

Our Independence Day

JULY 4th
1776

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1906



—From Collier's Weekly.

JOYCE'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

OW, isn't that pink lovely!"

A merry group of girls were chattering on the lawn of Miss Floyd's Academy for Girls on a bright morning in June. School was just over, and they were planning great things for the Fourth of July, when Miss Floyd held her commencement exercises.

"Of course, we'll wear white for the exercises," said pretty June Winthrop. "But I rather think we can have what we like for the reception in the evening. I shall coax mamma into getting me that pink chiffon—indeed I shall."

"I'll have the crepe de chine I told you of," declared Laura Dean, a gypsy beauty of sixteen.

"Do you remember that Miss Floyd asked us not to buy expensive dresses?" Beulah Wilson reminded them. "She said she didn't wish Joyce Harwood and Kathleen Hunt to feel uncomfortable."

June tossed her head.

"I really cannot dress down to Miss Floyd's charity pupils. I don't think they ought to come if they can't keep up to our standards of dress."

Beulah Wilson was rich, and her protest had been made solely on behalf of her friend Joyce, who could with the utmost difficulty present a neat and fresh appearance.

"Blue for you, June; leave the pink for me," cried Laura. "Do have pale green, Beulah."

"I shall have a new white lawn for the Fourth," replied Beulah, firmly. "I think it's absurd to have two dresses for what is, after all, one occasion."

"Here comes Joyce and Kathleen," remarked June.

"Were talking of our commencement dresses, Joyce?"

The words were not without malice. Both Joyce and Kathleen had made June feel small in the classroom.

"I think my dress is bought," replied Kathleen, a tall girl of fifteen, with a pretty, irresolute face. She looked wistfully at her questioner's dainty lawn, inset with lace, her rich ribbons and gold buttons. She could not have imagined greater bliss than possessing such things herself.

"For the exercises, yes," said Laura. "But we mean to wear colors in the evening."

Kathleen almost turned pale.

"You will have two new dresses for commencement?" she gasped, in alarm.

She turned to Joyce—strong, beautiful Joyce, whom no one ever snubbed or put down, and whose clear, dark eyes were now fixed, in some contempt, upon June and Laura.

"Shall you not get two?" persisted June.

"Oh, if you do—" began Kathleen, helplessly.

Joyce had not spoken. The whole question seemed very trivial to her. Not that she did not care for pretty things, but just now her thoughts were with her sick mother.

"This is an important occasion," struck in Laura, returning to the



AMERICA DISCOVERED!

charge. "Miss Floyd's two married sisters will be here, and she will want everything and everybody at their best. They are so wealthy."

"And alone in the world—widows and childless," remarked Joyce. "It seems to me wealth is not of much good under such circumstances. Come, Kathie."

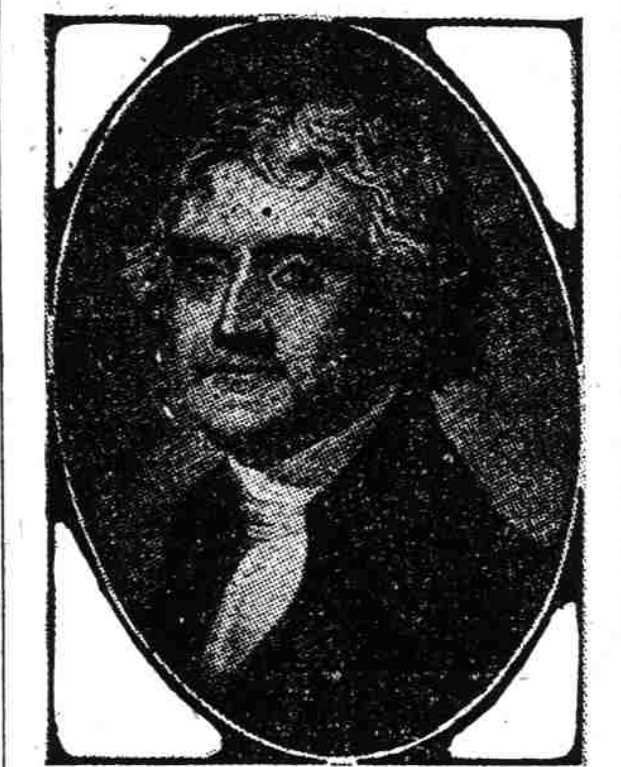
"What shall we do?" asked Kathleen, when they were alone.

"Do?" inquired Joyce, vaguely.

"About the Fourth," said Kathleen. "My lawn cost just fifteen cents a yard, and I can't have any lace. How I hate to be so poor."

"Kathie," said her friend, earnestly, "don't care about it. I'm not even going to have a new lawn—only my last summer's let down. I don't intend to worry about it. I am sorry not to hear you speak more decidedly about the two dresses. You know you can't have two."

"I did wonder, for a minute, if mother wouldn't let me have her wedding dress made over," hesitated the other. "She never goes anywhere hardly, and so doesn't need it as I do."



THOMAS JEFFERSON.

Joyce's dark eyes flashed.

"And you would make her going out at all quite impossible by taking her only good dress?" she cried, indignantly. Then, softening in a moment, she added, "No, dear, don't do that."

They reached Joyce's own home at that point, and Joyce went in without waiting for a reply.

"Mother, darling," she called softly, as she entered the darkened room, "is your head better? Did I wake you?"

Mrs. Harwood smiled faintly.

"You did not wake me—I was listening for your steps," she answered.

"Did Mrs. Jones come in?" went on Joyce.

"Yes," was the reply. "But, my child, she must not come again. We cannot afford her. And this is so near the end of the term. You will soon be at home."

Joyce did not answer at once. She went into the kitchen and soon returned with a slice of golden brown toast and a cup of fragrant tea.

"Now, try this," she said, coaxingly. "Oh, mother mine, I do wish you'd consent to my giving up school and getting some work."

"We will see after the Fourth," said Mrs. Harwood. "Now, dear, get your own luncheon while I take a nap."

The Fourth of July dawned as that historic day should dawn—showing a cloudless sky, a blazing sun. Miss Floyd was in a pleasant flutter of excitement. Her sisters, Mrs. Danesford and Mrs. Jerome, sat beside her near the platform. She felt very proud of her school. The girls were charming in their snowy frocks as they sat, looking like white winged birds, on the platform.

"That is a lovely child at the end of the front row," said Mrs. Danesford suddenly. "Who is she?"

"That is Kathleen Hunt," replied Miss Floyd. "And the dark one next her is Joyce Harwood. They must both work soon, for their mothers are widows and poor. I have given them their schooling and hope to start them in some way."

The exercises passed off delightfully, and after them the parents and other "grown ups" enjoyed the lawn tea. But the girls hurried home to change their dresses or freshen up for the evening reception.

It was a little after dusk. The dim streets grew ever and again momentarily brilliant with the light of Roman candles or the radiance of Catherine wheels. The cheerful "pop" of countless firecrackers resounded through the air.

The reception was in full swing when Mrs. Danesford sought a moment's rest and quiet in the breakfast room. A screen had been pushed near an open window, and she sat down behind it. She had determined to take Kathleen Hunt home with her, if she would come, as reader and companion. She would offer the widowed mother a cottage near her own magnificent mansion on the banks of the Hudson. The daughter should be hers by day, the real mother's by night.

"Try it," Mrs. Jerome had said. "If the plan succeeds I may try the other."

A group of girls, merry, chattering, flocked into the room. A torn skirt seemed to have been the cause of their coming. Mrs. Danesford did not move, thinking they would go out in a moment.

"Did you see that dress of Joyce's?" demanded June. "Her last summer's one, and darned, at that."

"Kathleen's looked about ten cents a yard," added Laura. "If they're as poor as that comes to they have no business here."

She stopped abruptly. Mrs. Danesford thought at first that they had seen her behind the screen, but the silence was caused by the entrance of Joyce and Kathleen.

"We couldn't help hearing you," remarked Joyce.

"You have no right to decide that we are poor because we don't dress as you do," said Kathleen. "Some people think it in bad taste to dress much before you come out."

Mrs. Danesford could see them all—Joyce and Kathleen, in their shabby frocks, contrasting so painfully with the chiffons and crepe de chine of the others. But Joyce stood, erect and proud, her eyes aglow. Laura and June looked at them coolly.

"I fully admit it was no business of mine," replied Joyce icily.

"You are right—it is no business of yours," here struck in Joyce. "And, for my part, it does not matter to me at all that you should know we are poor, very poor. Poverty is no disgrace. This is the Fourth of July," she went on, her color rising. "It is the anniversary of the day when our fathers shook off unjust and galling bondage. Let us, Kathleen," she said to her friend, "shake off an allegiance to a lie. No, we do not dress like this from choice. We prefer crepe de chine to ten-cent lawns. But, not to have every dress in New York, would I care as much for such things as you do?" Her eyes blazed upon the girls in front of her. "Nor choose my friends by the amount of their drygoods' bills. No, poverty is no disgrace, and wealth you have not earned no merit, no honor, except as it is well and nobly spent."

"What a Fourth of July oration!" sneered Laura. "It's a pity none of the guests can hear you."

"One of them has," said Mrs. Danesford, coming forward. She put her hand on Joyce's shoulder. "Come with me, my dear. I want a little talk with you and my sister."

KEEPING A DIARY

By Hattie Vose Hall

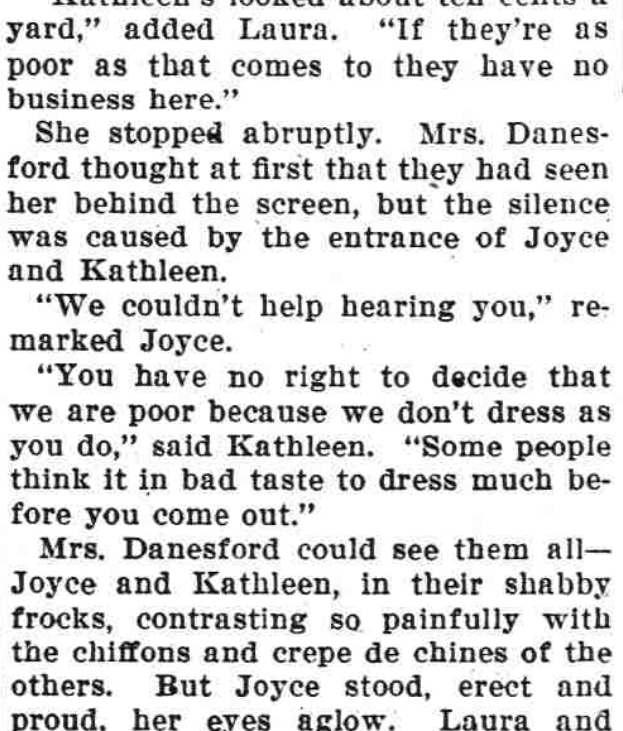
I had a diary Christmas, and father laughed and said, "If you'll keep that till the Fourth of July I'll give you a dollar, Ned." Queer way to earn a dollar, but easy as a b c; So I put it in my secret box safe under lock and key.

It's a pretty book—bright red leather—And Spud Jones wants to swap. He said he'd give me his two-blade knife And his second-best spinning top. But I'd rather have the dollar, So I put it away again; The pages are just as clean and white—Not a bit of a spot or stain.

Father asked me last Sunday, "Are you keeping that diary, Ned?" And when I said "Yes," he looked surprised. "Well done, little son," he said. Fourth comes a week from Tuesday, And oh, I can't hardly wait. For Spud's got a dollar, too, and so I tell you we'll celebrate!

We're going to buy some pinwheels, Those things that whiz round in rings—Crackers, of course, like we always have, And whole heaps of other things—Big Roman candles that send up stars All yellow and red and blue— Oh, I just hope father'll want me to keep A diary next year, too!

ALL NATURE CELEBRATES



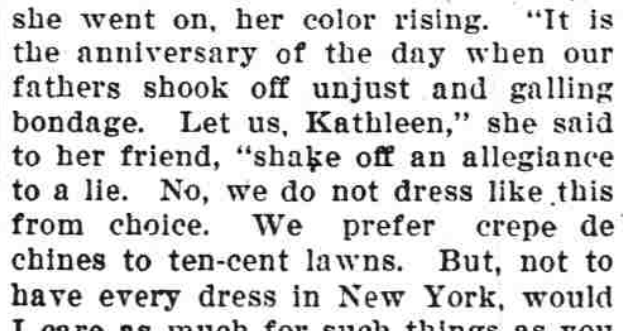
—Puck

Thoughts For the Fourth.

To have freedom is only to have that which is absolutely necessary to enable us to be what we ought to be, and to possess what we ought to possess.—Rabel.

Countries are well cultivated, not as they are fertile, but as they are free.—Montesquieu.

The cause of freedom is identified with the destinies of humanity and in whatever part of the world it gains ground, by and by it will be a common gain to all who desire it.—Kossuth.



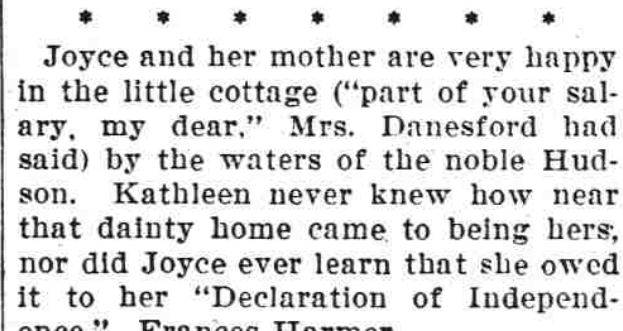
Best Anti-Toxin For the Fourth.

The Health Department in its weekly bulletin urges that the anti-toxin treatment for Fourth of July tetanus victims be not neglected. Quoting an Eastern medical journal to the effect that not a single blank cartridge wound treated with anti-toxin injection has been known to develop lockjaw, the department insists that with such a valuable remedy available every effort should be made to use it in all cases of wounds of the dangerous class on the Fourth.

That is excellent advice and it is to be hoped that parents and doctors alike will heed it. But there is even better advice than this to be given. There is an even better anti-toxin against Fourth of July deaths than the doctors use. It consists in repeated applications of strict law enforcement, both before the Fourth and upon the Fourth.

Toy pistols, all kinds of blank cartridges and dynamite crackers are the most active agents in the production of lockjaw. The sale of toy pistols to minors is forbidden. The less dangerous explosives are permitted only upon the Fourth, but not before it.

If the ordinances are strictly enforced we may pass through the celebration this year without the sacrifice of a single victim to the Fourth of July lockjaw. The next two weeks should be a period of steady application of the variety of anti-toxin which the Police Department makes its specialty.—Chicago Record-Herald.



FROM MARS.

"Is it a new comet, or the destruction of some planet?"

"Neither, Your Majesty. It is the celebration of the Fourth of July on the earth."



The Strenuous Life.

Uncle Sam's Patriotic Celebration of Independence Day.



Uncle Sam's Patriotic Celebration of Independence Day.

NORTH STATE NEWS

Items of Interest Gleaned From Various Sections

FROM MOUNTAIN TO SEASHORE

Minor Occurrences of the Week of Interest to Tar Heels Told in Paragraphs.

Charlotte Cotton Market.

These prices represent the prices paid to wagons:

Good middling...111-8
Strict middling...111-8
Middling...111-8
Good middling, tinged...11
Stains...9 to 10

General Cotton Market.

Jalveston, steady...111-16
New Orleans, easy...1015-16
Mobile, quiet...105-8
Savannah, quiet...103-4
Charleston, quiet...109-16
Wilmington, steady...103-4
Norfolk, quiet...111-8
Baltimore, nominal...111-8
New York, steady...109-10
Boston, quiet...109-10
Houston, steady...11
Augusta, steady...111-8
Memphis, quiet...107-8

Carolina Summer School.

Wilmington, Special.—The Carolina Summer School for Sunday school workers of all churches in the Carolinas and along the Atlantic seaboard which has been in session the past week at the Seashore Hotel, Wrightsville beach, came to a close with what was termed a closing recognition service. The institute was conducted largely by Dr. H. M. Hamill, of Nashville, Tenn., superintendent of training work of the Southern Methodist Church, and his wife, a primary specialist. The sessions have brought between three and four hundred visitors to the beach and the school is declared to have been a great success in every way. Among the prominent teachers in the school were Prof. H. B. Carr, of the chair of Greek in Vanderbilt University; Dr. J. A. B. Sherer, the gifted president of Newberry College, S. C.; Miss Hilda North of the Washington public schools, and Rev. N. M. Watson of Grace church, Wilmington. Excellent music has been furnished by the North Carolina Conference Quartette composed of Mr. R. M. Phillips of Raleigh; Rev. A. J. Parker, of Wilmington; Rev. Euclid McWhorter, of Maxton, and Rev. J. H. Frizell, of Sanford.

Officers Elected.

Lake Toxaway, Special.—The tenth annual convention of the State Bankers' Association closed last week. The principal business was the election of officers for the following year. The election resulted as follows:

John F. Wiley, of Durham, president; H. J. Jackson, of Raleigh; W. T. Old, of Elizabeth City, and W. C. Wilkinson, of Charlotte, vice-presidents; W. A. Hunt, of Henderson, secretary and treasurer; Charles N. Evans, of Wilmington; E. Sluder, of Asheville; J. O. Ellington, of Fayetteville; George W. Maslin, of Waynesville; J. F. Watlington, of Reidsville; J. S. Little, of Greenville, and J. S. Bradshaw, of Roxboro, members of the executive committee; George Stevens, of Charlotte; W. G. Bradshaw, of High Point; G. S. Covington, of Rockingham, and J. V. Grainger, of Wilmington, delegates to the convention of the American Bankers' Association; alternates, H. I. Woodhouse, of Concord; C. P. McNeely, of Mooresville; R. W. Grainger, of North Wilkesboro, and R. W. Taylor, of Morehead City.

Arm Torn From His Body.

Greensboro, Special.—Eugene G. West was the victim of a most horrible accident at the plant of the Greensboro Wood Fibre Plaster Company, of which he is secretary and treasurer, Thursday afternoon, when he lost an arm by injuries necessitating an amputation of the member, just below the right shoulder.

North State News.

R. B. Hewitt conductor on a car of the Charlotte Railway and Electric company was instantly killed last week by being run over by his own car.

In the suit of the State Corporation Commission to compel the Southern Railway to retain its former schedule of Raleigh in order to make connections with the Seaboard Air Line the matter was finally settled by the State withdrawing its order and paying the costs in the case.

Postmaster Bailey of Raleigh, announces that he is not applying for reappointment.

Friends of Chairman McNeill, of the Corporation Commission say enough counties have instructed for him to make his renomination certain.

The Governor appoints L. G. Daniels, of Newbern, a director of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway vice C. T. Watson, deceased.

Body Found in Well.

Elm City, Special.—The body of Mr. H. C. Braswell, who resides on his farm at Upper Town Creek church was found in a well and the remains were brought here for burial. Mr. Braswell probably committed suicide while suffering temporary insanity. No one saw him jump in the well, but a broken window in his room would lead to the impression that he jumped through that and running to the well jumped in. His body was in three or four feet of water, head downward.

Struck by Lightning.

Salisbury, Special.—During a hard rain and electrical storm here Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock lightning struck the rectifying house of J. G. Broadnax and Company, located in the southeastern part of the city and set it on fire. The firemen responded to the alarm but the building being a frame structure and containing large quantities of whiskey burned rapidly. The loss is heavy. The company will re-enter business.

New Enterprises.

Charters are granted the Tar River Manufacturing Company of Louisville to manufacture anything out of cotton, wood or grain, capital stock \$20,000. Robert G. Allen chief stockholder; in the White-Jetton Company to deal in general merchandise at Lincolnton, capital \$25,000.

General Summary of Condition of North Carolina Crops for Week Ending Monday, June 25, 1906.

The weather during the fore part of the week was partly cloudy with numerous thunderstorms, while during the latter portion, there were less cloudiness and fewer thunderstorms. The rainfall over the State as a whole was somewhat below normal and was not well distributed. At New Bern 3.26 inches was reported which is much above normal, while at Hatteras only 0.01 inch fell which is much below normal. In Beaufort county there is some complaint of too much rain, the fields being under water one-fourth of the time; and in Montgomery and Forsyth counties the land rains were so heavy as to cause damage. In Chatham county the land is reported as being badly washed. In Burke, Davidson, and Wilkes counties, damage by hail which accompanied a thunderstorm on the 21st was reported, which damage in places was severe. A correspondent of Montgomery county reports that after his report of the week ending June 18th was mailed a severe wind accompanied by a destructive hail storm occurred on that day.

The average temperature for the State was about normal. The day temperatures rose very high, while the nights were relatively cool. The highest temperature reported was 95 degrees on the 21st in Johnston county; and the lowest was 52 degrees on the 23rd in Buncombe county.

RURAL CARRIERS' CONVENTION

Third Annual Convention to be Held at Kinston July 3rd and 4th.

Following is the programme of the North Carolina Rural Letter Carriers' Association, which is to be held at Kinston, July 3rd and 4th.

July 3, 11 A. M.—Preliminary Meeting

July 3, 1 P. M.—Call to order by President C. U. Monday, calling roll of Officers and Representatives, Reading Minutes, Report of Credentials and Auditing Committee, Report of Officers, Address of Welcome by Mayor of Kinston, Response by Mrs. D. Mille and others.

Subject—"Relationship which should exist between Postmaster and Carrier." Discussion by B. L. Hester, C. H. Baines and Postmaster of Kinston.

Subject—"Insurance." S. H. Rogers, J. M. Hartis, T. S. Royster and others.

Subject—"Penny Nuisances and How to Overcome It." Discussion by W. G. Gore, C. B. Satterfield, P. C. Dillard and others.

Wednesday, July 4th, 9 A. M.—Call to order by President.

Report of Standing Committee.

Subject—"Good Roads and how to obtain them." Discussion by W. G. Foard, J. W. Hollifield, C. J. Southland and others.

Subject—"Does a Rural Carrier Grow old." Discussion by B. L. Hester, E. D. Pearsall, Oscar Suttlen and others.

Question as to Carriers' Duties, Privileges, etc., by all Delegates.

Subject—"Organization." Discussion by the Officers and others.

Adjournment for Photograph.

1 P. M.—Call to Order, Report of Standing Committee, Report of Committee on Constitution, Report of Committee on Resolutions, Electing Officers, Selecting Place for Next Meeting.

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