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THE FAITH OF THE SIGNERS
OF THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

WILLIAM STEVENS PERRY, D.D.

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THE BIRTH OF OUR COUNTRY

By Hintermeister
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THE BIRTH OF OUR COUNTRY

HAD one been privileged to be present one hundred and fifty years ago in the upper room of a house at Seventh and Market Streets, Philadelphia, with the famous "Committee of Five," who were chosen as spokesmen for the new Nation about to be born, it would have taken a far-sighted prophet to predict the significance of the event. At that time, in America, there was no central government, no national body, no one and indivisible union—not even a legal alliance—only thirteen separate British Colonies, whose advisory congress could not raise money by taxation, had no authority to compel obedience and represented no legal authority of any kind whatsoever.

It was the absolute necessity of establishing some kind of central authority that led men to see that a formal declaration of independence must be made before Congress could proceed to operate with some legal basis for its existence and its action.

Here is a picture of the five men selected for this difficult and dangerous task. To-day, we take the existence of our Nation so much as a matter of course, that it is difficult to realize the courage and skill that were required in those early days to successfully launch our Ship of State.

Particularly interesting is a consideration of the different types of personality which composed this Committee and enabled it to solve its problem in so complete and comprehensive a manner. The ardor and impetuosity of youth is carefully balanced by the wisdom and experience of maturer years; the balanced judgment of a Franklin and a Sherman by the fiery desire for action of a Jefferson and a Livingston.

The commanding figure in front of the window is easily recognized as that of the many-sided Franklin—a printer, a publisher, an inventor, a scientist, a diplomat and a great public leader. No American ever received greater recognition from all Europe. He was universally honored and courted. His genius was too great to be confined by national boundaries.

Benjamin Franklin was a great advertiser and propagandist. He was a great humorist. The commonly known facts about him can be supplemented by many interesting facts not generally known. For example, he was probably the first great American athlete. He was a swimmer of exceptional ability and, as a young man, it was purposed to build a natatorium for him in London, where he could give lessons and exhibitions. In the picture, he is shown with spectacles and it is interesting to note that he was the inventor of the bi-focal lens for spectacles. His common sense and clear thinking led him to become an authority on the subject of ventilation, and he was consulted by the government of England about the ventilation of the House of Commons. He first promoted the use of plaster for buildings; he was the first to teach the use of mineral fertilizers; he established the first organized fire department in America; he invented

water-tight compartments for ships; he established the University of Pennsylvania; he founded the first public library in America. At the time of the incident represented in this picture he was in his seventy-first year.

The slender figure dressed in light-green, standing beside Franklin, is that of Thomas Jefferson—then thirty-three years old. Although Jefferson has many claims upon immortality, doubtless his greatest bid is the fact that he was chosen by the Committee to do the actual work of drafting the Declaration, which was finally submitted for their correction and approval. Tall and slender in his youth, he was much given to fanciful dress. He entered public life a rich man and died poor. Apart from the fact that he was elected President, among the many things to his credit are the purchase of Louisiana; responsibility for the Lewis and Clark expedition; the suggestion of the dollar as the unit of our currency, and the founding of the University of Virginia.

The picture of the desk upon the table is an exact representation of that upon which the Declaration was written. It was especially made for Jefferson according to plans and measurements made by himself.

The figure in red, seated at the table, is that of John Adams, an earnest and eloquent advocate of the Declaration and the man who proposed George Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the Army. Succeeding Washington, he became our second President. He was born at Quincy, Mass., October 30, 1735, and was forty-one years old at the time of the picture.

Roger Sherman, the man in black, was born in Newton, Mass., April 19, 1721. At the time of the meeting of this Committee, he was fifty-five years old. His career is the old American story. He began life as a shoemaker; then studied law, and rose to be judge of the highest court in Connecticut. Sherman was of the Calvin Coolidge type, thrifty, practical, keen, alert. He seldom spoke but when he did, produced a profound impression. Jefferson said of him that he never said a foolish thing in his life. He was the only man who enjoyed the singular distinction of having signed all of the foremost important state papers of American History: 1. The Articles of association of the First Continental Congress. 2. The Declaration of Independence. 3. The Articles of Confederation. 4. The Constitution of the United States.

He of the lavender coat is Robert R. Livingston. At this time he was twenty-nine years old. Rich, well educated, although very fastidious about his personal appearance, he was a man of great power and ability. Notice that he is the one man of the group who affects an elegant snuff-box. As an aristocratic colonial, he naturally followed the European custom of the times. Livingston was Chancellor of New York and in 1801 became Minister to France, where he materially assisted in the negotiation that led to the Louisiana Purchase.

THE
FAITH OF THE SIGNERS
OF THE
Declaration of Independence

—BY—

WILLIAM STEVENS PERRY,

Bishop of Iowa.

EDITOR'S PREFACE

THE STORY of the first prayer offered in Congress is familiar to all through the engraving of the scene—but not so the religious belief of each and every member of that first Congress; and it is somewhat remarkable that, outside of Sanderson's "Lives of the Signers," no attempt seems to have been made to discover and record it, for at least a century. The late Rev. W. S. Perry, P. E. Bishop of Iowa, was a voluminous writer upon topics connected with his church and it is to his industry we are indebted for a detailed and no doubt accurate record of the subject. The exact date when this was published is unknown, as of all his writings this is the only one which bears neither place or date of publication; and the pamphlet itself is so scarce that comparatively few can be aware of its existence. We were obliged to borrow our copy from the Library of Congress. The Bishop's list is correct, save in one instance—he reckons Stockton as a Quaker, whereas, on the authority of the N. J. Historical Society, we say he was a Presbyterian, although buried in a Quaker cemetery.

The list of members of the Congress who did not actually sign the Declaration, as given by Dr. Perry, is interesting: the descendants of such must greatly regret their loss of the distinction of descent from the "Signers."

The Bishop is greatly pleased that a majority of the Signers were Episcopalians; but he might well have remembered that, outside of New England, which was Congregational, the rest of the colonies were almost entirely Church of England, and hence most "Signers" must necessarily be of that church.

It is remarkable that the Congress had only one Quaker and one Catholic among its members: Stephen Hopkins and Charles Carroll, who was to survive all his fellow members, until 1832, as Morton was the first to die (in 1777) and Lynch, the youngest of the Congress died in 1779.

Of the number we count—

Episcopalians—34

	<i>State of Birth</i>	<i>Born and Died</i>
Braxton	Va.	1732-1797
Chase	Md.	1741-1811
Clymer	Pa.	1739-1813
Franklin	Mass.	1706-1790
Gerry	Mass.	1744-1814
Gwinnett	England	1732-1777
Harrison	Va.	— -1791
Hewes	N. J.	1730-1779
Heyward	S. C.	1746-1809
Hooper	Mass.	1742-1790
Hopkinson	Pa.	1737-1791
Jefferson	Va.	1742-1826
Lee, F. L.	Va.	1734-1797
Lee, R. H.	Va.	1732-1794
Lewis	Wales	1713-1803
Livingston	N. Y.	1716-1778
Lynch	S. C.	1749-1779
Middleton	S. C.	1743-1787
Morris, L.	N. Y.	1726-1798
Morris, R.	England	1733-1806
Morton	Pa.	1724-1777
Nelson	Va.	1738-1789
Paca	Md.	1740-1799
Penn	Va.	1741-1788
Read	Md.	1733-1798
Rodney	Del.	1730-1783
Ross	Del.	1730-1779
Rush	Pa.	1745-1813
Rutledge	S. C.	1746-1809
Stone	Md.	1743-1787
Taylor	Ireland	1716-1781
Walton	Va.	1740-1804
Wilson	Scotland	— -1798
Wythe	Va.	1726-1806
<i>Congregationalists—13</i>		
Adams, John	Mass.	1735-1826
Adams, Samuel	Mass.	1722-1803
Bartlett	Mass.	1729-1795
Ellery	R. I.	1727-1820

	<i>State of Birth</i>	<i>Born and Died</i>
Hall	Conn.	1721-1784
Hancock	Mass.	1737-1803
Huntington	Conn.	1732-1796
Paine	Mass.	1731-1814
Sherman	Mass.	1721-1793
Thornton	Ireland	1714-1803
Whipple	Me. <small>(then part of Mass.)</small>	1730-1785
Williams	Conn.	1747-1811
Wolcott	Conn.	1726-1797
<i>Presbyterians—6</i>		
Clark	N. J.	1726-1794
Floyd	N. Y.	1734-1821
McKean	Pa.	1734-1817
Smith	Ireland	1717(?)—1806
Stockton	N. J.	1730-1781
Witherspoon	Scotland	1722-1794
<i>Baptist—1</i>		
Hart	N. J.	1715-1779
<i>Quaker—1</i>		
Hopkins	R. I.	1707-1785
<i>Catholic—1</i>		
Carroll	Md.	1737-1832

As to their birthplaces it will probably be news to some of our readers, that not all were American-born. The list runs thus:

Maine (then part of Massachusetts)

Whipple

Massachusetts

Adams (2)

Bartlett

Franklin

Gerry

Rhode Island

Ellery

Connecticut

Hall

Huntington

New York

Floyd

Livingston

Hancock

Hooper

Paine

Sherman

Hopkins

Williams

Wolcott

Morris (L.)

New Jersey

Clark

Hart

Hewes

Stockton

Pennsylvania

Clymer

Hopkinson

McKean

Morton

Rush

Delaware

Rodney

Ross

Maryland

Chase

Carroll

Paca

Read

Virginia

Braxton

Harrison

Jefferson

Lee, F. L.

Lee, R. H.

Nelson

Penn

Walton

Wythe

South Carolina

Lynch

Middleton

Rutledge

England

Gwinnett

Morris, R.

Lewis (*Wales*)*Ireland*

Smith

Taylor

Thornton

Scotland

Wilson

Witherspoon

It may be noted that two of the Signers were almost exactly coeval with Washington (1732-1799)—Huntington, 1732-1796 and Braxton, 1732-1797.

Most opportunely for our purpose, there was sold in New York, January 19, 1926 as part of the great Manning collection of autographs, a letter of Thomas McKean to Caesar A. Rodney, nephew of Rodney the "Signer." This is a letter of the greatest historical importance, as it gives a history of the adoption and signing of the Declaration, correcting many errors which have crept into the history of this, the most famous document ever put forth in our country.

At this sale, the extraordinary price of \$22,500 was paid for the autograph of Button Gwinnett, as a witness to a will—and there was also sold the written statement of George Wells, of the duel between Gwinnett and McIntosh, in which both were wounded, the former mortally. This is the only known statement by an eye-witness, of this historic duel.

Through kindness of the auctioneer, the Anderson Galleries, we are also able to give a (reduced) *facsimile* of the last page of McKean's letter—and a copy of the Wells statement.



THE FAITH OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

THE resolution declaring the thirteen colonies free and independent was moved in the Congress of 1776 by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, a Churchman and vestryman. The chairman of the Committee of Congress to whom this resolution was referred and by whom the Declaration was reported after its discussion and adoption in "Committee of the Whole" was Benjamin Harrison of Virginia, a Churchman and vestryman. The author of the Declaration itself, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, although in his later life regarded as an "infidel," and certainly holding and advocating at times views quite inconsistent with those accepted by any Christian body, served as a vestryman in his early days and was by birth and baptism connected with the Church. To the very last of life he was a regular attendant at Church and must be classed, in view of his baptism, family associations, and life-long attendance on the services of the Church, as, at least, a nominal Churchman. His Prayer-Book, used in Church in his latest years, is still preserved, and the columns of a leading Church paper, a few years ago, contained full attestations of the statements we have made. The contributions of these three Virginians, vestrymen, baptised members of the Church and through life actual, or at least nominal Churchmen, freely given to the cause of American Independence, can be paralleled by no other religious body in the land.

The Members of Congress on July 4, 1776, were as follows, the date recorded after the name of the colony being that of the latest certificate given by the legislative body of each of the thirteen colonies to its representatives in Philadelphia:

New Hampshire, Feb. 29, 1776: †William Whipple (Congregationalist), †John Langdon (Congregationalist), *Josiah Bartlett (Congregationalist).

*Those whose names were in August or at a later date affixed to the Declaration are distinguished by an asterisk.

†It is an interesting fact that the descendants of both Whipple and Langdon are in the Church.

Massachusetts, Feb. 9, 1776: *John Hancock (Congregationalist),¹ *Samuel Adams (Congregationalist), *John Adams (Congregationalist), *†Robert Treat Paine (Congregationalist), *Elbridge Gerry (Churchman).

Connecticut, Jan. 16, 1776: Roger Sherman (Congregationalist), *Oliver Wolcott (Congregationalist), *Samuel Huntington (Congregationalist), *Titus Hosmer (Congregationalist), *William Williams (Congregationalist).²

New York, May 11, 1776: *Philip Livingston (Churchman), James Duane (Churchman), John Alsop (Churchman), *William Floyd (Presbyterian), *Lewis Morris (Churchman), John Jay (Churchman), who, with those whose names follow, attended May 15, 1776: Henry Wisner (Churchman), Philip Schuyler (Dutch Reformed),³ George Clinton (Churchman), *Francis Lewis (Churchman), Robert R. Livingston, Jr. (Churchman).

New Jersey, June 28, 1776: *Richard Stockton (Presbyterian), *Abraham Clark (Presbyterian), *John Hart (Baptist),⁴ *Francis Hopkinson (Churchman), *John Witherspoon, D.D., LL.D., President of Princeton College (Presbyterian).

Pennsylvania, Nov. 3, 1775: *John Morton (Churchman), John Dickinson (Quaker), *Robert Morris (Churchman), *Benjamin Franklin (Churchman), Charles Humphreys (Quaker), Thomas Willing (Churchman),⁵ Edward Biddle (Churchman), Andrew Allen (Presbyterian), *James Wilson (Churchman).

Lower Counties on the Delaware, May 11, 1775: *Caesar Rodney (Churchman), *§Thomas McKean (Presbyterian), *George Read (Churchman).

Maryland, Sept. 13, 1775: Matthew Tilghman (Churchman), Thomas Johnson, Jr. (Churchman), Robert Goldsborough (Churchman), *William Paca (Churchman), *Thomas Stone (Churchman), John Hall (Churchman).

Virginia, Sept. 13, 1775: *Richard Henry Lee (Churchman), *Thomas Jefferson (Churchman), *Benjamin Harrison (Churchman), *Thomas Nelson, Jr. (Churchman), *George Wythe (Churchman), *Francis Lightfoot Lee (Churchman), and on Feb. 23, 1776, *Carter Braxton (Churchman).

North Carolina, May 11, 1775: *William Hooper (Churchman), *Joseph Hewes (Churchman), and on Oct. 13, *John Penn (Churchman).

South Carolina, April 24, 1776: Thomas Lynch (Churchman), John Rutledge

¹A son and grandson of Congregational divines.

†A son of a retired Congregational minister and serving as a chaplain during the war. The present representatives of Robert Treat Paine are Church-folk.

²A son of a Congregational minister.

³General Schuyler's two daughters lived and died in the communion of the Church.

⁴*The Baptists and the American Revolution.* By William Cathcart, D.D. Philadelphia, 1876. 12mo; p. 53.

§The descendants of Gov. McKean are Churchmen.

⁵Apropos of Willing, a letter from Jefferson to Trumbull, dated Nov. 11, 1818, was sold in New York this year. Trumbull was then engaged in painting his familiar "Signing of the Declaration," and Jefferson says to him: "I think I portrayed to you, in writing, the countenance of T. W., while the Declaration was reading. I hope you have given it all its haggard lineaments, if you have not, *touch it again—HE REFUSED TO SIGN.*"

(Churchman), *Edward Rutledge (Churchman), *Arthur Middleton (Churchman), *Thomas Heyward, Jr. (Churchman), Thomas Lynch, Jr. (Churchman).

Georgia, May 20, 1776: *Lyman Hall (Congregationalist), *Button Gwinnett (Churchman), Archibald Bulloch (Churchman), John Houston (Churchman), *George Walton (Churchman).⁶

Rhode Island, May 14, 1776: *Stephen Hopkins (Quaker), *||William Ellery (Congregationalist).

The names of "signers" and persons mentioned as "signers," who were not members of Congress July 4, 1776, are as follows:

New Hampshire: *Matthew Thornton (Congregationalist), admitted Nov. 4, 1776.

Pennsylvania: *Benjamin Rush (Churchman), *George Ross (Churchman), *James Smith (Presbyterian), *George Clymer (Churchman), George Taylor (Churchman), admitted July 18, 1776.

Maryland: *Charles Carroll of Carrolton (Roman Catholic), *Samuel Chase (Churchman), admitted July 18, 1776.

Of the above-named Members of Congress on the day popularly supposed to be the date of the signing of the memorable document, the following did not affix their names, viz.:

John Langdon (Congregationalist) of New Hampshire; Titus Hosmer (Congregationalist) of Connecticut; James Duane (Churchman), John Alsop (Churchman), John Jay (Churchman), Henry Wisner (Churchman), George Clinton (Churchman), Robert R. Livingston, Jr. (Churchman), and Philip Schuyler (Dutch Reformed) of New York; John Dickinson (Quaker), Charles Humphreys (Quaker), Edward Biddle (Churchman), Thomas Willing (Churchman), and Andrew Allen (Presbyterian) of Pennsylvania (the latter, the Chief-Justice of the province, became a Tory and left the country for Great Britain); Matthew Tilghman (Churchman), Robert Goldsborough (Churchman), Thomas Johnson, Jr. (Churchman), and John Hall (Churchman), of Maryland; John Rutledge (Churchman) and Thomas Lynch, Sr. (Churchman) of South Carolina; Archibald Bulloch (Churchman) and John Houston (Churchman) of Georgia.

It is probable that John Langdon (Congregationalist), of New Hampshire was not present at the time of signing. Titus Hosmer (Congregationalist) and William Williams (Congregationalist) were alternates for Roger Sherman (Congregationalist), Oliver Wolcott (Congregationalist), and Samuel Huntington (Congregationalist),

⁶Afterwards Chief-Justice of Georgia.

||William Ellery was married by the Rev. James Honeyman of Trinity, Newport, R. I., the Church service being of course used. He was a personal friend of Dean Berkeley.

all of Connecticut. Another Connecticut deputy, William Williams (Congregationalist) resigned August 3, 1776.

John Alsop (Churchman) was probably absent. John Jay (Churchman), afterwards Chief-Justice of the United States, was in attendance on the sessions of the Provincial Legislature of New York on July 4, 1776, and had no opportunity to sign in August of that year. James Duane (Churchman) was also in the New York Legislature and Gen. Philip Schuyler (Dutch Reformed) was in the field. Robert R. Livingston, Jr. (Churchman), one of the original "Sons of Liberty" in New York, was on the committee to draw up the Declaration, but was also a member of the New York Legislature, and is known to have been in attendance upon its sessions on July 4, 1776, as well as on August 2 of the same year, which accounts for the lack of his signature. Henry Wisner (Churchman) was in Congress July 4, when the Declaration† was adopted and undoubtedly voted for it, but appears to have been in New York on August 2. Edward Biddle (Churchman) died during the session of Congress of a lingering disease which doubtless incapacitated him from attendance at the time the Declaration was adopted. John Dickinson (Quaker), Charles Humphreys (Quaker), and Thomas Willing (Churchman) regarded the Declaration as premature though supporting the measure when adopted. Andrew Allen (Presbyterian) opposed action at the time and at a later day, as we have seen, deserted the American cause.

Robert Goldsborough (Churchman) and John Hall (Churchman) appear to have voted for the Declaration, but before an opportunity was afforded them of affixing their names to the documents they were superseded by a later appointment of delegates which was made in Maryland, on July 4. The newly appointed delegates took their seats July 18, and in consequence neither Goldsborough nor Hall—both Churchmen—were qualified to sign on August 2, although earnest patriots and from first to last faithful to the American cause.

†Henry Wisner is not claimed as a Presbyterian in any of the many volumes and essays on the Presbyterians in the War of the Revolution we have seen. All the evidence we have been able to gather respecting him is that he was, at least, a nominal Churchman. His grandson is a Churchman.

Tilghman (Churchman) and Johnson (Churchman), of Maryland, were members of the new delegation and strongly in favor of Independence; but it is not known with certainty whether or not they were present at the session of July 4, and both were absent in August. The senior Thomas Lynch (Churchman), of South Carolina, was in poor health and his son (Churchman) acted practically as an alternate. John Rutledge (Churchman) was busied in civil and military affairs at home, being a member of the convention of South Carolina and commander-in-chief of the state's troops. Archibald Bulloch (Churchman), a vestryman of Christ Church, Savannah, was president of the council of Georgia and consequently could not leave home.

To recapitulate: One "signer" from Massachusetts, Elbridge Gerry, afterwards Vice-President of the United States; all but one (William Floyd) of the signers from New York; one signer from New Jersey, Francis Hopkinson, poet and jurist and father of the author of "Hail Columbia;" all the "signers" from Pennsylvania but James Smith, whose religious connection is not known with certainty, and possibly one other; all the signers from Delaware but one, Thomas McKean; all the signers from Maryland but one, Charles Carroll of Carrollton; all from Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, and all but one, Lyman Hall, from Georgia, making two-thirds of the whole number of signers, were Churchmen as well as patriots and must be regarded as attesting the patriotism of the Churchmen of the various communities from whence they were sent to Congress.

Fifty-five of the above-named members of Congress, July and August, 1776, signed the Declaration. Three others, Wisner† of New York, probably a Churchman, Goldsborough and Hall of Maryland, both Churchmen, appear to have voted for Independence but were not present at the time of signing the engrossed document August 2, 1776. The same is true of Robert R. Livingston, Jr., a life-long Churchman. Tilghman and Johnson of Maryland, earnest Churchmen and ardent patriots, would have signed the Declaration

†"Henry Wisner of the State of New York was also in Congress and voted for independence." Letter of Hon. Thomas McKean, Philadelphia, June 16, 1817, to Messrs. Wm. McKenzie & Son.

had they been able to attend in August, as they had been elected. Charles Carroll of Carrollton (Roman Catholic), chosen at the same time, was in attendance in August and affixed his name to the Declaration although he had not voted for it, not being in Congress on July 4. Of the fifty-six actual signers thirty-four were Churchmen, while at least seven other Churchmen, eligible as signers by their actual votes in July for Independence or by their membership in August, were providentially hindered from giving their signatures, as they had given their votes, their lives, their sacred honor, to the cause of American freedom. Later the name of Thomas McKean of Delaware, who voted for Independence, was added to the great charter of American independence.

Twelve of the signers were Congregationalists; five or six were Presbyterians¹; three were Quakers;² one was a Baptist; one was a Roman Catholic. Of one whom we have reckoned as a Presbyterian, James Smith of Pennsylvania, it is recorded by Sanderson in his *Lives of the Signers*, that he was "a communicant" of the Church—language quite unlikely to be used of any one, other than a Churchman.

The predominance of the Church element, two-thirds of the actual signers if we include James Smith, and lacking but one of two-thirds if we concede him to the Presbyterians, and three-fourths of those who voted for and favored the Declaration of Independence if we include those who for good and sufficient reason were unable to affix their name to the engrossed parchment in August, is thus made clear. It will be borne in mind that no name has been recorded as that of a "Churchman" without conclusive testimony to this effect having been obtained, either MS. or printed, which will be furnished if it should be found necessary.

In this connection, and as a further proof of the Churchly element of the patriots at this period, it should be noted that six of the "signers" were sons or grandsons of clergymen of the Church of England and others were connected by family ties with the clergy. Fran-

¹Seven, counting Stockton.

²One only, Hopkins

cis Lewis of New York, a vestryman of Trinity Church, was the son of a clergyman of Landaff, Wales, the grandson of another clergyman, and a nephew of a Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. William Hooper of North Carolina, an earnest Churchman, was the son of the Rev. William Hooper, formerly a rector of Trinity, Boston. Caesar Rodney of Delaware was the grandson of the Rev. Thomas Crawford, one of the earliest clergymen in Pennsylvania. George Ross of Delaware was the son of the Rev. George Ross, for over half a century the devoted missionary of the venerable Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts at New Castle, Delaware, and the brother of the Rev. Æneas Ross, a worthy Clergyman of the Church. Samuel Chase was the son of the Rev. Thomas Chase, Rector of St. Paul's, Baltimore, Maryland. Of George Taylor of Pennsylvania little is known save that he was the son of a clergyman of the Church of Ireland. George Read, afterward Chief-Justice of Delaware, was a son-in-law of the Rev. George Ross, and Robert Morris of Pennsylvania, "the financier of the Revolution," was the brother-in-law of William White, Chaplain of Congress and the first Bishop of Pennsylvania.

A memorial stone standing in the graveyard of the Church at Chester, Pennsylvania, bears an inscription to this effect, that "In voting by states upon the question of the independence of the American colonies there was a tie until the vote of Pennsylvania was given, two members from which voted in the affirmative, and two in the negative. The tie continued until the vote of the last member, John Morton, decided the promulgation of the glorious diploma of American freedom."

Great and, in fact, all-important as was the service rendered by John Morton to his country in his vote for independence, the statement we have quoted above is not accurately given. There was, in fact, no tie of the colonies for the vote of Pennsylvania to unloose. There were nine of the thirteen colonies in favor of independence and but four doubtful or averse. The vote of Pennsylvania was secured for the Declaration of Independence on July 2, not by the suffrages of a majority of the deputation, but of the members actually present

and voting on this decisive day. We learn from a letter addressed June 16, 1817, by the Hon. Thomas McKean, of Delaware, to the *Freeman's Journal*, that John Dickinson (Quaker) and Robert Morris (Churchman), William White's brother-in-law, were present July 2, 1776, but did not take their seats. This left but five members from Pennsylvania to cast the vote of the state. Of these, Franklin (a pewholder and attendant at Christ Church, Philadelphia), James Wilson (a devout Churchman, the father of the Rev. Bird Wilson, D.D., the biographer of Bishop White), and John Morton (a communicant at St. James's church, Chester), voted for independence. Charles Humphreys (Quaker) and Thomas Willing (of Christ Church, Philadelphia), voted against it, thinking the measure premature.

We are told that Mr. Morton experienced the most intense anxiety of mind when it became his duty to give the casting vote of the Pennsylvania deputation. This vote would either confirm or destroy the unanimity of the action of the thirteen colonies in the matter of independence. His was the vote "upon which hung the important decision whether the great state of Pennsylvania should, or should not, be included in the league which bound the sister-colonies together." Everything depended on the vote of this patriotic Churchman. The attitude of Pennsylvania had been that of opposition to a declaration of independence till further efforts for conciliation had been made, and had failed. The influence of Franklin (Churchman) was of no avail in this juncture. Wilson (Churchman), a man of unusual ability, worthy of the highest position in the judiciary of the new nation for which Washington intended him, could not carry the state for freedom. But it was the Churchman and patriot, John Morton, who turned the scale, while the sense of the responsibility he had assumed is said by Waln, the biographer of the "Signers" (vi. 128-220), "to have accelerated, if it did not cause, his dissolution." "Tell them," said he on his death bed (April, 1777), addressing those of his friends who could not forgive or forget his vote for freedom—"tell them that they will live to see the hour when they shall acknowledge it to have been the most glorious service that I ever rendered to my country" (Waln, vi, 222). It was, indeed, "a

glorious service" rendered to the sacred cause of liberty by this devoted Churchman. But for him we might not have won our freedom.

The tie in the delegation from Delaware had been earlier unloosed. In a letter addressed to ex-President John Adams, under date of Jan. 7, 1814, Thomas McKean, LL.D., member of the Continental Congress from Delaware, Chief-Justice and Governor of Pennsylvania, signer of the Declaration and President of Congress, writes as follows:

"On the 1st of July, 1776, the question was taken in the committee of the whole of Congress, when Pennsylvania, represented by seven members then present, voted against it, four to three; among the majority were Robert Morris and John Dickinson; Delaware (having only two present, namely, myself and Mr. Read) was divided; all the other states voting in favor of it. The report was delayed until the 4th; and, in the meantime, I sent an express for Caesar Rodney to Dover, in the county of Kent in Delaware, at my private expense; whom I met at the State House door, on the 4th of July, in his boots. He resided eighty miles from the city, and just arrived as Congress met. The question was taken, Delaware voted in favor of independence; Pennsylvania (there being five members present, Messrs. Dickinson and Morris absent), voted also for it; Messrs. Willing and Humphrey were against it."*

The coming—booted and spurred—at the critical moment of time, of the Churchman, Caesar Rodney, from his distant home in Delaware is thus versified by George Alfred Townsend in his "Caesar Rodney's Fourth of July." On the steps of the State House in Philadelphia, McKean, as he waits for his fellow patriot's arrival, is represented as thus soliloquizing:

" 'Read is skulking, Dickinson is
 With conceit and fright our foeman,
 Wedded to his Quaker monies,'
 Mused the grim old rebel Roman;
 'Pennsylvania, spoiled by faction,
 Independence will not dare;

*Page 33. "Life of the Hon. Thomas McKean," by Roberdeau Buchanan, Lancaster, Pa., 1890.

Maryland approves the action;
 Shall we fail on Delaware?’

In the tower the old bell rumbled,
 Striking slowly twelve o’clock;
 Down the street a hot horse stumbled,
 And a man in riding frock,
 With a green patch on his visage,
 And his garments white with grime.
 ‘Now, praise God!’ McKean spoke grimly,
 ‘Caesar Rodney is on time.’

Silent, hand in hand together,
 Walked they in the great square hall;
 To the roll with ‘Aye’ responded
 At the clerk’s immortal call;
 Listened to the Declaration
 From the steeple to the air.
 ‘Here this day is made a nation
 By the help of Delaware!’ ”

It is thus made clear that the Declaration of Independence, from its inception to its unanimous adoption, was the gift of Churchmen to the country they loved so well. The resolution declaring the thirteen colonies free and independent was offered by Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, a Churchman and a vestryman. The chairman of the committee to which this resolution was referred, Benjamin Harrison, of Virginia, was—as we have already stated—a Churchman and a vestryman. The author of the Declaration, Thomas Jefferson, was nominally a Churchman and had been a vestryman. The casting vote securing Pennsylvania’s assent to independence was cast by John Morton, of Pennsylvania, Churchman and churchwarden. The presence and vote of another Churchman and churchwarden, Caesar Rodney, of Delaware, made the action determining independence unanimous, while a Churchman’s voice—that of John Nixon, sheriff of Philadelphia, a Churchman and a communicant at Saint Peter’s, Philadelphia, announced to the world that the deed was done—that America was free!† Nor this only. The first connected draft of

†The first public announcement of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence was its reading from the State House steps by John Nixon, an earnest Churchman of the united parishes of Christ church and St. Peter’s, at the order of the Congress.

the American Constitution growing out of, and consequent upon, the Declaration was written by a Churchman, and churchwarden, Gouverneur Morris, of New York and New Jersey; while another Churchman and Church officer, Chief-Justice John Marshall, first expounded its meaning and established on the firm foundation of law its principles, which were ably enforced by another Churchman and Chief-Justice, John Jay of New York. George Ross was Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Convention of July 15, 1776, and prepared and proposed the "Declaration of Rights" which dissolved the Proprietary Government of the Province and declared the commonwealth free and independent agreeably to the Declaration.

Even the silver inkstand from which the Signers drew the ink with which they made their autographs on the parchment charter of American freedom was the handiwork of a devout and patriotic Churchman.

With these statements of the Church's controlling and determining influence in bringing about the Declaration of Independence, we may the better understand the assertion of the Puritan, John Adams, "that had it not been for such men as Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Chase, and Thomas Johnson, there would never have been any Revolution."†

Lee, Jefferson, Chase and Johnson were Churchmen. With respect to Governor Johnson it can never be forgotten that it was on his motion in the Continental Congress, June 15, 1775, that George Washington, his fellow-Churchman, church warden and vestryman, was chosen Commander in Chief of the army of the thirteen colonies. Johnson, a leading patriot in Maryland from the very outset of the war, voted for the Declaration of Independence, but on the actual day of signing the charter of our freedom, he was too ill to be present, and almost directly was recalled to his native state to provide for its defence against attack and to carry out as its supreme executive the policy he and his fellow-patriots and Churchmen had advocated on the floor of Congress.

†Quoted on p. 162 of "The Supreme Court of the United States: Its History," etc., by Hampton L. Carson. Philadelphia. 1891.

Samuel Chase of Maryland, son of the Rev. Thomas Chase, the gifted incumbent of St. Paul's, Baltimore, was one of these four Churchmen and patriots so specially commended by John Adams. It was during the early days of the Congress that Mr. Chase discovered that a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Dr. Zubly, who had been chosen a delegate from Georgia, was in actual correspondence with the royal governor of that province, Sir James Wright. On being denounced by Chase, Dr. Zubly admitted the truth of the charge by a hasty flight. After a life nobly spent in the fearless discharge of duty, Judge Chase received, as his end drew near, the Eucharist at the hands of the Rev. Dr. Joseph G. I. Bend, and died with these last words on his lips: "God gives life." His life had been that of a patriot, a statesman, an inflexible and fearless judge, and a Churchman!

Of that devout Churchman, and Signer, George Wythe, Chancellor of Virginia, even Jefferson was forced to write:

"He left to the world the conclusion that that religion must be good which could produce a life of such exemplary virtue." Thomas Nelson, Jr., of Virginia, an ancestor of the present Bishop of Georgia, was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, Eng., and had for his private tutor when at the University Beilby Porteous, afterward Lord Bishop of London. Joseph Hewes, of North Carolina, the son of "Friends," after careful investigation and study renounced Quakerism and was a convert to the Church. Dying Nov. 10, 1779, in Philadelphia, during a session of Congress, he was buried by the Rev. William White, the Chaplain of Congress, then rector of the united parishes of Christ Church and St. Peter's, and afterwards first Bishop of Pennsylvania.

The biographer of Francis Lightfoot Lee, of Virginia, whose early education had been conducted under the care of the Rev. James Craig, a clergyman of the Church, tells us that "his last moments were those of a Christian."* The maternal grandfather of Caesar Rodney, of Delaware, whose memorable ride of eighty miles secured to a Churchman the glory of assuring the independence of his native

*Sanderson's Biography of the Signers, ix, 184.

land, was the Rev. Thomas Crawford, a missionary of the venerable Society for Propagating the Gospel—"the first preacher of the Gospel in those parts." Even Thomas McKean, whom we reckon as a Presbyterian, was, about the time of which we write, closely connected with the Church, having married for his first wife a daughter of Col. Joseph Borden, of New Jersey, who was a sister of Francis Hopkinson, all Churchfolk. Mr. McKean's remains lie in Church ground, his descendants are Churchmen and his close intimacy with the Rev. William Smith, D.D., *Oxon*, who delivered his funeral oration, if we mistake not, prove him to have been friendly to the Church. William Hooper, son of the reverend rector of Trinity, Boston, a century and a half ago, was intended for the Church. It was the same with Francis Lewis, educated at Westminster School, vestryman of Old Trinity, New York, whose father, maternal grandfather and uncle were clergymen of the Establishment, and two of whose daughters became the wives of Bishops—the one Dr. Sumner, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the other Dr. Daniel Wilson, Metropolitan of Calcutta. Robert Morris, the brother-in-law of William White, was through life and in death identified with old Christ church, Philadelphia, and was a delegate to General Convention. Arthur Middleton, of South Carolina, a B.A. of Cambridge, Eng., was during all his days prominent in Church councils and Church affairs.

Of Thomas Lynch, Jr., son of a worthy sire, and lost at sea on a journey undertaken for his health in 1779, we are told in the annals of his life that "he bore his severe illness with the resignation of a Christian." Few greater philanthropists have ever lived than the Churchman, Dr. Benjamin Rush, the friend of temperance, of the enslaved, and of all moral reforms. Marrying the daughter of Richard Stockton, the "signer," Mrs. Rush and her husband connected themselves with the United Congregations of Christ Church and Saint Peter's, Philadelphia, where their children were baptized, and in whose burial grounds the remains of each lie side by side. Their descendants occupy the Rush pew at Saint Peter's to this day. Chief-Justice George Walton of Georgia lived and died a Churchman. Clymer of Pennsylvania; Read of Delaware; Heyward of South

Carolina; Gwinnett of Georgia; Hopkinson of New Jersey, and Gerry of Massachusetts, all Churchmen, were each and all men of weight and influence in the halls of Congress and were leaders in the various Church communities with which they were connected.

Of Rutledge of South Carolina few equals, none superior, could be found. Paca of Maryland, a Churchman by birth and education, died (1779) all too early for his growing fame, and having by his great abilities attained the highest honors of his native state. In the same year died George Ross, vice-president of the Pennsylvania Convention of July 15, 1771, and the author of the Declaration of Rights which dissolved the proprietary government of Pennsylvania and created the commonwealth. He was the son of the Nestor of our colonial clergy, the Rev. George Ross, for more than half a century the missionary in Delaware. George Taylor, son of an Irish Church clergyman, also died at the close of the war. Lewis Morris of Morrisania Manor lived to see well established the government he did so much to bring about and dared so much to sustain.

Of Stone of Maryland we have most touching evidences of his personal piety in his dying charge addressed to his son, a lad of twelve years of age: . . . "In the first place, do your duty to God in spirit and truth, always considering Him as your best Protector and doing all things to please Him; nothing to offend Him, and be assured He is always present and knows all your thoughts and actions; and that you will prosper and be happy if you please Him, and miserable and unhappy if you displease Him. Say your prayers every day and attend divine worship at church regularly and devoutly with a pious design of doing your duty and receiving instruction. Think more of your soul's health and the next world than of this, and never do wrong on any account, Be honest, religious, charitable, and kind, guarded in your conduct, and upright in your intentions. . . . I commend you to Heaven's protection. May God of His infinite mercy protect you, and lead you to happiness in this world and the next, is the most fervent prayer of your loving father."*

**The Churchman*, April 23-30, 1892.

In view of the facts we have already presented, we do not hesitate to assert that in the formulating and promulgation of the Declaration of Independence—the first printed copy of which came from a noted Churchman's printing press—that of John Dunlap, of St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia—Church and Country went hand in hand; and that, too, with the evident expectancy that, in the severing of the tie binding us to the mother land, Church as well as State were to be made free. This union in sympathy, in effort, in result, has never been dissolved. Hand in hand for all time to come as in the past—God bless the United States! God bless the American Church!



LETTER OF THOMAS McKEAN TO CÆSAR A. RODNEY,
NEPHEW OF THE "SIGNER"

This is a letter of great historical importance, giving as it does a full account of the adoption and signing of the Declaration of Independence, and correcting several errors which have crept into the history of that famous document.

Philadelphia, August 22, 1813

I recollect what passed in Congress in the beginning of July, 1776, respecting Independence; it was not as you have conceived. On Monday, the first of July, the question was taken in the Committee of the Whole, where the State of Pennsylvania (represented by some gentlemen then present) voted against it. Delaware, (having then only two representatives present) was divided; all the other states voted in favor of it; whereupon, without delay, I sent an Express (at my private expense) for your honored Uncle, Caesar Rodney, Esquire, the remaining member for Delaware, whom I met at the State House door in his boots and spurs, as the members were assembling. After a friendly salutation (without a word on the business) we went into the Hall of Congress together, and found we were among the latest. Proceedings immediately commenced, and after a few moments the great question was put. When the vote for Delaware was called, your uncle arose and said: "As I believe the voice of my constituents and of all sensible and honest men is in favor of Independence, [and] my own judgment concurs with them, I vote for Independence," or in words to the same effect. The State of Pennsylvania on the 4th of July (there being only five members present, Messrs. Willing, Dickinson and Morris, who had in the Committee of the Whole voted against Independence, were absent) voted for it, three to two; Messrs. Willing and Humphreys in the negative. Unanimity in the thirteen States, an all-important point on so great an occasion, was thus obtained; the dissention of a single State might have produced very dangerous consequences.

Now that I am on the subject, I will tell you some truth not generally known. In the printed public Journal of Congress for 1776,

Vol. 2, it would appear that the Declaration of Independence was signed on the 4th July by the members whose names are there inserted; but the fact is not so; for no persons signed it on that day, nor for many days after; and among the names subscribed one was against it—Mr. Read—and seven were not in Congress on that day, namely Messrs. Rush, Clymer, Smith, Taylor and Ross, of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Thornton of New Hampshire; nor were the six gentlemen last named at that time members; the five for P. were appointed delegates by the Convention of that State on the 20th July, and Mr. Thornton entered Congress for the first time, on the 4th November following, when the names of Henry Wisner of New York and Thomas McKean of Delaware are not printed as subscribers, tho' both were present and voted for Independence.

Here false colours are certainly hung out; there is culpability somewhere. What I can offer as an apology or explanation is: that on the 4th July 1776 the Declaration of Independence was ordered to be engrossed on parchment, and then to be signed; and I have been told that a resolve had passed a few days after, and was entered on the Secret Journal, that no person should have a seat in Congress during that year, until he should have signed the Declaration, in order (as I have been given to understand) to prevent traitors or spies from worming themselves amongst us. I was not in Congress after the 4th for some months, having marched with my regiment of Associators of this city, as Colonel, to support General Washington until a flying camp of ten thousand men was completed. When the Associators were discharged I returned to Philadelphia, took my seat in Congress, and then signed the Declaration on parchment.

Fac-similes of the concluding part of the McKean letter on preceding page, and of a letter of Rodney to a friend, mentioning his ride to Philadelphia to vote for the Declaration: both used by kindness of the Anderson Galleries, New York.

would he should have signed the declaration, in order
I have been given to understand, to prevent traitors or
spies from worming themselves amongst us. I was not in
Congress after the 4th for some months, having marched
with my regiment of associators of this city, as Colonel,
to support General Washington, until a flying camp
of ten thousand men was completed. When the associators
were discharged, I returned to Philadelphia, took my seat
in Congress, & then signed the declaration on parchment.
Two days after I went to Newcastle, joined the Convention
for forming a constitution for the future government of the
State of Delaware, having been elected a member for New-
castle county, which I wrote in a voice, without alibi or
any assistance.

You may rely on the accuracy of the foregoing relation.
I'm full time to print & publish the secret journal of
Congress during the Revolution.

I have thus answered your request, and trust I may
rejoice in it. Accept, dear Sir, my best wishes for your
happiness.

Thos. McKean

Caspar Augustus Rodney Esquire.

Chilid. July the 4th 1776

Sir I have inclosed you a Summons directed to
the Sheriff to call & summon the Members for our Com-
ty to meet in Assembly at Newcastle on the 22^d day
of this Instant which I hope you will have
put into his hands as soon as possible after it
comes to yours - I arrived in Congress the deten-
ed by Thunder and Rain / time enough to give my
Voice in the matter of Independence - It is now
determined by the Thirteen United Colonies with-
out even one dissenting Colony - We have now
got through with the whole of the Declaration and
ordered it to be printed so that you will soon have
the pleasure of seeing it - Hand bills of it will
be printed and sent to the Armies, Cities, County
Towns &c. - To be published or rather proclaimed
in form - - Don't neglect to attend closely and
carefully to my Request and You're oblig^d

Yours^d
Benjamin Franklin

A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

WITH SIGNATURES OF THREE "SIGNERS," WHO, WITH DEANE AND GADSDEN,
CONSTITUTED THE FIRST NAVAL COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES

It is addressed to Dudley Saltonstall, the same who in 1779 made such a failure of the Penobscot expedition, that he was dismissed from the service.

Documents bearing three Signers' autographs are very rare.

This, as also the Hooper letter, formed part of the Turner-Munn collection, sold in New York in January. Both are used here by permission of the American Art Association.

Sir,

Philadelphia Nov^r 27th 1776

The Congress are now preparing two Ships and two Brigantines to be fitted out as soon as possible to cruise against our common enemy - they have thought of you as a proper person to take the command of one of these Ships as Captain - If you enter into this service, which we take to be the service of your Country, you will give us the earliest information and repair to Philadelphia as soon as your affairs will possibly admit, and bring with you as many officers and seamen as you can procure at New-London and between that place and Philadelphia - those who may not be able to come with you, leave proper persons to encourage and conduct along after you.

If money should be necessary for the performance of this service you may draw on Mr. Mearns Miller Merchant in New York who has money in his hands for that purpose.

In a day or two after you receive this, you will receive by the next Mail the conditions and encouragement offered to the Captain.

We are Sir your humble servants

signed by Order of Congress
J. C. R. H. H. H.
* Joseph Mifflin
* John Adams
* Joseph Hewes
* John Hancock

Dudley Saltonstall Esq^r

ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE LETTERS OF WILLIAM HOOPER
IN EXISTENCE

WILMINGTON, FEBY. 17, 1782

To James Iredell

An exceptionally long and remarkable letter, comprising 156 lines, and containing about sixteen hundred words. This letter was written upon his return to Wilmington after it had been evacuated by the British. When the British occupied Wilmington, Hooper was compelled to leave his family and seek safety. He fled to Edenton and resided with Mr. Iredell. In this letter, written from Wilmington, whither he had returned after the British evacuated the town, he gives a detailed history of his movements since leaving Edenton, and a full account of the inhuman treatment accorded Mrs. Hooper and others when they were forced to leave the town; also gives an account of the damage to his property, especially his library, by the British; and other interesting accounts. There is a tear in the fold of the third sheet, which does but slight damage to one word. The address is written on the last page.

This highly interesting letter reads in part,—“Since I left you and my other friends at Edenton I have been involved in such a round of anxiety bustle and fatigue that I have had scarce a moments leisure to devote to the duty which I owe to my absent connections. . . . I will therefore give you in detail the history of my movements since I left you. . . . From Edenton I proceeded to Newbern & immediately upon my arrival heard that Mrs. Hooper, Mrs. Allen . . . and others had been expelled from Wilmington and suffered to carry with them nothing but their wearing apparrell. That some of the ladies had sought shelter near Wilmington but that Mrs. Hooper and Mrs. Allen had been seen with their families in waggons at Bryant in Johnson County moving on towards Helsbord. I immediately made provision for following but before I set off the evacuation of Wilmington was announced to me. I then resolved to take that in my route, to secure if possible some of my negroes & to collect what I could from the wreck of my property.

I found that Mrs. Hooper had managed with so much address as to carry off all our household linen, blankets and all the wearing apparrell of herself and children, but had been obliged to leave behind all her furniture, both standing & moveable. This as well as my books the British pretended they had left in the situation it was when Mrs. Hooper went out of town. But this I found to be far from the truth. Except a few articles which Mrs. Hooper had secreted amongst the friends she parted from at Wilmington, the British carried off every article of house and kitchen furniture, knives, forks, plates & spoons; an almost general sweep. Nor had they spared the beds—to finish the business; two nights before I arrived in Wilmington Rutherford’s militia had broken open my house, cut open the feather beds that remained, plundered the tickings & given the feathers to the wind. My library, except as to law books, is shamefully injured & above 100 valuable volumes taken away. . . . You knew my partiality to my books, of course my chagrin at the abuse of them. Three fellows of mine had gone off with the British—one had been forced away by the militia, & I had lost six other negroes

DUEL BETWEEN BUTTON GWINNETT AND LACHLAN McINTOSH

The only known statement by an eye-witness of the fatal duel between Button Gwinnett and Lachlan McIntosh, May 16, 1777. This important MS. was sold in the Manning autograph sale, New York, January, 1926.

State of Georgia.

Personally appeared before me, John Wreath, Esqr., one of the Assistant Judges for said State, George Wells, Esqr., of Richmond County in the State aforesaid, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, maketh Oath and Saith—

That late on the Evening of Thursday, the 15th May instant, a written challenge was brought to Genl. McIntosh, sign'd Button Gwinnett, wherein the said Mr. Gwinnett charg'd the General with calling him a Scoundrel in public Convention, and desir'd he wou'd give satisfaction for it as a Gentleman, before Sunrise next morning in Sr. James Wright's pasture, behind Col^o. Martin's house; to which the General humorously sent in answer to Mr. Gwinnett, that the hour was rather earlier than his usual, but wou^d assuredly meet him precisely at the place and time appointed with a pair of pistols only, as agreed upon with Mr. Gwinnett's second, who brought the Challenge.

Early the next morning Mr. Gwinnett and his second found the General and his Second waiting on the Ground and after politely saluting each other, the General drew his pistols to show he was loaded only with single Balls, but avoided entering into any other conversation but the business on hand. It was then propos'd and agreed to, that they shou'd go a little lower down the hill, as a number of spectators appear'd, and when the Ground was chose the seconds ask'd the distance. Mr. Gwinnett replyd "whatever distance the General pleases." The General said he believ'd Eight or ten feet would be sufficient, and they were immediately measur'd, to which the General's second desir'd another step might be added. It was

then proposed to turn back to back. The General answer'd "By no means, let us see what we are about"— & immediately each took his stand, and agreed to fire as they cou'd. Both pistols went off nearly at the same time, when Mr. Gwinnett fell, being shot above the Knee, and said his thigh was broke. The General, who was also shot thro' the thick of the Thigh, stood still in his place, & not thinking his antagonist was worse wounded than himself—as he Immediately afterwards declar'd—ask'd if he had enough or was for another shot, to which all objected, and the Seconds declar'd they both behav'd like Gentlemen and men of honor, Led the General up to Mr. Gwinnett and they both shook hands—and further this Deponent Saith Not.

This is endorsed: George Wells' Affidavit respecting B. G. and L. M. June 1777.