

National School Celebration of Columbus Day.

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME.

Let every pupil and friend of the Schools who reads THE COMPANION, at once present personally the following programme to the Teachers, Superintendents, School Boards, and Newspapers in the towns and cities in which they reside. Not one School in America should be left out in this Celebration.

IN obedience to an Act of Congress, the President on July 21 issued a Proclamation recommending that October 21, the 400th Anniversary of the Discovery of America, be celebrated everywhere in America by suitable exercises in the schools.

A uniform Programme for every school in America, to be used on Columbus Day, simultaneously with the dedicatory exercises of the World's Columbian Exposition grounds in Chicago, will give an impressive unity to the popular celebration. Accordingly, when the Superintendents of Education, last February, accepted THE COMPANION'S plan for this national Public School celebration, they instructed their Executive Committee to prepare an Official Programme of exercises for the Day, uniform for every school.

To enable preparations for the National School Celebration in every community to begin immediately, this Executive Committee now publish through THE COMPANION

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

for the National Columbian Public School Celebration

Of October 21, 1892.

NOTE.—The instructions for the proper conduct of these exercises are given in the small type, the successive exercises themselves in the large type.

The schools should assemble at 9 A. M. in their various rooms. At 9.30 the detail of Veterans is expected to arrive. It is to be met at the entrance of the yard by the Color-Guard—marching, escorted with dignity to the building, and presented to the Principal. The Principal then gives the signal, and the several teachers conduct their pupils to the yard, to beat of drum or other music, and arrange them in a hollow square about the flag, the Veterans and Color-Guard taking places by the flag itself. The Master of Ceremonies then gives the command "Attention!" and begins the exercises by reading the Proclamation.

1. READING OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION, by the Master of Ceremonies.

At the close of the reading he announces: "In accordance with this recommendation by the President of the United States, and as a sign of our devotion to our country, let the Flag of the Nation be unfurled above this School."

2. RAISING OF THE FLAG, by the Veterans.

As the Flag reaches the top of the staff, the Veterans will lead the assemblage in "Three Cheers for 'Old Glory.'"

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG, by the Pupils.

At a signal from the Principal the pupils, in ordered ranks, hands to the side, face the Flag. Another signal is given: every pupil gives the Flag the military salute—right hand lifted, palm downward, to a line with the forehead and close to it. Standing thus, all repeat together, slowly: "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands: one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all." At the words, "to my Flag," the right hand is extended gracefully, palm upward, towards the Flag, and remains in this gesture till the end of the affirmation; whereupon all hands immediately drop to the side. Then, still standing, as the instruments strike a chord, all will sing AMERICA—"My Country, 'tis of Thee."

4. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GOD. Prayer or Scripture.

5. SONG OF COLUMBUS DAY, by Pupils and Audience.

Contributed by The Youth's Companion.

At: Lyrics.

Columbia, my land! all hail the glad day
When first to thy shores the voyager's way:
Hail him who thro' darkness first followed the Flame
That led where the Mayflower of Liberty came.

Dear Country, the star of the valiant and free!
Thy exiles afar are dreaming of thee.
No fields of the Earth so exultingly shine,
No air breathes such incense, such music as thine.

Humanity's home! thy sheltering breast
Gives welcome and room to strangers oppress'd.
Pale children of Hunger and Hatred and Wrong
Find life in thy freedom and joy in thy song.

Thy fairest estate the lowly may hold,
Thy poor may grow great, thy feeble grow bold
For worth is the watchword to noble degree,
And manhood is mighty where manhood is free.

O Union of States, and union of souls!
Thy promise awaits, thy future unfolds,
And earth from her twilight is hailing the sun,
That rises where people and rulers are one.

THELON BROWN.

6. THE ADDRESS,

"The Meaning of the Four Centuries."

A Declaration of the Special Address prepared for the occasion by THE YOUTH'S COMPANION.

7. THE ODE, "Columbia's Banner."

A Reading of the Poem written for the occasion by Edna Dean Proctor.

Here should follow whatever additional Exercises, Patriotic Recitations, Historic Representations, or Chorals may be desired.

8. ADDRESSES BY CITIZENS, and National Songs.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

FRANCIS BELLAMY, Chairman, representing The Youth's Companion, Boston.
JOHN W. DICKINSON, Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education.
THOMAS R. STOCKWELL, Commissioner of Rhode Island Public Schools.
W. E. GARNETT, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Tennessee.
W. C. HEWITT, Superintendent of Michigan Educational Exhibit at World's Fair.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—This Official Programme, printed on a four-page sheet, including the songs and the President's Proclamation, will be supplied by "The Youth's Companion" at \$1.00 per hundred. The songs entire should be in the hands of all the audience. With every order will be sent single copies of the Ode and the Address; also a four-page sheet containing suggestions on "How to Observe Columbus Day." An abbreviated and simplified form of the Address will be supplied for Primary Schools.

It has been a pleasure to THE COMPANION to contribute, as its special gift, the Original Poems and the Address which are to be rendered on the occasion.

Contributed by The Youth's Companion.

THE ODE FOR COLUMBUS DAY.

"COLUMBIA'S BANNER."

"God helping me," cried Columbus, "though fair or foul the breeze,
I will sail and sail till I find the land beyond the western seas!"—
So an eagle might leave its eyrie, bent, though the blue should bar,
To fold its wings on the loftiest peak of an undiscovered star!
And into the vast and void ays he followed the setting sun;
Nor gulfs nor gales could fright his sails till the wondrous quest was done.

But O the weary vigils, the mourning, torturing days,
Till the Pinta's gun, and the shout of "Land!" set the black night ablaze!
Till the shore lay fair as Paradise in morning's balm and gold,
And a world was won from the conquered deep, and the tale of the ages told!

Uplift the starry Banner! The best age is begun!
Let us be the best of the mariners whose voyage that morn was done.
Measureless lands Columbus gave and rivers through zones that roll,
But his rarest, noblest bounty was a New World for the Soul!

For he sailed from the Past with its stifling walls, to the Future's open sky.
And the ghosts of gloom and fear were laid as the breath of heaven went by;

And the pedant's pride and the lordling's scorn were lost, in that vital air,
As fogs are lost when sun and wind sweep ocean blue and bare;

And Freedom and larger Knowledge dawned clear, the sky to span,
The birthright, not of priest or king, but of every child of man!

Uplift the New World's Banner to greet the exultant sun!
Let its rosy gleams still follow his beams as swift to sweat they run,
Till the wide air rings with shout and hymn to welcome it shining high.

And our eagle from lone Katalidin to Shasta's snow can fly
In the light of its stars as fold on fold is flung to the autumn sky!
Uplift it, Youths and Maidens, with songs and loving cheers;
Through triumphs, raptures, it has waved, through agonies and tears.

Columbia looks from sea to sea and thrills with joy to know
Her myriad sons, as one, would leap to shield it from a foe!
And you who soon will be the State, and shape each great decree,
O! vow to live and die for it, if glorious death must be!
The brave of all the centuries gone this starry Flag have wrought;
In dungeons dim, on gory fields, its light and peace were bought;
And you who front the future—whose day, O, dreams fulfill—
On Liberty's immortal height, Oh, plant it firmer still!
For it floats for broadest learning; for the soul's supreme release;
For law disdaining license; for righteousness and peace;
For valor born of justice; and its amplest scope and plan
Makes a queen of every woman, a king of every man!
While forever, like Columbus, o'er Truth's unfathomed main
It pilots to the hidden isles, a grander realm to gain.

Ah! what a mighty trust is ours, the noblest ever sung,
To keep this Banner spotless its kindred stars among!
Our fleets may through the oceans—our forts the headlands crown—
Our mines their treasures lavish for marts and morn and town—
Rich fields and flocks and busy looms bring plenty, far and wide—
And stately temples deck the land than Rome's or Athens' pride—
And science dare the mysteries of earth and wave and sky—
Till none with us in splendor and strength and skill can vie;
Yet, should we reckon Liberty and Manhood less than these,
And slight the right of the humblest between our circling seas—
Should we be false to our sacred past, our fathers' God forgetting,
This Banner would lose its lustre, our sun be nigh its setting!
But the dawn will sooner forget the east, the tides their ebb and flow,
Than you forget our radiant Flag, and its matchless gifts forego!

Nay! you will keep it high-advanced with ever-brightening way—
The Banner whose light betokens the Lord's diviner day—
Leading the nations gloriously in Freedom's holy way!
No cloud on the field of azure—no stain on the rosy bars—
God bless you, Youths and Maidens, as you guard the Stripes and Stars!

EDNA DEAN PROCTOR.

Prepared by The Youth's Companion.

THE ADDRESS FOR COLUMBUS DAY.

"THE MEANING OF THE FOUR CENTURIES."

The spectacle America presents this day is without precedent in history. From ocean to ocean, in city, village, and country-side, the children of the States are marshaled and marching under the banner of the nation; and with them the people are gathering around the schoolhouse.

Men are recognizing to-day the most impressive anniversary since Rome celebrated her thousandth year—the 400th anniversary of the stepping of a hemisphere into the world's life; four completed centuries of a new social order; the celebration of liberty and enlightenment organized into a civilization.

And while, during these hours, the Federal government of these United States strikes the keynote of this great American day that gives honor to the common American institution which unites us all,—we assemble here that we, too, may exalt the free school that embodies the American principle of universal enlightenment and equality: the most characteristic product of the four centuries of American life.

Four hundred years ago this morning the Pinta's gun broke the silence, and announced the discovery of this hemisphere.

It was a virgin world. Human life hitherto upon it had been without significance. In the Old World for thousands of years civilized men had been trying experiments in social order. They had been found wanting. But here was an untouched soil that

lay ready for a new experiment in civilization. All things were ready. New forces had come to light, full of overturning power in the Old World. In the New World they were to work together with a mighty harmony.

It was for Columbus, propelled by this fresh life, to reveal the land where these new forces were to be given space for development, and where the awaited trial of the new civilization was to be made.

To-day we reach our most memorable milestone. We look backward and we look forward.

Backward, we see the first clustering of modern ideas; their long conflict with Old World theories, which were also transported hither. We see stalwart men and brave women, one moment on the shore, then disappearing in dim forests. We hear the axe. We see the flame of burning cabins and hear the cry of the savage. We see the never-ceasing wagon trains always toiling westward. We behold log cabins becoming villages, then cities. We watch the growth of institutions out of little beginnings—schools becoming an educational system; meetings growing to political movements; county discussions developing federal governments.

We see hardy men with intense convictions, grappling, struggling, often amid little smoke, and some idea characteristic of the New World always triumphing. We see settlements knitting together into a nation with singleness of purpose. We note the birth of the modern system of industry and commerce, and its striking forth into undreamed-of wealth, making the millions members one of another as sentiment could never bind. And under it all, and through it all, we fasten on certain principles ever operating and regnant—the leadership of manhood; equal rights for every soul; universal enlightenment as the source of progress. These last are the principles that have shaped America; these principles are the true Americanism.

We look forward. We are conscious we are in a period of transition. Ideas in education, in political economy, in social science are undergoing revisions. There is a large uncertainty about the outcome. But faith in the underlying principles of Americanism and in God's destiny for the Republic makes a firm ground of hope. The coming century promises to be more than ever the age of the people; an age that shall develop a greater care for the rights of the weak, and make a more solid provision for the development of each individual by the education that meets his need.

As no prophet among our fathers on the 300th anniversary of America could have pictured what the new century would do, so no man can this day reach out and grasp the hundred years upon which the nation is now entering. On the victorious results of the completed centuries, the principles of Americanism will build our fifth century. Its material progress is beyond our conception, but we may be sure that in the social relations of men with men, the most triumphant gains are to be expected. America's fourth century has been glorious; America's fifth century must be made happy.

One institution more than any other has wrought out the achievements of the past, and is to-day the most trusted for the future. Our fathers in their wisdom knew that the foundations of liberty, fraternity, and equality must be universal education. The free school, therefore, was conceived the corner-stone of the Republic. Washington and Jefferson recognized that the education of citizens is not the prerogative of church or of other private interest; that while religious training belongs to the church, and while technical and higher culture may be given by private institutions—the training of citizens in the common knowledge and the common duties of citizenship belongs irrevocably to the State.

We, therefore, on this anniversary of America present the Public School as the noblest expression of the principle of enlightenment which Columbus grasped by faith. We uplift the system of free and universal education as the master-force which, under God, has been informing each of our generations with the peculiar truths of Americanism. America, therefore, gathers her sons around the schoolhouse to-day as the institution closest to the people, most characteristic of the people, and fullest of hope for the people.

To-day America's fifth century begins. The world's twentieth century will soon be here. To the 13,000,000 now in the American schools the command of the coming years belongs. We, the youth of America, who to-day unite to march as one army under the sacred flag, understand our duty. We pledge ourselves that the flag shall not be stained; and that America shall mean equal opportunity and justice for every citizen, and brotherhood for the world.

HOW TO OBSERVE COLUMBUS DAY.

The Morning Celebration.

The foregoing Official Programme provides for a Morning Celebration. The pupils of the schools are to gather on October 21, at the usual hour, in their respective schoolhouses. As far as possible, all the rooms in each schoolhouse under the same principal should unite in having the same exercises. The parents and friends of the pupils should be brought together. Family interests on Columbus Day should be made to centre in the particular schoolhouse where the children attend.

The exercises of the morning may be simple or elaborate. Schools with sufficient resources may extend the Official Programme with additional features, such as special music by chorus or orchestra, and historical exercises. The largest liberty is left for individual ingenuity and taste.

Afternoon Observances.

In the country, the day ought to be made a real holiday. Farm and household work might be well relinquished; and the families of the district come together at the schoolhouse, with their picnic lunches, prepared to make a day of memorable festivity. The