

THANKSGIVING DAY.

FESTIVAL THAT DATES TO COLONIAL TIMES.

Intermittent for Many Years. How the President issues His Proclamation. The Seal of State.

Every year the President of the United States issues a proclamation designating "Thanksgiving Day," as it has come to be known. Every year the proclamation of the President is transmitted to the Governors of the States, and the day named by the President is set aside as a general holiday. Originally it was intended as a day of fasting and prayer. Now it is a day of feasting and frolic and foot ball games. Every good American is thankful that he is an American 865 days in the year—and one day extra in leap years. He does not need a special day set aside for rejoicing.

The making of the Thanksgiving day proclamation is a serious duty for the President, for it is customary for him to write the proclamation with his own hand and to put into it as much of the spirit of the day as possible. President Harrison used to take a pencil and a little pad of paper and write out the proclamation in full. Then he would turn it over to one of his executive clerks to be copied. Mr. Harrison preferred to use his pen rather than to dictate. President Cleveland also writes some things with his own hand, but he uses a stenographer, too, a great deal.

The first draft of the proclamation is copied, and the copy is sent to the State Department. There are two or three clerks in the State Department who make a specialty of penmanship. One of these engrosses the proclamation on parchment artistically. The parchment is sent back to the White House to receive the President's signature. When "Grover Cleveland" has been written at the bottom of it, it is taken back to the State Department, where Walter Q. Gresham's signature attests that of the President. Then the great seal of the State Department is affixed. It is a very ornate seal. It ought to be, for it cost \$1,000. It is kept in a rosewood case in the Bureau of Commissions and Pardons, and its custodian is George Bartle, who has been in the department service for forty-eight years. Bartle was appointed to a clerkship by Daniel Webster. He is one of the oldest employes of the government at Washington.

It takes an order from the President of the United States to procure an impression of the great seal of state. Collectors of seals and autographs frequently write to the Secretary of State for copies of the seal of state. The same formal reply is sent to all of them—that under the law no impression of the seal can go out of the department unless they are affixed to official papers. The President of the United States could give authority to a collector to obtain an impression of the seal. But no President has ever done so. The law of 1789 says that the seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except a commission—"without the special warrant of the President therefor." The President, therefore, when he sends a Thanksgiving proclamation to the State Department for the seal, sends with it a copy of the following printed form, duly filled out and signed:

"I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of State to cause the seal of the United States, to be affixed to—, dated this day and signed by me, and for doing so, this shall be his warrant."

When Mr. Bartle receives this order he unlocks the rosewood case, puts a scalloped circle of paper in the press, and with a light turn of the heavy steel ball above brings the seal down on the paper and leaves its impression there. Then the stamped piece of paper is fastened to the proclamation and it is ready to go to the world.

When the proclamation has been completed by the addition of the seal, the clerks of the State Department are set to work making copies for transmission to the governors of the states and territories. These copies are not made on typewriters or with manifold paper or by any other process of duplication. The State Department uses the typewriter for some purposes, but not for official correspondence. All of the copies of the proclamation are written out on the long sheets of blue paper which are used for official correspondence. Each governor who receives a copy of the President's proclamation will make a proclamation of his own. But in the meantime the proclamation of the President has been made public, and the people all over the country know what day has been chosen for "Thanksgiving."

There is no law providing a day for general thanksgiving. "Thanksgiving Day" is a product of custom. The President could omit his "Thanksgiving" proclamation in any year or he could fix the 7th of May or the 21st of December as the day for giving thanks. But it has come to be the custom to observe Thanksgiving as a national holiday, usually, the

month of November as Thanksgiving Day. The custom dates back only to 1864, though Thanksgiving Day was celebrated at odd times as far back as the days of the colonies. Among the records preserved by Congress is a proclamation by the Council of Massachusetts, dated November 16, 1776, recommending "acknowledgments for mercies enjoyed." A form of thanksgiving proclamation was reported to the Continental Congress November 1, 1777, by Samuel Adams, of Massachusetts. It was Samuel Adams who urged the opening of Congress with prayer in opposition to John Jay, who said that Episcopalians, Presbyterians, &c., could hardly be expected to unite in formal worship. Adams' form of proclamation has not been observed since, for each proclamation follows the fancy of the President who writes it.

In November, 1778, the chaplain of Congress recommended that Wednesday, December 30, be observed as "a day of thanksgiving and praise," so the Thursday in November has not been the invariable day for this festival. In 1779 the first Tuesday in May was appointed as a day of thanksgiving, and this appointment was made by proclamation of the Continental Congress. This was an extra day of thanks, for in the following October Congressman Root reported in favor of appointing Thursday, December 9, as a day of thanksgiving. In 1782 the States were recommended (on report of Congressman Witherspoon) to appoint November 28 as a day of Thanksgiving.

For a great many years the custom of observing Thanksgiving day fell into innocuous desuetude. Then the editor of a woman's paper took the matter up. Her name was Sarah Josepha Hale and she lived in Philadelphia until her death fifteen years ago. She inaugurated a movement to raise \$50,000 to complete the Bunker Hill monument. It was successful. Then she began to manufacture public sentiment in favor of an annual observance of Thanksgiving day. She interested President Lincoln, and in 1864 he adopted her suggestion and issued a proclamation for a day of thanksgiving. The custom has come unchanged down to the present day.

The first Thanksgiving day proclamation ever issued by a President was signed by George Washington in 1789. The original was in the possession of Rev. J. W. Wellman, who inherited it from his grandfather, William Ripley, of Cornish, N. H. This proclamation was issued by request of both houses of Congress through their joint committee. The text of the proclamation following the preamble is:

"Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be: That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks for his kind Care and Protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation;—for the signal and manifold Mercies, and the interpositions of his Providence in the Course and Conclusion of the late War;—for the great Degree of Tranquillity, Union and Plenty, which we have since enjoyed;—for the peaceable and rational Manner in which we have been enabled to establish Constitutions of Government for our Safety and Happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted;—for the civil and religious Liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge;—and in general, for all the great and various Favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

"And, also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our Prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech him to pardon our National and other Transgressions;—to enable us all, whether in public or private Stations, to perform our several and relative Duties properly and punctually;—to render our National Government a Blessing to all the people, by constantly being a government of wise, just, and Constitutional Laws, directly and faithfully executed and obeyed;—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good Government, Peace and Concord;—to promote the knowledge and Practice of true Religion and Virtue, and the increase of science among them and us;—and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of Temporal Prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

"Given under my Hand, at the City of New York, the third Day of October, in the year of our Lord One Thousand, Seven Hundred and eighty-nine.

G. WASHINGTON.

The Thanksgiving proclamations issued since this time of "G. Washington" have usually been less elaborate.

The Bunker Hill monument average...

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

INTERESTING NOTES AND MATTERS OF MOMENT.

Mrs. Leland Stanford's Rings. Powder Hints. Side Combs. A Polish for Tortoise Shell. She Followed Papa's Advice, Etc., Etc.

MRS. LELAND STANFORD'S RINGS. Mrs. Leland Stanford, of California, widow of the millionaire Senator, has a collection of sixty rings, with every kind and description of precious stone represented. She wears only her wedding ring, however. The others, all strung on a black ribbon, are put away with the rest of her jewels in a safe deposit vault.—[New Orleans Picayune.

POWDER HINTS.

Persons with fine, dry skins should not use powders or any preparation they do not require, and are not improved in appearance by them; on the contrary, they are injured. But such as have coarse or oily cuticle really require a little powder to subdue the moisture and conceal the shininess which continual mopping produces.

SIDE COMBS.

Small side combs are worth the jeweler's consideration. A pretty design seen had a row of stones set as if in connecting squares. Lightly raised gold tracery in amber combs is artistic. The present mode of hair-dressing promises a continued use of these small side combs.—[New York World.

A POLISH FOR TORTOISE SHELL.

Now that the tortoise-shell comb is so much the vogue, it is convenient to know of a polish which will restore its lustre. Nothing is better for this purpose than a preparation of powdered rotten stone and oil. The rotten stone should be very carefully sifted through the finest muslin, then mixed with the oil and rubbed over the tortoise shell. After this rub with a piece of soft leather and the shell will be restored to its original condition.—[New York Journal.

SHE FOLLOWED PAPA'S ADVICE.

and cheerful but raining petition graciously provisions. An dow fair bou adv with blue

I of of "sc the are pair of dian ceit light con sily Rh and rows upon rows of them. The ones will button the sleeves to the elbow and the larger ones will form a trimming down the front and side seams of the skirt.

Huge, hand-cut pearl buttons, with heads of staring owls and those of horses, were noticed in the exhibit. It is in the enamel buttons that the French have displayed to perfection their love of bright color. The foundation of the button is brass, upon which a heavy coat of enamel is placed, and the button is baked, as is the case with hand-painted china. After the baking process has been gone through with the button passes into the hands of the artists, who decorate it in every conceivable style. It is here that the enormous cost of the button comes in, and a glance at a card of these enamel plastrons reminds one of the case of precious ivory painted medallions in the art museum.

Enamel, rhinestone and pearl buttons are to head the fashion list, and she who cannot turn over her ten-dollar bill for a dozen buttons next month might well consider herself among the antiquities. While hooks and eyes are out of fashion, as serviceable articles, they are decidedly in it as a trimming, and the Paris hooks and eyes of heavy, rope-twisted brass and silver are as large as belt buckles, and will be used for the same purpose. They are four inches in length, and will be worn at the throat.—[Boston Herald.

FASHION NOTES.

Cut-away jackets of velvet are much liked by young girls.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U.S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

The Horse Must Go.

In an interview with a reporter of the Paris Soleil, the Prince de Sagan, well known both as a sportsman and as a leader of fashion in France, remarked, in speaking of the motor carriage race between Paris and Rouen, a recent notable event in French-speaking circles: "Within ten years horses will only be kept as a luxury. These, or similar vehicles, are destined, I think, to rid us altogether of draught animals. As far as the streets of Paris are concerned, none of the carriages I have seen satisfy me. They all lack elegance. The carriage that I like to see introduced will be shaped like a hansom. It will be light, built on fine lines, with seats only for two, and with the driver behind and all the machinery at his feet. Once the design worked out, there will be no further need for cabs. But as far as outside Paris is concerned, M. de Dion's motor seems to me to be ideal. I shall recommend it to all my friends whose country houses are a long way from the station, or who have to get to distant meets. Every one before long will give up their old carriages in its favor. It seems to me that its great power ought also to recommend it to manufacturers and others who have to deal with heavy weights."

The wine-producing capacity of Italy is 675,000,000 of gallons annually. Indianapolis, Ind., is asking the Government to establish a military post there.

Russians over eighty years old are prohibited from marrying. The Chinese Legation is the largest in Washington.

A Pertinent Paraphrase. "Our country if right, should be kept right; if wrong should be put right," is a political maxim which paraphrased applies to other portions of life, thus: our health if right, should be kept right; if wrong should be put right, especially in the ailments, such as colds and aches, which St. Jacob's Oil promptly cures. Many out of work should give it a chance to cure and it will then a chance to go to work again. Well, of course, you want to be well in all sorts of aches, and the best thing to do is to use the great remedy. He who does so is doing well in deed.

Mercury of Ointments for Catarrh That Contain Mercury. Mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the wholesomeness of entering it through the mucous surfaces. Its articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the danger they will do is ten fold to the good you possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure is manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood in all cases of catarrh of the nose, throat, and lungs. In buying this Catarrh Cure be sure to get the genuine, taken internally, and is made in Toledo, O., by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonial-free. Sold by Druggists, price 75c. per bottle.

A Child Enjoys pleasant flavor, gentle action and soothing effects of Syrup of Figs, when in need of a laxative, and if the father or mother be constipated, the most gratifying results follow its use, so that it is the best family remedy known. Every family should have a bottle.

Many birds are killed by striking against light houses. Killmer's Kidney and Bladder troubles, Pamphlet and Consultation free. Laboratory Binghamton, N. Y.

Baltimore exports from 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 bushels of wheat a year. If afflicted with sore eyes use Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye-Water. Druggists sell at 25c per bottle.

Lemonade a Microbe Destroyer.

Further researches by M. Girard, chief of the Paris municipal laboratory, concerning the bacilli of cholera and typhoid fever have confirmed the efficacy of acids in destroying microbes. He finds citric acid to be the most useful and powerful of all. One grain, he says, added to a quart of tainted water, will destroy all the microbes that may be in it. Consequently, he recommends the use of natural lemonade as an excellent beverage at all times, and especially during epidemics.—[Sanitary Era.

Karl's Clover Root, the great blood purifier, gives freshness and clearness to the complexion and cures constipation, 25 cts., 50 cts., \$1.

Don't leave home mad

If your breakfast doesn't happen to suit.

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To have

Wheeler's BUCKWHEAT CAKES

For breakfast to-morrow.

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IS THE BEST NO SQUEAKING. \$5 CORDOVAN, FRENCH ENAMELLED CALF, \$4.50 FINE CALF & KANGAROO, \$3.50 POLICE, 3 SOLES, \$2.50 2. WORKINGMEN'S EXTRA FINE, \$2.12 2. BOY'S SCHOOL SHOES, LADIES' \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$4.50, \$5.00. SEND FOR CATALOGUE. W. L. DOUGLAS, BROCKTON, MASS.

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dyspepsia bad taste in the mouth pimples
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