

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CHURCH



THE first president of the United States was a church-goer in the true sense of the word. There have been public men in the history of the nation who went to church far more regularly after they were elected to high official positions—or at least after they were nominated for such places of distinction—than they ever did before. However, it would seem that no such fluctuation in church devotion can be charged against George Washington. He was naturally and instinctively a religious man and he made every effort to attend divine worship every Sunday, no matter where he might happen to be. This was the case even in the trying days of the War for Independence.

However, Washington was enabled to be most regular in attendance at church when in his home state of Virginia. And yet, even in the Old Dominion, church-going required much more of an effort on his part than is exacted of the average public man today. Washington made his home, as is well known, on the vast estate known as Mount Vernon, and there was no church on the estate or in the immediate vicinity. Attendance at divine worship involved, therefore, a journey of greater or less length by coach, and this was not always pleasant, as any person may readily surmise who has had experience with the "red mud" of old Virginia in the winter or following heavy rains. That he was as persistent as he was in church-going under such circumstances casts an interesting sidelight upon the character of Washington.

George Washington attended, from time to time, various churches located within driving distance of his home at Mount Vernon, but the place of worship to which he most frequently repaired was and is located in the town of Alexandria—for, he explained, the historic edifice stands to this day in a perfect state of preservation. This structure, Christ church, to give it its proper title, has for more than a century been known as "George Washington's church," not only because he attended its services more regularly than those at any other church, but because he was a member and a pew-holder at this church.

It was, indeed, while Washington was a member that the congregation in the year 1767 built the stately house of worship which has not only defied all the ravages of time but is in regular use to this day and has been, even within very recent years, the scene of many interesting religious ceremonies. Something of George Washington's interest in the new church may be surmised from the fact that when it came to assigning pews in the new edifice he outbid all other members in the competition to win first choice of location and subscribed the record-breaking price of nearly \$150 for the pew upon which his fancy had fallen and which he regularly occupied on almost every Sunday thereafter. This pew is marked with a silver plate bearing a facsimile of Washington's autograph, and it is interesting to note that just across the aisle is the pew long held by the Lees of Virginia and which was occupied prior to the Civil War by Gen. Robert E. Lee, the military leader of the Confederacy.

The pew which George Washington bespoke when Christ church was first opened and for which he agreed to pay a yearly rental of five pounds sterling (equivalent to nearly \$25) in addition to the thirty-six pounds, ten shillings which he subscribed for it at the outset is now reserved for the use of strangers, and this is a much appreciated courtesy on the part of the present congregation, for, of course, every stranger who visits Alexandria longs to sit in the great square pew which was once occupied by "His Excellency, the General," and to gaze up at the high pulpit from exactly the viewpoint of the Father of His Country in the days when he was the most conspicuous participant in the church services.

George Washington's pew in the old church remains to this day exactly as it was when he occupied it each Sunday morning, and this preservation is a matter of congratulation inasmuch as all the other pews in the church were somewhat changed in style in the year 1869. The Washington pew is in reality a double pew, or two pews, bearing the numbers 59 and 60. This pew, which is located on the left side of the church, has two seats, one facing the other, and there is a third cross seat against the wall, so that there was supposedly ample room

for the Washington family and the relatives or house guests who so often accompanied the distinguished Virginian to church. In the vestry room of the church may be seen the original official record of Washington's purchase of his pew upon the completion of the church, which, by the way, had been under construction for several years.

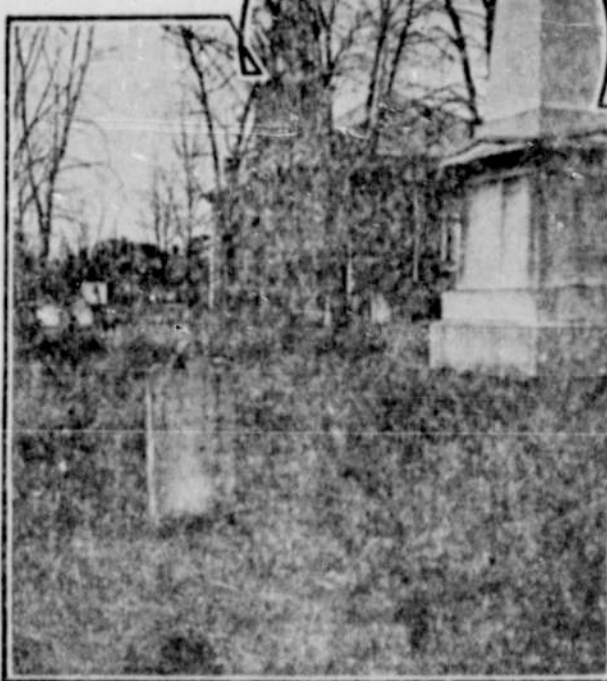
And, speaking of the vestry room, it may be of interest to explain that George Washington was himself a vestryman of Christ church. Indeed, the young landed proprietor, then but 33 years of age, was among the first vestrymen chosen when Fairfax parish, to which the town of Alexandria belongs, was created about the year 1765. It was a couple of years later that the congregation decided to build a church and the edifice was not finished to the last detail until a few years before the firing of "the shot heard round the world." From that day to this the exterior of the church has undergone practically no alteration. At one time some alterations were made in the interior, but later this was wisely decided to have been a mistake and the church was restored to the style of Colonial days. Some of the original fittings, notably the sounding board and the wine-glass pulpit, had disappeared in the course of the transition, but these were replaced by facsimiles of the originals.

Many of the most interesting objects in Christ church are the genuine originals which were here in Washington's time. For instance, there is the elaborate crystal chandelier of solid brass with its twelve candlesticks typifying the twelve Apostles. Nor, indeed, is this the only reminder of the days when the church was lighted by candles, for on the pillars one may yet detect under the paint the marks of the tinder boxes. The chancel rail and mural tablets of the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed, which always arrest the attention of visitors, are relics of the days when George Washington was a leading member of the congregation, and so likewise are the communion table, reading desk and chairs. After all, however, perhaps the most curious of these mementoes of a bygone age are the long-handled purses which were used in Washington's time to receive the offerings of the congregation.

The baptismal font, which is much admired, is not a relic of the Washington period, although it was put in place nearly a century ago. However, the church boasts the possession of its first Bible and church service, the



HISTORIC CHRIST CHURCH AT ALEXANDRIA, VA.



THE OLD GRAVEYARD SURROUNDING GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CHURCH



AN UNOFFICIAL BUT AUTHENTIC PORTRAIT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

Bible having been printed in Edinburgh in the year 1767. Of the latter-day contributions to the contents of the historic edifice there may be mentioned the silver plate

bearing a representation of the autograph signature of Robert E. Lee and the twin mural tablets set in place in 1879 which are inscribed in memory of George Washington and Robert Edward Lee. These various objects are of sufficient interest to attract a continual stream of visitors to the old church, and while (unlike historic churches abroad) the edifice is not officially open on week days, the sexton can usually be found on the premises and will obligingly open the doors on request and without demanding the inevitable "tip" which is besought by caretakers of similar institutions abroad.

Quite as interesting as old Christ church itself or any of its historic contents is the graveyard which well nigh surrounds the edifice and is enclosed by a quaint wall and fence. Here are buried many of the close personal friends and neighbors of General Washington—men and women whose names are well known to history—and the inscriptions on the ancient tombstones seem decidedly odd in the eyes of modern visitors. Christ church is not located in the most frequented section of the ancient town of Alexandria, but its lofty spire, or rather tower, renders it easy for the stranger to identify and find his way to the time-honored brick edifice and on Washington's Birthday anniversary he has, indeed, but to "follow the crowd."

To Join Black and Caspian.

Swiss engineers have convinced the Russian government that it is perfectly feasible to bore a tunnel through the Caucasian mountains near Tiflis, in order to join the Black and Caspian seas. This will be a tremendous undertaking, as the tunnel will be about sixteen miles in length, and the Russian government had practically decided that it was beyond the limit of reality. However, the Swiss experts have reported that the tunnel could be built within seven years without much difficulty, but at a great expense. A Paris firm of bankers, it is understood, is supporting the enterprise which will be put into execution about the early part of 1913.

Valuable Dog—Some Day.

Brother Jimpson says he owns a dog that not only points and retrieves, but he has taught him to spin on his tail like a top when he smells gasoline. Brother Jimpson says he's trying to develop a breed of dogs that will be invaluable in warfare, to point fighting aeroplanes trying to sneak over camp at night.

RICH POULTRY BY-PRODUCT

Chicken Run, When Planted to Cultivated Crop, Will Give Large Crop of Anything Planted.

All farm animals yield an annual profit beyond their other earning capacity in their manure or droppings. If their droppings are saved and used right, they will amount to about 25 per cent. of the feed consumed.

Did you ever notice how fertile the soil becomes around the poultry house and grounds after the poultry have run on the grounds for a year or two? Such poultry runs, when planted to a cultivated crop, will yield very large crops of almost anything that may be planted. The reason is that the droppings from the poultry, including feathers shed, have supplied the soil with a variety of the richest fertilizers that contain a variety of both mineral and organic compounds.

Poultry droppings are the richest of all animal excreta from the fact that birds consume a large quantity of mineral matter for the production of egg shells, and also that their food is ground up almost as fine as powder in the gizzard, hence the residue is highly soluble. Manure of poultry contains nitrogen, the most useful of all the elements in plant growth, in two forms—ammonia and mineral nitrates. It also contains lime, phosphorus, potash and a number of other fertilizing elements. Pigeon manure is the richest of all poultry fertilizers, being worth commercially about \$75 a ton, or 2 1/2 cents a pound; more valuable, bulk for bulk, than the feed they eat. Chicken manure is worth from \$25 to \$40 per ton, or as much as the highest grade commercial fertilizers. With a good sized flock of chickens and the right methods of handling the droppings, the average farmer could save a large share of his commercial fertilizer bill.

Not all, by any means, of the poultry droppings are saved and used on the average farm. Much of them fall upon the ground of the run and dissolve away where they are not needed. If these grounds are ever put in cultivation some of the richness is saved and will be represented in the extra growth of the crop. However, these grounds are seldom used for cultivated crops, and the good is never realized from this rich by-product of the poultry yard. The writer knows of a very large poultry yard on a farm where the top soil is probably four inches deep with this rich fertilizer, so rich that if the space were planted to corn it would yield more than 100 bushels to the acre. On the same farm land is annually cultivated that scarcely pays for the labor and seed used. The people running this farm do not fully realize the value of the poultry manure, or they are too apathetic to remove it to the fields and gardens where it would do much good.

EXCELLENT AS A FERTILIZER

Hen Manure is Very Rich If Properly Prepared—Varies According to Character of Feed.

Hen manure and poultry manure are very rich in fertilizing constituents, especially nitrogen, due to the facts that in addition to the undigested residue of the food it contains, the urinary secretions in which are large amounts of nitrogen as well as potash, in ready available form, are voided with the solid excrement in this class of animals. The analyses which have been made show that hen manure is very variable in composition, depending upon the stage of growth of the fowl, the character of the feed and the care taken of the manure. The nitrogen has been found to vary from about 0.7 to 2 per cent., the phosphoric acid from 0.5 to 2 per cent., and the potash from 0.25 to 0.9 per cent. This shows that such manure, if properly cared for, is much richer than that of other farm animals. It, however, quickly loses its nitrogen by fermentation and deteriorates in value if not properly mixed with absorbents and preservatives. Various methods of preventing this loss have been proposed.

The New York station advises: "When the manure is not used when fresh it is better to mix with earth, muck or plaster." The Massachusetts state station says: "The value of hen manure depends not less on the care which is bestowed on its keeping than on the kind of food the fowls consume. A liberal use of plaster kieselguire or of good loam is highly commendable for the absorption of ammonia. A sandy soil is of little use as an absorbent."

How Fire Blight Attacks.

Fire blight is caused by bacterial cankers on the tree. The tree is bruised by picking apples, injured by borers or in some other way. Through the bruised portions the bacteria enter.

Poor Land.

Land which is too poor to raise a good crop of grain is too poor to produce abundant pasture, no matter whether it be sown to rape, cane, or any other crop.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Acts directly and peculiarly on the blood; purifies, enriches and revitalizes it, and in this way builds up the whole system. Take 2. Get it today. In usual liquid form or in chocolate coated tablets called Sarsatabs.

MEXICAN MUSTANG LINIMENT

FOR SPRAINS.

G. M. Northrop, Bisbee, Ariz., writes: "I have been using Mexican Mustang Liniment for a sprained foot with great results. It is a wonderful remedy for such ailments. It penetrates quickly, removes all inflammation and reduces the swelling." 25c. 50c. \$1 a bottle at Drug & Gen'l Stores.

Ornamental Second Husband. "I look on a second husband as a good dessert after a fine dinner and a woman oughter swallow one when offered without no mincing. Of course, there never was such a man as Mr. Satterwhite, but he was always mighty busy, while Cal Rucker is a real pleasure to me, a setting around the house on account of his soft constitution. Mr. Satterwhite, I'm thankful to say, left me so well provided for that I can afford Mr. Rucker as a kind of ornament."—Maria Thompson Davies in "Rose of Old Harpeth."

Can't Get Away From Them. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating; you can't get away from that," says an advertisement. And the Manhattan Mercury adds: "There are a lot more equally trite bits of wisdom that it seems impossible to get away from."—Kansas City Star

SYRUP OF FIGS AND ELIXIR OF SENNA

Cleanses the System effectually; Dispels colds and Headaches due to constipation. Best for men, women and children: young and old.

To get its Beneficial effects, always note the name of the Company. CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. plainly printed on the front of every package of the Genuine

DENTIST

Do you want to be your own dentist? Do you want to do away with big dental bills and the dread of the dental chair? Do you want to have good, sound and beautiful teeth? If you use Fuchi Dental Paste it will absolutely prevent decay and give to the teeth that pearly white appearance and to the gums the firmness and colour of health. Tubes, 50c; large tube, \$1.

YOUTH AND BEAUTY

Preserve the beauty and youthful appearance of the face by the application of Fuchi Massage Cream, which feeds the skin, thereby filling out and preventing wrinkles and destroying blackheads, and gives the skin the blush and glow of youth. The marvelous complexion of the high class Oriental, which has been a mystery to Europeans, is due to the use of preparations made from this receipt. Put up in glass, \$1.

This is the first time the above-mentioned preparations have been offered for sale in America. A limited supply is to be had by addressing:

(Branch) FUCHI LABORATORIES
Suite 9, 342 1/2 Washington St.,
P. O. Box 9000, Portland, Oregon.

BAKER'S Bu-Kola Tablets

Best Nerve and Kidney Tonic on Earth



Before Taking. After Taking. Will make you sleep better, eat better, because they rebuild your broken-down nerves. Act on the kidneys and give permanent relief for backache and all bladder troubles. Sold only by the MURPHY DRUG CO., 283 Broadway St., Cor. Fifth, Portland, Oregon. 25c a box, 5 boxes \$1.00, by mail, postage paid.