

FOR WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

Here's to the tree and the cherries it bore; Here's to the hatched that smote it full sore; Here's to the hatch that was best and true; Here's to his colors, the red, white, and blue; Here's to his sword with the laurel entwined; Here's to the hero in all hearts engrained!

THE HUMAN SIDE OF WASHINGTON.

Stories by Contemporaries That Portray the Lovable Character of the Father of His Country.

The story of every man's life, if written accurately, would be but a series of incidents and anecdotes so arranged and related as to form a connected whole. Accounts of the lives of great men, whether told by the historian, the biographer or the novelist, are replete with incidents which, even if detached from the body of the writing, often-times give one an interesting insight into their character and every-day life. The late Paul Leicester Ford—more than any other one man, perhaps—collected and prepared much valuable information of this sort in regard to George Washington. From such authoritative sources as his book, "The True George Washington," as well as from some earlier writers of stories, history and biography have been taken the following anecdotes of this man, whose life as individual, soldier, statesman and Father of his country, is to this day read of and loved and honored.

Love of country was of no higher importance to Washington than his love for his mother, concerning whose health and welfare he was ever most solicitous. He is known to have assured her that he would "never withhold from you any aid or support I can give, for whilst I have a shilling left you shall have part."

GOOD TO HIS GUESTS.

Thoughtfulness of his guests was a striking characteristic in the make-up of Washington. An incident which illustrates this comes down to us, as told by Ekanah Watson. Watson was visiting Washington at his Mount Vernon home, after his retirement from the Presidency. He was, he says, extremely oppressed by a severe cold and excessive coughing, contracted by the exposure of a harsh journey. Washington pressed me to use some remedies, but I declined doing so. As usual, after retiring, my coughing increased. When some time had elapsed the door of my room was gently opened, and, on drawing my bed-curtains, to my utter astonishment I beheld Washington himself standing at my bedside with a bowl of hot tea in his hand.

It is said that the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental troops—which were preparing to receive the British on the surrender of Yorktown—was heard to speak the following words to a portion of the army: "My brave fellows, let no sensation of the satisfaction for the triumphs you have gained induce you to insult your fallen enemy. Let no shouting, no clamorous huzzahing, in any form, be permitted. It is sufficient satisfaction to us that we witness their humiliation. Posterity will huzzah for us."

TRAITS OF WASHINGTON.

A more particular follower of fashion than George Washington would have been hard to find. Most of his clothes were ordered from London, and no out-of-date apparel would please him. He once told a friend that "we often have articles sent to us that could only have been used in the days of yore." One of his orders to London included "as much of the best superfine blue cotton velvet as will make a coat, a waist-coat and breeches for a tall man, with a fine silk button to suit it; six pairs of the very neatest shoes; and one dozen of the most fashionable cambric pocket-handkerchiefs."

No one ever knew Washington to be behind-hand on any occasion. Punctuality, which seemed a part of his very nature, he expected to see just as rigidly observed by his friends. When invited to dine with him at a certain hour he expected them to be there. Very often one or two would appear when dinner was almost half over, and to such he would sometimes say in his polite way: "Gentlemen, we are punctual here. My cook never asks whether the company has arrived, but whether the hour has."

Col. Humphreys, who has seen much of public life, was given full charge of all arrangements connected with the reception of the guests at the President's levees. In a letter to Madison, Jefferson says that Col. Humphreys on one such occasion arranged an ante-chamber and a presence-room. In the latter the guests assembled. Its doors were opened wide while Humphreys preceding the President, walked through the ante-chamber and, entering the presence-room, announced in loud voice: "The President of the United States. This rather embarrassed Washington, and later he said to Humphreys, "Well, you have taken me in once, but you shall never take me in a second time."

HIS MARRIED LIFE.

Martha Custis was 26 years old when Washington offered her his hand in marriage. She had been wedded before when only 17, to Daniel Parke Custis, a wealthy Virginia planter, twenty years her senior. Lands and money in plenty were left her at his death. The two little children—aged 4 and 6 respectively at the time of her second marriage—were always treated with the greatest kindness and consideration by their foster-father. In her girlhood days Martha Dandridge was known as one of the society belles of Virginia. And the charm of manner which had in her youth brought her so many suitors and so much favor, never deserted her as she grew older.

Washington was not a believer in the doctrine that marriage is a failure. On the contrary, he wrote many years after his marriage with Martha Custis: "I have always considered marriage the most interesting event of one's life, the foundation of happiness or misery." And Mrs. Washington, practical and industrious, gentle, loving and trustful, seems to have been well fitted to inspire this sentiment in her noble husband. When he rode away to war she wrote in her diary: "Yes, I foresee consequences of dark days and darker nights; social enjoyments abandoned; property of every kind put in jeopardy by war, perhaps; neighbors and friends at variance, and eternal separation on earth possible. But my mind is made up. My heart is in the cause. George is right—he is always right."

AWED BY GREATNESS. The family of Maj. Gen. Nathaniel

Greene were intimate friends of George and Martha Washington. Martha Littlefield Phillips, great-grand-daughter of Greene, has told the public many little stories—as preserved in the Greene family—about Washington and his friends. Very interesting is the account of her grandmother's first interview with Washington, as related in her own words: "The eventful day came, and I was taken by my mother to Mount Vernon to make the longed-for visit. We were graciously welcomed by Mrs. Washington. But my heart was so thick with fluttering, and my tongue so tied, that I made but a stammering semblance of response to her kindly questions. At length the door opened, and Gen. Washington entered the room. I felt my mother's critical eyes, and advanced with the intention of making a courtesy and declaiming the little address previously taught me; instead of which I dropped on my knees at Washington's feet, and burst into tears. All the sources of dramatic art could hardly have devised a more effective coup. Washington stooped and tenderly raised me, saying with a smile, 'Why what is the matter with this foolish child?' The words do not have a tender sound, but language may not convey the gentleness of his manner and the winning softness of his voice as he wiped my tears with his own handkerchief, kissed my forehead, and led me to a seat as he might a young princess. He sat beside me, and with laughing jests, brought me down to the level of my appreciation, banished my sins from my eyes, rescued me from humiliation and brought me back to composure. It guarded me from my mother's outraged eyes, kept me with him while in the drawing room, and had me placed beside him at the dinner table, and with his own hands heaped all of the good things on my plate. After dinner he took me to walk in the garden and, with an intelligent stooping to my intellectual stature, and a sympathetic understanding of my emotional state and need, he drew me into talks on the themes of my daily life, and won me into revelations of my hopes and fears. It has always impressed me as a quaint and pretty picture, that of the famous warrior, statesman and patriot, turning from great affairs and lending himself to the task of making the happiness, and charming the confidence, of a shy, frightened child.

As to Mrs. Washington, the little guest—as she said years later—was so absorbed on this occasion with Gen. Washington, I paid very little attention to his wife. She took small note of me, and the only recollection that comes to me of her in this first interview is that she was handsome, of dignified carriage, and was dressed in a rich figured silk, with an embroidered apron around her waist, and a dainty kerchief draped about her neck and shoulders.

POND OF DANCING.

Dancing was a pastime of which Washington was exceedingly fond. Gen. Greene writes of "a little dance at my quarters a few evenings past. His excellency and Mrs. Greene danced upward of three hours without once sitting down." Knox describes "a most genteel entertainment given by myself and officers, at which Washington danced. We danced all night—an elegant room; the illuminating, fireworks, etc., were more than pretty."

This toast was given by Washington at a dancing assembly in Philadelphia a few days previous to his retirement from the Presidency: "The Dancing Assembly of Philadelphia—May the members thereof, and the fair sex who honor it with their presence, long continue the enjoyment of an amusement so innocent and so agreeable."

Many incidents showing Washington's shrewdness have been recorded by various writers. A good example is an experience he had with Volney, a French revolutionist. Volney wrote to the President asking him for a letter of introduction to the American people. Washington had reasons for not wishing to give it, and yet with the utmost courtesy, and apparently, and certainly with a deal of tact, he simply wrote back the words: "C. Volney needs no recommendation from G. Washington."

WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL TO HIS SOLDIERS.

From history we may read of Washington's farewell to his officers. At noon the principal officers of the army, assembled at Fraunce's tavern, soon after which their beloved commander entered the room. His emotions were so strong he could not be concealed. Turning to them he said: "With a heart full of love and gratitude I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your later days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable. I cannot come to expect you to take my leave, but shall be obliged to you if each of you will come and take me by the hand. Gen. Knox, being nearest, turned to him. Incapable of utterance, Washington grasped his hand and embraced him. In the same affectionate manner he took leave of each succeeding officer. In every eye was the tear of dignified sensibility; and not a word was articulated to interrupt the majestic silence and the tenderness of the scene. Leaving the room, he passed through the corps of light infantry and walked to Whitehall, where a barge was waiting to convey him to Powleshook. The company followed in solemn procession, with dejected countenance. Having entered the barge he turned to the company and waving his hat, bade them a silent adieu. Hyde, Washington's steward, was well aware of the President's liking for shad. One time, when the season was as yet barely opened and the price was correspondingly high, the finest shad procurable was obtained as a pleasant surprise. With much pleasure Hyde sent the tempting dish to the table. Washington at once asked the price, and upon learning that it had cost \$3, he called for the steward and, in a rebuking tone, he said: "Take it away, sir; take it away. It shall never be said that my table sets such an example of luxury and extravagance."

A SHREWD CALCULATOR.

Much of Washington's success was due to the fact that he would spare himself no effort—whether he was doing an act of kindness, or concerning himself in matters of importance to the nation. A humorous story illustrating this very characteristic, is the "church site anecdote." Washington and his neighbor, old Mr. Mason were both vestrymen of Po-hick church, the members of which were planning to erect a new building on a different site. At a meeting called to discuss the matter Mr. Mason favored the old location, while Col. Washington just as strongly urged a new one. The matter was put off for a few days for further deliberation. When the people again assembled Mr. Mason made an eloquent plea, placing special stress on the sacred-

ness of old associations, and at the close of his somewhat faltering peroration, his listeners were evidently all won to his way of thinking. Then Washington arose, at the same time unfolding a sheet of paper. It contained exact measurement, which he himself had made, of the distance from the old site to everybody's house in the parish, and also the distance from every house in the parish to the site which he favored. The conclusion was an arithmetical calculation showing that a decision in his favor would "cause the most people the least trouble." His argument won the day.

A STEADY CHURCH GOER.

Bishop Meade is said to have quoted Rev. Lee Massey, rector of this church, as saying: "I never new so constant an attendant in church as Washington was, and his behavior in the house of God was ever so deeply reverential that it produced the happiest effect on my congregation and greatly assisted me in my pulpit labors. No company ever with-drawn from church. I have often been at Mount Vernon on Sabbath morning when his breakfast table was filled with guests. But to him they furnished no pretext for neglecting his God and losing the satisfaction of setting a good example. For instead of staying at home, out of huge tin contrivances of the fashion-ably to invite them to accompany him."

A Story of Starch.

Starch keeps us "stiff" inside as well as out. Half the food we eat, potatoes and grain products, contains a large amount of starch, which in this form has, of course, been of importance to man since the earliest times. The other use of starch, at the hands of laundresses and careful housewives, began about three hundred and sixty years ago, and is said to have originated in Flanders.

In the reign of Elizabeth, whose courtiers and ladies wore ruffs of cambric too large to stand firm without artificial stiffening. The starch of the Elizabethans was like that of modern times except that it was colored, and it gave delicate tints to the ruffs. In certain contingencies, it is now likely to arise in these times, she would be treated as a subject; but in other respects she is accorded privileges by the realm that are given to no other person save the King.

Washington's Artificial Teeth.

It may not be generally known that the Father of his Country was one of the first Americans to wear artificial teeth. By the time the War of the Revolution had ended he had parted company with most of the teeth which nature had given him. An ingenious physician and dentist of New York City undertook the then unusual task of re-equipment, and produced at length a full set of artificial teeth. These are now, of course, a dental curiosity, and offer an additional proof of the heroism of our first President, for it is a matter of fact that General Washington wore those teeth for many years, and so far as we know, never complained of them.

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The Status of England's Queen.

It may be said that, by reason of curious provisions of law prevailing in Great Britain, the Queen is, for private business purposes, not regarded as a married woman at all, seeing that she is the only woman in the realm who does not come within the scope of the Married Women's Property Act. The principle of this law may be stated simply thus: The King, as such, is entirely different from all other married men. His time is too fully taken up with the affairs of state to permit him to devote any part of the remainder to domestic matters. It follows, therefore, that the whole management of the Queen's private business matters must devolve upon Her Majesty herself, and that no responsibility whatever in respect to them rests upon the King.

If, therefore, such a thing could be imagined as Queen Mary contracting debts in her husband's name, the King would not be responsible for them, as any other husband in Great Britain would be unless he had given due notice to all concerned that he would for the future decline to settle such accounts.

The King may not be sued for the recovery of the amount of money represented by any indebtedness he may incur; but the Queen is accorded no such protection under the British law. She has her own Attorney-General and Solicitor-General to represent her in all her legal matters, though, of course, except for ordinary private business their services are scarcely ever needed.

Authorities have held that, while the Constitution is glad to recognize the Queen, the fact must not be lost sight of that, after all, her position is limited to that of Queen Consort, and that, therefore, she is in a sense one of His Majesty's subjects. In certain contingencies, it is now likely to arise in these times, she would be treated as a subject; but in other respects she is accorded privileges by the realm that are given to no other person save the King.

The signature "George Rex" will be attached to all state documents of such importance as to demand it; but in no circumstances whatever would the corresponding one, "Maria Regina," be allowed to be affixed, either in conjunction with that of George or without it. Should Mary survive the King, many of the privileges that she at present possesses, will be withdrawn from her, only nominally, in some cases, but actually in others, while constitutional law provides that some curious restrictions shall be placed upon her. It will no longer be high treason to plot against her, and it is held by at least one high authority that she could not marry again without the special license and permission of the King's successor.

Fishing with Dogs.

The Ainus of Seghalin Island, off the Siberian coast, have a unique method of fishing for salmon-trout with dogs. The waters about the island are wonderfully clear, and from a boat the bottom of the water is distinctly visible, and innumerable salmon-trout may be seen swimming.

The Ainus, when about to fish, take with them a number of dogs. At certain point all the men and dogs come to a halt. Then half the men and dogs move farther along the water's edge, about two hundred yards.

Cranes That Herd Sheep.

The yakamik of South America is, so far as is known, the only "shepherd bird" of any kind. We have all known, of course, of dogs that, unaided, may be trusted to shepherd a flock of sheep, but a shepherd bird, which will drive its charges to pasture, protect them from prowling animals, and gather them carefully together at night to bring them safely home again, is indeed a unique creature.

The native owners of sheep and poultry in Venezuela and British Guiana are the possessors of this shepherd bird, and to the care of this species of crane—for to that family the yakamik belongs—are entrusted sheep, ducks and other poultry. The South-American sees them depart for their feeding-grounds, secure in the knowledge that the crane will bring them all back safely. Any unlucky animal detected by the yakamik while prowling about at night to steal its prey, is attacked with wing and beak, forcing it to retreat in haste. A dog is no match at all for the yakamik.

At dusk the bird returns with its flock, never losing its way, no matter how far it may wander, for its sense of location is extremely acute. When it arrives home, the yakamik roosts upon a tree or shed near its charges, to be ready to resume its supervision of them when they are let out again in the morning.

This queer bird is said to be as affectionate as it is trustworthy. It will follow its master about with capers of delight, showing its appreciation of any attention given it by the most extraordinary evolutions.

The trouble with most of us is that we never put off till tomorrow the trouble we can borrow today.

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A Safe Explosive.

A new explosive has been discovered in Berlin which is set off only by a special detonator. The inventor was led to the discovery by the fact that certain very powerful explosives can be exploded only by the application of a certain degree of chemical force, the elements of this explosive having such great reciprocal power that ordinary analysis does not permit their separation and violent means are required to break them down. But there are other chemical compounds whose ingredients have so little affinity that they can be separated without difficulty.

Nitrate of ammonium is of the latter class; and when suddenly placed in contact with a source of ignition its acid and ammonia gas elements explode and while exploding the compound decomposes. Ammonal, the explosive obtained by knowledge of the properties of nitrate of ammonium, is excessively powerful and absolutely smokeless, and the products of its combustion are harmless.

This explosive is produced by mixing aluminum in powder with nitrate of ammonium.

The strength of the explosive can be increased by varying the proportions of the elements, and thus rendering them equivalent either to the most active nitrogen or to the most harmless gunpowder, so that ammonal is good for use in mines for blasting, extracting coal or slate, and in places where the work to be done requires a slowly progressive explosive. It is of excellent service when something requiring great precaution and care is to be extracted, such as gold. When the pulverized aluminum in ammonal takes fire it seizes the oxygen of the nitrate of ammonium and the gases force the explosion.

One of several advantages of ammonal is that the men who work with it are absolutely safe. It cannot go off without the agency of its detonator. It is harmless when not exploded. No precautions need be observed either in its use or in storing it. In storage it resists all the changes in temperature as long as it is kept in a dry place.

All sorts of experiments have been made in testing it. A three-pound package of it was thrown in the fire; the package burned, but there was no explosion. A package of one-pound weight was put on a hard rock and pounded with a hammer. The result was what it would have been had the ammonal been sawdust. Another package was placed at the end of a pistol, and the pistol was fired without affecting the explosive.

Thus it was shown that ammonal cannot be exploded except by the touch of its own detonator.

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It may not be generally known that the Father of his Country was one of the first Americans to wear artificial teeth. By the time the War of the Revolution had ended he had parted company with most of the teeth which nature had given him. An ingenious physician and dentist of New York City undertook the then unusual task of re-equipment, and produced at length a full set of artificial teeth. These are now, of course, a dental curiosity, and offer an additional proof of the heroism of our first President, for it is a matter of fact that General Washington wore those teeth for many years, and so far as we know, never complained of them.

The teeth were carved from ivory, and riveted, wired, and clamped to a somewhat ponderous gold plate. Three large clamps, in particular, figure conspicuously in the roof of the mouth, and must have caused difficulty, if not anguish. There were an upper and an under set; and the two were connected and held in position relatively by a long spiral spring on each side.

Nevertheless, Washington wore them long and well; a fact sufficiently attested by the worn and dented condition of both teeth and plate.

At the last account these teeth were the property of a dental institution in Baltimore.

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FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

It is a great service to create an honest smile as we meet one another in this heavy-laden world.—The Rev. Dinsdale T. Young.

An amusing feature for a Washington's Birthday entertainment, says What-to-Do, is to have a story-teller, costumed to represent George Washington, to tell as many improbable yarns as possible. The fun of the game, of course, is founded on the proposition that Washington could not tell a lie. The story-teller should look very serious when relating his yarns and the more absurd stories, the greater the amusement. Another appropriate entertainment of the same nature is to have a story-telling contest, each guest exerting himself to tell the most improbable tale. Either the hostess or a committee of three or more persons decides upon the stories and awards the prize to the greatest Montauschen.

Cherry Tree Contest.—A cherry tree contest affords much amusement. The hostess should secure a bough of a green tree, from the branches of which she suspends by means of green threads several dozen candied or imitation cherries. Each guest is blindfolded in succession, turned around three times, handed a pair of scissors and told to clip as many cherries as he can. Each is allowed two or three minutes in which to do the clipping. The player is supposed to clip into space, whoever he thinks the cherries are, and must not feel for the tree or endeavor to touch it with his hands. The person clipping the greatest number of cherries in the time allowed is awarded a box filled with crystallized fruit.

Burying the hatchet is a feature no less entertaining. Procure a hatchet-shaped candy box, which is bought from nearly any dealer. This can be played as the old familiar game of "hide the thimble" in which the hunter is guided to the hidden hatchet by being told whether he is "hot or cold," or by dividing the candy into equal sections which compete with each other in a hatched-hunting contest. One section adjoins into a hall or neighboring room, while the other hides the hatchet. The first section then returns and is given six guesses in which to locate the hatchet. If the correct location is named, the guessing side wins a point, if not, the other side secures the hiding party next adjoins to the hall and becomes the guessers. And thus the alternation continues several times, and the side with the greatest number of correct guesses to its credit wins the prize. Those on the winning side are often allowed to engage in an individual contest of card cutting or drawing straws or some such simple lot game, to see which one shall finally possess the hatchet filled with candy.

Question Contest.—Any short Washington's Birthday entertainment might be combined with a historical contest, the questions all pertaining to incidents in the life of Washington. Here is an appropriate list of questions with the correct answers:

Question 1. What was the profession of Washington's father? Answer. Planter.

Q. 2. Did George Washington attend any college? A. No.

Q. 3. What was the maiden name of his mother? A. Mary Ball.

Q. 4. In what year was Washington born? A. 1732.

Q. 5. In what State? A. Virginia.

Q. 6. Who sent him on his famous journey through the wilderness? A. Governor Dinwiddie.

Q. 7. What nobleman was his early patron? A. Lord Fairfax.

Q. 8. What position did he hold under Braddock? A. Aide de camp.

Q. 9. When did he marry? A. Mrs. Martha Custis.

Q. 10. How did he act when complimented first on his military service? A. Blushed, stammered and could not speak.

Q. 11. What year was he made continental commander-in-chief? A. 1775.

Q. 12. Where did he spend the winter of 1777? A. Valley Forge.

Q. 13. When was he elected President? A. 1779.

Q. 14. How long did he hold the Presidency? A. Two terms of four years each.

Q. 15. Did he leave children at death? A. No.

Q. 16. Where did he die? A. At Mount Vernon.

Q. 17. Did he hold slaves? A. Yes.

Q. 18. Did he approve of slavery? A. No.

Q. 19. What became of his slaves after their master's death? A. They were set free.

Q. 20. By whom was he called "first in war, first in peace," etc.? A. By the House of Representatives.

Two girls last year gave such a jolly Washington's Birthday entertainment that others may like to copy it.

They sent out invitations to a Colonial dance, the guests being required to wear costumes of the Revolutionary period.

The invitations were homemade and distinctly novel. A square of heavy water-color paper, just big enough to slip into a large envelope, had for a crest a small gilt hatchet surrounded by a border of cherries. Beneath it was the date 1732-1908 in blue and gilt. The invitation was written as for an ordinary party, but was kept in an oblong shape that left an inch and a half border of white paper.

Quite concealing the invitation form was a picture of George Washington, so arranged that it appeared pasted to the card, but by slipping a loop of blue and buff paper it lifted and showed the invitation beneath. The outer edge of the card was finished with lines of blue and buff paint to represent a frame.

Simple Decorations.—Not wishing to go to much expense, the decorations were kept very simple. Nearby friends were called upon to lend Colonial chairs and tables, which were arranged into a cozy corner in one end of the room.

Blue and buff cheesecloth was draped over the doors and windows, and massed in another corner were potted plants and two artificial cherry trees to form a nook for the music, a German band of three pieces.

Tied around the lower half of the tree trunks were great gilt hatchets made of pasteboard.

The refreshments also were kept simple. A great bowl of egg nog, another of lemonade, and steaming hot coffee, made in several French coffee pots furnished drinks, while lemon meringue pies, raisin bread, sponge cake and taffy, all beloved of our ancestors, were the only eatables.

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