



E

207

B2S8

Author

.....

.....

Title

.....

.....

Imprint

.....





BARRY
MEMORIAL
1907



MEMORIAL

TO

COMMODORE JOHN BARRY

FATHER OF THE NAVY OF THE UNITED STATES



SOCIETY OF THE
FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

FOR THE RELIEF OF EMIGRANTS FROM IRELAND

PHILADELPHIA

1907

E201
B2S8

GLS
The Society
1927

1927



GENERAL THOMAS J. STEWART

President The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, 1907.



THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK was organized March 17, 1771, for the purpose of rendering aid to the emigrants from Ireland. From the moment of its inception to the present time, the Society has not only fulfilled the object for which it was organized, but its members have ever shown the spirit of patriotism that has illumed the pages of the Republic's history.

On the roll of the twenty-four original members we find the names of men who afterwards became distinguished in our country's cause in the war of the Revolution. Not less than fifteen of its members became general officers in that war and served under Washington from the beginning to the end. During several years when the Revolution was in progress, the meetings of the Society had to be suspended because nearly all the members were absent in the patriot army, fighting for the independence of our country.

Not only was the Society represented in the army but, from the very first shot fired in the Revolution, many of its members were enrolled in the infant navy. Andrew Caldwell, one of the charter members of the organization, was appointed commander of the Navy of Pennsylvania, organized to defend the city against the naval forces of Great Britain. He commanded the fleet which repelled the attack of the British ships "Roebuck" and "Liverpool," which came up the Delaware River on the 8th of May, 1776.

With many of its members defending the new Republic on land and sea, there were still others who rendered almost as, if not more, important service by supplying Washington with the means to continue the war and, at a meeting held the 17th of June, 1780, twenty-seven members of the Society subscribed and contributed to "support the credit of a bank to be established for furnishing a supply of provisions for the armies of the United States" the sum of Three Hundred and Fifteen Thousand Pounds.

One of the members of the Society has been justly called the Father of the Navy of our Republic,—JOHN BARRY, born in County Wexford, Ireland, in 1745. A passion for maritime life, which he displayed at an early age, led him, at the age of fourteen or fifteen, to come to America where he obtained employment on a merchant vessel of Philadelphia. On September 29, 1766, we find him regis-

tered as master of the schooner "Barbadoes," 60 tons; in May, 1771, of the brig "Patty and Polly," and on August 21, 1771, of the schooner "Industry," 45 tons; on October 9, 1772, of the sloop "Peggy," 25 tons, and on December 19, 1774, of the ship "Black Prince," 200 tons. On January 2, 1769, he was elected a member of the Society for the Relief of Poor and Distressed Masters of Ships. At the breaking out of the Revolution, to use his own language, he abandoned "the finest ship and the first employ in America" and entered into the service of his adopted country. In 1775 he was, by the Marine Committee of Congress, appointed to fit for sea the "Lexington," of 14 guns. He was commissioned as Captain December 7, 1775, the same day John Paul Jones was commissioned as Lieutenant of the "Alfred." After river and shore duty Captain Barry, in the "Lexington," went to sea on March 31, 1776, and on April 7th he captured, off the Capes of Virginia, the sloop "Edward," belonging to the "Liverpool" frigate and brought her to Philadelphia, the first prize taken under Continental authority. The frigate "Effingham," to which he was subsequently assigned, being useless, owing to the suspension of navigation, he organized a company of volunteers and as an Aide to Washington assisted in the operations at Trenton, and continued with the army during the winter campaign, performing important services and winning admiration and respect. In September, 1778, he was appointed to the command of the frigate "Raleigh," 32 guns, which then lay at Boston, and on the 25th went to sea. The ship was subsequently lost after a warm engagement with two superior British vessels, but he escaped with most of his crew. In 1780 he was appointed to the command of the frigate "Alliance," 36 guns. Upon May 29, 1781, while cruising with the "Alliance," he came into contact with two British vessels, the "Atalanta" and the brig "Trepassy." He ordered them to haul down their colors, and upon their refusal an engagement with them was commenced. During the fighting Captain Barry was wounded in the shoulder and, after remaining on deck for some time, was compelled by loss of blood to be carried below. The colors of the "Alliance" being shot away, the enemy supposed she had struck. One of his lieutenants went to Barry and represented to him the great injury the ship had sustained, and asked if he would surrender. "No," replied Barry, "if the ship can't be fought without me, I will be carried on deck." The reply animated the crew to renewed exertions and, a favorable wind enabling the "Alliance" to pour a broadside into the enemy, and before the dressing of his wounds would permit him to reach the deck, both the enemy's



MONUMENT TO COMMODORE JOHN BARRY

FATHER OF THE AMERICAN NAVY

Erected by the Society of The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, in Independence Square, Philadelphia, March 16th, 1907

vessels, after a battle which lasted nearly the whole day, had struck their flags. In the succeeding fall he was ordered to refit the "Alliance" for the purpose of carrying the Marquis de Lafayette and Count Noailles to France on business. In March, 1783, the "Alliance" left Havana for the purpose of convoying the American sloop-of-war "Luzerne," having on board a large amount of specie. The appearance of a British squadron proved a severe trial to the naval skill and dauntless courage of Captain Barry. The specie was removed to the "Alliance" and the valuable treasure saved, after a battle on March 10th with the "Sybille," an English man-of-war which had been captured from the French two months before. This was the last battle of the Revolution. It was fought after the Articles of Peace had been signed at Paris on February 3, 1783. Under the law of March 27, 1794, he was appointed by President Washington Senior Captain of the United States Navy, and from this appointment his title of "Father of the American Navy" appears to have arisen. The title Commodore was not created at the time, but by courtesy was extended to Barry and other Captains who had charge of more than one ship. Under President Washington's administration he superintended the building of the frigate "United States," of which he retained the command until she was laid up in ordinary during the administration of President Jefferson. During the difficulties with France, in 1798, he was employed in protecting our commerce from depredation.

In the later years of his life, he resided at No. 186 Chestnut Street, between Ninth and Tenth Streets, where he died on September 13, 1803, of an asthmatic affection. He was buried in St. Mary's Catholic Churchyard, Fourth Street above Spruce. Over his remains "a few of his countrymen, members of St. Mary's Church, and others" erected the present tomb on July 1, 1876, to replace the one erected by his widow.

A century after the death of this great patriot and eminent son of Ireland, the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, in 1905, resolved to honor and perpetuate his memory by erecting a statue in Independence Square in Philadelphia, near the spot where he received his commission as Senior Captain of the American Navy from the hands of Washington, and at a meeting on June 17th of that year, General St. Clair A. Mulholland offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee of six be appointed by the President to report, at our next quarterly meeting, on the advisability and cost of erecting in this city a bronze statue of John Barry, at one time a member of this Society, Senior Captain and Father of the United States Navy.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to, and the Chair appointed the following Committee:

GENERAL ST. CLAIR A. MULHOLLAND, *Chairman*.
REVEREND J. GRAY BOLTON, D.D.
HON. EDWIN S. STUART.
REAR-ADMIRAL GEORGE W. MELVILLE, U. S. N.
HUGH McCAFFREY.
HENRY B. TENER.

The Committee thus appointed called for estimates and models from some eminent sculptors, and eight models were furnished. The Committee selected from among them the model submitted by Mr. Samuel Murray, a prominent artist of Philadelphia, and in accordance with the resolution, at the quarterly meeting, September 17, 1905, General Mulholland, Chairman of the Committee, submitted the following report:

That the committee recommend that a statue of Commodore John Barry be erected, and that the model submitted by Samuel Murray be adopted.

The resolution was freely discussed and all urged its adoption.

The following resolution was then offered and unanimously approved:

Resolved, That the report of the Committee appointed at the last meeting for the erection of a statue to commemorate the memory of Commodore Barry be approved, with their selection of the model submitted by Samuel Murray, and that \$10,000 be appropriated by this Society for the erection thereof at such place as the Committee shall select.

The contract for the bronze statue was then awarded to Mr. Samuel Murray and the contract for the granite base to the Harrison Granite Company. The ordinance authorizing the placing of the memorial in Independence Square read as follows:

AN ORDINANCE

Authorizing the Mayor to accept the bronze statue of Commodore John Barry of the United States Navy, donated to the City of Philadelphia by the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Philadelphia, and requesting the Department of Public Safety to set apart a site in Independence Square for the purpose of placing thereon said statue.

SECTION 1. *The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do ordain*, that the Mayor be authorized and directed to accept the bronze statue of Commodore John Barry of the United States Navy, donated to the City of Philadelphia by the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Philadelphia, and the Department of Public Safety be authorized and directed to set apart a plot of ground in Independence Square not more than 15 feet square as a site for the location of said statue.



COMMODORE JOHN BARRY

From the original by Gilbert Stuart, now in possession of W. Horace Hepburn, Esq.

At the quarterly meeting, September 17, 1906, General Mulholland, Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, reported that the contract for the bronze figure of Commodore Barry was progressing and that everything would be ready for the unveiling and dedication at our March anniversary, 1907. He also presented and read a resolution and copy of ordinance to be presented to His Honor the Mayor, requesting that he forward same to Councils and pray for their favorable action.

DEDICATION CEREMONIES

And so, on the eve of St. Patrick's Day, March 16, 1907, the one hundred and thirty-sixth anniversary of the foundation of the Society, the magnificent memorial, in commemoration of the inspiring deeds of a great Irish-American hero, and to perpetuate the memory of the man who was the Father of the American Navy, was dedicated beneath the rays of the sun which broke forth with the brilliancy of later spring, amidst the plaudits and cheers of tens of thousands of citizens.

The bronze statue itself is nine feet, six inches in height and rises above a pedestal of Barre granite, twelve feet high. The Irish hero of the Revolution is typified in a commanding attitude. With hand outstretched, he seems to be directing his men on board of vessel to fire another broadside. An admiral's great coat of those days envelops his form, under one arm he carries a naval spy-glass, and his sheathed sword is by his side.^o The sculptor has achieved an expression in the features which seems typical of Commodore Barry. In front, the pedestal bears the simple word "Barry." On the rear of the pedestal is the following inscription: "Commodore John Barry, U. S. N., Father of the Navy, born in Wexford, Ireland, 1745, died in Philadelphia, September 13, 1803. Presented to the City of Philadelphia by the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, 1907."

For the occasion a guard of honor, consisting of a battalion of United States sailors and marines, with the Naval Band, was furnished by the Navy Department. The Secretary of the Navy was represented by Captain John M. Miller, and the Secretary of War was represented by General W. P. Duvall. The great-great-grandniece of Commodore Barry, Miss Elise Hazel Hepburn, was present to unveil the statue. A procession was formed in Independence Hall of the members of the Society, who, together with the specially invited guests, marched through the Square to the platform erected for the speakers.

MISS HEPBURN WAS A DAINTY PICTURE

Prettily attired in white silk, wearing a becoming picture hat and carrying a basket of roses, Miss Hepburn was given the place of honor on the speakers' platform. Although only twelve years old, the young girl was perfectly composed and self-reliant, as was befitting a descendant of Commodore Barry. Mrs. Hepburn, her mother, is a daughter of Captain P. Barry Hayes, who was the youngest son of Patrick Hayes, a nephew of Commodore Barry. Miss Hepburn is, therefore, a great-great-grandniece of the man to whose memory so many people did honor.

After a prayer offered by the Right Reverend Alexander Mackay-Smith, Bishop of Philadelphia, General Thomas J. Stewart, as President of the Society, introduced Miss Hepburn. She stepped to the front of the platform and while the eyes of the throng were centered upon the flags hiding the statue, eager to catch the first glimpse of its beauty, pulled the silken rope.

A clapping of hands and cheers greeted the memorial to the hero. The bronze figure, with a particularly expressive and commanding face, standing in the sunlight, proved a complete climax to the preliminaries for its revealing. The Navy Band struck up the "Star Spangled Banner," at which heads were bared. The crowd stood still and mute while the national anthem was played.

GENERAL STEWART'S EULOGY

General Stewart delivered an eloquent eulogy upon Commodore Barry, referring to him as one of the leaders among the galaxy of men responsible for America's independence.

Mayor Weaver's speech in accepting the statue for the city was in the nature of a tribute to Barry as an Irishman and to Irish-Americans in general. "God has been good to America," he said, "in giving her so many brave and worthy sons of Ireland, among whom John Barry stands among the best."

The life of Commodore Barry and his accomplishments were outlined by Admiral Melville, who told of his twenty victories without a single defeat, against an enemy of superior force. "He nailed his colors to the mast and never struck them during his career."

Samuel Murray, sculptor of the statue, was then introduced.



MISS ELISE HAZEL HEPBURN

Besides the guests already mentioned, who were seated in the grand stand, there were Rev. C. Q. Wright, Chaplain of the "Lancaster," representing the Chaplains at League Island; John M. Campbell, Major-General J. P. S. Gobin, United States Marshall John B. Robinson, Martin I. J. Griffin, author of "The Life of Commodore John Barry;" Michael J. Ryan, Major Levi MacCauley, John McGrath, James J. Ryan, Congressman George D. McCreary, Rev. J. Gray Bolton, General C. Bow Dougherty, Edward J. Dooner, Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis Beitler, Hugh McCaffrey, Esq., Thomas D. Ferguson, Esq., Hon. William McAleer and W. Horace Hepburn, Esq.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, hundreds of persons made a pilgrimage to St. Mary's Church, Fourth Street between Spruce and Walnut, to visit the tomb of Commodore Barry, which stands in the rear of the edifice. Upon the marble slab is inscribed an epitaph, outlining the life and virtues of the hero. A wreath also lay upon the tomb, a tribute from The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

General St. Clair A. Mulholland, Chairman of the Committee appointed to erect the memorial, in making the reports of the Committee, referred to Commodore Barry as an early member of the Society, whose name would go down to future generations as a brilliant son of Ireland and a great and true American.

"This monument," said the speaker, "is a memorial to the founder and father of the navy that, from Barry to Dewey, has been the pride and glory of the Republic. It is appropriate and altogether proper and right that the memorial should be placed on this spot, on sacred ground, made sacred and holy by Barry and the men who with him gathered here to bring into existence this nation and the best form of government with which Almighty God has ever blessed mankind.

"The Committee desires to express its gratitude and thanks to the Mayor of our city, to the members of the City Councils, to the Director of Public Safety and to all who have made our work pleasant and agreeable."

General Thomas J. Stewart, President of the Society, in presenting the memorial to the City of Philadelphia, spoke as follows:

"As President of this honorable and historic Society, and representing the membership thereof, I find great pleasure in conveying the thanks and congratulations of the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, to the Committee that has so successfully and so acceptably completed the work committed to them, as evidenced by the splendid statue of Commodore John Barry that now stands completed and unveiled before us.

“ This statue is the fitting and grateful tribute of the Society to one of its members, and to a noble and faithful patriot and officer of the American Navy, in the formative and fateful days of this great nation, a nation whose commission and confidence he enjoyed, whose sword he carried, and for whose glory he fought, more than a century ago. The infant navy, of which John Barry was designated by Washington as the Senior Captain, and of which he was the first Commodore, to-day commands the respect of every nation in the world. It has grown great and strong through more than a century of magnificent achievements and deeds of wondrous valor and heroism. From Commodore John Barry to Admiral George Dewey, the American Navy has given to the naval annals of the world a great host of conspicuous and mighty names, and among these names, shining in brilliancy of achievement, loyalty and unsurpassed bravery, are found those who, either by birth or lineage, are of that race whose sons have written in blood the story of Irish courage and devotion, wherever the war banners of this Republic were unfurled in battle, or where, amid the carnage of mighty conflict, brave men sank, uncoffined and unhonored, to their eternal resting place in the beautiful gardens of the sea.

“ Here, under the shadow of Independence Hall, the Cradle of Liberty, is the fitting place to rear this tribute to one of that galaxy of great men who made way for Liberty, and who steadied the infant steps of the Republic that to-day sits enthroned in majesty among the nations of the Earth, all of whom pay tribute to her might, acknowledge her greatness, and salute her flag. The faith the founders pledged, their sons have kept, the glory they hoped for we have seen, the things they prayed for we have won, the institutions they created we have saved, and transmit unimpaired to the generations that shall follow us in the days yet to be.

“ Within sight of this spot the first Continental Congress met, and here was given to the world the sublime Declaration of Independence, that from the day it was first publicly proclaimed by being read in public by Colonel John Nixon, the son of an Irishman, to this day, has been recognized as the grandest document ever conceived by brain, or written by pen of man. In support of that Declaration, a young Irishman, 31 years of age, John Barry, to use his own language, ‘ abandoned the finest ship and the first employ in America,’ and offered his service and, if need be, his life. Of his great service and glorious deeds, during the period of the American Revolution, and the years immediately thereafter, a distin-

guished officer of the American Navy, and a member of the Society, will speak.

“ The life of John Barry, and the lives of patriots and men like him, are an unfailling inspiration, and occasions like this awaken in our hearts a deeper love of country, and a truer and holier and loftier devotion to the institutions and principles that make and keep a people and a nation great and strong.

“ Every nation, or people, or race, that left an impress upon its time, had or has its battlefields and its heroes, and we have ours, and we to-day pay tribute to one of our heroes. The tribute may seem to be tardily paid, for he for whom this tribute is placed has been resting peacefully in his grave near this spot for more than a hundred years. Generations of men have come and gone since he lived and, though his ‘ bones are dust and his sword is rust,’ he still has a place in the affections and love of his countrymen, and this great city where he lived and died counts him among those of cherished memory, and cheerfully and gladly accords his statue a place within the holiest and most sacred plot of earth within her gates. Here it will have the companionship of the statue of the immortal Washington, with whose great work he was identified, and with whom he was a co-laborer in the cause of Liberty. It will have the companionship of these historic buildings, and here will gather about it the spirits of the brave men who stood with him where ‘ red battle stamped her foot and nations felt the shock.’ We know that in this patriotic city no vandal hand will mar its beauty, none will fail to comprehend its meaning, or question the lesson of patriotism, loyalty and devotion to country it shall teach, and now, on behalf of the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the successors of John Barry and his associates, I have the honor to present to the City of Philadelphia, through its honored Chief Executive, in the presence of its Common and Select Councils, in the presence of these representatives of the United States Army and Navy, and in the presence of this goodly assemblage of the citizenship of the patriotic City of Philadelphia, this statue of Commodore John Barry.”

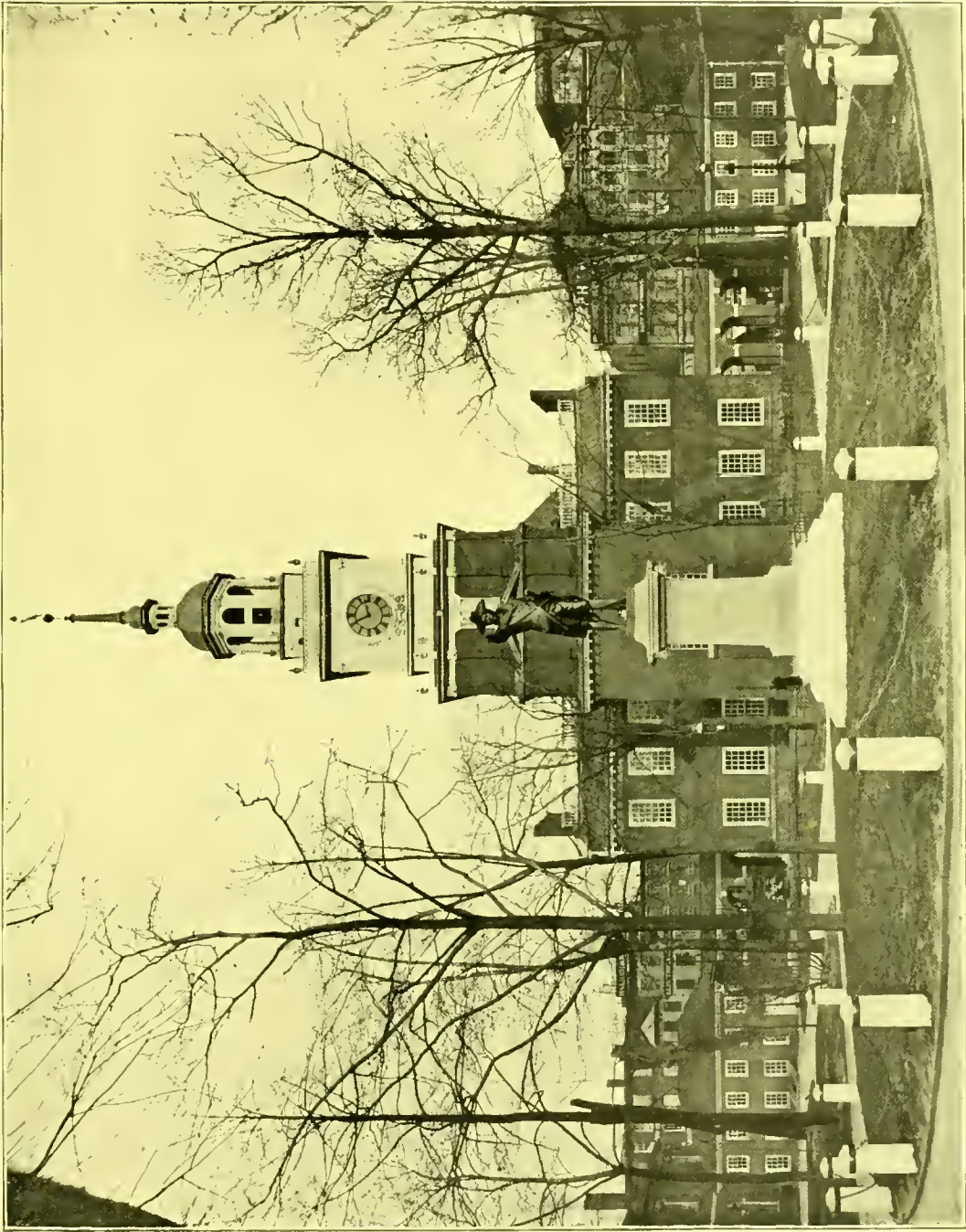
The Honorable John Weaver, Mayor of Philadelphia, in accepting the work on behalf of the City, spoke as follows:

*“ Mr. President, Members of the Friendly Sons
of St. Patrick, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

“ I feel it a very great honor to be called upon, as Chief Executive of this great City of Philadelphia, to accept from your Society this magnificent statue of Commodore John Barry.

“ It is a singular coincidence that on the very day (October 13, 1775) that Captain John Barry, of the merchantman ‘The Black Prince,’ arrived in this city from Bristol, England; I say on that very day the Continental Congress sitting here resolved to fit out two armored cruisers, one of fourteen, and the other of ten guns. It was another coincidence that ‘The Black Prince,’ the merchant vessel that Captain Barry gave up at that time, belonged to John Nixon—the very man that in July of the next year read on this very ground the Declaration of Independence and in such tones that it was heard around the world. Two vessels were purchased and named the ‘Lexington’ and ‘Reprisal.’ Captain Barry was appointed to the command of the ‘Lexington,’ named after the first battle of the Revolutionary War. It was not till March, however, that he got the ‘Lexington’ ready and put to sea, yet within two weeks had captured and brought a prize to this city. And he kept up the good work, whether as Captain of the ‘Lexington’ or later as Captain of the ‘Effingham,’ named after the British Lord who resigned his commission in the English Army rather than fight the Americans, or when the English had captured Philadelphia, and the war-vessels of the Colonies were compelled to retreat up the Delaware above Burlington, he plotted and planned to destroy the British shipping, and brought about the laughable ‘Battle of the Kegs’ and subsequently passed Philadelphia by night in armed boats, and attacked and seriously crippled the British shipping and supplies in the lower Delaware to such an extent that he received the thanks and congratulations of General Washington.

“ But of all the vessels he commanded at all times his career as Captain of the frigate ‘Alliance’ is, perhaps, the most worthy of notice. Early in 1781 he carried Colonel Laurens on an important mission to France, capturing an English privateer on his way over and releasing from her custody a Venetian ship which had been captured by the English privateer, contrary to the Law of Nations and every principle of justice. The crew of the Venetian vessel had been put in irons and cruelly treated, and Captain Barry released them and restored their vessel out of ‘respect for the law of nations and the rights of neutrality.’ The return voyage of the ‘Alliance’ was full of incidents. She conveyed the French letter-of-marque ship ‘Lafayette,’ laden with supplies for the Continental Army, and within a few days after leaving the French coast Captain Barry discovered a well-formed conspiracy to mutiny, which he quickly broke up in a very vigorous manner, and then he captured four ships of war and



The Memorial to John Barry, in Independence Square, showing the State House.

several merchant vessels on his way home. He continued his victorious career, carrying the Marquis Lafayette to France in January, 1782.

“What could this country have done in the dark days of the Revolution without those brave fighting sailors. General Washington said to Lafayette in November, 1781: ‘It follows then as certain as that night succeeds the day that without a decisive naval force we can do nothing definite, and with it everything honorable and glorious. A constant naval superiority would terminate the war speedily. Without it I do not know that it will ever be terminated honorably.’ We have never honored our naval heroes sufficiently, and I am glad to see this splendid monument to the gallant fighting Captain John Barry, of the Continental Navy, and to Commodore John Barry, the first Commander of the new Navy of the United States. He served his country well, and all posterity should do him honor.

“I congratulate the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick upon the completion of this monument and, in accepting it from you in behalf of the City, I thank you in the name of all our citizens for your thoughtfulness and generosity in thus placing Barry in enduring bronze, and honoring the memory of one of the great naval heroes of the Revolution.”

Admiral George W. Melville then delivered a splendid oration on the life and services of Commodore Barry. He said:

“Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

“We are assembled here to-day not to chant the *miserere*, or a dirge for the dead, but in joyful numbers to sing the praises of one of the most heroic characters of the time of the Revolution. Of one who did as much as, if not more than, any other man to secure for you and me,—and, let us hope, for our remotest posterity,—the liberty of this great Republic!

“The subject of our paeans to-day was a ‘seaman’ in all that it means: An officer of the Navy before we had a Navy. A man in the acceptance of the ancient and honorable meaning of the word. He could not only sail, manage and navigate his ship all over the world, but could build, rig and equip her, and also could place, man and fight her guns. This he did on many occasions, as his brief history of to-day will tell. He was no ‘kid-gloved’ mariner.

“The man to whom I refer is Commodore John Barry—‘Old Jack Barry,’ as he was lovingly called by those who knew him. But to us of a later genera-

tion, his name and the record of his deeds make him '*Fighting Jack Barry*,' the '*Father of the American Navy*.' He it is whom we are assembled to honor to-day by the dedication of this magnificent monument of bronze and stone, the gift of the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, which counted among its members George Washington as well as John Barry.

"John Barry was an Irishman, born in 1745 in the town of Ballysampson, and lived his boyhood days in the townland of Roostonstown, Wexford County, in the Province of Leinster, until the age of 15 years, when he went to sea, probably first on his own coast, and later to the West Indies. Finally he arrived in Philadelphia, and was, when about 21 years of age, honorably employed in his profession as master mariner by the leading merchants of Philadelphia, trading to the West Indies. Thus, early in life, he showed the virility of manhood, with the power to command men and to merit the respect of his employers.

"Captain Barry returned from sea in his good ship the '*Black Prince*,' in October, 1775, when the first opportunity offered to consecrate his life and great ability as a seaman to the cause of the American Colonies. The '*Black Prince*' was purchased by the Congress, fitted out and placed under command of Commodore Esek Hopkins and Captain Saltonstall, and renamed the '*Alfred*.' It was at this time in his history that Captain Barry said (so we are told) that he had given up the command of the finest ship afloat, and left the best employ, to cast his lot with the American Colonies.

"He was idle but a few weeks, for Congress had voted to purchase and equip two vessels, the '*Lexington*' and the '*Reprisal*,' in December of the same year. Captain Barry was honored with the command of the '*Lexington*,' named after the first battle of the American Revolution. It seems fortunate that he should start his naval career in a ship named after this first battle of a Revolution that was to have so great an influence upon the destinies not only of these United States but upon those of the whole civilized world, for as Americans we believe that we are to-day the greatest civilizing power on the face of the globe.

"From the time of the fitting out of the '*Lexington*,' in 1775, down to the time of the Declaration of Peace, which assured the liberation of the American Colonies from the thralldom of Great Britain, Captain Barry was constantly engaged, on shore and afloat, in building and equipping vessels, and in service at sea as opportunity afforded, when our little fleet could find an opening to get through the blockading squadrons of the enemy. Then on to the broad ocean,

THE PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA,

To John Barry.

I GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States, receiving special Trust and Confidence in your Intrepidity and Ability, have appointed, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the SENATE, appointed you Captain in the Navy of the UNITED STATES, and Commander of the Frigate called UNITED STATES, to sail, Rank in . . . the fourth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and ninety four. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Captain and Commander by doing and performing all manner of things the said Frigate, but, I steadily charge and require, all Officers, Marines, and Seamen under your command, to be obedient to your Orders as Captain and Commander: . . . but you are to observe, and follow such orders and directions from time to time as you shall receive from the President of the United States, or any superior Officer, as ever you, according to the rules and discipline of War, and the usage of the Sea. THIS COMMISSION to continue in force during the pleasure of the President of the United States.

Given under my hand at Philadelphia, this twenty second day of February in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven, and of the Independence and Independence of the United States the twenty first.

By the President,
James M'Henry,
Secretary of War.

Edw. Hopson

Captain Barry made the enemy feel the force of his rapid blows and of his genius as a seaman. He never struck his flag to the enemy, though he was actually engaged in twenty sea fights against superior force,—the field of his operations ranging all the way from the capes of the Delaware into the West Indies and as far east as the coast of Maine and Newfoundland.

“ At the time of the British occupation of Philadelphia, our fleet was obliged to retreat up the river above Burlington, where, against the protest of Captain Barry, but by order of the Naval Commissioners, the few vessels composing it were scuttled and sunk. This was during those dark days of the Revolution before the battles of Princeton and Trenton, before the historic crossing of the Delaware by Washington and the dreary, discouraging days of that terrible winter at Valley Forge.

“ It was under these circumstances that Barry became closely associated with Washington as one of his staff, utilizing his resourcefulness as a seaman in supplying and manning flotillas of boats on the upper Delaware to facilitate the transportation of men and material of war, and taking part personally in the battles of Princeton and Trenton. He also fitted out a very successful flotilla of boats for service on the lower Delaware River, taking, from the enemy bound on its way up the river to Philadelphia, numerous important captures of powder, war supplies and other material, and happily diverting them to our army at Valley Forge. In fact, it was this captured powder alone that sustained Washington at that time. This flotilla of boats passed down the river at night, very much to the consternation of the enemy, who was then enjoying the peace and serenity of the society of the city.

“ Then, in command of the ‘ Alliance,’ Barry was assigned the signal duty of carrying abroad Colonel Laurens, special commissioner to France, on that all-important mission of securing for the United States an alliance with France, and obtaining the greatly needed supplies of money, ammunition, arms and clothing for our suffering army. He had the honor of carrying with him as passengers, the Marquis de Lafayette, Count de Noailles, Thomas Paine, Major Jackson,—all making up the bright galaxy of talent that was to assist our ambassador, Benjamin Franklin, to accomplish the delicate mission of securing that alliance and assistance which we, as colonists in rebellion, so sorely needed, and which made our rebellion a successful revolution.

“ Thus we see what confidence General Washington had in our grand old sea fighter. He was selected as the best and safest man to be trusted with so great a mission. At that very time we had Benedict Arnold and others of his ilk in our midst, and Washington might well have said ‘My Lord, whom can we trust?’ Happily for us, there was one whom all could trust. The laurel on his head and the gold on his shoulders grew there! and neither the money of the enemy, nor the blandishments and offers of high command in the British Navy could pluck these laurels from his head or the gold from his shoulder knots. He was more than loyal; he was God-given to us!

“ We all know the grand success of the negotiations of our ambassador, Franklin, aided by our special commissioner, Colonel Laurens, and the efforts of the Marquis de Lafayette. How fortunate the relations thus established, and what great and crowning glory came to us through our alliance with France at that time.

“ Barry was the Captain who was entrusted with the grave responsibility of carrying this commission abroad through the lines of the enemy’s blockading and cruising ships. This was a task both great and honorable and would have been quite enough for most men, but not for our hero. He was a fighter. It was not enough for him to avoid the enemy so as to carry his precious cargo in safety to its destination. Fight he must. And fight he did, both on his advance voyage to France and on his homeward trip. As a result of the engagements he captured ten of the enemy’s ships, sending some of his prizes into French ports and others to the United States.

“ But, friends, I might go on for an hour and yet not tell half of the story of the many other services rendered to the struggling Colonies by the man we are here to honor to-day. Suffice it to say that he was one of the brightest and noblest of those who came to us from the Emerald Isle, an Irish fisher-lad whose name and fame will live as long as the history of America lasts.

“ What you are doing to-day in honoring his memory is but an earnest of that better knowledge of our hero, which will grow with the history of our beloved country which he did so much to make a land of freedom. We have been so young as a nation that we have not had time to sit down calmly and think over the merits of all the men who fought that we might have the greatest country and the noblest government the world has ever known. We are thinking more about



Scene at the Dedication of the Barry Statue, March 16th, 1907.

the past than we did; and, as we look back, we see the grand heroic figure of John Barry taking its rightful place among the defenders and saviors of the Republic."

The proceedings were ended by prayer by one of the chaplains of the Society, Reverend Gerald P. Coghlan. The celebrations of a day ever to be remembered with pride and pleasure by every member of The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick closed in the evening with the largest banquet in its history, when more than five hundred sons of the Emerald Isle and their guests for hours joined in good cheer and listened to a wonderful flow of eloquence and song, prominent representatives of the National Government, of the Army and Navy of the United States, the Governor of Pennsylvania, the Mayor of our City and many eminent citizens being present.

At the quarterly meeting of the Society, December 17, 1907, General St. Clair A. Mulholland, Chairman, submitted the final report of the Barry Statue Committee:

Mr. Thomas D. Ferguson, Secretary,

PHILADELPHIA, December 17, 1907.

Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

My Dear Sir:—The Committee on the erection of the Barry statue and memorial in Independence Square have the honor to make this, their final, report. The memorial to the great sailor has been erected in accordance with the wishes of the members of the Society. The total cost of the structure was Ten Thousand, Three Hundred (10,300) Dollars. It is not only a memorial to the father of the American Navy, but a monument to the ancient and honorable Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick as well, and will be, in all the centuries to come, a lasting honor to the Society as also to the great son of Ireland, the founder of our navy which, from its first inception to the present day, has furnished glowing pages to our country's history.

The statue not only represents Commodore Barry true to life, but is a work of art which reflects credit on the artist, Mr. Samuel Murray. The granite work and pedestal (the work of the Harrison Granite Company) are also beautiful, enduring, and have met with the highest commendation of your committee.

The committee wishes to record its appreciation of the courtesy and kindness extended to its members by his Honor, John Weaver, then Mayor of our city, and to the members of Select and Common Council, to Alfred A. Eisenhower, Esq., and to all those who assisted us in securing the location for the memorial.

The statue was dedicated with impressive and most interesting ceremonies before a vast concourse of people on the sixteenth day of last March.

Very respectfully,

ST. CLAIR A. MULHOLLAND.

OFFICERS

President, GENERAL THOMAS J. STEWART

Vice-President, EDWARD J. DOONER

Treasurer, SIMON J. MARTIN

Secretary, THOMAS D. FERGUSON

Counsellors,

THOMAS A. FAHY

ROBERT BRANNAN

Physicians,

W. JOSEPH HEARN, M.D.

MICHAEL O'HARA, JR., M.D.

Finance Committee,

HENRY B. TENER

CHARLES J. GALLAGHER, JR.

THOMAS CULLINAN, JR.

Executive Committee,

EPHRAIM BRICE

JOSEPH J. MCCAFFREY

JOHN B. COMBER

Committee on Barry Statue,

GENERAL ST. CLAIR A. MULHOLLAND

REVEREND J. GRAY BOLTON, D.D.

ADMIRAL GEORGE W. MELVILLE

HUGH MCCAFFREY

HON. EDWIN S. STUART

HENRY B. TENER

EDWARD J. DOONER

Dinner Committee,

EDWARD J. DOONER

JAMES O'SULLIVAN

JOHN M. CAMPBELL

GENERAL THOMAS J. STEWART, *President.*

HON. THEODORE F. JENKINS

SIMON J. MARTIN, *Treasurer.*

HON. GEORGE D. MCCREARY

THOMAS D. FERGUSON, *Secretary.*



Scene at the Dedication of Barry Statue, March 16th, 1907.

Committee on Barry Statue

GENERAL ST. CLAIR A. MULHOLLAND

HON. EDWIN S. STUART

ADMIRAL GEORGE W. MELVILLE

REVEREND J. GRAY BOLTON, D. D.

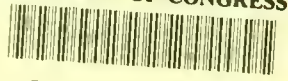
HUGH McCAFFREY

HENRY B. TENER





LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



00021113190