

THE GIBBS-CHANNING PORTRAIT OF WASHINGTON.—BY GILBERT STUART.  
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## WASHINGTON'S INAUGURATION.

BY JOHN BACH McMASTER.

THE Constitution of the United States, as every one knows, was framed by a convention of delegates from twelve States, sitting behind closed doors in the old State-house at Philadelphia. After a stormy session of four months the "Dark Conclave," as the antifederalists delighted to call the convention, ended its labors September 17, 1787, signed the Constitution, and sent the document to Congress, to be in turn transmitted to the States. This done, the States began to act at once, and, when the year closed, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey had accepted the Constitution without amendments. Georgia and Connecticut ratified in January, 1788, and were followed in quick succession by Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, and Virginia. Under the Articles of Confederation the assent of nine States in Congress assembled was necessary to pass an ordinance of any importance. This rule the convention had adopted, and had provided that the assent of nine States should dissolve the old Confederation, should set up the Constitution, and make it the supreme law for each of the ratifying States. When, therefore, on July 2, 1788, the President of Congress rose and announced the ratification by New Hampshire, he reminded the members that the needed number was complete, that the new plan of government was approved, and that it remained for Congress to make such provisions and to take such steps as were necessary to put it into force. An ordinance was thereupon passed, and a committee chosen to examine the notices of ratification, and report an act for putting the Constitution into operation.

The duty of the committee-men seemed simple enough. They were to name a day on which the States should choose electors of President and Vice-President, a

day on which the electors should vote, and a day and a place for the meeting of the Senate and House, and the beginning of government under the new plan. But, simple as it seemed, the committee found it hard to perform. Indeed two weeks went by before they reported an act providing for the needed days, but leaving the place of meeting blank. Nor did Congress succeed in filling that blank till a great display of sectional feeling had been made, and a long and bitter contest ended. Every one agreed that the place should be central, and that central should mean somewhere between the shores of Chesapeake Bay and the mouth of the Hudson River. Within these limits, however, were many large and opulent towns, and which had the best claim to be considered central, Congress was long unable to say. Some members insisted that population should be considered, pointed out that more people dwelt south of the Potomac than north of it, and thought Baltimore or Annapolis would be a good town. Others were for considering distances, and urged Wilmington and Lancaster and Philadelphia as places no further from the eastern border of the province of Maine than the southern border of Georgia. Still others, on the ground of policy and economy, stood out for New York. To be constantly shifting the government from place to place was to make it seem weak and unstable, and sure to bring it into contempt among the people. To pack up cart-loads of books and tons of papers and drag them over the country, unless they went forth to that federal city which was to be the lasting home of the new Congress, was a piece of wanton extravagance.

These arguments fell on dull ears. For a time all was jealousy, local bias, petty spite. September was almost half gone when Congress finally decided that

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the States should choose electors on the first Wednesday in January, 1789, that the electors should cast their votes on the first Wednesday in February, and that the new Congress should meet on the first Wednesday in March in the city of New York.

The history of the Congress thus about to expire is worth recalling. It begins with the meeting of the fifty-three colonial delegates who, in September, 1774, assembled at Philadelphia. Gathered in response to the call of Massachusetts, they passed the non-intercourse, non-importation, non-consumption agreement; issued the colonial Declaration of Rights; drew the famous address to the King and the address to the People of Great Britain, and after a session of eight weeks called a new Congress to meet in May, 1775, and adjourned. But long before the 10th of May arrived the crisis in the quarrel with the mother country was reached, the stores at Concord were destroyed, the battle of Lexington was fought, and the new Congress, seizing authority that had not been given, entered at once on the conduct of the war.

Between the day when this Congress met and the day when the Articles of Confederation were put in force a period of seventy months went by. During these seventy months the Congress of the United States acted under no constitutional authority whatever. The States were parties to no instrument of government, and every act committed by their delegates was done with the tacit or express consent of the States. No system of representation was in use. To the secret deliberations of the little body that bore the name of the Congress came delegates chosen in such a way and in such numbers and bearing such instructions as best pleased the States that sent them. Once seated in Congress, these men found themselves members of what a few years later would have been denounced as a "dark and secret conclave." The doors were shut, no spectators were suffered to hear what was said, no reports of the debates were taken down in short-hand or long-hand; but under a strict injunction of secrecy they went on deliberating day after day. From month to month so much of the journal as Congress thought fit was indeed given to the people; but Congress thought fit to give merely a dry record of ordinances passed, of motions

made, of reports read, of committees chosen. Over these deliberations presided a President elected by the Congress, and looked up to as the representative of the sovereignty of the States united for common defence. As such, his house, his table, his servants, were all provided at public cost. But the expense of every other delegate was borne by the State that sent him.

Thus formed, the Continental Congress no sooner met in 1775 than it proceeded, without any authority, to raise armies, equip navies, to borrow money, to set up a post-office, to send out ministers, to make treaties, and to do innumerable acts of sovereignty in the name of the States. It was Congress that commissioned Washington; that sent Franklin to the court of France; that voted the Declaration of Independence; that framed the Articles of Confederation; that advised the colonies, in the quaint language of the resolution, "to take up civil government."

The Articles of Confederation went out to the States in 1778, but it was not till the 1st of March, 1781, that the thirteenth State signed and put them into force. Meanwhile the Congress was fast sinking into open contempt among the people. The great things which it did were soon forgotten; the things which it did not do were long remembered. Most of its dealings were with the States. In but a few ways did it touch the people, and in the most delicate of these its record is that of disaster after disaster. The bills of credit which no one would take, the loan offices set up in every State, the Congress lottery that failed so miserably, the forty for one act, the old tenor and the new tenor, commissary certificates, quartermaster certificates, hospital certificates, interest indents, were constant reminders of the financial imbecility of Congress, and did far more to bring it into contempt than any of its great acts did to bring it into honor. Every other expression of contempt, "not worth a farthing," "not worth a tinker's dam," gave way to the new expression of worthlessness, "not worth a continental."

Happily, at this juncture, the Confederation was finished, and Congress, for the first time in its history, met under the shadow of constitutional authority. Great things were expected of the Union, and for a time it seemed likely that the expectations would be fulfilled. But when



Congress organized under the newly ratified Articles of Confederation in November, 1781, Cornwallis had surrendered, the war had virtually ended, and the Confederation began at once to fall in pieces. By the Articles the character of the Congress was little changed. The President was still chosen by the members. The members were chosen annually; could not serve more than three years in any term of six; could not be more than seven nor less than two from any State, and were paid by those who sent them. As the charge of maintaining them was not light, as no delegation, however large, could cast more than one vote, a strong incentive was created to keep the delegations down to two, and in time to send none at all. Twenty delegates, representing seven States, were present when Washington resigned command of the army. Twenty-three delegates, from eleven States, voted to ratify the treaty of peace with Great Britain. Thenceforth, to the end of its career, Congress rarely consisted of twenty-five members. Again and again it was forced to adjourn day after day for want of a quorum. More than once these adjournments covered thirteen consecutive days. Ordinances of trifling importance could be passed by the assent of a majority of the States. But no measure of importance, no ordinance to provide for the issue of money, the payment of the debt, the ratification of a treaty, the raising of a body of troops, could pass unless nine States assented. Most of the time but eleven States were represented. Of these eleven it often happened that nine had but two delegates each, and it thus became possible for three men to defeat the weightiest measures.

Acting on the States and not on the people, Congress never won the affections of the people, but was looked on, was spoken of, was treated, as a foreign government rather than a creature of their own making. When a band of ploughmen gathered under the window of its room at Philadelphia and broke up its sitting with taunts and threats, not a citizen could be found willing to aid in defending it. Driven from the city, it fled to Princeton, and there found a refuge under the guns of fifteen hundred soldiers. From Princeton it soon adjourned to Annapolis. There, disgusted at the perpetual sitting of Congress, the Rhode Island delegates, acting under instruc-

tions from their Legislature, moved a recess. This was carried, and, as the Articles of Confederation required, a committee of the States was chosen to sit during the recess. But the members quarrelled, separated with bitter words, and for two months the country was without a general government of any kind. In November, 1784, the Congress reassembled at Trenton, and from Trenton in time they adjourned to New York. In the taverns, meanwhile, the wits were expressing their contempt in the popular toasts, "A hoop for the barrel," "Cement for the Union." In the newspapers Congress was likened to a wheel rolling from Dan to Beersheba and from Beersheba to Dan. Neglected by its members, insulted by the troops, a wanderer from town to town, the subject of jest by the people, the Congress of the Confederation sank rapidly to the condition of a debating club. It made requisitions that never were heeded, voted monuments that never were put up, rewarded great men with sums of money that never were paid, planned wise schemes for the payment of the debt that never were carried out, and looked on in helplessness while English troops held and fortified American forts, while State after State openly violated the Articles of the Confederation, refused it power to regulate trade, refused it power to lay a tax on imported goods, and finally called that convention which, in 1787, framed the Constitution, and gave to Congress the duty of fixing the day when it should cease to exist.

Having thus fixed the day of its death, the Continental Congress of the Confederation began to die fast. When the ordinance passed, on the 13th of September, 1788, nine States were present. September 18th, this number had dwindled to six. October 14th, there were but two in attendance, and all government was ended. Day after day a few delegates, sometimes six, sometimes two, would saunter into the hall, have the secretary take down their names, and then go off to their favorite tavern. But no sittings were held, no business was done, and the Congress whose name is bound up with so much that is glorious in the annals of our country expired ignominiously for want of a quorum.

While these few men, true to their trust, were striving to keep up the semblance of a Congress, the first Wednes-



day in January, 1789, arrived, and electors were chosen in all of the ratifying States save New York. In that great commonwealth the choice was to be made by the Legislature, and the Legislature was divided against itself. The Assembly was in the hands of the Clinton men, and strongly Antifederal. The Senate was in the hands of the friends of Hamilton, and was by a small majority Federal. The bill which the Assembly framed provided that the Senate and Assembly, having each nominated eight electors, should meet and compare lists, that men whose names were in both lists should be considered elected, and that from those whose names were not in both lists one-half of the needed number should be chosen by each branch of the Legislature. The Senate amended the bill by proposing that the two branches of the Legislature should not meet, but should exchange lists, and that, if the lists differed, each branch should propose names to the other for concurrence, and should go on doing so till all the electors were chosen. The Assembly promptly rejected the amendment; a conference followed; the Senate stood firm, and no electors were chosen. New York, therefore, cast no vote in the first Presidential election, and had no representative on the floor of the Senate during the first session of the first Congress under the Constitution.

Very similar was the quarrel that took place in New Hampshire. There the law gave the people the right of nominating, and the Legislature the power of appointing, but was silent as to the way in which the appointment should be made. The Assembly was for a joint ballot. This the Senate would not hear of, and stood out for a negative on the action of the Assembly as complete and final as in the cases of resolutions and bills; a wrangle followed, and midnight of the 7th of January was close at hand, when the Assembly gave way, made an angry protest, and chose electors, each one of whom was a Federalist.

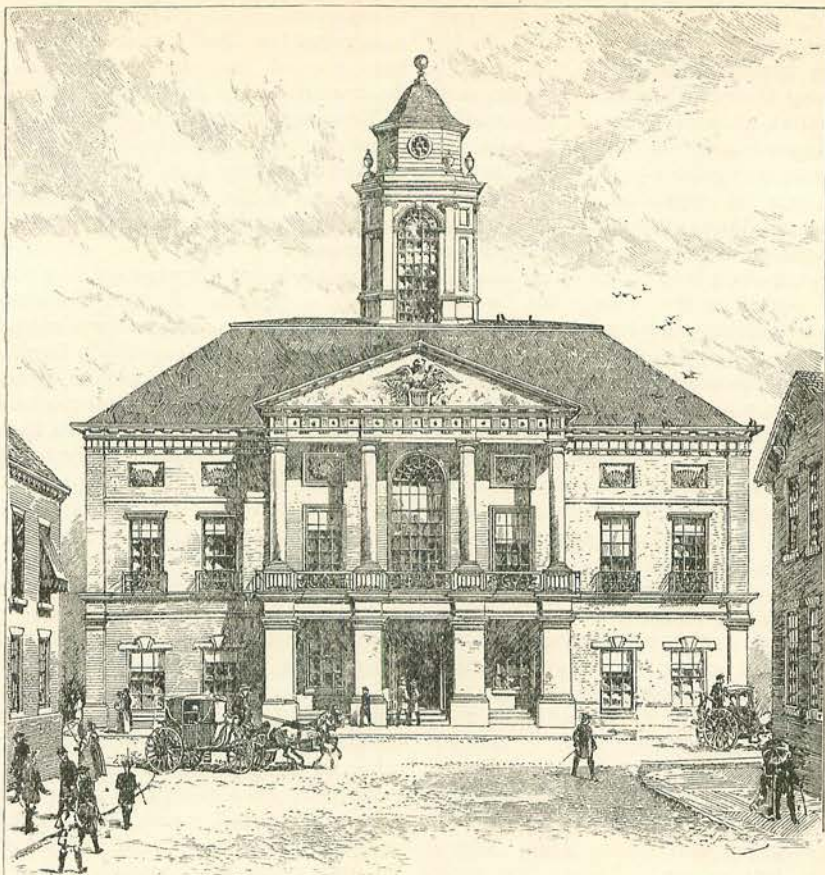
In Massachusetts the General Court chose two electors at large, and eight more from a list of sixteen names sent up from the eight Congressional districts. In Pennsylvania the choice was by direct vote of the people, and the counties beyond the mountains being strongly Antifederal, two general tickets were promptly in the field. On the Lancaster ticket

were the names of ten Federalists well known to be firm supporters of Washington. On the Harrisburg ticket were the names of men who had signed the address and reasons of dissent of the minority of the Pennsylvania convention, had been members of the Antifederal societies and committees of correspondence, had labored hard to defeat the Constitution, and, even after nine States had ratified, had sat in the famous Harrisburg convention which petitioned the Legislature to ask to have the Constitution sent for amendment to a new convention of the States. These men, the Federalists declared, were planning to make Patrick Henry President, and though some were given a great vote, not one secured election.

In Maryland, where the choice was also made by the people, the excitement became intense, for the lines which parted the Federalists and Antifederalists were precisely those which a few years before parted the non-imposters and the paper-money men from the men who wished for honest money and the prompt payment of the Continental debt. All over the State meetings were held, addresses were issued, and each party accused of fraud. But, when the votes were counted, the Federalists were found to have carried the day. Virginia likewise left the choice with the people, and in that State some fights took place and some heads were broken. But these were of common occurrence, often happened when members of the House of Burgesses were elected, and were thought nothing of. In Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, South Carolina, and Georgia, the electors were chosen by the Legislatures of the States. In Rhode Island and North Carolina no elections were held; they had not accepted the Constitution, and were not members of the new Union.

Of the sixty-nine electors thus appointed, not six were formally pledged to the support of any man. In Baltimore and Philadelphia, where the contest was close, a few had been charged with Antifederalist leanings, and had issued cards declaring that if elected they would cast their votes for Washington and Adams. But the others gave no pledges, and none were wanted. Differ as men might touching the merits of the Constitution, there was no difference of opinion touching the man who should fill the highest office under the Constitution, and voters and electors alike united on General Washington.





VIEW OF FEDERAL HALL, NEW YORK.—After an old Print.

There all unanimity ceased, for no other name was a charmed name with Americans. That of Franklin stood high, but Franklin had passed his eightieth year, was sorely afflicted with an incurable disease, and was justly thought too old and feeble for the second place. The services and the claims of Samuel Adams were almost as great, but he had begun by opposing the Constitution, had ended by accepting it with much reluctance, and was accordingly passed over by the Federalists, who brought forward the name of John Adams in his stead.

John Adams was a native of New England, and this was given out by some as a good and sufficient reason why Southern Federalists should oppose him. He had lived long abroad, and was declared by others to have come home less of a republican than he went out. He had, his ene-

mies admitted, written a book called *A Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America*. But it ought, they said, to be called an insidious attack. Could any man read such stuff as this—"The rich, the well-born, and the able will acquire an influence among the people that will soon be too much for simple honesty and plain sense in a House of Representatives"—and call it republican? Was the author of such nonsense a fit man to rule over a free people? A better reason for opposing Adams came from the Antifederalists of New York. Eleven States, these men argued, have ratified the Constitution, yet six sent with their ratifications long lists of proposed amendments. These amendments are not trivial; they are very serious. The new government will have to consider them. It is highly im-



portant, therefore, to have in the new government some man who will do his best to further them. Such a man is Governor George Clinton. His name is not written at the foot of the Declaration of Independence; he has never sat in Congress, nor gone on a mission to foreign parts to caper before dukes and princes, and dance attendance in the ante-chambers of kings; he has no theory about the place to be given to the rich and the "well-born" in the state; but he is a staunch republican, a friend to the liberty of the press, an enemy of standing armies, a hater of consolidated governments in every form, a man in whose hands the interests of the six States proposing amendments will be safe. So eager were his friends to see him Vice-President that they formed clubs, took the name of Federal-Republican, and, while electors were yet to be chosen, canvassed, corresponded, and sent out a circular letter in his behalf. For a time his chances of success were good; but when it was known that Clinton could not carry his own State, that New York had chosen no electors, all hope of success was given up. And well it might be, for when the electors met on the first Wednesday in February, Clinton got but three votes, and these three were cast by Virginia. Washington, on that day, was given sixty-nine; John Adams received thirty-four. Thirty-five more votes were thrown away on ten men, no one of whom received more than nine.

States.	Washington.	Adams.	Hanckton.	Hancock.	Jay.	Clinton.	R. H. Harrison.	Rutledge.	John Milton.	James Armstrong.	Telfair.	Benjamin Lincoln.
New Hampshire.....	5	5										
Massachusetts.....	10	10										
Connecticut.....	7	5	2									
New Jersey.....	6	1			5							
Pennsylvania.....	10	8		2								
Delaware.....	3				3							
Maryland.....	6											
Virginia.....	10	5		1	1	3						
South Carolina.....	7			1				6				
Georgia.....	5								2	1	1	1
Total.....	69	34	2	4	9	3	6	6	2	1	1	1

That a vote or two should be thrown away was necessary. As the Constitution then read, it was the duty of each elector to write down on his ballot the names of two men, without indicating which he wished should be President. The man receiving the greatest number of electoral votes was to be President, and the man receiving the next highest, Vice-President. Had

every elector who voted for Washington also voted for Adams, neither would have been elected, and the choice of a President would have devolved on the House of Representatives. So great a scattering, however, was unnecessary, and is to be ascribed to a fear that Washington would not be given the vote of every elector—a fear Alexander Hamilton did all he could to spread.

The choice of Representatives was left with the people. By the Constitution, any man who could vote for a member of the lower branch of his State Legislature could vote for a member of Congress. But not every man could on election day write a ballot and bring it to the polls or stand in the crowd that shouted "aye" when the name of his candidate was called. Suffrage was far from universal. The elective franchise belonged to the rich and well-to-do, not to the poor. The voter must own land or property, rent a house, or pay taxes of some sort. Here the qualification was fifty acres of land, or personal property to the value of thirty pounds; there it was a white skin and property to the value of ten pounds. In one State it was a poll tax; in another, a property tax; in another, the voter must be a quiet and peaceable man with a freehold worth forty shillings, or personal estate worth forty pounds. To vote in South Carolina a free white man must believe in the being of a God, in a future state of reward and punishment, and have a freehold of fifty acres of land; to vote in New York, he must be seized of a freehold worth twenty pounds York money, or pay a house-rent of forty shillings a year, have his name on the list of tax-payers, and in his pocket a tax receipt.

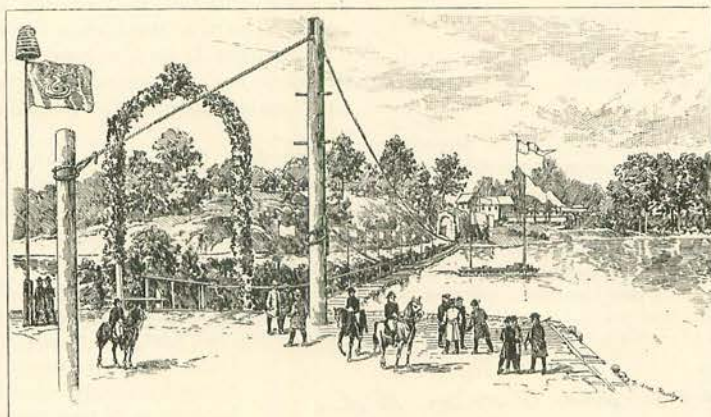
The effect of restrictions such as these was to deprive great numbers of deserving men of the right to vote. Young men just starting in life, sons of farmers whose lands and goods had not been divided, wandering teachers of schools, doctors and lawyers beginning the practice of their profession, might count themselves fortunate if at the age of twenty-eight they could comply with the conditions imposed by the constitutions of many of the States. Of the mass of unskilled laborers—the men who dug ditches, carried loads, or in harvest-time helped the farmer gather in his hay and grain—it is safe to say that very few, if any,



ever in the course of their lives cast a vote, for they were thought well paid if given food, lodging, and sixty dollars a year.

While such as could vote were choosing their Representatives, fit meeting-places for the Senators and Representatives were being made ready by some public-

to put the building in better form was soon being asked for at every coffee-house in the city. Thirty-two thousand five hundred dollars was quickly collected, and the work of alteration made over to Major L'Enfant, who deserves to be remembered as the man to whom is due all that is good



AN EAST VIEW OF GRAY'S FERRY, NEAR PHILADELPHIA, WITH THE TRIUMPHAL ARCHES, ETC., ERECTED FOR THE RECEPTION OF GENERAL WASHINGTON, APRIL 20, 1789.—After an old Print.

spirited citizens of New York. Driven from Philadelphia in 1783 by the threats of a band of mutinous soldiers, the Congress of the Confederation at last found a refuge at New York, and had been given quarters in the City Hall, which then stood on the corner of Nassau Street and Wall. The Congress room was on the second story at the east end, and would not even now be thought mean. Travellers who came to the city, and, prompted by curiosity, visited the room where the Congress sat, never failed to go away much impressed by the pictures, the furniture, the hangings, it contained. The railed-in platform on which the President sat; the great chair of state; the crimson silk canopy with its curtains of heavy damask; the mahogany tables; the chairs, rich with carving and gorgeous with seats of crimson morocco; the great curtains of damask that hung at the windows; the long line of portraits of officers who died in the war; the huge canvases from which, when the curtains were pulled aside, the King and Queen of France seemed ready to step to the floor beneath—drew from every visitor exclamations of admiration and surprise. Yet neither this room nor the building was thought fine enough for the use of the new Congress, and money

and nothing that is bad in the plan of the city of Washington.

No time was lost; yet the masons and carpenters were still busy when the 4th of March arrived. This mattered little, however, for no President was to be inaugurated, no Senate, no House, was ready to take possession; nothing was to be done to mark in any way the fact that the weak and crumbling Confederation had given place to a strong and vigorous government. Toward sunset on the evening of the 3d a salute was fired at the Battery as a long farewell to the old Confederation. At daylight on the morning of the 4th, at noon, and at six in the evening, salutes were again fired and all the church bells rung as a welcome to the Constitution. But no celebration was attempted; for the new Congress seemed to have inherited all the sloth, all the indifference, all the torpor, of the old. The Senate was to consist of twenty-two members and the House of fifty-nine. Yet while the bells were ringing and the cannon firing there were but eight Senators and thirteen Representatives in the city. This seemed quite as it should be. The terrible condition of the roads in February, the long distances many would have to ride, the late day on which the elections were held,



might, it was urged, account for the absence of many. When, however, a week went by and not one more Senator came, the patience of the eight gave way, and they issued a strong appeal to the absentees to hurry.\* But another week passed,

\* The following is a copy of such an appeal, sent to the Hon. George Read, with autograph signatures:

NEW YORK, March 11th, 1789.

*The Honorable George Read, Esqr.:*

SIR,—Agreeably to the Constitution of the United States, eight Members of the Senate and eighteen of the house of Representatives have attended here since the 4th of March. It being of the utmost importance that a Quorum sufficient to proceed to business be assembled as soon as possible, it is the opinion of the Gentlemen of both houses, that information of their situation be immediately communicated to the absent Members.

We apprehend that no Arguments are necessary to evince to you the indispensable necessity of putting the Government into immediate operation, and therefore request that you will be so obliging as to attend as soon as possible.

*We have the honor to be*

*Sir -*

*Your Obedient*

*Humble servants—*

*John Langdon*

*Paine Wingate*

*Caleb Strong*

*Wm. Sam. Johnson*

*Oliver Ellsworth*

*Jefferson Morris*

*Wm. M. McLay*

*W. H. W.*

and another address was issued, before the ninth Senator crossed the Hudson to take his seat. The tenth came two days later, the eleventh a week later, and the twelfth, who made a quorum, reached the city on the 5th of April.

The House of Representatives meanwhile had been more fortunate—had secured a quorum, had chosen a Speaker, and was hard at work on a tariff act, when a messenger from the Senate knocked at the door and informed the Speaker that the Senate was ready to count the electoral vote.

This duty done, the Houses parted, and Charles Thomson was sent to carry a certificate of election to Washington, while Sylvanus Bourne went on a like errand to John Adams at Braintree. The journey of these two men from their homes to the seat of Congress was one long ovation. Adams set out first, and was accompanied

from town to town along the route by troops of soldiers and long lines of men on horseback, was presented with addresses, was met at Kingsbridge by members of Congress and the chief citizens of New York, and escorted with every manifestation of respect to the house of John Jay. His inauguration took place on April 22d, and was attended by one incident, unnoticed at the time, but serious in its consequences. In the crowd that stood about the doors of Federal Hall to catch a glimpse of Mr. Adams as he went in were John Randolph of Roanoke and his elder brother Richard. The lads were students at Columbia College, and, pressing too close to the Vice-President's carriage, Richard, in the language of his brother, "was spurned by the coachman." In a healthy-minded lad the wrath which the "spurning" called forth would surely have gone down with the sun. But John Randolph was far from healthy-minded. To him the act was past all forgiveness, and to the last day of his life he hated, with a fierce, irrational hatred, not the coachman, but John Adams himself.

Washington set out on the





WASHINGTON MET BY HIS NEIGHBORS ON HIS WAY TO THE INAGURATION.



16th of April. But he had not gone a mile from his door when a crowd of friends and neighbors on horseback surrounded his carriage, and rode with him to Alexandria. There the Mayor addressed him, in the fulsome manner of the time, as the first and best of citizens, as the model of youth, as the ornament of old age, and went with him to the banks of the Potomac, where the men of Georgetown were waiting. With them he went on till the men of Baltimore met him, and led him through lines of shouting people to the best inn their city could boast. That night a public reception and a supper were given in his honor, and at sunrise the next morning he was on his way toward Philadelphia.

In size, in wealth, in population, Philadelphia then stood first among the cities of the country, and her citizens determined to receive their illustrious President in a manner worthy of her greatness and of his fame. The place selected was Gray's Ferry, where the road from Baltimore crossed the lower Schuylkill—a place well known and often described by travellers. On the high ridge that bordered the eastern bank was Gray's Inn and gardens, renowned for the greenhouse filled with tropical fruit, the maze of walks, the grottoes, the hermitages, the Chinese bridges, the dells and groves, that made it "a prodigy of art and nature." Crossing the river was the floating bridge, made gay for the occasion with flags and bunting and festoons of cedar and laurel leaves. Along the north rail were eleven flags, typical of the eleven States of the new Union. On the south rail were two flags: one to represent the new era; the other, the State of Pennsylvania. Across the bridge at either end was a triumphal arch, from one of which a laurel crown hung by a string, which passed to the hands of a boy who, dressed in white and decked with laurel, stood beneath a pine-tree hard by. On every side were banners adorned with emblems and inscribed with mottoes. One bore the words, "May commerce flourish!" On another was a sun, and under it, "Behold the rising empire." A third was the rattlesnake flag, with the threatening words, "Don't tread on *me*." On the hill overlooking the bridge and the river was a signal to give the people warning of the President's approach.

Toward noon on the 20th of April the

signal was suddenly dropped, and soon after Washington, with Governor Mifflin and a host of gentlemen who had gone out to meet him at the boundary line of Delaware, was seen riding slowly down the hill toward the river. As he passed under the first triumphal archway the crown of laurel was dropped on his brow, and a salute was fired from the cannon on the opposite shore, and the people, shouting, "Long live the President!" went over the bridge with him to the eastern bank, where the troops were waiting to conduct him on to Philadelphia. The whole city came out to meet him, and as he passed through dense lines of cheering men the bells of every church rang out a merry peal, and every face, says one who saw them, seemed to say, "Long, long, long live George Washington!"

That night he slept at Philadelphia, was addressed by the Executive Council of State, by the Mayor and Aldermen, by the judges of the Supreme Court, the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, and the members of the Society of the Cincinnati, and early the next morning set out with a troop of horse for Trenton. On the bridge which spanned the Assanpink Creek, over which, twelve years before, the Hessians fled in confusion, he passed under a great dome supported by thirteen columns, and adorned with a huge sunflower, inscribed, "To thee alone." The women of Trenton had ordered this put up, and just beyond the bridge were waiting, with their daughters, who, as he passed under the dome, began singing:

"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."

As the last lines were sung the bevy of little girls came forward, strewing the road with flowers as they sang. Washington was greatly moved, thanked the children on the spot, and before he rode out of town the next morning wrote a few words to their mothers.

From Trenton he passed across New Jersey, escorted from county to county by the State militia, to Elizabethtown, where a committee, with a barge provided by



Congress, was ready to carry him to New York. Rowed by thirteen of the harbor pilots, the barge sped on through the Kill van Kull toward New York Bay, followed by a train of boats bearing the few officers of the old Confederation necessity still kept in their places. In one was the Board of Treasury; in another, the Secretary of War; the Secretary of Foreign Affairs was in a third.

About the entrance to the Kill was gathered a navy of river craft gay with flags and brightly dressed women, and noisy with cheering men. As the barges of the President and his party passed by, snobs and shallops, trackscouts and row-boats, with one accord took place in line, and the procession, stretching out for more than a mile, swept on toward New York, past the Spanish war ship *Galveston*, which saluted with thirteen guns; past the ship *North Caro-*

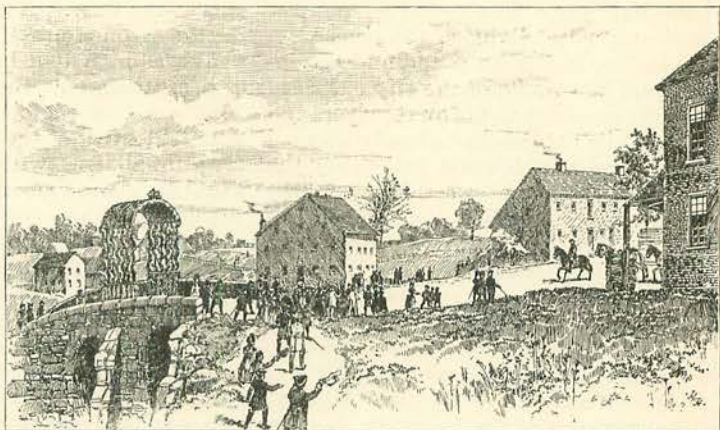
*lina*, which answered the Spaniard's salute, while over the water to those on shore came the blare of conchs and trumpets, the sound of song and music, and the stirring notes of "Stony Point." As the little fleet came round the head of Governor's Island the shouts were taken up by the crowd that lined the shore or stood in a dense mass about the spot which, bright with flags and bunting, marked the landing-place at Murray's Wharf. There Washington was met by Governor Clinton and the members of Congress, and escorted by all the troops in the city to the house made ready for his use. That night the revelry was louder than ever, for scarcely a tavern but had a song or an ode written for the occasion by some frequenter who passed for a poet. Of the few that have come down to us, one was sung to the air of "God save the King":

"Hail, thou auspicious day!  
For let America  
Thy praise resound.  
Joy to our native land!"

Let ev'ry heart expand,  
For Washington's at hand,  
With glory crowned.

"Thrice beloved Columbia, hail!  
Behold before the gale  
Your chief advance.  
The matchless Hero's nigh;  
Applaud him to the sky,  
Who gave you liberty,  
With gen'rous France.

"Thrice welcome to this shore,  
Our leader now no more,  
But ruler thou.



VIEW OF THE TRIUMPHAL ARCH AND THE MANNER OF RECEIVING GENERAL WASHINGTON AT TRENTON ON HIS ROUTE TO NEW YORK, APRIL 21, 1789.—After an old Print.

O truly good and great,  
Long live to glad our state,  
Where countless honors wait  
To deck thy brow!"

The friends to the new government had hoped for a speedy inauguration. But Federal Hall was still unfinished, and the ceremony of taking the oath was put off one week. This week was spent by the President in receiving and returning the calls of Congressmen, and in riding about the streets and noting the great change which had taken place since he saw the city last. Five years before, some of the same men who so lately welcomed him as President had gone out to the Bull's Head Tavern to welcome him as General, and after a few days had escorted him to the same wharf at which he so recently landed, and had there, with hearts full of love and gratitude, waved farewell as he was rowed over the bay on his journey to Congress at Annapolis. Then the city was a scene of desolation. Her commerce was gone; her docks were empty; two terri-



ble fires had burned down nearly a thousand of her houses. During the seven years of British occupation many of her streets and buildings had been suffered to fall into decay, many of her churches had been desecrated and turned into riding-schools and stables, and thousands of her citizens had been living in exile up the Hudson or in New Jersey. But no sooner were the British driven out than her citizens returned, and with an energy that seemed marvellous began to repair and more than repair the damage done by fire and war. The streets were better paved and better lighted; the houses every year became more grand and pretentious, and the limits of the city extended by steady encroachments on the rivers and bay. Public opinion had already doomed Fort George, which stood just below the Bowling Green, and in a few months workmen were levelling the ramparts to make way for a house for the President. One traveller described the city as a miniature London. Another puts down in his journal some remarks on the markets, where fish are sold both dead and alive; on the fine houses he saw on Dock Street and Queen Street and Hanover Square; on the goodness of the footways, so wide that three persons could walk abreast; on the pavements, over which no drays drawn by more than one horse were ever allowed to pass; and on the sights which he saw on Broadway. The buildings along it were new and poor, but the street was long, wide, and unpaved, and therefore a favorite drive. There every morning and afternoon "the gentry" rode in their coaches and phaetons, and "the common people" in open chairs. It was fashionable to be seen, toward sunset, walking on the mall that surrounded the fort, or to go over to Brooklyn and stroll about the earthworks while an oyster supper was being made ready at the inn.

In these amusements the President-elect took no part, but waited with solemn gravity for the inauguration. At nine on the morning of that day the people repaired by thousands to the churches to offer up prayers for his Divine guidance. At ten Congress met.

In the Senate all was confusion; for, the moment the business of the day began, Mr. Adams had propounded a question of etiquette. The House, he said, would soon attend them, and the President would surely deliver a speech. What should be

done? How would the Senate behave? Would it stand or sit while the President spoke? Members who had been in London and had seen a Parliament opened were for following the custom of England, which was, Mr. Lee declared, for the Commons to stand. Mr. Izard declared the Commons stood because there were not benches enough in the room for them to sit. A third was in the midst of a strong protest against aping the follies of royal governments, when Mr. Adams announced that the clerk of the House was at the door. A new question of etiquette at once arose, for the Vice-President was at a loss how to receive him. The sentiment of the admirers of England was that the clerk should never be admitted within the bar, but that the sergeant-at-arms, with the mace upon his shoulder, should march solemnly down to the door and receive the message. This unhappily could not be done, for the Senate had neither a mace nor a sergeant. What should be done was still unsettled when the Speaker, with the House of Representatives at his heels, came hurrying into the Chamber. All business was instantly stopped, and the three Senators who ought to have attended the President long before, set off for his house. As Washington could not leave till they arrived, the procession, which had been forming since sunrise, was greatly delayed, and for an hour and ten minutes the Senators and Representatives chafed and scolded. At last the shouting in the streets made known that the President was come. A few minutes later he entered the room, and both Houses were formally presented. This ceremony over, Mr. Adams informed him that it was time to take the oath of office. He rose and, followed by the members of Congress, went out on the balcony of Federal Hall. Before him were the windows, the house-tops, the streets, crowded with citizens of every rank, brought thither from every kind of occupation by the novelty of the scene. Behind him were gathered many of the ablest and the most illustrious citizens the country had then produced. Among the Senators stood John Langdon, of New Hampshire, once President of his State, and long a delegate to the Continental Congress; Oliver Ellsworth, soon to become a Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court; William Paterson, ten times Attorney-General of New Jersey; Richard





THE INAUGURATION.



Henry Lee and Richard Bassett and George Read, men whose names appear alike at the foot of the Declaration of Independence and at the foot of the Constitution of the United States; William Johnson, a scholar and a judge, and one of the few Americans whose learning had obtained recognition abroad; while conspicuous even in that goodly company was the noble brow and thoughtful face of Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution.

The Representatives as a body were men of lesser note. Yet among those who that morning stood about the President were a few whose names are as illustrious as any on the roll of the Senate: there were James Madison, to whom, with James Wilson, is to be ascribed the chief part in framing and defending the Constitution; and Fisher Ames, the finest orator the House ever heard till it listened to Henry Clay; and Elbridge Gerry, the Antifederalist, who pronounced the Constitution dangerous and bad, who would not sign it in convention, but who lived to see his worst fears dissipated, and died a Vice-President of the United States; and Roger Sherman and George Clymer, who with Gerry dated their public service to a time before the Revolution, and who in defence of that cause had staked "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor," and signed the first grand charter of our liberties.

When the President, surrounded by men such as these, had taken his place before the railing of the balcony, and the shouts of welcome had died away, Robert R. Livingston administered the oath of office. Livingston was then Chancellor of the State of New York, and when the last words of the oath had been uttered he turned to the people and cried out, "Long live George Washington, President of the United States!" The cry was instantly taken up, and with the roar of cannon and the shouts of his countrymen ringing in his ears, Washington went back to the Senate-Chamber to deliver his speech. What there took place is best told in the language of one who saw it: "This great man was agitated and embarrassed more than ever he was by the levelled 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 the dancing-master, and that this first of men had read off his address in the plainest manner, without ever taking his eyes from the paper, for I felt hurt that he was not first in everything."

The people meanwhile went off to their favorite taverns to drink prosperity to Washington and Adams, and wait with impatience for the coming night. As the first stars began to shine, bonfires were lighted in many of the streets, and eleven candles put up in the windows of many of the houses. The front of Federal Hall was a blaze of light. There was a fine transparency in front of the theatre, and another near the Fly Market, and a third on the Bowling Green, near the fort. But the crowd was densest and staid the longest before the figure-pieces and moving transparencies that appeared in the windows of the house of the minister of Spain, and before the rich display of lanterns that hung round the doors and windows of the house occupied by the minister of France.

The country over which Washington was thus made ruler was not three and a half times as large as the present State of Texas, and did not contain as many people by a million as are at present living within the State of New York. By the treaty of peace with Great Britain the boundary of the United States was defined as the St. Croix River from its mouth to its source; a meridian to the highlands parting the waters that flowed into the Atlantic from the waters that flowed into the St. Lawrence; the highlands to the northwest branch of the Connecticut River; down the river to the forty-fifth degree of north latitude; westward along this forty-fifth parallel to the middle of the St. Lawrence; up the St. Lawrence to the lakes; and up the great lakes to the most northwestern corner of the Lake of the Woods. There all geographical knowledge ended. The Mississippi had not been explored above the present city of St. Paul. Where its source was no man knew; but supposing it to be somewhere in British America, the northern boundary was to be finished by a line due west from the Lake of the Woods to the Mississippi. Thence the line ran down the middle of the Mississippi to the thirty-first parallel, eastward along this parallel to





CELEBRATION ON THE NIGHT OF THE INAUGURATION.



the Appalachicola, down the Appalachicola to the Flint, and then along the northern boundary of the present State of Florida to the sea.

Around their limits lay the possessions of two great powers with whom our relations were far from friendly. Spanish territory surrounded us on the south and west; yet there was no treaty of any kind with Spain. The possessions of Great Britain bounded us on the north and east; yet the only treaty with England was that of independence made in 1783, and, claiming this treaty to have been violated because the States did not repeal the laws forbidding the recovery of debts due her subjects, she held and fortified the ports on Lake Champlain, at Oswegatchie, at Oswego, at Niagara, at Detroit, on the island of Michilimackinac, in what is now Michigan, and continued to hold them for thirteen years. Spain would make no treaty unless it was distinctly agreed that the citizens of the United States should not navigate the Mississippi River below the thirty-first degree.

Of the 865,000 square miles contained within the boundaries of the United States, part belonged to the eleven States, and part had been inherited by the new government from the Continental Congress. Maine was still a district of Massachusetts, Vermont had as yet no recognition as a State, and was not a member of the Union. Neither was Rhode Island, nor North Carolina, nor what is now Tennessee. Over these regions, therefore, the laws of Congress and the authority of Washington did not extend. Pennsylvania did not own all her frontage on Lake Erie. Kentucky was still a part of Virginia. What is now Alabama and Mississippi above the parallel of thirty-one degrees was claimed entirely by Georgia, and in part by the United States. The wilderness north of the Ohio and west of Pennsylvania had, save some reservations by Virginia and Connecticut, been ceded by four States to the old Congress, and passed by the name of the Ter-

ritory of the United States northwest of the river Ohio.

Three-fourths of the United States were uninhabited. The western frontier then ran close along the coast of Maine, crossed central New Hampshire and northern Vermont to Lake Champlain, passed round the shores of the lake, down the Hudson River, across New Jersey and the mountains of Pennsylvania to Pittsburgh, over Maryland and the tide-water region of Virginia, and along the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Altamaha River, and by it to the sea.

The area of this inhabited strip was, in round numbers, 240,000 square miles, or one square mile for each sixteen of the inhabitants. But population was by no means so equally distributed. One-fifth were in Virginia; one-ninth in Pennsylvania; almost one-half in the five States that lay south of the Mason and Dixon line. These were the great plantation States, and populous as they were, they did not contain but one city of the first class. Savannah and Charleston and Wilmington and Alexandria and Richmond were smart towns and nothing more. Not one of them had a population of five thousand souls. Indeed the inhabitants of the six great cities of the country summed up to but 131,000—not so many by 20,000 as are now required to reside in each Congressional district.

Sparse as the population was, the rage for emigration had already seized it, and hundreds of emigrants were pouring over the mountains in three great streams. One, made up of New England men, went out through Massachusetts, and were pushing rapidly up the Mohawk Valley; a second, from the Middle States, was hastening up the Potomac River to its head waters, and spreading over the rich valleys of West Virginia between the Ohio and the Great Kanawha; a third had crossed the mountains of North Carolina, and was hurrying down the valley of the Tennessee, there to begin that wonderful progress which is the most marvellous in the history of man.

## EXILES.

BY WILLIAM H. HAYNE.

**H**OPES grimly banished from the heart  
Are the sad exiles that depart  
To Melancholy's rayless goal—  
A bleak Siberia of the soul!