

WASHINGTON'S LIFE AT MOUNT VERNON

WASHINGTON inherited Mount Vernon in 1759 from his half-brother, Lawrence Washington, who died in 1757. This brother had a daughter, Sarah, who was heiress to the estate, but she died two years later, and the property then reverted to George, who was then twenty-seven years old. The estate then comprised less than 3000 acres.



SLEEPING ROOM, MOUNT VERNON.

but soon after he came into possession he added to it 5500 acres by purchase which gave him ten miles of river front. Then began the system of improvements and cultivation which subsequently made Mount Vernon the most valuable landed property in Virginia. He drained the land wherever needed, he rotated crops, got the best farm implements then in existence, built and repaired fences, had his grist mill, his own distillery, had his own

riding about in his coach and six, and with no near neighbors to restrain, censure, or outshine him, was a kind of farmer-king.

It was fortunate for Washington that he came to his wealth when his character was mature. Being a younger son, he had no expectations of wealth in his youth, and he grew up in a very hardy, sensible manner, on an enormous farm, not a fourth part of which was cultivated. His father dying when he was eleven years old, he came directly under the influence of his mother, who was one of the women of whom people say, "There is no nonsense about her." She was a plain, energetic, strong-willed lady, perfectly capable of conducting the affairs of a farm, and scolding the help of others. When she was advanced in years, her son-in-law offered to manage her business for her.

"You may keep the accounts, Fielding," was her reply, "for your eye-sight is better than mine, but I can manage my affairs myself."

On another occasion, General Washington asked her to come and live with him at Mount Vernon.

"Thank you, George," said she, "but I prefer being independent."

And so to the last she lived in her own plain farmhouse, and superintended the culture of her own acres. When Lafayette visited her he found her in work in her garden, with her old sun-bonnet on, and she came in to see him, saying:

"I would not pay you so poor a compliment, Marquis, as to stay to change my dress."

Being the son of such a woman, and trained by her in a simple, rational

returning at half-past 2, in time to dress for dinner at 3. He was always dressed with care for this meal, as on all occasions of ceremony. He liked plain dishes and was particularly fond of baked apples, hickory nuts and other simple products of the country. It was his custom to sit a good while at the table after dinner, talking over his hunts and his adventures while in service during the French war. His usual toast was, "All our friends."

The evening was spent in the family circle round the blazing wood fire, and by 10 o'clock he was usually asleep. Such was the ordinary life of this illustrious farmer at home, before his country called him to the field to defend her liberties; and it was just the kind of life that was best fitted to prepare him for the command of an army of American farmers.



Teacher—"Johnnie, this is the worst composition on Washington in the class, and I'm going to write to your father and tell him."

Johnnie—"Don't keep it up, do; he wrote it for me."

The Man Who "Never Slept Over."

Not a political seer like Jefferson, nor a great philosopher like Franklin, Washington was pre-eminently the good citizen, always equal to the demands of his duty and always ready to make the sacrifices it required of him.

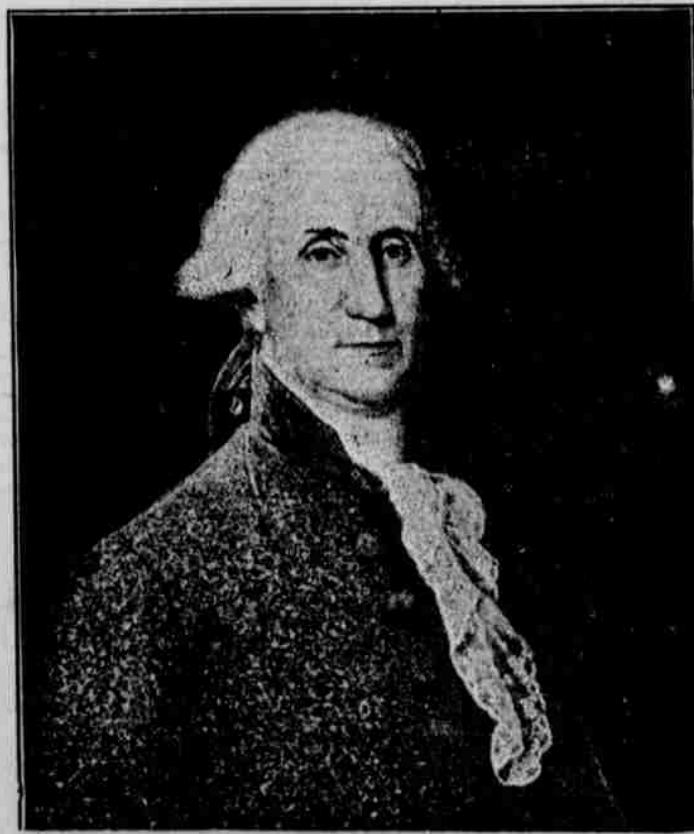
He represented the highest type of the character resulting from careful home-breeding as distinct from that produced by education in letters or by travel. The education of the home made him the most thoroughly self-mastered man among his contemporaries and a patriot of patriots. It is a well authenticated fact that he was of a sensitive, nervous organization—what was called in an old-fashioned way "high strung"—but he had his naturally hot temper under such thorough control that the impression he produced was one of extreme mildness.

The American humorist who said of him that he "never slept over" condensed his character in a phrase not the less strikingly true because of the element of the ludicrous in it—New York World.

Graces of Manner.

Washington was grave in manners but perfectly easy. There was a commanding air in his presence which compelled respect and forbade too great a freedom towards him, independently of that species of awe which is always felt in the moral influence of a great character. In every movement, too, there was a polite gracefulness equal to any met with in the most polished individuals in Europe, and his smile was extraordinarily attractive. It was observed by me there was an expression in Washington's face that no painter had succeeded in taking.—William Hazlitt.

WASHINGTON IN THE MT. VERNON DAYS.



WASHINGTON IN 1794, AGE SIXTY-TWO—PAINTED BY WERTMULLER.

From the original portrait, belonging to Mr. John Wagner, Philadelphia. Canvas, twenty-one by twenty-five inches. Adolph Ulric Wertmüller was born in Stockholm, Sweden, February 18, 1751, and died near Wilmington, Delaware, October 5, 1811, and is buried in the old Swedes' churchyard. His original portrait of Washington, scrupulously preserved, was, after the death of his widow, three months later, sold at auction in Philadelphia, with his other pictures, for \$50. It is certainly the portrait of a dignified gentleman, and while it may be slightly tintured with a foreign air, commends itself as a good likeness. It is carefully signed "A. Wertmüller S. Pt. Philadelphia 1794."

A Famous Bas-Relief.

From the original bas-relief in gypsum, in the possession of the writer. Size, four and a half by six and a half inches. George Miller was a potter,



WASHINGTON IN 1798, AGE SIXTY-SIX GEORGE MILLER.

stonecutter and modeller, an academician of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, a fellow of the first Society of Artists, and an associate of the Columbian Society of Arts, of which Jefferson was first President; so that his position in the art world was fully recognized by his contemporaries. He was doubtless a German, as his name is found early spelled Muller. He contributed to the Academy exhibition of 1813 portraits of Albert Gallatin and Mrs. Madison, "modelled in colors," and of Bishop White and other persons of consideration to the exhibitions of the two succeeding years. He died in 1819, and in the catalogue for 1821 is entered "likeness of the late Talbot Hamilton, finely modelled in wax by the late George Miller." The bas-relief of Washington is not cast, but carved in low relief, and was the property of the celebrated William Bingham, who left this country in 1800 and died at Bath, England, in 1804. It was purchased at the sale of his effects in 1807, and remained for eighty-five years in the possession of the purchaser and his son. As the earliest notice we have of Miller in Philadelphia is in 1798, this bas-relief must have been made when Washington was last in that city, between November and December 14, 1798.



George—"What did I do it for? Say, ain't a feller got ter git his name later history somehow?"

No Relatives Present.

None of George Washington's relatives were present at his funeral; his death was so unexpected, the means of communication so slow. Mrs. Washington did not see his body laid in the grave; she remained in the house. George Washington Parke Custis was present. Nellie Custis Lewis lay ill in an upper chamber.

LEPROSY.

Some Facts About This Most Loathsome Disease.

Of all the diseases which desolate humanity leprosy is perhaps the one which produces the most terror among all peoples, and it is with the greatest satisfaction that we learn that this terrible evil has just been the object of an admirable effort on the part of Dr. Filaretopoulos, professor in the faculty of medicine at Athens. For the past six months he has studied the leper in the very hotbed of the disease, the leper houses of Crete, returning full of hope and courage.

It is too generally believed that the leper has disappeared, if not from the world, at least from our own land; but it is not necessary to go very far to find him, and this suffices to justify all the measures which are taken against him. These measures are of general interest, more general than one thinks, for it is nearly certain that leprosy is but an aggravated form of tuberculosis, and that which destroys the one will surely lessen the other. Dr. Filaretopoulos has come with his figures, and he tells us that at present there are 300,000 lepers in the world. This figure is very much lower than the actual number, for it represents only the certain cases, and the statistics for the Orient, where the disease has full sway, are of doubtful accuracy.

Have not these figures a terrible eloquence, and does not every one feel, in considering them, the necessity for prompt and energetic action? This is all the more the case since, according to Dr. Filaretopoulos, if the disease is taken at its commencement it is curable, its slow evolution—five to six years in general—permitting a continuous effort to arrest its progress.

Leprosy is hereditary, and probably contagious, and however great the restrictions the lepers contaminate others. It is this contagion which it is first necessary to do away with. Dr. Filaretopoulos states that the danger proceeds from want of care in the posthouses wherein lepers are kept; they go out when they so desire, beg in the villages, tend sheep, and sometimes marry healthy persons. Although Dr. Filaretopoulos has noticed some cases in which the patients improve, there does not seem at the present time any positive cure. At the same time, it is necessary to state, with scientific brutality, that this particular point has only a relative importance, for when the house burns it is better to protect the movables close by than to attempt to save some broken-legged chairs. The leper is to be pitied, he is to be cared for; if he can be helped one should not hesitate to do so; but every effort should be directed to establishing around those infected a rigorous defensive cordon; for if in the present state of science it is not possible to uproot the evil we must prevent its germ from spreading.—La Vie Illustrée.

Girl Corners Nut Market.

Barnice Bardine, a pretty Texas girl, who is yet under 20 years of age, has displayed judgment and business acumen of a high order. Last year Miss Bardine and her brother, younger than herself, made a little money gathering pecans. Since then she has been studying the business and laying plans for future operations. During the last summer she carried on an extensive correspondence, not only with mercantile establishments in various cities that handled pecans, but with reliable people who reside in regions where the toothsome nut grows. In this way she became thoroughly posted on the present crop.

Feeling confident that pecans would command a good price, she set to work some weeks ago and quietly leased every pecan grove and forest of any value in the Colorado valley. When buyers appeared, startling the ranchers by offering to engage pecans at 7 1/2 cents per pound, those who make a business of gathering the nuts were astounded to discover that a young girl had cornered the crop so far as this particular region is concerned. A little investigation showed that this energetic woman is in a fair way to make a fortune in a few months. It is known that she got a bargain in nearly all of her leases. As a sample of her shrewdness, she leased one forest for \$100, in which there are several giant trees, that will yield 20 bushels or 850 pounds of pecans. At a low estimate the profits from this single transaction will fall little short of \$5000.

Good-Natured Crowds.

A student of human nature can certainly ask no better entertainment than to ride in a crowded elevated train between 5 and 7 o'clock in the evening. In spite of the great discomfort to which the passengers are constantly subjected, the disposition of the crowd seems to be always absolutely good natured, and in spite of being packed in like sardines in a box you seldom hear an ugly remonstrance.

One of the most aggravating things to happen to one while hanging on like grim death to a strap is when with great effort you move to one side to allow some other human being to pass to have said human being quietly plant himself in the space you have thus made.

It is in such ways as this that the disposition is sorely tried, and the good nature referred to is therefore all the more remarkable.—New York Mail and Express.

Pneumatic.

Mrs. Malaprop—"No wonder he's got rheumatism. I understand he has them kind of tubes in his office."

Mrs. Brown—"What kind of tubes?"

Mrs. Malaprop—"Rheumatic"—Philadelphia Press.

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This is a fair representation of the class of goods it is selling to its customers.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

King Edward VII. has paid in all seven visits to Ireland.

S. M. Bryan, who established the mail service in Japan in 1872, died in Baltimore, Md., the other day.

Professor E. P. Lyon has been appointed temporary successor to Dr. Loeb at the University of Chicago.

Lord Strathcona, Chancellor of McGill University, has offered to give the last \$20,000 required to construct a gymnasium.

Mr. Kipling's home in South Africa during some weeks to come will be the house which in the past was lent to him by Cecil Rhodes.

Miss Marie Wiecek, the court pianist and sister-in-law of Robert Schumann, the composer, has just celebrated her seventieth birthday in Dresden.

M. Nazon, who died recently at the age of ninety-three, had been Mayor of the commune of Maymeis continuously since 1854, forty-nine years.

Dvorak, the composer, Vrchlicky, the Czech poet, and Ferdinand von Saar, the Austrian poet, have been made members of the Austrian House of Peers.

Samuel Smiles, the author, has just celebrated his ninetieth birthday. He is still in fair health and manifests considerable interest in current politics and literature.

The Countess of Minto, wife of the Governor-General of Canada, is at the head of a movement to prepare suitable markings for the graves of Canadian soldiers who died in South Africa.

Mr. Edison claims to be one of the hardest-worked men. When he can steal away from his laboratory he spends the precious moments with his prize poultry, some of which cost \$100 apiece.

The Pope's income is \$1,400,000, one-seventh of which is guaranteed by the Emperor of Austria. Another seventh comes from vested interests, and the remainder is derived from Peter's Pence.

NEWSY CLEANINGS.

London policemen patrol 2445 1/2 miles of streets.

Third-class railway fare in India is less than half a cent a mile.

The dam in the Nile at Assouan will throw back water 140 miles.

More than 150 books on the war in South Africa have been published.

The Kansas Legislature has tabled a bill that proposed to disfranchise the negro.

In Berlin 833 public buildings are owned by the state and 497 by the municipality.

A lock of the Duke of Wellington's hair brought \$20 at a London auction the other day.

The Russian military barracks just completed near Warsaw are the largest in the world.

France is discussing the advisability of inaugurating a Supreme Court after the American plan.

The Paris Figaro may publish an American edition at the Exposition in St. Louis, Mo., during 1904.

There is an authenticated record of ninety-six sheep being killed by a single lightning stroke in Colorado.

It is proposed to license all music teachers in Illinois through a State Board appointed for that purpose.

The British Board of Trade is at work on the improving of the consular and commercial representative services.

British Guiana is enjoying a diamond boom. In 1901-02 the number of stones found was 91,206, against 4981 in the preceding year.

German shipyards in the past year built 227 steamers, of 212,283 tons, a decrease of three steamers and 49,000 tons in comparison with 1901.

Forty of the 240 public school teachers in Washington County, Maryland, have resigned their positions within a year because of the small salaries that were paid to them.

Dead Sea Drying Up.

The Dead Sea, whose size is diminishing, is about 46 miles long by 8 wide, and is only 10 feet deep in its southern part. The surface is considerably below sea level, while it receives the drainage of salt sulphur and asphalt mines. The density of the water is about 1.2 as compared with distilled water, that of sea water being only 1.027; and a recent analysis by C. A. Mitchell shows more than 24 per cent of solid matter, including 9 per cent of magnesium chloride, 8.52 of sodium chloride, and 3.49 of calcium chloride. A bath becomes instantly covered with a layer of salt.

By applying glucose or glycerine to their roots a French scientist declares that he has been able to stimulate the growth of plants.

BUSINESS CARDS.

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New Postage Stamps.

The postoffice department has sent out circulars describing the new stamp designs that will be engraved on the new envelopes. The one cent stamp will bear the picture of Franklin in a green coloring. The two cent envelope will bear the likeness of Washington in red. The likeness of Grant will adorn the four cent stamps in brown. Blue will be the color of the five cent stamp. Lincoln's likeness will adorn them.

One Indian Family's Means.

Thirty-four of the Choctaw Indians who arrived at Ardmore from Meridian, Miss., are of one family. T. B. Griffin, eighty-four years old, was the father or grandfather of them all. Each one of them gets the equivalent of \$5,000, including 320 acres of land.

To economize time in memorizing a poem it should be read as a whole; that is, entirely through each time. Tests made in psychological laboratories show that to memorize one verse at a time takes one-fourth longer.