NOTHING THE MATTER WITH PENNSYLVANIA

By Frank Willing Leach
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

In the selection of the above title, the writer does not have in mind the present situation in the Keystone state, resulting from the "Depression." There is no disputing the fact that, just now, there is a vast deal the matter with Pennsylvania. The same can be said, however, with reference to the balance of civilized society. The caption chosen relates to the period beginning with 1682, when William Penn arrived in his new province, and assumed control of the territory then occupied, in part, by the Swedes on the Delaware. Reference here, however, is more particularly made to the period following the Declaration of Independence.

This article has been prompted by the persual, a short time ago, of the paper: "What is the Matter with Pennsylvania?" which appeared in Pennsylvania History for January, 1935, from the pen of William A. Russ, Jr. That historical essay appealed greatly to the writer in that it presented a panorama of more or less distinguished participants in the political life of Pennsylvania, with which, in a limited way, he himself was identified for nearly a quarter of a century.

Primarily, let it be said, "What is the Matter with Pennsylvania?" evidences a very pronounced degree of research, and Mr. Russ is entitled to the thanks of all lovers of the old Quaker Commonwealth for the material he has presented for public perusal and criticism. However, for present purposes, let it be understood that there is no intention of acquiescing in the intimation, expressed or implied, that Pennsylvania has played a minor rôle in the program of national development compared with certain other states, because she may have contributed fewer presidents, or due to other conspicuous factors in politics or statecraft.

Even if it be true that Pennsylvanians were, in the direction indicated, less prominent than citizens of some other state or
NOTHING THE MATTER WITH PENNSYLVANIA

states (and this is not conceded), it but proves that many sons of Pennsylvania were disposed to the belief that there were other and more important avenues for the material development of Commonwealth and Nation, than those of politics.

Before particularizing in a processional presentation of certain figures in Pennsylvania achievement outside of public life, attention should be directed to that particular phase of the question as presented by Mr. Russ in his valuable article, "What is the Matter with Pennsylvania?" He stresses the point that, whereas Virginia has furnished five Presidents, (Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Tyler); New York six, (Van Buren, Fillmore, Arthur, Cleveland and the two Roosevelts), and Ohio six, (the first Harrison, Hayes, Garfield, McKinley, Taft and Harding), Pennsylvania has produced but one, Buchanan. Similar comparisons and contrasts are presented by Mr. Russ as to Vice Presidents and other important officials, with a view to exhibiting a paucity of able statesmen, so far as the Keystone State is concerned.

Why Virginia should have become, at the beginning of the nation's history, the "Mother of Presidents," is more or less difficult to determine. No question is involved as to the first Chief Executive, George Washington. Irrespective of the state from whence he came he would have been chosen, as he was, without opposition.

In a large degree the same is true of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence. In 1789 he returned from France, where he had been the diplomatic representative of the United States, full of antagonism to its existing monarchial form of government. In due time followed the revolution in that country. As a result of the sympathetic reaction in America, the anti-Federalist, or Democratic Party, then had its birth, which brought with it the most tempestuous and most dangerous period in the history of the United States, certain war epochs through which the country subsequently passed, only excepted. It is regrettable that Americans know so little concerning that momentous period of their history, when the murderers of Paris were acclaimed as heroes, the "Red" cockade encountered in large numbers on the streets of Philadelphia, and talk of hanging George Washington in effigy was not uncommon. It was as the
recognized leader of this mob spirit, that Jefferson was elected President in 1800, defeating the incumbent, John Adams.

It is doubtful, however, if this event would have occurred, except for the fact that, just prior to Jefferson's election, Thomas McKean, an advocate of state sovereignty and of decentralization, became Governor of Pennsylvania, by the choice of the people, being one of the creators of the new Democratic party, and in a sense, a very pronounced exponent of the new school of politics, resulting from the French Revolution. The Democratic success in the gubernatorial election of 1799, practically put the party of Washington, Adams and Hamilton out of existence, for Pennsylvania was then, both literally and metaphorically, the Keystone state, and the most important of all the Commonwealths, largely, perhaps, because the seat of government, Philadelphia, was located within her borders.

Of Governor McKean, who had been one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, it may safely be said that he was a man of extraordinary individuality (he served as Chief Executive of the state for three terms), and while he never reached the Presidency, nor was ever a Vice President, Cabinet Officer or United States Senator, he was infinitely abler, as statesman or otherwise, than three-fourths of the occupants of the White House. More than any other man, more indeed than Jefferson himself, this eminent Pennsylvanian was responsible for the latter's elevation to the Presidency. In this connection attention may be called to the fact that a Warwick, or King-maker, may be a greater factor in the science of government, than an actual or nominal occupant of a throne or executive post.

It can also be said, that another Pennsylvanian, a Philadelphia journalist, William Duane, editor of the Aurora, was even more largely responsible for Democratic success and Jefferson's election in 1800. This was a notable period in American journalism when the press, as never before or since, shaped contemporaneous history and dominated public opinion and public decision.

Though anticipating, chronologically speaking, it was a Pennsylvania United States Senator, Mathew Stanley Quay, who as Chairman of the Republican National Committee, performed little less than a miracle in bringing about the election to the Presidency, in 1888, of Benjamin Harrison. Furthermore, it
was this same Pennsylvania Senator, Quay—not Platt of New York—who engineered the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt against the latter's protest, for Vice President in 1900 (the event occurring in Philadelphia). Roosevelt's elevation to the Presidency took place the following year, through the assassination of William McKinley. In other words, though this Pennsylvanian never became President, he played a conspicuous rôle as a maker of at least two Presidents, beside materially aiding in the election of several others.

It is unnecessary to comment in detail upon the other three Virginians who occupied the White House—Madison, Monroe and Tyler. No one questions that the Old Dominion has always been a leading figure in the sisterhood of states.

Nor need there be any lengthy comment upon the circumstances under which, in due time, six New Yorkers entered the White House, nor question why the same number of Ohioans were elected to that high office. In general terms it may be stated that the element of political expediency was the dominating one in the selections made. For many years New York and Ohio were recognized politically as close or doubtful states though, naturally, the personality of the candidate chosen was in some instances the controlling factor. That is to say, New York and Ohio being so recognized as between the two leading parties for the time being, state pride was counted upon as a probable compelling force in determining the final result, apart from any special equipment of the candidate, in the way of intellectual brilliancy.

Take by way of example, the Ohio Presidents. The elder Harrison, then an old man (dying just one month after his inauguration), was named almost entirely because of his military record, as the hero of the Indian wars in the middle west. Hayes was selected chiefly because the so-called Republican "Stalwarts" of 1876, did not want Blaine. For the same reason Garfield was nominated in 1880, the "Stalwarts" having failed to nominate Grant for a third term. Manipulation by Mark Hanna made McKinley the nominee in 1896. In 1908 President Theodore Roosevelt was responsible for the election of his Secretary of War, Taft, who succeeded him. Twelve years later,

in 1920, the Republican leaders forced the nomination of Harding as a result of a midnight caucus, after he and many of his friends had practically abandoned all hope.

In each of these instances the dominating thought was the availability of the nominee to carry Ohio; not his extraordinary inherent ability. To speak frankly, and with due respect to the memories of the six Presidents in question, the writer, who in his own limited experience, came face to face with five of them, questions whether any one of the six was a "great statesman." Indeed, in the opinion of many competent authorities, the Presidents of the United States, with few exceptions, have by no means been the most eminent statesmen of their respective periods.

It is true that Pennsylvania has furnished but one President and one Vice President, James Buchanan and George Mifflin Dallas. Yet there is no reason to concede that, as Mr. Russ intimates, they were not, strictly speaking, "great men." Both had been United States Senators, both had served as diplomatic representatives of the United States to Great Britain. Each was a statesman of a high order, an honor to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and a credit to the Nation. James Buchanan had the misfortune to enter the White House at a critical period of the Nation's history. The incidents of the previous quarter of a century had made war inevitable. No human agency could stop it, whether North or South. Certainly Buchanan could not. He was a creature of circumstance and of fate. There is no halo about his memory. Nevertheless he was an able statesman and an honor to his native state.

Of Pennsylvania's solitary Vice President, George Mifflin Dallas, and the three Pennsylvanians who were unsuccessful candidates for that high office—Jared Ingersoll, Richard Rush, and John Sergeant—it need only be said that they were all distinguished lawyers, and statesmen, far superior to two-thirds of those who actually did fill that distinguished post, notwithstanding the expression of doubt by Mr. Russ, whether "the ordinary citizen ever heard of any one of the four." Possibly, as Mr. Russ also suggests: "Ingersoll and Sergeant would hardly be known by even the teachers of history." But, it is not unlikely that few, if any, of the "teachers of history" could name, offhand, ten of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence, although they were rather important men in their day.
The three Pennsylvanians to fill the Speaker’s chair in Washington, were all men of eminence. This was especially true of Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg. There were no abler men in their day than Muhlenberg, General John Peter Gabriel, and the Rev. Gotthilf Henry, D.D. Few citizens of the Keystone state, or any other state, were as conspicuous factors in the making of American history. So, too, Galusha A. Grow and Samuel J. Randall, both personally known to the writer, deserve to be placed among the ablest and most influential statesmen, at critical periods in the nation’s history.

As to Pennsylvanians in the Cabinet, lack of space prevents detailed comment. The Keystone state need not be ashamed of her citizens who served in that capacity, beginning with Jefferson’s distinguished Secretary of the Treasury, Albert Gallatin, and ending with John Wanamaker, Charles Emory Smith, Philander C. Knox, Andrew J. Mellon and other statesmen of equal brilliancy. The first and last named, Gallatin and Mellon, have been the ablest holders of the Treasury portfolio in the Nation’s entire history, aside from Alexander Hamilton. So far as the thirty-six Pennsylvanians in the United States Senate, for the past 146 years is concerned, they need neither defense or eulogy. It is true no such effulgent names as Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, Daniel Webster, Edward Everett, Charles Sumner, Henry Cabot Lodge or James G. Blaine are found on the list. The latter was a Pennsylvania product. Only by an accident was he “Blaine of Maine.”

Respecting Pennsylvania’s United States Senators a few facts are worthy of note. They have included one President, James Buchanan; one Vice President, George Mifflin Dallas; Robert Morris, the “Financier of the Revolution,” who saved Washington’s army from collapse and disbandment; Simon Cameron, a leading candidate for the Presidential nomination in 1860, who became a member of Lincoln’s Cabinet, and later, Minister to Russia. Another, Mathew Stanley Quay, who in the Republican National Convention of 1896, had the backing of his home state

---

*Some years ago the author of this article wrote biographical sketches of these thirty-six, from Robert Morris and William Maclay to Boies Penrose and George T. Oliver. With these, from Simon Cameron (who sat in the Senate before the Civil War) to George Wharton Pepper, in 1922, he was personally acquainted, with a single exception, and was private secretary to two Senators, thirty years apart.*
as a presidential candidate, and who as previously indicated, had been chiefly responsible for the election, in 1888, of Benjamin Harrison as Cleveland's successor, and also subsequently, in 1900, was the primary factor in bringing about the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt as the Republican party's choice for Vice President.

In the parlance of the day such men as Simon Cameron, his son, J. Donald Cameron, Mathew Stanley Quay, and Boies Penrose were known as "Bosses." Without discussion as to the significance of that term, there can be no question that such men as a rule, are powerful factors in protecting and advancing the material interests of their immediate constituencies, sufficient reason it should be acknowledged for their being sent to Washington.

Beside the foregoing, other Senators of note were: David Wilmot, author of the celebrated "Wilmot proviso," an outstanding feature in the slavery and anti-slavery panorama leading to the Civil War; John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg (elder brother of Speaker Muhlenberg), whose statue is one of the two (Robert Fulton's being the other) placed in America's Statuary Hall of Fame in the National Capitol, as Pennsylvania's most distinguished citizens; William Bigler and William Findley, who served with distinction as Governors of the Commonwealth; James Ross of York county, one of the ablest Federalists in the country, and Andrew Gregg, whose uninterrupted Congressional service covered twenty-two years, sixteen in the House and six in the Senate. At that period of American history there had been no such continuous incumbency of Congressional seats from any state in the Union.

Of Pennsylvania's later Senators, the assertion can be made that no state has ever had an abler representative in the Senate than Philander C. Knox, who likewise served with honor in the cabinets of Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft. So, too, the incumbency of Philadelphia's distinguished attorney, George Wharton Pepper, was one of which any Commonwealth might justly be proud. As to her most recent Ex-Senator, David A. Reed, there is the joint opinion of the cleverest judges in the United States, the occupants of the Senate's press-gallery, that he was "the ablest Republican member of that body." Those brilliant men of the press might, with truth, have omitted the word
"Republican," so that their verdict would read: "the ablest member of that body," irrespective of politics.

Owing to the vast field to be covered in such a survey, little need be said in a personal way of the nearly eight hundred Pennsylvanians who have, since 1789, occupied seats in the National House of Representatives. As already indicated, during this period the Keystone state furnished three Speakers—Muhlenberg, Grow and Randall, such selection indicating that their colleagues deemed them, in ability and otherwise, the dominant leaders of that body, for the time being.

Aside from the above, no other state, throughout the nation's history to the present time, ever sent a more virile, more commanding character to the Halls of Legislation than Thaddeus Stevens, who was a zealous supporter of Lincoln during the Civil war and, later, a commanding figure in shaping the policy of governmental reconstruction. No one will controvert Mr. Russ' criticism of this statesman, on certain points, but no one at all familiar with the facts can fail to acknowledge the extraordinary power exercised by the Lancaster county legislator during the era referred to.

The author of this paper, during the period of his personal activities in the domain of state politics, 1880-1899, came into direct contact with fully one hundred Congressmen, and unhesitatingly declares them to have been, with few exceptions, representative legislators, equal, at least, to those of any other state, and in one respect, or another, leaders in the national body of which they were members.

Apart from Mr. Russ' title "What is the Matter with Pennsylvania?" there is nothing in his interesting article which suggests that the Keystone state, in any form of activity other than politics, was deficient or derelict. Yet the fear that his silence might lead to that impression, induces the statement that it fell to the lot of Pennsylvanians to lead in nearly every phase of the nation's development.

Pennsylvania's geographical position made her the most conspicuous and influential factor in the program of national evolution during and following the Revolution. Lying midway in the territorial strip along the Atlantic Seaboard embracing the thirteen colonies, it was quite natural that she should have become, in a sense, the pivotal state; that the Continental Congress
should have assembled at Philadelphia in 1774 and thereafter; and that the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Constitution should have been born there. But that reason, a matter of geography and accessibility, was assuredly not the only one, not even the primary one, why Pennsylvania was looked upon, two centuries ago, as the foremost of all the American colonies.

The idea of the union of the colonies and of a nation was born in Pennsylvania. As far back as February 8, 1696-97, William Penn gave utterance to such a thought in his "A Briefe and Plaine Scheame how the English Colonies in the North parts of America Viz: Boston, Connecticut, Road Island, New York, New Jerseys, Pensilvania, Maryland, Virginia and Carolina may be made usefull to the Crowne, and one anothers peace and safty with an universall concurrence." Later on, in 1754, Benjamin Franklin proposed such an amalgamation of the colonies, the result being the gathering at Albany, New York, in that year. In due time that distinguished citizen of Philadelphia, the most extraordinary American of any age, became, both at home, in England and later in France, a notable figure in the events leading to and following the Revolution, including the placing of his signature to the two immortal documents, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Next to Franklin there were two other Philadelphians who were powerful factors in enlightening and influencing the colonists from New Hampshire to Georgia, and in finally bringing into existence the Continental Congress at Carpenters Hall in 1774, and later at Independence Hall, then known as the State House. These two celebrated propagandists were John Dickinson, author of *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies*, and Thomas Paine, author of *Common Sense*, documents which had wide circulation over an extensive area.

Some consideration of the direction or directions in which Pennsylvania led her sister Commonwealths cannot fail to be profitable. First the legal profession. Over a century ago was born the colloquialism, referring to some current legal problem: "It would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer." Indeed until the advent of the nineteenth century, the American Bar had hardly existed, outside of the Keystone state.
One of the earliest Quaker city advocates was David Lloyd an extraordinarily versatile character much in advance of his time, who felt called upon to antagonize violently William Penn himself. A narrative of his struggles, during the first quarter of the eighteenth century, would make an amazing volume of wide interest. Indeed such a work has already been prepared for the press by Burton Alva Kunkle, the Philadelphia historian, and its publication is eagerly awaited.

Another, and somewhat later lawyer, probably the ablest in all of the thirteen colonies, was Andrew Hamilton, a Philadelphian. It fell to his lot to win an historic libel suit, the Zenger case, in 1735, in New York City—a cause célèbre, which in a large measure, maintained and protected the liberty of the Press in America. The defendant's local, New York, lawyers had been penalized for contempt of court, and Hamilton was called to New York to champion Zenger's cause with the result of the latter's acquittal.

Restricted space prevents reference to but a few of the distinguished members of the Bar, citizens of Pennsylvania, who toward the close of the eighteenth century, and during the first quarter of the nineteenth, practically dominated the legal profession in the country at large. Among the earlier ones were: James Wilson, Francis Hopkinson, Thomas McKean and George Ross, all signers of the Declaration of Independence; also the following: Tench Coxe, Jacob Rush, Richard Biddle, Jasper Yeates, Joseph Galloway, John Dickinson, Robert Assheton, the latter's son, William Assheton, Tench Francis, Benjamin Chew, Edward Shippen, and William Tilghman. Of the brilliant attorneys who succeeded these up to modern times, it may be said: "Their name is Legion." Again but few can be noted: George Mifflin Dallas, Bushrod Washington (a nephew of the President), Charles Chauncey, Joseph Hopkinson, John Sergeant, Horace Binney, Jared Ingersoll, William Rawle, John Cadwalader, William M. Meredith, Richard Rush, Henry D. Gilpin, George Sharswood, John Bouvier, John Meredith Read, Thomas McKean Pettit, William Bradford, Eli Kirk Price, David Paul Brown, George W. Biddle, Chapman Biddle, Peter McCall, Benjamin Harris Brewster, Frederick Carroll Brewster, John G. Johnson, De Witt Cuyler and Hampton L. Carson. All of these were Philadelphians, all brilliant practitioners, with nation-wide reputations.
There were, of course, distinguished members of the legal profession found in other Pennsylvania cities, among whom should be cited Richard Biddle, an early member of the Pittsburgh Bar, and, later, Philander C. Knox, George Shiras, William B. Rodgers, David T. Watson and scores of other advocates, whose high standing at the Bar was recognized all over the country; also Jeremiah S. Black of York, a distinguished cabinet officer, as well as a great lawyer.

As in the case of the legal profession, a century ago, in fact almost two centuries, Pennsylvania led America in the domain of medicine. At Philadelphia, in 1765, was established the first medical school in America as a branch of what is now the University of Pennsylvania, by two celebrated Quaker city physicians, Drs. William Shippen and John Morgan. With them was speedily associated Dr. Benjamin Rush, later a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and for many years, a dominant factor in the Quaker city cultural activities. Previously the medical practitioners found in the colonies, had obtained their professional training in England and Scotland.

Many years later, in 1824, was founded chiefly by Dr. George McClellan, the father of General George B. McClellan, a conspicuous Civil War figure, Jefferson Medical College, which speedily became as it still is, a highly specialized institution and for years has graduated a vast army of physicians, who located in every state of the Union. Indeed, for many decades practically all the leading doctors of the country at large, obtained their diplomas at one or the other of these two famous Quaker city institutions.

NOTHING THE MATTER WITH PENNSYLVANIA

...ton, John H. Packard, J. Ewing Mears, Horatio C. Wood and many others.

The Pennsylvania Hospital, the first American hospital, came into being in Philadelphia, by Act of Assembly of February 7, 1731. Benjamin Franklin was one of the institution’s most influential promoters. Under wise administration it is still expanding. In this connection, mention should be made of the first College of Pharmacy in the United States, founded in Philadelphia in 1821, the first Woman’s Medical College in America, in 1850-51, while the first Homeopathic institution on this continent, Hahnemann Medical College, had its origin in the same city in 1848, being originally the Homeopathic Medical College. The College of Physicians, in reality a distinguished medical society, had its origin in Philadelphia, February 6, 1787, and continues to enjoy a national and international reputation.

Aside from the science of medicine, Pennsylvania’s metropolis, Philadelphia, was long recognized as the scientific center of the colonies and later, of the states. Here on May 25, 1743, with Benjamin Franklin as chief sponsor, was organized The American Philosophical Society, the first institution of its kind in America, which has been worthily maintained for nearly two centuries, its membership embracing the most eminent American and Continental scholars, especially those with well established reputations in the scientific world. Among other ancient institutions of a scientific character, which had their birth on Pennsylvania soil were: The Academy of Natural Sciences, founded January 25, 1812; the Franklin Institute, February 5, 1824; the Wagner Free Institute of Science in 1855, and the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society in 1857.

Within the space available only an insignificant number of Pennsylvanians who won high place in the world of science can be named. First among these, was Benjamin Franklin. Among his innumerable activities under this head mention need only be made of his electrical experiments, which have been the basis of most of the later discoveries in electricity. Another Pennsylvania scientist, the most notable one in his line at the time, in all America, was David Rittenhouse, mathematician and astronomer, a luminous star in the empyrean of science, and recognized as such by the leading scholars of Europe.

John Bartram, the renowned botanist, a Pennsylvanian, and
builder of the famous Bartram's Garden, was one whose eminence in the realm of botany will never be dimmed. Linnaeus pronounced him: "The greatest natural botanist in the world." So, too, Thomas Nuttall, who arrived in Philadelphia over a century ago, when but a youth, became like Bartram, a distinguished botanist, and was the author of what is yet a standard work, though first issued from the press in 1818: Genera of North American Plants, and a catalogue of the Species to the year 1817. Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton, author of Elements of Botany, and various scientific works, was also an outstanding Pennsylvania botanist.

A notable figure in the domain of science was Alexander Wilson, ornithologist, author of Birds of the United States, a monumental work mainly written during his residence in the Quaker city, which covered the period from 1794 until his decease in 1813. In his specialty he ranked with John James Audubon. No higher praise could be accorded him.

Joseph Leidy, mineralogist and botanist, who held a place of high repute among naturalists of the United States; John Ewing, celebrated mathematician, and striking figure in other sciences, who served as Provost of the University of Pennsylvania; Edward Drinker Cope, naturalist and author of nearly a score of learned publications, and Daniel G. Brinton, the celebrated ethnologist, America's most famous authority on the aborigines of the New World, are large figures in the long and honorable list of Pennsylvania scientists. A leading Boston scientist speaking of the period which gave birth to Joseph Leidy, declared that Philadelphia then was already a full century ahead of Boston, New York, Baltimore and Charleston, in respect to scientific advancement. No further comment under this head is necessary.

In no more conspicuous way did Pennsylvania display her leadership, nearly two hundreds years ago, than in the field of art. Indeed, for a considerable period America was more or less without artists, aside from John Smybert, or Smibert, and John Singleton Copley, except in so far as this state produced them. Gustavus Hesselius, the Swedish artist, brother of Rev. Andreas Hesselius, rector of Holy Trinity at Christina, now Wilmington, Delaware, was in Philadelphia shortly after May, 1711, the date of his arrival in Penn's province and had painted signed portraits
of Judge William Smith and his first wife, Mary Hett, of New York, in 1729. In 1735 he executed for Governor John Penn portraits of the Delaware Indian chiefs, Lapowinza and Tishcohan, supposed to be the only portraits for which any Pennsylvania Indians ever sat. About 1753 Benjamin West, born in a house still standing on the campus of Swarthmore College, began to paint portraits in Philadelphia, among them Mayor Charles Willing, Chief Justice William Allen and others. Five years later he removed to New York, from thence to Rome and afterwards to London, where he became a protegé of George III, and was officially known as "Painter to the King." Finally, in 1792, he succeeded the celebrated British artist, Sir Joshua Reynolds, as president of the Royal Academy. Three of West's masterpieces are to be found in the Quaker city: "Penn's Treaty with the Indians," and "Death on the Pale Horse," at the Academy of the Fine Arts; and "Christ Healing the Sick," in Pennsylvania Hospital. Among his numerous pupils, who went to London to study under him, were three who attained eminence as portrait painters, while located in Philadelphia: Peale, Stuart and Sully.

First among these was Charles Willson Peale, who, according to one writer, "did more toward spreading a taste for art in Philadelphia than any other painter." It was in 1770 that he went to London, where he remained three or four years. Following his return to America, he painted several portraits of Washington, and, subsequently, portraits of Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Paul Jones, David Rittenhouse, Peyton Randolph, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay and others. He was the father of several sons who were more or less distinguished artists, Rembrandt Peale, Raphael Peale and Titian Peale.

Gilbert Stuart, though a native of Rhode Island, located in Philadelphia after his return from London in 1794, and removed finally to Germantown. It was during his residence in Philadelphia that he painted his celebrated portrait of Washington, of which he produced several replicas. Of equal distinction with the artists named was Thomas Sully, who, born in England, came to America when a lad, eventually locating in the Quaker city, where he produced portraits of many eminent Americans.

Succeeding the West, Peale, Stuart, and Sully periods, the most notable in the history of American art, many artists attained dis-
tinction while residents of Pennsylvania: Benjamin Trott, George Catlin, William and Thomas Birch, and John Neagle. Among the engravers, Samuel Leach from London was in Philadelphia in 1744, and Robert Aitkin, whose studio was opposite the London Coffee House in 1777. David Edwin, Alexander Wilson, and John Sartain, whose total output of engraved plates numbers about 1,600. At the head of sculpture a century and a half ago, stood William Rush with a well earned reputation as sculptor and carver of wood.

The first academy of fine arts in the United States was the fulfillment of Peale’s dream to establish an association for the study of art and to make Philadelphia the “seat of art and science in America.” Chartered in 1806 as “The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts,” it was located on Chestnut Street between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets; it is now at Broad and Cherry Streets. Previously, in 1791, Peale had attempted to found a similar organization, “The Columbians,” which was short lived.

The first printing press, established in the Middle Colonies, was brought to Philadelphia in 1685, three years after Penn’s arrival, under the management of William Bradford, a conspicuous name in the annals of the newspaper fraternity. For some years the principal emanations from the press were in the form of pamphlets chiefly on religious subjects, with not a few libel suits as the result, the public mind being greatly stirred and disturbed as a consequence. While Philadelphia became an acknowledged leader in journalism she was not so, chronologically, as the first periodical issuing from the press in the American colonies was the Boston News Letter, which made its appearance on April 24, 1704. In due time followed the Boston Gazette, on December 21, 1719. Two days after the latter date, William Bradford’s son, Andrew Bradford, issued the first copy of the American Weekly Mercury, the publication of which was continued until 1746. From that time on, for a century at least, Pennsylvania journalism led in all branches of that profession, and, to a large extent, greatly influenced the development of public opinion, not only in the Keystone state, but in the nation at large.

The most celebrated journal of the early colonial period was the Pennsylvania Gazette, established by Samuel Keimer, December 24, 1728. Within a year it became the property of Benja-
NOTHING THE MATTER WITH PENNSYLVANIA

min Franklin and his partner, Hugh Meredith. Four years prior to the Revolution, on November 1, 1771, was founded the Pennsylvania Packet, as an offshoot of which, in 1784, was issued the first daily newspaper in America, the American Daily Advertiser, which was merged with the North American in December, 1839. Of the Pennsylvania Packet a writer has said: “The influence of The Packet during this time was invaluable.”

A new era in American journalism dawned in 1790, when Benjamin Franklin Bache, a grandson of Benjamin Franklin, began the publication of The Aurora and General Advertiser, which until Bache’s death in 1798, and later, under the editorial management of his brother-in-law, William Duane, played a rôle of such magnitude that, it was largely responsible for the social and political revolution which ensued, involving the permanent overthrow of the party of Washington, Adams, and Hamilton, and the coming into power of the Democratic party. For it is an historical fact that these two Pennsylvania journalists, grandson and grandson-in-law of Franklin, exerted a greater influence in bringing about the elevation of Jefferson to the presidency than any other agency. This event, to a large extent, shaped the history of the United States for more than half a century.

Among the early Pennsylvania journalists were: Lewis Nicola, John Dunlap, David C. Claypoole, Robert Aitkin, William Goddard, Francis Bailey, Hugh Henry Breckinridge, Eleazer Oswald, David Humphreys, Mathew Carey, Andrew Brown, Thomas Paine, Samuel Relf, John Fenno, Phillip Freneau and William Cobbett. Either at the close of the eighteenth century, or somewhat later, came Joseph Dennie, Charles Brockden Brown, William Jackson, John Binns, Robert Walsh, Richard Bache, Robert T. Conrad, Jesper Harding and many other brilliant newspaper men, down to the period when the journalistic stage was occupied by such conspicuous stars as John W. Forney, Morton McMichael, John Russell Young, Alexander K. McClure, Charles Emory Smith and others.

The first magazine in America, The General Magazine and Historical Chronicle, for all the British Plantations in America, came from the Benjamin Franklin press in January, 1741. The pioneer trade journal in America, Price-Current, had its initial issue in June, 1783, John Macpherson being the publisher. The first religious weekly periodical, The Religious Remembrancer,
September 4, 1813. The modern magazine did not come into being until many years afterward. In 1821 *The Saturday Evening Post*, still extant, was first issued from No. 53 Market Street, where Benjamin Franklin had operated his printing office long before the Revolution and, in the production of the new periodical, Franklin’s old press and much of his old type and other accessories were employed.

In July, 1830, *Godey’s Lady’s Book* was established, Louis A. Godey being the publisher. For years this was America’s most popular magazine and among its contributors were Henry W. Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Bayard Taylor and Edgar Allen Poe. George Rex Graham in 1841 began the publication of *Graham’s Magazine*, an amalgamation of *Atkinson’s Casket* and *The Gentlemen’s Magazine*, which for a considerable period proved a popular rival to Godey’s periodical. Poe was a contributor to this magazine also and at one time its assistant editor. Other contributors embraced Longfellow, William Cullen Bryant, James Fenimore Cooper, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Rufus Wilmot Griswold, James Russell Lowell, and Richard Henry Dana. In 1840, *Peterson’s Ladies’ National Magazine* came into the literary world, and in 1868, *Lippincott’s Magazine*, both of which had among their contributors some of America’s most accomplished writers. All of these were Pennsylvania publications, and “firsts” in their respective fields.

Admitting that Massachusetts may have produced more literary celebrities, both in prose and verse than Pennsylvania, yet for a considerable period, it was this state which provided the vehicles through which the emanations from the pens of New England’s literati reached the public. Furthermore, let it not be forgotten that Pennsylvania produced America’s first novelist, Charles Brockden Brown; two of the nation’s best known poets, Bayard Taylor and T. Buchanan Read, and many widely known writers, including Robert Proud, the historian, George H. Boker, Charles Godfrey Leland, Henry C. Lea, as well as Owen Wister and S. Weir Mitchell, celebrated in the domain of fiction.

Long before “Wall Street” became symbolized as the money center of America, Pennsylvania had a host of able financiers who won renown as such, individually, and in some cases, as conspicuous factors in governmental development. The fact has already been stressed that two of the three ablest Secretaries
of Treasury (counting Alexander Hamilton as the most celebrated of all) were Pennsylvanians: Albert Gallatin and Andrew J. Mellon, both from the western part of the state. Robert Morris, the Revolutionary financier, has also been previously indicated. Nicholas Biddle, a Pennsylvanian, stabilized the finances of the country, until the unfortunate policies of Andrew Jackson brought about the collapse of the United States Bank. Jay Cooke, a Philadelphian, came to the rescue of the Lincoln administration during the Civil War and made possible its successful culmination.

Just here it may not be amiss to call attention to the notable manner in which certain Pennsylvanians have utilized their wealth, at least in part, for the benefit of humanity. The fortune of Jacob Ridgway, the Quaker city's most famous merchant, at the close of the eighteenth century, brought into being the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Library. Stephen Girard’s wealth was responsible for the founding of Girard College, one of Philadelphia’s monumental institutions, which supplied, and still supplies, educational facilities for hundreds of poor orphan lads. Drexel Institute, in West Philadelphia, was built by, and is supported by, members of the well known Drexel family, so prominently associated with financial Philadelphia for over half a century. No finer institutions exist in the Quaker city than the Curtis Institute of Music, the outgrowth of the generosity of the late Cyrus H. K. Curtis, publisher of several of America’s leading magazines. In Pittsburgh, Andrew Carnegie founded the institutions which bear his name and, in addition, gave millions of dollars toward the erection of libraries all over the United States. South Bethlehem owes to the generosity of Asa Packer, a leading figure in railroading and mining, that splendid educational institution, Lehigh University. Innumerable instances might be further cited to show that Pennsylvanians, leaders in finance, trade or otherwise, have proved to be benefactors of the human race, on a large scale.

In the matter of population and commerce, it must be remembered that, for many years, Philadelphia, not New York, was the metropolis of America, and that the tonnage coming into and going out of the port on the Delaware was much greater than that of any other American city. The Delaware has always been “the Clyde of America,” and still is. Even in the eighteenth
century, hundreds of ocean-going ships were built along her banks, and made their voyages to all the ports of Europe, Asia and the civilized world.

For two centuries Philadelphia has been a great commercial and mercantile center and her merchants, from Jacob Ridgway and Stephen Girard, to John Wanamaker, creator of the department store idea, have been vital forces in the development of American trade.

Having this commercial prominence in mind, it must not be overlooked that it was a Pennsylvanian, John Fitch, who invented the steamboat and navigated it on the Delaware as early as July 26, 1786, nor that it was another Pennsylvanian, Robert Fulton, who having absorbed, in part at least, Fitch's ideas was able, later on, to make steamboat navigation a commercial success.

Pennsylvania has been highly fortunate, by reason of the aid she received from nature, in that within her soil were found, first, iron ore, later coal, and, still later, petroleum and natural gas. Fully conscious of nature's gifts, it is nevertheless due to the perspicacity, initiative and ingenuity of her citizens, that these various natural products and appliances have been utilized and placed at the disposal not only of Americans, but of the world in general. It has been largely due to the notable discoveries, and the skill employed in making them of utilitarian value, that Pennsylvania stands out as a manufacturing state, and that within her borders are located two of the world's most important industrial centers, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

As early as Penn's personal visits to his province, paper mills were planted on the banks of the Schuylkill by Bradford, the printer, and two of his associates. About the same time the wide-awake German weavers of Germantown established their looms, and, from time to time, other manufacturing plants were located, here and there, until, as decade followed decade, Pennsylvania, even in colonial days, became a tremendous hive of industry and, following the Revolution, the most progressive and aggressive of all the Commonwealths comprising the original Union of thirteen States, and those that came after.

Pennsylvania has also been fortunate in that, among her citizens, since the days of her founder, William Penn, there have been many Mathias Baldwins and Andrew Carnegies, who have per-
formed prodigies as trade builders, and per consequence, as nation builders.

In other words, in the world of statesmanship, Pennsylvania has in no sense failed. In the learned professions, in the sciences, in fine arts, in music, in journalism, in literature, and in other intellectual fields, she has led. Her financiers, her merchants, her industrial chiefs have all acted as advance couriers, blazing the way for their fellow countrymen. No, there is nothing the matter with Pennsylvania, now or formerly.