

# EVACUATION DAY SPEAKERS RETREAT

Flee from Fort Greene Park Before Onslaught of Brooklyn School Children.

## CHEERS KILL ADDRESSES

Reporter Refuses to Sing "The Star Spangled Banner" and Orators Retire Under Escort of Police.

From the point of view of picturesqueness, the celebration of Evacuation Day in Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn, yesterday afternoon, was a huge success. The chief speaker made no speech, but fled a great deal faster than the British ever did, pursued by a howling mob of school children. It was a riot of fun for the youngsters, but its humor failed to appeal to the organizers of the gathering.

The celebration of the departure of the Red Coats from New York was planned by the City History Club, and C. I. Jones, one of the members, had charge. The Rev. Dr. C. L. Roades, Secretary of the American Baptist Missionary Union, was to have been the chief speaker. The teachers and pupils of five public schools in the vicinity of the park were invited to attend the exercises. The children responded with enthusiasm to the number of 600, but not a teacher accompanied them.

"The teachers are not here, but very likely the Colonial Dames, the Patria Club, and the Daughters of the American Revolution are on their way. They promised to be present," said Jones.

An hour passed, but no one resembling a Colonial Dame, a Daughter of the American Revolution, or a member of the Patria Club, appeared. The children, in wild disorder, swarmed around the two men and several times nearly knocked them off their feet. Something had to be done.

"Well, children, come to order," shouted Mr. Jones.

The youngsters began to howl. Mr. Jones could not be heard half a dozen feet away, but an inspiration came to him.

"We'll start the 'Star Spangled Banner,' and they'll join in," said he.

"All right; start it," agreed Dr. Roades. Mr. Jones turned to a reporter who was standing near and commanded:

"Sing 'The Star-Spangled Banner.'"

The reporter grinned, but said nothing.

"What's the matter with you?" asked Jones with some heat. "You're an American's citizen, aren't you?"

"Sure," returned the reporter. "I'm a first-class citizen, but I'm a bum singer."

Jones turned away in despair. Raising his hand he made a last desperate attempt to address the children.

"Boys and girls—" he began and the boys started to cheer.

"To-day we celebrate the anniversary of the—"

"Hooray!"

"Evacuation of New York City—"

"Hooray!"

"The British."

"Oh, it's no use," concluded Jones, turning to Dr. Roades. "I guess I'd better tell them to go home. Here I've spent

two weeks preparing for this and now the teachers have deserted us.

"The exercises are over," he announced to the children.

The youngsters, however, wanted a more elaborate programme. They were dissatisfied and swept down upon the two men from the hillside with wild whoops. Mr. Jones discreetly disappeared.

"Hey, give us a speech!" yelled the boys to Dr. Roades. "Tell us about der British. Hooray fer Washington!"

"I'll tell you about them some other time," responded the minister, edging away.

But the children were not to be put off so easily. They swarmed around Dr. Roades, clamoring for a speech. Two or three policemen went to the side of the clergyman, and, with them as an escort, he started for a trolley car.

"And, say," observed one of the boys, disgustedly, as the car sped away, "what's the use of bein' a patriot anyhow?"

## CELEBRATION IN MANHATTAN.

Daughters of Revolution Dine at Fraunces's Tavern.

Buff and and blue, colonial and patriotic, reigned supreme at Fraunces's Tavern, at Broad and Stone Streets, yesterday, where the Daughters of the Revolution were holding their annual "Evacuation Day" dinner. It was served in the room said to have been occupied by Washington as a sleeping apartment, and the reception was held in the "Long Room," where he bade farewell to his officers. Here Mrs. John Howard Abeel, Regent, with the Vice Regents, Mrs. Ashbell P. Fitch and Mrs. Joseph Wandel, received, the guests of the day being Edmund Wetmore and Russell Drowne, President and Secretary of the Sons of the Revolution.

At Fort Clinton, in Central Park, exercises were conducted under the direction of the City History Club. Several members of the Washington Continental Guards were present in the old Continental uniform of cocked hat, long-tailed blue coat, white leather breeches, and waistcoat of buff.

Mrs. Robert Abbe, President of the club, made the address of welcome. Patriotic songs were sung and a historical address was delivered by Edward Hagaman Hall, President of the American Scenic and Historic Society.

Flags flying from many of the public schools also marked the day, and short historical talks by teachers served to impress the significance of the anniversary on the pupils.