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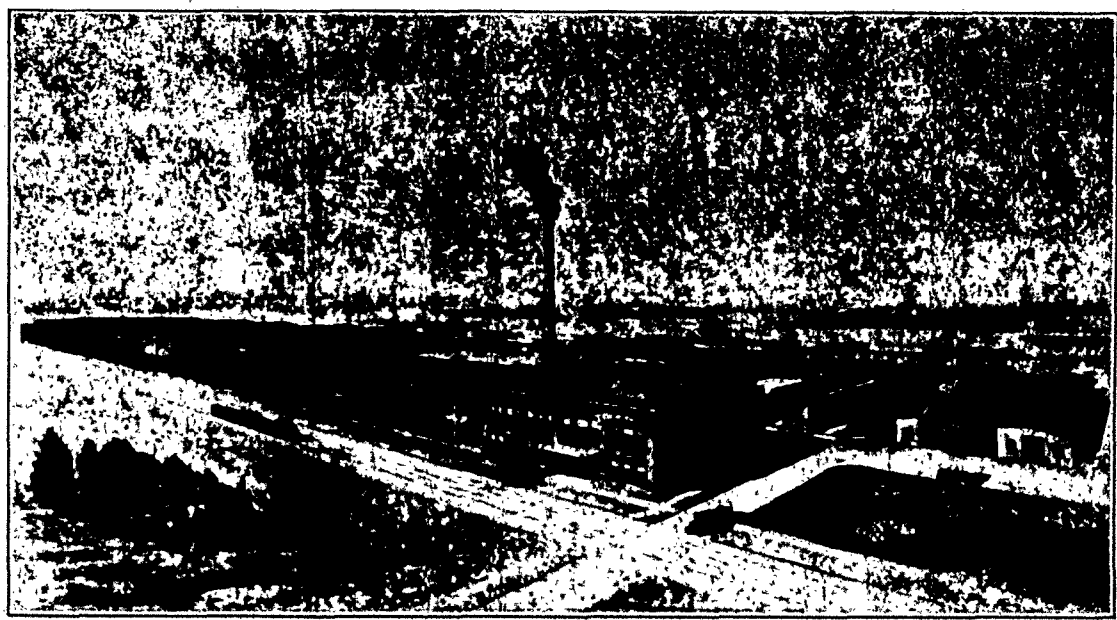
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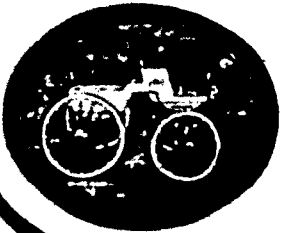
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Five Minute Chats on Our Presidents

By JAMES MORGAN

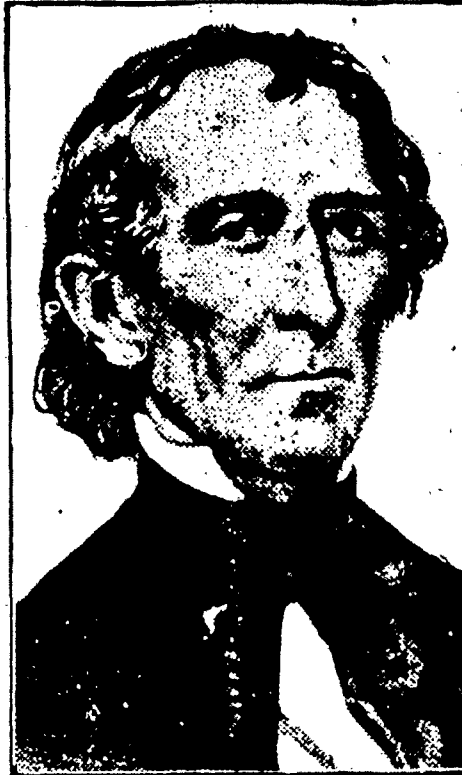
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JOHN TYLER

1790—March 29, John Tyler born in Charles City, Charles City county, Va.
1827-36—United States senator.
1840—Elected vice president.
1841—April 6, became tenth president, aged 51.
1845—March 3, signed joint resolution for annexation of Texas.
1861—President of the peace convention in Washington. Elected to Confederate congress.
1862—Jan. 17, died in Richmond, Va., aged 71.

GREATNESS and the presidency found John Tyler down on one knee, playing "knucks" with his boys in a pathway of his dooryard in Williamsburg, that stately old vice-regal village of colonial Virginia. He had not even heard that Harrison was ill, until destiny, without steam, wire or rail to carry it, sped to him from Washington by boat and buggy with the news that the president had been dead a day and that the empty presidential chair was awaiting the vice president. Tyler belongs among the third or fourth-rate presidents. Although a clean-handed, kindly man of good presence and polished manners, he was a mediocre country lawyer and a narrow-minded politician, with a gift for getting offices that he had no gift for filling.

As John Tyler stepped into the White House, its door closed against the party which had elected him only five months before. Death had turned out the Whigs after 30 days of power and caused a political revolution. Clay looked upon the accidental president as only a regent for the Harri-



John Tyler.

Americanism

By LEONARD WOOD

I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death! —Patrick Henry: Speech before the Virginia convention March, 1775.

EVERY American schoolboy knows this speech of Patrick Henry. In recent years serious speakers have avoided it as a text and rarely have used it as a quotation. Why? Simply because it is so well known and has been repeated so many times in the years past for public platforms that the thought has been it is worn threadbare. There even have been those who have looked upon it as a bit of "spread-eagleism" and therefore not to be used in what they call dignified discourse.

The men who look upon this utterance of Patrick Henry in this way lose sight of the spirit of the times and the immediate spirit of the occasion which induced its utterance. It was a ringing and a daring speech and it meant Americanism at a time when only the fearless were thinking of Americanism in all that the word implies.

Freedom, equality of men before the law, those inalienable rights of mankind, which the Declaration of Independence, only one year after Henry spoke in Virginia, made as plain as John Hancock's signature so that all men might read.

Patrick Henry in this speech said that he did not know what course others might take. There were then men who feared to follow the path which led to independence, and there were other men who did not believe that liberty with equality could be attained, or if attained could be maintained. The doubting ones drew lessons from the past and predicted like happenings in the future. America has given the answer to the doubters in this country.

There is but one course that men may take if they would insure the preservation of those institutions which were in Patrick Henry's mind when he demanded liberty and made death preferable if it were to be denied. Americans born here or born elsewhere have liberty in their hands to keep or to throw away. Americanization has but one object, the teaching of that kind of citizenship which holds liberty priceless.

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