



Washington in War

If there is any one object more than another that the people of Cambridge, Mass., hold in high and holy veneration, it is the famous old Cambridge elm under which George Washington stood when he took command of the American Army on the third day of July, 1775. The old elm is a worn and broken monarch now and it cannot stand many years longer. It has lost much of its graceful beauty and its branches are ragged and the ravages of decay are upon them. A

able men. Take him all in all, Washington was the noblest human being that has ever appeared in the world. With small means he accomplished great results. With a handful of undisciplined yeomen, he led a successful revolution against the greatest nation on earth, and after creating a republic, he resigned his commission, refusing to accept any compensation for his eight years of unceasing service to his country. During the long and doubtful struggle, his serene courage



—From the painting by John Faed.

GEORGE WASHINGTON AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY.

High guard of woven wire is around the lower part of the trunk of the tree, and a simple tablet bears these words:

UNDER THIS TREE
WASHINGTON
FIRST TOOK COMMAND
OF THE
AMERICAN ARMY JULY 3, 1775.

Washington had reached the camp two days before taking command of the army. He had been received by the Provincial Congress under escort of a cavalcade and a troop of light horse. He had been eleven days riding from Philadelphia on horseback, accompanied by General Charles Lee. The morning of the 3d of July saw a great crowd assembled on Cambridge Common to meet and greet the great Washington, and there was the utmost enthusiasm when he appeared. There was no railroad in those days, and many of the people had come long distances on horseback and even on foot. At 9 o'clock Washington mounted his horse and rode to where the army was drawn up in a long line on the common. When he reached the elm he wheeled his horse and drew his sword

and infinite trust never varied. In defeat, he did not despair; in victory, he indulged in no self-glorification. Placed by the unanimous choice of his countrymen at the head of the Government, his prudence and wisdom guided the young Republic through the trying experimental stage of its existence, and launched it successfully on its providential course among the nations of the earth. Washington's pure and unselfish patriotism has no parallel in the history of the world, and has won the admiration of men who were far from imitating his exalted character. Napoleon hailed him as "the



PRINCIPAL STREET IN YORKTOWN, WHERE WASHINGTON COMPELLED THE SURRENDER OF CORNWALLIS.

great Washington," Frederick the Great sent him his sword, inscribed "From the oldest General in Europe to the greatest General in the world."

Washington never commanded more than twenty thousand men, and these were taken from the plow, the shop, the factory and other peaceful avocations. They were half-clothed, sometimes half-starved, never well armed. With this small army of patriots he defeated the best generals of the greatest military power on earth, and won American independence.

Napoleon, who led five hundred thousand men to Russia, and brought back only thirty thousand, was amazed when he heard of the small army commanded by Washington. Napoleon fought to enslave other nations; Washington fought to free his own. Washington never thought of his own glory, but of the glorious cause in which he was engaged. Napoleon thought first and always of his own glory. Washington voluntarily resigned the almost absolute authority with which he had been entrusted and became a private citizen on the banks of the Potomac.

In the evening after the great pageant of Evacuation Day, November 25, 1783, Governor Clinton gave a banquet to Washington and the officers of the army of occupation in the long room at Fraunces' Tavern, New York City. Here the principal officers who accompanied Washington to New York took leave of him on December 4. With solemn countenance, and hearts attuned to affection for their great leader by vivid memories of the past, the company assembled, passing

through the anteroom some time before the arrival of the Commander-in-Chief. Finally, with dread of the ordeal, Washington entered the room and in silence partook of a slight refreshment, after which he took in his hand a glass of wine and, having drunk it with a gesture of etiquette to his comrades, said:

"With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as



REMAINS OF BRITISH INTRENCHMENTS AT YORKTOWN.

your former ones have been glorious and honorable. I cannot come to each of you to take my leave, but shall be obliged to you if each one will come and take me by the hand."

General Knox, who stood nearest to him in position and in heart, turned and grasped his hand, while tears coursed down the cheeks of both. Putting one hand over Knox's shoulder Washington kissed him, as also each one of the rest in turn; while tears moistened every eye and the sound of sobbing filled the apartment. Suppressing the violence of his emotion after a little time, the Commander-in-Chief left the room.

As Great Men Saw Him.

There is no qualification in the praise great men have given Washington.

Those who have spoken or written of him at all have done so in terms of absolute eulogy.

Gladstone, for instance, said of him: "I have almost idolized him for sixty years."

Later he wrote: "Washington is to my mind the purest figure in history. I look upon Washington among great and good men as one peculiarly good and great. He has been to me for more than forty years a light upon the path of life."

It was Lord Erskine who said: "I have a large acquaintance with the most valued and exalted class of men, but you are the only human being for whom I ever felt an awful reverence. I sincerely pray God to grant a long and serene evening to a life so gloriously devoted to the universal happiness of the world."

John Richard Green, the student of great men, wrote of him:

"No nobler figure ever stood in the forefront of a nation's life."

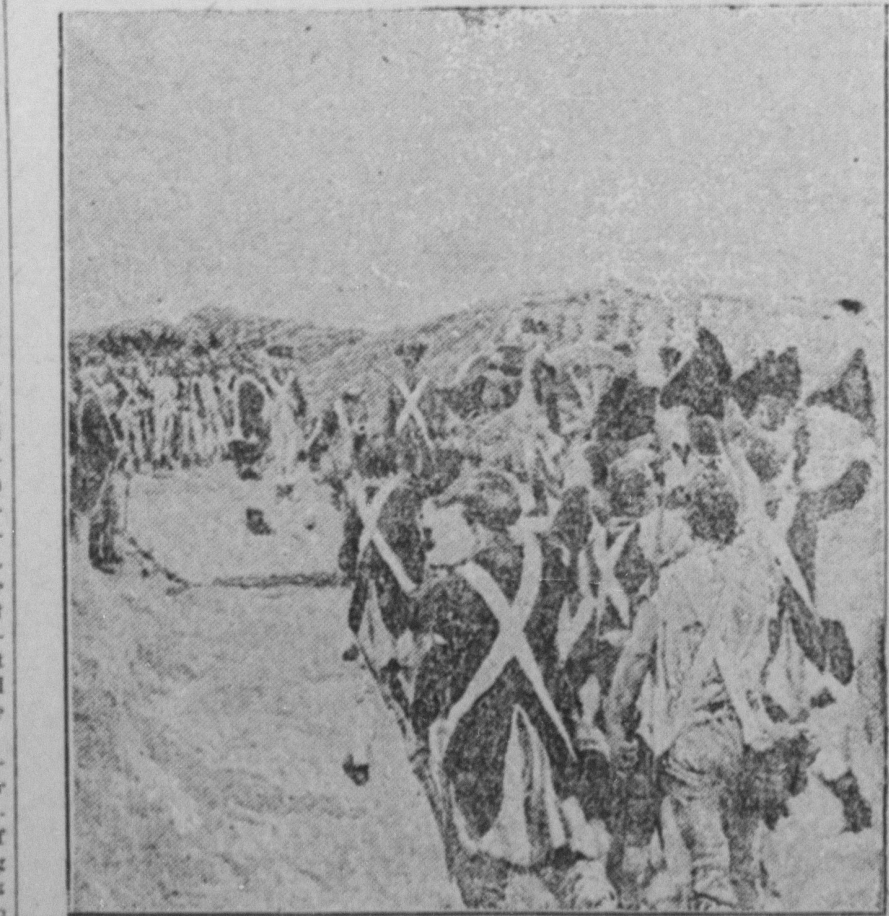
And Lord Brougham declared Washington to be "the only man, in fact, upon whom the epithet 'great,' so thoughtlessly lavished by men, may be justly bestowed."

"The greatest man of our own or any age," another has called him.

Altogether, it is in no spirit of national prejudice that George Washington was called "First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Washington Was the Ideal Commander

Washington, a great commander, had the genius of getting all that was best out of the men under him, but the work of organizing and disciplining the army at Cambridge was the least of the troubles which confronted him when he faced the situation at Boston. Moreover, he knew all the difficulties, for he not only saw them, but he was never under delusions as to either pleasant or disagreeable facts. One of his greatest qualities was his absolute veracity of mind; he always looked a fact of any sort squarely in the face, and this is what he saw when he turned to the task before him.—From "The Story of the Revolution," by Senator H. C. Lodge.



WASHINGTON FIRING THE FIRST GUN AT THE SIEGE OF YORKTOWN.

The group of officers on the left of the picture, behind the gun, are Rochambeau, de Lauzun, Montmorency and General Knox.

APOCRYPHAL JOKES ABOUT YOUNG GEORGE.



His Mother—"When that little boy threw stones at you, why did you not come to me?"
Little George Washington—"Well, I guess I can throw them back better's you can."



Teacher—"The first thing the Puritans did after landing on Plymouth Rock was to fall upon their knees. What was the next thing they did?"
Little George Washington—"They fell upon the Aborigines."



Grocer—"Here, my little man; here's your pitcher of molasses. Now, where's the payment therefor?"
Little George Washington—"Mother told me to put it in the pitcher so I wouldn't lose it."—American Cultivator.

Washington Through Oriental Eyes.



Portrait by a Japanese artist.

The Original Backman.
"Why don't you branch out?" asked little George of the cherry tree.
"I would leave this place," answered the cherry tree, "if I had some way to move my trunk."
"If that's all that detains you," said the embryo father of his country, "I'll see that you get a hack." And he went over to the woodshed in search of his little hatchet.—Chicago News.

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WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS AT NEW BURG, NEW YORK.

as Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the United Colonies. Accompanied by his officers, Washington then made a tour of the posts occupied by the troops. It is on record that he wore at this time a dark blue coat with buff facings, handsome epaulets, buff under-dress and a black cockade in his hat. He was one of those men who always look well on horseback, and it is said that he presented a particularly fine and handsome appearance on this occasion.

The death of Washington at the close of the eighteenth century, and the rise of Napoleon to supreme power at the beginning of the nineteenth century, naturally suggests, not a comparison, but a contrast between these remark-