

The History of Thanksgiving

President Washington established the custom officially in the United States, but men have fervently thanked their Gods for blessings in all ages and every clime



THE goddess of the Roman harvest was Ceres. Her festival was celebrated annually and was called Cerialia. It was a day of worship and rustic sports. Men and women formed processions and went to the fields with music. Virgil refers to this festival. He mentions the sacrifices that were offered in the temples, and alludes to the joyousness of the occasion. But Roman thanksgiving days were not confined to this annual celebration of the festival of Cerialia. Sometimes they were held in commemoration of victorious martial campaigns. Plutarch tells us of the emperor who to conceal his defeat ordered a thanksgiving, which was observed. Then when the facts of his disastrous campaign became generally known, he excused himself on the ground that he did not "wish to deprive the people of a day of enjoyment."

In one way or another, a thanksgiving day has been observed in Christian Europe for centuries before its celebration in New England. On the continent, and for a time in England, it occurred at Martinmas, which was a day of feasting and drinking. Occasionally, too, civil authorities recommended the observance of some fixed day. To celebrate the victory of King Henry V of England, at Agincourt, October 25, 1415, a public thanksgiving was held on Sunday, the feast of St. Edward, the King and Confessor. Such a day, too, was observed in Leyden, Holland, October 3, 1575, the first anniversary of that city from the siege by the Spaniards.

Many instances of a thanksgiving day can be pointed out in England during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 1559, the second year of Elizabeth's reign, Thanksgiving day entered Rogation day. Then it was ordered that thanks should be given to Almighty God "for the increase and abundance of his fruits upon the earth." In this reign, too, there was a great national thanksgiving day that is worthy of note. This occurred Tuesday, November 19, 1558, and was in commemoration of the great victory over the "Invincible Armada."

One legal and annual thanksgiving day, because of the long time it was such, deserves special mention. After the traitors in the Gunpowder plot had been tried and punished in 1605, it was ordered that because of their deliverance the English people should keep the fifth of November every year "as a public thanksgiving day to Almighty God; that unfeigned thankfulness may never be forgotten, and that all ages to come may yield praises to God's divine majesty for the same." The "fifth of November" continued a legal thanksgiving day for more than two centuries; but in later years it fell into disuse, and in 1833 was abolished by parliament.

Long before the advent of the Pilgrims in Massachusetts, all rituals contained expressions of gratitude to God for his mercies. In that of the Church of England, special prayers were provided for the Sunday service. This service, however, must be carefully distinguished from the Thanksgiving day of the Pilgrim fathers. Failure to make this distinction has led to the groundless claim that the Pilgrim colonists were "the first to keep Thanksgiving day" in America. The service at Monhegan, on which this claim is based, was the regular Sunday service of the Church of England; and while it had an element of thanksgiving, the day can in no wise be regarded as a thanksgiving day as that term is understood.

The record made in his "Breeches Bible" by William White, who came over in the Mayflower, has far more significance in determining the origin of our American Thanksgiving day than the event at Monhegan. The record reads: "William White married on ye 3rd day of March, 1620, to Susannah Tilly, Peregrine White born on board ye Mayflower in Cape Cod Harbor. Sonne born to Susannah White 19th ye six o'clock morning. Next day we meet for prayer and thanksgiving." This meeting "for prayer and thanksgiving" was not on Sunday, but on Tuesday. The fact that it was not a part of the regular Sunday service makes it more nearly accord with our idea of Thanksgiving day than does the Monhegan event.

The prototype of our present Thanksgiving day is found in the harvest festival at Plymouth in 1621. The long winter that followed the establishment of the colony had been so severe that less than half the settlers had survived it. "At one time during the winter only Brewster, Standish, and five other hardy ones were well enough to get about." In the spring and summer that followed, their fortunes improved, and by autumn they had cleared 20 acres and made it ready for cultivation. This industry, too, had been rewarded by a bounteous harvest. Now food and fuel sufficient for the needs of the approaching winter were laid in. Then Governor Bradford ordered a thanksgiving—the first in America.

The first thanksgiving was not for a day only. It continued a week. In a letter to a friend in England, Edward Winslow has given us a brief account of the festivities. This letter bears date of December 11, and in it Winslow wrote: "Our harvest being gotten in, our Governor sent four men on fowling that so we might after special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruits of our labors. They killed as much fowl as with a little help beside served the company about a week. At which times among other recreations we exercise our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king, Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer which they brought and bestowed on our Governor and upon the captains and others."

The records make no mention of a thanksgiving day in the next year, but in the year following, 1623, such a day was held. This, however, was not in the autumn, but in July on the arrival of provisions from England. Nearly 50 years pass before we hear of another thanksgiving day at Plymouth. There was one in 1668, and another for the accession of the Orange Stuarts, William and Mary, in 1689. An autumnal thanksgiving was held in 1690, the last in the history of Plymouth colony.

Independently of Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay colony had occasionally its own thanksgiving days. There was such a day for the "safe arrival of ships," July 8, 1630; and again the next February, when the provision ship, Ambrose, arrived. In 1632, the general court ordered a "publique" thanksgiving day in recognition of the "mercy of God vouchsafed to the churches of God in Germany and the Palatinate." The next year the court, because of the bountiful harvest, appointed October 16 as a thanksgiving day—the first harvest festival in the history of the colony. By 1680 the autumnal thanksgiving had become an annual festival. No doubt in its games and sports it took the place of the English Christmas, for until comparatively recent date all that savored of Rome and the episcopacy was held in disfavor in Massachusetts.

During the Revolution Thanksgiving day became national. All through the war, congress annually set apart a day for thanksgiving; but after the "Thanksgiving for Peace" in 1783, there were no more until Washington became president in 1789. On October 3 of this year at New York he issued a proclamation asking the observance of Thursday, November 26, as a day for national thanksgiving. This was the beginning of the orthodox "last Thursday" that has since been named in presidential proclamations. By this time the festival had general official recognition throughout New England, and in this year, 1789, the Protestant Episcopal prayer books recognized the authority of civil government in the appointing of thanksgiving days.

The chief differences between the two was the want of ceremony at Plymouth that characterized the English festival. In some parts of England the merry-making was around the "noddingsheaf," or "kern baby," and in many places the last load of the harvest was drawn to the barn in a wagon called the "hoch cart." In front went pipe and tabor, and around it gathered the reapers, male and female, singing joyously as they proceeded. At Plymouth there was no ceremony.



Opinions Differ.
"Men are like wagons," remarked the man who dispenses anathemas, "they make the most noise when empty."
"Your trolley is off the wire," rejoined the contrary person. "A man makes the most noise when he is full."

His Only Hope.
"Tell me," spake the easy mark, "what sort of a girl should I propose to?"
"She should be rich," rejoined the female fortune teller, "and if you expect her to accept you, she must also be foolish."

Advice That Failed.
Rich Uncle—What! Broke again? You ought to take Solomon's advice to the sluggard about going to the ant farm—
Nephew (interrupting)—So I did, uncle, but aunt says she is in the same deplorable condition.

HOPE TO REMEDY PAPER SHORTAGE

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PRESS ASSOCIATION MEET IN COLUMBIA.

PALMETTO CAPITOL NEWS

General News of South Carolina Collected and Condensed From The State Capital That Will Prove of Interest to All Our Readers.

Columbia.

Two score members of the South Carolina Press association, meeting in the rooms of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, discussed ways and means for meeting the shortage of print paper. Two important committees were appointed by Wm. Banks, president of the association. One of these bodies will consider plans for the purchase of white paper in bulk for all of the papers in the state. The second committee will investigate the matter of building a paper factory at some point in South Carolina. Definite offers for the construction of paper mills in South Carolina were received from Orangeburg and Florence.

President Banks appointed the following members of the co-operative paper mill committee: J. L. Mims of The Edgefield Advertiser, A. B. Jordan of Dillon Herald, T. M. Spawell of the York News, F. C. Withers of The State, H. L. Watson of the Greenwood Index and Alison Lee of the Laurens Advertiser. The following were appointed as members of the paper mill committee: J. L. Mims of the Edgefield Advertiser, J. I. Sims of the Orangeburg Times and Democrat, E. H. Aull of the Newberry Herald and News, J. R. McGhee of the Batesburg Herald and E. H. DeCamp of the Gaffney Ledger.

May Buy in Bulk.

Under the terms of a resolution which was introduced by Mr. Seawell these committees are to get in immediate touch with similar committees representing the press association of North Carolina and Georgia. An arrangement may be effected whereby the paper for the three states may be purchased in bulk.

The conference adopted the following resolution, which provides for the above committees: "That the president appoint a committee of five to get in touch with the publishers of the state, looking to the co-operative buying of paper, to make up estimates and to make arrangements with manufacturers of paper for 1917; at the same time to get in touch with similar committees of North Carolina and Georgia and if better prices can be had to arrange for buying with these; also a similar committee to look into the feasibility of the manufacture of paper in the south and to handle the matter of representation before the investigating committee in Washington."

President Banks and Joe Sparks, secretary of the association, were instructed to prepare resolutions congratulating President Wilson upon his re-election.

The committee named by the association will begin work at once on the matter and report will be issued at an early date. All editors in the state will be invited to participate in the plans of the association.

Some of Those Present.

Among the editors attending the conference were: W. W. Harris of the Clinton Chronicle, Alison Lee of the Laurens Advertiser, Thomas M. Seawell of the York News, F. L. Morrow of the Western Carolina Publishing Company, R. Boyd Cole of the Barnwell Sentinel, Ed H. DeCamp of the Gaffney Ledger, E. H. Aull of the Newberry Herald and News, Hartwell M. Ayers of the Florence Times, J. L. Mims of the Edgefield Advertiser, O. K. Williams of the Rock Hill Record, Sam J. Leaphart of the Lexington News, L. Wigfall Cheatham of the Edgefield Chronicle, C. C. Muller of The State, F. C. Withers of The State, William Banks of The Record, Joe Sparks of The State, J. R. McGhee of the Batesburg Herald, W. S. Stokes of the Denmark News-Monitor, W. R. Bradford of the Fort Mill Times, R. L. Berry of the Orangeburg News, A. B. Jordan of the Dillon Herald, J. T. Pain of the Rock Hill Herald and Izlar Sims of the Orangeburg Times and Democrat.

President Banks read a number of letters from business men concerning the establishment of a paper mill. The special committee will gather all available data and will report at a session to be held soon in Columbia.

Tax Board Case Goes Higher.

The case involving the constitutionality of the act of the legislature creating the state tax commission has been appealed to the United States supreme court. Notice of appeal has been filed with Thomas H. Peoples, attorney general. The case was brought by the People's National Bank of Greenville against A. W. Jones, J. P. Derham and W. G. Query, members of the tax commission. The state supreme court held the tax commission act to be constitutional and an appeal has been taken.

Three Months on the Border.

The First South Carolina Infantry, ordered home from the border last week, has had more than three months of duty on the frontier. Mobilized June 23 at the state rifle range near Columbia, the regiment left its camp there Monday, August 7, in three special trains, and arrived at El Paso Friday, August 11, with a strength slightly in excess of 1,000. The other South Carolina units mobilized were started for El Paso Wednesday, August 9, and arrived after five days. These units, all of which remain in the southwest, are the Second infantry, Troop A, South Carolina cavalry; Company A, South Carolina engineers, and South Carolina Field Hospital No. 1. Col. E. M. Blythe of Greenville commanding the First regiment, Lieut. Col. P. K. McCully, Jr., of Anderson, is second in command. The chaplain is the Rev. R. C. Jeter of Alken.

The line and auxiliary units of the regiment are as follows:

First battalion, commanded by Maj. R. F. Watson, Greenville, comprises: Company A, Greenville, Capt. W. D. Workman; Company B, Anderson, Capt. L. L. Ligon; Company C, Pelzer, Capt. R. C. Heyward; Company D, Laurens, Capt. Arthur Lee.

Second battalion, commanded by Maj. T. B. Spratt, Fort Mill, comprises: Company E, Union, Capt. J. F. Walker, Jr.; Company F, Spartanburg, Capt. B. F. Justice; Company G, Fort Mill, Capt. S. W. Parks; Company H, Rock Hill, Capt. L. C. McFadden.

Third battalion, commanded by Maj. E. C. von Trebeckow, Camden, comprising: Company I, Cheraw, Capt. W. L. Gillespie; Company L, Hartsville, Capt. R. E. Craig; Company K, Anderson, Capt. R. D. Henderson; Company M, Camden, Capt. E. J. McLeod.

Auxiliaries are as follows: Headquarters company, Greenville, Capt. G. H. Mahon (regimental adjutant); supply company, Greenville, Capt. W. E. Seybt; Machine Gun company, Anderson, Capt. Ralph Ramer.

Citadel Unit of Training Corps.

Special from Washington.—Six units of the reserve officers' training corps, five in the senior division and one in the junior, have been established at various educational institutions by army orders made public. The Citadel at Charleston is one.

Each of the institutions has complied with the requirements of army organization bill which created the corps and the units established will be infantry detachments. The law requires that schools or colleges coming under the act include a two year compulsory military course for all male students physically fit for the work. The institutions named are the first to be awarded units.

This recognition of the Citadel by the war department will be good news in South Carolina and is another indication of its high position with the federal authorities.

Roughage Brings Good Price.

Roughage is selling in South Carolina markets at prices exceedingly profitable to those who have grown a surplus for their own needs. Alfalfa is quoted from \$20 to \$25 a ton, though this feed is not for sale generally over the state. Peavines are offered in lots these are \$18 and \$20. Nothing like a standard price has been established for clovers and mixed grasses, because of the scarcity of these. Oat straw is quoted in most places at \$1 a ton. Cotton-seed hulls sell over a considerable range of prices, the average of which is \$18 a ton.

Organizing For Farm Loans.

Although the number of farm loan associations organized in the state has already exceeded the expectation of E. J. Watson, commissioner of agriculture, he says that bodies are still organizing daily. Several were organized in Chesterfield county last week and one at the following places: Antioch, on the line between Kershaw and Lee counties; Abbeville; Page-land, Belton, Patrick, Chesterfield county, and two or three others. Many other localities have applied to the commissioner for information.

War on Boll Weevil.

Gov. Manning has accepted an invitation to deliver addresses at boll weevil conferences which are to be held under the auspices of the Bank of Western Carolina at Aiken, Barnwell and Lexington in the near future. W. W. Long, head of the demonstration forces of Clemson college, and two of his experts and Mrs. G. H. Mathis of Gadsden, Ala., a pre-eminent orator, will also attend the conference.

Appoints Trustees of Reformatory.

Gov. Manning has appointed the following trustees of the South Carolina Industrial school, at Florence: Allen J. Graham of Greenville to succeed C. E. St. Amant, resigned, and Barney G. Clary of Gaffney to succeed W. L. Settlemeyer, deceased.

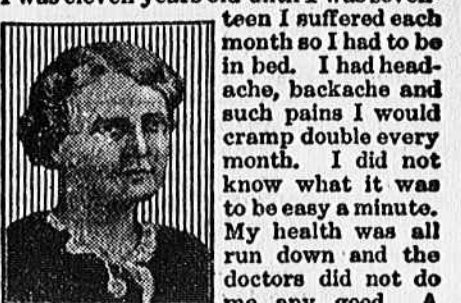
Secretary Grants New Charters.

The Conman Realty company of Columbia has been commissioned with a capital of \$1,000. The petitioners are: W. J. Conway and A. S. Manning. The Dorchester Holding company of Columbia has been commissioned by the secretary of state with a capital of \$5,000 to do a general real estate business. The petitioners are: Ashley C. Tobias, Jr., and J. L. Nettles. The Blue Ridge Development company of Pickens has been chartered with a capital of \$6,000.

"I DON'T SUFFER ANY MORE"

"Feel Like a New Person," says Mrs. Hamilton.

New Castle, Ind.—"From the time I was eleven years old until I was seven-



teen I suffered each month so I had to be in bed. I had headache, backache and such pains I would cramp double every month. I did not know what it was to be easy a minute. My health was all run down and the doctors did not do me any good. A neighbor told my mother about Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and I took it, and now I feel like a new person. I don't suffer any more and I am regular every month."—Mrs. HAZEL HAMILTON, 822 South 15th St.

When a remedy has lived for forty years, steadily growing in popularity and influence, and thousands upon thousands of women declare they owe their health to it, is it not reasonable to believe that it is an article of great merit?

If you want special advice write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (confidential), Lynn, Mass. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman and held in strict confidence.

The Large Bottle For 25¢

When you buy Yager's Liniment you get splendid value. The large 25 cent bottle contains four times more than the usual bottle of liniment sold at that price.

Try it for rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica, sprains, cuts and bruises.

At all dealers—price 25 cents.

YAGER'S LINIMENT

GILBERT BROS. & CO. Baltimore, Md.

Tutt's Pills

stimulate the torpid liver, strengthen the digestive organs, regulate the bowels. A remedy for sick headache. Unequaled as an ANTI-BILIOUS MEDICINE.

Elegantly sugar coated, Small dose, Price, 25c.

His Ailment.
"I found your son was suffering from constipation. My dear madam, "Mersey me, doctor! I never dreamed it was so serious as all that. I thought the boy was only a little homesick."

Important to Mothers
Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, that famous old remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletchman*. In Use for Over 30 Years. Children Cry for Fletchman's Castoria.

Norway has a total trade-union membership of 25,000.

Meat Eaters' Backache

Meat lovers are apt to have backache and rheumatic attacks. Unless you do heavy work and get lots of fresh air, don't eat too much meat. It's rich in nitrogen and helps to form uric acid—a solid poison that irritates the nerves, damages the kidneys and often causes dropsy, gravel and urinary disorders. Doan's Kidney Pills help weak kidneys to throw off uric acid. Thousands recommend them.

A North Carolina Case
C. C. Townsend, 450 Arlington St., Greensboro, N. C., says: "I had such a bad case of kidney disease that I didn't think I would get rid of it. The pains in my back were almost unbearable and it was hard for me to stoop. My kidneys acted far too freely. Doan's Kidney Pills helped me so much that I continued using them and was restored to good health. It has been several years since I have had any further trouble from my kidneys."

Get Doan's at Any Store, 50c a Box
DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS
FOSTER-MILBURN CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

"I say, Major, what's good for a cold beside whisky?"
"That's easy, dear boy. Most anything is better for a cold than whisky, or any other alcoholic stimulant, but the very best thing possible for a cold or bronchitis is that old well known remedy—out of fathers used to use—"

Boschee's German Syrup

Has for the last 51 years been steadily used in all parts of the civilized world for the rapid relief of colds, coughs, bronchitis, throat and lung irritation. No other remedy has such a remarkable record of widespread distribution. 25c and 75c. Sizes at druggists everywhere.