

see." Jerry made no reply. Then some one said, "Open the door, Reuben," but he did not respond. I could hear a creaking at the lock, then, but obviously, Jerry had bolted the door and had thus secured himself against surprise. A strong clear voice then commanded, "All right, fellows, all together!" Then I heard a crash as of a door burst open.

The next thing I heard was the voice of Jerry: "Don't put your hands on me." Another voice said, "He shows fight, don't he? That's all right, I'll get him." Then ensued a brief scuffle, and a thud as if somebody had hit the floor.

(To be continued.)

THE STORY OF THE FLAG.

On June 14, 1777, according to the records, the American Congress adopted a resolution which read as follows.

"Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

There is no evidence to show who introduced this resolution or whether any discussions was evoked. The "resolution was adopted," and so it must have had a father, but his name is lost to history. While the resolution comes down in history as "adopted" by Congress on that day, it was not officially promulgated by the Secretary until September 3, 1777.

The flag had two stripes added to it in 1794 by a resolution of Congress, when Vermont and Kentucky had been admitted to the union and asked representation on the flag. Two additional stars were also placed in the field of blue. The bill was the first of the Third Congress to be signed by President Washington, January 13, 1794.

For twenty-three years this fifteen striped and fifteen starred flag was our national standard; under it three wars were fought—with France, in 1798-1800; with Tripoli, in Africa, 1801-1805, and with Great Britain, 1812 to 1815.

It was the flag of fifteen stripes and stars which floated over Fort McHenry and inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star Spangled Banner." In less than a year after the adoption of the fifteen stripes and stars Tennessee was asking admission to representation on the flag and Ohio knocked for the same honor in 1803., Louisiana in 1812 and Indiana in 1816. Illinois also began to look for admission into the sisterhood, and that meant twenty stripes, an unwieldy thing, looking the same as ever, only if proportionately long it would be too heavy to fly from any but the strongest flagstaff.

Capt. Samuel Chester Reid, a sailing master in the United States Navy and warden of the port of New York, in 1818 suggested to Representative Peter Wendover of New York, who was much interested in the flag—thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, with a field of blue bearing a star for each State as admitted.

Representative Wendover introduced the bill in Congress, it passed both houses and was signed by President James Madison Apr. 4, 1818. This bill provided that the star for a new State should be added on the Fourth of July succeeding the admission of the State into the Union.

That is the last action that has ever been taken by Congress on the flag.

The first suggestion, so far as authentic history goes, that the birthday anniversary

of the flag should be observed was made early in June, 1861, by George Morris of Hartford, Conn. He made the suggestion to Charles Dudley Warner, editor of the Hartford Courant which had been left in his care by its owner, Gen. Hawley, who dropped the editorial pen and went to the front. Hartford observed the day by hanging out flags and having a patriotic program, patriotic music and prayer for the soldiers in the field and for the continuance of the Union.

Mr. Morris went further. He asked Loomis, then a member of Congress from Connecticut, to introduce a bill to make June 14 a legal holiday. The bill was taken up for action June 13, 1861, and Congress proceeded to make merry with it. After making all kinds of fun of the resolution it was laid on the table by a vote of 67 to 33. And that was the fate of the first flag bill in Congress. Many have been introduced since, but none has passed both houses.

Judge Loomis and Mr. Morris both lived to see Flag Day honored by every Northern State, with millions upon millions of children taking part in programmes, each number of which has a direct bearing upon the birthday of the flag.

As the United States grew and the Government expanded many new departments were added, and with them many special flags have come into existence. Least often seen and yet most interesting of the twenty-five or thirty of these special flags is that of the President of the United States. He has a wealth of them, in fact no less than three flags, one of bunting and one of silk. They are exactly alike with this exception, but the one of silk is called the President's colors.

The President of the United States had no personal flag until 1882. If he went aboard a ship his presence was denoted by the national flag hoisted at the main trunk and his presence in a garrison or post was denoted by the raising of the big garrison flag. These were not entirely distinctive as denoting the presence of the President, for these flags were hoisted on gala occasions when the President was not around. The lack of a distinguishing flag for him was felt by the navy also and the Secretary of the Navy by general orders August 19, 1882, established flag for the President of the United States. The general orders described the flag as of blue bunting with the coat of arms of the United States in the center. The flag was to be hoisted at the main of the vessel when the President was aboard and be carried at the bow of the launch in which he came aboard.

In the army there was no distinguishing flag for the President of the United States until just before the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. Col. Theodore Bingham, who was then superintendent of public buildings and grounds, called the attention of President McKinley to this lack of a distinguishing flag for him and stated that he thought the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army and Navy ought to have a distinguishing flag. President McKinley did not like the suggestion, but the Secretary of War did, and a flag was made. It was designed by Frederick D. Owen, and is a beautiful thing to look at. The official description of the flag is as follows:

"The President's flag is of scarlet bunting, thirteen feet fly and eight hoist. In each corner is a five pointed star of five

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inch radius to the tips. In the center of the scarlet field is a large fifth star, also of five points, two feet nine inches in radius to the tips. Inside of his star is a parallel star, separated from it by a band of white three inches wide. The inner star forms the blue field upon which is the coat of arms of the United States. On the scarlet field around the large star are forty-six small white stars, one for each State equally scattered in the reen-

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tering angles, and all included within the circumference of an imaginary circle three feet and a quarter in radius. In the upper point over the angle is a constellation of thirteen stars, representing the original thirteen States of the American confederation. —Washington Star.