

WASHINGTON'S HOME AT MOUNT VERNON.

During the Civil War there was only one spot in all our new United States where soldiers of both armies could meet on common ground as friends, not foemen, as brothers and sons of one father, the "Father of His Country." That spot was Mount Vernon. A "truce of God" prevailed throughout the broad acres that contained the home and tomb of Washington.

Whether hunted by their enemy or drawn hither by the same reverent inspiration that attracts visitors to Mount Vernon from every part of the habitable globe, wearers of the blue and the gray were equally welcome. The only restriction placed upon their coming was the servants' request that they leave their arms at whatever point they entered the grounds, sometimes at the old porter's lodge, three-quarters of a mile away.

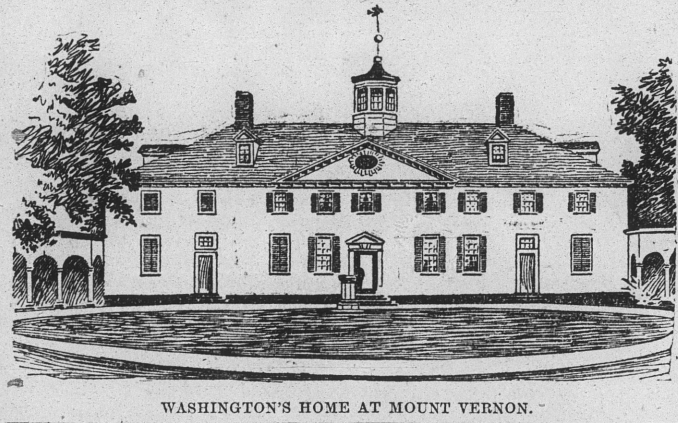
At Washington's tomb unarmed pickets of the South and North frequently met during the years of the "great conflict." Sacred, however, as this home of peace is, it is to the women of the United States, and to them alone, that we owe the purchase and preservation of Washington's home, and only their loving care has made possible the past and present restoration of this fine old type of the colonial mansion of a century and a half ago. The high privilege and real happiness of visiting this house and grounds, with all their varied and tangible memorials so intimately associated with the life and character of the immortal Washington, the American people owe to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union. Of the early struggles and patient labors of successive members of this association much might be said. Organized in 1858, under the regency of Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, it obtained by purchase some 200 of the thousands of acres owned by the late Colonel John Augustine Washington, last private owner of Mount Vernon, who found himself unable to maintain the estate. To his credit be it said, Colonel Washington did not sell the land on which rests the tomb of General Washington and his family. The tomb, or the two acres containing it, were deeded as a gift to the association. Later donations from Jay Gould and others have increased the real estate of the association to 237½ acres.

The restoration, equipment and keeping of the respective rooms of the mansion have been entrusted to the noble women of the different States represented in the Board of Vice-Regents. These vice-regents are representative women of most of the leading States, appointed by the regent, their names being submitted by her to the Board of Vice-Regents for confirmation or rejection, after the manner of Presidential appointments. There are thirty-three vice-regents now in office. These ladies have wrested what they affectionately style "this, our beloved home," from decay and almost from annihilation. Not only the mansion and tomb—with its family vault and two sarcophagi inclosing the remains of "the General" and his "consort"—receive their anxious care, but the work of the association extends to all the outbuildings and every distinctive feature of the grounds that has any connection with the period of Washington's occupancy.

The annual reports presented and read at the yearly meetings of the

Stuarts, Dicks, Masons, Carlyles and other friends of Washington and the Curtises, with their hair-powder, face-patches and silk stockings, and even their outdoor life, with outriders and fine equipages.

In the report mentioned, and in conversation with the writer, Mr. Rogers explained how, in response to the request of the committee, he made a thorough examination of the cellar, first floor hall, second floor hall, the antique staircase that greets the visitor's eye as he enters the main door, also the side walls of the halls, doors, cornice, columns (supporting the girder sustaining the upper floors of the mansion), windows, etc. After carefully removing each layer of a small section of the paint on the side-wall panels, the original color was revealed. This proved to be a delicate



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French gray, almost a robin-egg blue. This color had originally been applied to the side walls and ceilings and panels of the stair skirting. This delicate tint was in entire harmony with the then prevailing hues as seen in the garments and appointments of persons of colonial distinction. The present coating of paint is a deep yellow-brown, grained and hideous enough to any one possessed of artistic tastes. It doubtless antedates the period of control by the association. While carefully preserving any portion of the woodwork and carving from dilapidation, and repainting when the same was needed, it has only been recently that from six to ten layers of paint have been removed to ascertain what was the early colonial tint. Mr. Rogers' examination also extended to the doors, trim, door heads, choir rail, washboard, windows, stair-skirting batons, cornice, etc. These proved to have originally been painted ivory white, china gloss finish on the hall side.

The present cornice and cross girder, supported by two columns on either side of the hall through which the visitor approaches the staircase leading to the second floor, all are regarded by Mr. Rogers as of modern construction and entirely incongruous with the rest of the work. Rebecca Robinson, once a slave of John Augustine Washington, told the writer the history of the origin and construction of these columns in the hall. She states that many years ago the cross-beam supporting the entire upper part of the house badly sagged. Then an arch was raised to remedy this defect. This arch was regarded as ineffectual, and in 1884 it was removed and a new

committee after an examination made by him at their request. As the great purpose of the association is to keep the mansion and its surroundings forever open to the public, the projected restoration will be made by degrees, so as to interfere as little as possible with the freedom of visitors.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.
The People Began to Celebrate It as Far Back as 1783.

We may reckon February 22 as one of our oldest holidays, for though no Legislature had at that time set it apart as a legal holiday, the regular celebration of Washington's birthday began in 1783. On February 22 of that year a party of gentlemen met in a tavern in New York. One of them had written an ode on Washington, another brought a list of tracts, still others had prepared speeches. There was great feasting, patriotic toasts were drunk, and before the company went singing home they agreed to meet together on every coming February 22 in honor of their country's chief. Other little knots of friends followed their example, and before long the celebration became general. Though not publicly recognized, wherever there were a score of more of houses the people gladly devoted at least a few hours of the day to jollity and good cheer.

The celebration of the day gradually grew in importance till in the beginning of this century. Every theatre on that day brought out some new play and made itself gay with flags and transparencies. Taverns spread their best cheer. There were balls and bonfires, barbecues and cannonading, bell ringing, feasting and toasts. A glance over the *Gazettes* and *Advertisers* of that period shows that it was quite the end of March before they ceased to publish accounts of the festivities which had taken place in every city and town in the land.

Washington was born before the adoption in England of the Gregorian Calendar, and was, therefore, born on February 11, old style. For a long time some of his most ardent admirers persisted in celebrating this day rather than the 22d. We find as late as 1796 certain counties in which men of the old school were unwilling to adopt the new calendar, at least so far as concerned the birthday of the Father of their Country.

Dolls' Hair.
The hair on the head of most of the dolls in this country is made from the hair of the Angora goat.

WASHINGTON.
In the upright little sappling lives the mighty mountain pine. Straighter than an Indian chieftain with its long, unswerving line, Lifting high its sturdy branches, rooted in its rocky bed, Landmark to the valleys under, shelter for the weary head.

Success With Home Made Fertilizers.
For nearly 40 years I have been the occupant of a rough, sidehill New England dairy farm, writes "A Votary." I ran in debt almost wholly for it, having hardly means to stock it and buy the necessary teams and tools.

Herding Sheep Good for Consumptives.
Another class of men who watch sheep are those who do it for their health. Dozens of men claim to have been cured of consumption simply by putting in several months at watching sheep. The work gives what is most required in the deadly disease—plenty of fresh air, moderate exercise, and employment that is not wearing on the brain, but is still enough to keep it occupied and prevent nervousness. Of course, if a man has plenty of money, he can get these without herding sheep, but there are many men who need them badly who have no money, and all who have taken advantage of this knowledge have surely been benefited. A number of men who have taken up sheep herding have become so fascinated with it that they have stuck to it long after they got over the trouble.—*Providence Journal.*

Captain Brown of the British ship Windward has spent forty years sailing in the Arctic seas. He began on a whaler when twelve years old, and has been in the polar seas oftener probably than any other man.

Blackfish have not been seen in Massachusetts bay for thirteen years.

THE FARM GARDEN



Corn Cobs for Kindling.

Corn cobs are often used for kindling fires. But while they light easily, the cob being solid does not create a draught of air and the fire soon goes out. Finely split kindling is much better, as it gives more heat, and thus sets fire to the heavier wood. But if dipped in kerosene and placed under the wood, the cob will furnish heat enough to light dry wood in large pieces without using any other kindling. It is the only way in which kerosene oil can be used with safety in lighting fires.

Utilizing Incubator Eggs.

Eggs are expensive food for chickens, but when an incubator is used the clear ones are sometimes given as food, but usually cooked hard. This is a mistake. The best mode of feeding eggs to chickens is to pour boiling water on the eggs, beat them, and thicken the mess to a stiff dough with corn meal. Fed in this manner, constipation will be avoided, but they should not be used oftener than every other day, giving them at night. Hard boiled eggs are excellent, but they are usually fed too liberally and cause bowel disease.—*Farm News.*

Hogs in Small Lots.

It is neither profitable nor always entirely safe to keep great numbers of hogs together. Besides the liability to disease getting among them, there is always a certainty that the stronger will crowd the weaker from their feeding places, so that inequality in size will increase instead of decreasing. In every litter there are always one or two weaklings that were born runts, and unless given a better chance than their fellows, they will always remain runts. The best way to manage this is when the pigs are seven- or eight weeks old, take out the stronger ones and wean them, giving them plenty of the best food that can be got to make growth. Then the runts left to suckle the sow alone will in two or three weeks more take a start that may make them as good as the others, so that in later life all can be fed together. No other feed, without the sow's milk, will do this, though such other feed should be given and the pigs be encouraged to eat all they can be made to eat.

Providing Winter Cows.

Many farmers who would like to breed cows so as to have them farrow in the early fall are unable to do so, because it is difficult to get a cow which is giving milk to come in heat at this season. It does not pay to dry off the cow in which case she would come in heat quickly enough, but might be too fat to breed well. The better way is to feed extra with oats, wheat bran and middlings mixed with ground rye. If this rye has got some ergot in it there will be no trouble about the cow coming in heat. If in any form has the effect of increasing prolificacy in all animals that will eat it. There are many advantages in having calves dropped in the fall, provided there are warm quarters for them the first winter. They will make the best winter cows, as they will naturally come in heat when a little more than a year old, and may be bred then. Spring calves also coming in heat in the spring make cows which will give the bulk of their milk during the summer, when milk and all dairy products are cheapest.—*Boston Cultivator.*

The Sex of Eggs.

There are many theories regarding the hatching of eggs—i. e. the sex. Some claim that round smooth eggs will produce pullets; others that the position of air space has much to do with the sex, etc.; but these are merely theories—not a fact in the lot. One of these theories might seem to give good results one season, only to be reversed the next.

There is room for much experiment on this line. The male bird has much to do with it—cockerels mated with two-year old hens and cocks mated with yearling hens. In our opinion the individuality of the male bird is all important. The stronger this individuality the more male birds will be the result. In special matings or double matings for show birds this has often been commented upon. We believe that this question will never be settled, for the simple reason that hens have as strong individual qualities as cocks, and while a strong cock might influence a majority of his get, yet the minority, due to strong individual hens, will always be present. While experiments along this line will be profitable, yet it is idle for the average poultryman to thus employ himself. We do not believe we will ever be able to mate so as to produce either all pullets or all cockerels.—*Agricultural Epitomists.*

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SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

The average weight of the brain of a Scotchman is larger than that of any other race on the globe.

A Russian admiral has invented an ice plow capable of breaking through ice from twelve to twenty inches thick.

A German professor reports that he has found living bacteria in wine which had been bottled twenty-five or thirty years.

Berlin is to have a combination electric street railway, part of the system being underground and part run on the American elevated method.

Artesian wells have proved successful in New South Wales, the area within which underground water is found extending 62,000 square miles.

The Japanese cite 269 color varieties of the chrysanthemum of which sixty-three are yellow, eighty-seven white, thirty-two purple, thirty red, thirty-one pale pink, twelve russet and fourteen of mixed colors.

Munich used to be notorious for its excessive typhoid-fever death rate, it being twenty-nine per 10,000 in 1856. With the introduction of a pure water supply and improved sewer system it has fallen to less than two per 10,000.

The Berlin Post says that the establishment having exclusive rights to manufacture Berlin's anti-toxin pays him a monthly royalty of \$17,500. The Paris Figaro quotes these figures, and observes that Dr. Roux, assistant director of the Pasteur institute in Paris, does not profit at all from his discovery.

Plague bacilli, it appears from the elaborate report of the German government commission to Bombay, in most cases enter the system through small wounds or scratches, and the disease is mostly confined to dwellers in poor and insanitary localities. The bacilli are very quickly killed by ordinary antiseptics, and heating serum inoculations gave little protection in the Bombay epidemic, but Haffkine's method proved very successful. This consists in inoculation with the products of bacilli culture. To a virulent growth of plague bacilli was added carbolic acid solution or essence of mustard, destroying the microbes, but leaving products having remarkable protective power. An even better vaccine resulted from heating the plague cultures to 150 degrees Fahrenheit for an hour.

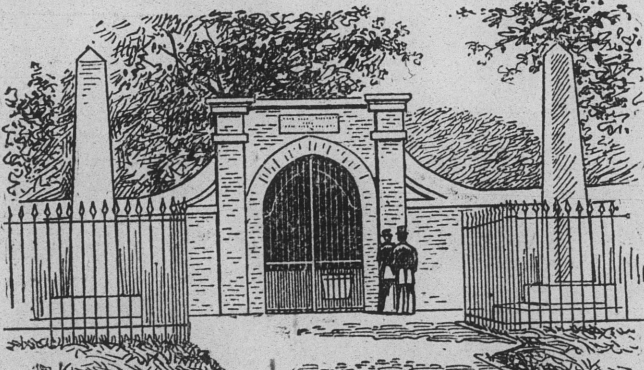
The Mystery of Sleep.

The sleep of a human being, if we are not too busy to attend to the matter, always evokes a certain feeling of awe. Go into a room where a person is sleeping, and it is difficult to resist the sense that one is in the presence of the central mystery of existence. People who remember how constantly they see old Jones asleep in the club library will smile at this; but look quietly and alone at even old Jones, and the sense of mystery will soon develop. It is no good to say that sleep is only "moving" because it looks like death. The person who is breathing so loudly as to take away all thought of death causes the sense of awe quite as easily as the silent sleeper who hardly seems to breathe. We see death seldom, but were it more familiar we doubt if a corpse would inspire so much awe as the unconscious and sleeping figure—a smiling, irresponsible doll of flesh and blood, but a doll [to whom in a second may be recalled a proud, active, controlling consciousness which will ride his bodily and his mental horse with a hand of iron, which will force that body to endure toil and misery, and will make that mind, now wandering in paths of fantastic folly, grapple with some great problem, or throw all its force into the ruling, the saving, or the destruction of mankind. The corpse is only so much bone, muscle and tissue. The sleeping body is the house which a quick and eager master has only left for an hour or so. Let any one who thinks sleep is no mystery, try to observe in himself the process by which sleep comes, and to notice how and when and under what conditions he loses consciousness. He will, of course, utterly fail to put his finger on the moment of sleep coming, but in striving to get as close as he can to the phenomena of sleep, he will realize how great is the mystery which he is trying to fathom.—*London Spectator.*

How to Tell a Good Banana.

"When you are buying bananas never purchase the long thin ones unless you want fruit that will pucker your mouth. No matter how well ripened these thin bananas may appear to be, they will always be found both sour and acid. This is because the bunch which contained them was picked too soon. The banana grows faster at first in length. When it has reached its full development in that direction, it suddenly begins to swell, and in a few days will double in girth. It is at the end of this time that it begins to ripen naturally, and the effort of the banana importer is to have the fruit gathered at the last possible moment, and yet before the ripening has progressed even enough to tinge the bright green of the fruit with yellow. A difference of twenty-four hours on the trees at this time will make a difference in the weight of the fruit of, perhaps, twenty-five per cent, and all the difference in its final favor, between a puckery sour and the sweetness and smoothness which are characteristic of the ripe fruit. To get the bananas to our market in good condition requires fast steamers, which must be provided with ventilation and other means of keeping the fruit from ripening too fast in the hold. Much of the finest fruit does ripen in a few days of passage, and this is sold to hucksters for street sale.

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WASHINGTON'S TOMB AT MOUNT VERNON.

Ladies' Association show admirable results in their care of the place and in the accumulation of articles of use in, or identified with, the General's family life.

During the gatherings of the Board last year, Mrs. Charles Curtis Harrison of Philadelphia (Vice-Regent for Pennsylvania), invited Architect T. Mallon Rogers, of Philadelphia, architect of the restoration of Independence Hall, to come to Mount Vernon and confer with the Mansion Committee. The result of this conference is fully outlined in a written report made by Mr. Rogers, embodying details of a projected restoration to be undertaken this fall. This work will involve and effect a more complete transformation in the general aspect of the interior than any yet attempted. The restored second floor of Independence Hall has proved a revelation of Colonial beauty and simplicity. This restoration of the paneled halls and antique stairway of Mount Vernon will vividly recall the faces and costumes of the Carys, Fairfaxes, Lees, Pierces, Dulanys, Johnstons, Craiks, Hunters, Dades, Ramseys, Fitzhughs, Wests,

iron beam inserted, braced from the collar, and these columns erected accordingly. They were never a part of the interior construction in Washington's time, and their removal will greatly add to the exact restoration of the first floor hall. Other details in necessary repairs to the cellar, and features of the staircase not in harmony with other portions, in varnish or color, form matter of no great public interest. An examination of the walls was made, starting from the stairway to the second floor, and after a removal of three layers of a small section of wall paper the fact was revealed that the original mortar was a colonial buff. In some places it would seem to have been white-coated, and in other places a rough finish of buff mortar is found under the paper. Research will be made to ascertain whether the walls were originally of a buff mortar finish or papered after the fashion of one of the layers removed.

It seems more than likely that, when commenced, this transformation of the halls and main staircase will ultimately lead to a new restoration of rooms given over to the care of vice-regents



In the boy so true and fearless lived our hero good and grand, Through the days of stormy trouble shelter to his native land. For the infant twig, believe me, ever grows as it began, And the child of noble nature makes the noble-hearted man. —*Youth's Companion.*