

Weekly Chemawa American

VOL. 13

DECEMBER 23, 1910

NO. 24

Death of Washington

Napoleon Bonaparte said: "Posterity will talk of Washington with reverence, as the founder of a great empire when my name shall be lost in the vortex of revolution."

Like so many other of the prophecies of the great Napoleon, it is becoming more apparent every day of its truth, and on this date, December 14, 111 years ago, Washington died at Mount Vernon at the age of 68, after an illness of only 24 hours.

The month of December, 1799, found Washington in the employment of excellent health. His nephew, Major Lewis, writing of him as he appeared to himself and a friend at that time says: "The clear and healthy flush on his cheek and his upright manner brought the remark from both of us, that we had never seen the general look so well."

On Thursday, December 12, the general rode out to his farms about 10 o'clock, and did not return home until half past 3. Soon after he went out the weather became very bad, rain, hail, snow falling alternately, with a cold wind. In the evening he showed evidence of having taken a cold and complained of a sore

throat. He went out the following day, however, to mark some trees. Upon his retiring it was noticed that he had grown quite hoarse. Between 2 and 3 o'clock on Saturday morning of the fatal day, he awoke Mrs. Washington and told her that he was very unwell, and had had a chill. She observed that he could scarcely speak, and breathed with difficulty. He refused to have the household aroused until morning, when Dr. Craik was sent for, who was very much alarmed at the general's condition, and advised a consultation with several other neighboring physicians.

They administered to him, but the medicine seemed to take no effect. To the respectful and affectionate inquiries of an old family servant, as she smoothed down his pillow, how he felt, he answered, "I am very ill." To Mrs. Washington he said: "Go to my desk, and in a private drawer you will find two papers—bring them to me." They were brought. Upon looking at them he observed: "These are my wills—preserve this one and burn the other," which was accordingly done.

He grew gradually worse. About 5

(Continued on page 8.)