

David R. Francis,
Room 60
Laclede Building.
4th & Olive.

St. Louis.

July 1st, 1897.

Hon. John G. Sheehan,
Tammany Hall,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I gratefully acknowledge receipt of invitation to attend the Tammany Society's celebration of the one hundred and twenty-first anniversary of American independence, to be held July 4th. I regret that my engagements are such that I cannot be present and participate in the ceremonies of the occasion.

It is my sincere hope that the celebration may prove promotive of harmony in the Democratic party, whose fortunes Tammany Society has followed so long and so faithfully; upon the perpetuity of that party depends, in my judgment, the survival of the republic.

May the coming celebration serve to establish more securely in the hearts of all true Democrats the everlasting principles upon which the party was founded; when those principles have been championed, the party has grown and the country has prospered; when ignored our numbers have been lessened, and Democratic government jeopardized.

Very respectfully,

David R. Francis

WILLIAM G. McCREA,
COUNSELLOR AT LAW,

GERKEN BUILDING,
90 WEST BROADWAY.

—
TELEPHONE 4385 CORTLANDT.

New York, July 1, 1897

Gentlemen

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of invitation to participate in celebration of Independence Anniversary and will take great pleasure in accepting same. I trust it will be but the forerunner of a greater celebration to be held on the redemption of our great city from present misrule.

As celebrations cost, as a member of the Society I take the liberty of enclosing a small contribution to aid in defraying same.

Very Truly Yrs

Wm. G. McCrea

DAILEY, BELL & CRANE,
Attorneys and Counsellors,
Phoenix Building, 16 Court St.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

ABRAM H. DAILEY.
JAMES D. BELL.
FREDERICK E. CRANE.
TELEPHONE, 841 BROOKLYN.

July 1st 1897.

Hon. John C. Sheehan,
Tammany Hall,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Sheehan:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an invitation from the Tammany Society to attend its celebration of the One Hundred and Twenty-First Anniversary of American Independence, and address the meeting.

I regret very much that a prior engagement will prevent my acceptance of this invitation. As my attendance will therefore be impossible you will pardon a few words suggested by the occasion.

The selfishness and short-sightedness of men lead them to forget and overlook benefits conferred upon them in the past. Nations are aggregates of men, and history teaches us that they are as forgetful of the services and sacrifices which contributed to their growth and stability as the men composing them are of private favors. The practical man must deal with the affairs of the present, and in that sense "to-day is king." But if we are to maintain our existence as a free people, we cannot afford to forget the labor and efforts, both in blood and treasure, that made us free, and that has thus far kept us free, and the celebration of the recurring anniversaries of Independence Day tends to keep the virtues of the fathers of this republic before the eyes of their descendants and thus to inculcate the practice of those virtues, without which our existence as a free people could not exist.

Much of the significance of Independence Day would be lost if its celebration were confined solely to patriotic reminiscence. The sorrows, struggles and triumphs of the days of '76 are long past. Some of our citizens seem never to have heard of them; to others the pride, pomp and circumstance of royalty have attractions to which the services and the honors of a Democratic Commonwealth seem commonplace. George III ceased to be king of these infant States on the Fourth of July 1776, and he will have no successor for all time to come. But though royalty cannot, fortunately, return, other evil influences are constantly growing.

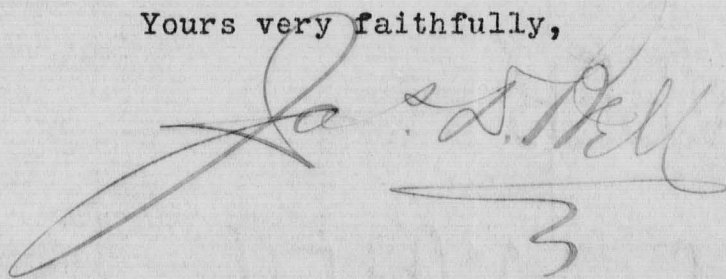
The real lesson of Independence Day is that at every given moment there are abuses of government and forms of maladministration, which require on the part of the citizens who desire to be free and independent, a new Declaration of Independence, and not only a Declaration, but the stern resolve to maintain that independence at every hazard. Fortunately for us the ballot box is the supreme arbiter. It is not necessary to take arms in our hands, as it was in the Revolutionary era to conquer our freedom from foreign domination, or as it was a generation ago to defend the government established by the fathers of the republic, but it is necessary to oppose every invasion of the liberty of the citizen, to struggle against every attempt to shackle his freedom in his business or in his social life. There are tendencies to-day in American life that should be opposed. These tendencies are opposed to the Declaration of Independence; they are opposed to

the very foundations upon which the freedom of this Government rests.

The Declaration of Independence in burning words denounced the betrayal of official trust by the English King and his advisers, and claimed the right of the people at home to govern themselves free from foreign interference. The betrayal of official trust and extravagance in public expenditures are still too common. The home rule principle is constantly violated. Many of our public officials act as if they were of a superior breed and the people's masters instead of being instruments to carry into effect the people's will. Monopolies and trusts have practically assumed control of the Government, which is claimed to be the people's, and dictated executive and even legislative action for their own benefit. Unless we are willing to have an unofficial plutocratic government, secret and far-reaching, which controls the official government, we must again declare our independence, and be prepared to maintain it at any and all cost.

Again thanking you for your invitation, I have the honor to remain

Yours very faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "La S. Bell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name. There is a small, stylized flourish or mark below the main signature.

COOPER & COOPER.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

TELEPHONE 197.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.,

July 2, 1897.

Hon. John C. Sheehan —
Tammany Hall. New York City —

Dear Sir —

I regret that business matters
will prevent my attending the celebration
by the Tammany Society of the anniversary
of American Independence on next Fourth
of July.

Yours very truly
C. M. Cooper

Charles H. Gibson.
Attorney at Law,
Kellogg Building, 1416 F Street.
Washington, D. C.

July 2 1897.

Dear Mr C Skeehan

My Dear Sir

I have the honor to
acknowledge your invitation to
attend the "One Hundred and
Twenty-first Anniversary celebra-
tion by Tammany Society of
American Independence"

It would delight me beyond
compare to accept. I regret

greatly my inability to be
present on that most agree-
ble of occasions
With Congratulations, and
my best wishes for the con-
tinued prosperity of your grand
organization, believe me to be

Sincerely yours

Charles Gibson

Kerr Craige.

L.H. Clement.

Craige & Clement,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
SALISBURY, N.C.

July 2nd 1897

Mr John C. Shuman

Tammany Hall N.Y. City.

Dear Sir:

I beg to
acknowledge receipt of your invitation to attend the
celebration in your city on the 4. July inst. and thank
you sincerely for the compliment.

It is impossible for me to
be present.

Allow me to say however that I hope
your committee may realize the fullest expectation
in the design of the occasion. and that
it may result in extending the influence
of your great organization until at least
we in the South may be benefitted by
it and thereby the Nation soon fully

Kerr Craige.

L.H. Clement.

Craige & Clement,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
SALISBURY, N.C.

rested to the rule of that great party
which stands today for individual
freedom and personal liberty.

Yours very respectfully

Samuel J. Pemberton

Albemarle, N.C.

THE NEWS AND OBSERVER.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT.

RALEIGH, N. C., July 2nd, 1897.

Hon. John C. Sheehan,

Tammany Hall,

New York.

Dear sir:-

I beg to thank you for the honor done me in inviting me to address the Fourth of July meeting to be held in Tammany Hall in celebration of the one hundred and twenty first anniversary of American Independence. I regret that other engagements prevent my acceptance of your invitation.

The Democracy of the whole country looks to Tammany to set the pace. In an environment hostile at times to the party policy the Tammany Democracy have always stood true. Democracy elsewhere feels that ~~with~~ Tammany at the wheel *guiding* the craft through storms, Tammany at the bow calling out when the night is blackest "Eight bells, the for'rd light is shining bright and all's well" will be our inspiration and stimulus.

Yours very truly,

Josephus Daniels

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

2 July, 1897.

Hon. John C. Sheehan,
Tammany Hall,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I very much fear that I shall be deprived of the pleasure of celebrating the One Hundred and Twenty-first Anniversary of the Independence of this country with the Tammany Society, owing to my duty to the people of my own state, many of whom will celebrate that day in an unusually elaborate way.

The One Hundred and Twenty-first anniversary of the birth of the Nation will mark the beginning of the end of Trust and Corporation rule, and the commencement of the time when the people of the country will take back to themselves the powers which have been so long unlawfully held by the great money combinations in the interest of the classes and against the great producing masses. The new year of our Independence will witness the glorious triumph of the Democracy of Greater New York City, and the restoration of the personal liberties of its citizens, which triumph, with the equally glorious victories of our party in Ohio and Kentucky, will be but the first guns of the great battle of 1900, when trusts, syndicates and all unlawful combinations against the people and their liberties and wellfare, will be completely and forever overthrown and the government of our fathers restored to us, with the money of the

Hon. J.C.S-2.

Constitution--silver and gold alike-- at the ratio of sixteen to one.

All this through a united Democracy, fighting to victory on the
Chicago Platform of 1896.

I hope to be with you but am exceedingly doubtful,

I am,

Yours truly,

Richd. H. Kenney

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U. S.

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 2, 1897

To the Hons. Thomas L. Feitner, John C. Sheehan)
" George B. McLellan and other mem)
bers of Committee of Tammany So-)
ciety,)
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your kind invitation to attend and address Tammany Society at its celebration of the One Hundred and Twenty-first Anniversary of American Independence, for which please accept and extend to the Society my sincere thanks.

I regret exceedingly that circumstances will prevent my attendance on this auspicious occasion, which is the more significant under the guidance of your great organization.

We fittingly celebrate the birth of American Independence, which is intended to keep alive and perpetuate the noble deeds of our forefathers that generations yet unborn will make annual pilgrimages to their tombs to draw their inspirations and to learn the loftiest lessons of human life. Great lives never die. Great deeds are imperishable.

So long as time shall endure ; so long as love for liberty survives in all coming ages, men will turn to that immortal Declaration of Independence to imbibe its lessons of wisdom,

freedom and inspiration. Let us as Democrats sacredly reaffirm and perpetuate the principles of Jefferson, which stand committed to the protection of every interest which righteously operates in the development of our National resources, or contribute to mental, moral and social uplifting. True democracy stands for equal and exact justice to all men special privileges to none. Let us guard our sacred institutions, the heritage of a noble ancestry, from all perversion. At the altar of liberty erected by Jefferson let us again enkindle the torches of democratic truths. So that we may light the pathway of the nation to a higher destiny.

Again thanking you for the honor conferred upon me, and wishing you abundant success in your patriotic efforts,

I am

Yours truly,

W. P. Love

M.C. 6th Cong. Dist. of Mississippi.

HOTEL NETHERLAND
68TH STREET AND 5TH AVENUE,
NEW YORK.

HOTEL WALTON,
BROAD AND LOCUST STREETS,
PHILADELPHIA.

MANSION HOUSE,
BUFFALO, N. Y.



New York, July 2^d '97

Hon. John C. Sheehan,
Tammany Hall, N. Y.,

Dear Sir:

I take pleasure in accepting
your kind invitation to attend
and address the meeting of the
Tammany Society or Columbian
Order, on July 4th (Monday to 5th)
Thanking you for your
kind recognition and hoping
to meet you on the occasion,
I remain,

Sincerely Yours

J M Quinn
(Butte, Mont)

Law Offices of
Elliot Danforth,
Home Life Building,
256 & 257 Broadway,
Rooms 610-613.
New York.

July 2, 1897.

Hon. John C. Sheehan,
Tammany Hall,
New York City.

My Dear Mr. Sheehan:-

It is with regret that I am compelled to decline your kind invitation to attend the celebration at Tammany Hall on the 5th inst. I have accepted an invitation to deliver the oration on that day at Unadilla, N. Y., and shall therefore be deprived of the pleasure of joining with you in the **celebration** at the historic Wigwam.

Tammany Hall does well in celebrating each recurring anniversary of the Nation's Independence Day. The Declaration of Independence uncrowned kings, and wrested from the hands of titled tyranny the scepter of usurped and arbitrary power. As a result of that Declaration, we have to-day a flag with forty-five stars, which is the emblem of this great Nation's mighty power. Every nation salutes that flag and in its waving presence the weak is protected, and the strongest must obey.

It is the symbol of all we are as a nation, and of all we hope to be. It is the emblem of equal rights. It means that this land has been dedicated to progress. It means universal education, knowledge for every child. It means that the school house is the fortress of liberty.

Law Offices of
Elliot Danforth,
Home Life Building,
256 & 257 Broadway,
Rooms 610-613.
New York, _____

J. C. S. 2

It means that it is the duty of every citizen to bear his share of the public burden and to take part in the affairs of his town, his State and his country. It means that there shall be a legal remedy for every wrong and a swift punishment for every crime. It means national courtesy and national hospitality. It means that the latchstring of this nation hangs outside, and that all who come and who would be with us and of us, in deed and in truth, are welcome.

That flag represents the sufferings and the triumphs of the past; the greatness of the present and untold glories yet to be. May it continue to float for all time over a united and happy people.

Very truly yours,

Elliot Danforth

SUBJECT:

JOHN K. COWEN AND OSCAR G. MURRAY, RECEIVERS,

BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

JOHN T. MCGRAW,
COUNSEL.

GRAFTON, W. VA.

Grafton

July the Second

1897.

Hon. John C. Sheehan,

T a m m a n y H a l l ,

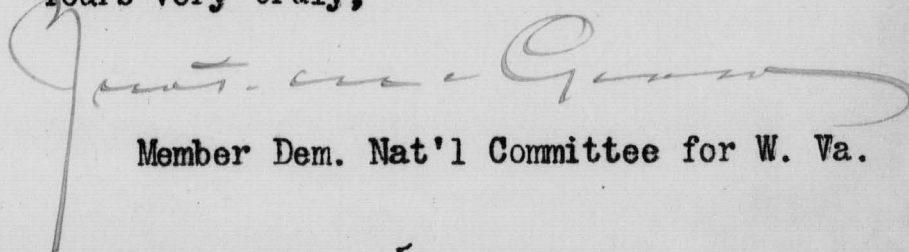
N e w Y o r k C i t y .

Dear Sir:

At the last moment I find imperative professional engagements will prevent my being present at, and participating in, your celebration of the fourth instant. It would have been a great pleasure for me to carry to your organization the greeting of the Democracy of this section, on this occasion, and to rejoice with its friends in the splendid party record which Tammany Hall has made in the past, as well as to wish her God speed, in her hopes for the future. An organization which has stood loyally for the principles of Jefferson from the time when, under the leadership of Dickinson, she fought the Clintons in support of Mr. Madison's administration, down to the generous support she gave Mr. Bryan in the last national contest, deserves that full measure of honor and credit which Democrats everywhere so willingly accord to her.

Again expressing my regret in not being able to be with you at the time indicated, believe me,

Yours very truly,



Member Dem. Nat'l Committee for W. Va.

House of Representatives U. S.,

Washington, D. C.

Hon. John C. Schenck
New York City

My dear Sir,

I would
have been a great pleasure
to me had I been able
to accept your very kind
invitation to be present
at the 12th Anniversary of
American Independence on July
4th, I delayed my answer until
the last moment, but find
it impossible to be present
Thanking you for your kind remembrance

I am sincerely yours

Wm. M. Steer
Sen. M. M.

July 2 - '97

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C., July 2, 1897.

Hon. John C. Sheehan, Chairman, &c.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

The invitation of your Committee to attend ~~and~~ address the meeting of Tammany Society or Columbian Order at its celebration of the One Hundred ~~and~~ Twenty-first Anniversary of American Independence in Tammany Hall at 10 a. m. July 4th, ~~and~~ asking for an expression of views in the event of non-attendance, has been received. Accept thanks for the kind invitation, ~~and~~ my regrets that other engagements will prevent my attendance.

The long-established custom of celebrating the Anniversary of American Independence should be observed ~~and~~ its lessons taught anew throughout the Union, for it is good to recall the struggles of the Fathers for the establishment of liberty, ~~and~~ to consider the fundamental principles ~~and~~ Constitutional limitations of our Government. Perhaps there is no place more appropriate for such an occasion than the city of New York. It is in your great Metropolis that the commercial, financial ~~and~~ political sentiment of our country has been largely formulated. The influence of your State in the affairs of the Republic is wonderful in its potency. The true spirit of American ^{liberty and} Independence has heretofore inspired the masses of your commonwealth, ~~and~~ your fellow-citizens of other States have beheld with pride the advancing greatness ~~and~~ prosperity of the

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C., _____, 189

Empire State. May there be no cause to fear that the wealth ^{and} power aggregated within your borders shall bring with it assumption, arrogant dictation ^{and} a demand for special privileges inconsistent with free ^{and} Constitutional Government ^{and} the rights of the common people. That the best results of American Independence may be accomplished, the plain ^{and} illiterate citizen must be taught by the honest enforcement of just laws that the lines of legal equality have not been obliterated in order to rest power with tyranny in a few ^{and} give poverty ^{and} misery to the many, ^{and} that law denies to wealth the privilege of oppression; as well the citizen of means must learn, if he does not already know, that one ^{and} the same law enacted for all of the people will protect him in his person ^{and} property, ^{and} that just law is death to Anarchy ^{and} to the enemies of social order. It is from these extremes of society that danger is equally threatened to the welfare of the great masses of the people ^{and} the perpetuity of our institutions. These extremes have ever been the sources of ruin wrought in governments throughout the world. So long as the rights asserted in the Declaration of Independence ^{and} guaranteed in the Federal Constitution are secured to the people there can be no danger to good government.

Your Society in behalf of the people has an arduous task to perform, but representing ^{and} united in the cause of a pure ^{and} genuine Democracy, contending for equal ^{and} exact justice to all, your influence shall yet make the

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House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C., _____, 189

Empire State the citadel of political freedom & of advanced patriotic thought
& action, where all men may worship together at the altar of our
country's liberty & thank God that He gave the American Republic not
for a few, but for the good of all mankind.

Believing that your celebration will contribute to these ends, &
with best wishes for Tammany & our common country, I am

Very truly Yours,

John A. Moon

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C.

July 2nd, 1897.

Hon. John C. Sheehan,

Tammany Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I exceedingly regret my inability to attend the celebration of the 121st Anniversary of American Independence at Tammany Hall, in accordance with your kind invitation, the pleasure of which is denied me by unforeseen circumstances. The patriotic spirit which moves in this direction upon the part of the organization, clearly evidences that you are in harmony with and prompted by the same patriotic motives which inspired our fore-fathers 121 years ago.

For my part, ^{I believe} no more need be said or done on such an occasion than the solemn reading of the Declaration of Independence together with the farewell letter of George Washington; nothing can more fittingly or better emphasize the Declaration of Independence than the simple reading thereof. The words and thoughts therein expressed, are its ^{most} eloquent and logical expounders, but since it is most pleasing to us to ~~en~~^{most} bear upon our tongues the names, and in our minds the deeds of those whom we love, custom has decreed that upon this occasion those should be selected to whom should be assigned the pleasant duty of enumerating a few of the great acts and noble sacrifices of our immortal fore-fathers.

I assure you that it is a matter of sincere regret that I am unable to be

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C.

one of the performers of that very pleasant duty, and ~~a~~ deeper regret that I will be unable to listen to the same duty performed by those more able than I and whom I know will address your organization on the above stated occasion.

Very sincerely yours,

Marion Davies.

6a
Newburgh, July 3/97

Hon Thos L Feltner & Committee
of Tammany Society
Gentlemen

I beg to
thank you for the
honor done me in
inviting me to be
present at the Celebration
by the Tammany Society
of the One Hundred
and Twenty first Anniv-
-ersary of American
Independence on Monday
next
I had anticipated

the pleasure of being
with you on that
occasion and find
only at the last
moment that it will
be impossible for
me to do so

Hoping your grand
Celebration will prove
a good omen of
coming victory in
the Hall Campaign
I am Very respectfully
Arthur D. McLean

POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT.

United States of America.

THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.



Hon John C. Sheehan
Tammany Hall
New York City

Saturday, 3^d July

I beg to inform you that
I am in city, at Fifth
Avenue Hotel, in acceptance
of your invitation for July 4th

Geo. P. Harrison
of Alabama

Parker House,

Boston, July 3^d 1897

To the Committee of Tammam Hall
in charge of fourth of July meeting.
Dear Sirs.

I regret that it proves to be
impossible for me to attend your meeting
in response to your courteous invitation.

I trust that your meeting will impress
a lesson which a few Democrats need to
learn, above all others, viz. that a majority
of our great party does not consist of fools
or knaves, & that the few who claim all
virtue as their own special charge can sit
at the feet of the honest millions & learn
both wisdom & honesty.

The Convention of last July fixed our party policy
for four years & those to whom it seems unfit
do not belong in our deliberations.
With hearty wishes for a successful meeting, I am with
great respect yours Geo. Fred. Williams

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C.

July 3, 1897.

Hon. John C. Sheehan,

Tammany Hall,

New York, N.Y.

My Dear Sir:-

I regret very much that I shall be unable to accept your kind invitation to join with the Tammany Society in the Celebration of the One Hundred and Twenty-first Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

This beautiful custom inaugurated more than a century ago by the oldest Democratic organization in the United States to annually revive these patriotic memories is one which is commended by all who love the principles of a government of the people.

The Tammany Society deserves much for instilling this spirit so generally throughout our land.

Thanking you for the invitation, believe me

Very truly your friend

Er. Wilson.