

**MISS TARBELL'S REPORT ON THE SUGGESTION OF ARTICLES ON DRAMATIC
EPISODES IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.**

(1) ✓ The Adoption of the Declaration of Independence, JULY 4,

1776. The Scene in Independence Hall at the time of the final vote. Incidents of the exciting three days' debate preceding adoption. Committee who framed the Declaration, composed of Jefferson, Adams and Franklin. Jefferson's part in the work. Where did he get his ideas? Was the phraseology his own or plagiarized? The Declaration goes to the country. The way it was received. (So far as I know, the comments of the newspapers at the time have never been published at all). The engrossing on paper of the Declaration and its final signing on August 2 (the Declaration was not signed on July 4, 1776, as is popularly supposed).

For illustration there would be a splendid series of portraits possible; of course, the chief of which should be Jefferson. For Mr. Fyle I should suggest a scene in Independence Hall during the Debate, or perhaps the moment on which the final vote on the Declaration was reported.

(2) ✓ ✓ Signing of the Constitution Sept. 17, 1787. The scene in the Hall at Philadelphia when the members met to sign the document. The room, the members, the document itself. Franklin's humorous and touching address to the Convention. The members sign. Brief account of the events of the convention which had been sitting since the middle of May. The Constitution before the country. The exciting struggle for ratification. (It was not until May 29, 1790, in fact, that the last of the Thirteen States ratified the Constitution).

There is splendid illustrative material here. The well known picture of the signing of the Constitution could be reproduced, and Fyle might very well make a picture of Franklin's speaking his last words to the members. The material for this is within easy reach. Facsimiles of a portion of the document, of the Hall, of autographs, etc. could easily be obtained, though this sort of thing has been done so much that we should have to be careful to avoid being commonplace.

(3) *12* The Greek Debate, 1824. The greatest wave of emotion which overspread the United States, from 1820 to 1824, at the time of the struggle for the independence of Greece. Greek societies formed all over the country, mass meetings held, large sums of money raised. Congress appealed to to aid Greece. Webster makes a splendid speech presenting a resolution that a commission should be sent to Greece by the President. Clay, Webster's political opponent, makes eloquent speeches in behalf of Greek independence. Clay's efforts to preserve the independence of the South American Republics. The Monroe Doctrine is announced. The subject gives a splendid chance to show how universal was the sympathy at that time with any people struggling for independence and how unwilling we were that Europe should interfere with the struggling republics on this side and how little thought we had of doing such a thing for ourselves.

There are two good subjects for Pyle in this article: a popular demonstration in favor of Greece and a scene in Congress as Clay or Webster was speaking. The principal portraits should be of Clay, Webster and Monroe.

3 *✓ Trial of Aaron Burr*
(4) Richmond in March, 1807, at Opening of Burr Trial.

One of the most motley and at the same time distinguished ^{crowds} ever brought together in this country. Passion at its height, even the President of the United States was at work influencing the result. Trial lasted five months. ~~Was~~ with unflinching interest on part of Burr's friends and opponents.

While Burr and Marshall are the central figures, there are a score and more of side figures of hardly less interest. Portrait opportunities immense: Burr, Marshall, Wirt, Theodosia Burr, Randolph of Roanoke, Blennerhassett, Andrew Jackson--All the picturesque Western crowd in the conspiracy. Pyle probably choose a scene in court room during trial.

(5) ✓ Andrew Jackson and the Nullifiers. Dec. 10, 1832, President Jackson issued a proclamation against the South Carolina Nullifiers.

Its reception was something extraordinary, especially in the North, where the country went wild with enthusiasm. It had the effect in the South Carolina of squashing completely the secession movement. Simply the story of the unexpected way the proclamation came out, of the astonishment, rage and enthusiasm of the country, closing with some account of the impression of Jackson which it left on the country, is quite enough for the article.

A series of portraits of Jackson could be used if desirable. For Pyle the only thing that I see just now is a picture on some of the popular demonstrations which followed the issuing of the proclamation.

(6) Campaign of 1840. The article might be very well called "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too." It is by far the jolliest, noisiest, most enthusiastic Presidential campaign ever held in this country. The issues were taking ones. Van Buren, Harrison's opponent, was supposed to be the representative of wealth and aristocracy, while Harrison stood for democracy and the poor man. The log cabin and free cider were the emblems used in the demonstrations which swept over the country for three months. It really was a great national frolic the like of which we have never seen since and probably never will see again.

There is a lot of curious illustrative material here which

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might be used in the way of cartoons, though it would be difficult to

might be used in the way of cartoons, though it would be difficult to handle it so as not to make the illustration of the article look very much like other similar papers which have appeared. Van Buren, Harrison and Tyler portraits would, of course, be necessary, and Mr. Pyle would have no difficulty in getting a picture from the Hastings.

While the above seemed to me perhaps the best half dozen, there is another splendid subject in "Is Missouri a State or not?" This is the great fight over the admission of Missouri in 1820. A most dramatic scene occurred in Congress on Feb. 14, 1820, at the counting of the electoral votes. The report was held up because it was contended that Missouri was not a state, and of course an account of the adoption of the Missouri Compromise should come into this incidentally in order to make the matter clear, and it would be a good place to show that this compromise did not originate with Clay, as was popularly supposed, but the reason that he won the title of the Great Pacificator at this time was that he used his chance to smooth over the quarrel at the time of the counting of the electoral votes. Clay, of course, would be the central figure of this article, which I feel sure would be a very dramatic one.

✓ May 10, 1837, is a dramatic date which might well serve for a subject. It is the date on which the New York banks in a body suspended specie payment. This would lead up to an account of the great boom which led to the panic in 1837 and some of its results.