

NOBLEST OF WOMEN.

MONUMENT TO THE MOTHER OF WASHINGTON.

Mary Ball, the Typical Woman of the Revolution—She Formed the Character of America's Greatest Patriot, Soldier and Statesman.



THE dedication of a monument at Fredericksburg, Va., to the memory of Mary, the mother of Washington, is very tardy justice to one of the noblest women in American history. Many years ago an effort was made to erect a monument to Mary Ball, the woman who gave to the world the greatest and purest patriot the world has ever known.

The new monument is a beautiful shaft of plain white marble, fifty feet high and eleven feet square at the base, bearing an inscription in embossed letters, simply: "Mary, the Mother of Washington."

The dedicatory exercises on Thursday May 10, 1894, were of the highest interest. There were present a large number of distinguished guests, including President Cleveland and his cabinet, with their wives, Vice-President and Mrs. Stevenson, Chief Justice Fuller, and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, many Senators and Representatives, Gov. O'Ferrall, of Virginia, and a host of other notables from all parts of the Union, including various chapters of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution.

The proceedings were opened by Gov. O'Ferrall, of Virginia, who delivered an address, which, at the special invitation of the Board of Lady Managers, was responded to by President Cleveland, who presided over the subsequent proceedings. Lawrence Washington, the son of Augustine Washington, the favorite nephew of



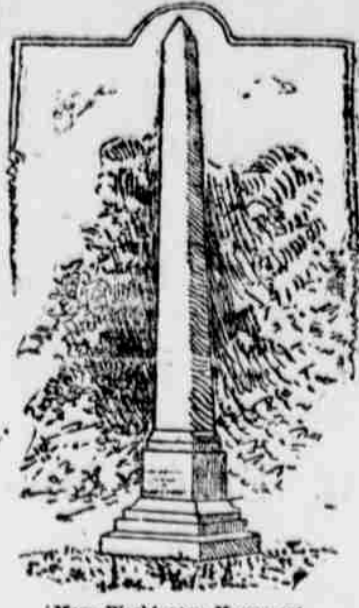
Mary Washington.

the Father of his Country, who inherited Mount Vernon, and sold it to the Association that owns it now, made an address on behalf of the surviving relatives of Washington. John W. Daniel, United States Senator from Virginia, then delivered an eloquent and impressive oration. The distinguished guests were afterward entertained by the ladies of Fredericksburg, in the house in which Mary Washington lived during the revolutionary war, and in which she died August 25, 1879, while her favorite son was serving his first term as President in New York.

In this age of the "coming woman," when a little contempt is expressed in public addresses for the woman of the past, a study of the character of Mary Ball is very interesting. While so little is known of her origin, that the name of her father is actually unknown to this day, there is no doubt as to the fact that she was a woman of remarkable spirit, capacity and loftiness of character, and that Washington not only took his chief traits from her, but that she was also the main instrument in his training and education. On this point there is no disagreement whatever among historians and biographers. Respecting her, Washington himself declared solemnly, "All that I am I owe to my mother." Lafayette, after an interview with her, said: "I have seen the only Roman matron living at this day." Count Rochambeau is reported to have exclaimed after meeting her: "If such are the matrons of America, how well boast of illustrious sons!" One of her neighbors recorded this of her a week following her death: "There is no fame in the world purer than that of the mother of Washington, and no woman since the mother of Christ, has left a better claim to the reverence of mankind." Of her also the adopted son of Washington also wrote, thirty-seven years after her death: "Had she been of the olden time, statues would have been erected to her memory at the capitol, and she would have been called the mother of Romans." History also records the fact that it was the presence of this wise mother that prevented Washington from entering the British navy, when a boy, and

saved him for the more glorious destiny that awaited him.

So far as tradition can be trusted, Mary Ball was a belle in her younger days, handsome, high-spirited and willful. What is really known is that as the widow of Augustine Washington, she was a woman of strong and vigorous character, endowed with great piety and industry, who reared her five children in the love of truth, respect for rightful authority and



Mary Washington Monument.

habits of strict industry. That Washington loved and revered her is well known, but she seems also to have greatly impressed the many prominent men she came into contact with when her son became famous. In addition to great decision and dignity of character, she extracted from Lafayette and other famous men experienced in the courts of Europe the highest expressions of admiration for qualities that are purely feminine. She was undoubtedly a representative of the very noblest and most vigorous type of womanhood.

Slaughter of the Innocents.

Live pigeon shooting from traps will never become generally popular in this country, because it is doubtful if there is any form of so-called "sport" which offers so little amusement for so large a price. It is cheaper to keep a saddle horse and a pair of trotters the year round than to indulge in pigeon shooting to any great extent. The well-known pigeon clubs in the vicinity of New York sell birds to their members for thirty-five cents apiece, and besides this cost the sportsman must pay for his cartridges, feed the men who manipulate the traps, and provide himself with refreshments.

If bets are made and there are many who seek to recoup themselves in this way—the expense is likely to be much greater. In England and on the Continent there are a great many men who are said to make a good living out of pigeon shooting by means of bets made on the matches in which they take part themselves, but here such a means of existence would be looked upon as precarious to say the least.

The birds are supplied to the club members at about their original cost profit is made through their natural increase, as well as by the sale of the dead birds at \$1.20 a dozen and by the returning of those pigeons which escape unhurt to the barn from which they came. The number of pigeons killed during a brief season at the different clubs in the vicinity of New York is very large.

Hypnotism.

"There has been a great deal of stuff and nonsense written about hypnotism, as if it were something very abstruse," said an Arch street physician. "In fact, it is an everyday phase of mental abstraction. Any one may hypnotize himself in a few minutes by closing his eyes, directing them inward and downward, and then, imagining his breath to be vapor, watching its inhalation and expulsion from the nostrils. Babies invariably look cross-eyed before going to sleep, in this way producing what hypnotists call 'trance.' Fishermen often hypnotize themselves watching a cork on a surface of shining water. An hour passes as if it were a few minutes."—Philadelphia Record.

The Busy Bee.

"Careful weighing shows that an ordinary bee, not loaded, weighs the one five-thousandth part of a pound, so that it takes 5,000 bees, not loaded, to make a pound. But the loaded bee, when he comes in fresh from the fields and flowers, loaded with honey or bee bread, weighs nearly three times more—that is to say, he carries nearly twice his own weight. Of loaded bees there are only about 1,800 in the pound. An ordinary hive of bees contains from four to five pounds of bees, or between 20,000 and 25,000 individuals, but some swarms have double this weight and number of bees."—The Agriculturist.

A Phenomenon.

"This is not the first time you have filed this claim," said the government official. "No," replied the aspirant for cash; "it's the seventh." "And you have increased the amount each time, so that it is now a good many thousands of dollars more than it was originally." "I felt justified in doing so." "It is very strange," murmured the official. "It upsets one of the strongest impressions I had concerning mechanics." "Yes. The more you filed this claim the bigger it got to be."—American Industries.

An Enterprising Clergyman.

The versatile clergyman of Charleston, Me., comes up for occasional mention, and he is worthy of it, for so enterprising a man should be encouraged. He owns the principal hotel in the town, and his name is Higgins. He is pastor of the church, and is said to be the best all-round enterprising Christian gentleman in the State. He rebuilt the academy, owns a glove factory, has built an observatory, and is giving the town more improvements than any other man. His good example and good works should make him a tower of strength in the entire region thereabout.

TAMING AN ALLIGATOR.

Slight Difficulties in the Way of Educating the Saurian.

From a Texas paper: "You see that item in one of the papers about taming young alligators, I reckon," said a Gravesend man, capturing the city editor by the button hole, and drawing him into a doorway. "You know the paper said it was the fashionable thing to do."

"I don't remember. Perhaps I did. What of it?" asked the city editor. "I tried it," said the Gravesend man. "A friend of mine brought me one from New Orleans, and I'm tamin' that alligator for the children to play with."

"How does the experiment come along?" asked the city editor. "I don't know about the experiment; the alligator is thrivin'. He was six weeks old when I got him, two months ago, and he's seven years old now. People in our parts says he's all the alligator I'll ever need."

"What does he do?" "Well, it's here. When he came he was a sportive little cuss, and just wobbled around friendly. He was chiefly mouth, and we used to feed him for the fun of seein' him eat. Now, we skin around when we see him comin' for the fun of seein' him go hungry."

"Is he dangerous?" asked the city editor. "I haven't been close enough to see. He eat up my dog, and when I left this mornin', he was in the sty arguin' the question of pork as a diet with the pig. My wife thinks if the pig has any luck he'll find the cow we lost."

"Better get rid of him, hadn't you?" suggested the city editor. "I don't know," replied the Gravesend man. "We've stored so much away in him now that it seems like givin' up most of our property, and my oldest girl says she can't bear of havin' her leg go out amongst strangers."

"Did he bite her leg off?" demanded the horrified city editor. "Sure," responded the Gravesend man. "Took it off, short! Then there's the baby. We hate to part with the baby's grave, so we sorter try and clobber the alligator along. My wife insists on keepin' him, 'cause she thinks she saw a couple o' peddlers go in one day, packs and all, and she's got an idea the packs may come to the front again if we hold on. Besides, she seen that item about tame alligators bein' fashionable, and she's a good deal on style."

"But, do you call that alligator tame?" "Certainly. He comes right into the house 'sime as any of us and keeps himself. He's got that heel, and the Gravesend man pointed to a mutilated foot. "There's my son's wife, too. She's part alligator now. He eat her up a week ago, and the boy hasn't got over his arm yet. The alligator got the arm, too."

"Great scott!" ejaculated the city editor. "Oh, yes. It's lively down there. When he puts himself up he's business. He's the lightin'nest alligator for a time one you ever saw. When we first got him we used him for a tack hammer, drew nails with him; but now he's the head of the family, except payin' the rent. When there is any mysterious disappearance around Gravesend the coroner comes and clobbers the alligator. That ends it. When the baby was snatched they held the inquest in a tree. The jury was all on one limb, and the alligator underneath, looking up. Bimeby the limb broke and the jury disappeared in a row, just as they sat. We didn't wait for any verdict. The coroner give me a permit, and after the funeral, I shied an empty coffin at the alligator. Then the minister said, 'Dust to dust, and we all dusted. Do you remember whether that item said what a real tame alligator ought to be fed on?'"

"Don't recollect seeing it at all. Aren't you afraid he'll eat up some of your family?" "Think he's liable to?" asked the Gravesend man with a curious expression of visage. "Yes, indeed," replied the city editor. "Suppose he should swallow your wife?"

"Ah?" said the Gravesend man. "He might get her, mightn't he? You think I'd better keep him then?" and the Gravesend man leaned against the door and gave himself up to reflection. "So he might; so he might; so he might," the city editor heard him say, as he drew away and left him there. "That beautiful tame alligator may get her yet," and the gloom of nightfall enveloped the frame dilating with a new hope.

Working for His Dinner.

Lazy Simpson (as a brother tramp heaves in sigh)—"That's jest my luck! Whenever I do a disgraceful thing somebody comes along an' ketches me at it.—Judge."

Decidedly Moving. New Minister—Did you notice that any of the members of the congregation were moved by my sermon? "Yes; once when you raised your voice Deacon Smith nearly fell out of his seat, he was wakened so suddenly."—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

At St. Augustine, Fla. She—Tom, I won't stay here any longer if you mean to play poker every night. He—My dear, we can't afford to stay here if I don't play poker.—Judge.

Has Good Reasons. Viola—But, papa, the Marquis is charming; and he is certainly generous to a fault. Papa—Well, he ought to be; he's got more of them than anybody I know of.

Sensational. Mrs. Dean—What was the text of Snobley's sensational sermon? Old Dean—"The pace that surpasseth all understandin'."

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