

# TRUE DEMOCRACY—Inspiration Given by Life of First Catholic Patriot

## Charles Carroll's Career— Its Significance Today

(Continued from Page 1)

preserved much power and patronage. He made Carroll Judge and Register of the Land Office. These were important and lucrative posts.

### Religious Freedom

But at the very time of this planting of illustrious blood in our country we meet with paradox. And as so often the case it is not pleasant. Of all the colonies Maryland was the only one that guaranteed religious freedom in the movement of its foundation. Catholics were the colonists but they denied to no one the right of freedom of worship. When the sectarians of the ascendancy and the descendants of the very founders were persecuted on account of their religion. The penal laws of the mother country were enforced, and at times rigorously in the British transatlantic possessions.

The founder of the family in America sent his sons abroad for schooling and among them was the father of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. His mother was Elizabeth Brooke, of another distinguished Catholic colonial family. Of this union was born Charles Carroll of Carrollton, September 19, 1737. He returned to Maryland from France in 1772 and married Elizabeth Brooke, of another distinguished Catholic colonial family. Of this union was born Charles Carroll of Carrollton, September 19, 1737. He returned to Maryland from France in 1772 and married Elizabeth Brooke, of another distinguished Catholic colonial family.

That was not the day of twentieth century greynoses that join Europe and America in a five days' journey on a floating palace. Life and death combated on the ocean depths as the tiny sailing boats fought out the issue with unruly waves. A boy of eleven alone on one of these uncertain vessels sailed perfectly the picture of Carroll's tenacity for the Faith of their fathers. Of such sturdy stock came the Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Before he returned in 1765, he passed the time at the College of St. Omer, Rheims, and Louis le Grand, Paris, and received a thorough legal training at the Temple, London. There were seven years of hard work and intense application for Charles Carroll as boy and young man. The letters that passed between him and his fond parents amply testify to this.

In these letters the study strong character that they afford. The letters are filled with advice founded on the bed rock of Christian principles. The same is gratefully received and acknowledged, and what is more to the point, it was courageously followed as the life led by the younger Carroll abroad reveals.

### Strong Faith

The subject of matrimony is touched upon and both are insistent that any bride to be considered must be of the Catholic faith. I insist on these points in the correspondence and have quoted from it at length, perhaps more than would be expected in so short a paper, to show how religion colored the lives of this pioneer American family. Their preservation of the Faith was no mere accident. They recognized its worth and laid plans accordingly to keep its purity intact. In this year of stirring American anniversaries it is well for us to know what manner of men represented Catholics in the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Carroll's still came to an end in 1765. The boy of eleven, who had sailed from America in 1748 returned a full grown man; well educated in the liberal arts, finished in the law. A fine estate was given him by his wealthy parent and he resolved to settle down to the cultivation of his estate and a life of quiet study and seclusion. The penal laws, we must remember, hampered a Catholic's full participation in political life in all the British dominions.

The return of Carroll synchronized with the passage of the famous Stamp Act. This aroused the conscience of America as no other decree of British royalty had been able to do. It awakened the colonists to a consciousness of the wrong they had suffered and endeavored to give spirit of national alliance. "Taxation without representation is tyranny," became the watch-word of the hour. Patrick Henry was thundering his startling defiance of Britain in a breathless House of Burgesses. "Charles" had his Britons, Charles the First his Cromwells, and George the Third there some weak-kneed Tories called out "Treason, Treason!" who profit by their example. If this be treason, make the most of it. Amid such stirring scenes men could not remain neutral. At least all men cast in the patriotic mold of the Carrolls.

The cultivation of his broad acres was left to others and Charles Carroll the younger wrote and spoke vigorously in behalf of the rights of the colonies. He brought to this task a well trained mind, thoroughly disciplined in the sure way of the law. English would not rule by chicanery while Carroll had his law books at hand. Underwood Problems

of every thinking European. Carroll's acquaintance with the character of the colonists, grasped not so much through actual contact, since he was a boy of eleven when he ceased to live among them, but rather through intimate correspondence with his father, made him an enlightened participant in all these debates. He was acquainted with the facts and we shall see later, from his writings, that he sensed the need of full independence long before the other signers of the famous document that made both him and them imperishable names as among the freedom champions of the course of America in world affairs.

These were busy years for Carroll. His correspondence with friends abroad was voluminous. The gist of it all is the property rights of the colonists. He defended the rights of his fellow citizens against the usurpations of the crown. It is well to note that he thought of them as citizens and not as subjects. This was a revolutionary idea already transcending the falling event of independence.

Assisted Growth

Events of momentous import tread on each other's heels, so rapidly did they transpire in the American scene of those decades. America was coming into being and the birth pangs of a nation convulsed nature and cause the gods to shudder. And the Catholic Carroll assisted in the mighty accomplishment.

He was appointed a member of a committee of five prominent Marylanders to confer with the colonists looking to concerted action in dealing with the Mother country. The first Continental Congress was called and blundered through the ill-fated Quebec Act, in which the rights of a Canadian was so gratuitously snubbed by the Americans. Carroll was not a member of the Congress, but he went to Philadelphia during its sittings. There he came in contact with the leading patriots of the last forming nation.

Let us see how matters stood with the Catholic signer, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, on November 12, 1763, when a dozen years before the immortal Declaration awoke into glorious being, he wrote to his father from London: "America is a growing country, in time it will and must be free." That of Carroll was the great prophet of a free and independent America and the same Catholic helped to make prophesy effective by placing his fortunes and himself at the disposal of his nascent country. In the roller of great patriots surely he must stand among the foremost.

### Foresee Independence

When others became convinced as Carroll had been for some time, that only an independent nationhood would solve the problem for America it was high time that this sentiment should be proclaimed to Great Britain and the world. It was in the lofty Charter of Rights, penned by Thomas Jefferson, America's foremost champion of the common people, America's First Democrat. When it saw the light of day Carroll's long cherished dream was fulfilled. His beloved America was to be free.

We have seen how enthusiastically and courageously Carroll affixed his signature to this document; how he placed his head within the noose and laid out Britain where to find him if he had signed, in vain for liberty. This was not an idle gesture. His hand wrote but his heart dictated "Charles Carroll of Carrollton." Name and address were there for his country to claim his all in case of victory and for the enemy to hold his life forfeit if failure perchance came instead. Truly he was the most American of them all. But this was a beginning. Allies were needed if America was to become an independent power. All eyes turned to Catholic France. Carroll became especially active in securing the intervention of the French. His long stay in that country made him an effective pleader. For once, too, his Catholicity was welcomed by his countrymen instead of being a hindrance, for France was a Catholic power. We all know that this happy alliance was brought about in 1778. Both Washington and Franklin had consulted with Carroll and abetted his efforts. Contemporary authorities tell us that full credit for bringing France to our aid, "Merx like Mr. John H. B. Latrobe (son of the architect of the National Capitol) and others who knew, believed that the friendship of France never could have been secured, were it not for the alliance formed but for the effective work done by Mr. Carroll. Mr. Bushrod Washington, who also talked the matter over many times with his brother, was clearly of the same opinion and in like expression of this he doubtless reflected the views of Washington himself." This is an extract from a life of Carroll that was derived from letters, papers, and personal interviews of the time of the Catholic signer himself. It surely emphasizes the great debt that America owes to Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

With Washington

For three months Carroll was with Washington at Valley Forge. Those were the dark days of the war. Indeed they were ink black. Disaster threatened a threatened greater disaster than the British. Hope had fled from many stout hearts, but the great Marylander refused to despair. He more than any other de-vilish brought medicine and food to the sick and starving regiments. If it be true that an army fights on its stomach then Charles Carroll of Carrollton kept the ragged Revolutionary on the march until independence was achieved.

When General Gates captured Burgoyne the enemies of Washington seized upon the occasion to attempt his removal as Com-

## CENTENARY OF CHARLES CARROLL'S DEATH



Charles Carroll of Carrollton (inset), the last survivor of the original Catholic signers of the Declaration of Independence, a loyal friend of George Washington, is shown here with a view of Dougherty Manor, the Carroll homestead in Maryland, November 11, 1932, marked the centenary of the death of the illustrious patriot, in Baltimore, at the age of 94. His body reposes in the family chapel, shown at the extreme right of the photograph.

mander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. The conspirators grouped together in the infamous "Conway Cabal." The incompetent Gates was to supplant the noble Virginian who was so engrossed in his manifold duties that he was scarce cognizant of the plot to force his resignation. Had the nefarious plan been successful it would have spoiled the future of the American cause. And it came within an ace of success only through the intervention of Washington's friends who were this overwhelming ally averted, and at the head of them was Carroll, who was united to the great Revolutionary leader by the strongest bonds of intimacy. The links in that bond of union had been forged at Valley Forge. This is one of Carroll's greatest services to America and one that is not nearly sufficiently known and recognized.

Made Amendment

Carroll was not completely satisfied with the Constitution as drawn up, since it carried no guarantee of religious freedom. Yet he worked for its adoption because he knew it would give stability to the land and provide a legal framework under which he could labor for the cherished ideal in this he was not mistaken. He immediately moved to incorporate the First Amendment, in which the rights of religious freedom were secured into the organic law of the nation. His idea prevailed; his religion for which he sacrificed so much, was free at last in the nation he had helped so much to form.

This was the crowning work of the Catholic signer's life. For had he himself wrote "When I signed the Declaration of Independence I had in mind not only our independence of England, but the toleration of all sects professing the Christian religion and communicating to them all equal rights happily they were and salutary measure has taken place for eradicating religious feuds and persecutions and becoming a useful lesson to all governments. Reflecting on the disabilities I may truly say that the preservation of the Catholics of Maryland, you will not be surprised that I had much at heart this grand design founded on mutual charity, the basis of our holy religion." In this as in many other

things Carroll had a vision far wider than any of his contemporaries.

When organized government began to function with the inauguration of President Washington the State of Maryland sent Charles Carroll of Carrollton to Congress as one of the first two Senators. His tenure of office is principally noted for the staunchness of his democratic views. John Adams was greatly perturbed over the question of slaves in the new nation and proposed that George Washington be styled "His Highness the President of the United States of America and Protector of the Rights of the Same." Of this Carroll would have nothing to do. He led the opposition to the monarchial elements in the first Senate and won the day for true Americanism. We owe it to him that to this day we call our Chief Executive simply Mr. President. And to democratic ears that sounds much better than His Highness the President and Protector, etc. etc. In all truth we might say thank Carroll for this, but thank God for Carroll.

He had compelled Carroll to decline any honorable position offered him by Washington and a grateful government, notably the post of Minister to France. The death of Washington was a deep grief to Carroll, as they had been close friends who had gone through many trials together. His old associates were dropping off one by one and with the turn of the century the Catholic signer went into virtual retirement. He was sixty-three years of age.

Aided Education

He was not entirely inactive but aided his own to aid every worthy cause. Here we find him the chief

contributor for the erection of the Cathedral of the Assumption at Baltimore. He backed the efforts of his kinsman, Bishop Carroll, in the founding of a Catholic college in America. He desired that future Catholic Americans would not have to go abroad for a training in their religion, as he had been forced to do.

That same historic year the authorities of the City of New York sent a deputation to Charles Carroll to secure from him for deposit in the public hall of the city a copy of the Declaration of 1776, signed and authenticated anew with his sign manual. In gracious compliance with this request he penned a certificate in which he said:

"Grateful to Almighty God for the blessings which, through Jesus Christ our Lord, He has conferred on my beloved country in her emancipation, and upon myself in permitting me to live to the age of eighty-nine years, and to survive the fiftieth year of American independence, and certifying by my present signature my approbation of the Declaration of Independence, adopted by Congress on the fourth of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, which I originally signed on the second of August of the same year, and of which I am now the last surviving signer, I do hereby recommend to the present and future generations the principles of that important document, as the best earthly inheritance their ancestors could bequeath to them."

It is worthy that the principles of Virginia liberties that have secured to my country may be perpetuated to the remotest posterity and extended to the whole family of men.

### Religious Patriot

Herein spoke the patriot and devout man of religion and whose Catholicism can so well be proved in Carroll had married Elizabeth Cooke, daughter of a distinguished Catholic family, in 1776. Three children blessed the union. His wife died in 1782 and Carroll spent the fifty years remaining of his long life as a lonely widower. The passing of his wife to whom he was sincerely devoted, was the main reason for his withdrawal from public affairs in the latter part of his career. He only emerged from retirement at the direct call of Church or Country.

His death was as Catholic as his life. In the presence of his family and very intimate friends he received Holy Viaticum and was anointed. The family physician was also present. The ceremony was long and for a man of ninety-five years, fatiguing. He had been fasting many hours and as soon as the last prayer was said, the doctor advanced with some nourishment for his patient. But Carroll refused it with the words: "Thank you, doctor, next I would be eating to the Christian that it supplies all the wants of nature. I feel no desire for food." Life still lingered. During the

## Convert's Two Children Enter Order

BALTIMORE. How a non-patriot was converted to Catholicism by the reading of "Faith of Our Fathers" by Cardinal Gibbons, and the result that two young children entered religious life was revealed through the graduation of James Hannon (great-nephew of the late John Carroll) at St. Joseph's College High School here.

Col. Louis Wickell Chestnut was the grandson of the Rev. Arthur W. Galia, a Protestant minister.

day Carroll reported progress that were said to him of apologetic for the trouble he was causing others. The ately courtesy of the South persisted to the very ante-room of stately Midway Hill and the physician noted that the dying man in an uncomfortable position. He slightly moved him to ease his pain.

His state and his nation have done him many posthumous honors. They have all been honored Maryland has placed his statue in the national Hall of Fame with other immortal heroes of the United States of America. He is thought of here in such heroic company.

later in Graham, S. C. at the time of the Civil War. The Colonel himself remained as steady to the military, but these days his father's blood is to turn a living for his country against the three young stars who became associated with the Highfield, S. C. (Thronfield), and who have said these words going to this other to join the staff of the Star.

Col. Chestnut's conversion took place here 33 years ago, before his marriage to Margaret M. Wickham of this city. The Colonel died on July 23, 1818. His eldest son is Louis Wickell Chestnut, a student at St. Mary's Seminary, here, and a daughter, Josephine Chestnut, is a member of the Mount St. Mary's Altar Society of the Visitation.

Paris's Group Finds Work For 219 In Year

PITTSBURGH.—The Social Service Department of Sacred Heart of Mount St. Mary's College, here, has given \$200 worth of clothing and 219 bundles of food distributed to the needy. The group will be paid for the work done for the year ending June 30, 1940. The permanent fund was \$200,000. The work was done by the Social Service Department of Sacred Heart of Mount St. Mary's College, here, and a daughter, Josephine Chestnut, is a member of the Mount St. Mary's Altar Society of the Visitation.

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Cash and Due from Banks	\$ 4,980,349.96	Deposits	\$17,800,907.08
Exchanges for Clearing House	226,132.63	Other Liabilities	31,609.25
Demand Loans	5,177,669.80	Reserves	215,311.27
Time Loans	2,370,042.38	Capital Funds	2,494,259.46
Bonds and Mortgages	1,689,669.15	Common Stock	\$1,200,000.00
U. S. Government and other Securities	3,939,849.08	Capital Notes	900,000.00
Bank Building	1,565,565.77	Surplus and Undivided Profits	34,239.46
Other Real Estate	272,213.89		
Other Assets	120,594.20		
Acceptances and Letters of Credit	17,600.00	Acceptances and Letters of Credit	17,600.00
	\$20,559,687.06		\$20,559,687.06

  

RESOURCES		LIABILITIES	
Cash and Other Resources	\$ 1,558,288.21	Due Estates, Trusts,	
Stocks and Bonds	6,655,879.95	Corporate Trusts,	
Mortgages	1,170,706.25	Guardianship, Agent,	\$17,482,802.41
Corporate Mortgages and Fiscal Agent		Custodian and	
Accounts	8,097,928.00	Depository Accounts	
	\$17,482,802.41		\$17,482,802.41

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