

INAUGURATION DAYS.

Historic Notes Apropos to the Coming Event of March 4.

NINETEEN PRESIDENTS ELECTED.

Sixteen Were Inaugurated on March 4, Two on March 5 and One on April 30.

Curious Facts Tending to Create Superstitions—Comparison with Other Countries. How March 4 Came to Be Selected for Inauguration Day—Curious and Interesting Facts Connected with the Occasion.

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There is an old story to the effect that Benjamin Franklin selected the 4th of March for inauguration day because in the next two centuries it would fall on Sunday less often than any other day in the year, and this statement has crept into a few works meant to be historical. It is, however, but one of the many cases, like those of Niobe and Lot's wife, in which a Washington, remarkable and interesting fact has gradually given rise to a legend to account for the fact. It is a pleasing story, but there is no proof of it whatever, and there is almost conclusive proof to the contrary.

It is certain that Franklin bothered himself very little about the distinction between sacred and secular days, and disregarded it altogether in his daily life; that the convention of 1787 did not fix the day, and in fact could have no means of enforcing when it would be possible to name a day, and that when it became possible by the admission of the ninth state to the constitution the Congress then in session fixed the day by a sort of accident. And yet it is a fact, and a very curious fact indeed, that the day does very rarely fall on Sunday, though at first view it would seem that this day or any other day would do so one time in seven.

The first day set was Wednesday, and the years 1800 and 1900 are, contrary to the four year rule, not leap years. The first day was just eleven years before the close of the century, and thus it has resulted that the day has fallen on Sunday, but three times in the first hundred years and will not again fall on Sunday till 1917. Thereafter it will so fall only in 1945 and 1973 in the next century, the result being such a conjunction only six times in the first two centuries of the government's existence, or once in thirty-three instead of once in seven years.

But little less curious was the result of the meeting of the first congress in 1789. As six congresses convened in the last century and the seventh in 1801 it results that the calculation as to the number of any congress turns on the alleged "unlucky number" 13. Thus, to determine the number of any congress, add thirteen to the year it first convened and divide by two—the quotient is the number of the congress. Conversely, double the number of any congress and subtract thirteen, and the remainder will be the year it convened. Ninety-one and thirteen are 104, the half of which is fifty-two—the number of the present congress. For the next century add 118, and so on.

Though we have had twenty-three presidents, but nineteen were formally inaugurated, and but sixteen of these on the 4th of March, if the first time only be counted, for Washington took the oath the first time on April 30, and Taylor and Hayes were inaugurated on Monday, March 4. The same is true of Monroe's second inauguration, but his first was on the regular day. The second Adams, Pierce and Garfield were inaugurated on Friday. Five inaugurations have been on Monday and five on Wednesday, and the coming one will make five on Saturday, no other day in the week having had more than three.

It is also a curious fact that, though the government is 104 years old and we have had twenty-three presidents, there were but eight in the first half of the period to fifteen in the second half, and a man who is today but half as old as the government has lived in the administrations of two-thirds of the presidents. Thus from 1789 to 1887 the average of a president's service was six years eight months and seventeen days and a fraction, while since the latter year the average has been but three years and six months, and this despite the fact that two of the late presidents were re-elected. Deduct the eight years of Grant, and the average of the others really appears alarmingly short.

The shortest service was that of W. H. Harrison—one month—and the longest that of Grant, who held the office eight years and a day, unless indeed we adopt the facetious suggestion of the Whigs that Jackson really governed during the "nominal administration of Van Buren." It is also worth noting that of the eight presidents re-elected Jackson, Lincoln and Grant were the only ones whose second inaugurations were celebrated with much display, though it is certain that Cleveland's will soon furnish a fourth case, and a notable one. In truth, there are many things in the latter's career which might justify a little superstition in his case. No other American, save possibly Washington and Jackson, has had such an extraordinary personal triumph.

The selection of March 4 was, as aforesaid, probably a sort of accident. On the 23 of July, 1788, the president of the Confederation Congress, then in session at New York, notified that body that New Hampshire had ratified the constitution on the 21st of June preceding, and as it was the ninth state to do so that instrument was now by its own terms to become the supreme law. After prolonged debate congress on the 13th of September, 1789, passed the following resolution: "That the first Wednesday of January next (1790) be the day for appointing electors in the several states which before the said day shall have ratified the said constitution; that the first Wednesday in February next be the day for the electors to assemble in their respective states to vote for president, and that the first Wednesday in March next be the time and place for the Congress to assemble to elect a president."

commencing proceedings under the said constitution. From this it will be seen that there was exactly a month's time between each of the three very essential acts of appointing electors— assembling the electors in their respective states—and "commencing proceedings." As a matter of fact, the first Wednesday in March, 1789, fell on the 4th, and three years later that date was fixed upon for all time. But there is nothing extant to indicate any special reason for it. In truth, it is at almost the worst season that could have been selected, and as the matter is entirely within the discretion of congress, and Washington was inaugurated the first time on April 30, the argument for a change to that date is strong.

Every reader has had enough on the first inauguration of Washington. Suffice it to repeat that the day was first chosen by the Chancellor Robert H. Livingston, of New York, administered the oath in the presence of some 40,000 people, and that the centennial celebration of that event in New York city in 1889 was a really wonderful success, on which occasion there were more people in the city than at any other time in its history. It was positively the only time, said the oldest inhabitants, when "the city crowd was completely overwhelmed and lost in the country crowd."

His second inauguration, in Philadelphia, Monday, March 4, 1793, presented an almost ludicrous contrast. He took the oath in the senate chamber in the presence of both houses of congress and made a brief address, and if anything unusual occurred the journals of the day failed to mention it. Nor was the inauguration of John Adams on Saturday, March 4, 1797, a particularly impressive affair. Thomas Jefferson took the oath as vice president in the senate chamber, pronounced a high compliment to Mr. Adams who had just vacated the chair, and then led the way to the chamber of the house, where the inauguration took place. Almost every witness who has given an account of it W. H. HARRISON, says that all eyes were directed to Washington, and as Jefferson stood on the other side, a rather tall and commanding figure, the new president really seemed overshadowed. He spoke at some length, enlivened Washington very highly, denied quite emphatically that he favored a stronger government than that ordained in the constitution and pronounced the oath after the chief justice of the United States.

Adams is distinguished in our history for many things, and one is, unfortunately, for being the first president who refused to participate in the inauguration of his successor. It was indeed a very trying occasion for him. There have been some heated campaigns since, but none in which personal animosities played so great a part as in 1800. Now-days partisans call each other "rebels," "traitors" and "enemies of American industry," "thieves" and "monopolists" or "cranks" and "Adulterers," but it is chiefly Pickwickian. In 1800 they really believed it. So when Jefferson was elected by the house on the thirty-sixth ballot and after a desperate struggle a deep groan ran through the Federal party, and Adams left Washington early in the morning of March 4, 1801. This bad example was followed by his son in 1829 and by Johnson in 1869.

It is rather singular there should have been so much dispute about the facts of Jefferson's inauguration. It is clearly proved that he intended to go in the usual state, with a carriage and six horses, but the carriage ordered was not completed in time. Adams refused the courtesy, as aforesaid, and so Jefferson, the attorney general and a few others made the little trip on horseback. His second inauguration had more style about it. On Saturday, March 4, 1809, Madison took the oath in the hall of the house, and the only fact about it which excited much comment was that he was "dressed in a suit of elegant black cloth entirely of American manufacture."

The next four inaugurations were conventional in the extreme. That of 1821 was on Monday, March 5, as then, for the first time, the regular day fell on Sunday. John Quincy Adams revived much of the old and solemn ceremonial, but with him it ended, as the country had now outgrown English and colonial forms. And as a great break followed, this is the proper place to give a list of the presidents regularly inaugurated, with date of birth, inauguration and death, and to note the interregnums filled by vice presidents:

George Washington—Feb. 22, 1732; April 30, 1776; March 4, 1789; Dec. 14, 1799. John Adams—Oct. 19, 1735; March 4, 1797; July 4, 1826. Thomas Jefferson—April 2, 1743; March 4, 1801; 1805; July 4, 1826. James Madison—March 16, 1751; March 4, 1809; 1817; June 28, 1836. James Monroe—April 28, 1758; March 4, 1817; March 4, 1821; July 4, 1831. John Quincy Adams—July 11, 1767; March 4, 1825; Feb. 23, 1848. Andrew Jackson—March 15, 1767; March 4, 1829; 1837; June 8, 1845. Martin Van Buren—Dec. 5, 1782; March 4, 1837; July 24, 1862. William Henry Harrison—Feb. 9, 1773; March 4, 1841; April 4, 1841. John Tyler—Interregnum. James Knox Polk—Nov. 2, 1795; March 4, 1845; June 15, 1849. Zachary Taylor—Sept. 24, 1784; March 5, 1849; July 9, 1850. Millard Fillmore—Interregnum. Franklin Pierce—Nov. 23, 1804; March 4, 1853; Oct. 8, 1869. James Buchanan—April 23, 1791; March 4, 1857; June 1, 1868. Abraham Lincoln—Feb. 12, 1809; March 4, 1861; 1865; April 15, 1865. Andrew Johnson—Interregnum. Ulysses Simpson Grant—April 27, 1822; March 4, 1869; 1877; July 23, 1885. Rutherford Birchard Hayes—Oct. 14, 1822; March 5, 1877; Jan. 17, 1893. James Abram Garfield—Nov. 19, 1831; March 4, 1881; Sept. 19, 1881. Chester Alan Arthur—Interregnum. Grover Cleveland—March 18, 1837; March 4, 1895, and to be inaugurated again just eight years later, the first case of the kind in our history.

Benjamin Harrison—Aug. 20, 1833; March 4, 1893. After March 4 next he will be the only living ex-president, as his successor and predecessor now is. The fact that three presidents died on Independence Day is indeed extraordinary. As but twenty-one have died the chances of one's death on that day are not quite as one in eighteen, of two still fewer, and of three not one in hundreds. But that two should die on the same day and a third but five years later, and the two signers of the Declaration, the chances are so remote as to be scarcely calculable. The three who died were: James Harrison—Aug. 20, 1833; March 4, 1893. Andrew Johnson—July 31, 1865; July 26, 1866. Ulysses Simpson Grant—July 23, 1885; July 23, 1885.

Hamilton also died on that day. Nearly all the presidents have lived to an advanced age, as it was natural they should, be men of great vitality and temperate lives to obtain the honor. John Adams was the oldest, lacking but a few weeks of ninety-one, while, omitting Lincoln, killed at fifty-four, and Garfield, killed within a few weeks of fifty, the youngest dying was Polk at fifty-four.

Another curious fact is that, including the presidents of the senate who succeeded to the functions of the office, there have been more vice presidents than presidents—to wit, thirty-four, though Clinton, Tompkins, Calhoun and King each served in two administrations. From the father to Adams the son, as aforesaid, the inaugurations were mild affairs, but Jackson came in with a breeze, and the occasion was indeed breezy. He set the example of taking the oath on and delivering the inaugural from the east front of the Capitol, and then, making all reasonable deductions for the partisan spite of those who described it, the scene which followed did indeed "beggars description."

The largest crowd seen in Washington down to that time was in attendance, and the mud was, in southwestern phrase, "half bootleg deep," on Pennsylvania avenue. Through that mud the crowd rushed to the White House, where all the doors were thrown open and punch served out in barrels, buckets, tubs and even, so the opposition said, wash basins. Every room in the house was crowded, and men with heavy and muddy boots stood on the finest chairs and sofas to see what was going on in front. Lamps and furniture were broken, and punch spilled till the house was a wreck. Soon Buchanan also came in with a breeze, and there were more levees at which a cheese weighing 1,400 pounds (a present to Jackson) was cut up and served. The struggle for pieces resulted in a smash of furniture; liquor was spilled and cheese trodden into the carpet, while ladies held dainty handkerchiefs to their noses and foreign diplomats looked on in undigested horror.

Daniel Webster said the place looked like a republican palace taken by siege and sacked by the victorious enemy, but Benton, Felix Grundy and men of that class thought it just as well to "let the boys have their way once in four years." It was the last scene of the sort, though Jackson's second inauguration also attracted a large crowd. The next inauguration—of Van Buren in 1837—was a comparatively tame affair, but in 1841 the Whigs honored Harrison with a grand rally. Thence to Lincoln each inauguration was much like its predecessor, and none presented features of unusual interest. The crowds, however, continued to increase, and the procession which followed Buchanan's moved nearly from the Capitol to the White House.

This was the end of the old regime. Little as the great men of the day suspected it, the old republic was, practically, soon to pass away, and be replaced by one of vastly increased and centralized powers. In all the great speeches at state papers down to 1861 one finds the federal union referred to indifferently as the Union or the confederacy. Thus President Pierce in his inaugural said, "The security and repose of this confederacy forbid interference or colonization by the foreigner." President Buchanan in his said, "Let every American reflect upon the terrific calamity which would result from disunion to every portion of the confederacy." What a storm such use of that word would now raise!

The impending change was indicated on March 4, 1861, by the first military display of real consequence at an inauguration. There were sharpshooters on the housetops along the avenue as Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Lincoln rode slowly to the Capitol; there were squads of cavalry to guard the street crossings, and squads of infantry along the route; there were trusty riflemen at the upper windows of the Capitol and artillery on the right of the east front, commanding the crowd to which the new president spoke. It was a sad presage. General Scott was savagely criticised for these arrangements, but subsequent events justified him.

Since that date the military has formed an important part of every inauguration, and at Grant's second induction, March 4, 1873, the display was such as to excite the admiration of foreigners accustomed to the finest exhibits of London, Paris and Berlin. But it was fatal to some of the participants and to many spectators. The day has had bad prominence as the most inclement of any inauguration day in our history. From dawn till dark a northwest wind so keen and cold that it seemed to chill even the bones blew with an instant's cessation. Scores of soldiers and sailors who had to stand long in place were prostrated in consequence, while spectators suffered so much that the average mortality of the city for a short time after is said to have been notably increased. Far otherwise was it at the inauguration of Cleveland, on which occasion by far the greatest crowd ever seen there was assembled in Washington. Correspondents celebrated the occasion in many hundred columns. Citizens of Washington still tell with glee how the visitors at the night through on chairs, on benches in the parks and on the steps of public buildings, as the weather was fine and all the hotels overcrowded, and railroad managers tell with pardonable pride how they got the hundreds of thousands to their homes in fairly good season. But all these and other incidents of recent inaugurations are still fresh in the public mind.

In conclusion, a few comparisons are justifiable. We have had twenty-three presidents in 104 years, while Rome had, disregarding minor contestants, sixty-four emperors in 508 years, and Great Britain has had, beginning with William the Conqueror, thirty-five sovereigns in 826 years. Of presidents in Mexico, Hayti and South America, it would be idle to make an estimate. Yet two of our B. HARRISON, presidents have been assassinated, and another, Jackson, only escaped that fate by an accident which apparently would not have happened one in a thousand. Another escaped impeachment by but one vote. On the whole, though we may justly claim an improvement over the dark past, yet there is nothing to make us boast. Our government is by no means exempt from the evils which afflict other nations.

PREJUDICE-PASSING AWAY.

The Light of Clearer Understanding Reveals the Church's True Mission. A significant sign of the times most gratifying to the Catholics of this country is the better understanding of the Catholic church, indicated by the recent pulpit utterances of leading Protestant ministers. Some of these who have been accustomed in the past to indulge in bitter and unjust attacks upon the church have evidently been making closer investigation only to find the "mist" of prejudice, which had so distorted their vision, gradually disappearing and to see in clearer light the venerable mother of Christianity as she sits enthroned in the hearts of her faithful children.

On a recent Sunday the Rev. Dr. Potter of the Baptist tabernacle of New York city took occasion to refer to the beneficent and Christianizing influence of the church and to point out the folly of the traffickers in bigotry and perpetrators of intolerance. "I know one alleged preacher of righteousness," said he, "who declared his conviction that the unchangeable medievalism of Rome was such that he could get out and shoot Catholics with a gun. What these lovable brethren will do, now that the great Goliath is dead, I know not. Ousting the Bible from the schools and the destruction of the school system were getting a trifle worse. To have the whole chance of denunciation and complaint taken away by Rome itself without pressure at a single stroke is hard. It is going to be lonesome. The great idea that the 'beat of revelation' is Rome and that the pope is 'antichrist' are all the baggage left. They are rather stale ghosts—only better than none."

It is manifest that the old spirit of stubborn prejudice is rapidly passing away as the church is becoming more correctly understood. It is one of the peculiarities of human nature that this change of heart and vision often seem to come unconsciously. Some passing incident or action unexpected by the prejudiced mind leads to a more careful scrutiny of the motives and principles underlying. Under the gaze of the earnest searcher these principles and motives glow with so clear and pure a light the astonished investigator is prompted to exclaim in admiring wonder, "What a change is taking place in the Church of Rome!"

But the change is not in the church, for the church does not change. It is the light of clearer understanding which effects the change in the heart and mind of the earnest investigator. It was this light which drew to the sanctuary of Christian truth such pure and noble spirits as Newman, Manning, Wilberforce, Brownson and others. It is this clearer understanding of the church and her holy mission which brings the hearts of earnest men into closer accord and conquers prejudice in its very stronghold.—Irish World.

The Greek Uniates. Some Catholics who see in the daily press accounts of the members of the "Orthodox Greek church" in Russia, and also of the "Greek Uniates," do not exactly understand what the designations convey. The Orthodox Greeks are schismatic; the Uniates are in communion with the Catholic church. The great breach in the territory under the church's sway, caused by the Greek schism, arose in the ninth century in the reign of Michael "the drunkard." It sprang into existence as a revolt against the authority of Ignatius, patriarch of Constantinople, because he refused to allow the uncle of the emperor, who was openly living in lust and incest, to approach the holy table. The patriarch was deposed. A layman, Photius, was consecrated by a suspended prelate and appointed in the place of Ignatius. It is remarkable that there have been few serious revolts against the authority of the church which were not founded on resistance to her denunciation and intolerance of immorality.

Photius founded the schism. The schismatics reject the supremacy of the pope; they deny that the Holy Ghost proceeded from the Father and the Son, as we assert it in the Nicene Creed; their priests marry; they hold that divorce is permissible in case of adultery. The "Uniate" Greeks number about 5,500,000. They are spread over southern Europe. They maintain the Greek ritual. Their priests may marry before ordination and live in the married state after being raised to the priesthood, but they cannot marry a second time.—Catholic Advocate.

It is stated that on the occasion of the pope's episcopal jubilee four solemn beatifications will take place, the most remarkable being that of Father Baldinucci, who was formerly attached to the Pecci family at Carpinetto. The three provincials of the Redemptorist congregation in the United States have sailed for Rome to give an account of their stewardship and assist in the ceremonies which will attend the beatification in St. Peter's of a member of their order. Ave Maria. Ave Maria! by divine evangel. This salutation came. And shall my lips be haggarter than the angel. And shrink to bless thy name? No, mother! No, thine be the salutation, And thine all blessings be. No honor, Mary, short of adoration Is aught too great for thee. Ave Maria! behold my love for thee, For God hath loved thee well. The shadow of the Paraclite is o'er thee, Then seek to light the gloomy clouds that press'd o'er me. May I not bless those arms so often laden With Jesus when a child? Nor love that gentle face, O spotless maiden, On which my Master smiled? Ave! I know that now thou pray'st for me, Nor will I yield the faith Which seems to light the gloomy clouds that press'd o'er me. And cheeks the dread of death. No, mother! No; thus still will I address Thee. Who were the Christ's apostles. Oh, cause enough for me and all to bless thee. Is that thy child was God!

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