

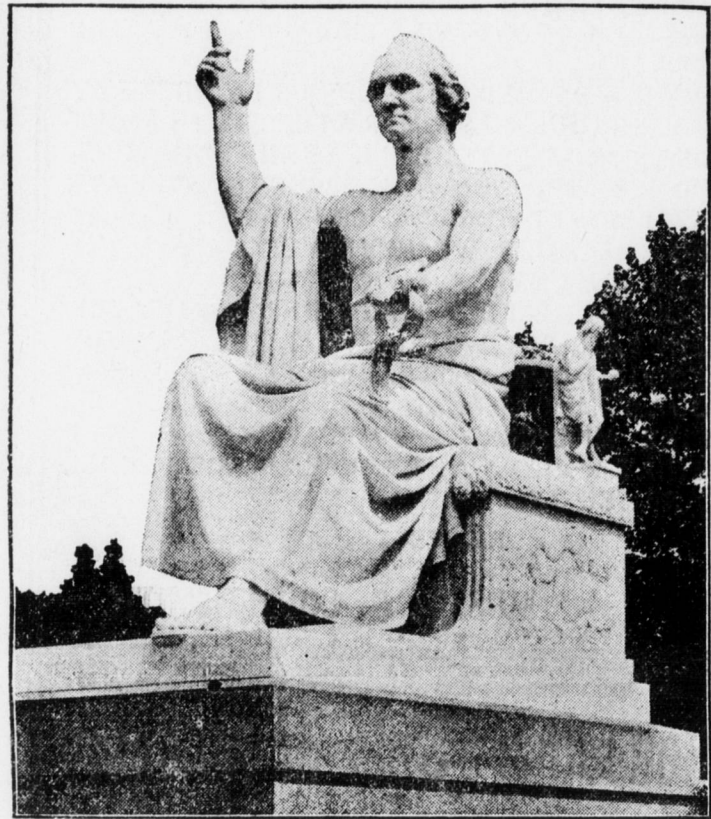
## Memorials to the Father of His Country

**T**HE adage that republics are ungrateful would seem to be completely refuted by the manner in which the name and fame of George Washington have been commemorated at the American capital. It is no exaggeration to say that no other hero of any age or nation has been honored so conspicuously. The monuments, statues and other memorials whereby the first president has been given homage at the American seat of government are designed primarily, of course, to honor the individual for his whole notable career. At the same time the versatility of the

capitol, but latterly it has been removed to the Smithsonian Institution. The figure of Washington, scantily arrayed, in the toga of a Roman senator, is represented in a sitting posture. The left hand clasps a short sword and the right hand points toward heaven. On the granite pedestal is inscribed the famous tribute of Gen. Henry Lee: "First in War, First in Peace, and First in the Hearts of His Countrymen."

The history of this statue dates from the year 1852 when congress authorized the president to employ the sculptor Greenough to execute a full length statue. The figure, which weighs fully 21 tons, was chiseled in Florence, Italy, and the problem of bringing it safely to America proved a most perplexing one. Commodore Hull was sent with a man-of-war to get the work of art, but he found that it would be necessary to rip up the ship's decks in order to place the cumbersome burden in the hold, and he objected to doing this. Finally, a merchant vessel had to be chartered for the task and partially reconstructed. The statue was first placed in the rotunda of the capitol, but later was placed on the plaza. The figure, which cost Uncle Sam more than \$42,000, has always been the object of more or less criticism because of the lack of drapery.

In Washington is one of the few horseback monuments ever erected to the memory of the foremost military leader of his day. The equestrian statue of Washington, conspicuous



Greenough's Famous Statue of George Washington.

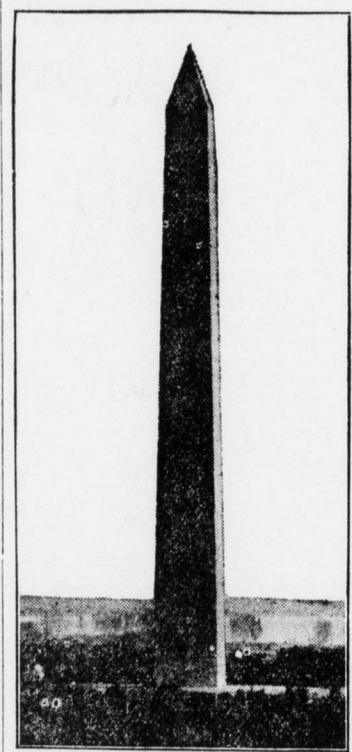
many-sided Washington is emphasized by some of the memorials which, by their character, call to mind, respectively, his invaluable services as a citizen, as a soldier and as a statesman.

Ranking first, not only among the tributes to the new world liberator, but also in all probability, among all personal memorials throughout the world is the great Washington National monument—that imposing shaft of white marble rising on the banks of the Potomac river to bespeak the gratitude of the whole American people. This monument, which is the highest masonry structure in the world, and doubly impressive in its simplicity, is an obelisk and has a height of 555 feet. The foundation is 36 feet deep and the walls of the colossal structure are 15 feet in thickness at the bottom, gradually tapering to a thickness of 18 inches at the top. In the huge pile are stones contributed by 40 different states of the union and 16 American cities, as well as beautifully carved blocks of marble from Italy, Egypt, Greece, Switzerland, Japan, China, Siam, Brazil and other nations which took opportunity to pay tribute to the greatest patriot of all time.

Gen. Washington was yet living when there first originated the plan for providing this supreme testimonial to his military and political services. As early as 1783 the congress of the United States resolved to erect a marble monument to the nation's idol, and it is said that Washington himself selected a site where the monument now stands. The project was revived from time to time after the death of Washington, but it was not until 1833 that practical steps were taken to carry out the undertaking. Funds were raised by popular subscription, and in 1848 the corner stone of the towering structure was laid with due ceremony. In 1855 the funds which had been contributed were exhausted, the shaft having at that time attained a height of 152 feet. Work ceased and the project was at a standstill for more than a score of years, or until 1878, when the national legislature appropriated money to complete the masonry masterpiece. The completed monument, which represents an expenditure of more than \$1,300,000, was dedicated a quarter of a century ago, on February 21, 1885.

One of the most famous of the memorials and one which has had a most remarkable history is Horatio Greenough's heroic statue in marble of George Washington. This statue for years occupied the most conspicuous place on the plaza of the United States

even in a city that boasts more such statues than any other community on the continent—was produced by Clark Mills and was cast from cannon captured from the British in the war of 1812. Gen. Washington, dressed in continental uniform, is represented as witnessing the battle of Princeton. His horse represented in this statue was



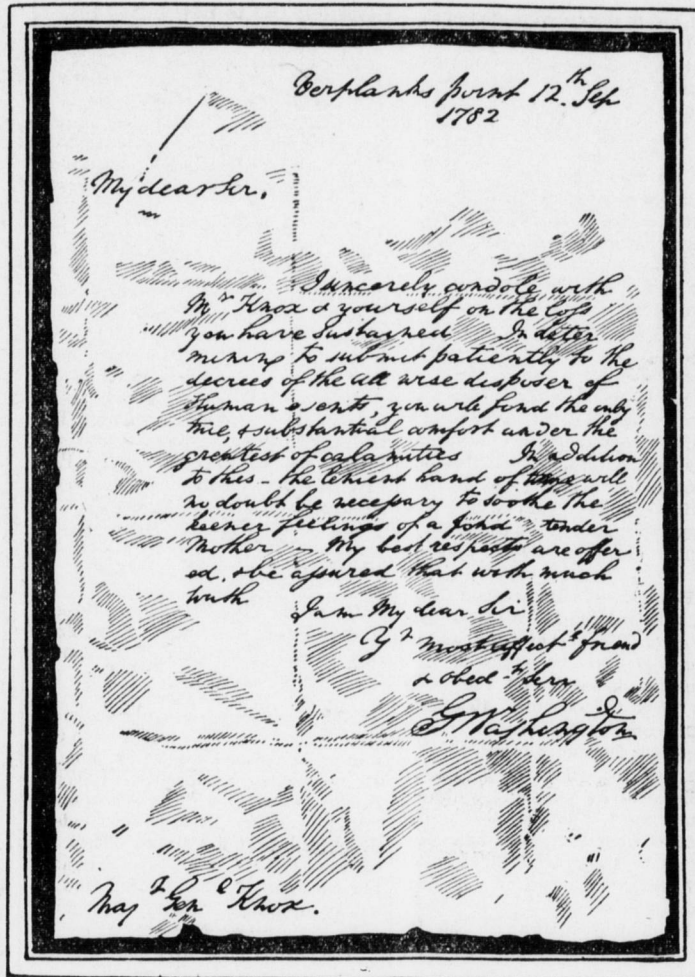
The Washington National Monument on the Banks of the Potomac.

modeled from one captured from a wild herd on the prairie near Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

**Swinging Around the Circle.**  
Washington believed in a president getting acquainted with his country, and in March, 1791, he set out on a tour of the southern states, riding on one set of horses 1,887 miles! and returning to Philadelphia, then the capital, July 6.

**Was Matured Statesman.**  
George Washington was 34 years old when he entered upon the office of president.

## GENUINE LETTER OF WASHINGTON RECENTLY BROUGHT TO LIGHT



Fac-simile of the Letter.

**T**HE above letter from George Washington, expressing sorrow for the death of Gen. Knox has been in the family of Gen. Knox since it was received from the first president of the United States. The present possessor of the document is Orville Dewey Thatcher, a veteran of the civil war, now in the division of the auditor for the postoffice department.

Mr. Thatcher received the letter from his uncle, Rear Admiral Henry Knox Thatcher, a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, by whom the

epistle had been treasured as one of his most precious possessions.

The Thatcher family is of old New England stock. Thatcher's island, at the end of Cape Ann, known by all mariners for its two huge lighthouses, was named for one of the family, Samuel Thatcher, grandfather of Mr. O. D. Thatcher, who for many years the oldest graduate of Harvard, the oldest Mason and the oldest former member of congress. Mount Auburn cemetery on the outskirts of Boston, was the old Thatcher farm, settled by passengers of the Mayflower.

## Authorship of Washington's Farewell Address

**T**HERE does not seem to have been any unity of belief regarding the authorship of Washington's farewell address among some of the earlier historians, and much of the same confusion has resulted from the various and contradictory statements regarding Washington's retirement from public life. A page from a letter written to James Madison by Washington, in May, 1792, is to some extent an answer to some of the statements which have been made from time to time.

When all the facts in the case are arranged, there does not appear to be any mystery surrounding either the retirement of Washington or of the authorship of the historic address. Briefly, as the letter quoted in facsimile indicates, Washington had decided to retire from public life before the tide of opposition to him had set in, and had determined to prepare what he himself entitles a valedictory address. It is probable that no question regarding the authorship of the address would ever have arisen had not the untimely death of Hamilton, who was slain in the duel with Burr, thrown his private papers into the hands of persons who were not apprised of all the facts in the case. They, or some friends of Hamilton, about the middle of the last century, happened upon a draft of the address in the handwriting of Hamilton, and immediately spread the intelligence that Washington's secretary of the treasury was the real author of the paper.

Some historians, having in mind the wave of opposition to Washington which arose during his first term of office, and which became more bitter during his second term, have intimated that the retirement of the first president was merely the act of a man who saw that he had lost his popularity and had enough common sense not to linger where he had become unendurable. In 1792 Washington still was the popular idol. There has been no disagreement on that score among the historians, and it was on May 20 of that year, during this period of good will, that the Father of His Country decided to retire from public life. It was also at this time that he was devising in his mind a dignified method of making this withdrawal.

The letter was among Madison's papers at his death, and some years

ago was sold at auction in New York, bringing \$1,325, and passing into the collection of one of the New York collectors.

There is nothing in this letter to indicate that Washington retired from public life on account of his unpopularity, and, if it were necessary, would show that Hamilton was not the author of the valedictory address. Madison, appealed to in the letter just quoted, did find time to draw up such an address as Washington indicated. This was submitted to the president, and the latter prepared a paper from it. This copy he submitted to Jay, at that time chief justice of the United States supreme court, and to Alexander Hamilton, the secretary of the treasury. In forwarding the paper to Hamilton, Washington wrote: "Even if you should think it best to throw the whole into a different form let me suggest, notwithstanding, that my draught may be returned to me (along with yours) with such amendments and corrections as to render it as perfect as the formation is susceptible of; curtailed, if too verbose, and relieved of all tautology not necessary to enforce the ideas in the original or quoted part. My wish is that the whole may appear in a plain style, and be handed to the public in an honest, unaffected, simple part."

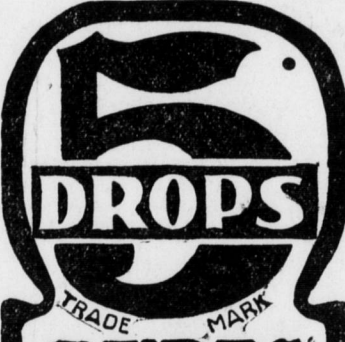
Hamilton prepared a draft which Washington said he preferred to others submitted to him. It was mainly a change in form, but Hamilton's paper is said to have differed much from the original. This draft was followed by Washington, who wrote the address and then submitted the new production to Pickering, McHenry and Wolcott. These made few changes and these are said to have been, as Pickering has recorded, "regarding chiefly the grammar and construction."

Although the first letter to Madison on the subject bears the date of May 20, 1792, the farewell address was not given to the people until September 19, 1796. In the meantime, as has been shown, it was undergoing repeated alteration and improvement at various hands, yet the main ideas were Washington's, and the final draft not only was in his hand, but very largely was of his own composition.

### Washington Dissatisfied.

George Washington had his periods of discontent like the rest of us, as is shown in a letter he wrote his brother soon after the Braddock campaign: "I was employed to go on a journey in the winter which I believe few or none would have undertaken—and what did I get by it? My expenses borne. I was then appointed, with trifling pay, to conduct a handful of men to the Ohio. What did I get for that? Why, after paying myself the considerable expense in equipping and providing necessities for the company, I went out, was soundly beaten and had my commission taken from me, or, in other words, my command reduced under the pretense of an order from home. I then went out and volunteered under Gen. Braddock and lost all my horses and many other things. I have been on the losing order ever since I entered the service two years since."

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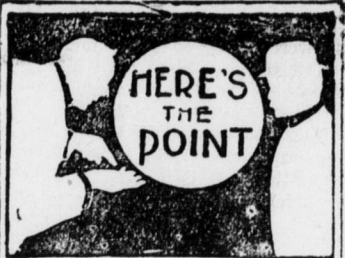


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