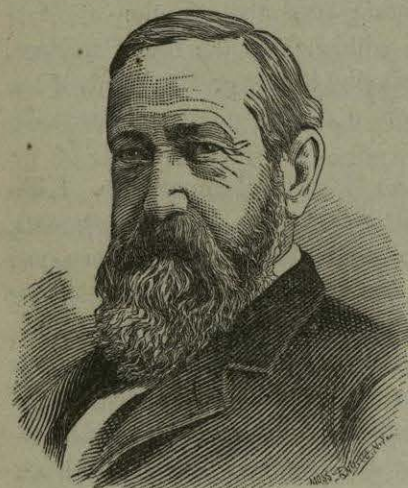


CHAPTER LXXII.

HARRISON'S ADMINISTRATION, 1889—.

BENJAMIN HARRISON, twenty-third President of the United States, was born at North Bend, Ohio, on the 20th of August, 1833. He is the son of John Scott Harrison, a prominent citizen of his native State; grandson of President William Henry Harrison; great-grandson of Benjamin Harrison, signer of the Declaration of Independence. In countries where attention is paid to honorable lineage



BENJAMIN HARRISON.

the circumstances of General Harrison's descent would be considered of much importance; but in America little attention is paid to one's ancestry, and more to himself.

Harrison's early life was passed as that of other American boys, in attendance at school and at home duties on the farm. He was a student at the institution called Farmers' College for two years. Afterwards he attended Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, and was graduated therefrom in June, 1852. He took in marriage the daughter of Dr. John W. Scott,

President of the University. After a course of study he entered the profession of law, removing to Indianapolis and establishing himself in that city. With the outbreak of the War he became a soldier of the Union, and rose to the rank of Brevet Brigadier-General of Volunteers. Before the close of the War he was elected Reporter of Decisions of the Supreme Court of Indiana.

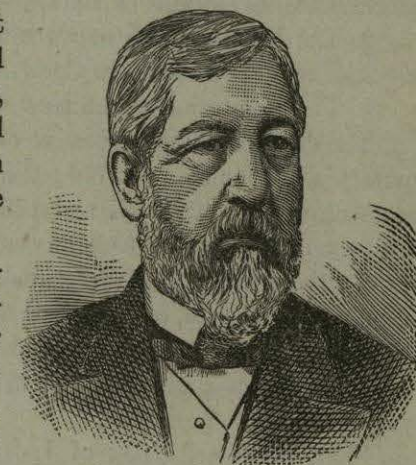
In the period following the Civil War General Harrison rose to distinction as a civilian. In 1876 he was the unsuccessful candidate of the Republican party for Governor of Indiana. In 1881 he was elected to the United States Senate, where he won the reputation of a leader and statesman. In 1884 his name was prominently mentioned in con-

nection with the Presidential nomination of his party, but Mr. Blaine was successful. After the lapse of four years, however, it was found at Chicago that General Harrison, more than any other, combined in himself all the elements of a successful candidate; and the event justified the choice of the party in making him the standard-bearer in the ensuing campaign.

General Harrison was, in accordance with the usages of the Government, inaugurated President on the 4th of March, 1889. He had succeeded better than any of his predecessors in keeping his own counsels during the interim between his election and the inauguration. No one had discerned his purposes, and all waited with interest the expressions of his Inaugural Address. In that document he set forth the policy which he should favor as the chief executive, recommending the same general measures which the Republican party had advocated during the campaign.

On the day following the inaugural ceremonies President Harrison sent in the nominations for his Cabinet officers, as follows: for Secretary of State, James G. Blaine, of Maine; for Secretary of the Treasury, William Windom, of Minnesota; for Secretary of War, Redfield Proctor, of Vermont; for Secretary of the Navy, Benjamin F. Tracy, of New York; for Postmaster-General, John W. Wainwright, of Pennsylvania; for Secretary of the Interior, John W. Noble, of Missouri; for Attorney-General, William H. Miller, of Indiana; and for Secretary of Agriculture—the new department—Jeremiah Rusk, of Wisconsin. These appointments were immediately confirmed by the Senate, and the members of the new administration assumed their respective official duties.

Within two months after Harrison's inauguration an event occurred which might well recall to the mind of the American people the striking incidents in the history of the Revolutionary Epoch. The event in question was the great Centennial Celebration of the Inauguration of Washington, first President of the United States. The same was commemorated in many parts of the country; but the supreme



JAMES G. BLAINE.

event was in New York city, and the ceremonies connected therewith were associated, as far as practicable, with the scenes of the first inauguration. These circumstances may well call forth not only some descriptive account of the celebration itself, but also a brief review of those events and incidents on which the same was based.

The period extending from the year 1776 to the year 1789 was marked in the colonial history of the United States by several crises, different in kind, but each so well defined in character as to be worthy of commemoration by the people of another and distant age. These crises were:

1. The Declaration of Independence.
2. The Formation of the Constitution of the United States.
3. The Adoption of the Constitution.
4. The Institution of the New Government.

The dates of these successive events are well known, the first occurring in midsummer of 1776; the second, in the summer of 1787; the third, in the years 1787 and 1788; and the fourth, in 1789. It is to the events of the last-named year that the attention of the reader will now be more particularly called.

As we have said, each of these crises has a philosophical place and character in American history, and the reader may be interested to note the same as preliminary to an understanding of the Centennial exercises in New York city.

First, the Declaration of Independence was a *democratic* and *popular* revolution. It was the act by which the allegiance of the old Thirteen Colonies to the mother country was broken. It was essentially destructive in its character. The first stages of all revolutions have this distinctive aspect. They destroy. It remains for a subsequent movement to rebuild. The revolution, in the first place, abolishes and destroys an existing order. It implies that the people have borne as long as possible some system which presses upon them as if it were of chains and fetters. It is to break the chains, to throw off the fetters, that the revolution begins its career. Sometimes it is carried forward under a government which is able to survive the shock; more frequently it attacks the government itself, and, if successful, overthrows it. Such was the case with the destructive Revolution of 1776. It was leveled against the existing order, and was most happily successful.

Second, it was not long after the achievement of independence until the Revolutionary patriots, at least the more thoughtful and conserva-

tive of them, came to see that mere independence was not enough; that mere destruction of popular abuses could not suffice for the future of America. Acting from these sentiments the Fathers began to consult about re-building, or building anew, a structure in which civil liberty in America might find an abiding place. These discussions began almost as soon as independence was clearly gained. Within a year after the treaty of peace Washington and his friends began to discuss the feasibility of a better system of government. Conferences were held first at Mount Vernon, then at Annapolis, and finally a great convention of delegates was assembled at Philadelphia. This occurred, as we have said, in the summer of 1787. The result of the labors of this convention is well known. That strange compromise called the Constitution of the United States was produced and signed by the delegates, with Washington as their president. This, then, was the epoch of the Formation of the Constitution.

Third, immediately after this event a period of political agitation, the first real and general agitation known in the history of the United States, occurred. The new Constitution laid before the States was the bottom fact from which the stormy discussions of the next two years sprang. Should that Constitution be adopted? Or should it be rejected and the old confederative system of government be continued? On these questions there was a division of parties. The controversy waxed violent. All the old Thirteen States were shaken from center to boundary line.

In a former part of the present work* the story of the Adoption of the Constitution by the several States has been narrated; nor is it necessary here to repeat the well-known account of how State after State carried a majority of its delegates for the new system of government. This epoch of agitation, of controversy, and the final adoption is the third of the three crises to which we have made reference as belonging to our Revolutionary history.

Fourth, and last of all, after the Constitution was adopted by nine or ten of the States, came the striking event of the Institution of the New Government. The paper model of that Government existed in the Constitution itself. How Washington was unanimously chosen as first chief magistrate of the new republic is known to all the world. A Congress was constituted by the election of a House of Representatives and a Senate, in accordance with the provision of the new instrument. All things were made ready, as an architect might prepare the materials for a structure. Then came the actual building of the

* See pp. 356-362.

temple. The scene was in old New York; the New York of one hundred years ago.

It is worth while, before proceeding with the account of the Washingtonian inauguration, and of the commemorative events of 1889, to notice briefly the manner and spirit in which the preceding centennials were observed by the people of the United States. We have already seen with what enthusiasm the Centennial Anniversary of the great democratic Revolution of 1776 was marked by the masses. The people of the United States are warm in their affections toward the destructive revolution which was accomplished by the Declaration of Independence and the war which followed. There can be no doubt that, so far as the masses are concerned, they have taken more interest, not only in our own independence and the means by which it was accomplished, but in the destructive aspect of all other revolutionary movements. With what zeal and success the Centennial Anniversary of Independence was observed in the city of Philadelphia has already been narrated in a previous chapter of the present work.* The second Centennial—that is, the Centennial of the Formation of the Constitution, did not awaken in the United States any considerable degree of enthusiasm. From this it is to be plainly inferred that the people as a whole rejoice more in the fact of independence, in the destruction of old forms, and in the events by which independence was achieved, than they do in the structural part of the history of the country—that is, in the history of those new institutions which have been planted in place of the old.

There was in the city of Philadelphia, where the Constitution was adopted, an effort in 1887 to commemorate the anniversary, and some local interest was excited in the event; but there was no wide-spread zeal, no throbbing of the popular heart over the coming of the hundredth year of our national charter. The same may be said with respect to observing the intermediate period of the adoption of the Constitution. No celebrations of more than local importance were had in any of the States in commemoration of this important event. At the first it was even doubted whether the era of the institution of a government itself, dating from the 30th of April, 1789, could awaken sufficient public enthusiasm to warrant a national celebration. Events such as the formation of our Constitution, its adoption by the people of the States, and the institution of the new form instead of the old are not sufficiently spectacular and heroic to set the masses aglow, to produce the requisite heat of a great national commemoration. Never-

* See pp. 563-628.

theless in the case of the institution of the Government it was believed by the people of New York city that the event could not by any means be allowed to pass without an effort to impress upon the minds of the present generation the great events of a century gone by.

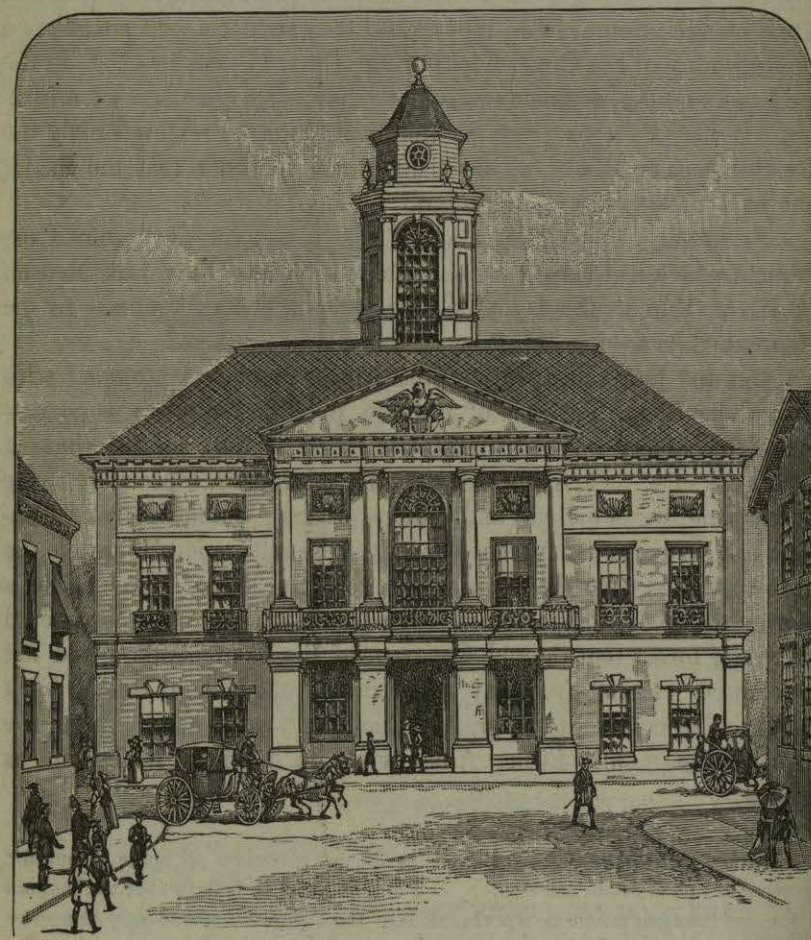
Sufficiently striking in all respects was the contrast between the actual inauguration of Washington and the ceremonies attendant upon the beginning of the Government of the United States in 1789, on the one hand, and the commemorative exercises after the lapse of a century. It may be appropriate in this connection to review briefly the circumstances of Washington's inauguration in order that the reader may have the contrast well in mind.

According to the Constitution of the United States the new Government which had been provided for was to have been instituted on the 4th of March—the day which has ever since been retained as the quadrennial beginning of the successive administrations.

But the first setting up of the Government was attended with many difficulties. The seat of the new Republic, so far as its governmental machinery was concerned, was to be, at least for the time, in New York city. To reach that colonial metropolis, especially in the early spring, was a difficult and tedious process; the members of Congress had to come from what were then distant regions to reach the place appointed. So the work lagged. On the 25th of March, 1789, a quorum had not yet appeared in either House of Congress. Nor should the reader forget that the old Congress of the Confederation had not yet expired. It met from day to day in the old Federal Hall in Wall Street. The coming of a greater Congress was at hand. Near the close of the month Fisher Ames wrote to a friend in Boston, as follows:

We have 26 representatives, and as 30 are necessary to make a quorum, we are still in a state of inaction. . . . I am inclined to believe that the languor of the old Confederation is transfused into the members of the new Congress. This city has not caught the spirit, or rather the want of spirit, I am vexing myself to express to you. Their ball will cost £20,000, York money. They are preparing fireworks and a splendid barge for the President, which last will cost £200 to £300. We lose £1,000 a day revenue. We lose credit, spirit, every thing. The public will forget the Government before it is born. The resurrection of the infant will come before its birth. Happily the federal interest is strong in Congress. The old Congress still continues to meet, and it seems to be doubtful whether the old Government is dead or the new one alive. God deliver us speedily from this puzzling state, or prepare my will, if it subsists much longer, for I am in a fever to think of it."

On the 1st of April, however, the House of Representatives had a quorum. Shortly afterwards the Senate also was sufficiently full to proceed to business. On the 6th of April both Houses were organized in the same Hall where the old Confederate Congress of the Colonies had been sitting. It will be remembered that this so-called Federal



OLD FEDERAL HALL, WALL STREET, AT THE HEAD OF BROAD, 1789.

Hall was the old historic City Hall of New York, which had been used as the seat of legislative affairs since the close of the seventeenth century.

The Constitution had devolved upon Congress the duty of opening and counting the ballots for President of the United States. This was first of all attended to. It was found that George Washington, of

Virginia, had a unanimous vote from all the States. The next highest on the list was John Adams, of Massachusetts, who, as the Constitution then stood, was to serve as Vice-President. But neither the President-elect nor the Vice-President-elect had as yet arrived in New York. Events in those days went forward like a stately minuet. There was neither hurrying nor excitement; or if the latter existed it was suppressed under the formal regularities of the times.

Charles Thompson was dispatched by Congress to Mount Vernon to notify General Washington of his election to the Presidency. The messenger rode on horseback. For fifteen years he had been secretary of Congress. Nor is it uninteresting to notice that his wife, Hannah Harrison, was a sister of Benjamin Harrison, the signer of the Declaration of Independence, great-grandfather of him who was destined, in the course of events, to be the Centennial President of the United States. Washington was thus notified, and preparations were begun for his departure to the seat of government.

Sylvanus Bourne was a like messenger to Vice-President Adams. The latter left home sooner than did Washington, and presently, on the 20th of April, arrived at New York. But the General's coming was delayed until late in April. Even then his progress was slow; the people retarded his course. In the proper place we have already noticed the manner in which he was received *en route*—how, especially at Trenton, passing under triumphal arches, thirteen young girls strewed the way before him with flowers. Washington's course from Trenton was across New Jersey by the old stage-route to Elizabethtown, where he was met by a deputation from Congress to escort him to the city.

The passage of the harbor was sufficiently beautified with civic ceremonies; the boats were decorated with flags, and gay barges glided through the shining water. The President himself crossed over in a barge. It is said that every vessel in the great harbor was in full dress of streamers and flags, while at several points groups of singers saluted the President with music as he passed. Governor George Clinton, of New York, had been commissioned to receive Washington at the ferry. The stairs were carpeted leading up from the water to the shore; there Clinton received the Father of his Country. As soon as Washington's figure rose to view the assembled people broke out in shouts long continued and the excitement swirled through the city when it was known that the new President had really arrived. This was on the 23d of April, 1789.

New York at the time of which we speak was limited to the lower

end of Manhattan Island. It was no more than a speck in comparison with the Centennial Metropolis of the nation. Its northern limits were marked by the building of the *New York Times*. Immediately north of this lay a lake, called the Collect Pond, about sixty feet in depth, covering that part of the city now occupied by the Tombs. It is said that the capitalists, even the adventurers, of that day, were without faith as to the future extension of the city northward. The population was approximately forty thousand. Water was distributed to the citizens in hydrants and drawn from what was known as the Old Tea-Water Pump standing at the head of Pearl Street. No system of public street cleaning had been adopted. The streets were lighted with oil lamps. Much of the work was done by slaves, and slave auctions were at that time still a common occurrence.

General Washington was conducted to the residence which had been prepared for him in Franklin Square, and a programme was made out by Congress for the inauguration, which was set for the 30th of April. The stately and yet successful formalities of the occasion are fully set forth in the following memorandum from the first records of Congress:

April 29th, 1789. The committees of both houses of Congress, appointed to take order for conducting the ceremonial of the formal reception, &c., of the President of the United States, on Thursday next, have agreed to the following order thereon, viz.:

That General We'll, Colonel Smith, Lieutenant Colonel Fish, Lieutenant Colonel Franks, Major L'Enfant, Major Bleecker, and Mr. John R. Livingston, be requested to serve as assistants on the occasion.

That a chair be placed in the Senate Chamber for the President of the United States. That a chair be placed in the Senate Chamber for the Vice-President, to the right of the President's chair; and that the Senators take their seats on that side of the chamber on which the Vice-President's chair shall be placed. That a chair be placed in the Senate Chamber for the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the left of the President's chair—and that the Representatives take their seats on that side of the chamber on which the Speaker's chair shall be placed.

That seats be provided in the Senate Chamber sufficient to accommodate the late president of Congress, the governor of the Western territory, the five persons being the heads of three great departments, the Minister Plenipotentiary of France, the Encargado de negocios of Spain, the chaplains of Congress, the persons in the suite of the President, and also to accommodate the following Public Officers of the State, viz.: The Governor, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Chancellor, the Chief Justice, and other judges of the Supreme Court, and the Mayor of the city. That one of the assistants wait on these gentlemen, and inform them that seats are provided for their accommodation, and also to signify to them that no precedence of seats is intended, and that no salutation is expected from them on their entrance into, or their departure from, the Senate Chamber.

That the members of both houses assemble in their respective Chambers precisely at twelve o'clock, and that the representatives preceded by the Speaker, and attended by their clerk, and other officers, proceed to the Senate Chamber, there to be received by the Vice-President and the senators rising.

That the Committees attend the President from his residence to the Senate Chamber, and that he be there received by the Vice-President, the senators and representatives rising, and be by the Vice-President conducted to his chair.

That after the President shall be seated in his chair, and the Vice-President, senators and representatives shall be again seated, the Vice-President shall announce to the President, that the members of both houses will attend him to be present at his taking the Oath of Office required by the Constitution. To the end that the Oath of Office may be administered to the President in the most public manner, and that the greatest number of the people of the United States, and without distinction, may be witnesses to the solemnity, that therefore the Oath be administered in the outer gallery adjoining to the Senate Chamber.

That when the President shall proceed to the gallery to take the Oath, he be attended by the Vice-President, and be followed by the Chancellor of the State, and pass through the middle door; that the Senators pass through the door on the right; and the Representatives, preceded by the Speaker, pass through the door on the left; and such of the persons who shall have been admitted into the Senate Chamber, and may be desirous to go into the gallery, are then also to pass through the door on the right. When the President shall have taken the Oath, and returned into the Senate Chamber, attended by the Vice-President, and shall be seated in his chair, that the Senators and the Representatives also return into the Senate Chamber, and that the Vice-President and they resume their respective seats.

Both Houses having resolved to accompany the President, after he shall have taken the Oath, to St. Paul's Chapel, to hear divine service, to be performed by the chaplain of Congress, that the following order of procession be observed, viz.: The door-keeper and messenger of the House of Representatives. The clerk of the House. The Representatives. The Speaker. The President, with the Vice-President at his left hand. The Senators. The Secretary of the Senate. The door-keeper, and messenger of the Senate.

That a pew be reserved for the President, Vice-President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Committees; and that pews be also reserved sufficient for the reception of the Senators and Representatives.

That after divine service shall be performed, the President be received at the door of the Church, by the Committees, and by them attended in carriages to his residence.

That it be intrusted to the assistants to take proper precautions for the keeping the avenues to the Hall open, and that for that purpose, they wait on his Excellency, the Governor of this State, and in the name of the Committees request his aid, by an order of recommendation to the Civil Officers, or militia of the city, to attend and serve on the occasion, as he shall judge most proper.

New York, as New York then was, had made great preparations to receive the Chief Magistrate. On the morning of the 30th, a national salute was fired; the bells burst out merrily from all the

steeple of the city. The newspapers of the day described the scene as especially impressive. The people were called to attend church at nine o'clock in the morning. The beginning of the inaugural procession was set for noon-day; and promptly at that hour the President's carriage, followed by a train of attendants, proceeded from the house in Cherry Street, which had been appointed as his residence, through what was then Queen, Great Dock, and Broad Streets to the Old Federal Hall, where the ceremonies of the inauguration were to take place. The order of march is worthy of commemoration; for this, as well as many other circumstances, tends to set in strongest contrast the first inauguration with that of its Centennial recurrence.

Col. MORGAN LEWIS,
Attended by two officers.

Capt. STAKES,
With the Troop of Horse.

Artillery.
Maj. VAN HORNE.

Grenadiers, under Capt. HARSIN.
German Grenadiers, very gayly attired, under Capt. SCRIBA.
Major BICKER.

The Infantry of the Brigade.
Major CHRYSLIE.

Sheriff.

Committee of the Senate.

Civil Officers.	}	Assistants.	} President-elect, In a chariot drawn by four horses. His Suite.	} Assistants.	}	Civil Officers.

Committee of the Representatives.

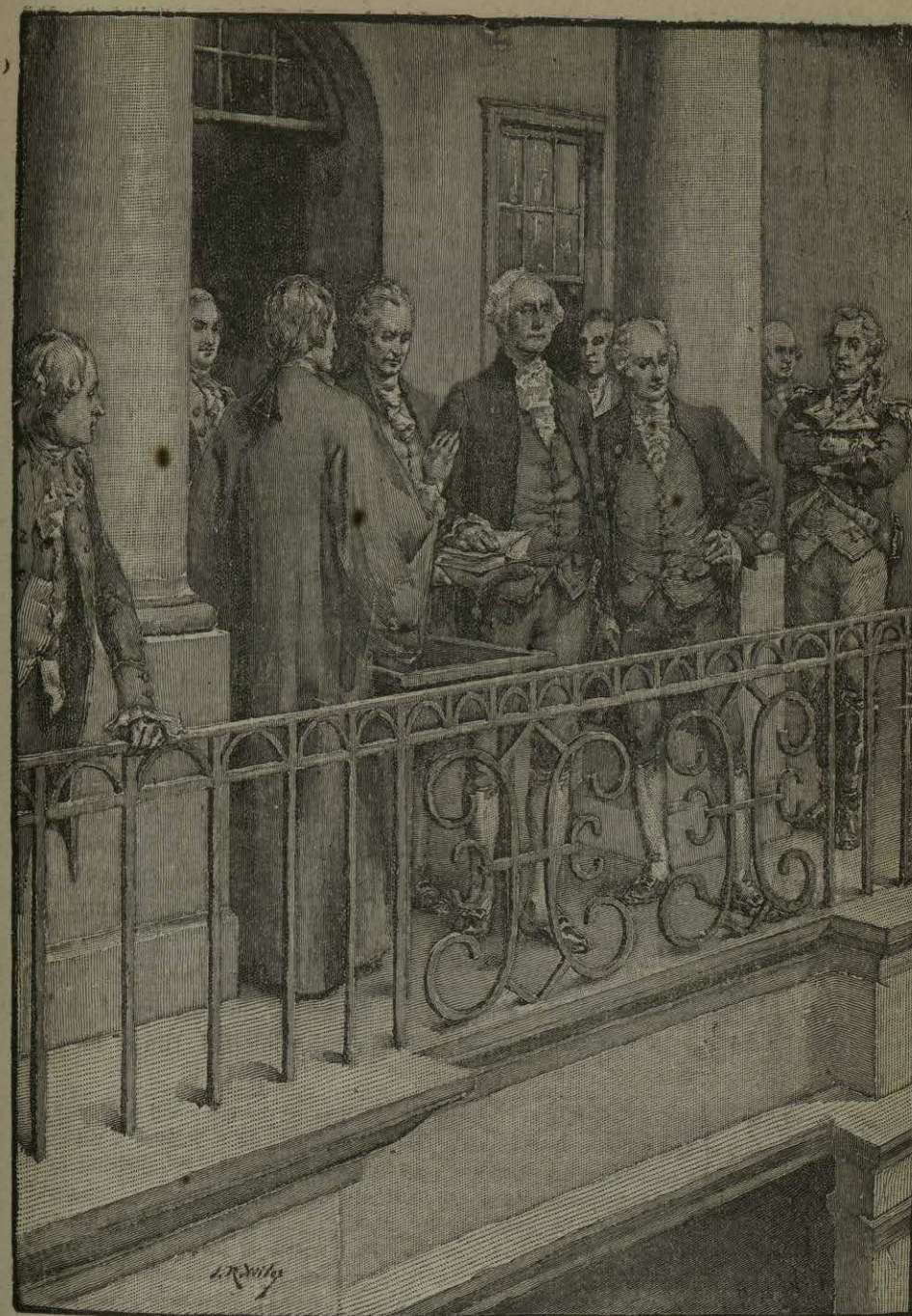
Hon. Mr. JAY, Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Gen. KNOX, Secretary of War.

Chancellor LIVINGSTON.

Several gentlemen of distinction.

Arrangements had been made for the reception of Washington in the Senate Hall. Thither he was conducted, and, when seated, was addressed by Vice-President Adams. After these preliminaries, the



BARON STEUBEN. GOV. ARTHUR ST. CLAIR. SECRETARY SAMUEL A. OTIS. ROGER SHERMAN. GOV. GEORGE CLINTON.
CHANCELLOR ROBERT E. LIVINGSTON. GEORGE WASHINGTON. JOHN ADAMS. GEN. HENRY KNOX.

WASHINGTON TAKING THE OATH AS PRESIDENT,

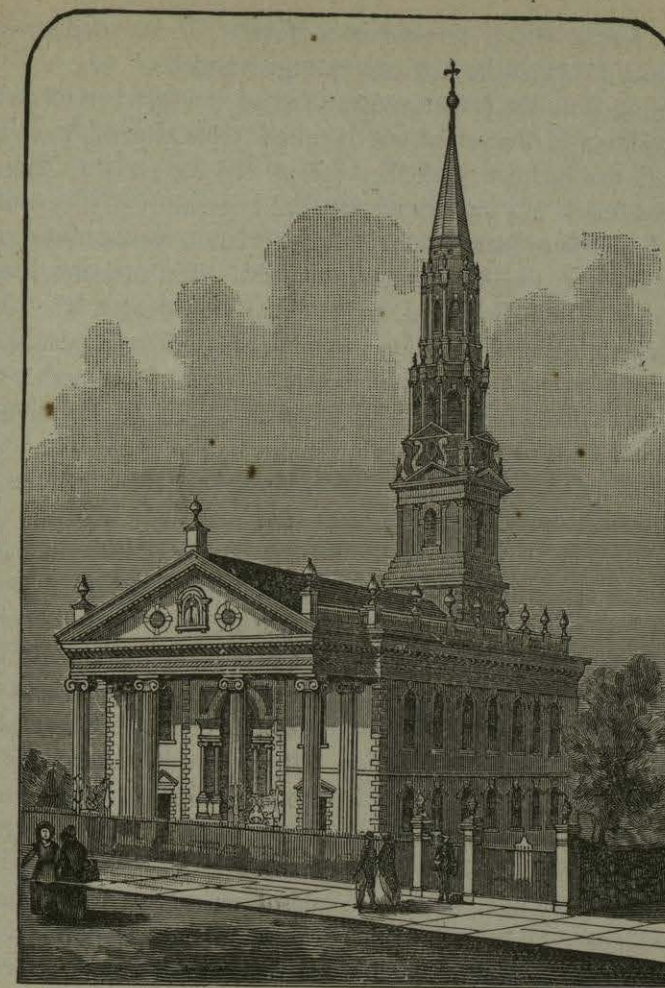
APRIL 30, 1789, ON THE SITE OF THE PRESENT TREASURY BUILDING, WALL STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

President-elect, with the Chief Officers of the new Republic, the Senate and House of Representatives, repaired by the left and right to the balcony in front of the Hall, looking down in Wall Street, where the assembled throng awaited the administration of the oath of office. To this duty Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, Chief-justice of New York, had been appointed. Perhaps no scene of public induction into office was ever more solemn or impressive. The chief figure was that of the Father of his Country, conspicuous by his height, and still more conspicuous by the grandeur and impressiveness of his demeanor. The oath of office was administered on the Bible, opened before Washington, whereon he laid his hand, and to which he pressed his lips at the conclusion of the oath. This done, Chancellor Livingston raised his voice, and with a gesture cried: "Long live George Washington, President of the United States." Immediately afterward the throng burst out in wild cheering; shouts echoed through the city, and the bells rang out their peal of gladness at the auspicious event. Returning to the Senate Chamber Washington delivered an inaugural address, not elaborate and formal, as such papers have become in the course of our history, but brief, and affecting to those who heard it.*

As soon as the exercises at the Federal Hall were over Washington, attended by the chief officers of the government, and the Senate, repaired to the old St. Paul's Chapel, where divine services were held, and a sermon preached by Bishop Provost of the Protestant Episcopal Church. This concluded the formal exercises of the day. With the coming of night the city was brilliantly illuminated. The people poured into the streets; shouts rang out on the evening air, and a universal joy seemed to prevail, which was but the conspicuous example of the common rejoicing in all the States.

It is fitting to note once more that Washington furnishes the only purely and absolutely non-partisan figure in the history of the United States of America. Already in the Colonial times local

*It is worthy of note that Washington, at the time of the inauguration, though only 57 years of age, was already an old man. He had gone into the Revolution a young man, but was now aged, gray, enfeebled by the strenuous services and great anxieties to which he had been subjected through a period of fourteen years. He was still erect, majestic, firm in his step, with a certain serene dignity of countenance which has hardly had a parallel among all the great men who have risen on this side of the sea. But it was noticed by those in the Senate Chamber, on the day of his inauguration, that his voice was not a little enfeebled. He spoke in a low tone, and could be heard only by those who were sitting near. Perhaps the premonitory shadows of the serious and long-continued illness, which fell upon him within two months after his inauguration, were already gathering on the day of his accession to the Presidency.



OLD ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

divisions had given rise to local partisan controversy, and at the time of Washington's inauguration—even before that inauguration—a great dispute, relative first of all to the Constitution itself, whether it should or should not be, and after that, relative to the *construction* of the great instrument, had broken out in all the States. Little jets of flame were already springing through the placid surface of public affairs, indicative of the great Federal and Democratic partisan disputes which have hardly yet ceased to agitate the American mind. But in this Washington had no part or lot. He stood proudly above it. His theory was to introduce into his administration the diverse elements of political belief, and to harmonize under his benign, fatherly influence the