HONOR TO OLD IRONSIDES

Hundredth Anniversary of Launching of Frigate Constitution Celebrated in Boston.

SENATOR LODGE THE SPEAKER

Literary Exercises Held in the Old South Church—Marines and Bluejackets Parade—A Reception on the Ship at Charlestown Navy Yard.

BOSTON, Oct. 21.—Boston celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the launching of the famous frigate Constitution with a general holiday to-day. Literary exercises were held in the Old South Church, the marines and sailors from the United States warships in the harbor paraded with several local organizations in the afternoon. Patriotic exercises were held in all the public schools, and the streets were richly decorated, particularly in the neighborhood of Constitution Wharf, where "Old Ironsides" made her first dip into the ocean. New England patriotism was shown in buttons and ribbons on the lapels of coats and on the cloaks of pedestrians, bearing the word "Constitution."

Among those present in the Old South Church were many women wearing the badge of the Daughters of the American Revolution, members of the State Militia, representatives of foreign countries, Mayors of New England cities, members of Congress, of the Legislature, of the Governor's Council, and the officers of the North Atlantic squadron.

Gov. Wolcott acted as presiding officer during the exercises. Prayer was offered by Chaplain Dowse of the Massachusetts Senate. Gov. Wolcott then delivered the opening address, referring in eulogistic terms to the vessel in honor of which the anniversary was held and the patriotism which marked her history.

Theodore Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, spoke in part as follows:

"The moment of the Constitution's launching was the beginning of our navy as we know it to-day. It was fifteen years after the launching of the Constitution and her sister ships before that proud flag which menaced us was humbled, and during that fifteen years there were many people who objected to the maintenance of a navy.

"It was because we had the Constitution and her sister ships that we came out of the war with credit, and it is due to a policy contrary to that which prompted the introduction of such vessels that in recent years brought us into danger of gravest National dishonor."

Constitution's Powder Boy Appears.

At this point Major William H. Garland of Boston, who was a powder boy on board the Constitution in her famous battle with the Guerrière, was presented to the audience, and Gov. Wolcott himself led in three cheers for the veteran.

Mayor Quincy of Boston then delivered a short address. Prof. J. W. Churchill of Andover read Oliver Wendell Holmes's poem, "Old Ironsides."

Then Major Garland addressed the audience briefly, and an apostrophe written by Major Garland was read by Prof. Churchill.

The historic address of the day was delivered by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, who said in part:

"The United States frigate Constitution has come back to Boston and to Massachusetts. She floats again upon the waters into which she rushed as she left the builder's ways, a hundred years ago. Curious inquirers have been at pains to tell us that of the ship launched in 1797 scarcely anything remains; that in her long career she has been made over from truck to keel. So be it. Whether the statement is true or false matters not. It is not a given mass of wood and iron which touches our hearts and stirs our pride. It is the old ship herself, because she is the visible symbol of a great past, charged with noble memories, and representing sentiments, aspirations, and beliefs far more lasting than

'Brass, eternal slave to mortal rage.'

Insults of England Avenged.

"From the renewal of the Napoleonic wars after the rupture of the peace of Amiens, there was no insult, no humiliation, no outrage that the two great combatants, England and France, failed to inflict on the United States. There was not much to choose so far as their ill-treatment of us was concerned, and it was indeed merely owing to the cynical duplicity and mendacity of Napoleon that we finally went to war with England instead of with France. We had no organized militia, and soldiers had to be taken largely from men who had never fired a gun or mounted a horse. The two years spent in making soldiers after hostilities had begun were marked by disasters which suitable preparation for war would have avoided.

"At sea the case was very different. The last Federalist Administration had begun our naval policy and built ships, which, although they were few, were of the best. During the war, despite the fact that our ships, as was inevitable, were sooner or later taken or blockaded by vastly superior force, there were thirteen single ship actions, including that of the Constitution with the Cyane and Levant, and England won two and lost eleven.

"England and Europe received valuable instruction from the war of which this battered old ship is the sign and symbol, but we Americans were taught a great deal more. We had learned that weak defenselessness meant war, and strong, armed readiness meant peace, honor, and quiet. It is well to note that the lesson of wise preparation, taught by the war of 1812 and always worth remembering, is even more important now than then, for to-day wars are fought in a few months, while it takes years to build modern ships and cast rifled guns. Weakness and fear and defenselessness mean war and dishonor. Readiness, preparation, and courage mean honor and peace. Where we were unprepared in 1812 we suffered; where we were prepared we prospered and vindicated our National existence. There is still something more in this ship Constitution than vivid instruction as to the truest National policy. She is the yet living monument, not alone of her own victories, but of the men behind the guns who won them. She speaks to us of patriotism and courage, of the devotion to an idea and to a sentiment for which men had laid down their lives."

The parade included the marines and sailors from the warships New York, Massachusetts, Brooklyn, Iowa, and Texas, with the Massachusetts Naval Brigade, the Kearsarge Naval Veteran Association, and the survivors of the Eighth Massachusetts Volunteers, all under the command of Gen. J. L. Carter, Inspector General of the State.

The procession made a halt at the Old South Church to allow Gov. Wolcott, Secretary of the Navy John D. Long, Mayor Josiah Quincy, and other invited guests to join the procession at the close of the literary exercises.

The parade passed through the principal streets of the North End. A passing salute was given at Constitution Wharf. At the Charlestown Navy Yard Gov. Wolcott, with his staff and invited guests, boarded the old frigate and held a public reception.

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