

was draped between the parlors, in the center of which was the motto, "Battle of Lexington, 1775-1899." Red, white and blue festooned the windows, while bouquets of American Beauty roses and red and white carnations graced the center tables. The programs were dainty souvenirs tied with red ribbon, printed on blue and to them was attached a miniature silken stars and stripes. An interesting program followed.

On Flag Day, June 14th, the Chapter entertained Lady Anna von Rydingsvärd, who gave them a most interesting lecture on "Ireland; its People and their Customs." The lecture was held in Knights of Pythias hall, which was handsomely decorated with flags, palms and ferns.

Madame von Rydingsvärd related in a most charming manner the story of a recent trip made to that far-away island, of the habits, trials and occupations of the isolated people and of her trip into the interior and its many experiences. She made the lecture doubly interesting by singing, in a rich contralto, several folk-songs, and also by illustrating her lecture from time to time with pen and ink sketches, her own work, which she passed through the audience. At the close of the lecture an informal reception was held during which Madame von Rydingsvärd exhibited many rare and valuable curios and relics which she herself had brought from the island.

The Chapter was honored on that day with the presence of Mrs. Carpenter, our State Regent.—BESSIE RICHARDSON BALCOM.

NORWALK CHAPTER.—Nature lent a kind approval to the exercises commemorating the burning of Norwalk one hundred and twenty years ago by British soldiers under command of General Tryon. The tide was full, the breeze fresh and bracing, and the waters of the river and sound most beautifully blue. At four o'clock an audience of patriotic people gathered about the new wayside tablet mounted on a stone by the Norwalk Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and a simple ceremony of unveiling it took place. Colonel F. St. John Lockwood, president of the Historical Society, acted as chairman. The invocation was by Rev. S. B. Pond.

Mrs. Samuel Richards Weed, Regent of the Norwalk Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, made an address. She said:

"I take this opportunity of extending a sisterly greeting in the name of the Norwalk Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, to the now well organized Norwalk Historical and Memorial Library Association. We are in full sympathy with you, working along the same lines; in fact, we may be said to have anticipated you in the marking of this site, the importance of which was impressed upon us by your Curator.

"Patriotism identifies one with the whole history of one's country, and as we gaze on the simple inscription on the tablet we are reminded of the brutal cruelty of the man who encouraged his troops to imitate his example, glowing in their ferocity, and then turn to our own men who heroically endured where resistance was in vain, and in patience waited the day of triumph, which did not come until Norwalk was reduced to ashes by the enemy. These scenes were just as lovely then as now, the skies as fair, the water as clear, but they looked out with troubled hearts—we, we in the sweet spirit of peace, our hearts filled with the pride of country for never (to quote from a friend), for never was a time in our history when patriotism should be so ardent, when our faith in our country's future should be as strong, when our devotion to its interests should be so intense, when the flag should be so dear to us as in these days, which are hurrying us on to the gates of twentieth century."

The flag on the tablet was then removed by Colonel Lockwood. The inscription reads: "Fitch's Point. Here landed British troops commanded by Generals Tryon and Garth, July 10, preparatory to the burning of Norwalk, July 11, 1779."

Beside it stood the quaint antique chair in which General Tryon sat on Grumman's Hill that day, watching the progress of the flames, the property of Mr. Selleck.

Rev. Mr. Selleck made an historical address, as follows:

"We have gathered on this occasion not to do honor to any heroic name; we meet to mark an historic spot.

"The errand to these shores one hundred and twenty years ago this day was indeed a merciless one; still we choose to indulge in no personal recriminations at this hour. The object of the rock-imbedded tablet, destined from henceforth to signalize this coast, is not to laud nor disparage the one who in a paper executed under his own hand in favor of an ancient Norwalk family designates himself 'His Excellency, William Tryon, Esquire, Captain General and Governor-in-Chief, Chancellor and Vice-Admiral.'

"William Tryon was an enemy, and our red brothers knew him under an appellation of like signification; still he was a man of sumptuous taste, as the twelve thousand British pounds expended upon his dwelling-house in this country attests. We read that his dinners were princely and that the fascination of the ladies of his family was irresistible. We have notice that Thomas Belden, of Norwalk, entertained him and that he was made at home where such Fairfield County colonial gentry as Timothy Dwight and Thaddeus Burr socially met. Nevertheless the spirit of the man as opposed to the high and holy cause espoused by our suffering predecessors is unmistakably discerned in those words which he spoke two years before he headed his army of Norwalk invaders. 'I should,' he declared, 'were I in more authority, burn every committeeman's house within my reach, as I deem those agents the wicked instruments of the continued calamities of this country; and in order sooner to purge the country of them, I am willing to give twenty-five silver dollars for every committeeman who shall be delivered up to the King's troops.'

"Of course, on this anniversary day we plant no memorial to one of such animus towards ourselves. We have uncovered this lettered metal simply to indicate a fact in our local annals, and we believe that this register boulder is susceptible of proving an admirable and important object-lesson.

"What mean ye by this sun's doing? This celebration really means that here a victory befel. It is true that 2,500 of His Majesty's men from hence went forth to fire our property, but they fired our patriotism as well. These men were defeated. They beat a retreat from this beach with colors trailing and prospects blighted, and when their leader stopped, as there seems evidence that before he left he did stop, to inter his dead in these sands, he here virtually interred his cause.

"Our glorious old town from its Indian remains on the north to its now, thank God, several storied stones on the south, is rich in antiquarian information, instruction and interests. May the good work of perpetuating, in granite and bronze, our varied history be carried forward until from Calf Pasture and Fitch's and Naramake's points on the Sound, as far inland even as Winnipauke's seat on the very edge of the province of New York—our twelve miles limit—the entire territory shall be monumentally dotted and constitute an annals-page to be read and revered by our children in the coming generations.

"Honored President of the Norwalk Historical and Memorial Library Association, esteemed Regent of the Norwalk Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and fellow citizens, all who have graced this occasion with your presence, we salute you to-day. Six score years ago this hour the evening breeze was insufficient to entirely dissipate the smoke which curled heavenward from the dying embers, the last remains of our fathers' homes. The scene was one

of ashes, but no sooner had Tryon and Garth's fagotmen re-embarked from this beach and quit our domain than that the torch of liberty-love was relighted, and from that moment the flame has never for an instant paled. William Tryon has now been in his tomb for a hundred and eleven years, but his devastated Norwalk has phoenix-like risen out of its flames and is fair and bright and beautiful and becoming, continually, more and more so. This is the import of this rock's inscription and dedication. We congratulate those whose loyalty has caused the rock to be reared and the inscription written. May the blessing of God reward them and abundantly rest upon all who in born and unborn generations shall ponder our old plantation's rare and recondite story."

**ELIZABETH PORTER PUTNAM CHAPTER.**—The second annual meeting of the Elizabeth Porter Putnam Chapter, of Putnam, Connecticut, held on May 8th, brought out the fact that in the eighteen months previous, the Chapter has purchased and paid for the beautiful forest park of eighty acres on which is located the Wolf Den, made famous by General Putnam's daring exploit.

The financial success of this undertaking is largely due to the wise management, wonderful push, perseverance and devotion of the retiring Regent, Mrs. Mary Hope (Bugbee) Medbury, no less than to the generous response to the call for contributions by Chapters, patriotic societies and individuals scattered all over the country.

The approaches to this scene of wild beauty are yet to be improved, that its many visitors may not travel too rough a road, after quenching their thirst at the old well near the entrance.

This Chapter celebrated the birthday of its hero, General Putnam, January 7th, by holding a mass meeting of citizens and school children in the Opera House, where eloquent historic speeches and patriotic music wrought up a fine enthusiasm.

Death has claimed four Daughters from this Chapter: Mrs. Hepzibah Smith Rhodes, Real Daughter of a revolutionary soldier, Alexander Smith (the gold spoon given her by the National Society has descended to her granddaughter, member of the same Chapter); Mrs. Mary Putnam Sharpe, great-granddaughter of General Putnam; Mrs. Cynthia Johnson, an