

Address delivered by James P. B. Hyndman from Station WHAP, New York City, on Monday, May 3, 1926, 9.15 P.M., on Americanism. Subject:

THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. - Christ Jesus.

On June 14, 1777, the following Act was passed by the Continental Congress of the United States of America:

Saturday, June 14, 1777: RESOLVED, That the Flag of the United States shall be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be 13 stars, white, on a blue field, representing a new constellation.

The history, ideals, and institutions of America are the most marvellous which the world has ever seen. This nation, America, has always been in the hand of God, the only Creator and Preserver of His universe, for ages, and, in the fulness of time, according to His wisdom, America and her mission were revealed to a wondering world.

At the time of the founding of America, or rather, her emergence as a separate and individual nation among the nations of the world, the early fathers of our nation looked to the Holy Bible for inspiration. They were inspired with love for God and His Christ, with a sincere desire to understand and obey His law and follow His Guiding hand, and, with a deep aversion to that spirit of evil in the world, which had, throughout the ages, expressed itself in political and ecclesiastical tyranny. Their rich inheritance, through noble ancestors, of the understanding of the things of God, the vital realities of the kingdom of heaven, which Christ Jesus established on the earth, came through long ages of striving to attain the Mind of Christ, against continued persecution, opposition, tyranny, and the hatred of the opposers of Christ.

The mighty vision, which the prophets of Israel maintained throughout generations, culminated in the first appearing of Christ, whose marvellous reflection of the infinite wisdom and goodness of God, who is eternal Good, was to inaugurate, at the second appearing of Christ, in America, the Kingdom of God, "on earth as it is in heaven," and to destroy the "works of darkness," which God never created.

The founding of the American Federal Republic was the beginning of the final visible establishment of Christ's Kingdom on earth. Well did the early fathers of the Republic know, that the prince of the darkness of this world, who sits on a throne on the Tiber, and seeks to dominate the whole world, through combination of ancient Roman military and civil power, and the superficiality of Judaic ritualism, — that this prince of darkness would fight and oppose the

founding of the new-born spiritual nation, for this new nation, the last of earth's nations, was to grow to the stature of a spiritual giant, under the leadership of Christ, who would cast the kingdom of darkness, with its rulers and its subjects, to the bottomless pit.

The colonial patriots were deeply impressed with the truth, that a nation was being brought forth, which should be the instrument in the hand of God, to usher in a "New Era," on earth, an era of spiritual freedom, wherein the old tyrannies of a dying world should be forgotten, and the harmonies of the eternal rule of the Prince of Peace should begin their reign, on the virgin soli of the Western, or New World.

The Flag of the United States grew, in the minds of the colonials, from the flags of the various colonies, and of the confederation. The first English flag planted on the soil of the Western Hemisphere, was the Flag containing the red cross of St. George, on a white field, which John Cabot brought to America, In 1497. The Flag of Great Britain and the colonies, from 1620 to June 14, 1777, was the combination of the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, called the Union Flag. The Flag of 1707 contained the union in the canton, while the field was red. Next came the Pine Tree Flags of the colony of Massachusetts, the first, a modification of the Flag of 1707, showing a pine tree in the canton, in place of the union, and the second, a pine tree on a white field, which was adopted in 1775, and used on American vessels. The Southern colonies had a rattlesnake, as the emblem of their Flag, with the motto, "Don't Tread On Me." This Flag was adopted during the years 1776-7. The most important of the Flags of the transition period, was the Cambridge, Massachusetts, in January, 1776. It showed the British union in the canton, and thirteen alternate red and white stripes in the field. It was called by the British, the Rebellious Flag, or the Rebellious Stripes.

The Flag of the 13 stars and 13 alternate red and white stripes was adopted June 14, 1777. The first Flag of this design was said to have flown over Fort Schuyler, a little later. As new States were added, a new star and a new stripe were added to the Flag for each, until there were 20. Congress finally authorized, on April 4, 1818, the adoption of a Flag having 13 alternate red and white stripes, and one star for each State.

The fathers engaged in many earnest and prayerful discussions regarding the fundamental documents and the symbolic emblems of the American Federal Republic, the Eagle among the nations of the world. The noble Washington gives a hint of the trend of these times of sacked communion, in the following explanation of the symbolism of our Flag;

The star we take from heaven; and the white stripes, separating the red field of the mother country flag, indicate that we have separated from her, and these white stripes will go down to posterity as symbols of liberty.

The star is a marvellous symbol. It was said of Christ:

I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright
and morning star. (Revelation 22:16)

A study of the attributes of the star reveals it in its true perspective. It is essentially a heavenly symbol. It shines by reflected light. Its magnitude is determined by its brilliancy. It pursues its course in relation to its Source, and it proclaims its message at the appointed time.

The stripes are a symbol of purification. In Isaiah we read: "by his stripes we are healed." White symbolizes purity, and red, fortitude and life. In Washington's interpretation, the stripes signified our separateness as an independent Nation. The proper name for our Flag is the Stars and Stripes.

The Flag of the United States is the oldest of all the flags of the civilized nations of the world. The symbolism of our Flag is the holiest on earth. This emblem flies in the breeze as the sign of the passing away of the era of evil, despotism, and tyranny, and the dawn of that era of peace and good-will among men, when Christ shall be recognized as in very fact he is, the ruler, not only of America, but of the whole earth.

James P. B. Hyndman

Preble's book on the Flag of the United States is the great authority on this subject. (Admiral Preble). There has been much written on the Flag and the Seal, whose bringing forth were correlated, both in time and circumstance, as well as symbolism. I have a set of typewritten notes, made ten or fifteen years ago, the result of extensive research in the New York Library. These notes were headed, "Some Interesting Facts Regarding The Flag and Seal Of the United States of America;" and they contained, besides many interesting facts, a fairly extensive bibliography, and excerpts of interest. They are not in my "Flag" file now; and I seem unable, at the moment, to put my hands on them, which I regret very much. However, I am sure they will turn up, or some of my friends may have copies, and when they do appear, I will send you a copy.

On July 4, 1915, Secretary Franklin K. Lane, at that time Secretary of Labor (I think) wrote a beautiful tribute to the Flag, which was published in the *New York Times*. I cut it out, but it has also disappeared. He said he was walking down Pennsylvania Avenue, on his way to his office in the Capitol, when the Flag greeted him with a cheery "Good Morning, Mr. Secretary." He returned the salutation with, "Good Morning, Stars and Stripes." Then the conversation began, and continued in a most interesting and beautiful fashion. The Flag finally said, "I am not the Flag but only its symbol; the American people are the Flag of the United States, and, according to their thought, they make me what I am. If they are sad, I droop; if they are happy, I fling my

colors to the breeze; if they are brave, I hold myself proudly at the head of the mast, as the symbol of courage. I symbolize the thought of the American people."

Another fine article, which appeared during the war, spoke of the Flag, as having been shot at by a German soldier (machine gunner) until all the stars were shot out; but the Flag flew bravely to the breeze, and the real stars of heaven shone through the holes, showing that the American Flag is indestructible and immortal.

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