

nated, and there was exhibited a very solemn funeral procession, attended by the Grenadiers and Light Infantry Companies, and other Militia, with their drums muffled, and fifes, and a greater number of people than ever appeared on any occasion before in this Province, when George the Third was interred before the Court House in the following manner:

"Forasmuch as George the Third, of Great Britain, hath most flagrantly violated his coronation oath, and trampled upon the Constitution of our country and the sacred rights of mankind, We therefore commit his political existence to the ground, corruption to corrup-

tion, tyranny to the grave, and oppression to eternal infamy, in sure and certain hope that he will never obtain a resurrection to rule again over these United States of America. . . . But, my friends and fellow-citizens, let us not be sorry as men without hope for tyrants that depart; rather, let us remember, America is free and independent! That she is and will be, with the blessing of the Almighty, great among the nations of the earth! Let this encourage us in well-doing, to fight for our rights and privileges, for our wives and children, for all that is near and dear to us. May God give us his blessing, and let all the people say, Amen!"

## JANE FIELD.\*

BY MARY E. WILKINS.

### CHAPTER IV.

**T**HERE Lois stood. Her small worn shoes hesitated on the threshold. She was gotten up in her poor little best—her dress of cheap brown wool stuff, with its skimpy velvet panel, her hat trimmed with a fold of silk and a little feather. She had curled her hair over her forehead, and tied on a bit of a lace veil. Distinct among all this forlorn and innocent furbishing was her face, with its pitiful youthful prettiness, turned toward her mother and the lawyer with a very clutch of vision.

Mrs. Field got up. "Oh, it's you, Lois," she said, calmly. "You thought you'd come too, didn't you?"

Lois gasped out something.

Her mother turned to the lawyer. "I'll make you acquainted with Miss Lois Field," said she. "Lois, I'll make you acquainted with Mr. Tuxbury."

The lawyer was looking surprised, but he rose briskly to the level of the situation, and greeted the young girl with ready grace. "Your sister's daughter, I conclude," he said, smilingly, to Mrs. Field.

Mrs. Field set her mouth hard. She looked defiantly at him and said not one word. There was a fierce resolve in her heart that, come what would, she would not tell this last lie, and deny her daughter before her very face.

But the lawyer did not know she was silent. Not having heard any response, with the vanity of a deaf man, he assumed that she had given one, and so concealed his uncertainty.

"Yes, so I thought," said he, and went on flourishingly in his track of gracious reception.

Lois kept her eyes fixed on his like some little timid animal which suspects an enemy, and watches his eyes for the first impetus of a spring. Once or twice she said, "Yes, sir," faintly.

"Your niece does not look very strong," Mr. Tuxbury said to Mrs. Field.

"She 'ain't been feelin' very well this spring. I've been considerable worried about her," she answered, with harsh decision.

"Ah, I am very sorry to hear that. Well, she will soon recuperate if she stays here. Elliot is considered a very healthy place. We shall soon have her so hearty and rosy that her old friends won't be able to recognize her." He bowed with a smiling flourish to Lois.

Her lips trembled with a half-smile in response, but she looked more frightened than ever.

"Now, Mrs. Maxwell," said the lawyer. "you and your niece must positively remain and dine with us to-day, can't you?"

"I'm afraid it will put your sister out."

"Oh no, indeed." The lawyer, however, had a slightly nonplussed expression. "She will be delighted. I will run over to the house, then, and tell her that you will stay, shall I not?"

"I hate to make her extra work," said Mrs. Field. That was her rural form of acceptance.

"You will not, I assure you. Don't distress yourself about that, Mrs. Maxwell."

\* Begun in May number, 1862.

# HARPER'S NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

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No. DVL



By Charles D. Deshier.

It is not an idle curiosity merely that moves us to hold aside the veil which time has interposed between the past and the present, so that we may more closely scan the conduct and demeanor of our Revolutionary ancestors at critical or exciting junctures. Rather is it a natural feeling of filial pride and affection, coupled with the confident conviction that although they were men of the same clay as ourselves, and subject to the foibles and infirmities which have been the heritage of men in all ages and lands, they were yet unsoiled by the meaner frailties and vices which have so often degraded peoples and nations, were endowed with manlier, more robust, and more sturdy virtues than the generality of men, and could safely stand the test of the most trying scrutiny to which their acts and motives might be subjected.

It is in this loving and reverent spirit, and in the conviction that their virtues vastly preponderated over their foibles

and failings, that the writer of this memoir has sought to discover the emotions and bearing of the men of "Seventy-six" when the tidings first reached them of the Declaration of Independence, and to collect in one group such accounts as are extant of the proceedings which attended its reception and proclamation, and of the ceremonies and solemnities with which its reading and promulgation were celebrated by the people of the "Old Thirteen." And if I dwell occasionally on some particulars which naturally impress us of this later and more fastidious day with a sense of the ludicrous, I trust that my pleasantries may not be set down to any spirit of irreverence, the more especially as due prominence will be given and due significance will be awarded to other particulars which are impressive alike by their gravity, their sobriety, their dignity, and their display of the most disinterested and most courageous patriotism.

As we all know, the draft of that memorable instrument which declared us an

independent nation was formally adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The next day, July 5th, the following resolution was adopted by the Congress then in session in Philadelphia:

"Resolved, That copies of the Declaration be sent to the several Assemblies, Conventions, and Councils of Safety, and to the several Commanding Officers of the Continental Troops, that it be proclaimed in each of the United States, and at the head of the Army."

It will be noted that in this resolution the Continental Congress observed the most punctilious deference to the recognized authorities of the several States. No copies of the Declaration were ordered to be sent to individuals in either of them. They were to be sent to officials or to representative bodies only.

On the same day, or within a day or two thereafter, the President of Congress, John Hancock, enclosed a copy of the Declaration to each of the States which had adopted a permanent government, and to the conventions (or provincial congresses) or to the councils or committees of safety of those States which had not yet formed regular governments, and in each case the document was accompanied by a letter in the terms following:

"I do myself the honour to enclose, in obedience to the commands of Congress, a copy of the Declaration of Independence, which you will please to have proclaimed in your Colony, in such way and manner as you shall judge best. The important consequences resulting to the American States from this Declaration of Independence, considered as the ground and foundation of a future government, will naturally suggest the propriety of proclaiming it in such a mode that the people may be universally informed of it."

On the 6th of July a copy of the Declaration was sent by President Hancock to General Washington, accompanied by a letter, in which he said:

"The Congress have judged it necessary to dissolve the connexion between Great Britain and the American Colonies, and to declare them free and independent States, as you will perceive by the enclosed Declaration, which I am directed to transmit to you, and to request you will have it proclaimed at the head of the army, in the way you shall think most proper."

Similar letters were sent to the other generals commanding in the Northern and Southern departments

#### AT PHILADELPHIA.

The first State to respond by its representative body was Pennsylvania. In the minutes of the Committee of Safety of that State, then in session at Philadelphia, under date of July 6, 1776, is the following entry:

"The President of the Congress this day sent the following Resolve of Congress, which is directed to be entered on the Minutes, to this Board:"

Here follows the resolution of the Continental Congress quoted above.

"In consequence of the above Resolve, Letters were wrote to the Counties of Bucks, Chester, Northumberland, Lancaster, and Berks, enclosing a copy of said Declaration, requesting the same to be published on Monday next [July 8th], at the places where the election of Delegates are to be held.

"Ordered, That the Sheriff of Philadelphia read or cause to be read and proclaimed at the State House in the City of Philadelphia, on Monday, the 8th day of July instant, at twelve o'clock at noon of the same day, the Declaration of the Representatives of the United Colonies of America, and that he cause all his Officers and the Constables of the said city to attend the reading thereof.

"Resolved, That every member of this Committee in or near the city be ordered to meet at the Committee Chamber before twelve o'clock on Monday, to proceed to the State House, where the Declaration of Independence is to be proclaimed.

"The Committee of Inspection of this City and Liberties were requested to attend the proclamation at the State House, on Monday next, at twelve o'clock."

In conformity with this action of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, the Declaration was proclaimed in Philadelphia at the time appointed, and the proceedings are described in the following brief report which appeared in the Philadelphia and New York *Gazettes* of the ensuing day:

"Philadelphia, July 8, 1776.—This day the Committee of Safety and the Committee of Inspection went in procession to the State House, where the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America was read to a very large number of the inhabitants of this City and County, which was received with general applause and heart-felt satisfaction; and in the evening our late King's Coat of Arms was brought from the Hall in the State House, where the said King's Coat of Arms





AT PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

formerly held,\* and burnt, amidst the acclamations of a crowd of spectators."

On the above occasion the Declaration was read by John Nixon from the platform of an observatory which had been erected many years before by the celebrated Dr. Rittenhouse, near the Walnut Street front of the State-house, for the purpose of observing a transit of Venus. At evening bonfires were lighted, the houses were illuminated, and it was not until a thunder-shower at midnight compelled the people to retire that the sounds of rejoicing were hushed.†

In a copy of *The Scots Magazine* for 1776, published at Edinburgh, Scotland, which is in the writer's possession, in the number for August, occurs the following curious item, descriptive of some ceremonies alleged to have been observed by the Continental Congress on the day of its adoption of the Declaration :

"A letter from Philadelphia says: The 4th of July, 1776, the Americans appointed as a day of fasting and prayer, preparatory to their dedicating their country to God, which was done in the following manner: The Congress being assembled, after having declared America independent, they had a Crown placed on a Bible, which by prayer and solemn ceremony they offered to God. This religious ceremony being ended, they divided the Crown into thirteen parts, each of the United Provinces taking a part."

\* The "hall" in which the King's Courts had hitherto been held was in the second story of the State-house. During the period of preparation for the Revolution the Provincial Congress of Pennsylvania held its sessions in this room.

† *Lossing's Field-book of the Revolution*, vol. ii., p. 287.

I have been unable to discover any confirmatory evidence of this dramatic, and, I suspect, entirely fabulous, performance. I have no doubt, however, that it was published in *The Scots Magazine* in entire good faith, and that it was derived from a source on which its conductors placed full reliance, as that magazine was a constant friend of this country; its pages were largely devoted to American news, its information relative to our affairs was full and generally accurate, and its sympathies for the American people in their controversy with Great Britain were generously and frankly avowed.

AT TRENTON, NEW JERSEY.

Although nothing is recorded on the subject in the minutes of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey at this time, the formal ratification by that body having been deferred to a later period, probably from prudential or politic reasons, yet certain of its more active members caused the Declaration to be proclaimed in Trenton, where the Provincial Congress was then in session, on the same day when it was promulgated in Philadelphia, namely, July 8th. The following description of the observances appeared in the *New York and Philadelphia Gazette* of July 9th, and also in *The Scots Magazine* for August, 1776, from which last it is here given *verbatim* :

"Trenton, July 8, 1776.—The Declaration of Independence was this day proclaimed here, together with the new Constitution of the Colony of late established,\* and the resolve

\* The Constitution of New Jersey had been adopted on July 2, 1776.

of the Provincial Congress for continuing the administration of justice during the interim. The members of the Provincial Congress, the gentlemen of the Committee, the officers and privates of the Militia, under arms, and a large concourse of the inhabitants attended on this great and solemn occasion. The Declaration and other proceedings were received with loud acclamations. The people are now convinced, of what we ought long since to have known, that our enemies have left us no middle way between perfect freedom and abject slavery. In the field, we trust, as well as in council, the inhabitants of New Jersey will be found ever ready to support the freedom and independence of America."

#### AT EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

On the same day that the Declaration was receiving the approval of the people of Philadelphia and Trenton, it was proclaimed in Easton, Pennsylvania, with the like satisfactory result, as appears from the following contemporaneous account:

"Easton, Northampton County, July 8, 1776. — This day the Declaration of Independence was received here, and proclaimed in the following order: The Colonel, and all other Field Officers of the first Battalion, repaired to the Court House, the Light Infantry Company marching there with drums beating, fifes playing, and the Standard (the device of which is the Thirteen United Colonies) which was ordered to be displayed; and after that the Declaration was read aloud to a great number of spectators, who gave their hearty assent with three loud huzzas, and cried out, 'May God long preserve the Free and Independent States of America.'"

Another account of the occurrence is given in a newspaper published in German at Easton, by Henry Miller, in its issue of July 10, 1776, which is thus translated:

"Immediately on the news of this event—the Declaration—becoming known at Easton, it was hailed by the citizens of the town and surrounding country by a public demonstration. Captain Abraham Labar, with his company, paraded through the streets with drums beating and colors flying, and was followed and joined by the citizens *en masse*. They met in the Court-house, where the Declaration of Independence was read by Robert Levers."

#### AT PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY.

On the evening of July 9th the Declaration was proclaimed in Princeton, New Jersey. The following account of its reception there is extracted from *The Scots Magazine* for August, 1776:

"Princeton, New Jersey, July 10.—Last night Nassau Hall was grandly illuminated, and independence proclaimed under a triple volley of musketry, and universal acclamations for the prosperity of the United Colonies. The ceremony was conducted with the greatest decorum."

#### AT NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY.

The compiler of this memorial has not been able to find any contemporaneous account of the reception and promulgation of the Declaration in New Brunswick; nor is it probable that such an account ever existed, except in private letters. There is, however, satisfactory grounds for the belief that a copy of it was received on July 9th by the resident members of the Committee of Safety (Colonel Azariah Dunham and Hendrick Fisher), or by the County Committee of Correspondence, and that it was read at a public meeting held either on that or on the following day. There are several traditional accounts of its proclamation at this place, which, if collated, would doubtless give fuller and more accurate information as to the incident than may be derived from any of them singly. The version of it which the writer hereof had from his grandfather, Jacob Dunham, M.D., in 1830 or 1831, was substantially as follows:

"When the Declaration of Independence was brought to New Brunswick, I was a boy about nine years old. There was great excitement in the town over the news, most of the people rejoicing that we were free and independent, but a few looking very sour over it. My father [Colonel Azariah Dunham] was one of the Committee of Safety of the province, and also one of the County Committee of Correspondence, and one of the Town Committee of Inspection and Observation. The Declaration was brought by an express rider, who was at once furnished with a fresh horse, and despatched on his way to New York. The County Committee and the Town Committee were immediately convened, and it was decided that the Declaration should be read in the public street [Albany Street], in front of the White Hall tavern, that the reader should be Colonel John Neilson, and that the members of the two committees should exert themselves to secure the attendance of as many as possible of the staunch friends of independence, so as to overawe any disaffected Tories, and prevent any interruption of the meeting that they might attempt. Although these Tories were not numerous, they were, most of them, men of wealth and influence, and were very active. Accordingly, at the time appointed [I cannot now recall the hour, if, indeed, my grandfather



stated it], the Whigs assembled in full force, wearing an air of great determination. A stage was improvised in front of the White Hall tavern, and from it Colonel Neilson, surrounded by the other members of the committee, read the Declaration with grave deliberation and emphasis. At the close of the reading there was prolonged cheering. A few Tories were present; but although they sneered, and looked their dissatisfaction in other ways, they were prudent enough not to make any demonstration."

Whatever else my grandfather told me of the incident, which made such an impression on my youthful mind, has faded from my memory in the sixty years which have since elapsed.

#### IN SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

The tidings of the Declaration were carried post-haste to the remotest parts of New Jersey, and were handed on from one town or county committee to another, so that no out-of-the-way corner even was left in ignorance of the soul-stirring instrument. A letter from Joseph Barton, in remote Sussex County, to his cousin Henry Wisner, without doubt reflects the feelings of many in those days of suspense. Writing from Newton as early as July 9, 1776, he says:

"SIR,—It gives a great turn to the minds of our people, declaring our independence. Now we know what to depend on. For my part, I have been at a great stand: I could hardly own the King and fight against him at the same time; but now these matters are cleared up. Heart and hand shall move together. I don't think there will be five Tories in our part of the country in ten days after matters are well known. We have had great numbers who could do nothing until we were declared a free State, who are now ready to spend their lives and fortunes in defence of our country. I expect a great turn one way or the other before I see you again."

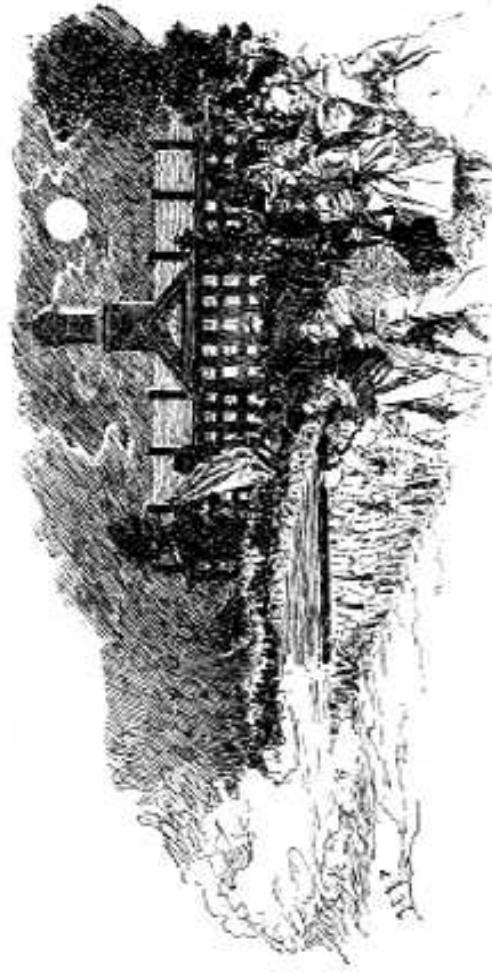
#### AT DOVER, DELAWARE.

On the 4th of July, 1776, Caesar Rodney,\* then a delegate to the Continental

\* John Adams, in his diary, thus describes this gentleman: "Caesar Rodney is the oddest-looking

Congress from Delaware, while yet fresh from signing the Declaration, despatched Ensign Wilson with an account of the proceedings attending its adoption to his friend Colonel John Haslet, at Dover, Delaware. On July 6th, Colonel Haslet wrote to Mr. Rodney, in response, as follows:

"I congratulate you, sir, on the important day which restores to every American his birthright; a day which every freeman will record with gratitude, and the millions of posterity read with rapture. Ensign Wilson arrived here last night; a fine turtle feast at



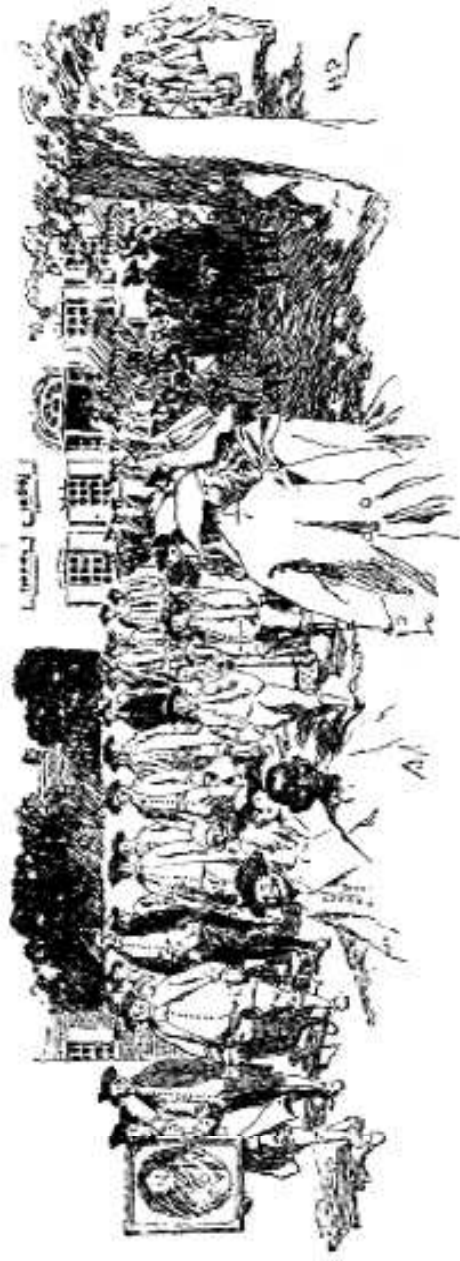
AT PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY.

Dover anticipated and announced the Declaration of Congress; even the barrister himself [alluding to a mutual friend] laid aside his airs of reserve, mighty happy."

It is probable that accompanying Mr. Rodney's letter was one from President Hancock to the Committee of Safety of Delaware, enclosing a copy of the Declaration. It is certain that a copy of it was received at Dover simultaneously with Rodney's letter, as we learn from the following interesting account, which is transcribed from Saunderson's *Biography of the Signers*:

"At the time Mr. Rodney's letter reached Dover, the election of officers of a new battalion was going on. The Committee of Safety, however, immediately met, and after receiving the intelligence, proceeded to the Court House,

man in the world; he is tall, thin, and slender as a reed, pale, his face not bigger than a large apple, yet there is sense and fire, spirit, wit, and humor in his countenance. He made himself very merry with Roggles and his pretended scruples and timidities at the last Congress."—*Life and Works of John Adams*, vol. ii., p. 354.



AT DOVER, DELAWARE.

where (the election being stopped) the President read the Declaration of Congress, and the resolution of the House of Assembly for the appointment of a Convention [Provincial Congress]; each of which received the highest approbation of the people, in three huzzas. The Committee then went in a body back to their room, where they sent for a picture of the King of Great Britain, and made the drummer of the infantry bear it before the President. They then marched two and two, followed by the light infantry in slow time, with music, round the Square; then forming a circle about a fire prepared in the middle of the Square for that purpose, the President, pronouncing the following words, committed it to the flames: 'Compelled by strong necessity, thus we destroy even the shadow of that King who refused to reign over a free people.' Three loud huzzas were given by the surrounding crowd; and the friends of liberty gained new courage to support the cause in which they had embarked."

## IN NEW YORK CITY.

As has already been said, on July 6th the President of the Continental Congress wrote to Washington, enclosing a copy of the Declaration, and requesting him to have it proclaimed at the head of the army. It was received by Washington at his headquarters in New York on the 9th, and immediately the following order (transcribed from his orderly book) was issued:

"The Continental Congress, impelled by the dictates of duty, policy, and necessity, have been pleased to dissolve the connexion which subsisted between this country and Great Britain, and to declare the United Colonies of America *free and Independent States*. The several brigades are to be drawn up this evening on their respective parades at six o'clock,

when the Declaration of Congress, showing the grounds and reasons of this measure, is to be read with an audible voice. The General hopes that this important event will serve as a fresh incentive to every officer and soldier to act with fidelity and courage, as knowing that now the peace and safety of his country depend, under God, solely on the success of our arms; and that he is now in the service of a State possessed of sufficient power to reward his merit, and advance him to the highest honours of a free country."

Observe how clearly Washington comprehended and foreshadowed the operation of the new order of things initiated by the Declaration to place "the highest honors of a free country" within the reach of every citizen.

At the time appointed by Washington, as is described by an eye-witness, the following proceedings took place:

"The brigades were formed in hollow square on their respective parades. One of these brigades was encamped on the 'Commons,' where the New York City Hall now stands. The hollow square was formed about the spot where the Park Fountain stands. Washington was within the square, on horseback, and the Declaration was read in a clear voice by one of his aids. When it was concluded, three hearty cheers were given."--*Lossing's Field-book of the Revolution*, vol. ii., p. 801, note.

## AT WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK.

On or before the 9th of July the letter of President Hancock to the Provincial Congress of New York, enclosing a copy of the Declaration, was received by that body, for in the minutes of its proceedings for Tuesday, July 9th, the following entry appears:



"In Convention of the Representatives of the State of New York, White Plains, July 9, 1776.

"Resolved *unanimously*, That the reasons assigned by the Continental Congress for declaring the United Colonies free and independent States are cogent and conclusive; and that while we lament the cruel necessity which has rendered this measure unavoidable, we approve the same, and will, at the risk of our lives and fortunes, join with the other Colonies in supporting it.

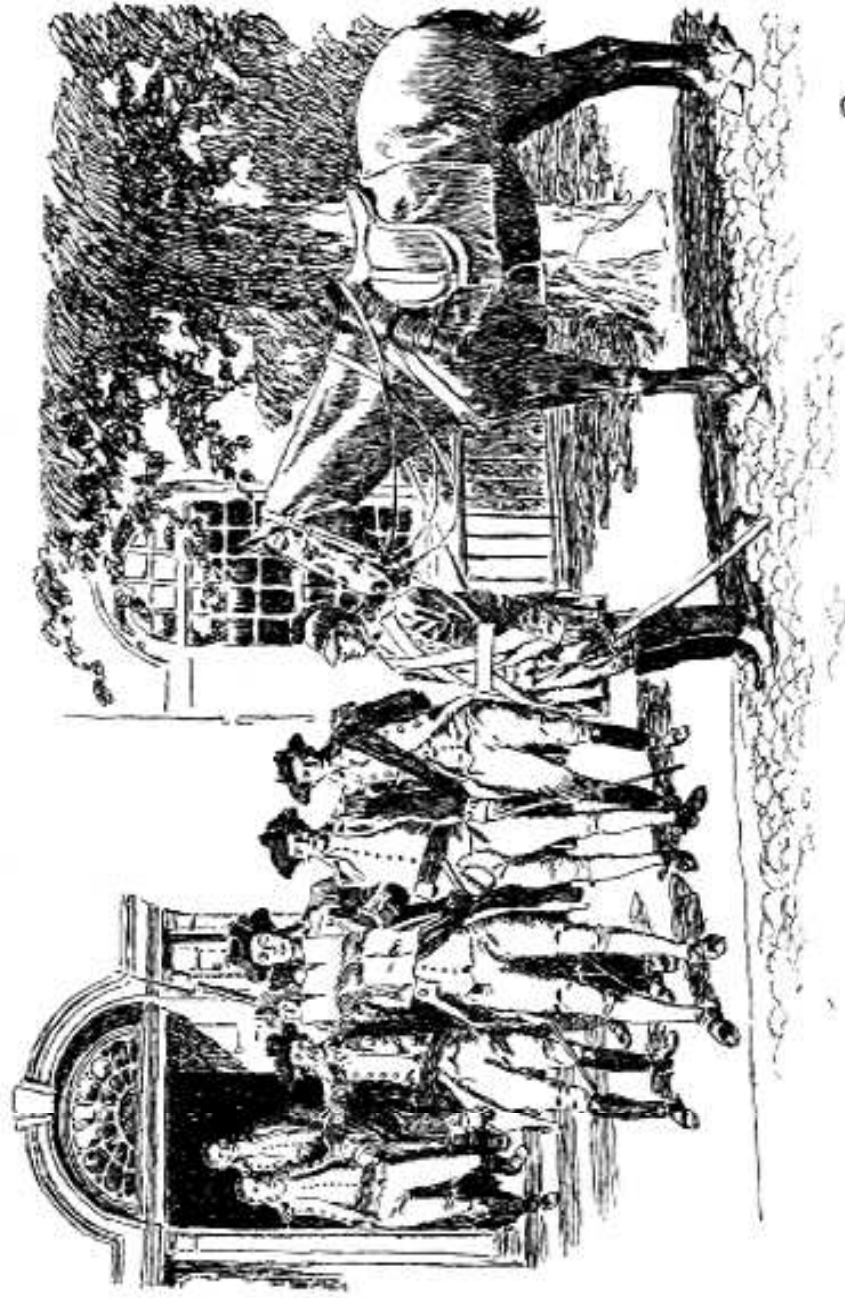
"Resolved, That a copy of the said Declaration and the foregoing resolution be sent to the Chairman of the Committee of the County of Westchester, with orders to publish the same with beat of drums at this place on Tuesday next, and to give directions that it be published with all convenient speed in the several Districts within the said County; and

Abraham Brasher, William Smith, Committee on draft of Resolutions."

#### IN NEW YORK CITY.

Before the receipt of these resolutions from their County Committee, the more patriotic or the more effervescent of the citizens of the city of New York celebrated the event in a spontaneous and spirited way quite in keeping with the character they have always exhibited in moments of excitement. The following graphic account of their doings is reproduced from *The Scots Magazine* for August, 1776:

"New York, July 11, 1776.—The fourth instant was rendered remarkable by the most



IN NEW YORK (AT HEADQUARTERS).

that five hundred copies thereof be forthwith transmitted to the other County Committees within the State of New York, with orders to cause the same to be published in the several Districts of their respective Counties.

"Resolved *unanimously*, That the Delegates of this State in the Continental Congress be, and they hereby are, authorized to concert and adopt all such measures as they may deem conducive to the happiness and welfare of the United States of America."

important event that has ever happened in the American Colonies, an event which doubtless will be celebrated through a long succession of future ages by anniversary commemorations, and be considered as a grand era in the history of the American States. On this auspicious day the representatives of the Thirteen United Colonies, by the providence of God, unanimously agreed to and voted a Proclamation declaring the said Colonies free and independent States, which was proclaimed at the State House in Philadelphia on Monday last, and received with joyful acclamations.

The above minute was signed, "John Jay, Abraham Yates, Lehn, Sloer, H. Kent,



nies. On Tuesday last [July 9th] it was read at the head of each brigade of the Continental Army posted at and near New York, and everywhere received with loud huzzas and the utmost demonstrations of joy. The same evening the equestrian statue of George Third\*, which Tory pride and folly reared in the year 1770, was by the sons of freedom laid prostrate in the dirt, the just desert of an ungrateful tyrant. The lead wherewith this monument was made is to be run into bullets, to assimilate with the brain of our infatuated enemies, who, to gain a pepper-corn, have lost an empire.† *Quos Deus vult perdere, prius dementat.*

\* Lord Clare, in the House of Commons, had declared that a pepper-corn in acknowledgment of Britain's right to tax America was of more importance than millions without it."

\* In his diary for August 20, 1774, John Adams gives the following description of this statue on the Bowling Green: "Between the fort [on the Battery] and the city is a beautiful ellipse of land, railed in with solid iron, in the centre of which is a statue of his Majesty on horseback, very large, of solid lead gilded with gold, standing on a pedestal of marble, very high" (*Life and Works of John Adams*, vol. ii., p. 346). In his *Field-book of the Revolution* (vol. ii., p. 801, notes), Mr. Lossing describes this statue in greater detail. "This statue of George the Third," he says, "was equestrian, made of lead, and gilded. It was the workmanship of Wilton, then a celebrated statuary of London, and was the first equestrian effigy of his Majesty yet erected. It was placed on its pedestal, in the centre of the Bowling Green, August 21, 1770. The greater portion of the statue was sent to Litchfield, Connecticut, and there converted into bullets by two daughters and a son of Governor Wolcott, a Miss Marvin, and a Mrs. Beach. According to an account current of the cartridges made from this statue, found among the papers of Governor Wolcott, it appears that it furnished materials for 42,000 bullets. The statue was of natural size, both horse and man. The horse was poised upon his hinder legs. The King had a crown upon his head; his right hand held the bridle-reins, the left rested upon the handle of a sword. There were no stirrups."

The following is the memorandum, or "account current," spoken of by Mr. Lossing as preserved in the papers of Governor Wolcott: "An Equestrian Statue of George the Third of Great Britain was erected in the city of New York, on the Bowling Green, at the lower end of Broadway. Most of the materials were *lead*, but richly *gilded* to resemble gold. At the beginning of the Revolution this statue was overthrown. Lead then being scarce and dear, the statue was broken in pieces and the metal transported to Litchfield, a place of safety. The ladies of this village converted the Lead into Cartridges for the Army, of which the following is an account.

" Mrs. Marvin.....	Cartridges, 6,058
Ruth Marvin.....	11,592
Laura Wolcott.....	8,378
Mary Ann Wolcott.....	10,750
Frederick .....	895
Mrs. Beach.....	1,802
Made by Sundry persons.....	2,182
Gave Litchfield Militia on alarm.....	50
Let the Regiment of Col. Wigglesworth have.....	300

O. W.

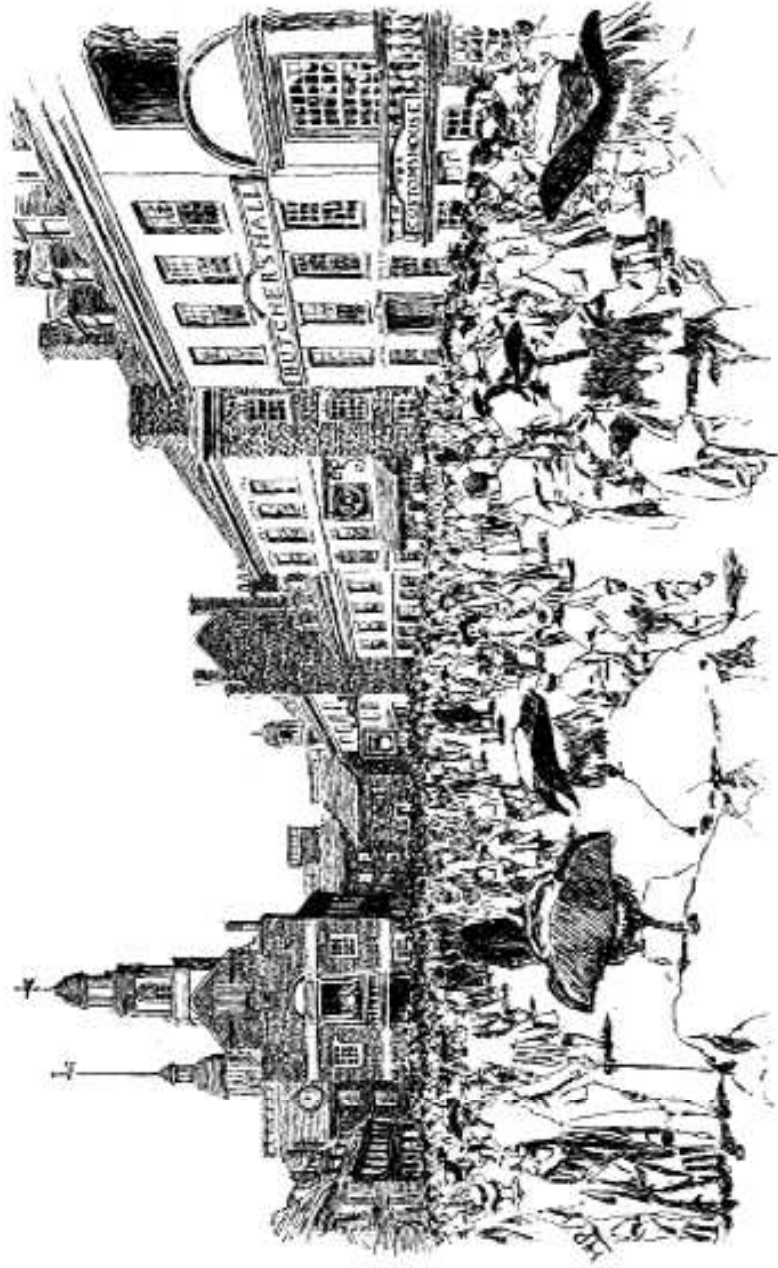
On the day after this amiable little ebullition of the people of New York, there was rejoicing in the Debtors' Prison in New York city. This prison was in an upper floor of the City Hall, then standing on what is now the corner of Wall and Nassau streets, or the site of the present Treasury building. The rejoicing was due to the fact that on that day, "in pursuance of the Declaration of Independence, a general jail delivery, with respect to Debtors, took place here" (*Holt's Journal* for July 11, 1776).

On Thursday, July 18th, a more formal celebration took place in the city of New York, which is described as follows in a contemporaneous report of it:

"New York, Thursday, July 25, 1776.—On Thursday last [July 18th], pursuant to a resolve of the Representatives of the Colony of New York, sitting in Congress, the Proclamation issued at Philadelphia the 4th inst., by the Continental Congress, declaring the Thirteen United Colonies to be free and independent States, was read and published at the City Hall, when a number of the true friends of the rights and liberties of America attended and signified their approbation by loud acclamations. After which, the British arms, from over the seat of justice in the Court House, was taken down, exposed, torn to pieces, and burnt. Another British arms, wrought in stone, in the front of the pediment without, was thrown to the ground and broken to pieces, and the picture of King George III., which had been placed in the Council Chamber, was thrown out, broken, torn to pieces, and burnt, of all which the people testified their approbation by repeated huzzas. The same day, we hear, the British arms from all the Churches in the city were ordered to be removed and destroyed."

It is doubtful if this is an exact statement of the facts, so far, at least, as relates to the King's arms in Trinity Church. A more correct statement, probably, is the one which was made by the Rev. Dr. Inglis, the rector of Trinity Church, in a letter written by him to the Rev. Dr. Hind, dated October 31, 1776, on the "State of the Anglo-American Church." Says Dr. Inglis:

"A fine equestrian statue of the King was pulled down and totally demolished after independence was declared. All the King's arms, even those on the signs of taverns, were destroyed. The Committee sent me a message, which I esteemed a favor and indulgence, to have the King's arms taken down in the



AT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

might deface and injure the Church. I immediately complied" (O'Callaghan's *Doc. Hist. N. Y.*, vol. iii., p. 1058).

Mr. Lossing remarks on the alleged order for the King's arms in the churches "to be removed and destroyed," that "those in Trinity Church were taken down and carried to New Brunswick [British America] by Rev. Charles Inglis, D.D., at the close of the war, and now hang on the walls of a Protestant Episcopal Church in St. John."

#### AT WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

Three days earlier than the occurrences last described the Declaration was ratified with great ardor by the people of Worcester, Massachusetts, and the event which it announced to the world was celebrated with spirit and dignity. The following is a contemporaneous account of the proceedings, from which it would seem that there were some wags among the excellent patriots of Worcester:

"Worcester, Massachusetts, July 22, 1776. — On Monday last [July 15th] a number of patriotic gentlemen of this town, animated with a love of their country, and to show their approbation of the measures lately taken by the Grand Council of America, assembled on the Green near the Liberty Pole, where, after having displayed the colours of the Thirteen Confederate Colonies of America, the bells were set a ringing and the drums a beating;

after which the Declaration of Independence of the United States was read to a large and respectable body (among whom were the Spectemen and Committee of Correspondence) assembled on the occasion, who testified their approbation by repeated huzzas, firing of musketry and cannon, bonfires, and other demonstrations of joy; when the arms of that tyrant in Great Britain, George III., of execrable memory, which in former days decorated, but of late disgraced the Court House in this town, were committed to the flames and consumed to ashes; after which a select company of the sons of freedom repaired to the Tavern lately known by the sign of the King's Arms, which odious signature of despotism was taken down by order of the people, which was cheerfully complied with by the Innkeeper, where the following toasts were drunk, and the evening spent with joy, on the commencement of the happy era:

- "1. Prosperity and Perpetuity to the United States of America.
- "2. The President of the Grand Council of America.
- "3. The Grand Council of America.
- "4. His Excellency General Washington.
- "5. All the Generals in the American Army.
- "6. Commodore Hopkins.
- "7. The Officers and Soldiers in the American Army.
- "8. The Officers and Seamen in the American Navy.
- "9. The Patriots of America.
- "10. Every Friend of America.
- "11. George rejected, and Liberty protected.
- "12. Success to the American Arms.





AT PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

"13. Sore eyes to all Tories, and a chestnut burr for an eyestone.

"14. Perpetual itching without the benefit of scratching to the enemies of America.

"15. The Council and Representatives of the State of Massachusetts Bay.

"16. The Officers and Soldiers in the Massachusetts service.

"17. The Memory of the brave General Warren.

"18. The Memory of the magnanimous General Montgomery.

"19. Speedy redemption to all the Officers and Soldiers who are now prisoners of war among our enemies.

"20. The State of Massachusetts Bay.

"21. The Town of Boston.

"22. The Selectmen and Committee of Correspondence for the town of Worcester.

"23. May the enemies of America be laid at her feet.

"24. May the Freedom and Independence of America endure till the Sun grows dim with age, and this Earth returns to Chaos.

"The greatest decency and good order was observed, and at a suitable time each man returned to his respective home."

#### IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

While the people of the city of New York were welcoming the Declaration at the old City Hall, the people of the "Town of Boston" were giving no uncertain utterance to their feelings at the State-house and elsewhere. The following is the account of their proceedings as published in the Boston papers of the time:

"Boston, Thursday, July 18, 1776.—This day, pursuant to the order of the honourable Council, was proclaimed from the balcony of the State House in this town the Declaration of the American Congress, absolving the American Colonies from their allegiance to the British Crown, and declaring them free and independent.

"There were present on the occasion, in the Council Chamber, a number of the Honourable House of Representatives, the Magistrates, Ministers, Selectmen, and other gentlemen of Boston and the neighbouring towns; also the Commission Officers of the Continental Regiments stationed here, and other officers. Two of these regiments were under arms in King Street, formed into three lines, on the north side of the street, and into thirteen divisions; and a detachment from the Massachusetts regiment of artillery, with two pieces of cannon, was on their right wing. At one o'clock the Declaration was proclaimed by Colonel Crofts, the Sheriff of the County of Suffolk, which was received with great joy, expressed by three huzzas from a great concourse of people assembled on the occasion; after which, on a signal given, thirteen pieces of cannon were fired from the fort on Fort Hill; the Forts at Dorchester Neck, the Castle, Nantasket, and Point Alderton likewise discharged their cannon; then the detachment of Artillery fired their cannon thirteen times," which was followed by the two regiments giving their fire from the thirteen divisions in succession. These firings corresponded to the number of the American States united. The ceremony closed with a proper collation to the gentlemen in the Council Chamber; during which the following Toasts were given by the President of the Council, and heartily pledged by the company, viz.:

"1. Prosperity and perpetuity to the United States of America.

"2. The American Congress.

"3. The General Court of the State of Massachusetts Bay.

"4. General Washington, and success to the arms of the United States.

"5. The downfall of tyrants and tyranny.

"6. The universal prevalence of civil and religious liberty.

\* It will be observed by the reader of these contemporaneous accounts of the reception of the Declaration that our Revolutionary ancestors had several pet phrases and formalities. Almost invariably they expressed their joy or approbation by "three huzzas," sometimes by "three loud huzzas." They also manifested their approval by "loud acclamations," or by "general applause," or "with the utmost demonstrations of joy." The Declaration was almost always listened to by "a great concourse of people," and the proceedings attending its promulgation were quite invariably "conducted with the greatest decorum," or were characterized by "the greatest decency and good order." Great attention was paid to the number *dix-sept*, as symbolical of the thirteen united States.

"7. The friends of the United States in all quarters of the globe.

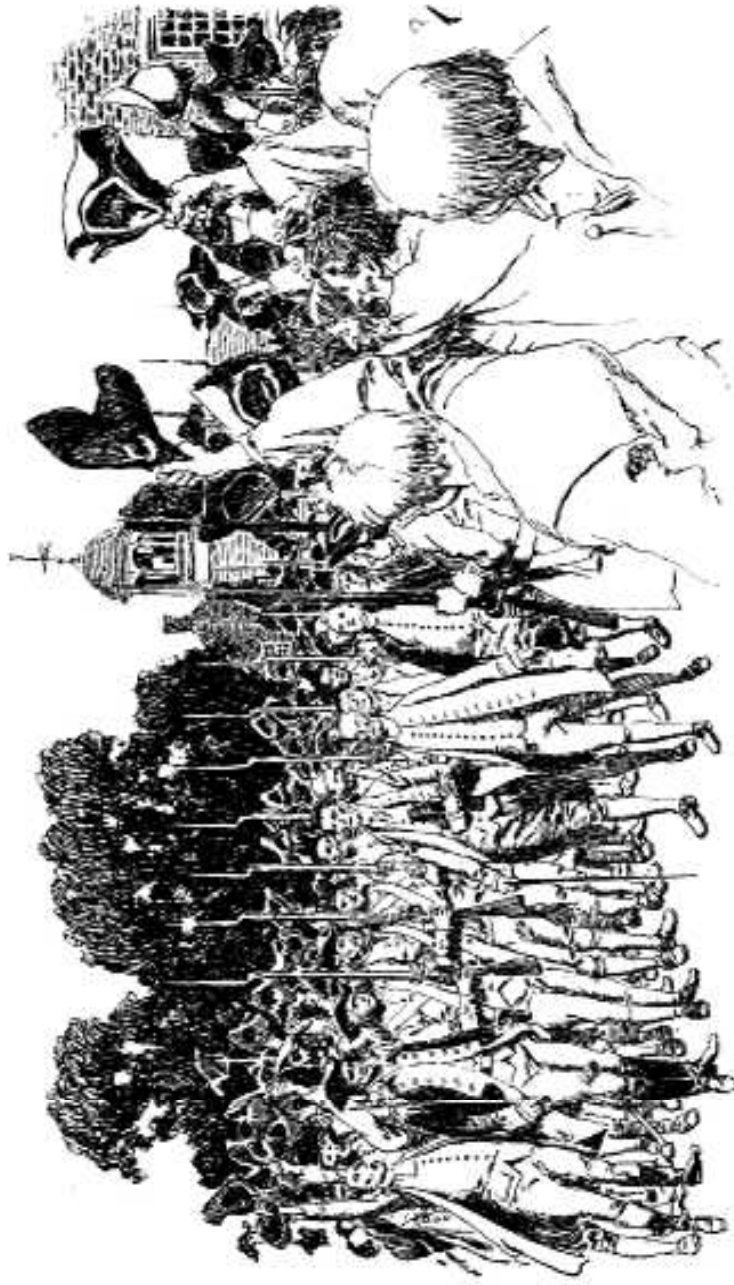
"The bells of the town were rung on the occasion, and undissembled festivity cheered and brightened every face.

"On the same evening the King's Arms, and every sign with any resemblance of it, whether Lion or Crown, Pestle and Mortar and Crown, Heart and Crown, etc., together with every sign that belonged to a Tory, was taken down and made a general conflagration of in King Street."

Although the old-time reporter is discreetly silent on the subject, let us hope

participating with their neighbors, the people of Boston, in their celebration and its concluding amenities on the 18th of July. They therefore had a celebration of their own, the proceedings at which are described in an account of it that was published a few days later, as follows:

"Watertown, Monday, July 22, 1776.—Last Thursday a number of the members of Council (who were prevented attending the ceremony of proclaiming the Declaration of Independence at Boston on account of the small-pox there), together with those of the honourable



AT NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND.

that this raid by the patriotic people of the town of Boston upon Tory and other signs was "conducted with the greatest decorum," and was marked by "the utmost decency and good order."

There was another purely formal religious-political proclamation of the Declaration in Boston several weeks later, which was briefly announced in one of the gazettes of the day, thus:

"Boston, August 15, 1776.—Last Lord's Day [August 11th] the Declaration of Independence was published in the several Churches in this town, agreeable to an order of the honourable Council of this State."

AT WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS.

A "little unpleasantness" at Boston, in the form of an epidemic of small-pox, prevented the people of Watertown from par-

House of Representatives who were in town, and a number of other gentlemen, assembled at the Council Chamber in this town, where the said Declaration was also proclaimed by the Secretary from one of the windows; after which the gentlemen partook of a decent collation, prepared on the occasion, and drank a number of constitutional toasts, and then retired. . . . The King's Arms in this town were on Saturday last defaced."

AT PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Declaration reached Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in time for the General Court of the State, then in session there, to issue an order that it be read with suitable ceremonies, as it happened, on the same day when it was proclaimed in Boston and Watertown. The following is a description of the proceedings:

"Portsmouth, New Hampshire, July 20, 1776.



—The day before yesterday, pursuant to an order from the Great and General Court of this State, the Independent Company under Colonel Sherburne, and the Light Infantry Company under Colonel Langdon, were drawn up on the parade, in their uniforms, when the Declaration of Independence from the Grand Continental Congress was read in the presence of a numerous and respectable audience. The pleasing countenances of the many patriots present spoke a hearty concurrence in the interesting measure, which was confirmed with three huzzas, and all was conducted in peace and good order."

#### AT NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND.

Little Rhode Island uttered no uncertain sound when the Declaration found its way thither. The General Assembly of the colony was in session at the time, and on Saturday, July 20th, the following resounding preamble and resolution were adopted by it:

"State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations,  
In General Assembly, July Session, 1776.

"*Whereas*, the General Congress of the United States of America, by their Resolution of the 4th instant, after enumerating many of the various acts by which George the third, King of Great Britain, hath demonstrated his intention to establish an absolute tyranny over the said States, have declared that 'a Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people'; and have further declared that the said States 'are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown; and that all political connexion between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved'; which said Resolution hath been approved and solemnly published by order, and in presence of this General Assembly:

"*It is therefore Voted and Resolved*, That if any person within this State shall, under pretence of preaching and praying, or in any other way and manner, acknowledge and declare the said King to be our rightful Lord and Sovereign, or shall pray for the success of his arms, or that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies, he shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanour, and shall therefore be presented by the Grand Jury of the County where the offence shall be committed, to the Superior Court of the same County; and upon conviction thereof shall forfeit and pay, as a fine, to and for the use of this State, the sum of £100 lawful money, and pay all costs of prosecution, and shall stand committed to Jail until the same be satisfied. And that a copy of this Act be inserted in the Newport and Providence newspapers.

"A true Copy, Witness,

"HENRY WARD, Secretary."

There is extant a further contemporaneous report of the proceedings at Newport on the receipt of the Declaration, which is more full of popular and dramatic incident than the one just cited, and of which the following is a transcript:

"Newport, July 22, 1776.—Last Saturday [July 20th], the honourable the General Assembly of this State being then sitting at the State House in this Town, at twelve o'clock, the Brigade stationed here under the command of the Colonels William Richmond and Christopher Lippett, Esquires, marched from Head Quarters, and drew up in two columns on each side of the parade, before the State House door; his Honour the Governour and Members of Assembly then marched through and received the compliments of the Brigade; after which the Secretary read, at the head of the Brigade, a Resolve of the Assembly concurring with the Congress in the Declaration of Independence; the Declaration itself was then read; next thirteen cannon were discharged at Fort Liberty; the Brigade then drew up and fired in thirteen divisions from east to west, agreeable to the number and situation of the United States. The Declaration was received with joy and applause by all ranks. The whole was conducted with great solemnity and decorum."

#### IN CONNECTICUT.

In view of the earnestness and enthusiasm which marked the reception and promulgation of the Declaration in the other New England States, and in view also of the early, active, and advanced patriotism of the people of Connecticut, it is not a little remarkable that that colony is the only one of the "Old Thirteen" in which the publication of the immortal document to the people was not made general, as it was elsewhere, and in which its reception was unattended by any public celebrations and rejoicings. Although numerous inquiries have been made of the most diligent and accomplished local historians in that State, and though special investigations have been made in Hartford, New Haven, New London, and other towns in Connecticut, and in the antiquarian and historical collections of Massachusetts and New York, the writer has been unable thus far to discover any contemporaneous account, either manuscript or printed, of any formal publication of the Declaration to the people or the towns by the provisional or constituted authorities of the colony, or of any single instance of the celebration of its reception there by spontaneous solemnities and ceremonies

such as attended its reception and publication in all the other colonies. The sum of all that he has been able to find, bearing on the subject, is as follows:

In the proceedings of the session of the "Governour and Council of Safety" of Connecticut for July 11, 1776, is the following minute:

"The Declaration of Independence by Congress was received in a letter to Governour Trumbull from Col. Trumbull."

In the proceedings of the same provisional body, at the session of July 12, 1776, is the following further minute:

"Letters were received by Express, from Congress, dated July 6, 1776, containing information of the passing of the Declaration of Independence, and a copy of it, and required the same to be duly published."

In the *Connecticut Gazette*, of July 12, 1776, published at New London, the Declaration is printed in full, but without a word of reference or comment.

In the proceedings of the "Governour and Council of Safety" for the session of July 18, 1776, is the following minute:

"The subject of publishing the Declaration of Independence was again taken up by the Governour and Council, and referred to the General Assembly, at their next session."

At the session of the General Assembly of Connecticut, held in October, 1776, the Assembly passed "the following Bill declaring this Colony an Independent State, etc., to wit:

"*Whereas*, George the Third, King of Great Britain, hath unjustly levied war against this and the other United States of America, declared them out of his protection, and abdicated the government of this State—whereby the good people of this State are absolved from their allegiance and subjection to the Crown of Great Britain; *And Whereas* the representatives of said United States, in General Congress assembled, have published and declared that these Colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent States, and that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown:

"*Resolved by this Assembly*, That they approve of the Declaration of Independence, published by said Congress, and that this colony is and of right ought to be a free and independent State, and the inhabitants thereof are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and all political connection between them and the King of Great Britain is and ought to be dissolved."

From all this it clearly appears that the Declaration was received by the Governour

of Connecticut on July 11, 1776, and by the Council of Safety on the day following; that it was informally published in the *Connecticut Gazette* on July 12th; that the subject of its general and official publication was considered by the Governour and Council and perhaps debated on July 12th, and again on July 18th; that on this last date it was referred to the next session of the General Assembly; and that the General Assembly at its next



IN CONNECTICUT.

session, held in October, 1776, declared the colony an independent State, and approved the Declaration of Independence.

The delay in officially publishing and proclaiming the Declaration in Connecticut, and the consequent lack of any contemporaneous evidences of its receiving a spontaneous and joyous popular welcome, seem to be susceptible of the following explanation: On the 6th of July, 1776, copies of the instrument were forwarded by the President of the Continental Congress to each of the States which had adopted a *permanent* government, and to the "conventions" or "provincial congresses," or to the "councils" or "committees of safety," of those States which had not yet formed regular governments, with the request to have the document proclaimed "in such way and manner" as they thought best, so that "the people may be universally informed of it." When the copy for Connecticut reached that State, it was received by the "Governour and Council of Safety," which was a purely *provisional* body acting during the recess of the regular and permanent





governing body of the State—the General Assembly. If no regular government had yet been organized in Connecticut, the Governor and Council of Safety would doubtless have approved and published the Declaration, as was done by similar provisional bodies in the other colonies where regular governments had not yet been formed. They probably felt, however, that they were precluded from so doing, both by the limitations of the instructions contained in President Hancock's circular letter, and by their own delicate sense of official propriety, and of the deference due by them to the General Assembly in so grave a matter. Therefore the Governor and Council were content to furnish a copy informally to the *Connecticut Gazette* for instant publication. This having been done, and having debated the matter on July 12th and 18th, they concluded to refer the Declaration to the General Assembly, to be held three months later, for its more formal and authoritative action.

#### AT WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA.

In Virginia the Council of the colony was in session when the letter of President Hancock was received announcing and enclosing a copy of the Declaration; and John Page, the President of the Council, officially replied to it as follows:

"In Council, Williamsburgh, July 20, 1776.  
—Sir: We had the honour to receive your letter of the 8th instant, enclosing the Declaration of Independence. We shall take care to have the Declaration immediately published, so that the people may be universally informed of it, who, we have the pleasure to inform you, have been impatiently expecting it, and will receive it with joy.

"It is with pleasure, Sir, we observe that you say, in consequence of the Declaration, you are fully convinced that our affairs may take a more favourable turn; and we firmly rely on the protection and continuance of the powerful interposition of that Being whose power no creature is able to resist."

#### AT WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA.

On the same day, while the above admirable letter was yet freshly written, the Council met and took action as follows:

"Ordered, That the Printers publish in their respective Gazettes the Declaration of Independence made by the honourable Continental Congress, and that the Sheriff of each County in this Commonwealth proclaim the same at the door of his Court House, the first Court day after he shall have received the same."

On the 25th of July this order was carried into effect at Williamsburg, as appears by the following item in the gazettes of July the 26th:

"Williamsburgh, July 26, 1776.—Yesterday afternoon, agreeable to an order of the honourable Privy Council, the Declaration of Independence was solemnly proclaimed at the Capitol, the Court House, and the Palace, amidst the acclamations of the people, accompanied by firing of cannon and musketry, the several regiments of Continental troops having been paraded on that solemnity."

#### AT HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND.

The feelings of the patriotic portion of the people of Long Island had just been excited to a high pitch by the approach of the formidable British fleet toward New York, the occupation of a part of Long Island by the British troops, and the transfer of the seat of active hostilities in the Northern States to Long Island and other parts adjacent to the city and harbor of New York. There were many loyalists or refugees on Long Island, especially in the counties near New York city, but their adherence to the British served only to intensify the ardor of the Whigs. An extract from a letter, dated

Huntington, Long Island, July 23, 1776, gives a lively picture of this ardor, and of the manner in which the reception of the Declaration was celebrated by the patriots of that place. Says the writer:

"Yesterday the freedom and independency of the Thirteen United Colonies was, with beat of drums, proclaimed at the several places of parade by reading the Declaration of the General Congress, together with the Resolutions of our Provincial Convention thereupon; which were approved and applauded by the animated shouts of the people, who were present from the distant quarters of the district. After which, the Flag which used to wave on the Liberty Pole, having 'Liberty' on one side and 'George III.' on the other, underwent a reform—i. e., the Union was cut off and the letters 'George III.' were discarded, being publicly ripped off; and then an effigy of the person represented by those letters, being hastily fabricated out of base materials, with its face black like Dunmore's Virginia regiment, its head adorned with a wooden crown stuck full of feathers like Carleton's and Johnson's savages, and its body wrapped in the Union, instead of a blanket or robe of state, and lined with gunpowder, which the original seems to be fond of—the whole, together with the letters above mentioned, were hung on a gallows, exploded, and burnt to ashes. In the evening the Committee of this town, with a large number of the principal inhabitants, sat down around the genial board and drank thirteen patriotic toasts, among which were, 'The Free and Independent States of America'; 'The General Congress'; 'The Conventions of the Thirteen States'; 'Our principal Military Commanders'; and 'Success and Enlargement to the American Navy.' Nor was the memory of our late brave heroes, who have gloriously lost their lives in the cause of liberty and their country, forgotten."

#### AT SOUTHAMPTON, LONG ISLAND.

But nowhere was a more impressive reception given to the Declaration than at Southampton, Long Island, where, on the day when the demonstration above described was made in their sister town of Huntington, its old men of threescore and ten were moved by the noble ardor of liberty to volunteer for the common defence. This interesting incident is thus preserved in an account written by a contemporaneous chronicler:

"Southampton, Suffolk County, New York, July 23, 1776.—Last Monday afternoon [July 22d] was exhibited to view in this town a very agreeable prospect. The old gentlemen, grandfathers, to the age of seventy years and upwards, met, agreeably to appointment, and

formed themselves into an Independent Company. Each man was well equipped with a good musket, powder, ball, cartridges, etc., and unanimously made choice of Elias Pelletran, Esq., for their leader (with other suitable officers), who made a very animating speech to them on the necessity of holding themselves in readiness to go into the field in time of invasion. They cheerfully agreed to it, and determined at the risk of their lives to defend the Free and Independent States of America. May such a shining example stimulate every father on Long Island in particular, and America in general, to follow their aged brethren here!"

#### IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The Declaration was received at Halifax, North Carolina, on July 22d, by the Provincial Council of Safety, then in session at that place. On the same day it was read by Cornelius Harnett, an Englishman by birth, but an early and uncompromising patriot, who was a member of the Provincial Congress from Wilmington, North Carolina, and the President of the Provincial Council of Safety, to a great concourse of citizens and soldiers. When he had concluded the reading of the soul-stirring document the soldiers crowded around him, took him upon their shoulders, and bore him in triumph through the town.

Although comprehensive and energetic measures were promptly taken by the Provincial Council for proclaiming the Declaration throughout the province, and although it undoubtedly was so proclaimed very generally, the writer of this memoir has not been able to find any extant detailed report of the proceedings that took place thereupon in any of the towns or counties of North Carolina. This is largely due to the fact that there were few or no newspapers in North Carolina to publish contemporaneous reports of the action of the people of the colony. The minutes of the Council of Safety, however, are very full of interest, and clearly evince the cordial and emphatic welcome which the Declaration met with from the representatives of the people. They are also of special interest as evincing the grave and elevated sentiments which the Declaration inspired, and the wise and decisive action which it prompted. The following extracts from these minutes are highly suggestive:

"Halifax, July 22, 1776.—The Continental Congress having, on the 4th day of July last, declared the Thirteen United Colonies free



and independent States: *Resolved*, That the Committees of the respective Towns and Counties in this Colony, on receiving the said Declaration, do cause the same to be proclaimed in the most publick manner, in order that the good people of this Colony may be fully informed thereof."

"Halifax, Thursday, July 25, 1776.—*Whereas*, the Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, at Philadelphia, on the 4th day of July last, declared the Thirteen United Colonies free and independent States, and that the good people thereof were absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown; and that the said Declaration renders the Test as directed to be subscribed by the late [Provincial] Congress at Halifax improper and nugatory: *Resolved*, That a Test as follows be substituted in lieu thereof, and subscribed by the Members of this Board:

"We, the subscribers, do solemnly profess, testify, and declare that we do absolutely believe that neither the Parliament of Great Britain, nor any member or constituent branch thereof, hath a right to impose taxes upon these Colonies, to regulate the internal police thereof; and that all attempts, by fraud or force, to establish and exercise such claims and powers are violators of the peace and security of the people, and ought to be resisted to the utmost; and that the people of this Province, singly and collectively, are bound by the Acts and Resolutions of the Continental and Provincial Congresses, because in both they are freely represented by persons chosen by themselves; and we do solemnly and sincerely promise and engage, under the sanction of virtue, honour, and the sacred love of liberty and our country, to maintain and support all and every the Acts, Resolutions, and Regulations of the said Continental and Provincial Congresses, to the utmost of our powers and abilities. In testimony whereof we have set our hands, at Halifax, this 24th day of July, 1776."

"Halifax, July 27, 1776.—The Continental Congress having on the fourth of this instant,

July, declared the Thirteen United Colonies of America free and independent States: *Resolved*, That Thursday, the first day of August next, be set apart for proclaiming the said Declaration, at the Court House in the Town of Halifax. The Freeholders and Inhabitants of the County of Halifax are requested to give their attendance at the time and place aforesaid."

One of the counties of North Carolina having no "Committee," and consequently no proclamation of the Declaration having been made in it, as ordered by the Council of Safety July 22d, at the session of the Council held on the 6th of August, 1776, the following remedial action was taken by the Council:

"Tuesday, August 6th, 1776.—The Continental Congress, on the 4th day of July last, declared the Thirteen United Colonies of America free and independent States; and as it appears there is no Committee in the County of Cumberland: *Resolved*, That Colonel Ebenezer Folesome and Colonel David Smith, or either of them, on receiving the said Declaration, call a general meeting of the inhabitants of the said County, and that they, or either of them, cause the same to be read and proclaimed in the most publick manner, in order that the good people of this State may be fully informed thereof."



AT HALIFAX, NORTH CAROLINA.

Finally, on the 9th of August, the North Carolina Council of Safety made a practical application of the principles of the Declaration and of the fitness of the people for self-government in the following thoughtful and sterling appeal to the inhabitants of the colony, having reference to the exercise of one of their most important duties as citizens of a republic:

"Friday, August 9, 1776.—The Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, at Philadelphia, the 4th day of July, 1776, having determined that

the Thirteen United Colonies are free and independent States, and in consequence thereof having published a Declaration of Independence: *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the good people of this now independent State of North Carolina to pay the greatest attention to the Election, to be held on the 15th day of October next, of Delegates to represent them in the [Provincial] Congress, and to have particularly in view this important consideration: that it will be the business of the Delegates then chosen not only to make laws for the good government of, but also to form a Constitution for, this State; that this last, as it is the corner-stone of all law, so it ought to be fixed and permanent; and that according as it is well or ill ordered, it must tend in the first degree to promote the happiness or misery of the State."

#### AT EAST GREENWICH AND PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

In none of the "Old Thirteen" was the proclamation of the Declaration celebrated with greater effusiveness than in Rhode Island. It has been already seen with what spirit it was celebrated at Newport, on July the 20th. Although the towns of East Greenwich and Providence moved less promptly than Newport—the first-named not till the 23d and the other on the 25th of July—they yet exhibited an accumulated vivacity to compensate for the delay. The following transcripts of their proceedings as published at the time will be read with interest as specimens of our original Fourth of July literature:

"East Greenwich, Rhode Island, July 26, 1776.—On Tuesday last [July 23d] the Kentish Guards, commanded by Colonel Richard Fry, appeared in their uniforms. About twelve o'clock they drew up on the Parade before the State House, where the Declaration of the General Congress declaring these Colonies Free and Independent States was read; likewise a Resolve of the General Assembly concurring with the same, which was announced by the discharge of thirteen cannon at Fort Daniel. Next, the Guards fired thirteen volleys. This was followed by three buzzas from a numerous body of inhabitants. They then repaired to Arnold's Hall, where, after partaking of a very decent collation, the following patriotic toasts were drunk:

"1. The Thirteen United States of America.  
"2. The General Congress of the American States.

"3. General Washington.

"4. The American Army.

"5. Augmentation of the American Navy.

"6. In memory of those immortal heroes who have fallen in the American Cause.

"7. May a happy rule of government be established in the State of Rhode Island.

"8. American Manufactures.

"9. Free trade with all the world.

"10. May true patriotism warm the breast of every American.

"11. May the Independence of the American States be firmly established, and a speedy peace take place.

"12. May Liberty expand her sacred wings, and in glorious effort diffuse her influence o'er and o'er the globe."

#### AT PROVIDENCE.

"Providence, Saturday, July 27, 1776.—Thursday last, 25th July, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, his Honour the Governour, attended by such Members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly as were in town, and a number of the inhabitants, went in procession to the State House, escorted by the Cadet and Light Infantry Companies, where, at twelve o'clock, was read the Act of Assembly concurring with the most honourable General Congress in their Declaration of Independence. The Declaration was also read; at the conclusion of which, thirteen volleys were fired by the Cadets and Light Infantry; the Artillery Company next fired thirteen cannon, and a like number of new cannon (cast at the Hope Furnace) were discharged at the Great Bridge; the ships *Alfred* and *Columbus* likewise fired thirteen guns each in honour of the day. At two o'clock his Honour the Governour, attended and escorted as above, proceeded to Hacker's Hall, where an elegant entertainment was provided for the occasion. After dinner the following toasts were drunk, viz.:

"1. The Thirteen Free and Independent States of America.

"2. The Most Honourable the General Congress.

"3. The Army and Navy of the United States.

"4. The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

"5. The Commerce of the United States.

"6. Liberty to those who have the Spirit to assert it.

"7. The friends of the United States in every part of the Earth.

"8. General Washington.

"9. The Officers of the American Army and Navy.

"10. May the Crowns of Tyrants be Crowns of Thorns.

"11. The memory of the brave Officers and Men who have fallen in defence of American Liberty.

"12. May the Constitution of each separate State have for its object the preservation of the civil and religious rights of Mankind.

"13. May the Union of the States be established in justice and mutual confidence, and be as permanent as the pillars of Nature.

"The Artillery Company and a number of



other gentlemen dined the same day at Lindsey's Tavern, where the following toasts were drunk:

- "1. The Free and Independent States of America.
- "2. The General Congress of the American States.
- "3. The Honourable John Hancock, Esq.
- "4. His Excellency General Washington.
- "5. His Excellency General Lee.
- "6. The brave Carolinians.
- "7. Success to General Gates and the Northern Army.
- "8. May the subtilty of the American Standard destroy the ferocity of the British Lion.
- "9. The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.
- "10. The Honourable Governour Cooke.
- "11. May the Independent States of America forever be an Asylum for Liberty.
- "12. The American Army and Navy.
- "13. The Providence Independent Companies.

"The whole was conducted with great order and decency, and the Declaration was received with every mark of applause. Towards evening the King of Great Britain's Coat of Arms was taken from a late publick Office, as was also the sign from the Crown Coffee House, and burnt."

The significance of the allusion, in the eighth toast of the Artillery Company, to the "subtilty of the American Standard," will be made more clear by the following curious description of the American Standard of 1776, which is transcribed from *The Scots Magazine* for July, 1776:

"The American Standard is thus described: The colours of the American fleet have a snake with thirteen rattles, the fourteenth budding, depicted in the attitude of going to strike, with this motto, DONT TREAD ON ME. It is a rule in heraldry that the worthy properties of the animal in the crest borne shall be considered, and the base ones cannot be intended. The ancients accounted a snake the emblem of wisdom, and, in certain attitudes, of endless duration. The rattle-snake is properly a representative of America, as this animal is found in no other part of the world. The eye of this creature excels in brightness most of any other animals. She has no eye-lids, and is therefore an emblem of vigilance. She never begins an attack, nor ever surrenders; she is therefore an emblem of magnanimity and true courage. When injured, or in danger of being injured, she never wounds till she has given notice to her enemies of their danger. No other of her kind shows such generosity. When undisturbed, and in peace, she does not appear to be furnished with weapons of any kind. They are latent in the roof of her mouth; and even when extended for her defence, appear to those who are not acquainted with her to be weak and

contemptible; yet her wounds, however small, are decisive and fatal. She is solitary, and associates with her kind only when it is necessary for their preservation. Her poison is at once the necessary means of digesting her food, and certain destruction to her enemies. The power of fascination attributed to her, by a generous construction resembles America. Those who look steadily at her are delighted, and involuntarily advance towards her, and having once approached, never leave her. She is frequently found with thirteen rattles, and they increase yearly. She is beautiful in youth, and her beauty increases with her age. Her tongue is blue, and forked as the lightning."

The device of a rattlesnake was wrought upon many of the army and navy flags in the Revolution. In his *Field-book of the Revolution* (vol. ii., p. 505, note), Mr. Lossing describes the flag of the Culpeper (Virginia) Minute-men, in the regiment of which Patrick Henry was colonel. It bore the significant device of a coiled rattlesnake; and on it were also inscribed, on the upper half, the great orator's memorable words, "Liberty or Death," and at the bottom the legend, "Don't Tread on Me!" Mr. Lossing also states (*Field-book of the Revolution*, vol. ii., p. 844, note) that "the Union Flag, adopted by the army on January 1, 1776, had a representation of a rattlesnake, with the words, 'Don't Tread on Me.'" (Illustration in Lossing, vol. ii., p. 844).

#### AT TICONDEROGA, NEW YORK.

At Ticonderoga, New York, the Declaration was proclaimed to the portion of the army stationed there. Says a contemporaneous writer:

"On Sunday, July 28, 1776, immediately after divine worship, the Declaration of Independence was read by Colonel St. Clair; and having said, 'God save the free and independent States of America,' the Army manifested their joy with three cheers. 'It was remarkably pleasant,' adds the narrator, 'to see the spirits of the soldiers so raised after all their calamities; the language of every man's countenance was, 'Now we are a people; we have a name among the States of this world.'"<sup>77</sup>

#### AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

The Declaration was proclaimed at Baltimore, Maryland, on Monday, July 29th, and on the following day the proceedings were published in the gazettes of the period, as follows:

"Baltimore, July 30, 1776.—Yesterday, by order of the Committee of this Town, the Declaration of Independence of the United States

of America was read at the Court House to a numerous and respectable body of Militia, and the Company of Artillery, and other principal inhabitants of this Town and County, which was received with general applause and heartfelt satisfaction. At night the Town was illuminated, and at the same time the effigy of our late King was carried through the Town and committed to the flames, amidst the acclamations of many hundreds—the just reward of a tyrant.”

#### AT AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

At Amherst, New Hampshire, the ceremonies attending the reading of the Declaration were very grave and impressive, as will appear from the following brief report of them as published in the Boston gazettes:

“State of New Hampshire, County of Hillsborough: Amherst, August 1, 1776.—Pursuant to orders from the Committee of Safety for said State to the Sheriff of said County, requiring him to proclaim Independence in Amherst, the shire-town of said County, the Sheriff, attended by the Militia, a great part of the Magistrates of the County, and several hundreds of other spectators, met at the Meeting-House in said Town, and, after attending prayers, were formed into a circle on the Parade, the Sheriff in the centre, on horseback, with a drawn sword in his hand. The Declaration was read from an eminence on the Parade; after that was done three cheers were given, colours flying and drums beating. The Militia fired in thirteen divisions, attended with universal acclamations. The whole was performed with the greatest decorum.”

#### AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

The observances on reading the Declaration at Richmond, Virginia, were spirited and enthusiastic, and are tersely described in the following report published in the *Williamsburg Gazette* of August 10, 1776:

“On Monday last, the 5th instant, being Court-day, the Declaration of Independence was publicly proclaimed in the town of Richmond, before a large concourse of respectable freeholders of Henrico County, and upwards of two hundred of the Militia, who assembled



AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

on that grand occasion. It was received with universal shouts of joy, and re-echoed by three volleys of small-arms. The same evening the town was illuminated, and the members of the Committee held a Club, when many patriotic toasts were drunk. Although there were near one thousand people present, the whole was conducted with the utmost decorum; and the satisfaction visible in every countenance sufficiently evinced their determination to support it with their lives and fortunes.”

#### AT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Legislature of South Carolina were in session when the Declaration reached there; and on its official transmission by President John Rutledge, severally, to the Legislative Council and the General Assembly, it was received by each with “transports of joy.” The Council gave voice to their feelings as follows:

“The Declaration of the Continental Congress that the United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connexion between them and Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved; calls forth all our attention. It is an event which necessity had rendered not only justifiable but absolutely unavoidable. It is a decree now worthy of America. We thankfully receive the notification of and rejoice at it; and we are determined at every hazard to endeavour to maintain it, that so, after we have departed, our children and their latest posterity may have cause to bless our memory.”

The General Assembly responded in



the following less exalted but still very emphatic terms:

"It is with the most unspeakable pleasure we embrace this opportunity of expressing our joy and satisfaction in the Declaration of the Continental Congress, declaring the United Colonies free and independent States, absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and totally dissolving all political union between them and Great Britain—an event unsought for, and now produced by unavoidable necessity, and which every friend to justice and humanity must not only hold justifiable as the natural effect of unmerited persecution, but equally rejoice in as the only effectual security against injuries and oppressions, and the most promising source of future liberty and safety."

Governor Moultrie says, in his *Memoirs*, that "the Declaration of Independence arrived in Charleston the latter end of July." He also states, without designating the time, that it was "read at the head of the troops in the field by Major Bernard Elliott; after which an oration was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Pearcy." Dr. Lossing has been able to gather a more particular account of the incident. In his *Field-book of the Revolution* (vol. ii., p. 758) he describes the ceremonies as follows:

"At Charleston, South Carolina, on Monday, August 5, 1776, the Declaration was proclaimed in the presence of the people of the town, young and old, of both sexes, who assembled round Liberty Tree\* (which stood within the Square now bounded by Charlotte, Washington, Boundary and Alexander streets, afterwards cut down in 1780 by order of Sir Henry Clinton and a fire lighted over the stump by piling its branches around it), with all the military of the city and vicinity, drums beating and flags flying. The ceremonies were opened with prayer. The Declaration was then read by Major Bernard Elliott, and the services closed with an eloquent address by the Rev. William Percy, of the Protestant Episcopal Church. It is related that as it was a hot day, Mr. Percy's black servant held an umbrella over his head, and fanned him during the delivery of the address. Alluding to this, a British wag perpetrated the following couplet:

"Good Mr. Parson, it is not quite civil  
To be preaching rebellion, thus fanned by the  
devil."

\* The Charleston Liberty Tree was a wide-spreading live-oak, under which the patriots used to assemble to discuss the political questions of the day from as early a period as 1765. After its destruction by order of Sir Henry Clinton, many cane heads were made from its stump, and later a part of it was sawed into thin boards and made into a ballot-box.

AT BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY.

The celebration of the proclamation of the Declaration at Bridgeton, New Jersey, besides having been a spirited one, was specially interesting as furnishing one of the earliest examples of the Fourth of July oratory which periodically, for many years thereafter, warmed the hearts of our fellow-countrymen. The following is a copy of the quasi-official contemporaneous report of the proceedings there:

"Cumberland County (N. J.) Committee.—On Wednesday, the 7th instant [August 7, 1776], the Committee of Inspection for the County of Cumberland, in the State of New Jersey, the officers of the Militia, and a great number of other inhabitants having met at Bridgetown, went in procession to the Court House, where the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of New Jersey, and the Treason Ordinance were publickly read and unanimously approved of. They were followed with a spirited address by Dr. Elmer,\* Chairman of the Committee, after which the Peace Officers' staves, on which were depicted the King's Coat of Arms, with other ensigns of royalty, were burnt in the street. The whole was conducted with the greatest decency and regularity.

"The following, being the substance of the before-mentioned Address, is published at the particular request of the Committee and all who were present:—

"Gentlemen of the Committee, Officers of the Militia, and Gentlemen spectators:

"From what has now been read, you see the long-wished-for but much dreaded period has arrived, in which the connexion between Great Britain and America is totally dissolved, and these Colonies declared Free and Independent States.

"As this is an event of the greatest importance, it must afford satisfaction to every intelligent person to reflect, that it was brought about by unavoidable necessity on our part, and has been conducted with a prudence and moderation becoming the wisest and best of men.

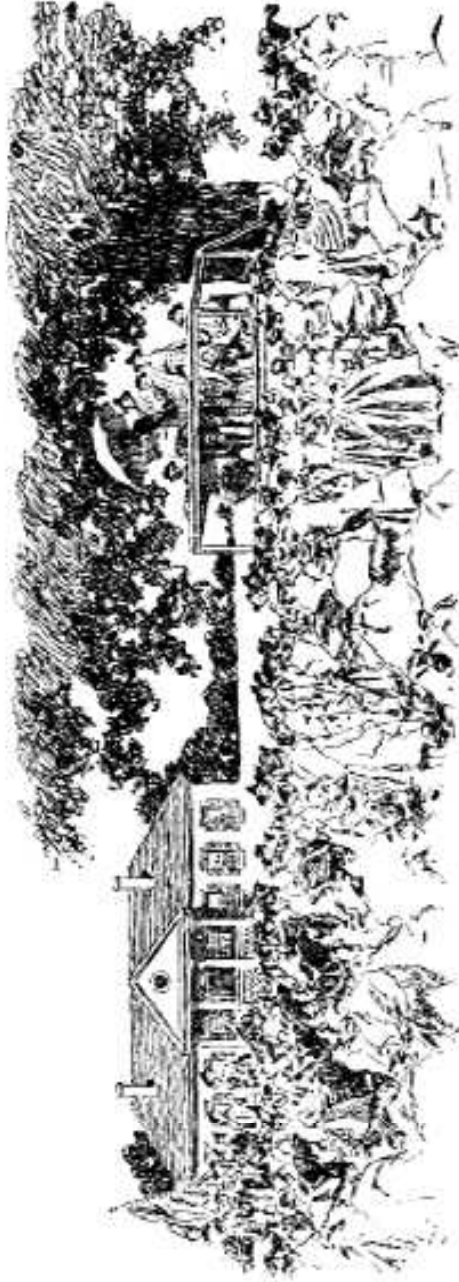
"With the Independence of the American States a new era in politics has commenced. Every consideration respecting the propriety or impropriety of a separation from Britain is now entirely out of the question, and we have no more to do with the King and people of England than we have with the King and people of France or Spain. No people under

\* Dr. Theophilus Elmer was a practising physician, and one of the most active and influential patriots in West Jersey. He was also one of the most useful and advanced members of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey, in which he was one of the Committee that prepared the draft of the State Constitution adopted July 2, 1776.

Heaven were ever favoured with a fairer opportunity of laying a sure foundation for future grandeur and happiness than we. The plan of Government established in most States and Kingdoms of the world has been the effect of chance or necessity; ours, of sober reason and cool deliberation. Our future happiness or misery, therefore, as a people, will depend entirely upon ourselves. If, actuated by principles of virtue and genuine patriotism, we make the welfare of our country the sole aim of all our action; if we intrust none but persons of abilities and integrity with the management of our publick affairs; if we carefully guard against corruption and undue influence in the several departments of Government; if we are steady and zealous in putting the laws in strict execution—the spirit and principles of our new Constitution, which we have just

“Let us as honest citizens and sincere lovers of our country exert ourselves in the defence of our State, and in support of our new Constitution; but while we strive to vindicate the glorious cause of Liberty on the one hand, let us, on the other hand, carefully guard against running into the contrary extreme of disorder and licentiousness.

“In our present situation, engaged in a bloody and dangerous war with the power of Great Britain for the defence of our lives, our liberties, our property, and everything that is dear and valuable, every member of this State who enjoys the benefits of its civil Government is absolutely bound, by the immutable law of self-preservation, the laws of God and of society, to assist in protecting and defending” it. This is so plain and self-evident a proposition that I am persuaded every person



AT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

now heard read, may be preserved for a long time. But, if faction and party spirit, the destruction of popular governments, take place, anarchy and confusion will soon ensue, and we shall either fall an easy prey to a foreign enemy, or some factious and aspiring demagogue, possessed of popular talents and shining qualities—a Julius Caesar or an Oliver Cromwell—will spring up among ourselves, who, taking advantage of our political animosities, will lay violent hands on the Government, and sacrifice the liberties of his Country to his ambitious and domineering humour. God grant that neither of these may ever be the fate of this or any of the United States. To prevent which, while we are striving to defend ourselves against the unjust encroachments of a foreign and unnatural enemy, let us not neglect to keep a strict and jealous eye on our own internal police and Constitution. Let the fate of Greece, Rome, Carthage, and Great Britain warn us of our danger; and the loss of liberty in all those States, for want of timely guarding against the introduction of tyranny and usurpation, be a standing admonition to us to avoid the rock on which they have all been shipwrecked.

here present makes it the rule of his conduct on all occasions; and consequently, in a time of such imminent danger, will be extremely careful, at our ensuing election, not to intrust any one with the management of our publick affairs who has not, by his vigilance and activity in the cause of liberty, proved himself to be a true friend to his country. The success, gentlemen, of our present glorious struggle wholly depends upon this single circumstance. For though the situation and extent of the United States of America, and our numberless internal resources, are sufficient to enable us to bid defiance to all Europe, yet should we be so careless about our own safety as to intrust the affairs of our State, while the bayonet is pointed at our throats, to persons whose conduct discovers them to be enemies to their country, or whose religious principles will not suffer them to lift a hand for our defence, our ruin will inevitably follow.

\* This and the succeeding paragraph are directed against the Quakers and others of West Jersey, who refused, from conscientious scruples, to bear arms for the common defence and to serve in the militia and otherwise.





AT SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

"As it is impossible for any one possessed of the spirit of a man, who is a friend to the United States, and whose conscience does not furnish him with an excuse, to stand by an idle spectator while his country is struggling and bleeding in her own necessary defence, all such inactive persons ought therefore to be shunned as enemies or despised as cowards. And as I have reason to believe that many who plead conscience as an excuse are sincere in their pretensions, and as every man ought to be free from compulsion, this single consideration should restrain us from forcing such into any of the departments of Government. For to put such persons, at this time, in places of publick trust, is actually to deprive them of liberty of conscience; for we thereby compel them either to betray the trust reposed in them, or to act contrary to the dictates of their own consciences; a dilemma in which, act as they will, their conduct must be criminal. Besides, if we consulted only our own safety, it is plain that to intrust the affairs of our Government, at this juncture, to such people, is as dangerous as to intrust the management of a ship in a violent storm to an infant or an idiot. As a friend to my country and a lover of liberty, I thought it my duty to address you on this occasion; and having now as a faithful member of society discharged my duty, I shall leave you to the exercise of your own judgment, and conclude with a request that you would conduct yourselves this day in such a manner as to convince the publick that your abhorrence of the cruel and bloody Nero of Great Britain, and his despicable minions of tyranny and oppression, arises, not from the mere impulse of blind passion and prejudice, but from sober reason and reflection; and

while we rejoice in being formally emancipated from our haughty and imperious task-masters, let us remember that the final termination of this grand event is not likely to be brought about without shedding the blood of many of our dear friends and countrymen."

AT SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

This monograph, in which I have attempted to shadow forth in outline the manner and spirit in which the tidings of the Declaration of our National Independence were received by the "Old Thirteen," and of the mode of its proclamation to and celebration by the people therein, is brought to a fitting conclusion by the reproduction of the proceedings at Savannah, Georgia, that city and State having been the latest of any in chronological sequence to receive and proclaim it. It will be noticed that the concluding paragraph of this contemporaneous report is a parody of the "committal service" in the Church of England's "Service for the Burial of the Dead."

"Savannah (in Georgia), August 10, 1776.— A Declaration being received from the Honorable John Hancock, Esq., by which it appeared that the Continental Congress, in the name and by the authority of their constituents, had declared that the United Colonies of North America are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, and absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, his Excellency the President and the honorable the Council met in the Council Chamber and read the Declaration. They then proceeded to the Square before the Assembly House, and read it likewise before a great concourse of people, when the Grenadier and Light Infantry Companies fired a general volley. After this, they proceeded in the following procession to the Liberty Pole: The Grenadiers in front; the Provost Marshall on horseback with his sword drawn; the Secretary with the Declaration; his Excellency the President; the honorable the Council and gentlemen attending; then the Light Infantry and the rest of the Militia of the town and district of Savannah. At the Liberty Pole they were met by the Georgia Battalion, who, after reading of the Declaration, discharged their field pieces, and fired in platoons. Upon this they proceeded to the Battery, at the Trustees Gardens, where the Declaration was read for the last time, and the cannon of the Battery discharged. His Excellency and Council, Colonel Lachlan McIntosh, and other gentlemen, with the Militia, dined under the Cedar Trees, and cheerfully drank to the United, Free, and Independent States of America. In the evening the town was illumined