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Little Miss America *and* The Happy Children

A Jingle History of the United States

A Patriotic Play in One Act

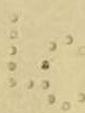
By

MARY MONCURE PARKER

Author of "Art Clubs Are Trumps," etc.

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BOSTON
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1918

Little Miss America

and

The Happy Children

CHARACTERS

MISS AMERICA.

COLUMBIA.

ENGLAND.

FRANCE.

ITALY.

RUSSIA.

BELGIUM.

NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN.

QUAKER.

HOLLAND.

SPAIN.

AMERICUS VESPUCIUS.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

HISTORY.

LARGE GIRL (*representing
Mother Country*).

SMALL CHILD (*representing
Colonies*).

CHINESE GIRL.

COMMODORE PERRY.

UNCLE SAM.

TEACHER.

FOUR PUPILS.

NOTE

This one act play is a Happy Little History Play, that can be given by children or older boys and girls, or even by grown-ups, masquerading as children. It may be given upon a bare stage, with five chairs and a blackboard, the children wearing their ordinary costumes, using only large lettered pieces of pasteboard to show the characters which they represent, and the play may be given by all girls, or by boys and girls.

It may be given in a more elaborate manner, the costumes of the various characters may be used, such as English, French, Holland, Indian, etc., or just bright colored paper caps and sashes may be used, this being according to the desire of those staging the play. It is the wish of the author to give those participating a happy play, that is also instructive, and that may be easily staged. During the reading by Miss America, children either seated in chairs around the room, or on the floor.

THE AUTHOR.



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no 1

Little Miss America

and

The Happy Children

SCENE.—*A schoolroom. Blackboard and chairs for five people, or, if desired, a number of other chairs. These chairs will have to be removed for the march, so it is desirable to have a fewer number.*

Enter four PUPILS with school-books. They sit down in the chairs.

FIRST PUPIL (*yawning*). Oh, dear, I have the spring fever. I would rather play to-day.

SECOND PUPIL. So would I.

THIRD PUPIL (*imitating TEACHER'S voice*). Children, children, I am astonished. You should love your school and your teacher.

FOURTH PUPIL. What is it this morning?

FIRST PUPIL. History.

SECOND PUPIL. I hate History; she is so old and she is such an old bore.

Enter the TEACHER.

TEACHER. Good-morning, children. I know you are happy to be here.

ALL (*slowly, with long faces*). Yes, Teacher.

(*A knock is heard at the door. Enter HISTORY. She wears a white dress with a black cape and black bonnet and glasses, and walks slowly with a cane.*)

TEACHER. Good-morning, History.

HISTORY. Good-morning, Teacher. Good-morning, children.

(CHILDREN *rise and make a curtsey.*)

CHILDREN. Good-morning, History.

HISTORY. I came to see if you would excuse me this morning. I am getting old and I have the rheumatism. I thought I would go back home and come to-morrow. I am getting so nervous that I feel a little shaky about my dates lately, so I think it would be better for me to rest.

THIRD PUPIL (*excitedly*). Oh, good! (TEACHER *looks up reprovingly.*) I mean good gracious—I am so sorry.

TEACHER. We are very sorry that you are not well, History, and of course we will excuse you.

HISTORY (*bowing*). Good-day, Teacher. Good-day, children.

(*The CHILDREN curtsey and HISTORY goes out slowly.*)

FOURTH PUPIL. May we be dismissed, Teacher?

TEACHER. Certainly not. Do you wish to grow up quite ignorant of the past and quite unprepared for the future? Let me see—what shall we do this morning? (*The CHILDREN sit down and look discontented. A knock is heard at the door.*) Pray come in.

Enter MISS AMERICA and COLUMBIA. If a special costume is worn, AMERICA wears a white dress, with a red Liberty cap and a blue sash. COLUMBIA wears white with a red Liberty cap. Her name is pinned across her breast. These decorations may be of paper, cloth or silk.

MISS AMERICA. Good-morning. I just met History and she told me of her troubles, so Columbia and I came to help out. We cannot have our dear children lose a history lesson.

TEACHER. Oh, thank you so much. This is Miss America and Columbia, children. (*The CHILDREN rise and curtsey.*) The children will be glad to have their lesson, will you not, children?

ALL THE PUPILS (*together, slowly*). Yes, Teacher.

(*They sit down.*)

MISS AMERICA. Oh, you do not say that very cheerfully, children. Well, let me see if we cannot make our lesson interesting. I have everything planned, as History has been growing old and sometimes I am afraid she repeats herself and may be a little prosy, so I have made some new arrangements. You shall see. I have arranged for a patriotic tea.

(Recites or reads. As there are a number of verses, if she does not care to memorize them, they may be read.)

Little Miss America
Gave a Patriotic Tea
To her Allies, to relate to them
Our U. S. History.

(Speaks.) There! I hope you will like that verse and all of the others. Of course, we will not really have tea, or even cups and saucers, but we will just pretend thus. *(Makes a cup of her hand and pretends to drink.)* It will be nice to pretend and then there will be no dishes to wash. *(Claps her hands together. Enter ENGLAND, FRANCE, ITALY, RUSSIA and BELGIUM. They may wear paper sashes of the colors of their various countries, or a more elaborate representative costume may be worn. The name of each country must be printed or written in large letters and pinned on the breast of each character.)* Dear friends, let me introduce England, France, Italy, Russia and Belgium. *(They bow and the pupils curtsy.)* Pray be seated.

(The pupils offer chairs to the various countries. Reads.)

We'll drink tea and each relate
Things that the others ought to know
About our ship of state.

(Speaks.) Shall I begin? Oh, thank you. *(Reads.)*

Miss Columbia will serve us,
Pray let her fill your cup.

(COLUMBIA *pretends to pass the tea and the others pretend to drink.*)

It is harmless and most friendly
In this pleasant way to sup.

Now let me see, once on a time
As all good stories go,
America was an unknown land,
Our History tells us so.

Old Norsemen used to come across
And sail along the coast;
Just what it was they did not know
Though of their deeds they'd boast.

These wild sea rovers went away,
They did not colonize;
Through their clumsy fingers
There slipped this mighty prize.

Finally Columbus bold,
Who sailed from Spain away,
After many tribulations
Landed here one splendid day.

(*A knock is heard at the door.*)

Enter COLUMBUS, who may be in costume, or if not convenient, may just have the name pinned across the breast. He goes looking about the stage as though in search of some one and finally comes up to AMERICA.

COLUMBUS. Ah, dear lady, I am quite sure the world is round, but everybody laughs at me.

MISS AMERICA. You are quite right, Columbus.

(*A knock is heard at the door.*)

Enter AMERICUS VESPUCIUS, who wears the name across his breast.

(*Reads.*)

Americus Vespucius,
 Later known to fame,
 Though not the real discoverer
 Bestowed on us his name.

(AMERICUS VESPUCIUS *hands AMERICA a pasteboard containing the name, "America." She looks at COLUMBUS, who shakes his head and walks sadly away. Speaks.*)

I am very sorry, Columbus, but this is my name.

(*She pins it on her breast.*)

COLUMBUS. This is a very ungrateful world. I really discovered America, you know.

(COLUMBIA *goes over to him.*)

MISS COLUMBIA. You see you are really not forgotten, Columbus. My name is Columbia.

(AMERICUS VESPUCIUS, *stepping proudly, goes to the side of the stage opposite the place occupied by COLUMBUS.*)

MISS AMERICA (*reads*).

From every land came colonists
 To settle this new world.
 North, South and East and Middle West
 Their banners were unfurled.

Some came for conquest and for gold,
 Some with a motive higher;
 To worship each in his own way
 Was the Puritan desire.

English and French came to our shores
 Across the ranging main.
 The Dutchman settled in New York,
 The South belonged to Spain.

(A knock is heard at the door. Speaks.)

Pray enter. *(Enter little HOLLAND GIRL and a SPANISH GIRL. They may wear costumes of their country or simply have the names SPAIN or HOLLAND pinned across their breasts.)* Oh, how do you do? This is Holland and Spain.

(They bow and COLUMBIA conducts them to a seat. There may be a row of chairs around the room, or if only the five chairs are used, the children may be seated on the floor in semicircle, some going to one side of the stage as they enter, and some to the other to make an artistic picture.)

(Reads.)

There were Quakers, quaint and silent folk
Under good William Penn.
You will ne'er remember all the names
Of our strong and sturdy men.

(A knock at the door. Speaks.)

Some one else. Pray come in. *(Enter QUAKER GIRL, wearing gray gown, white kerchief and cap.)* Oh, how do you do, Quaker maiden? This is our Quaker maiden, everybody.

(The QUAKERESS clasps her hands together and gives a stiff little bow. COLUMBIA seats her.)

(Reads.)

We had trouble with the Indians,
Who resented our intrusion
Upon the place they felt they owned,
But this was a delusion.

Because they did not use the land
And life must mean progression
We were not fair to Indian tribes,
I make that sad confession.

(A loud yelling and pounding is heard at the door. All start up nervously, clinging to each other.)

Heavens, what's that! Never mind, be calm, everybody. I'm used to all kinds of surprises. Columbia, pray go to the door.

(COLUMBIA *opens the door and in rushes an INDIAN, yelling.*)

INDIAN. Wow, Hoo! Wow, Hoo!

(*Runs around the stage. Some of the others scream and hide their faces.*)

MISS AMERICA. Oh, do not be afraid. I have made him harmless. There, Mr. Indian, go sit down by Columbus, who was always kind to you, and pray keep quiet. We are trying to have a history lesson.

(COLUMBUS *takes the INDIAN by the arm and seats him down beside him. The rest are seated again.*)

(*Reads.*)

Yet with such strong elements
A fine people came to view,
Fearless and vigorous pioneers
Who built this nation new.

Then came the French and Indian Wars.
Please pardon me, Miss France.

(*The INDIAN jumps up and calls "Wow," looking toward FRANCE. FRANCE rises as though to chide the INDIAN, but COLUMBUS pulls the INDIAN back and FRANCE sits down again.*)

(*Reads.*)

I must tell the truth but hasten on.
This is History at a glance.

Our next great war—Miss England,
Forgive me the allusion—
Was in seventeen hundred seventy-six.
We resented the intrusion

Of too much Mother Country
Into our household ways.
The Revolutionary War
Brought on most trying days.

We were victorious and free,
 A babe without its mother,
 Who tries to walk alone and finds
 That walking is a bother.

(A knock is heard at the door. Enter LARGE GIRL and CHILD, with the names pinned on their breast, "Mother Country" and the "Colonies." CHILD runs away from LARGE GIRL, who pursues it.)

LARGE GIRL (*holding up switch*). Come here to me; you cannot walk alone.

CHILD. I can—see.

MISS AMERICA. Pray stop, Mother Country. Your child can walk alone now.

MISS COLUMBIA. I will seat you.

(She puts LARGE GIRL and CHILD on opposite sides of the stage.)

MISS AMERICA.

Soon we grew stronger and with tread
 Firm and with heads held high
 We developed to a nation,
 Looked the world straight in the eye.

I could tell the names of patriots
 And wise men by the score;
 Names are quite easy to forget
 I do not want to bore;

So I'll just name our presidents
 From Washington to Hayes;
 From Hayes right down to Wilson,
 They all deserve our praise.

George Washington, the General
 Was our first president,
 Elected seventeen eighty-nine
 A man from Heaven sent.

(Speaks.) Columbia, pray hand me the name of our

president. (COLUMBIA *hands pasteboard to AMERICA, having the name George Washington upon it.*) Now, children, three cheers for our first president—everybody all together.

ALL (*cheering*). George Washington! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA (*reads*).

Kind, unswerving, first in peace
As well as first in war,
And first in the hearts of his countrymen.
His fame reached near and far.

Flags fluttered from the housetops,
Cannons boomed—cheer after cheer
Proclaimed a joyous freedom,
In our first presidential year.

Two terms he served, refused the third.
John Adams was elected,
Well qualified to take the helm,
Noble, good and much respected.

(*Speaks.*) Columbia, please bring me the name of John Adams. (COLUMBIA *brings name.*) Children, give three cheers for our next president, John Adams.

ALL (*cheer*). John Adams! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA (*reads*).

Our Independence Declaration
Of seventeen seventy-six
Was written by John Adams.
Please try the date to fix.

Mr. Adams was our president
Until eighteen hundred one,
Then in office was succeeded
By Thomas Jefferson.

(*Speaks.*) Columbia, please bring the name of Thomas Jefferson. (COLUMBIA *brings name.*) Everybody applaud our next president, all together—one—two—three.

ALL (*cheer*). Thomas Jefferson. (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA (*reads*).

I must not take up too much time
But hasten with my story.
At this period was the purchase
Of the Louisiana Territory,

From you, Miss France. Napoleon
Sold us that western tract.

(FRANCE *rises and bows and everybody applauds.*)

Then came Mediterranean troubles
Settled with a final pact.

The Clarke-Lewis Expedition
Explored to Oregon.
Robert Fulton made a steamboat
Called the Clermont, the first one.

(*Speaks.*) Oh, Teacher, would you please write on the blackboard all these things of importance, so we will be sure to remember them? (*The TEACHER rises and writes on the blackboard.*) Thank you. Please write George Washington and John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Don't forget, children, that we bought a large slice of land from France called the Louisiana Territory during the administration of Jefferson, and then the two men by the name of Clarke and Lewis went exploring through the West.

SMALL CHILD (*representing Colonies*). What does explored mean?

LARGE GIRL (*representing Mother Country; holding up switch*). Be quiet.

SMALL CHILD. I do not have to mind you now. I can walk alone.

MISS AMERICA. Explorers were people who went over this new country to find out just what was in it. They were very brave, as there were lots of dangers and many Indians.

INDIAN (*jumping up and yelling*). Wow, wow!

COLUMBIA. Sit down and be quiet. (*He sits down.*)

MISS AMERICA. Children, please remember Robert

Fulton. You know he made the first steamboat. If he had not, we would have all had to go in canoes or row-boats, or a sailboat, and that would be slow, would it not?
(*Reads.*)

James Madison was next in line
From eighteen nine for eight years more.
The war of eighteen hundred twelve
Came to settle many a score.

(*Speaks.*) Columbia, pray bring the name of James Madison, and, Teacher, will you please write the name on the blackboard? Now, children, all together, cheer our next president, James Madison.

ALL (*cheer*). James Madison! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. I really must ask pardon of England for mentioning the war of eighteen twelve. We are allies now, you know, and all the same family, but sometimes families disagree. You'll pardon me, England. (ENGLAND *rises and bows.*) As I take the place of History to-day, I must tell you the truth. Commodore Perry won victories on the water at this time, just as John Paul Jones did in the Revolutionary days. (*A knock is heard at the door.*) Pray enter.

Enter Boy in sailor costume.

Boy. How do you do, everybody? I am Commodore Perry.

(*This character may be taken by a girl also.*)

MISS AMERICA. Commodore Perry—everybody. (*All rise and bow. COLUMBIA seats PERRY at one side of the stage as the rest applaud.*) Children, we have now another wonderful name that I want you to remember. Teacher, will you kindly write the name on the blackboard of Francis Scott Key, who wrote the Star Spangled Banner. (TEACHER *writes; all applaud.*)

(NOTE.—*If music is procurable, then it may be played to the verse of the "Star Spangled Banner," which is now sung. All rise and sing one verse of the "Star Spangled Banner" and COLUMBIA waves a flag. All seated.*)

MISS AMERICA (*reads*).

James Monroe succeeded Madison;
It was an era of good feeling,
The famous doctrine of Monroe
Showed a desire for just dealing.

(*Speaks.*) Miss Columbia, will you please bring the name of James Monroe, and, Teacher, will you kindly write it on the blackboard? Everybody please applaud the name of our next president.

(COLUMBIA *brings name James Monroe, and* TEACHER *writes.*)

ALL (*cheer*). James Monroe! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. I think this must have been a wonderful time and everybody must have been happy. (*Reads.*)

A canal was built from Albany
Way through to Buffalo.
There were troubles with the Seminoles
We still had the Indian foe.

INDIAN (*jumps up and yells*). Wow! wow!

(COLUMBUS *pulls him down.*)

MISS AMERICA. Pray be quiet, Indian, or I shall have to send you away. (*Reads.*)

Lafayette, beloved Frenchman,
Came again unto our shore.
Right royally we fêted him
In eighteen twenty-four.

In the early days of struggles
Side by side with Washington
He had fought, endured and helped us
Until our goal was won.

(*Speaks.*) We thank you, Miss France, for Lafayette.
(FRANCE *rises and bows.*) Everybody please rise and do honor to Lafayette.

(*ALL rise and applaud. If there is music, the "Marseillaise" might be played here. All seated.*)

(*Reads.*)

John Quincy Adams followed next
As president in twenty-five;
Eighteen twenty-five to twenty-nine.
The U. S. now did thrive.

(*Speaks.*) Columbia, please bring the name of John Quincy Adams, and, Teacher, please write it.

(*COLUMBIA brings name; TEACHER writes.*)

ALL (*cheer*). John Quincy Adams! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. You know, children, we had our first anniversary in this administration. Just think of it, fifty years since the first Fourth of July in '76. America had grown from a puny child to a big nation. (*All applaud.*) I am glad you feel happy; so do I. (*SMALL CHILD, representing Colonies, jumps up and runs around stage, pursued by LARGE GIRL, representing Mother Country. COLUMBIA takes girl back to her place, and then seats the child on the opposite side of the stage.*) Andrew Jackson followed Adams as the leader of our nation. (*Reads.*)

A military hero,
Intelligent, though rough,
Honest, tactless, man of iron,
He was made of sturdy stuff.

(*Speaks.*) Columbia, please bring the name of our next president, Andrew Jackson, and, Teacher, please write it. Everybody cheer.

ALL (*cheer*). Andrew Jackson! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA (*speaks*). We had now a very wonderful orator, Daniel Webster; do not forget his name, children. And then came another president, Van Buren—Martin Van Buren. Columbia, please bring the name—Teacher, please write, and, children, applaud our next president.

ALL (*cheer*). Martin Van Buren! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA (*speaks*). We did not have a very good time, children, during Mr. Van Buren's administration, because there was a money panic, and it is hard to get along without money. But things were brighter during the next administration. Columbia, please bring the name of our next president, William Henry Harrison, and, Teacher, please write—and everybody applaud.

ALL (*cheer*). William Henry Harrison! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. Charles Dickens, the English novelist, came over to see us and write about America, and then we had a treaty with a country away across the ocean, China. (*A knock is heard at the door, and COLUMBIA opens it. Enter CHINA. She may wear a Chinese costume, or just a name pinned on her breast.*) Oh, China, how do you do? We are glad to see you. This is China.

(*Everybody bows but no one rises.*)

CHINA. How do evly body. Me washee for you.

MISS AMERICA. Oh, thank you, China, we shall be glad to keep clean. Pray be seated. (*COLUMBIA seats CHINA.*) All this time, children, we have been growing and adding a lot of territories and states. (*Reads.*)

After Harrison came James K. Polk,
Eighteen forty-five to forty-nine,
Then came troubles grave with Mexico
Across our boundary line.

(*Speaks.*) Columbia, please bring the name of our next president, and, Teacher, please write it—James K. Polk. Now, children, all applaud.

ALL (*cheer*). James K. Polk! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. As we were growing, children, it was natural that we should have growing pains, so that is the reason we had trouble with Mexico, but we won that time. We have had some trouble since, but I hope these border troubles will soon cease. Then something else happened now, children; everybody went crazy about gold. They found gold in California, and everybody had the gold fever. That was in eighteen forty-nine. Now we have another president, Zachary Taylor. Columbia, will

IMPORTANT

By a regrettable blunder all mention was omitted from the text of this play of the Presidency of John Tyler. The following correction to page 16 should be made by all persons producing the piece.

After the line:

ALL (*cheer*). William Henry Harrison. (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. Children, I feel very sad when I have to tell you that Mr. Harrison lived only one month after his inauguration and his Vice President, John Tyler, succeeded. Now, children — all together; let us cheer John Tyler.

ALL. (*cheer*). John Tyler. (*Applaud*).

MISS AMERICA. Charles Dickens, the English novelist, etc.

you please bring that name and, Teacher, write it? Everybody applaud.

ALL (*cheer*). Zachary Taylor! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. I'm so sorry to tell you, children, that Zachary Taylor only lived a year. He was a brave soldier and we were very sorry when he died. Our next president was Millard Fillmore, and the next one Franklin Pierce. We'll write both those names together. Columbia, please bring them and, Teacher, write them. Everybody applaud.

ALL (*cheer*). Millard Fillmore! Franklin Pierce! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. We had a treaty with Japan about this time, made through another Commodore Perry, the son of the first Commodore Perry. (*COMMODORE PERRY rises and salutes and AMERICA returns the salute.*) Now, children, we had a very dignified president, James Buchanan. I want you all to applaud his name, and, Columbia, bring it, please, and, Teacher, write it. Now, one, two, three.

ALL (*cheer*). James Buchanan! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. Now, children, the most wonderful thing was done about this time—the Atlantic Cable was laid by Cyrus Field. Everybody said he could not do it, but Field said he could. You know about Robert Bruce and the spider, "Try, try again." That's the way the spider spun his web after a lot of failures and that's the way Field laid the cable, and now we can talk away across the ocean.

QUAKER GIRL. Dear me! Things never happened like that in my day.

COLUMBUS. Nor mine, but anyhow I discovered America. If I hadn't, nobody could have talked across the ocean from this country.

AMERICUS VESPUCIUS. Don't forget that I gave the name to America.

MISS AMERICA. There, there, do not quarrel, please. We next have a wonderful man—Columbia, please bring the name of our next president—Abraham Lincoln—and, Teacher, write it. Everybody cheer.

ALL (*cheer*). Abraham Lincoln! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. Lincoln was a good and noble man and freed the slaves, but I am so sorry to tell you that at this time we had Civil War. (*Reads.*)

Civil War, that awful thing
When brother fought with brother.
We'll pray with all our might and main
We may never have another.

Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves,
I sadly must relate
He was martyred in the cause.
The world bemoaned his fate.

(*Speaks.*) Children, I am going to ask you all to bow your heads for just one moment, for our martyred president, Abraham Lincoln. (*All bow heads until AMERICA [to herself] has counted about five, then all lift their heads.*) Now the next president who comes had a very stormy time. He was a good man, honest and patriotic, but he did not get along with his Congress, and quarreled with them from morning until night. The best thing that I remember about this time was that we bought Alaska. Johnson was a good man and our president, and we'll cheer him even if he did not get along with Congress. Columbia, please bring the name of Andrew Johnson, and, Teacher, write it, and everybody cheer.

ALL (*cheer*). Andrew Johnson! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. Now comes a man that I know you will want to cheer. He was a soldier and a patriot, and our next president. Columbia, please bring his name and, Teacher, write it, and everybody applaud—Ulysses S. Grant.

ALL (*cheer*). Ulysses S. Grant! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. The world is full of wonders, children, so we have another marvelous invention: Mr. Bell invented the telephone, that mystery of wire. (*Reads.*)

Mystery of poles and conversation!
You just go to a wall
And talk to people miles away
By putting in a call.

FIRST PUPIL (*putting up her hand as though to telephone across the stage to SECOND PUPIL*). Hello! I like this lesson, don't you, and I hope History doesn't come back again.

SECOND PUPIL (*answering*). Yes, so do I.

MISS AMERICA. I am glad you like the lesson, pupils, but do not be hard on History. As I told you, children, this is another great invention. Away back in 1844, Professor Samuel Morse invented the telegraph, and then we had the cable, and now we have the telephone. Our next president was Mr. Rutherford B. Hayes. Columbia, will you please bring his name and, Teacher, write it, then, children, applaud. Please do not applaud until I tell you, because it makes too much confusion, children. Now.

ALL (*cheer*). Rutherford B. Hayes! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. We have now another great invention. People used to use candles in the long time ago, and then coal oil, and then gas, but now we have a wonderful light, the electric light, so you see how fortunate we are. I feel very sad when I tell you about our next president. He was a good, noble man. Columbia, please bring his name, and, Teacher, write it. Then everybody applaud,—James A. Garfield.

ALL (*cheer*). James A. Garfield! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. I am sorry to say that our good president was wickedly murdered by a bad man, and then his vice-president took the chair—Mr. Chester Arthur. Columbia, will you bring his name and, Teacher, write it? Applaud, children.

ALL (*cheer*). Chester Arthur! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. All the while we were growing, children, adding more states and territories, do not forget that, and then something very splendid was given to us during the next administration. Miss France, will you rise, so that we can all thank you for the splendid statue of Liberty, given by your sculptor, Bartholdi. Please applaud, everybody. (*FRANCE rises and curtseys; AMERICA curtseys and everybody applauds.*) I am going to have you applaud two presidents together, because the first one was in four years and then the second one was

in four years, and then the first one came back again for four years more. Grover Cleveland and William Henry Harrison's grandson, Benjamin Harrison, are the two presidents. Both good, clever men. Columbia, please bring their names and, Teacher, please write them. Wait, children, do not be too eager. Now applaud.

ALL (*cheer*). Grover Cleveland! Benjamin Harrison! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA (*reads*).

William McKinley follows next,
Beloved—Ohio's son.
The war with Spain in ninety-eight
Was fought and Dewey won.

(*Speaks.*) Yes, children, Admiral Dewey won at the battle of Manila Bay. I am so sorry to have to tell you of another martyred president; William McKinley was a good man and much loved. Columbia, will you bring his name and, Teacher, write it? Everybody applaud.

ALL (*cheer*). William McKinley! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. William McKinley was succeeded by a man who is popular and full of force, who pushed on the big Canal of Panama. (*Reads.*)

Popular and forceful man,
He pushed on the great canal
Of Panama—because he said,
“Not shall we—But we shall.”

(*Speaks.*) Columbia, please bring his name and, Teacher, write it. Don't be too eager, children. It is Theodore Roosevelt. Now, all together.

ALL (*cheer*). Theodore Roosevelt! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. For a long time, children, men had been trying to find the North Pole. I suppose they wanted to see where Santa Claus lived, and at last Mr. Peary did succeed in reaching it, but I personally would rather stay where it's warm, wouldn't you? Now for the name of our next president, and it was during his time that Peary reached the pole. (*Reads.*)

Mr. William Taft came next
 In nineteen hundred nine.
 A worthy name was his to add
 To the presidential line.

(*Speaks.*) Miss Columbia, please bring the name and, Teacher, write it; everybody applaud.

ALL (*cheer*). William Howard Taft! (*Applaud.*)

MISS AMERICA. We are making history in these days, children, days of the great world war. We are sorry to have war, but we know it is a war for right and justice. Our dear boys are in the fight. Our flag will be unfurled across our land, from sea to sea, and will wave us to victory. (*Reads.*)

Mr. Woodrow Wilson is at the helm—
 Nineteen thirteen was his year—
 His steady hand will guide the helm
 To peace and victory dear.

(*Speaks.*) Columbia, please bring the name and, Teacher, write it. Wait, children, until I give the signal. Now, all together.

ALL (*cheer*). Woodrow Wilson! (*Applaud.*)

(*A knock is heard at the door. Enter UNCLE SAM, in costume if possible—if not, the name pinned on the breast.*)

MISS AMERICA. Welcome, Uncle Sam.

(*The children rise and applaud.*)

UNCLE SAM. I have brought you all some flags, so we can have a grand patriotic march.

(*COLUMBIA distributes the flags. Music played while marching later.*)

MARCH

(*At a signal, the children form for a Grand March, coming down stage by twos, then one couple going R. and one couple going L., alternately, until reaching*

back of the stage, when they come down in fours, etc. This is an ordinary grand march figure and may be made simple or elaborate by those who are doing the drilling. They wave their flags and sing, to the tune of "Marching Through Georgia." UNCLE SAM and AMERICA lead the march.)

ALL (*sing*).

We are the Merry Children
 And we love our History. (*Pronounced historee.*)
 We do not mind these lessons,
 They are really fun, you see.
 The children of America are happy as can be,
 Because we are marching for freedom.
 Hurrah, hurrah, we'll sound the jubilee,
 Hurrah, hurrah, the flag that makes us free.
 The children of America are as happy as can be
 Because we are marching for freedom.

CURTAIN

NOTE.—*This play can be given on platform without curtain, and also without extra costumes. It can be given as a school entertainment, or as a school lesson—the History being absolutely authentic. The play is designed to inculcate in the hearts of children, in a happy way, the love of American patriots and historical events.*



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