

The Greatness of Washington

EVERY nation has some great figure of its own by which it fixes the standard of greatness in man, but to America was given a figure whose greatness is more than national. The greatness of George Washington, observes a writer in the Kansas City Star, is universal, like that of Shakespeare; his name and fame abide in all lands.

The explanation is not difficult to find. Washington's greatness was in the man, and was not made by events. As a soldier he met defeat more often than victory, yet as a soldier he takes rank with the greatest in all lands and all ages. Washington lost many battles, but he never lost an army, and in that he outranks Napoleon. He had both the courage to fight and the courage to decline fighting, for his judgment always held complete sway over the man. He could afford not to win; he could not afford to lose. "The old fox," the British generals called him, and called him well. He had the supreme faculty, without which there can be no great generalship, of making himself invisible, of turning up at unexpected places, of striking and disappearing.

Napoleon's soldiers in the first Italian campaign boasted that they won their general's victories with their legs. It was Washington's ability to move his army that saved the Revolution. The greatest military victory of the war was won at Saratoga by a third-rate general. The greatest military achievement of the war was Washington's retreat across the Jerseys, after having been beaten twice. We do not need Von Moltke's word for this, though he was a good judge, nor Cornwallis', though he was present. We have the pointing finger of history to read by. On that retreat the American Fabius—and the term was then one of reproach to Washington—snatched two victories that remain classics in war. With a beaten army in full retreat, in the dead of winter, he surprised and defeated two British armies in quick succession and got away before either could know where he came from or where he went. Trenton and Princeton stand high above Saratoga in military annals. In daring and in swiftness these movements are unsurpassed. The risks were great, yet were taken by a general whose cautionness is a maxim of military science. Nothing approached these movements until a generation later when Napoleon, fainting at England, threw his army from the channel to Ulm.

Did Not Love War.

Washington was a great soldier who did not love war. As a youth he felt, as he confessed, a "bent for arms," and Horace Walpole records that the young Virginia militia officer wrote in a dispatch from his first field something about the "charming sound" of the bullets. The dispatch is not authentic. In the fullness of his fame Washington was asked if he wrote it. "If I did," he replied gravely, "it was when I was very young." Without loving war for glory or waging it for fame, Washington rose to the front rank in an art pursued for a great cause alone, refusing pay for his services and laying down command in the hour of victory, and while the world rang with his renown, to retire to the life of a Virginia farmer.

If Washington's public life had ended with the end of the Revolution and his fame rested on his military achievement alone, we should still have to place him among the foremost of mankind.

But Washington's constructive genius was not misled by the results of the war. The military victory of the colonies ushered in their real test; it was then to be determined whether statesmanship could create a nation to seal the victory in the field; whether the idea of nationality could supplant in provincial minds the raw conception of the sovereignty of detached and jealous colonies. Washington the soldier retires from history, and Washington the statesman emerges. As the voice of Massachusetts called him to the command of armies, the voice of all now called the same great leader to guide the deliberations of that body that made the Constitution under which we live today. Here again the American Fabius displayed the daring of Trenton. The colonies were not ready for nationality, but the cautious but sure judgment of Washington risked giving it. The Virginia plan drawn by Madison had his approval. It must be nationally or anarchy. Washington took the risk, knowing it to be a risk, declaring that what the convention did might be rejected by the people, but approving and guiding the deed. Let it be conceded that the mentality of Madison and Hamilton made the Constitution—the weight of the character of Washington ballasted it. His name carried it. His statesmanship executed it in the first feeble years of the young republic.

Broad in His Views.

We have been told many times, says a school boy in an oration, that Washington was not a genius, but a person of excellent common sense, of admirable judgment, of rare virtues. He belonged to that rare class of men who are broad enough to include all the facts of people's practical life, and deep enough to discern the spiritual laws which animate and govern those facts.

Caesar was merciful, Scipio was r...

but it was reserved for Washington to blend them all in one, and, like the lovely masterpiece of the artist, to exhibit, in one glow of associated beauty, the pride of every model, and the perfection of every master. A conqueror, he was untainted with crime of blood; a revolutionist, he was free from any stain of treason, for aggression commenced the contest and his country called him to the command.

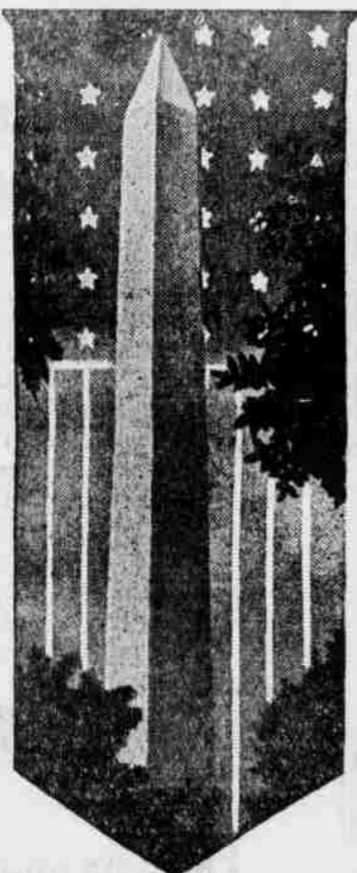
If he had paused there history might have doubted what station to assign him; whether at the head of her citizens or her soldiers, her heroes or her patriots. But the last glorious act crowns his career and banishes all hesitation. Who, like Washington, after having emancipated a hemisphere, resigned its crown and preferred the retirement of domestic life to adoration of a land he might be almost said to have created.

Just honor to Washington can only be rendered by observing his precepts and imitating his example. He has built his own monument. We and those who come after us in successive generations are its appointed, its privileged guardians, the widespread republic is the future monument to Washington. Maintain its independence, defend its liberty. Let it stand before the world in all its original strength and beauty, securing peace, order, equality and freedom to all within its boundaries and shedding light and hope and joy upon the pathway of human liberty throughout the world—and Washington needs no other monument. Other structures may fully testify our veneration for him; this, this alone can adequately illustrate his services to mankind.

Washington Set the Style.

Washington created a bit of astonishment among his friends at one time when he appeared wearing a coat with pink conch-shell buttons sparkling on its dark velvet surface. But, following the lead of the president, conch-shell buttons became a fad.

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT



After the great Washington monument in the city of Washington was 150 feet in the air the entire foundation of stone was taken out and a new foundation of concrete was substituted.

WASHINGTON'S TOMB

GREAT kings of old have wrapped their round in state, And, clothed in splendor, yielded gold up their breath. Dreaming a monarch's fame should outlast Death, And gold and jewels stay the hand of Fate.

The treasures of the earth have decked their tombs; With amber, topaz, diamonds and jade Have skillful craftsmen their dark house inlaid, As though their jeweled gleam might light Death's glooms.

Yet have kings slept the centuries away, Their names forgotten and their glories dim; And no man's lips have named the name of him Who walked as walks a god, a little day.

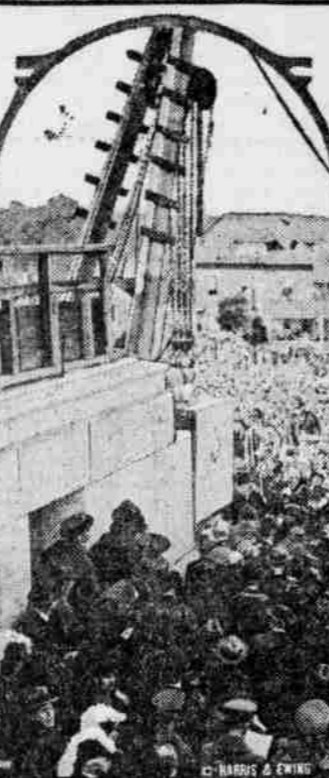
But thou, a Country's honor and its pride, How void of splendor is thy sleeping place! For no man's hand has skill enough to trace The story of thy worth, thy grave beside.

Yet here shall gather through all passing days, So long as men shall reverence the true, Children and children's children, to Thy Country's homage in their heart-felt praise.

Sleep thou serenely on the earth's soft breast; Better than radiant gems or dazzling gold Our love and reverence about thee fold; In nobler state what king would ask to rest!

—Lutz Whittlesey.

New Washington Memorial



Scene at the recent cornerstone-laying of the George Washington Masonic Memorial at Alexandria, Va. President Coolidge used the trowel used by Washington when he laid the cornerstone of the Capitol building in Washington, D. C.

"Mississippi Dragons"

Two devil-like monsters painted and carved on the face of a cliff 80 feet above the Mississippi river near Alton, Ill., were discovered by the French explorers Marquette and Joliet in June, 1683. They were known as the "Piasa petroglyph" to archeologists and were commonly called the Mississippi dragons. They were ranked as the finest example of early Indian art, and many legends were told to account for them. Marquette described them as being "as large as a calf, with horns on the head like a deer, a fearful look, red eyes, bearded like a tiger, the face somewhat like a man's, the body covered with scales and the tail so long that it twice makes a turn of the body, passing over the head and down between the legs, and ending at last in a fish's tail." The painting was in an almost inaccessible place on the cliff and remained there until 1856 or '57, when limestone workers quarried back into the bluff and destroyed it.

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WASHINGTON ON NATURE

A GREAT deal of rain fell last night and the heaviest sleet I ever recollect to have seen. The boughs of all the trees were incrustated by tubes of ice quite round, at least half an inch thick—the weight of which was so great that my late transplantations in many instances sunk under it, either by bending the bodies of the young trees—breaking the limbs or weighing up the roots—the largest pines in my outer circle were quite oppressed by the ice and bowed to the ground, and the largest catalpa trees had some of their principal branches broken.

"A great hoar frost and ice at least one-eighth of an inch thick—what injury this may have done to the fruit and vegetation will soon be seen. The buds of every kind of tree and shrub are swelling—the tender leaves of many had unfolded—the apricot blossoms were putting forth—the peaches and cherries were upon the point of doing the same. The leaves of the apple trees were coming out, those of the weeping willow and the lilac had been out many days and were the first to show themselves. The sassafras was ready to open—the red bud had begun to open but not to make any show; the dogwood had swelled into buttons. The service tree was showing its leaf, and the maple had been full in bloom ten days or a fortnight. Of this tree, I observed great difference in the colour of the blossoms; some being of a deep scarlet, bordering upon crimson, others of a pale red, approaching yellow."

"Found what is called the spire bush (a fragrant aromatic shrub) in bloom—perceived this to be the case on Monday, also as I returned from Alexandria and supposed it had been blown two or three days—it is a small greenish flower, growing round the twigs and branches, and will look well in a shrubbery."

"Its light and airy foliage, crimson and variegated flowers, presented a gay and new appearance; continually whilst I was visited by the brilliant thundering humming bird."—Quotations from Washington in James H. Pennington's "George Washington as a Man of Letters."

Washington Note Sells for \$1,575

A LETTER written by George Washington, regarded as most interesting, changed hands recently at a sale in the Anderson galleries of auto-

graphs from the library of the late Henry Cady Sturges of New York city. The price paid for the letter was \$1,575. This is the letter in which Washington said he was not inclined to accept the presidency. The missive was addressed to Jonathan Trumbull. The letter reads:

"Mount Vernon, Dec. 4th, 1788.

"My dear Sir: It is sometime since I had the pleasure to receive your favor of the 28th of October—but as I had nothing particular to send in return, I postponed writing until the present time to see whether anything new would turn up.—Nothing of importance has occurred.—But in the meantime, I was extremely happy to find that your State was going on so well as to federal affairs; and you will permit me to say that I have not been a little pleased with observing that your name stood so high in the nomination for Representatives to Congress.—"

"In general the appointments to the Senate seem to have been very happy.—Much will depend upon having disinterested and respectable characters in both Houses.—For if the New Congress should be composed of characters in whom the citizens will naturally place a confidence, it will be a most fortunate circumstance for conciliating their good will to the government—and then, if the government can be carried on without touching the purses of the people too deeply, I think it will not be in the power of the adversaries of it, to throw everything into confusion, by effecting premature amendments.—A few months will, however, show what we are to expect."

"I believe you know me sufficiently well, my dear Trumbull, to conceive that I am very much perplexed & distressed in my own mind, respecting the subject to which you allude."

"If I should (unluckily for me), be reduced to the necessity of giving an answer to the question, which you suppose will certainly be put to me, I would fain do what was in all respects best.—But how can I know what is best, or on what shall I determine? May Heaven assist me in forming a judgment; for at present, I see nothing but clouds and darkness before me.—Thus much I may safely say to you in confidence; if ever I should, from apparent necessity, be induced to go from home in a public character again—it will certainly be the greatest sacrifice of feeling & happiness that ever was or ever can be made by him, who will have in all situations, the pleasure to profess himself, with sentiments of real esteem."

"Your affectate friend and obedient Servant,
(Signed) "G. WASHINGTON."

Washington : From Painting by Stuart



This remarkable painting of the Father of our Country depicts him as he appeared during the trying days at the close of the Revolutionary struggle. The painting is by Gilbert Stuart.

U. S. Land Office at The Dalles, Ore.
Dec. 26, 1923.
NOTICE is hereby given that Jacob A. Dexter, of Heppner, Ore., who, on March 5, 1819, made H. E. No. 020442 and on July 12, 1920, made additional H. E. No. 020443, for NE 1/4, N 1/2 NW 1/4, SE 1/4 NW 1/4, N 1/2 SE 1/4, Sec. 20, NW 1/4 NE 1/4, NW 1/4, N 1/2 SW 1/4, Sec. 21, Township 4-South, Range 24-East, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three year Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before Gay M. Anderson, United States Commissioner, at Heppner, Oregon, on the 6th day of February, 1924.

Claimant names as witnesses: J. N. Batty, of Eightmile, Ore.; F. M. Lovgren, of Heppner, Ore.; G. I. Burnside, of Eightymile, Ore.; H. D. McGurdy, of Ione, Ore.
J. W. DONNELLY, Register.

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THE HERALD