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WASHINGTON AS HE WAS PAINTED BY VARIOUS ARTISTS.
BORN FEBRUARY 22, 1732; DIED DECEMBER 14, 1799.

DARK DAYS INDEED.

**OUTNUMBERED BY FOES, CRITICISED
BY FRIENDS AND YET RESOLUTE.**

From the Evacuation of Brooklyn to the
Historic Night on the Delaware, Wash-
ington Shed Many Tears, but Never
Despaired.

After the first misfortune of his career
in the Revolution—the loss of Brooklyn
—Washington established his headquar-
ters at Kingsbridge, but his force was
so small that he found the enemy closing
in upon him from every side. Con-
gress then, by vote, left the fate of the
city in the hands of Washington, and he
decided that the evacuation of the city
was necessary, and the movement was
begun not a moment too soon. On the re-
treat several of the companies of troops
were thrown into a panic by the can-
nonade from the ships of war, and
showed the most shameful cowardice.
Washington was disgusted with them
and almost in despair. "Are these the
men," he exclaimed vehemently, "with
whom I am to defend America!"
However, he soon regained his calm,
and a considerable amount of stores were
left behind. It was a terrible day—hot,
sultry and oppressive. The confusion
was terrible and the suffering intense.

The British could throw in a rain of
shells and balls and capitulation could
not be avoided. Washington stood upon
an eminence near and saw the American
flag fall and the British flag rise in his
view. It was at this occasion that he
went over the merciless slaughter of the
young soldiers. Before this he had
recommended, though not ordered, that
the fort should be evacuated and the
men and stores be removed to a place
of safety, but some of his more sanguine
generals were confident that they could
hold the place. Deep was his grief
he did not reproach them. The cap-
tives, numbering 2,818, were marched
off at night to the awful prison hulks of
New York, where their fate was worse
than that of those whose blood had dyed
the ground around Fort Mifflin.

Washington now removed the most
of his army across the river into New
Jersey that he might seek refuge for
them among the highlands, and New
York was abandoned to the enemy.

ENEMIES AND DETRACTORS.
It is the fate of the eminent to arouse
the enmity and jealousy of smaller
minds, and Washington was by no
means exempt. Deep was his grief
he did not reproach them. The cap-
tives, numbering 2,818, were marched
off at night to the awful prison hulks of
New York, where their fate was worse
than that of those whose blood had dyed
the ground around Fort Mifflin.

Washington still remained undaunted. He wrote
to General Mercer: "We must retire to
Augusta county, in Virginia. Numbers
will repair to us for safety. We will
try a predatory war. If overpowered
we must cross the Alleghenies."
In those hours of despondency and
dismay Admiral Howe and his brother,
the general, on the 26th of November,
issued a proclamation offering pardon
to all who would disband and return to
their homes. Many of those who had
property to lose complied with these
terms. On the 21st of December the
British reported that "Washington was
seen retreating with two brigades to
Trenton, where they talk of resisting.
But such a panic has seized the rebels
that no part of the Jerseys will hold
them, and I doubt whether Philadelphia
itself will stop their career. Congress
has left authority; they are in such con-
sternation that they know not what to
do."

And all this time Lee was lettering at
Morristown with about 4,000 men, the
12th, when, fortunately for the good
of his country, he was captured and car-
ried to Brunswick.

Washington combined in his character
to an astonishing degree courage and
prudence. It is doubtful whether there
was another man on the continent who
could have conducted his retreat through
the Jerseys. With these few wretched,
suffering, almost naked men he retreated
more than a hundred miles before a
powerful foe flushed with victory and
strengthened with abundance. He bat-
tled all their endeavors to cut him off,
and preserved all his field pieces, ammu-
nition and nearly all his stores. There
was a grandeur in his achievements that
far surpassed any ordinary victory. At
this juncture congress invested him with
the title of "General of the Army."
Washington then crossed the Delaware
and destroyed the bridges and seized
all the boats for a distance of seventy
miles up and down the river. These he
either destroyed or placed under guard
on the west bank. Here he stationed
his army, with the broad river between
him and his foe. He then had about
five or six thousand men, and here he
awaited events in silence and sober
glom, yet always on the alert to seize

termination to carry out plans that in
their results were little less than mira-
cles.
Lee had been taken prisoner in a ridicu-
lous manner and Fort Lee had been
abandoned to its fate as a corps of 6,000
Cornwallis' best men had made their
appearance on the Jersey shore, and the
soldiers from Fort Lee, about 3,000 in
number, were at Hackensack without
tents or baggage and greatly disheart-
ened. It was clear to Washington that
the British were aiming at the capture of
Philadelphia, and to prevent that disas-
ter he gathered as many of his suffering
troops as possible at Brunsvick. And all
this time there was a perpetual clamor
of indignation against him on account of
his continued retreat.

It would have been the act of a mad-
man to follow any other course than
this. There were, on the other hand, friends
and others who appreciated the grand-
deur