

PREPAREDNESS WASHINGTON'S SLOGAN

GREAT AMERICAN BELIEVED READINESS FOR WARFARE ONLY MEANS TO MAINTAIN COUNTRY'S HONOR AND LIBERTY



George Washington.

BECAUSE George Washington believed sincerely in the inborn, inalienable rights of men born on this soil, or transferred to it, spiritually as well as physically, to the fruits of freedom and independence; because he believed that this Nation was to be held by them free of all oppression, whether in the form of unjust taxation or any other infringement of the interests, welfare and principles of the inhabitants, he receives today the homage of the millions who enjoy the heritage of the free America for which he fought and which he helped establish.

In this he was at one with other great men bred in the new, free spirit and atmosphere of the colonies. He did not seek to set himself over them, but to work with them, contributing as his part in the struggle his military genius and experience and his carefully trained executive ability. His ideal was the common good. For that he gave his time and strength unstintingly, risked his all and withdrew only when Government was so well established that it would not suffer from his retirement.

Throughout his career the one reward he sought was that he might partake, "in the midst of my fellow citizens, the benign influence of good laws under a free government, the ever favorite object of my heart."

Washington, although possessing wealth and position, although observant of forms and ceremonies, was in the best sense a democrat, a man who sought the same privileges and opportunities for every one of his fellow citizens which he enjoyed, and who devoted his gifts and energies to that end.

That they might have them he not only expended freely his energies of mind and body, but he constantly exhorted his fellow countrymen to prepare themselves for the high destiny that he foresaw for this country, first, by raising and equipping an adequate Army, a task that frequently hung heavily on his mind, and, secondly, by properly safeguarding their rights after they had been won.

Washington was an early and constant believer in National preparedness. George Washington received less education—in school—than most lads of poor parentage do today. He left school before he was 16 years old and, except in mathematics, in which he had been advanced through geometry and trigonometry, his education did not extend beyond that which boys usually get in the grammar grades of the public schools. What he studied he knew, however, as his carefully kept notebooks attest. He manifested a special aptitude for surveying and for military affairs. This taste led to his having a royal middy's warrant, obtained for him when he was 14 years old, and only because of his mother's reluctance to have him go to England was he spared to fight for the colonies instead of becoming an officer in His Majesty's service.

He had been out of school only a few months when he got his first job—as a surveyor. It was a good one, too, for Lord Fairfax, having noted the lad's mental equipment and his intrepidity, gave him a commission to survey his wild acres in the Shenandoah Valley. So well did Washington accomplish the arduous task that he was made a public surveyor. Almost coincident with his entrance upon a private career young Washington identified himself with public interests. Fond of athletics and sports as well as of military affairs, he joined the local militia and when 19 years old was made a Major.

When he was still in his 20s he won his first Colonization in his gallant but disastrous first campaign against the French. It was there that he first tasted the bitter fruits of unpreparedness. When Washington went to Philadelphia as a member of the Second Continental Congress he wore his provincial uniform, an instructive expression of his feeling in regard to the crisis that was to come—in its way a fulfillment of prophecy—for during the session he was put at the head of the regular Army near Boston. He found that Army not only without discipline and equipment, but without powder. Men who had enlisted only for a few months ran away, Washington ardent-

ly appealed to the Continental and Provincial Congresses to provide for longer enlistments and an adequate system for recruitment.

Such authority as he had he used with diligence and foresight. Under his orders a few fast vessels were fitted out and armed as privateers at the nearest safe ports. Marblehead volunteers in the Army were put aboard them for crews and the enemy's supplies, including much-needed powder, were captured upon the seas and brought overland into the American camp.

After a long period of waiting the Americans were on Dorchester Heights and the British evacuated Boston. Washington's keen sense told him that the die was now cast, that peace was impossible, that England would speedily pour forth reinforcements to "reduce the colony to a proper sense of its duty."

Conservative and aristocrat as he was classed, Washington now favored the radicals, who sought to break with the home government and set up their own. "I have never entertained the idea of an accommodation," he said, "since I heard of the measures which were adopted in consequence of the Bunker Hill fight."

His staunch attitude was maintained in the midst of disheartening experiences, not only with the enemy in the field, but with trouble makers in his own camp. "I know the unhappy predicament in which I stand," he wrote; "I know that much is expected of me; I know that, without men, without arms, without ammunition, without anything fit for the accommodation of a soldier, little is to be done; and, what is mortifying, I know that I cannot stand justified to the world without exposing my own weakness and injuring the cause by declaring my wants. My situation has been such that I have had to use art to conceal it even from my officers."

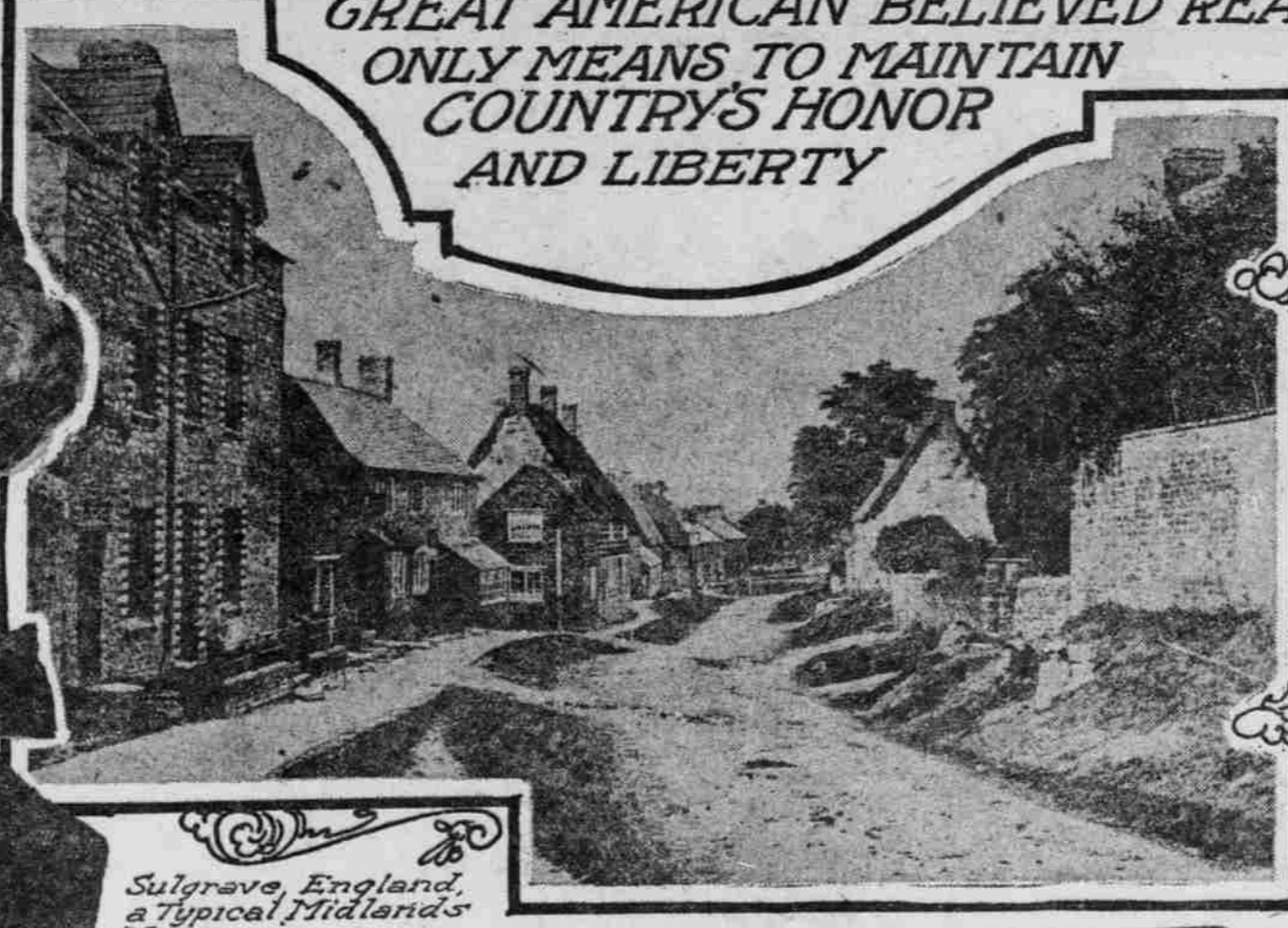
Jealousies hampered him so severely that he sternly proclaimed: "The General most earnestly entreats the officers and soldiers to consider consequences; that we can no way assist our enemies more than by making divisions among ourselves; that the honor and success of the Army and the safety of our bleeding country depend upon harmony and good agreement with each other; that the provisions are all united to oppose the common enemy and all distinctions in the name of America."

"To make this name honorable and to preserve the liberty of our country ought to be our only emulation, and he will be the best soldier and the best patriot who contributes most to this glorious work, whatever his station or from whatever part of the country he may come. Let all distinction of nations, countries and provinces thereof be lost in the generous contest who shall behave with the most courage toward the enemy and the most kindness and good humor to each other."

"If any be so lost to virtue and love of country as to continue in such practice after this order they will be severely punished and discharged from the service in disgrace." After the disastrous battle of Long Island Washington "once more took the liberty of mentioning to Congress that no dependence could be put in a militia or other troops than those enlisted and embodied for a longer period than our regulations have heretofore prescribed."

"Our liberties must of necessity be greatly hazarded, if not entirely lost, if their defence is left to any but a permanent standing Army; men one to exist during war. Men who have been free and subjected to no control cannot be reduced to order in an instant."

"There is no situation on earth less enviable or more distressing," continued Washington, "than that person who is at the head of troops regardless of order and discipline and unprovided with almost every necessity. The difficulties that have surrounded me since I have been in the service have kept my mind constantly upon the stretch; the wounds which my feelings as an officer have received by a thousand things that have happened contrary to my expectations and wishes; the effect of my own conduct



Sulgrave, England, a Typical Midlands Village.



Here lieeth buried the bodys of Laurence Washington Gent & Anne his wif by whome he had issue IIII sons & VII daughters. Laurence dyed the 15 day of Octobr 1643 & Anne deceased the VI day of October an dñm 1664

George Washington's Ancestor Memorial Slab to Lawrence Washington in Sulgrave Church, Bearing Family Coat of Arms.

and present appearance of things so little pleasing to myself as to render it a matter of no surprise to me if I should stand capitially censured by Congress . . . induce a thorough conviction in my mind that it will be impossible, unless there is a thorough change in our military system, for me to conduct matters to give satisfaction to the public, which is all the recompense I aim at or ever wish for."

This unhappy state of things was almost wholly due to the feeling manifested in several sections of the country, persisted in to the hampering of Washington's campaign and to the detriment of the cause, Congress was finally prevailed upon by Washington's representations and the tardily dawning consciousness that war was inevitable and that, being so, unpreparedness meant calamity.

On December 20, 1776, he wrote to the President of Congress: "Short enlistments and a mistaken dependence upon our militia have been the origin of all our misfortunes and the great accumulation of our debt. . . . I beg leave to give it as my humble opinion that 88 battalions are by no means equal to the opposition you are to make and that not a moment's time is to be lost in raising a greater number, not less, in my opinion and in judgment this is not a time to stand upon expense; our funds are not the only object of consideration. . . . It may be thought that I am going a good deal out of my line of duty to advise thus freely. A character to lose, an estate to forfeit, the inestimable blessings of liberty at stake and a life devoted must be my excuse."

Far from holding himself aloof and wanting to keep all power in his own hands, Washington welcomed co-operation. After he had been invested with the dictatorial powers necessitated by the emergency of public affairs, the Council of Safety of New York apologized for certain measures they had taken in regard to New York troops which were later discovered to have been an infringement on his authority. Wash-

ington replied: "I should be unhappy in the belief that any part of my letter to you could be construed into the slightest hint that you wish to interfere in the military line. Heaven knows that I greatly want the aid of every good man and that there are not such available pleasures attending my situation as to make me too jealous of its prerogatives. Rather than complain of your late efforts in the military way, you deserve the thanks of us all, and I feel myself happy in this opportunity of returning you mine in the greatest truth and sincerity."

At Valley Forge, where Washington's troops were almost naked, had few blankets and scanty food, he was moved to resentment against "the gentlemen, without knowing whether the Army was really going into Winter quarters or not, reproaching the measure as much as if they thought the soldiers were made of stocks and stones and equally insensible to frost and snow, and, moreover, as if they conceived it easily practicable for an inferior army under the disadvantages

He replied in unmistakable affront: "Sir: With a mixture of great surprise and astonishment I have read with attention the sentiments you have submitted to my perusal. Be assured, sir, no occurrence of the war has given me more painful sensations than your information of there being such ideas existing in the Army as you have expressed, and I must view with abhorrence and reprehend them with severity. . . . I am much at a loss to conceive what part of my conduct could have given encouragement to an address which to me seems big with the greatest mischiefs that can befall my country. If I am not deceived in the knowledge of myself, you could not have found a person to whom your schemes are more disagreeable. At the same time I must add that no man possesses a more sincere wish to see ample justice done to the Army than I do, and as far as my power and influence in a constitutional way extended they shall be employed to the utmost of my ability to effect it. Let me conjure you, then, if you have any regard for your country, concern for yourself, for posterity, or respect for me, to banish these thoughts from your mind and never communicate, as from yourself or anyone else, a sentiment of like nature."

He did not relish even the simple terms which his position as the Chief of the Army entailed upon him. "That I have not been able to make bows to the taste of poor Colonel B. (who, by the way, I believe never saw one of them) is to be regretted," he wrote in a letter to David Stuart, "especially as upon these occasions they were indiscriminately bestowed, and the best I was master of. Would it not have been better to throw the veil of charity over them, ascribing their stiffness to the effects of age or to the unskillfulness of my teacher rather than to pride and dignity of office, which, God knows, has no charms for me? For I certainly say I had rather be at Mount Vernon with a friend or two about me than to be attended at the seat of government by the officers of state and the representatives of every power in Europe."

Washington explained that he had reception hours every Tuesday from 2 to 4 o'clock, when gentlemen came and went, chatted with each other and acted as they pleased. "At their first entrance they salute me, and I them, and talk with as many as I can. What pomp there is in all this I am unable to discover. Perhaps it consists in not sitting. To this two reasons are offered—It is unusual; a more substantial one, I have no room large enough to contain a third of the chairs which would be sufficient to admit it. If it is supposed that ostentation or the fashion of courts gave rise to this custom, I will boldly affirm that no opposition was ever more erroneous, for if I were to give in-

dulgence to my inclinations every moment that I could withdraw from the fatigue of my station would be spent in retirement. That it is not proceeds from the sense I entertain of the propriety of giving to every one as free access as consistent with that respect which is due to the chair of government, and that respect I conceive is neither to be acquired nor preserved but by observing a just medium between much state and too great familiarity."

In 1793 Washington, in his second term as President, wrote to Congress that, while he sought peace and urged a faithful discharge of every duty toward others, he recommended prompt measures not only for defense, but for enforcing just claims.

"There is a rank due the United States among other nations which will be withheld, if not absolutely lost, by the reputation of weakness. If we desire to avoid insult we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war," he wrote.

As he wished to avoid war, so he also wished to avoid alliances which might jeopardize the peace of the Nation. "Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake," he said warningly. "The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations is in extending our commercial relations to have as little political connection as possible. . . . If we remain one people under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may deny material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we may at any time be resolved upon to be scrupulously respected; when belligerents, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest, guided by justice, shall counsel."

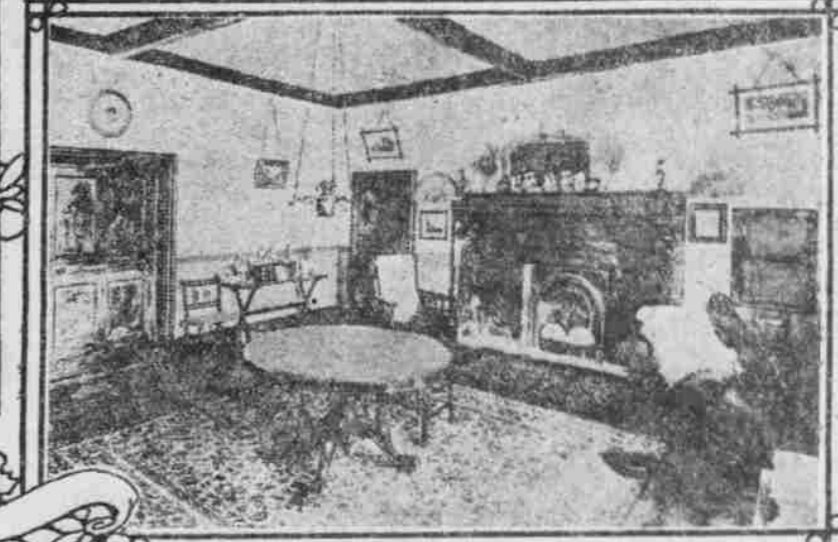
"It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world; so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it; for let me not be understood as patronizing infidelity to existing engagements. . . . Taking care always to keep ourselves, by suitable establishments, on a respectable defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies."

"It is conceded that America under an efficient government will be the most favorable country of any in the world for persons of industry and frugality, and possessed of a moderate capital," wrote Washington to David Henderson. "It is also believed that it will not be less advantageous to the happiness of the lowest class of people, on account of the equal distribution of property, the great plenty of unoccupied lands and the facility of procuring the means of subsistence. . . . Although I believe that emigrants from other countries to this who shall be well disposed and conduct themselves properly would be treated with equal friendship and kindness in all parts of it, yet in the old settled states land is so much occupied and the value so much enhanced by continuous cultivation that the price would in general be an objection." He recommends the frontier region in what is now Ohio, then opening up, as offering great advantages to young men looking for a place in which to settle.

When Washington, at the end of his second term as President, retired to Mount Vernon he desired nothing better than the life of a private citizen with his family and friends. He devoted himself sedulously to the interests of his farm, and a visitor expressed his astonishment to find the distinguished man laboring with his own hands. A comrade in arms who came from Kentucky in his frontiersman clothing was not daunted from calling upon Washington by the report that he had become "puffed up" by an aristocrat. Washington saw him coming and hastened to meet him at the door and draw him in. "I never was better treated," the Kentuckian reported afterward. "I had not believed a word against him, and I found he was 'old Ross' still." When summoned, Washington served upon the petty jury of his county as simply, as unaffectedly and as efficiently as he had served as President of his country.



Sulgrave Manor, the Ancestral Home of the Washingtons in Northampton, England.



Parlor in Sulgrave Manor

I have described ours to be to confine a superior one, in all respects well appointed, within the City of Philadelphia and to cover from deprecation and waste the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. . . . I can assure these gentlemen that it is a much easier and less distressing thing to draw up remonstrances in a comfortable room by a good fire than to occupy a cold, bleak hill and sleep under frost and snow without clothes or blankets. However, although they seem to have little feeling for the naked and distressed soldiers, I feel superabundantly for them and from my soul I pity those miseries which it is neither in my power to relieve nor prevent.

Washington made persistent efforts to get a guarantee of half pay for his officers after the war, himself having no personal interest in the measure; he had declared from the first that he would never profit by it to the amount of a single penny. He deprecated constantly the jealousy of the military part of the Government by the civil department. . . . "If we would pursue a right system of policy," he wrote to a member of Congress, "in my opinion, there would be none of these distinctions. We should all, Congress and Army, be considered as one people, embarked in one cause, in one interest, acting on the same principle and to the same end."

Near the close of the war a Colonel of standing was selected to voice the sentiment of officers who, disaffected because of arrearsages of pay and the prospect of an Army's being disbanded with no adequate provision being made for them, proposed to make Washington the head of a monarchy. He replied in unmistakable affront: "Sir: With a mixture of great surprise and astonishment I have read with attention the sentiments you have submitted to my perusal. Be assured, sir, no occurrence of the war has given me more painful sensations than your information of there being such ideas existing in the Army as you have expressed, and I must view with abhorrence and reprehend them with severity. . . . I am much at a loss to conceive what part of my conduct could have given encouragement to an address which to me seems big with the greatest mischiefs that can befall my country. If I am not deceived in the knowledge of myself, you could not have found a person to whom your schemes are more disagreeable. At the same time I must add that no man possesses a more sincere wish to see ample justice done to the Army than I do, and as far as my power and influence in a constitutional way extended they shall be employed to the utmost of my ability to effect it. Let me conjure you, then, if you have any regard for your country, concern for yourself, for posterity, or respect for me, to banish these thoughts from your mind and never communicate, as from yourself or anyone else, a sentiment of like nature."

He did not relish even the simple terms which his position as the Chief of the Army entailed upon him. "That I have not been able to make bows to the taste of poor Colonel B. (who, by the way, I believe never saw one of them) is to be regretted," he wrote in a letter to David Stuart, "especially as upon these occasions they were indiscriminately bestowed, and the best I was master of. Would it not have been better to throw the veil of charity over them, ascribing their stiffness to the effects of age or to the unskillfulness of my teacher rather than to pride and dignity of office, which, God knows, has no charms for me? For I certainly say I had rather be at Mount Vernon with a friend or two about me than to be attended at the seat of government by the officers of state and the representatives of every power in Europe."

Washington explained that he had reception hours every Tuesday from 2 to 4 o'clock, when gentlemen came and went, chatted with each other and acted as they pleased. "At their first entrance they salute me, and I them, and talk with as many as I can. What pomp there is in all this I am unable to discover. Perhaps it consists in not sitting. To this two reasons are offered—It is unusual; a more substantial one, I have no room large enough to contain a third of the chairs which would be sufficient to admit it. If it is supposed that ostentation or the fashion of courts gave rise to this custom, I will boldly affirm that no opposition was ever more erroneous, for if I were to give in-

dulgence to my inclinations every moment that I could withdraw from the fatigue of my station would be spent in retirement. That it is not proceeds from the sense I entertain of the propriety of giving to every one as free access as consistent with that respect which is due to the chair of government, and that respect I conceive is neither to be acquired nor preserved but by observing a just medium between much state and too great familiarity."

In 1793 Washington, in his second term as President, wrote to Congress that, while he sought peace and urged a faithful discharge of every duty toward others, he recommended prompt measures not only for defense, but for enforcing just claims.

"There is a rank due the United States among other nations which will be withheld, if not absolutely lost, by the reputation of weakness. If we desire to avoid insult we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war," he wrote.

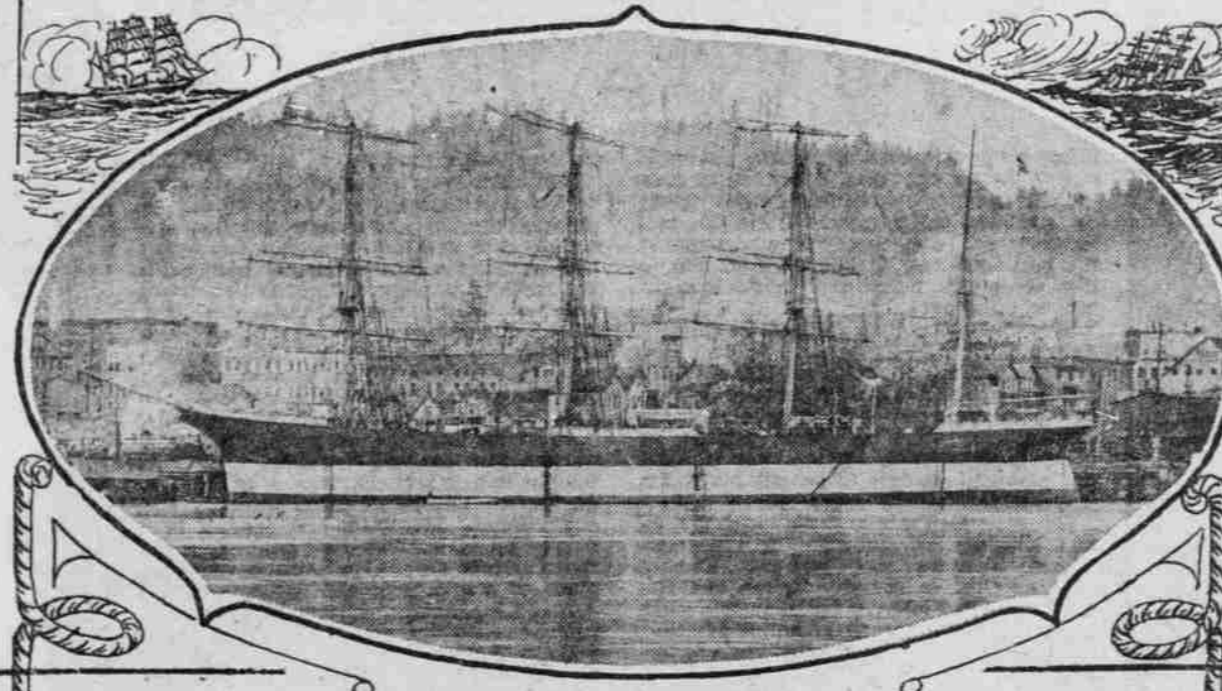
As he wished to avoid war, so he also wished to avoid alliances which might jeopardize the peace of the Nation. "Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake," he said warningly. "The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations is in extending our commercial relations to have as little political connection as possible. . . . If we remain one people under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may deny material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we may at any time be resolved upon to be scrupulously respected; when belligerents, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest, guided by justice, shall counsel."

"It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world; so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it; for let me not be understood as patronizing infidelity to existing engagements. . . . Taking care always to keep ourselves, by suitable establishments, on a respectable defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies."

"It is conceded that America under an efficient government will be the most favorable country of any in the world for persons of industry and frugality, and possessed of a moderate capital," wrote Washington to David Henderson. "It is also believed that it will not be less advantageous to the happiness of the lowest class of people, on account of the equal distribution of property, the great plenty of unoccupied lands and the facility of procuring the means of subsistence. . . . Although I believe that emigrants from other countries to this who shall be well disposed and conduct themselves properly would be treated with equal friendship and kindness in all parts of it, yet in the old settled states land is so much occupied and the value so much enhanced by continuous cultivation that the price would in general be an objection." He recommends the frontier region in what is now Ohio, then opening up, as offering great advantages to young men looking for a place in which to settle.

When Washington, at the end of his second term as President, retired to Mount Vernon he desired nothing better than the life of a private citizen with his family and friends. He devoted himself sedulously to the interests of his farm, and a visitor expressed his astonishment to find the distinguished man laboring with his own hands. A comrade in arms who came from Kentucky in his frontiersman clothing was not daunted from calling upon Washington by the report that he had become "puffed up" by an aristocrat. Washington saw him coming and hastened to meet him at the door and draw him in. "I never was better treated," the Kentuckian reported afterward. "I had not believed a word against him, and I found he was 'old Ross' still." When summoned, Washington served upon the petty jury of his county as simply, as unaffectedly and as efficiently as he had served as President of his country.

INTERNEED IN PORTLAND HARBOR, GERMAN SHIP DALBEK.



BY BEN HUR LAMPMAN.

Little I ever thought to feel
Envy tremble from truck to keel,
When squat little tugs creep by;
Mine the thrill of the open road—
Glad grey waves were the path I strode,
Joy of service both gift and goad—
The comrade of sea and sky.

Little I ever thought to know
Mooring bonds when the good winds blow,
And work of the world awaits,
Mine the task of the laden hold,
My beat the blast and blaring cold,
Or drowsy tides where coral tolled
The peril of stranger straits.

What should I care for wars and plots—
Dire torpedoes and heave-to shots—
Whose trade was no hidden shame?
They leashed me to an alien shore,
Gave me orders to sail no more—
Wind behind and the seas before—
They broke the rules of the game!

Give me the right-of-way again
To strain my spars and play again,
Set free as the vagrant gulls—
Gulls that swing from the darling sea
Crying the gossip dear to me—
Little care I that my port may be
The haven of missing hulls!