

Patrick Henry's Call to Arms



WILLIAM REUSSWIG

Most famous of all Patrick Henry's fiery addresses was the speech which he delivered in St. John's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia, on March 23, 1775. He advocated the immediate arming of the colony, on the ground that a state of war already existed; and at the close of his address delivered the passage that is given below

IT IS vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry peace, peace—but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the North will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!



1776–1801

IN THE quarter century that followed the adoption of the Declaration, the Revolution was fought to a successful close, the Articles of Confederation were tried and found wanting, a Constitution was constructed that proved to be the most solid political creation in the history of mankind. Then, Washington selflessly and tirelessly served his country as President and left to his successor, John Adams, a massive structure of government. Among Adams' most momentous acts was the appointment of John Marshall as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. It was in 1801 that Adams was succeeded by Jefferson. These great rivals were the only two of the 56 signers of the Declaration who were ultimately elected to the Presidency. In his inaugural address, Jefferson stressed "the authority of the civil over the military authority" and urged "economy in the public expense, that labor may be lightly burthened." In all his activities Jefferson showed still the spirit of the Declaration, and he affirmed, "I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man." Only the year before his accession to office there had come into being a new seat for the federal government—the lovingly planned city of Washington, D.C. The second decennial census showed our nation had grown more than 35 per cent since 1790—to a total of 5,305,937; about 95 per cent of the population lived in villages and the open country. A treaty of friendship was concluded with France and led shortly to our acquisition of Louisiana.

The Man Without a Country

By EDWARD EVERETT HALE



EDWARD A. WILSON

1801-1826

WHAT Lincoln called "an extraordinary and remarkable event in our history" occurred on July 4, 1826—the semi-centennial of the signing of the Declaration. On that day both Jefferson and Adams passed away; "Thomas Jefferson survives!" were the last words of Adams, who did not know that Jefferson had preceded him in death by a few hours. The two men, long inveterate and violent rivals, had become friends again in their last years and had exchanged many animated letters. During the quarter century since Jefferson had become President, many great changes had taken place, many great dangers to the Union had arisen. We had fought a second war with England and displayed our might upon the seas, but the British had burned Washington. Congress had passed the Missouri Compromise at the pleading of Henry Clay; the Monroe Doctrine warned European aggressors not to intrude on the Western Hemisphere. The territories of the United States continued to expand, and there was a westward movement in two great waves—one from Europe to this continent, another across the continent itself. Alexis de Tocqueville spoke of "a deluge of men, rising unabatedly, and driven daily onward by the hand of God." In these years, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point was opened—on July 4, 1802. Aaron Burr ran his spectacular career—killing Alexander Hamilton in a duel, fleeing to the West, suffering arrest for treason, standing trial before John Marshall and winning an acquittal. Robert Fulton made his steamboat trip up the astonished Hudson; the Erie Canal was opened; Lafayette visited the 24 states of the Union he had helped to forge.

This story, condensed and edited, is fiction, but stems from fact. After the Louisiana Purchase, Aaron Burr, who had been Vice-President under Jefferson, attempted to found a new nation west of the Mississippi. The plot discovered, Burr and his accomplices were tried for treason—and acquitted. Fifty years later, Edward Everett Hale spun this account of what might have happened to a young American who succumbed to Burr's influence

I SUPPOSE very few casual readers of the New York Herald of August 13, 1863, observed, in an obscure corner among the "Deaths," the announcement: "Nolan. Died on board U.S. corvette Levant, Lat. 2° 11' S., Long. 131° W., on May 11, Philip Nolan."

My memory for names and people is good, and the reader will see, as he goes on, that I had reason enough to remember Philip Nolan.

There are hundreds of readers who would have paused at that announcement if the officer of the Levant who reported it had chosen to make it thus:

"Died, May 11, THE MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY."

For it was as "The Man Without a Country" that poor Philip Nolan had generally been known by the officers who had him in charge during some fifty years, as, indeed, by all the men who sailed under them. I dare say there is many a man who has taken wine with him once a fortnight in a three years' cruise, who never knew that his name was Nolan or whether the poor wretch had any name at all.

There can now be no possible harm in telling this poor creature's story. Reason enough there has been till now, for very strict secrecy, the secrecy of honor itself, among the gentlemen of the Navy who have had Nolan in successive charge. And certainly it speaks well for the *esprit de corps* of the profession, and the personal honor of its members, that to the press this man's story has been wholly unknown—and, I think, to the country at large also.

I have reason to think, from some investigations I made in the Naval Archives when I was attached to the Bureau of Construction, that every official report relating to him was burned when the English general Ross burned the public (*Continued on page 76*)

