### Hérald. Carliele

# Interesting Sketch.

## IRVING'S LIFE OF WASHINGTON.

GEORGE WASHINGTON AT SCHOOL, IN LOVE, AT HOME.

Messrs. PUTNAM & Co., of New York, are about issuing a new life of GEORGE WASHING TON, written by the great American Author WASHINGTON IRVIRG, which promises to be the most meritorious and popular life of the "Father of his country" ever written. The Literary Editor of the New York Tribune, who has been permitted to examine the advance sheets, says "its publication will form an important epoch in American literature. The life long labors of its illustrious author could not have been crowned with a more appropriate termination. His name will henceforth be indissolu hly connected with that of Washington, not only by his baptismal appellation, but by the noble mot ument which he has reared to his memory. It was a befitting task that the writer who has left such a brilliant impress of his genius on the nascent literature of his country-

1 whose fame is devoutly cherished in the hearts of the American people-held in equally affectionate remembrance in the rude cabins of the frotier, the halls of universities, and the saloons of fashionable life, whose successes in the varied walks of classical composition have done as much to illustrate the character of America in the eye of the world as the elo quence of her Senators or her prowess in arms -should create a permanent memorial of Wash ington in a style worthy the dignity of the subject and the reputation of the author."

All former biographers and bistorians have presented us with Washington as the great military commander or civil ruler. In this volume Mr. Irving presents him as a living personality, as well as a great hero. He has l id bare the mighty heart of the hero beneath the buff and blue encasings of the Continental uniform, and enabled us to listen to its audible throbs. Henceforth we shall know more of the man than we ever did before. The n me of Washington will not only be a household word as of old, but will awaken sympathies in every lover of our marvellous humanity. This volume opens with an account of the Washington family, and although not of exciting interest, it presents several curious antiquarian details. Washington was of an ancient English stock, the genealogy of which has been traced up to the century immediately succeeding the Nor man Conquest. William de Hertburn, a follower of William the Conqueror, was the progenitor of the Washingtons. The surname of this brave knight was taken from a village which he held by a feudal tenure and afterward exchanged for the manor and village of Wessyngton. The family changed its surname with its estate and thenceforward assumed that of De Wessyngton. By degrees, the seignoria sign of de disappeared from before the family surname, which also varied from Wessyngton Wassington, Wassington, and finally to Wash ington. A parish in the County of Durhan bears the name as last written, and in this probably the ancient manor of Wessyngton was situated. We give a few extracts from the earlier life of the hero, reserving a thril-

power a place is still pointed out at Fredericksburg, near the lower ferry, where when a boy he flung a stone across the Rappahann?ck. jectedness. The object of this early pas ion In h reemanship too he falrendy excelled, and is not positively known. Tradition states was ready to back and able to manage the most that the . lowland beauty' was a Miss Grimes fiery steed. Traditional anecdotes remain of his achievements in this respect. Above all, his inherent probity and the prin-

ciples of justice on which he regulated all his conduct, even at this carly period of his life, probably from the recollections of his early were soon appreciated by his schoolmates ; he tenderness for the mother. was referred to as an umpire in their disputes, and his decisions were never reversed. As he had been formerly military chieftain he was now legislator of the school; but displaying in boyhood a type of the future man.

THE LOVES OF WASHINGTON. In one of these manuscripts memorials of his practical studies and excreises, we have come upon some documents singularly in contrast with all that we have just cited and with his apparently unromantic character. In a word, there are evidences in his own handwriting that, before he was fifteen years of age, he had conceived a passion for some unknownbeauty, so serious as to disturb his otherwise well regulated mind and to make him really unhappy. Why this juvenile attachment was a source of unhappiness we have no positive means of ascertaining. Perhaps the object of it may have considered him a mere school boy and treated him as such; or his own shyness may have been in his way and his "rules for behavior and conversation" may as yet have mal and ungainly when he most sought to House of Burgesses. He was living happily sat awkwardly on him and rendered him forplease. Even in later years he was apt to be silent and embarrassed in female society "He was a very bashful young man," said an old lady whom he used to visit when they were both in their nonnge. "I often used to wish that he would talk more."

Whatever may have been the reason, this early attachment seems to have been a source Mary Philipse, sister and co-heiress of Mrs of poignant discomfort to him. It elung to him after he took a final leave of school in the autumn of 1747 and went to reside with his brother Lawrence at Mount Vernon. Here he continued his mathematical studies and his practise in surveying, disturbed at times by recurrences of his unlucky passion. Though by no means of a poetical temperament, the verse. They are mere common-place rhymes, wounded by Cupid's dart,' and 'bleeding for one who remains pityless of his griefs and wees.'

The tenor of some of his verses induces us to believe that he never told his love; but, as we have already surmised, was prevented by his bashfulness.

"Ah, we is me, that I should love and conceal; e have I wished and never dare leveal.

It is difficult to reconcile one's self to the iden of the cool and sedate Washington, the great champion of American liberty, a woeworn lover in his youthful days 'sighing like furnace' by his public duties before he had made sufand inditing plaintive verses about the groves of Mount Vernon. We are glad of an opportunity, however, of penetrating to his native feelings and finding that under his studied decorum and reserve he had a heart of flesh, throbbing with the warm impulses of human nature.

lady, sister in law of Colonel George.Fairfax,' in a great measure cheers his sorrow and deof Westmoreland, afterward Mis. Lee, and mother of Gen Henry Lee, who figured in revolutionary history as ' Light Horse Harry,' and was always a favorate with Washington.

Whatever may have been the soothing effect of the female society by which he was surrounded at Belvoir, the youth found a more effectual remedy for his love melancholy in was a staunch fox bunter, and kept horses season had arrived. The neighborhood abounded with sport; but fox hunting in Virginia required bold and skilful horsemanship. He found Washington as bold as himselt in the saddle and as eager to follow the hounds lle forthwith took him into peculiar favor ; made him his hunting companion ; and it was probably under the tuition of this hard riding old nobleman that the youth imbibed that fondness for the chase for which he was afterward remarked.

Tradition gives very different motives from those of business for his two sojourns in the latter city. He found there an early friend and schoolmate. Beverly Robins n, son of John Robinson, speaker of the Virginia and prosperously with a young and wealthy bride, having married one of the nieces and heiresses of Mr. Adolphus Philipse, a rich landholder, whose manor house is still to be seen on the banks of the Hudson. At the house of Mr. Beverly Robinson, where Washington was an honored guest, he met Miss Robinson, a young hely whose personal attractions are said to have rivaled her reputed wealth.

We have already given an instance of Washington's early sensibility to female charms.---A life however of constant activity and carewaste pages of his journal betray several at- left the mood or leisure for the indulgence of tempts to pour forth his amorous sorrows in the tender sentiment ; but made him more sensible, in the present brief interval of gay such as lovers at his age are apt to write, in and social life, to the attractions of an elegant life incessantly reverted to it. which he bewnils his 'poor restless heart, woman, brought up in the polite circle of New York.

That he was an open admirer of Miss Philipse is a historical fact; that he sought her hand, but was refused, is traditional and not very probable. His military rank, his early laurels and distinguished presence were all calculated to find favor in female eyes; but

have been diffident in urging his suit with a are washed by more than ten miles of tide lady accustomed to the homage of society and surrounded by admirers. The most probable version of the story is that he was called away ery. ficient approaches in his siege of the lady's Virginia.

heart to warrant a summons to surrender. ¥ × × \*

Washington was now ordered by Sir John

and strength. As a proof of his muscular the company of the 'very agreeable young had received on halting; the horses pawed at their love of horses; a manly passion which the path of duty. The horses were counter manded, and it was not until the next morning that he was again in the saddle, spurring best English stocks. Mention is made of on for Williamsburg Happily the White House, the residence of Mrs. Custis, was in New Kent County at no great distance from that spear, with a recess for the bed of the negr city, so that he had opportunities of visiting her in the intervals of business. His time for courtship, however was brief. Military du- above one hundred thousand dollars to hi ties called him almost immediately to Win chester: but he feared, should he leave the to live in ample and dignified style. His int

matter in suspense, some more enterprising rival might supplant him during his absence. as in the case of Miss Philipse at New York. the company of Lord Fairfax. His lordship He improved therefore his brief opportunity to the utmost. The blooming widew had and hounds in English style. The hunting many sutors, but Washington was graced with that renown so ennobling in the eyes of wo man. In a worl, before they separated, they had mutually plighted their faith, and the mairiage was to take place as soon as the campaign against Fort Duquesne was at an end.

### WASHINGTON AT HOME.

Mount Vernon was his harbor of repose, where he repeatedly furled his sail, and fancied himself for life. No impulse of ambition tempted him thence; nothing but the call of his country, and his devotion to the public good. The place was endeared to him by the remembrance of his brother Lawrence, and of the happy days he had passed here with that brother in the days of boyhood; but it was a delightful place in itself, and well calculated had his legion of house negroes for dome-t to inspire the rural feeling.

The mansion was beautifully situated on a welling height, crowned with wood, and com manding a magnificient view up and down the Potomac. The grounds immediately about it were laid out somewhat in the English taste. Poultry yards, all well stocked, and swarms The estate was apportioned into separate farms, devoted to different kinds of culture, each having its allotted laborers. Much, however, was still covered with wild woods, seamed with deep dells and runs of water, and indented with inlets; haunts of deer and lurking places of foxes. The whole woody region along the

Potomac from Mount Vernon to Belvoir, and far beyond, with its range of forests and hills, past for the most part in the wilderness and and picturesque promontories, afforded sport on the frontier, far from female society-had of various kinds, and was a noble huntingground. Washington had hunted through it with old Lord Fairfax in his stripling days; we do not wonder that his feelings throughout

'No estate in United States,' observes he, in one of his letters, 'is more pleasantly situated. In a high and healthy country; in a latitude between the extremes of heat and cold; on one of the finest rivers in the world; a river well stocked with various kinds of fish at all shad, herring, bass, carp, sturgeon, &c , in his food. His beverage was small-beer this sejourn in New York was brief; he may great abundance. The borders of the estate water : several valuable fisheries appertain to it; the whole shore, in fact, is one entire fish-

These were as yet the aristocratical days of

The estates were large, and continued in the same families by entails. Many of the wealthy planters were connected with old fum lies in England. The young men, especially the elder sons, were often sent to finish their education there, and on their return brought out the tastes and habits of the mother coun try. The Governors of Virginia were from the higher ranks of society and maintained a corresponding state. The 'established' or Episcopal Church predominated through the 'ancient dominion,' as it was termed; each county was divided into parishes, as in England. each with its parochial church, its parsonage and glebe. Washington was vestryman of two parishes, Fairfax and Truro; the parochial church of the former was at Alexandria, ten miles from Mount Vernon; of the latter, at Pohick, about seven miles. The church at Pohick was rebuilt on a plan of his own, and in a great measure at his expense. At one or other of these churches he attended every Sunday, when the weather and the roads permitted. His demeanor was reverential and devout. Mrs. Washington knelt during the former passion-so at least we judge from let- about three years, leaving her with two young prayers; he always stood, as was the custom at that time. Both were communicants. Among his occasional visitors and associates were Captain Hugh Mercer and Doctor Craik; the former, after his narrow escape from the tomahawk and scalping knife, was quietly settled at Fredericksburg; the latter, after the campaigns on the frontiers were over, had taken up his residence at Alexandria, and was now Washington's family physician. Both were drawn to him by campaiguing ties and recollection, and were over welcome at Mount Vernon. A style of living prevailed among the opulent Virginian families in those days that has long since faded away. The houses were spacious, commodious, liberal in all their appointments, and fitted to cope with the free handed, openhearted hospitality of the owners. Nothing was more common than to see handsome services of plate, elegant equipages and superb carriage-horses-all imported from England, The Virginians have always been noted for

out regard to expense. The rich planters viewith each other in their studs, importing th of the Randolphs of Tuckahee, who built stable for his favorite dapplegray horse Shak groom, who always slept beside him at night Washington, by his murriage, had adde already considerable fortune, and was enable macy with the Fairfaxes, and his intercours with British officers of rank, had perhaps ha their influence on his mode of living. He ha his chariot and four, with black postilions i livery, for the use of Mrs. Washington at her lady visitors. As for himself, he appeare on horseback. His stable was well filled, ar admirably regulated. His stud was thoroug hred and in excellent order. His househo books contain registers of the names, ag and marks of his favorite horses; such as Aja Blueskin, Valiant, Magnolia (an Arab,) &c.-

Also his dogs, chiefly fox-hounds, Vulca Ringwood, Forrester, Sweetlips, Music, Roc wood, Truelove, &c."

A large Virginia estate, in those days, w little empire. The mansion house was th seat of government, with its numerous depe dencies, such as kitchens, smokehouse, worl shops and stables. In this mansion the plant ruled supreme; his steward or overseer w his prime minister and executive officer; 1 service, and his host of field negroes for th culture of tobacco, Indian corn, and oth crops, and for other out of door labor. The quarter formed a kind of hamlet spart, corposed of various huts, with little gardens as little negroes gamboling in the sunshine. Then there were large wooden edifices t curing tobacco, the staple and most profital production, and mills for grinding wheat an Indian corn, of which large fields were cul vated for the supply of the family and t maintanance of the negroes

He was an early riser, often before da break in the winter when the nights we long. On such occasions he lit his own fir and wrote or read by candle light. He brea fasted at seven in Summer, at eight in Winte Two small cups of tea and three or four cak of Indian meal (called hoe-cakes) formed 1 frugal repast. Immediately after breakfast mounted his horse and visited those parts the estate where any work was going on, se ing to everything with his own eyes, and ofte aiding with his own hands.

• \*

Dinner was served a 2 o'clock. He a heartily, but was no epicure nor critical abo cider and two glasses of old Madeira. 1 took ten, of which he was very foud, early the evening and retired for the night about o'clock.

If confined to the house by bad weather took that occasion to arrange his papers, I ( up his accounts or write letters--passing pr of the time in reading and occasionally rea ing aloud to the family.

He treated his negroes with kindness; : ended to their comforts: was particular careful of them in sickness, but never tole ated idleness, and exacted a faithful perfect ance of all their allotted tasks. He had quick eye at calculating each man's capal . ties. An entry in his diary gives a curiinstance of this. Four of his negroes emply ed as carpenters were hewing and shaping timber. It appeared to him in noticing t mount of work accomplished between ty succeding mornings, that they loitered at the labor. Sitting down quietly he timed the oporations, how long it took them to get the cross-cut saw and other implements read now long to clear away the branches from t trunk of a fallen tree; how long to hew a saw it; what time was expended in consider: and consulting, and, after all, how much wo was effected during the time he looked on. From this he made his computation of he much they could execute in the course of day, working entirely at their ease. At another time we find him working for part of two days with Poter, his smith, make a plow on a new invention of his ow This, after two or three failures, he acco plished. Then, with less than his usual jud ment, he put his two chariot horses to t plow and ran a great risk of spoiling-them giving his new invention a trial over grou thickly swarded. Anon, during a thunder-storm a frightend negro alarms the house with word that t mill is giving way, upon which there is a ge eral turn-out of all the forces, with Washin ton at their head, wheeling and shoveling gr vel, during a pelting rain, to check the rus ing water. Washington delighted in the chase. In t hunting season, when he rode out early in t morning to visit distant parts of the esta where work was going on, he often took souther of the dogs with him for the chance of star ing a fox, which he occassionally did, thou CONTINUED ON BEYENTH PAGE.

ling description of the battle of Bunker's Hill for another occasion :

#### WASHINGTON AT SCHOOL.

Having no longer the benefit of a father's instructions at home, and the scope of tuition of Hobby, the sexton, being too limited for the growing wants of his pupil, George was now sent to reside with Augustine Washington, at Bridges Creek, and enjoy the benefit of a superior school in that neighborhood, kept by a Mr. Williams. His education however was plain and practical. He never attempted the learned languages, nor manifested any inclination for rhetoric or belles lettres. Ilis object, or the object of his friends, seems to have been confined to fitting him for ordinary business. His manuscript school books still exist, and are models of neatness and accuracy. One of them, it is true, a ciphering book, preserved in the library at Mount Vernon, has some schoolboy attempts at calligraphy; nondescript birds, executed with a flourish of the pen, or profiles of faces probably intended for those of his school mates; the rest are all grave and business like. Before he was thirteen years of age he had copied into a volume forms for all kinds of mercantile and legal papers; bills of exchange, notes of hand, deeds, bonds and the like. This early self tuition gave him throughout life a lawyer's skill in drafting documents and a merchants exactness in keeping accounts, so that all the concerns of his various estates, his dealings with his domestic stowards and foreign agents, his ac counts with government, and all his financial transactions are to this day to be seen posted up in books in his own handwriting, monuments of his method and unwearied accuracy, He was a self-disciplinarian in physical as well as mental matters and practised himself in all kind of athletic exercises, such as running, leaping, wrestling, pitching quoits and tossing bars. His frame oven in infancy had been large and powerful, and he now excelled most of hisoplaymates, in contests of agility

seemed a boy, nor was he treated as such. his conduct; his frankness and modesty in spired cordial regard, and the melanin ladies' cyes. According to his own account the female society by which he was surroun- plish his mission. ded had a soothing effect on that melancholy. The charms of Miss Carey, the sister of the bride, seem even to have caused a slight fluttering in his bosom ; which, however, was conjournal.

was my heart disengaged, pass my time very Fairfax's wife's sister); but as that's only adding fuel to fire, it makes me the more uneasy, for by often and unavoidably being in burying that chaste and trouble some passion in the grave of oblivion,' &c.

Similar avowals he makes to another of his styled 'Dear Sally,' to whom he acknowledges dream. Bishop was punctual to the orders he

. . .

\_ V

St. Clair, the quartermaster general of the forces under General Forbes, to repair to Williamsburg and lay the state of the case be-

fore the Council. He set off promptly on The merits of Washington were known and horseback, attended by Bishop, the well appreciated by the Fairfax family. Though trained military servant who had served the not quite sixteen years of age he no longer late General Braddock. It proved an eventful journey, though not in a military point of Tall, athletic, and manly for his years, his view. In crossing a ferry of the Pamunkey, early self-training and the code of conduct he a branch of York River, he fell in company had devised, gave a gravity and decision to with a Mr. Chamberlayne who lived in the neighborhood, and who, in the spirit of Virginian hospitality, claimed him as a guest .-choly of which he speaks may have produced It was with difficulty Washington could be a softness in his manner calculated to win favor prevailed on to halt for dinner so impatient was he to arrive at Williamsburg and accom-

Among the guests at Mr. Chamberlayne's was a young and blooming widow. Mrs. Martha Custis, daughter of Mr. John Danbridge, both patrician names in the province. Her stantly rebuked by the remembrance of his husband, John Parke Custis, had been dead ters to his youthful confidants, rough drafts children and a large fortune. She is repreof which are still to be seen in his tell tale sented as being rather below the middlo size, but extremely well shaped, with an agreeable

To one whom he addresses as hes dear countenance, dark hazel eyes and hair, and friend Robin, he writes; ' My residence is those frank, engaging manners, so captivating at present at his lordship's, where I might in Southern women. We are not informed whether Washington had met with her before; plesantly, as there's a very agreeable young probably not during her widow hood, as durlady lives in the same house (Col. George ing that time he had been almost continually on the frontier. We have shown that, with all his gravity and reserve, he was quickly susceptible to female charms; and they may company with her, revives my former passion | have had a greater effect upon him when thus for your Lowland Beauty; whereas was I to csaually encountered in fleeting moments live more retired from young women, I might snatched from the cares and perplexities and in some measure alleviate my sorrows by rude scenes of frontier warfare. At any rate his heart appears to have been taken by surprise.

The dinner, which in those days was an young correspondents, whom he styles ' Dear | carlier meal than at present, seemed all too friend John,' as also to 'a female confidant, short. The afternoon passed away like a