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ATTACKING TRADITIONS.

The Founders' Day celebration, or rather the preparation for it, is playing the very deuce with patriotic traditions in Philadelphia. The Betsy Ross controversy has torn the residents of that city into factions, and while it rages a patriot attacks the tradition that the Liberty bell was rung by William Hurry when the Declaration of Independence was signed. As a consequence the grave of Hurry, which is in the cemetery of the Old Pine street church, will not be marked for the present, at least. In this case the attack is made by an officer of the Philadelphia chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Philadelphia is prominent as the birthplace of American independence, and its Betsy Ross and other traditions have served to maintain its standing as a center of patriotism. If the Founders' Day celebration is to result in the destruction of the traditions, what becomes of the city's standing as to patriotism? Somebody made the first American flag somewhere, and since Betsy Ross certainly made American flags, what is to be gained by inquiring too curiously as to whether or not she made the first? So, too, what boots it whether William Hurry rang the bell at the birth of independence or whether somebody else rang it? What difference does it make whether the bell was rung or not? What especial service to patriotism is there in the ringing of a bell? Who made the ink and the pen that were used to write the Declaration? Maybe he is as important as the man who rang the bell, although he is not mentioned in song or story. To go higher in the scale, who first shouted for American independence? How many of the disputants know who signed the Declaration?

Philadelphia should keep all her traditions or unload all of them, whether they are founded on fact or otherwise, for nobody knows what are the facts, and in the case of Philadelphia traditions are much better than some of the facts.

TROUBLE IN GENERAL

Attacking Traditions

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