



Till freedom reigns, our hearty hands  
Will fight like true Americans.  
And follow Washington, my boys,  
And follow Washington,  
—From a Revolutionary War  
Song, in The Youth's Companion.

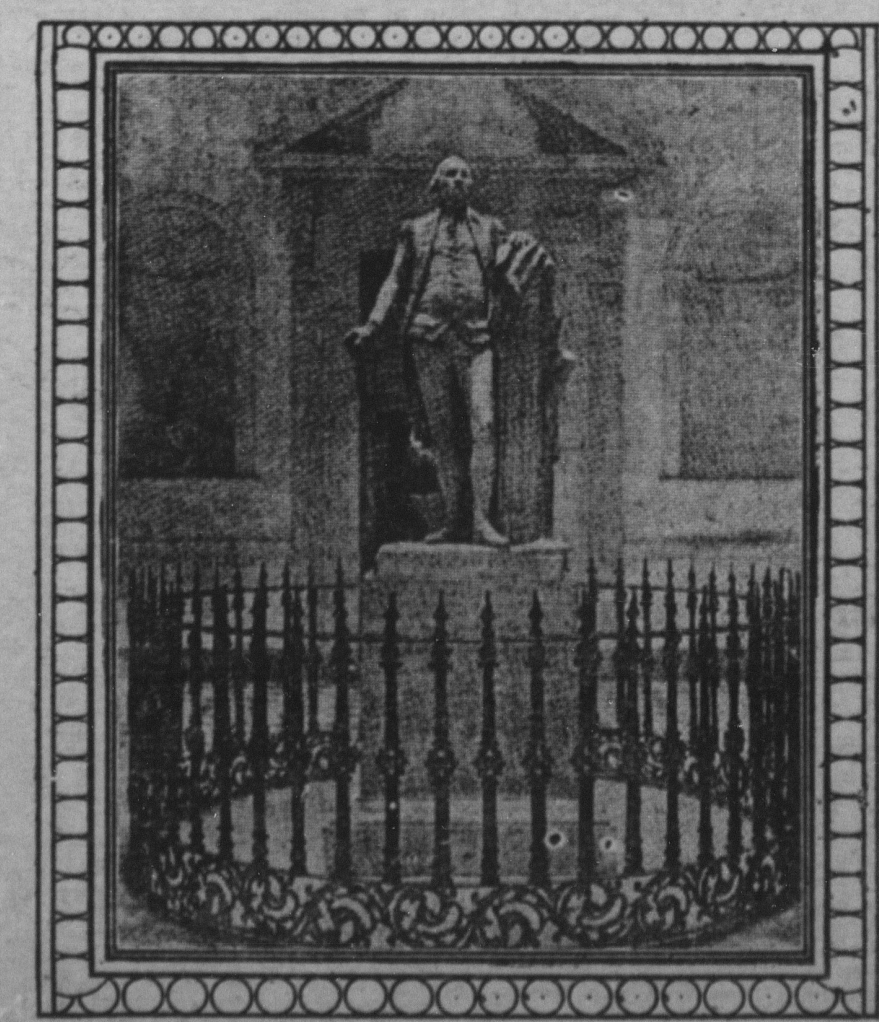
### GEORGE WASHINGTON, THE FARMER

Letters to Tobias Lear and other between  
1790 and 1799, showing the first American  
in the management of his estate and  
domestic affairs.

Louis Philippe, King of France, used to tell a characteristic story of Washington, of whom he occasionally saw something while an exile in this country. One morning he met the great man, dressed in the most irreproachable style of the English gentleman of the period with white stockings, walking about in the rain before breakfast. "You walk early, General," he said. "Yes," replied Washington, "I walk early because I sleep well, and I sleep well because I never write anything which can get me into the slightest trouble. Remember that, young man!" The letters in a recent volume, entitled "George Washington, the Farmer," justify the anecdote. Perfectly frank as most of them are, there is nothing in them which His Excellency, the president of the United States, might dislike to see in print. They reveal a man thoroughly practical and sincere, saying no more than he means, and, above all, as scrupulous for others as for himself. They are never emotional, yet they are often kind, and sometimes, in a dignified fashion, sympathetic.

The first of the many epistles to his private secretary, Tobias Lear, is dated September 5, 1790, the period when the first president was about to establish himself in his official residence at Philadelphia. Lear was attending to the removal of the household belongings from New York, and his employer sends him, in this and subsequent letters careful directions respecting servants, packing and transport. References to the washerwomen of the family and to the not wholly satisfactory dinners provided in New York by the presidential steward and housekeeper indicate the sharp eye which Washington kept on his household. He gives Lear to understand that two of the domestics, "Mrs. Lewis and her daughter," are not to be conveyed to Philadelphia, because the principal entertaining rooms of the new habitation are at the back looking upon the kitchen, and their "dirty figures" will "not be a pleasant sight." He is suspicious about the expeditious disappearance of his Pipe of Pintard wine, and he desires that the new steward should realize that such luxuries are not for the serving man's table. He is puzzled by a matter which has occupied the minds of generations of householders: "It is inconceivable to me how other families on 25th. or 3000 dollars should be enabled to entertain more company at least more frequently than I could do for twenty-five thousand dollars annually." A judicious, not a niggardly economy moves him; he wants his house to be eminently handsome and respectable, but the outlay must not be unreasonable. He directs Lear to consult a silversmith as to the making of decanter holders for his table—and might they not be made like a frame open at bottom, which "would save silver?" Lear is to consider the getting of a new curtain for the staircase, but whatever he does, there must be an exact match in color. "For the sake of appearances," adds the president, "one would not in instances of this sort regard a small additional expense." There is little to show that Mrs. Washington has anything to do with the minute domestic instructions and queries with which the busy Tobias is bombarded first from Philadelphia and afterward from Mount

Vernon while the "new habitation" is still in preparation, but she may have been behind the throne with an army of suggestions. The question of rent for the Philadelphia house (which belongs to Robert Morris) troubles Washington's mind. He is afraid that the sum of rent and repairs may amount up unduly, and laments that it is difficult to extract anything definite either from Morris or from the committee who selected this official residence. And here the Virginian's pride comes to the front: "To occupy the premises at the expense of any public body—I will not." The question of a mangie likewise stirs that pride, reinforced by His Excellency's scrupulousness: "Mrs. Morris has a mangie (I think they are called) for ironing of clothes, which, as it is fixed in the place where it is commonly used, she proposed to leave and take mine. To this I have no objection, provided mine is equally good and convenient, but if I should obtain any advantage besides that of its being up and ready for use, I am not inclined to receive it." O wonderful tenant! As landowner and farmer Washington had troubles enough, especially while the duties of office kept him at a distance from Mount Vernon. Debtors delayed payment; overseers were drunken, or lazy; or too much given to "Company," horse racing and idling in adjacent towns. While occupied with affairs of state in Philadelphia the president still attempts to keep a rein over those at work upon his land. Abuses have crept into part of his farm business, he declares at the beginning of his second term, and he complains bitterly of "the in-



HOUDON'S FAMOUS STATUE OF WASHINGTON IN THE CENTRAL HALL OF THE CAPITOL.

sufferable conduct" of his various overseers. He has no illusions as to the agricultural capacities of the American farmers of his period. Their "knowledge," he says—"practice at least—centers in the destruction of the land and very little beyond it." When he returned to private life and rural occupations he found a plentiful crop of vexations, from the Hessian fly in his wheat to unsatisfactory workmen. "In this country," he writes to Dr. Gordon, "where entreaties as well as money must be used to obtain their work, and keep them to their duty, they baffle all calculation in the accomplishment of any plan, or repairs they are engaged in—and require more attention to and looking after than can well be conceived." In various letters he refers half wrathfully to that part of his domesticities which had to do with his slaves. He writes to Lear in 1794 concerning some of the proposed sales of his lands: "I have no scruple to disclose to you that my motives to those sales are to reduce my income; be it more or less, to specialties; that the remainder of my days may thereby be more tranquil and free from cares;—and that I may be enabled (knowing precisely what my dependence is) to do as much good with it as the resource will admit—for alto" in the estimation of the world, I possess a good and clear estate, yet so unproductive is it, that I am oftentimes ashamed to refuse aids which I cannot afford, unless I was to sell part of it, to answer the purpose. Besides these, I have another motive which makes me earnestly wish for these things—it is indeed more powerful than all the rest—namely to liberate a certain species of property which I possess very repugnantly to my own feelings; but which imperious necessity compels, and until I can substitute some other expedient, by which expenses, not in my power to avoid (however well disposed I may be to do it) can be defrayed." The gentler side of the great man peeps out here and there in the letters and notes written at the close of his presidency. Can we not discern a little jubilation in this sentence, less stately than most of those addressed to his secretary: "Unless some one pops in unexpectedly—Mrs. Washington and myself will do what I believe has not been done within the last twenty years by us—that is to set down to dinner by ourselves." It would appear that his wife and his pretty stepdaughter, Nelly, had their own way. In another note concerning the forwarding of the household goods from Philadelphia to Mount Vernon there is a hint of feminine influence which the male reader will appreciate: "On one side I am called upon to remember the Parrot, on the other to remember the dog. For my own part I should not pine much if both were forgot. The pretty little Nelly and her idling young brother, as well as to various nephews and nieces, Washington, as this volume shows, was a careful, wise and generous guardian. He was anxious that the schooling of these young people should be of the best, and was constantly taking pains in the matter.

Mr. Lear's account of the death of Washington is a welcome addition to the letters. It is grievous to read of the maltreatment of the sick man by his ignorant, if well meaning, physicians—it would have been strange, indeed, if he had survived their ministrations. But that sadness is forgotten in the narrative of the passing soul, so noble in the simplicity, dignity and courage of its parting.

### WASHINGTON.

Welcome to the day returning,  
Dearest still as ages flow,  
While the torch of Faith is burning,  
Long as Freedom's altars glow!  
See the hero whom it gave us,  
Slumbering on a mother's breast;  
For the arm he stretched to save us,  
Be its morn forever blest!  
—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

### COMMERCIAL COLUMN.

#### Weekly Review of Trade and Latest Market Reports.

Bradstreet's says: "Trade is quiet as a whole, and industrial operations are still below normal in most lines. Conservatism in buying is still marked, and there is also present the feeling of disappointment hitherto noted at the failure of spring trade to open up more rapidly. Some measures of trade volume showed slight recessions in January from December, but the fallure record was an encouraging one, and the improvement over the same month a year ago, when business was at a low ebb, is general and marked. Collections are little changed and classed as fair, as a whole.

"This disposition in many lines is still to attribute slowness of demand in opening up to fear of tariff revision, but there is manifest now a disposition to recognize more fully the play of natural conditions and restriction of consumptive requirements proceeding from reduced earning power of the community.

"Business failures in the United States for the week ended February 4 were 286, against 311 last week, 272 in the same week of 1908, 198 in 1907, 204 in 1906 and 207 in 1905.

"Wheat including flour exports from the United States and Canada for the week aggregated 1,802,976 bushels, against 3,044,693 last week and 4,507,456 this week last year. Corn exports for the week were 1,106,885 bushels against 1,365,299 last week and 1,835,196 bushels in 1908."

#### Wholesale Markets.

New York.—Wheat—Spot firm; No. 2 red, 1.11 1/2 @ 1.12 1/2, elevator; No. 2 red, 1.12 1/2, f. o. b. afloat; No. 1 Northern Duluth, 1.21 1/2, f. o. b. afloat; No. 2 hard winter, 1.17 1/2, f. o. b. afloat.

Corn—Spot steady; No. 2, 72, elevator, and 69 1/2, f. o. b. afloat; No. 2 white nominal, and No. 2 yellow, 69 1/2, f. o. b. afloat. Optional market was without transactions, closing net unchanged. May closed 70 3/4; July closed 70 1/2; September closed 70 1/2.

Oats—Spot quiet, mixed, 26 @ 32 lbs. 54 @ 54 1/2; natural, 26 @ 32 lbs. 54 @ 57 1/2; clipped white, 32 @ 40 lbs. 56 1/2 @ 62.

Poultry—Alive, more active trading. Chickens, 13c.; fowls, 14c.; turkeys, 12 @ 18. Dressed steady; Western spring chickens, 17 @ 21c.; fowls, 13 @ 15; turkeys, 16 @ 23.

Butter—Higher and firmer; creamery specials, 31 @ 31 1/2 c. (official), 31 1/2; creamery extras, 30 @ 30 1/2; creamery, thirds to firsts, 23 @ 25 process, common to specials, 18 @ 25.

Eggs—Firm; receipts, 6,619 cases, Western firsts 32 1/2 @ 33c. (official), 32 1/2; do., seconds, 31 @ 32.

Philadelphia.—Wheat—Firm; fair demand; contract grade, February 1.10 @ 1.10 1/2 c.

Corn—Quiet but steady; February 67 1/2 @ 67 3/4 c.

Oats—Unchanged. Western creamery, 31c.; do., nearby, prints, 33.

Eggs—Weak and 2c. lower. Pennsylvania and other nearby firsts, free cases, 32c. @ mark; do., current receipts, in returnable cases, 31, @ mark; Western firsts, free cases, 32, @ mark; do., current receipts, free cases, 30 @ 31, @ mark.

Cheese—Firm; fair demand. New York full cream, choice, 14 1/2 @ 14 3/4 c.; do., fair to good, 13 1/2 @ 14 1/4 c.; do., light and higher.

Poultry—Alive, firm and higher. Fowls, 14 @ 14 1/2 c.; old roosters, 10, spring chickens, 15 @ 16; ducks, 14 @ 15; geese, 11 @ 12 1/2.

Chicago.—Cattle—Market steady. Steers, \$4.60 @ 7; cows, \$3 @ 5.50; heifers, \$3 @ 5.75; bulls, \$3.40 @ 3.90; calves, \$3.50 @ 8.25; stockers and feeders, \$3.50 @ 5.40.

Hogs—Market 10c. higher; choice heavy shipping, \$6.45 @ 6.52 1/2; butchers, \$6.35 @ 6.50; light mixed, \$6 @ 6.10; choice light, \$6.15 @ 6.30; packing, \$6.10 @ 6.45; pigs, \$5 @ 6; bulk of sales, \$6.25 @ 6.40.

Sheep—Market steady. Sheep, \$4.25 @ 6.35; lambs, \$6.75 @ 7.55; yearlings, \$5 @ 6.50.

Baltimore.—Wheat—The market for Western is firm; spot, 1.10; March, 1.10 1/4; May, 1.12 1/4. Settling prices were: No. 2 red Western, 1.10 1/4; contract spot, 1.10 1/4; No. 3 red, 1.08 1/4; steamer No. 2 red, 1.07 1/4; steamer No. 2 red Western, 1.07 3/4.

Corn—Market firmer on prime corn of both colors. We quote graded lots of No. 2 white corn afloat nominally at 71c. per bush. and yellow or mixed corn afloat at 67 1/4. Track yellow corn, for domestic delivery, is worth about 69c. per bush. for car lots on spot.

Oats—Quote: White—No. 2, 55 1/2 @ 56c.; No. 3, 54 1/2 @ 55 1/4; No. 4, 53 @ 53 1/2 c. Mixed—No. 2, 54 1/2 c.; No. 3, 53 @ 53 1/2.

Rye—Quote, per bush.: No. 2 Western rye, uptown, 82 1/2 c.; bag lots, as to quality and condition, 75 @ 80.

Butter—Choice to fancy table grades in good demand and market generally steady, but medium and low grades are in ample demand. We quote, per lb.: Creamery, fancy, 30 to 30 1/2; choice, 28 to 29; good, 22 to 25; imitation, 20 to 24.

#### Live Stock.

New York.—Beefves—Choice stable fed bulls sold at \$4.40 per 100 pounds. Dressed beef slow at 8 @ 10c. for native sides.

Calves—Western calves at \$4.75; no sales of veals. Dressed calves slow, city dressed veals, 6 @ 14c.; country dressed, 7 @ 12c.

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#### A FAITHFUL BAND.

Many instances of remarkable gallantry and devotion to duty are to be found in the "Story of the Guides," by Colonel G. J. Younghusband. At present this is a corps of native East Indians, fourteen hundred strong, with twenty-seven British officers. King Edward is colonel-in-chief. It was raised in 1846, to furnish not only fighters, but also men who could, at a moment's notice, act as guides to troops in the field and to collect trustworthy information. As it was for service, and not for show, the time-honored scarlet of the British army was laid aside for the dust-colored uniform now known as khaki.

In one of their expeditions on the northwestern frontier, from the tribes of which many of the men were enlisted, they camped near a village, the home of one of the guides. His relatives and friends entreated him not to fight against them, and a favorable opportunity coming, he deserted, and carried with him two rifles.

"How many men of that man's tribe are in the regiment?" demanded the commander, Colonel Jenkins, when the fact was reported to him. It was found that there were seventeen, all told.

"Parade them all here," said the colonel; and they were duly summoned and paraded in line.

"Now take off every scrap of uniform or equipment that belongs to the sircar."

Each man did as he was bid, and placed the little pile in front of him on the ground.

"You can go now, and don't let me see your faces again until you bring back those two rifles."

He hoped that they might overtake the fugitive, but he was disappointed. Day followed day and week succeeded week, but no news came of pursued or pursuers.

The matter had been forgotten; the vacancies had long since been filled, indeed, two whole years had passed, when one day there walked into Mardan cantonment a ragged, rough-bearded, hard-bitten gang of seventeen men, carrying two rifles. It was the lost legion!

Of those two years' trial and struggle, wounds received and given, a stark, unburied corpse here and there on the mountainside, days in ambush and bitter nights of silent, anxious watch, they spoke but little; but their faces beamed with honest pride as their spokesman simply said:

"The sahib told us never to show our faces again until we found the rifles, and here they are. Now, by your honor's kindness, we will again enlist and serve the Queen."

#### Payment in Kind.

The editor of the Trevorton (Pa.) Times seems to be plentifully supplied with everything for the winter except money. In a recent editorial we read: "We have taken wood; potatoes, corn, eggs, butter, onions, cabbage, chickens, stone, lumber, labor, sand, calico, sauerkraut, second-hand clothing, coon skins, scrap iron, shoe pegs, raw hides, chinquepins, tanbark, dogs, sorghum, seed, jarware and wheat straw on subscription, and now a man wants to know if we would send the paper for six months for a large owl. We have no precedent for refusing, and if we can find a man who is out of an owl and wants one, we'll do it."—London Globe.

#### COULD NOT LOSE.

Rodrick—"Why, there goes Turfwood, the chap who used to lose so much on the races. He is dressed like a prince."

Van Albert—"Yes, he is married now and his wife gave him a tip on the races. It is a tip he can't lose on."

Rodrick—"Indeed! And what was it?"

Van Albert—"Why, a tip to hang away."—Chicago News.

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