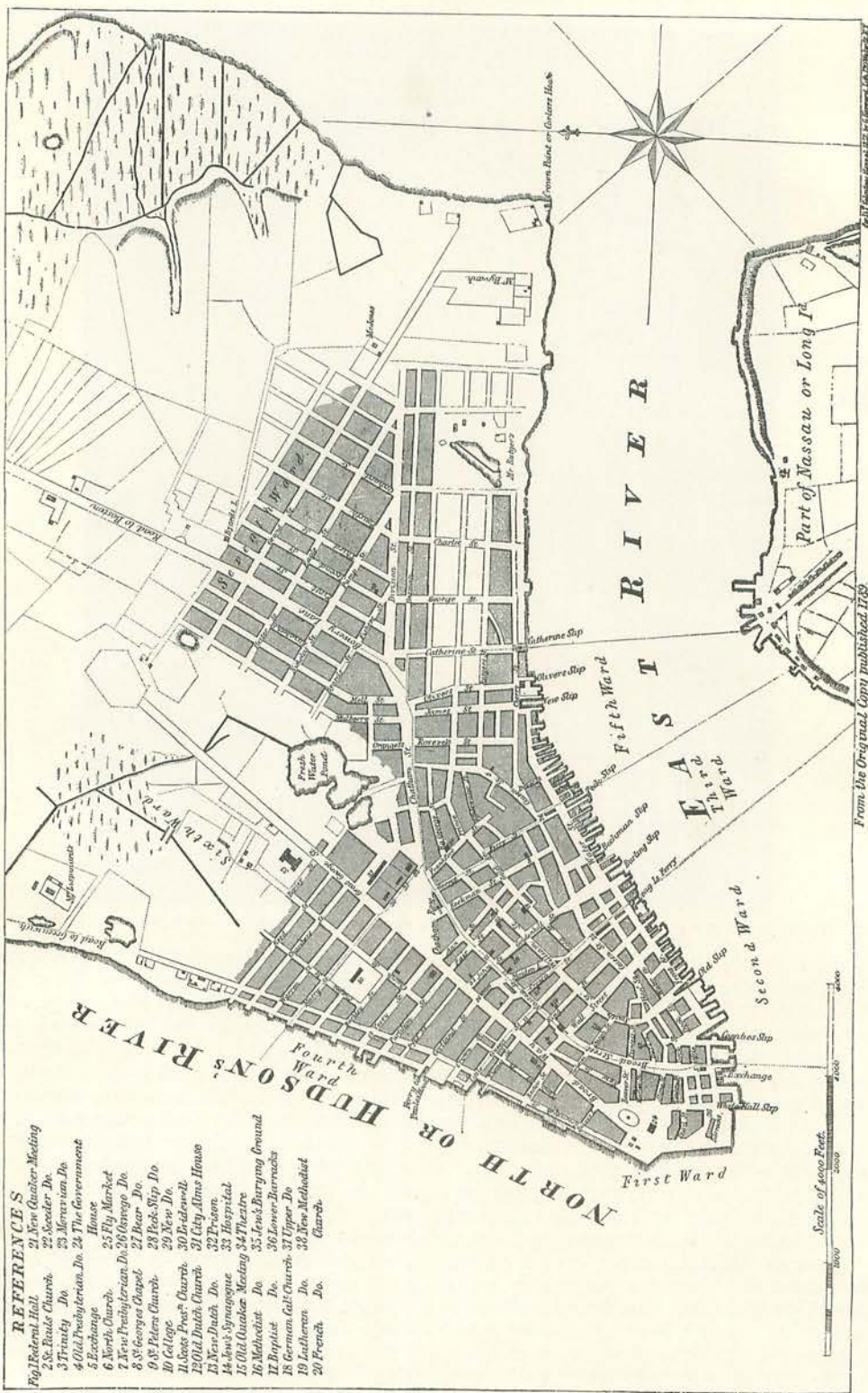


ALEXANDER HAMILTON. (FROM THE PAINTING BY TRUMBULL, 1792; NOW OWNED BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, N. Y.)

of John Adams. At half-past one the Vice-President entered his carriage and continued his journey under military escort. The procession was indeed imposing, and included an advanced corps of uniformed horse, a hundred and fifty gentlemen on horseback, the Middlesex Horse, the Roxbury Blues, forty carriages containing the governor, the French and Dutch consuls, the President of Harvard College, and other gentlemen of distinction. At Charlestown he was welcomed with another "Federal discharge" of cannon, and in passing through Cambridge, Watertown, Sudbury, and other towns he received proofs of the highest consideration. Though a part of the procession that started at Boston dropped off at Cambridge, and other parts at points beyond, the military escort, with frequent changes, accompanied Mr. Adams, under orders of the governor, through the counties of Middlesex and Worcester. The next day, Tuesday, April 14,

Mr. Adams passed through Worcester, where he received the customary salute of eleven guns and dined at the United States Arms. On Wednesday he left Springfield behind him, and on Thursday reached Hartford, where "an escort of the principal gentlemen in town, the ringing of bells, and the attention of the Mayor and Aldermen of the Corporation marked the Federalism of the citizens and their high respect for the distinguished patriot and statesman." At 6 o'clock Friday morning President Stiles and the professors and tutors of Yale College, the clergymen, and a large body of the citizens of New Haven assembled at the State House steps and went up the Hartford road six miles to meet Mr. Adams and escorted him into town amid the firing of cannon and the ringing of bells. Though Mr. Adams tarried but a short time in New Haven, he was presented at the City Tavern with the "diplomatic freedom" of the city by Pierrepoint Edwards, Esq., who

PLAN OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK



- REFERENCES**
- Fig. Federal Hall
  - 1 New Quaker-Meeting
  - 2 St. Paul's Church
  - 3 Trinity Do
  - 4 Old Presbyterian Do
  - 5 Exchange House
  - 6 North Church
  - 7 New Presbyterian Do
  - 8 St. George's Chapel
  - 9 St. Peter's Church
  - 10 College
  - 11 Swiss Prot. Church
  - 12 Old Dutch Church
  - 13 New Dutch Do
  - 14 Jew's Synagogue
  - 15 Old Quaker Meeting
  - 16 Methodist Do
  - 17 Baptist Do
  - 18 German Gal. Church
  - 19 Lutheran Do
  - 20 French Do
  - 21 New Quaker-Meeting
  - 22 Assessor Do
  - 23 African Do
  - 24 The Government House
  - 25 Fly Market
  - 26 Orange Do
  - 27 Beer Do
  - 28 Red-Ship Do
  - 29 New Do
  - 30 Broadway
  - 31 City Arms House
  - 32 Prison
  - 33 Hospital
  - 34 Theatre
  - 35 French Burialling Ground
  - 36 Lower-Barracks
  - 37 Upper Do
  - 38 New Methodist Church

Scale of 1000 Feet.  
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From the Original Copy published 1788

the previous day at a meeting of citizens had been especially commissioned to prepare the diploma. The same escort accompanied the Vice-President three miles out of New Haven. He was attended by the Light Horse of Westchester County from the Connecticut line to King's Bridge, and here he was met by more troops, many members of Congress, and citizens in carriages and on horseback, who amid the firing of salutes escorted him to the house of Hon. John Jay at 52 Broadway, near the corner of Exchange Place, where he arrived about 4 o'clock on the afternoon of Monday, April 20. But John Adams's permanent residence in New York was the celebrated mansion located on Richmond Hill,<sup>1</sup> afterwards the residence of Aaron Burr at the time he killed Alexander Hamilton, and subsequently bought by John Jacob Astor. The mayor and corporation called to congratulate the Vice-President the morning succeeding his arrival in town. He was next waited upon by Caleb Strong of Massachusetts and Ralph Izard of South Carolina, who in behalf of the Senate escorted him to the Senate Chamber to take the oath of office. "I was in New York," said John Randolph of Virginia forty years afterwards, "when John Adams took his seat as Vice-President. I recollect I was a schoolboy at the time, attending the lobby of Congress when I ought to have been at school. I remember the manner in which my brother was spurned by the coachman of the then Vice-President for coming too near the arms emblazoned on the scutcheon of the vice-regal carriage." Senator Langdon of New Hampshire, the president *pro tempore* of the Senate, met the Vice-President on the floor of the Senate, and after congratulating him conducted him to the chair, where the Vice-President delivered his inaugural address.

Meanwhile Charles Thomson had been executing a commission vastly more important than that performed by Sylvanus Bourne. A native of Ireland, a school-teacher in Philadelphia, a friend of Benjamin Franklin, Charles Thomson was now living the fifty-ninth of his ninety-four years. In 1774, when he was elected Secretary of the Continental Congress,—which office he held for fifteen consecutive years,—he had just married a young woman of fortune,<sup>2</sup> who was the aunt of President William Henry Harrison and the great-great-aunt of President Benjamin Harrison. He left New York Tuesday morning, April 7, and on Thursday evening he was in Philadelphia. Friday morning he continued his jour-

ney, passing through Wilmington the same day and reaching Baltimore on Sunday evening. Monday morning, April 13, he left Baltimore and arrived at Mount Vernon at half-past twelve o'clock Tuesday afternoon, being more than a week in making the journey from New York. After Mr. Thomson had presented to the President-elect the certificate of election which the President of the Senate had given him and had made a formal address stating the purpose of his visit, Washington at once replied, accepting the appointment, and said:

I am so much affected by this fresh proof of my country's esteem and confidence that silence can best explain my gratitude. While I realize the arduous nature of the task which is imposed upon me and feel my own inability to perform it, I wish that there may not be reason for regretting the choice; for indeed all I can promise is only to accomplish that which can be done by an honest zeal.

Upon considering how long time some of the gentlemen of both Houses of Congress have been at New York, how anxiously desirous they must be to proceed to business, and how deeply the public mind appears to be impressed with the necessity of doing it speedily, I cannot find myself at liberty to delay my journey. I shall therefore be in readiness to set out the day after to-morrow, and shall be happy in the pleasure of your company; for you will permit me to say that it is a peculiar gratification to have received this communication from you.

And yet Washington's correspondence during the fall and winter preceding his inauguration shows how reluctant he was to accept the Presidency. To Benjamin Lincoln he wrote: "I most heartily wish the choice to which you allude may not fall upon me. . . . If I should conceive myself in a manner constrained to accept, I call Heaven to witness that this very act would be the greatest sacrifice of my personal feelings and wishes that ever I have been called upon to make."<sup>3</sup> To Samuel Hanson he said: "The first wish of my soul is to spend the evening of my days as a private citizen on my farm."<sup>4</sup> To Lafayette he said: "I shall assume the task with a most unfeigned reluctance and with a real diffidence, for which I shall probably receive no credit from the world."<sup>5</sup> To Benjamin Harrison he wrote: "Heaven knows that no event can be less desired by me, and that no earthly consideration short of so general a call, together with a desire to reconcile contending parties as far as in me lies, could again bring me into public life."<sup>6</sup> "My movements to the chair of government," he wrote, finally, to Henry Knox,<sup>7</sup> "will be accompanied by feelings not

<sup>1</sup> Near Lispenard's Meadows, corner Varick and Van Dam streets.

<sup>2</sup> Thomson was the father-in-law of Elbridge Gerry.

<sup>3</sup> Washington used almost the same language to

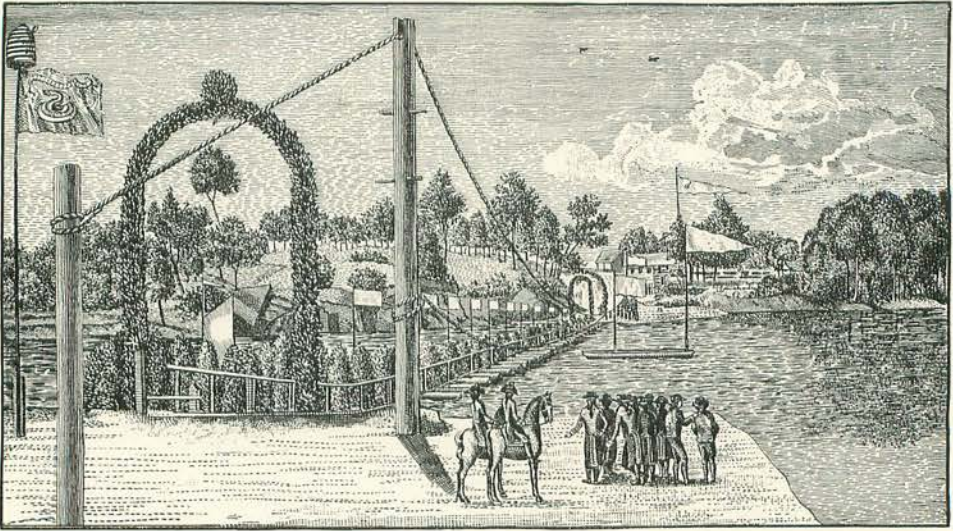
Governor Trumbull in a letter dated Mount Vernon, December 4.

<sup>4</sup> January 18.

<sup>6</sup> March 9.

<sup>5</sup> January 29.

<sup>7</sup> April 1.



PREPARATIONS FOR WASHINGTON'S RECEPTION AT GRAY'S FERRY, APRIL 20, 1789. (FROM "COLUMBIAN MAGAZINE," MAY, 1789.)

unlike those of a culprit who is going to the place of his execution. . . . Integrity and firmness are all I can promise. These, be the voyage long or short, shall never forsake me, although I may be deserted by all men; for of the consolations which are to be derived from these, under any circumstances, the world cannot deprive me."

The correspondence was brought to a close by Hamilton, who insisted that Washington's acceptance was indispensable and that circumstances left no option. Having paid a visit of farewell as "the last act of personal duty" to his aged mother at Fredericksburg, and having borrowed five hundred pounds of a gentleman at Alexandria to discharge all his personal debts and another hundred pounds to help defray "the expenses of his journey to New York," Washington was ready to leave his home on the Potomac on Thursday the 16th of April. "About 10 o'clock," as he wrote in his diary, "I bade adieu to Mount Vernon, to private life, and to domestic felicity, and with a mind oppressed with more anxious and painful sensations than I have words to express set out for New York in company with Mr. Thomson and Colonel Humphreys, with the best disposition to render service to my country in obedience to its call, but with less hope of answering its expectations."<sup>1</sup>

Washington had scarcely left his home be-

<sup>1</sup> Martha Washington left Mount Vernon May 19 with her two children. At Baltimore she was met by a body of citizens on horseback, and in the evening she was serenaded and fireworks were discharged in her honor. Seven miles from Philadelphia she was met by ladies in carriages, and a collation was served at Gray's Ferry. Amid the ringing of bells and the firing

of cannon she was escorted into Philadelphia in the same carriage with Mrs. Robert Morris, whose guest she was while in Philadelphia. The President met Mrs. Washington at Elizabethport, N. J., in the same barge that was used by him on April 23. As the party approached New York they were saluted with a discharge of thirteen cannon.

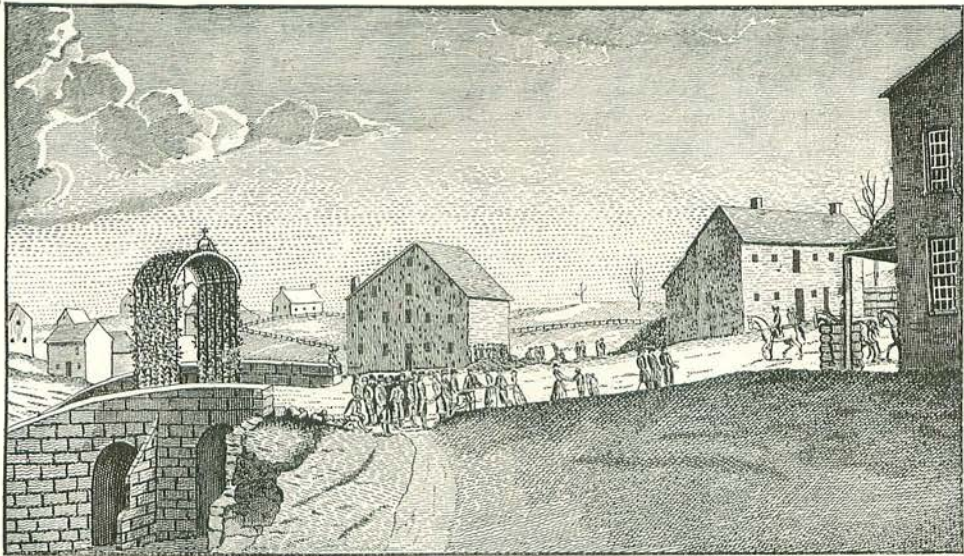
fore he was met by his neighbors and friends of Alexandria, who escorted him into town and gave him an early dinner at Mr. Wise's tavern. The thirteen toasts that were drunk at the dinner seemed to tell the history of the times. "The King of France," "The Federal Constitution—may it be fairly tried," "The Memory of those Martyrs who fell in Vindicating the Rights of America," "American Manufacturers," "American Ladies—may their manners accord with the spirit of the present Government," were a few of the sentiments expressed. "Farewell," said the mayor in behalf of the people of Alexandria. "Go and make a grateful people happy—a people who will be doubly grateful when they contemplate this recent sacrifice for their interests." Washington's emotions could with difficulty be concealed. "Unutterable sensations," said he in closing his reply, "must then be left to more expressive silence, while from an aching heart I bid you all, my affectionate friends and kind neighbors, farewell."

From Alexandria to Georgetown the President was attended by his neighbors and friends and even by children—a company that did "more honor to a man" (so reads a letter of the day from Georgetown) "than all the triumphs that Rome ever beheld; and the person honored is more illustrious than any monarch on the globe." The gentlemen of Georgetown met Washington on the banks of the Potomac and

of cannon she was escorted into Philadelphia in the same carriage with Mrs. Robert Morris, whose guest she was while in Philadelphia. The President met Mrs. Washington at Elizabethport, N. J., in the same barge that was used by him on April 23. As the party approached New York they were saluted with a discharge of thirteen cannon.

accompanied him north until they met the gentlemen from Baltimore. Some miles out of Baltimore the next day a large body of citizens on horseback met the Presidential party, and "under a discharge of cannon" Washington was conducted "through crowds of admiring spectators" to Mr. Grant's tavern. At 6 o'clock he received an address of welcome and was accorded a public reception. Instead of a dinner, for which it was impossible to arrange on such short notice, an invitation to supper was accepted. He retired at a little after 10 o'clock, and at half-past five the next morning, Saturday, he left Baltimore, as he had entered it, amid the firing of artillery. After being con-

Philadelphia proceeded as far as the Delaware line. Other troops followed, and early Monday morning, when Washington was met, he received the customary salutes and congratulations and was escorted into Chester, where all breakfasted and rested two hours. On leaving Chester, Washington ordered his carriage to the rear of the line and mounted a beautiful white horse. Charles Thomson and Colonel Humphreys, also on horseback, were near him. As the procession advanced it received large accessions, including a body of Philadelphia citizens, at whose head was the patriot and soldier General Arthur St. Clair, Governor of the North-west Territory.



RECEPTION OF WASHINGTON AT TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, APRIL 21, 1789. ("COLUMBIAN MAGAZINE," MAY, 1789.)

ducted seven miles north he alighted from his carriage and insisted that his mounted escort should return home.

He was met on the borders of Delaware on Sunday by a company from Wilmington, where instead of illuminating the houses, as some wished, even if it was Sunday evening, "the decoration of a vessel in the Delaware opposite to Market street was substituted." Before leaving Wilmington the next morning Washington received an address from the burghesses and common council of the borough. Delaware saw its guest to the Pennsylvania line.

Philadelphia had been preparing a royal welcome. The State authorities had appropriated a thousand dollars to defray the expenses of a military escort. Thomas Mifflin, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State, Richard Peters, Speaker of the Legislature, and the old City Troop of Horse of

At Gray's Ferry on the Schuylkill, the point next reached, the scene was indeed imposing. The most elaborate preparations had been made. Triumphal arches decorated with laurel and other evergreens; on one side eleven flags with the names of the eleven States that had adopted the Constitution; other flags with mottoes like "The Rising Empire," "The New Era," "Don't Tread on Me!" "May Commerce Flourish"; boats in the river gayly trimmed with flags; the cheering of the assembled thousands as the illustrious Washington came down the hill about noon to the ferry — all made the scene a memorable one. When Washington passed under one of the arches a wreath of laurel was lowered upon his brow by Angelica Peale, the young daughter of the artist of the Revolution, Charles Willson Peale.<sup>1</sup> At least twenty thousand people lined the road from Gray's Ferry

<sup>1</sup> Related in 1858 to Benson J. Lossing by Miss Peale's brother, Rembrandt Peale.

General Washington cannot leave this place without expressing his acknowledgments, to the Matrons and Young Ladies who received him in so royal & grateful a manner at the Triumphal Arch in Trenton, for the exquisite sensation he experienced in that affecting moment. — The astonishing contrast between his former and actual situation at the same spot. — The elegant taste with which it was adorned for the present occasion — and the innocent appearance of the White-robed Chorus who met him with the gratulatory song, have made such impressions on his remembrance as, he assures them will never be effaced. —

51  
Trenton April 21  
1789

FACSIMILE OF LETTER TO THE LADIES OF TRENTON, NOW OWNED BY MRS. CALEB S. GREEN OF TRENTON, N. J.

to Philadelphia, and everywhere the President was saluted with "Long live George Washington!" "Long live the Father of his People!" The procession swelled as he approached the city. There were three regular discharges of thirteen rounds each from the artillery. Salutes were also fired from the beautifully decorated ship *Alliance* and a Spanish merchantman moored in the river. As the procession moved down Market street the bells of Christ Church were rung. Amid unbounded joy Washington was conducted to the historic City

Tavern on Second above Walnut street, where a banquet was given him. At the tavern, where were gathered in 1774 the members of the first Continental Congress, now came, besides distinguished citizens, "all the clergy and respectable strangers in the city" to honor the man they loved. "A band of music played during the whole time of the dinner," says one of the newspaper accounts. Three of the fourteen toasts were to "His Most Christian Majesty, our great and good Ally,"<sup>1</sup> "His Catholic

<sup>1</sup> Louis XVI., King of France.

Majesty,"<sup>1</sup> and "The United Netherlands." Nearly every institution in the city presented Washington with an address before he left town at 10 o'clock the next morning.

The city troops intended to escort him to Trenton; but as the morning was rainy, Washington insisted upon declining that honor, for he would not drive in his carriage while the troops on horseback were exposed to the rain. The clouds, however, broke about noon, and at 2 o'clock the party were taken across the Delaware River at Colvin's Ferry. At the Trenton landing he was met by a distinguished party of citizens, a troop of horse, and a company of infantry, and escorted amid the booming of cannon and the huzzas of the people into Trenton village. Horses were provided for Washington and his suite. A memorable sight greeted the procession at the bridge at Assunpink Creek, over which Washington had retreated during the Revolutionary War to fall on the British forces at Princeton. A triumphal arch twenty feet wide and supported by thirteen columns, all entwined with evergreens, was raised over the bridge, upon which was inscribed in large gilt letters: "The Defender of the Mothers will also Protect their Daughters."

Over this inscription on a square ornamented with evergreens and flowers were those historic dates, "December 26, 1776—January 2, 1777," and on the summit was a large sunflower designed to express the motto, "To you alone."<sup>2</sup> The evening before the ball that had just been given at Princeton, the ladies—among whom was Mrs. Annis Stockton, widow of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and sister of Elias Boudinot—had determined to greet in a beautiful and affectionate manner President Washington. The ladies stood at the end of the bridge which Washington first approached, and in front of them were their daughters, in white dresses decorated with leaves and chaplets of flowers. Six of them held baskets of flowers in their hands. When the President was near, the ladies sang the following ode:

Welcome, mighty chief, once more!  
Welcome to this grateful shore!  
Now no mercenary foe  
Aims again the fatal blow,  
Aims at thee the fatal blow.

Virgins fair and matrons grave,  
Those thy conquering arms did save,  
Build for thee triumphal bowers.  
Strew, ye fair, his way with flowers.  
Strew your hero's way with flowers!

<sup>1</sup> Charles IV., King of Spain.

<sup>2</sup> This same arch was placed in front of the State House when Lafayette visited Trenton in 1824, and part of the arch is still preserved.

<sup>3</sup> Washington had intended to spend Tuesday night

at Trenton and Wednesday night at New Brunswick. [Letter written by Washington to committee of Congress, dated Philadelphia, April 20, 1789.]

During the singing of the last two lines the ground in front of the President was strewn with flowers by the young ladies. Washington stopped his horse. The scene was truly beautiful, and many were affected to tears.

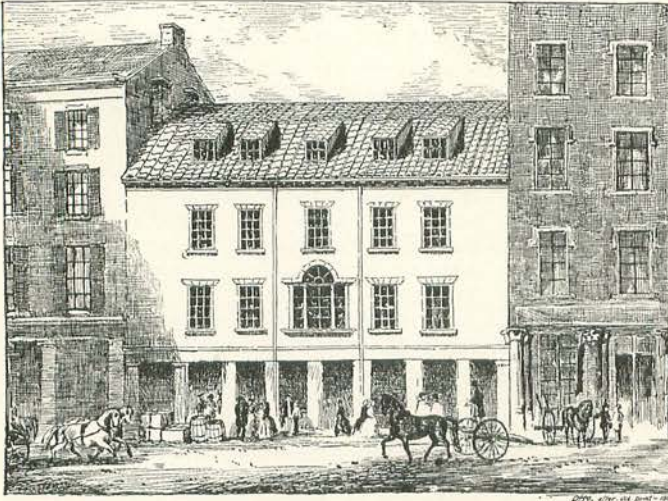
Washington dined at Samuel Henry's City Tavern in Trenton, and drove to Princeton late in the afternoon to spend the night, it is supposed, with the President of the college, the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, not forgetting to write a note of thanks to the young ladies of Trenton.

At 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning, April 22, Washington left Princeton under military escort and took the old road to New Brunswick,<sup>3</sup> where he was met by the war governor, William Livingston,<sup>4</sup> who drove with him to Woodbridge, where Wednesday night was passed. Thursday, April 23, was an eventful day to Washington. At Bridgeton his military escort was augmented, and as he approached Elizabethtown, between 8 and 9 o'clock in the morning, he received "a Federal salute from the cannon" and stopped at the public-house of Samuel Smith, where he received the congratulations of the town and the committee of Congress. Here he breakfasted, and then waited upon the congressional committee at the residence of Elias Boudinot, chairman of the committee. From Dr. Boudinot's house he proceeded to Elizabethtown Point under a large civic and military escort, which included companies from Newark and vicinity. At Elizabethtown Point Washington stepped aboard a magnificent barge which had been made to convey him up the bay to New York. The boat cost between two hundred and three hundred pounds and was rowed by thirteen masters of vessels dressed in white uniforms and black caps ornamented with fringes. Commodore James Nicholson<sup>5</sup> was commander and Thomas Randall acted as cockswain. In the President's barge and the six others accompanying were the congressional committee, John Langdon, Charles Carroll, and William Samuel Johnson of the Senate, Elias Boudinot, Theodorick Bland, Thomas Tudor Tucker, Egbert Benson, and John Lawrence of the House; Chancellor Livingston; John Jay, Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Samuel Osgood, Arthur Lee, and Walter Livingston, Commissioners of the Treasury; General Henry Knox, Secretary of War; Ebenezer Hazard, Postmaster-General; Colonel Nicholas Fish, Adjutant-General of the forces of New York State; Richard Varick, Recorder of the city; and other dignitaries. A discharge of artillery was given on the em-

at Trenton and Wednesday night at New Brunswick. [Letter written by Washington to committee of Congress, dated Philadelphia, April 20, 1789.]

<sup>4</sup> Own cousin to Chancellor Livingston.

<sup>5</sup> Father-in-law of Senator William Few of Georgia.



RESIDENCE OF GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON, IN PEARL STREET OPPOSITE CEDAR STREET—WASHINGTON'S QUARTERS ON ASSUMING COMMAND OF THE ARMY IN NEW YORK. ("VALENTINE'S MANUAL.")

barkation of the President at 12 o'clock. But better than the accounts given in the newspapers is the letter descriptive of the sail up New York harbor to the foot of Wall street, written the next day by Elias Boudinot to his wife:

You must have observed with what a propitious gale we left the shore and glided with steady motion across the Newark Bay, the very water seeming to rejoice in bearing the precious burden over its placid bosom. The appearance of the troops we had left behind and their regular firings added much to our pleasure. When we drew near to the mouth of the Kills a number of boats with various flags came up with us and dropped in our wake. Soon after we entered the bay General Knox and several other officers in a large barge presented themselves with their splendid colors. Boat after boat, sloop after sloop, gayly dressed in all their naval ornaments, added to our train and made a most splendid appearance. Before we got to Bedloe's Island a large sloop came with full sail on our starboard bow, when there stood up about twenty gentlemen and ladies, who with most excellent voices sung an elegant ode, prepared for the purpose, to the tune of "God Save the King,"<sup>1</sup> welcoming their great chief to the seat of government. On its conclusion we saluted them with our hats, and then they with the surrounding boats gave us three cheers. Soon after, another boat came under our stern and presented

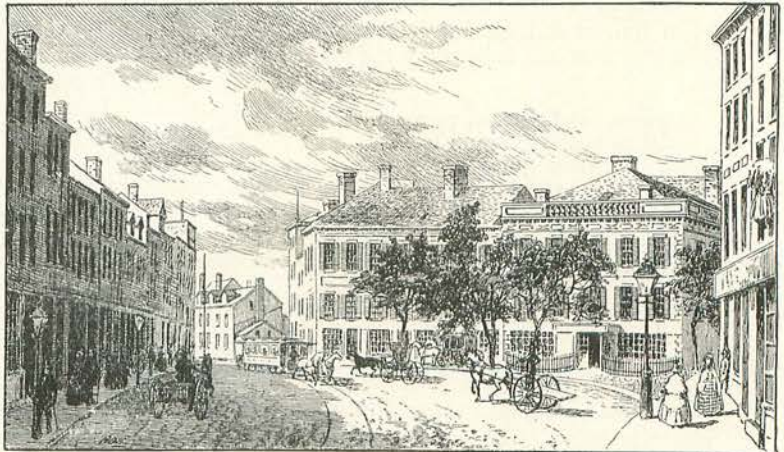
us with a number of copies of a second ode, and immediately about a dozen gentlemen began to sing it, in parts, as we passed along. Our worthy President was greatly affected with these tokens of profound respect. As we approached the harbor, our train increased, and the huzzinga and shouts of joy seemed to add life to this brilliant scene. At this moment a number of porpoises came playing amongst us as if they had risen up to know what was the cause of all this happiness.

We now discovered the shores to be crowded with thousands of people—men, women, and children; nay, I may venture to say tens of thousands. From the fort to the place of landing, although near half a mile, you could see little else along the shore, in the streets, and on board every vessel but heads standing as thick as ears of corn before the harvest. The vessels in the harbor made a most superb appearance indeed, dressed in all their pomp of attire. The Spanish ship-of-war the *Galveston* in a mo-

<sup>1</sup> New York "Packet," May 1: "Ode sung on the arrival of the President of the United States. Tune, 'God Save, &c.' Composed by Mr. Low:

Far be the din of arms.  
Henceforth the Olive's charms  
Shall war preclude;  
These shores a head shall own  
Unsubdued by a throne:  
Our much loved Washington,  
The Great, the Good."

The New York "Packet" said regarding the singing: "The voices of the ladies were as much superior to the flutes that played with the stroke of the oars in Cleopatra's silken-corded barge as the very superior and glorious water-scene of New York bay exceeds the silvery Cydnus in all its pride."



WASHINGTON'S HOUSE, FRANKLIN SQUARE. (FROM A PICTURE MADE IN 1856.)

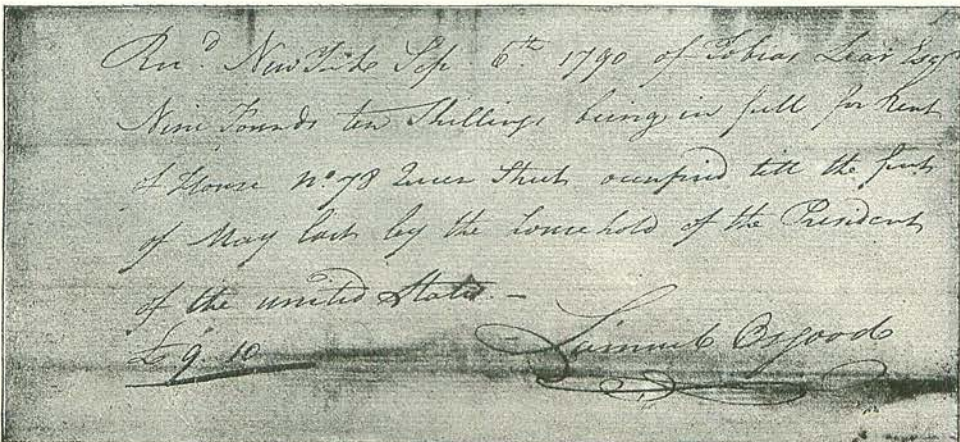




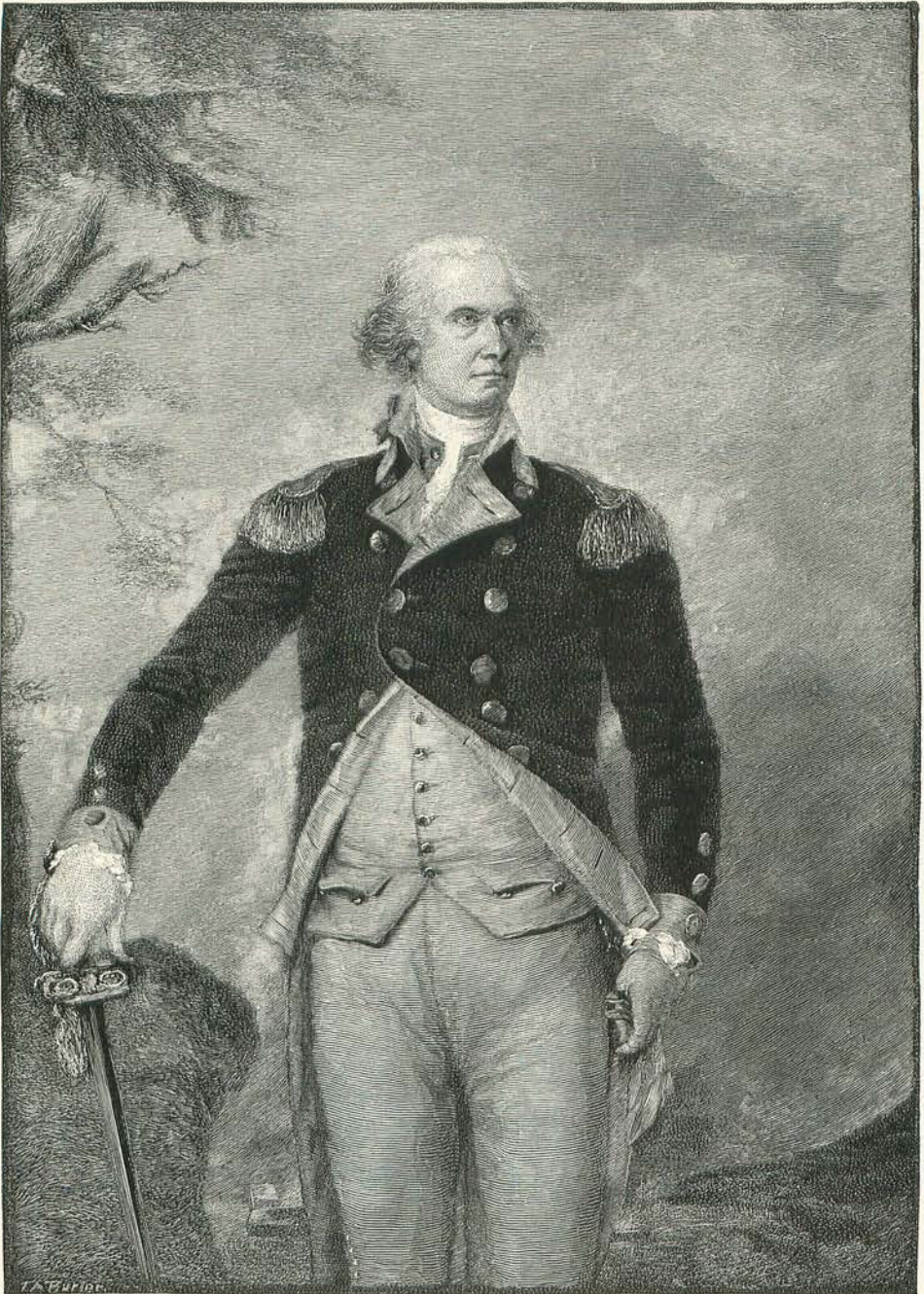
MCCOMB HOUSE, ON BROADWAY—WASHINGTON'S SECOND RESIDENCE. ("VALENTINE'S MANUAL.")

ment, on a signal given, discovered twenty-seven or twenty-eight different colors, of all nations, on every part of the rigging, and paid us the compliment of thirteen guns, with her yards all manned, as did also another vessel in the harbor, the *North Carolina*, displaying colors in the same manner. We soon arrived at the ferry stairs, where there were many thousands of the citizens waiting with all the eagerness of expectation to welcome our excellent patriot to that shore which he regained from a powerful enemy by his valor and good conduct. We found the stairs covered with carpeting and the rails hung with crimson. The President, being preceded by the committee, was received by the governor and the citizens in the most brilliant manner. He was met on the wharf by many of his old and faithful officers and fellow-patriots, who had borne the heat and burthen of the day with him, who like him had experienced every reverse of fortune with fortitude and patience, and who now joined the

universal chorus of welcoming their great deliverer (under Providence) from all their fears. It was with difficulty a passage could be made by the troops through the pressing crowds, who seemed incapable of being satisfied with gazing at this man of the people. You will see the particulars of the procession from the wharf to the house appointed for his residence in the newspapers. The streets were lined with the inhabitants, as thick as they could stand, and it required all the exertions of a numerous train of city officers, with their staves, to make a passage for the company. The houses were filled with gentlemen and ladies, the whole distance being about half a mile, and the windows to the highest stories were illuminated by the sparkling eyes of innumerable companies of ladies, who seemed to vie with each other in showing their joy on this great occasion. It was half an hour before we could finish our commission and convey the President to the house prepared for his residence. As soon as this was done, notwithstanding his great fatigue of both body and mind, he had to receive the gentlemen and officers to a very large number, who wished to show their respect in the most affectionate manner. When this was finished and the people dispersed, we went (undressed) and dined with his Excellency Governor Clinton, who had provided an elegant dinner for us. Thus ended our commission. The evening, though very wet, was spent by all ranks in visiting the city, street after street being illuminated in a superb manner. I cannot help stat-



RECEIPT GIVEN BY OWNER OF HOUSE ON FRANKLIN SQUARE OCCUPIED BY WASHINGTON IN 1789-90.



GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON. (FROM A PAINTING BY TRUMBULL, 1791; IN GOVERNOR'S ROOM, CITY HALL, NEW YORK.)

ing now how highly we were favored in the weather. The whole procession had been completely finished and we had repaired to the governor's before it began to rain. When the President was on the wharf an officer came up, and addressing him said he had the honor to command his guard, and that it was ready to obey his orders. The President answered that, as to the present arrangement, he

should proceed as was directed, but that after that was over he hoped he would give himself no farther trouble, as the affection of his fellow-citizens (turning to the crowd) was all the guard he wanted.

As the barge drew up to Murray Wharf, near the Coffee House, about 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon, cannons were again fired, the bells

of the city began to ring and continued for half an hour. Washington was dressed in a plain suit, consisting of blue coat and buff waistcoat and breeches.

Miss Quincy, looking out of a window in a store on the wharf, wrote :

Carpets were spread to the carriage prepared for him, but he preferred walking through the crowded streets and was attended by Governor Clinton and many officers and gentlemen. He frequently bowed to the multitude and took off his hat to the ladies at the windows, who waved their handkerchiefs, threw flowers before him, and shed tears of joy and congratulations. The whole city was one scene of triumphal rejoicing. His name in every form of decoration appeared on the fronts of the houses,<sup>1</sup> and the streets through which he passed to the governor's mansion were ornamented with flags, silk banners of various colors, wreaths of flowers, and branches of evergreens. Never did any one enjoy such a triumph as Washington, who indeed "read his history in a nation's eyes."

The procession, headed by Colonel Morgan Lewis, consisted of music, a troop of horse, artillery officers off duty, the grenadiers that served as a guard of honor to the President, the governor and officers of the State, the congressional committee, the Mayor and Corporation, the clergy, the French and Spanish ambassadors, and citizens. The whole passed through Queen street,<sup>2</sup> by Governor Clinton's house at the foot of Cedar street, and stopped at the Franklin House, which had been fitted up as a residence for Washington.<sup>3</sup> From 7 till 9 o'clock in the evening, while Washington was dining with a distinguished company at Governor Clinton's house, the city was brilliantly illuminated. The day had indeed been a glorious one. On all sides was heard the expression, "Well, he deserves it all!" and many who were in the crowd said that "they should now die contented, nothing being wanted to complete their happiness, previous to this auspicious period, but the sight of the

Savior of his Country."<sup>4</sup> It had been "a day of extravagant joy."

Of the 23d of April Washington wrote in his diary :

The display of boats which attended and joined us on this occasion, some with vocal and some with instrumental music on board, the decorations of the ships, the roar of cannon, and the loud acclamations of the people which rent the skies as I walked along the streets, filled my mind with sensations as painful (considering the reverse of this scene, which may be the case after all my labors to do good) as they are pleasing.

In turning for a moment to the two houses of Congress it should be said that after count-



RALPH IZARD. (FROM "CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH IZARD," FRANCIS & CO. 1844.)

ing the electoral votes on the 6th of April they at once plunged into the business of preparing rules and orders for themselves, in discussing the tariff,<sup>5</sup> in making a beginning towards or-

House, and subsequently the Mansion House and Bunker's Hotel.

Washington's Diary, February 1, 1790: "Agreed on Saturday last to take Mr. McComb's house, lately occupied by the Minister of France, for one year from and after the first of May next, and would go into it immediately if Mr. Otto, the present possessor, could be accommodated; and this day sent my secretary to examine the rooms to see how my furniture could be adapted to the respective apartments."

Colonel John May's Journal, April 22, 1788: "Went to see a pile of new buildings, nearly completed, belonging to a Mr. McComb, by far the finest buildings my eyes ever beheld, and I believe they excel any on the continent. In one of the entries I traveled up five flights of stairs—the rail continuous from top to bottom. I still left one flight unexplored."

<sup>4</sup> "Gazette of the United States," April 25.

<sup>5</sup> The tariff was discussed in the Congress of 1781, but the subject became a most important question in

<sup>1</sup> "God Bless your Reign," etc.

<sup>2</sup> Now Pearl street—in 1789 a mile and a half in length, and with buildings from four to six stories high. It was considered a remarkable fact at that time, as the Rev. Manasseh Cutler wrote, that the sides of Queen street within the posts were "laid principally with free stone, sufficiently wide for three persons to walk abreast." (Cutler's Life, Vol. I., p. 306.)

<sup>3</sup> This house was owned by Samuel Osgood, one of the Treasury Commissioners, and was until 1856, when the building was taken down, at the junction of Cherry and Pearl streets on Franklin Square. The Franklin House had been occupied by the President of the old Congress, but had been fitted up by order of the new Congress for Washington. For particulars regarding Osgood see "History of the City of New York," by Mrs. Martha J. Lamb, Vol. II., p. 330. Washington occupied in 1790 a house on Broadway, near Bowling Green, which had been used by the French ambassador and was called the McComb



FRAUNCES TAVERN, ON BROAD AND PEARL STREETS. ("VALENTINE'S MANUAL," 1854.)

ganizing the judiciary, in arranging for a house for the President, and in preparations to receive him and the Vice-President in New York. Each day brought new members into Federal Hall. From the second day of April, the day after a quorum had been formed, until the last day of the month, the House of Representatives received nineteen new members, ten of whom it is necessary to mention by name only. Lambert Cadwalader of New Jersey, Isaac Coles of Virginia, Joshua Seney and Benjamin Contee of Maryland, Ædanus Burke,<sup>1</sup> Daniel Huger,<sup>2</sup> and William Smith of South Carolina, Peter Sylvester and John Hathorn of New York, and Jonathan Grout of Massachusetts. Of the other nine, however, something more should be said. Two were noted Pennsylvanians: George Clymer, fifty years old, a signer of the Declaration, and a framer of the Constitution of the United States; and Thomas Fitzsimmons, born in Ireland, forty-eight years old, and a member of the old Congress and of the Constitutional Convention. One of the most distinguished men from the South was Abraham Baldwin of Georgia, thirty-five years old, graduate of and tutor in Yale College, chaplain in the Revolution, lawyer, founder and president of the University of Georgia, member of the Continental Congress and Constitutional Convention, and afterwards United States senator. The remainder in the

1785 in Virginia and Maryland, in connection with the navigation of the Potomac. The discussion of the question led to the Annapolis Convention in 1786, which resulted in the Constitutional Convention in 1787. The first Congress under the Constitution discussed at length the tariff question under the leadership of Madison. To Madison is due the greatest credit for following up the question to the logical result of forming a new government out of the United States.

list of representatives who were present at the inauguration of Washington were George Partridge of Massachusetts, forty-nine years old, graduate of Harvard, delegate to the Continental Congress; John Lawrence of New York, born in England thirty-nine years before, lawyer, soldier during the entire Revolution, member of the old Congress; Egbert Benson of New York, forty-two, graduate of

Columbia College, member of the Continental Congress, and first president of the New York Historical Society; Thomas Sinnickson of New Jersey, a man of classical education and a captain in the battles of Trenton and Princeton; James Jackson of Georgia, native of England, thirty-one years old, Revolutionary soldier, lawyer, and afterwards United States senator; and William Floyd of New York, fifty-five, a member of the old Congress for nine years, and one of the immortal band of signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Six senators made their appearance in the Senate Chamber in the interval between the formal organization and the inauguration of Washington: Ralph Izard of South Carolina, Charles Carroll and John Henry of Maryland, George Read of Delaware, Tristram Dalton of Massachusetts, and James Gunn of Georgia. Of these it should be said that Henry was a Princeton graduate, member of the old Congress, and governor of Maryland; and Read was a lawyer of fifty-five, who enjoyed the distinction, as a delegate of the Congress of 1774, of having signed the petition to George III., as a member of the Congress of 1776, the Declaration, and as a member of the Federal Convention of 1787, the Constitution. Izard, educated at Christ College, Cambridge, was forty-seven. While in England he endeavored without success to impress upon the British ministry

The tariff was chiefly discussed in the new Congress by Madison, Sherman, Fitzsimmons, Boudinot, Bland, Lee, White, Thacher, Tucker, Hartley, and Lawrence. [N. Y. "Packet," April 10, 1789; "James Madison," by Sidney Howard Gay, pp. 54-62.]

<sup>1</sup> Burke was born in Ireland in 1743, and was widely known on account of a pamphlet he wrote against the Society of the Cincinnati.

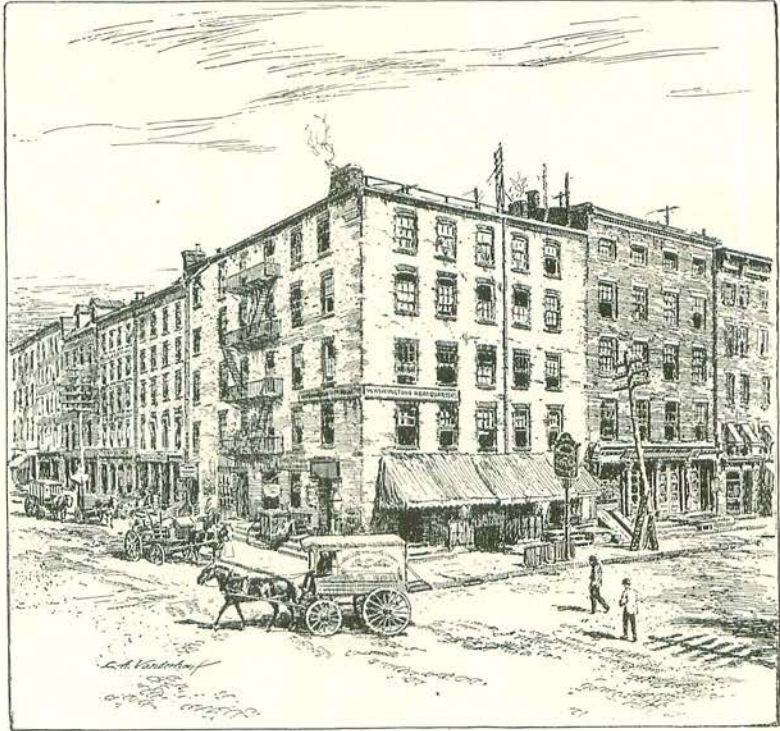
<sup>2</sup> Member of the Continental Congress.

the folly of the policy towards the American colonies. He always refused the honor of a presentation at court, because he would have been obliged to bow the knee, which he never would do, he said, to mortal man. While in Europe he was appointed by the Continental Congress commissioner to the court of the Grand Duke of Tuscany. When the agent of South Carolina was sent abroad to purchase ships of war, Ralph Izard pledged the whole of his ample fortune as security for payment.<sup>1</sup>

It was a proud distinction of the first Congress under the Constitution that one of its members was Charles Carroll of Carrollton — fifty-two years old, educated at several universities in Europe, the wealthiest man in the colonies at the breaking out of the Revolution, the great advocate of liberty, the survivor of all the signers of the Declaration of Independence.<sup>2</sup>

On the very day that Washington arrived in New York a discussion took place in the Senate regarding the manner of receiving the President. Thereupon John Adams asked what title should be used in addressing the Chief Magistrate — “Mr. Washington,” “Mr.

President,” “Sir,” or “May it please your Excellency.”<sup>3</sup> A committee was appointed to confer with the House on the subject and also on the subject of the inauguration ceremonies, and the joint committee decided that the title should simply be, “The President of the United States.” The Senate disagreed, and the new committee reported in favor of the title, “His Highness, the President of the United States and Protector of their Liberties.” The Senate accepted the report and the House rejected it, and the agitation of the subject was allowed to drop.<sup>4</sup>



FRAUNCES TAVERN IN 1889.

<sup>1</sup> Izard married in 1767 the beautiful Alice De Lancey, niece of the lieutenant-governor of the Province of New York, and while in America was in the habit of spending his winters in South Carolina and his summers in New York.

<sup>2</sup> He died in 1832, aged 95.

<sup>3</sup> “James Madison,” by Gay, pp. 129-134.

<sup>4</sup> The question of titles, however, as Madison wrote to Jefferson, “became a serious one in the two houses. J. Adams espoused the cause of titles with great earnestness. His friend R. H. Lee, although elected as a republican enemy to an aristocratic Constitution, was a most zealous second. . . . Had the project succeeded, it would have subjected the President to a serious dilemma and given a deep wound to our infant Government.” And Senator William Grayson of Virginia wrote to Patrick Henry, New York, June 12, 1789 (*vide* Lyon G. Tyler’s “Letters and Times of the Tylers,” Vol. I., p. 169): “Is it not still stranger that John Adams, the son of a tinker, and the creature of

the people, should be for titles and dignities and pre-eminences, and should despise the herd and the ill-born? It is said he was the *primum nobile* in the Senate for the titles for the President, in hopes that in the scramble he might get a slice for himself.”

A letter by John Armstrong to General Gates, dated New York, April 7, 1789 (Griswold’s “Republican Court,” pp. 122, 123), says: “All the world here are busy in collecting flowers and sweets of every kind to amuse and delight the President in his approach and on his arrival. Even Roger Sherman has set his head at work to devise some style of address more novel and dignified than ‘Excellency.’ Yet, in the midst of this admiration, there are skeptics who doubt its propriety, and wits who amuse themselves at its extravagance. The first will grumble and the last will laugh, and the President should be prepared to meet the attacks of both with firmness and good nature. A caricature has already appeared called ‘The Entry,’ full of very disloyal and profane allusions. It repre-

The arrangements for the inauguration proceeded rapidly. In the preliminary report of the congressional committee of arrangements, offered on Saturday, the 25th of April, it was declared that the President should be formally received by both houses in the Senate Chamber on Thursday, the 30th of April, and that both houses should then move into the Representatives' Chamber, where the oath was to be administered by the Chancellor of the State of New York. Two days later the place for taking the oath was changed to the "outer gallery adjoining the Senate Chamber," and it was decided that the President, the Vice-President, and both houses should proceed after the ceremony to St. Paul's Church to hear divine service.

The idea of holding services in St. Paul's Church created considerable discussion. Senator William Maclay of Pennsylvania said in his journal, on the Monday before the inauguration:

A new arrangement was reported from the joint committee of ceremonies. This is an endless business. Lee offered a motion to the chair that after the President was sworn (which now is to be in the gallery opposite the Senate Chamber) the Congress should accompany him to St. Paul's Church and attend divine service. This had been agitated in the joint committee, but Lee said expressly *that they would not agree to it*. I opposed it as an improper business, after it had been in the hands of the joint committee and rejected, as I thought this a certain method of creating a dissension between the houses.

The question of holding services on the day of the inauguration had been agitated by the clergymen in town.<sup>1</sup> When Bishop Provoost was applied to on the subject he replied, so Ebenezer Hazard wrote, that the Church of England "had always been used to look up to Government upon such occasions, and he thought it prudent not to do anything till they knew what Government would direct. If the good bishop never prays without an order from Government," added Hazard, "it is not probable that the kingdom of heaven will suffer much from his violence." It must have been a relief to Bishop Provoost, therefore, when

sents the General mounted on an ass, and in the arms of his man Billy Humphreys [Colonel David Humphreys, aide-de-camp, who accompanied Washington from Mount Vernon to New York] leading the jack, and chanting hosannas and birthday odes. The following couplet proceeds from the mouth of the devil:

"The glorious time has come to pass  
When David shall conduct an ass."

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, Presbyterian, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Samuel Provoost, Episcopal bishop, and the Rev. Dr. William Linn, Presbyterian, and

Congress agreed to the services in St. Paul's Church.<sup>2</sup>

Meanwhile Washington had been waited upon by the two houses of Congress, who offered him their congratulations. Similar congratulatory calls were made by other bodies, including the Chamber of Commerce, whose members met at the Coffee House at half-past eleven o'clock one morning, and proceeded to the presidential mansion, where they were introduced by John Broome, the president of the Chamber.

The long-expected day was now at hand. The copestone was about to be placed on the structure the foundations of which had been laid thirteen years before. It was the 30th of April, 1789, and the first President of the United States was to take the oath of fidelity to the new Constitution. Crowds were pouring into New York. "For nearly a fortnight," wrote Griswold, "the taverns and boarding-houses in the city had been thronged with visitors, and now every private house was filled with guests, from all parts of the Union, assembled to witness the imposing ceremonial which was to complete the organization of the Government. 'We shall remain here, even if we have to sleep in tents, as so many will have to do,' wrote Miss Bertha Ingersoll to Miss McKean; 'Mr. Williamson had promised to engage us rooms at Frances's,'<sup>3</sup> but that was jammed long ago, as was every other public house; and now, while we were waiting at Mrs. Vandervoort's in Maiden Lane till after dinner, two of our beaux are running about town, determined to obtain the best places for us to stay at which can be opened for love, money, or the most persuasive speeches.'"

With a discharge of artillery at sunrise from old Fort George near Bowling Green began the ceremonies of the day. At 9 the bells of the churches rang for half an hour, and the congregations gathered in their respective places of worship "to implore the blessings of Heaven upon their new Government, its favor and protection to the President, and success and acceptance to his Administration." The military were meanwhile preparing to parade, and at 12 o'clock marched before the President's house on Cherry street. A part of the procession came

afterwards Low Dutch, were made chaplains of Congress. Dr. Provoost was Bishop of New York from 1787 to 1801.

<sup>2</sup> The Senate agreed to the St. Paul's service April 27, and the House April 29.

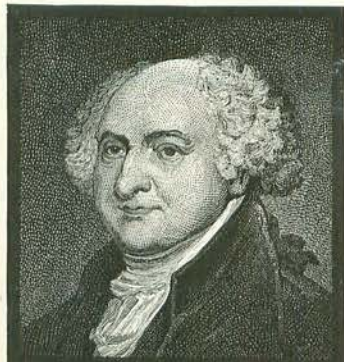
<sup>3</sup> Frances Tavern, built in 1710. In this house was instituted in 1768 the New York Chamber of Commerce, with John Cruger as president, and the same place was Washington's headquarters in 1783. Here, too, Washington bade farewell to his officers, December 4, 1783. The building is still standing at 101 Broad street, corner of Pearl street.



ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON. (THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.)



C. THOMSON. (LENT BY DR. T. A. EMMET.)



JOHN ADAMS. (THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.)



SAMUEL WEBB. (LENT BY GEN. A. S. WEBB.)



NICHOLAS FISH. (LENT BY HON. HAMILTON FISH.)



PHILIP SCHUYLER. (THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.)



ARTHUR ST. CLAIR. (THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.)



HENRY KNOX. (THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.)



MORGAN LEWIS. (PAINTING BY TRUMBULL, N. Y. CITY HALL.)



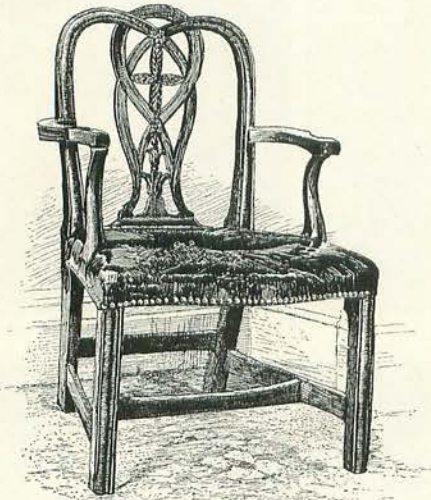
JOHN JAY. (PAINTING BY JOSEPH WRIGHT, 1786. PRESENTED TO N. Y. HIST. SOC BY JOHN PINTARD, 1817.)



STEBUEN. (FROM A PAINTING IN THE GOVERNOR'S ROOM, N. Y. CITY HALL.)



EGBERT BENSON. (AFTER ENGRAVING BY CHARLES BENT FROM PAINTING BY GILBERT STUART, N. Y. HIST. SOC.)



CHAIR USED BY WASHINGTON AT HIS INAUGURATION, NEW YORK CITY. (COPYRIGHT, 1889, BY E. B. SOUTHWICK.)

direct from Federal Hall. Following Captain Stakes with his troop of horse were the "assistants"—General Samuel Blatchley Webb,<sup>1</sup> Colonel William S. Smith, Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholas Fish,<sup>2</sup> Lieutenant-Colonel Franks, Major L'Enfant, Major Leonard Bleecker,<sup>3</sup> and Mr. John R. Livingston. Following the assistants were Egbert Benson, Fisher Ames, and Daniel Carroll, the committee of the House of Representatives; Richard Henry Lee, Ralph Izard, and Tristram Dalton, the committee of the Senate; John Jay, General Henry Knox, Samuel Osgood, Arthur Lee, Walter Livingston, the heads of the three great departments; and gentlemen in carriages and citizens on foot. The full procession left the presidential mansion at half-past twelve o'clock and

<sup>1</sup> Aide-de-camp to Generals Putnam and Washington, Colonel 3d Connecticut Regiment, and one of the founders of the Society of the Cincinnati. After the Revolutionary War, General Webb settled in New York and lived at 25 Broadway, and "was a leader of fashion and one of the most elegant men of the day." David S. Jones told the late James Watson Webb that one of his "amusements as a boy was regularly and daily to watch Gouverneur Morris and General Samuel Webb make their appearance about midday from the fashionable barber shop of the city, near Courtlandt street, and with powdered hair and hats in hand commence their daily walk on the fashionable lounge which extended from Courtlandt street to Morris street on the west side of Broadway, the front of old Trinity being the point of attraction where the loungers most lingered." [Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb, by his son J. Watson Webb. Privately printed.]

<sup>2</sup> He was Major of the 2d New York Regiment and brigade inspector, and "possessed to a high degree the confidence of Washington, Schuyler, Lafayette, and Hamilton, and with the army the character of an excellent disciplinarian and a gallant soldier." (John

proceeded to Federal Hall via Queen street,<sup>4</sup> Great Dock, and Broad street. Colonel Morgan Lewis<sup>5</sup> as Grand Marshal, attended by Majors Van Horne and Jacob Morton as aides-de-camp, led the way. Then followed the troop of horse; the artillery; the two companies of grenadiers; a company of light infantry and the battalion men; a company in the full uniform of Scotch Highlanders with the national music of the bagpipe; the sheriff, Robert Boyd, on horseback; the Senate committee; the President in a state coach, drawn by four horses, and attended by the assistants and civil officers; Colonel Humphreys and Tobias Lear,<sup>6</sup> in the President's own carriage; the committee of the House; Mr. Jay, General Knox, Chancellor Livingston; his Excellency the Count de Moustier, and his Excellency Don Diegode Gardoqui, the French and Spanish ambassadors; other gentlemen of distinction, and a multitude of citizens. The two companies of grenadiers attracted much attention. One, composed of the tallest young men in the city, were dressed "in blue with red facings and gold-laced ornaments, cocked hats with white feathers, with waistcoats and breeches and white gaiters, or spatterdashes, close buttoned from the shoe to the knee and covering the shoe-buckle. The second, or German company, wore blue coats with yellow waistcoats and breeches, black gaiters similar to those already described, and towering caps, cone shaped and faced with black bear skin."

When the military, which amounted to "not more than five hundred men," and whose "appearance was quite pretty," arrived within two hundred yards of Federal Hall, at 1 o'clock, they were drawn up on each side, and Washington and the assistants and the gentlemen especially invited passed through the lines and proceeded to the Senate Chamber of the "Federal State House." The building had been

Schuyler's "The Society of the Cincinnati of New York," p. 202.) The inscription on the tablet to his memory in St. Mark's Church, New York City, is:

"NICHOLAS FISH,  
Lieutenant-Colonel of the Army of the American  
Revolution.

Born August 28, 1758; Died June 20, 1833.  
The Faithful Soldier of Christ and of his Country."

Colonel Fish was the father of Hon. Hamilton Fish.  
<sup>3</sup> In battles of Long Island and Princeton, and at surrender of Yorktown.

<sup>4</sup> Now Pearl street.

<sup>5</sup> Born October 16, 1754; died April 7, 1844. A graduate of Princeton, student in the law office of John Jay, Revolutionary patriot, and afterwards governor of New York. He was present at the fiftieth anniversary of Washington's inauguration in 1839, when the oration was delivered by John Quincy Adams, and the ode, sung to the tune of "Old Hundred," was written by William Cullen Bryant.

<sup>6</sup> The President's private secretary.



crowded since 10 o'clock, and when the Senate met at half-past eleven all was excitement. The minutest details were considered matters of gravest moment. In the most solemn manner John Adams said: "Gentlemen, I wish for the direction of the Senate. The President will, I suppose, address the Congress. How shall I behave? How shall we receive it? Shall it be standing or sitting?" Then began a long discussion. Richard Henry Lee had been in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords and before the King, and the result of his information was that "the Lords sat and the Commons stood on the delivery of the King's speech." Then Ralph Izard, who had also visited Parliament, made this "sagacious discovery, that the Commons stood because they had no seats to sit, on being arrived at the House of Lords." John Adams replied that he had been in Parliament too; but "there was always such a crowd and *ladies along*, he could not see how it was." Then the Senate drifted off into a discussion as to the manner of receiving the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and during the discussion the Speaker and the House arrived at the Senate door. Confusion reigned. Members left their seats. When Lee rose to speak again he could not be heard. At last the lower House entered the Senate Chamber, and there the two houses sat for an hour and ten minutes. The delay was owing to the Senate committee, "Lee, Izard, and Dalton, who," said Senator Maclay, "had staid with us until the Speaker came in, instead of going to attend the President." At last the joint committee of the two houses, preceded by their chairman, introduced Washington, who advanced between the senators and representatives, bowing to each. He was at once conducted to the chair by John Adams. On the right were the Vice-President and the Senate, and on Washington's left the Speaker and the House of Representatives. The Vice-President then said that "the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States were ready to attend him to take the oath required by the Constitution, and that it would be administered by the Chancellor of the State of New York." The President replied that he was ready to proceed, and was immediately conducted to the open gallery in front of the Senate Chamber, which looked out upon Broad street.

Miss Eliza Quincy wrote:

I was on the roof of the first house in Broad street, which belonged to Captain Prince, the father of one of my school companions, and so near Washington that I could almost hear him speak. The windows and the roofs of the houses were crowded, and in the streets the throng was so dense that it seemed as if one might literally walk on the heads

of the people. The balcony of the hall was in full view of this assembled multitude. In the center of it was placed a table with a rich covering of red velvet, and upon this, on a crimson velvet cushion, lay a large and elegant Bible. This was all the paraphernalia for the august scene. All eyes were fixed upon the balcony, where at the appointed hour Washington entered, accompanied by the Chancellor of the State of New York, who was to administer the oath, by John Adams, Vice-President, Governor Clinton, and many other distinguished men. By the great body of the people he had probably never been seen except as a military hero. The first in war was now to be the first in peace. His entrance on the balcony was announced by universal shouts of joy and welcome. His appearance was most solemn and dignified. Advancing to the



ROGER SHERMAN. (AFTER AN ETCHING BY A. ROSENTHAL \* OWNED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, FROM A PAINTING BY EARLE IN POSSESSION OF THE FAMILY.)

front of the balcony, he laid his hand on his heart, bowed several times, and then retired to an arm-chair near the table. The populace appeared to understand that the scene had overcome him, and were at once hushed in profound silence. After a few moments Washington arose and came forward. Chancellor Livingston read the oath, according to the form prescribed by the Constitution, and Washington repeated it, resting his hand upon the table. Mr. Otis, the Secretary of the Senate, then took the Bible and raised it to the lips of Washington, who stooped and kissed the book. At this moment a signal was given by raising a flag upon the cupola of the Battery. All the bells in the city rang out a peal of joy, and the assembled multitude sent forth a universal shout. The President again bowed to the people, and then retired from a scene such as the proudest monarch never enjoyed.

Besides Adams, Clinton, and Livingston, who stood near Washington on the balcony, were Roger Sherman and Richard Henry Lee, Generals Henry Knox and Arthur St. Clair, Baron Steuben<sup>1</sup> and Samuel A. Otis, Secretary of the Senate, and in the rear the senators, representatives, and other distinguished officials. Alexander Hamilton viewed the cere-

<sup>1</sup> President and one of the founders of the Society of the Cincinnati.



PAGES UPON WHICH WASHINGTON TOOK THE OATH ON INAUGURATION

mony from his residence opposite, at the corner of Wall and Broad streets.

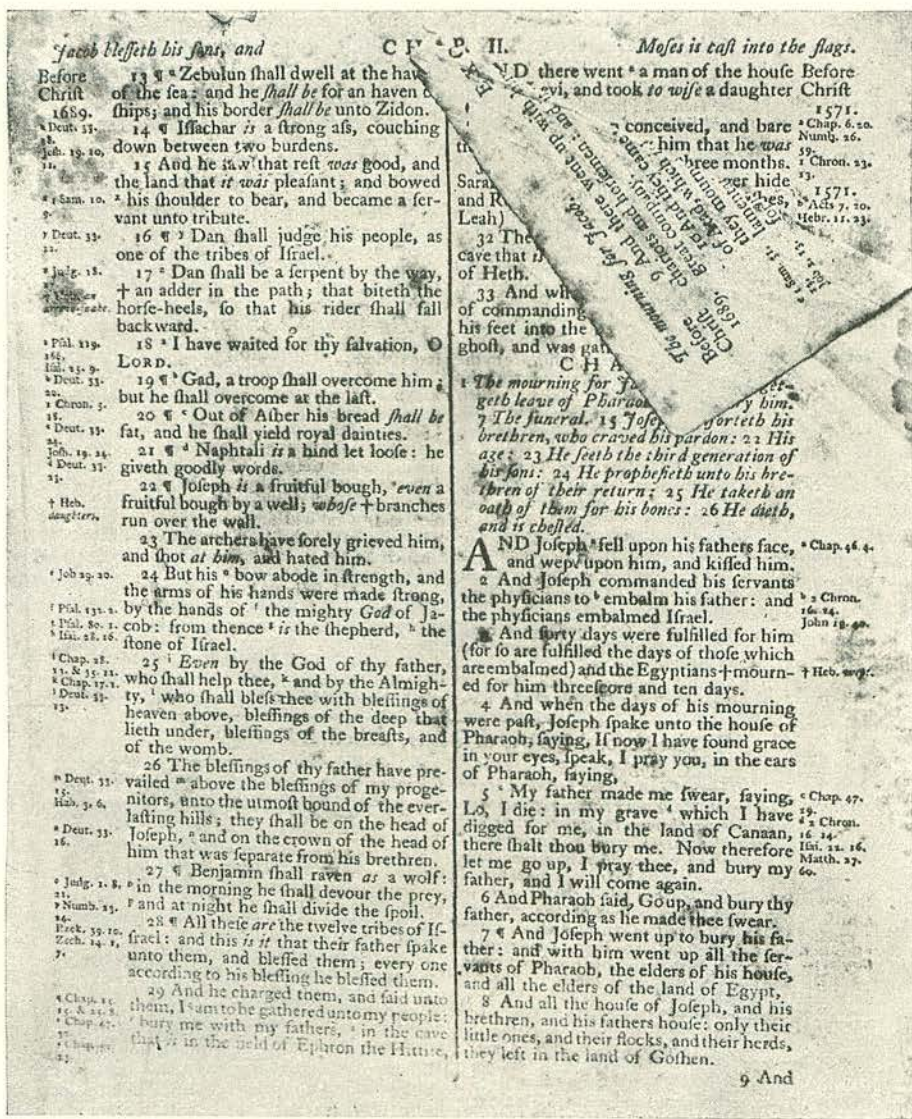
Washington was dressed in a full suit of dark-brown cloth manufactured in Hartford, with metal buttons with an eagle on them, and "with a steel-hilted dress sword, white silk stockings, and plain silver shoe-buckles. His

<sup>1</sup> Irving's "Life of Washington," Vol. IV., p. 474. Irving told Dr. Francis and Rufus W. Griswold that he remembered as a boy of six looking from the corner of New and Wall streets upon the inauguration scene. (Griswold's "Republican Court," p. 142.) John Randolph of Virginia, then a boy of sixteen, was also present, and afterwards wrote, "I saw the coronation (such in fact it was) of General Washington in 1789." See also Dunlap, "School History," Vol. II., p. 263. Regarding the clothes of the President, the follow-

hair was dressed and powdered in the fashion of the day and worn in a bag and solitaire."<sup>1</sup> Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, one of the committee of five to draft the Declaration of Independence, thirteen years before, was dressed in a full suit of black cloth and wore the robe of office.<sup>2</sup> Just before the oath was

ing is taken from the New York "Journal and Weekly Advertiser" of May 7, 1789: "The President on the day of his inauguration appeared dressed in a complete suit of homespun clothes, but the cloth was of so fine a fabric and so handsomely finished that it was universally mistaken for a foreign manufactured superfine cloth."

<sup>2</sup> The ancestor of the Livingstons in this country was John Livingston, a preacher of the Reformed Church of Scotland, who was banished in 1663 for non-con-



DAY. (COPYRIGHT, 1889, BY ST. JOHN'S LODGE NO. 1, NEW YORK CITY.)

to be administered it was discovered that no Bible was in Federal Hall. Luckily Livingston, a Grand Master of Free Masons, knew that

formity with prelatial rule. He died at Rotterdam in 1672. A son named Robert emigrated from Holland, settled in Albany in 1675, and became lord of Livingston Manor. A grandson of the last named was Robert R. Livingston, a member of the Stamp Act Congress in 1765. Robert R. Livingston's eldest son was Chancellor Livingston, a graduate of King's (Columbia) College, law partner of John Jay, under the Crown recorder of New York City, delegate to Congress in 1776, Chancellor of the State of New York from 1777 to 1801, Secretary of Foreign Affairs under the Confederation from 1781 to 1783, Minister Plenipotentiary to France at the time of the cession of Louisiana by France to the United States in 1803, and the originator, with Fulton, of steam navigation, which resulted in the launching of the *Clermont* on the Hudson in 1807.

there was one at St. John's Lodge in the City Assembly Rooms near by,<sup>1</sup> and a messenger<sup>2</sup> was dispatched to borrow the Bible, which is

Livingston was called by Franklin "the Cicero of America." He died February 26, 1813. The two statues which the State of New York is entitled by Congress to have in the Capitol at Washington are those of Governor George Clinton and Chancellor Livingston. See "Biographical Sketch of Robert R. Livingston," read before the New York Historical Society, October 3, 1876, by the President, Frederick De Peyster.

<sup>1</sup> Where the Boreel building now stands on Broadway.

<sup>2</sup> This messenger was Major Jacob Morton, the Grand Secretary of the Masonic Fraternity of New York State, and also, as above stated, aide-de-camp to the Grand Marshal, Colonel Morgan Lewis. [Statement of Colonel Ehlers, Grand Secretary of Masonic Fraternity, New York State.]

to-day the property of St. John's Lodge No. 1, the third oldest Masonic lodge in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

Secretary Otis of the Senate held before him a red velvet cushion, upon which rested the open Bible of St. John's Lodge. "You do solemnly swear," said Livingston, "that you will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of your ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." "I do solemnly swear," replied Washington, "that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." He then bowed his head and kissed the sacred Book, and with the deepest feeling uttered the words, "So help me God!" The Chancellor then proclaimed, "Long live George Washington, President of the United States!"<sup>2</sup> The instant discharge of thirteen cannon followed, and with loud repeated shouts and huzzas the people cried, "God bless our Washington; long live our beloved President!" The President bowed to the people, and the air again rang with acclamations. Washington, followed by the company at the balcony, now returned to the Senate

Chamber, where he took his seat and the senators and representatives their seats. When Washington arose to speak all stood and listened "with eager and marked attention."

Said Senator Maclay, who heard the inaugural address:<sup>3</sup>

This great man was agitated and embarrassed more than ever he was by the leveled cannon or pointed musket. He trembled, and several times could scarce make out to read, though it must be supposed he had often read it before. He made a flourish with his right hand, which left rather an ungainly impression. I sincerely, for my part, wished all set ceremony in the hands of dancing-masters, and that this first of men had read off his address in the plain manner, without ever taking his eyes from the paper; for I feel hurt that he was not first in everything.

Fisher Ames, who also heard Washington's address, wrote:

It was a very touching scene, and quite of the solemn kind. His aspect grave, almost to sadness; his modesty, actually shaking; his voice deep, a little tremulous, and so low as to call for close attention — added to the series of objects presented to the mind, and overwhelming it, produced emotions of the most affecting kind upon the members. I, Pilgarric, sat entranced. It seemed to me an allegory in which virtue was personified as addressing those whom she would make her votaries.

<sup>1</sup> The Bible is bound in red morocco with gilt ornamentation and edges and silver clasps, and is 11 inches high, 9 wide, and 3½ thick. On the obverse and reverse covers are two inscriptions very nearly alike, the first of which is as follows:

GOD SHALL ESTABLISH  
ST. JOHN'S LODGE CONSTITUTED  
5757  
REBUILT AND OPENED  
NOVEMBER 28 5770.  
OFFICERS THEN PRESIDING  
JONATHAN HAMPTON M  
WILLIAM BUTLER S W  
ISAAC HERON J W

The reverse cover is shown with first page of this article. The binding may be by Roger Payne.

The Bible was published in London by Mark Basket in 1767 and contains a large picture of George II., besides being handsomely illustrated with biblical scenes. The page of the Bible which Washington kissed is also indicated by the leaf being turned down. A copperplate engraving explanatory of the forty-ninth chapter of Genesis is on the opposite page. On one of the fly-leaves is the following description of what was done on April 30, 1789 — written so indistinctly that it is almost impossible to photograph it:

On  
Sacred

A picture  
of  
Stuart's  
Washington.

This  
Volume,

On the 30th day of April, A. M. 5789,  
In the City of New York,  
was administered to

GEORGE WASHINGTON,

The first President of the United States of America,  
The Oath!

To support the Constitution of the United States.

This important ceremony was

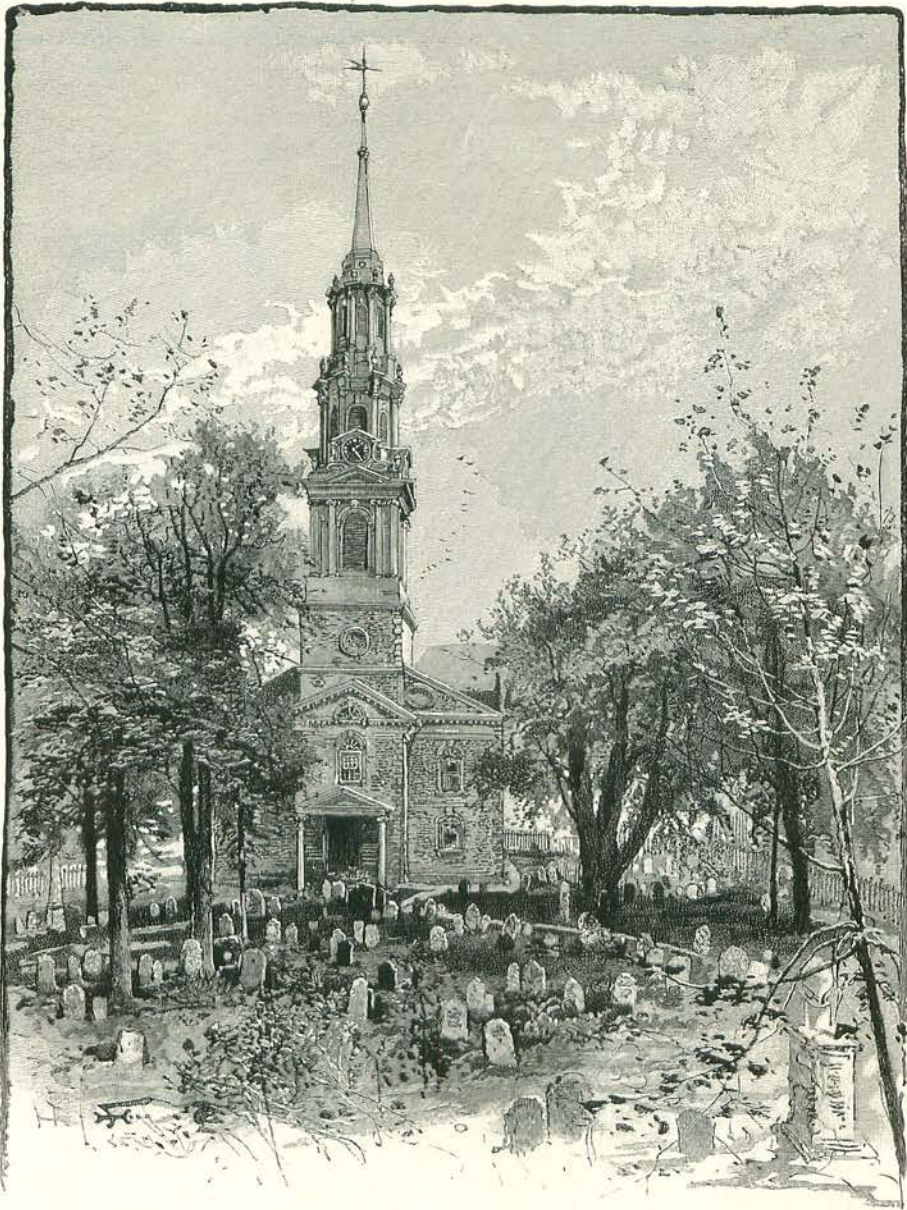
Performed by the most worshipful Grand Master of  
Free and Accepted Masons,  
Of the State of New York,  
The Honorable  
Robert R. Livingston,  
Chancellor of the State.

Fame stretched her wings and with her trumpet blew:  
"Great Washington is near — what praise is due?  
What title shall he have?" She paused — and said:  
"Not one — his name alone strikes every title dead."

<sup>2</sup> Captain Van Dyck was stationed in Broadway at the head of Wall street with orders to fire the salute as soon as the waving of the signal-flag from Federal Hall indicated that the oath had been administered. At the fiftieth anniversary of Washington's inauguration Captain Van Dyck was living, and gave the following account of the firing of the salute to the editor of the New York *Spectator*, who said, in his issue of April 30, 1839:

Captain Van Dyck still survives, and we had the pleasure of a call from the veteran on Saturday. He is now in his eighty-fifth year, and has been an officer in the Custom-house twenty-five years, the duties of which he yet discharges. He mentioned to us that when Colonel Lewis gave him the order for the salute, he inquired, "But who is to pay for the glass I shall break?" "I will," replied the colonel. At the discharge of every gun, the captain says he could hear the jingle of the glass from the shattered windows. At the corner of the streets (Broadway and Wall) was a silversmith's shop owned by a Mr. Forbes, having large bow windows. From these the panes jingled merrily. Mr. Forbes ran into the street and implored the captain to desist firing, but, of course, to no purpose. The captain gave him a rebuke, which sent him back to his shop. "Who," he demanded, "would refuse a salvo of artillery on such an occasion, for a few paltry squares of window glass?" and from that day afterward the captain says he heard no more of the broken glass.

<sup>3</sup> Madison helped Washington prepare his inaugural speech, and the reply to that speech by the House was also drawn by Madison. (See Rives's "Life and Times of James Madison," and Washington's letter to Madison, dated May 5, 1789.)



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, NEW YORK, FROM CHURCH STREET.

Her power over the heart was never greater, and the illustration of her doctrine by her own example was never more perfect.

After delivering his address, the President, accompanied by the Vice-President, the Speaker, the two houses of Congress, and all who attended the inauguration ceremony, proceeded on foot to St. Paul's Church. The same order was preserved as in the procession from the President's house to Federal Hall. The military "made a good figure" as they lined the street near the church. The services in the church

were conducted by the Chaplain of the Senate, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Samuel Provoost, Bishop of the Episcopal Church of New York.

Said Fisher Ames, in the letter already quoted:

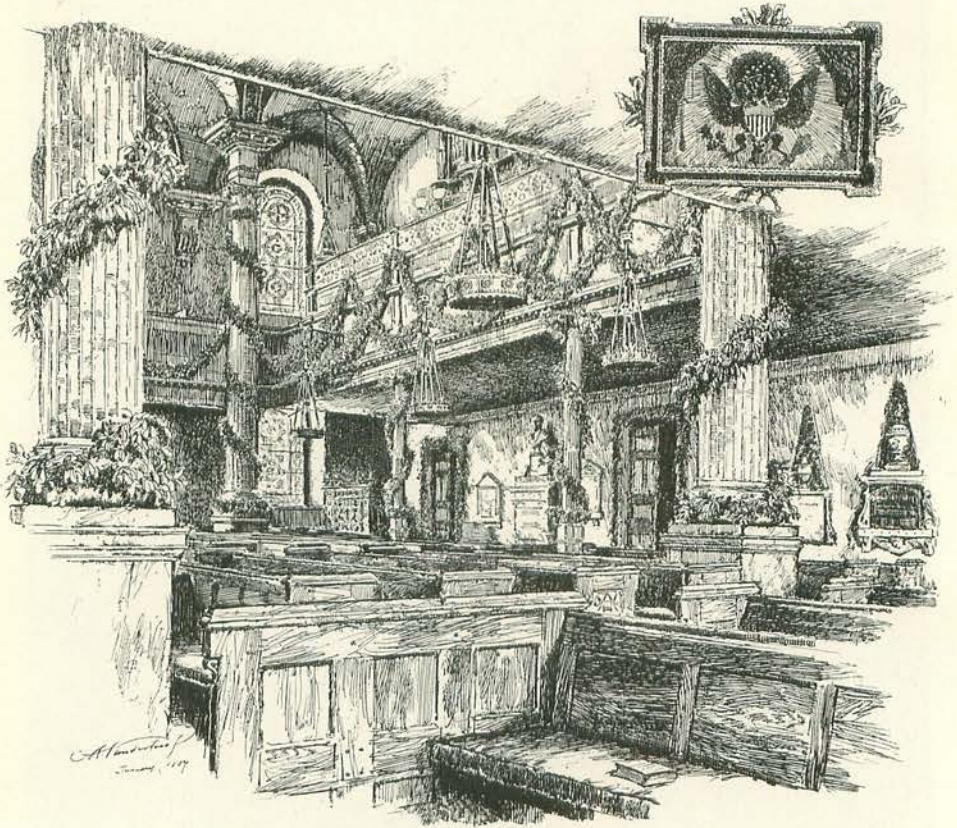
I was present in the pew with the President, and must assure you, that after making all deductions for the delusion of one's fancy in regard to characters, I still think of him with more veneration than for any other person. Time has made havoc upon his face. That, and many other circumstances not to be reasoned about, conspired to keep up the awe I brought with me.

After prayers had been read and the "Te Deum" sung, Washington entered the state coach and was escorted home.

That evening there was a gorgeous display of fireworks, provided through private subscriptions. There were illuminations of private residences and transparencies in front of the theater

tains of fire, crackers, serpents, paper-shells, cascades, Italian candles, and fire-letters in memory of the day. But listen to Colonel John May, whose letter to his wife describes the illuminations of the evening :

The Spanish ambassador's house was illuminated so as to represent Wisdom, Justice, Fortitude, Sun,



WASHINGTON'S PEW IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH AS IT IS TO-DAY.

on John street, and at Fly Market, at the foot of Maiden Lane. The ship *Carolina* in the harbor, which at sunset had discharged thirteen cannon, formed a beautiful pyramid of stars. But the largest crowds were gathered in the lower part of Broadway, where were the residences of Senator Izard, Chancellor Livingston, and the French and Spanish ambassadors. From Livingston's house the fireworks were watched by Washington, who had driven there with Colonel Humphreys and Secretary Lear. Colonel Sebastian Bauman, who as commander of the State Regiment of Artillery had been busy through the day, superintended the fireworks from Fort George, opposite Bowling Green. With a flight of thirteen rockets and the discharge of thirteen cannon the fireworks began and ended. In the two-hours' interval was a display of fire-trees, tourbillions, Chinese foun-

tain, Moon, Stars, and Spanish Arms, etc. The French ambassador also illuminated handsomely. Federal Hall also presented a fine appearance. The likeness of our hero, illuminated, was presented in the window of a house at a little distance—the best likeness I have yet seen of him ; so much like him that one could hardly distinguish it from life excepting for the situation, over a beer-house, a place he never frequents. The best thing of all was a picture of the United States, the President at full length the central figure ; on his right, Justice ; over his head, Fortitude ; on his left, Wisdom. High over his head were two female figures in gay colors and supporting on their arms the American Eagle. The fireworks were brilliant and greeted with tumultuous applause.

At 10 o'clock Washington returned home on foot, "the throng of people being so great as not to permit a carriage to pass through it."

On the morning after the inauguration the

President received calls from Vice-President Adams, Governor Clinton, John Jay, General Henry Knox, Ebenezer Hazard, Samuel Osgood, Arthur Lee, the French and Spanish ambassadors, "and a great many other persons of distinction." But Tuesday and Friday afternoons, between the hours of 2 and 3 o'clock, were appointed by the President for receiving formal visits. He discouraged complimentary calls on other days, and particularly on Sunday. The ball which it was intended to give on the evening of Inauguration Day was postponed that the wife of the President might attend. But when it was learned that she would not arrive in New York until the last of May, it was decided to give the ball on the evening of Thursday, May 5.<sup>1</sup> It was a brilliant assembly. Besides the President, Vice-President, many members of Congress, the governor and the foreign ministers, there were present Chancellor Livingston, John Jay, General Knox, Chief-Justice Yates of New York State, James Duane (the mayor), Baron Steuben, General Hamilton, Mrs. Langdon, Mrs. Peter Van Brugh Livingston, Mrs. Livingston of Clermont, Mrs. Chancellor Livingston, Mrs. Gerry, Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Edgar, Mrs. Beekman, Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. McComb, Mrs. Lynch, the Marchioness de Bréhan,<sup>2</sup> Lady Stirling and her two daughters, Lady Mary Watts and Lady Kitty Duer, Lady Temple, Madame de la Forest, Mrs. Knox, Mrs. Hous-

ton, Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Provoost, the Misses Livingston, and the Misses Bayard. About three hundred were present. It is related that the President, who had danced repeatedly while Commander-in-Chief, danced in the cotillon and the minuet at this ball. "The company retired about 2 o'clock, after having spent a most agreeable evening. Joy, satisfaction, and vivacity was expressed in every countenance, and every pleasure seemed to be heightened by the presence of a *Washington*."

Washington's correspondence at the beginning of his presidency shows how strong was his conviction of duty, and how great were the difficulties surrounding him. But modesty, fidelity, and patriotism were virtues too strong to be resisted. The nobility of his character overcame all obstacles. "The cares and labors of the President," said Fisher Ames, "were incessant; his exhortations, example, and authority were employed to excite zeal and activity for the public service; able officers were selected only for their merits, and some of them remarkably distinguished themselves by their successful management of the public business. Government was administered with such integrity, without mystery, and in so prosperous a course that it seemed to be wholly employed in acts of beneficence. Though it has made many thousand malcontents, it has never by its rigor or injustice made one man wretched."

*Clarence Winthrop Bowen.*

<sup>1</sup> The ball was given in the City Assembly Rooms, which were "in a large wooden building standing upon the site of the Old City Hotel," or at 115 Broadway, where the Boreel building now is.

<sup>2</sup> Sister of Count de Moustier, the French minister, who was now living in the McComb house on Broadway, where the week following (May 14) a ball was given in honor of Washington.

[Previous articles on kindred subjects in this magazine are "New York in the Revolution" (January and February, 1876), by John F. Mines, author of the charming series signed "Felix Oldboy" recently published in the "Evening Post" of New York; "The Stuart Portraits of Washington" (July, 1876), by Miss Jane Stuart; "A Little Centennial Lady" (July, 1876), "My Lord Fairfax of Virginia" (September, 1879), "The Home and the Haunts of Washington" (November, 1887), by Mrs. Burton Harrison; "Old New York and its Houses" (October, 1883), by Richard Grant White; "The New York City Hall" (April, 1884), by Edward S. Wilde; and "Mount Vernon As It Is" (November, 1887), by Mrs. Sophie Bledsoe Herrick. A few of the most appropriate pictures from these articles and a portrait of Martha Washington from "St. Nicholas," in addition to much new material, are printed in the following articles.—EDITOR.]

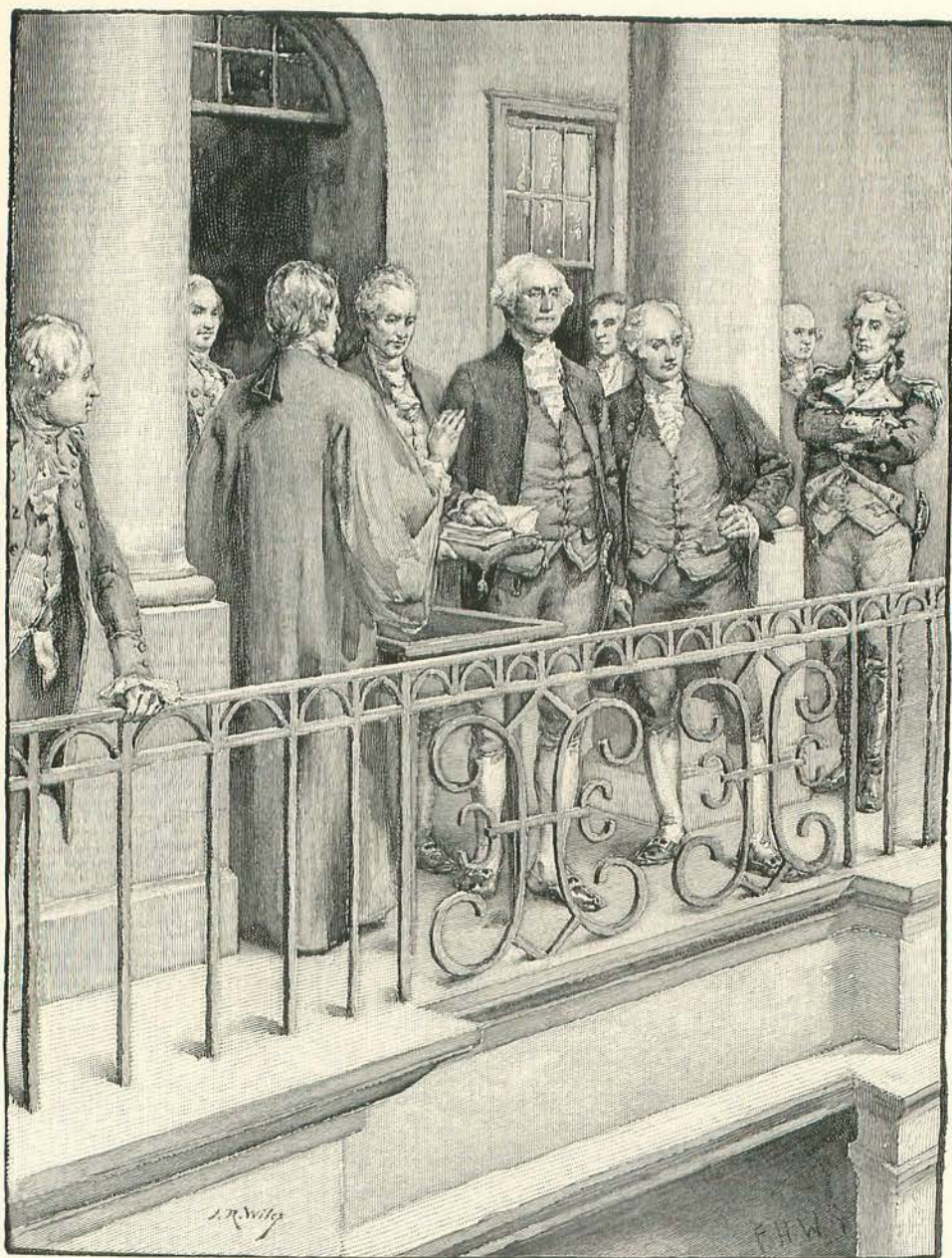


Virginia gave us this imperial man  
Cast in the massive mould  
Of those highstatured ages old  
Which into grander forms our mortal metal saw;  
. . . . .  
Mother of States & undiminished men,  
Thou gavest us a Country giving him.

J. M. Lowell.

From "Under the old Elm" a poem  
read in 1876 on the spot where  
Washington took command of the  
American army a century before.





BARON STEUBEN. GOV. ARTHUR ST. CLAIR. SECRETARY SAMUEL A. OTIS. ROGER SHERMAN. GOV. GEORGE CLINTON.  
CHANCELLOR ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON. GEORGE WASHINGTON. JOHN ACAMS. GEN'L HENRY KNOX.

WASHINGTON TAKING THE OATH AS PRESIDENT,

APRIL 30, 1789, ON THE SITE OF THE PRESENT TREASURY BUILDING, WALL STREET, NEW YORK CITY.