

Freeland Tribune

Established 1888.
PUBLISHED EVERY
MONDAY AND THURSDAY.

BY THE
TRIBUNE PRINTING COMPANY, Limited
OFFICE: MAIN STREET ABOVE CENTRE.
FREELAND, PA.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One Year\$1.50
Six Months75
Four Months50
Two Months25

The date which the subscription is paid to is on the address label of each paper, the change of which to a subsequent date becomes a receipt for remittance. Keep the figures in advance of the present date. Report promptly to this office whenever paper is not received. Arreages must be paid when subscription is discontinued.

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The danger of collision between Russia and England is due to the desire of young men of both nations to go East and grow up with the country.

The Paris Exposition authorities have awarded to the United States a total of 250,000 square feet of space; but the demands from this country already call for 700,000 square feet, says United States Commissioner Benjamin W. Woodward.

The London Chronicle says: America, after some hesitation, has chosen the narrow path of duty which always attracts the brave mind. She has now to show it is in her power to bestow upon her new possessions a strong, honest, an enlightened rule. For our part, we have never for a moment doubted that she will do so in full measure.

Looking back over the statistics of 1898, the criminologist of the Chicago Tribune reports a gratifying decrease in the crimes of embezzlement, forgery, defaulting and bank-wrecking, the amount of last year's stealings for this country being little more than half as much as in 1897 and lower than any year since 1888. Such a decrease in crime is a pretty good measure of the improvement of the times.

The great changes that have taken place in the methods of constructing big office buildings within the last few years, since the age of steel skeletons and terra-cotta covering was ushered in, have rendered necessary a lot of engineering knowledge, especially as regards the strength and best forms of steel beams. Accordingly, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has modified its curriculum by introducing a course in architectural engineering. This will be taken during the second term of the third year in that famous school.

We are a school-going people. Of our seventy-one millions above sixteen millions were in primary or superior schools in 1897. In respect to the mere matter of attendance we stand very high. Official statistics show that for every thousand inhabitants we have 205 pupils in elementary schools. This is a higher ratio than is reached in Germany, which has 175 in a thousand, or Switzerland, which has 199. We fall in the scale, however, when the comparison is made on length and regularity of school attendance. For the whole population this averages not above 4 1/2 years of 200 days each, whereas in Germany the average rises to 7.2 years of 200 days each.

The achievements of Ensign Ward of the Secret Service during the war with Spain would form the basis for a story as full of dramatic situations as any that ever came from the pen of Dumas or Stevenson. Hobson did nothing that surpassed in daring the action of young Ward in visiting Spain in disguise in the height of hostilities to inspect and watch Spanish vessels. Had his disguise been detected his life would not have been worth a rush. He would have furnished the nation another Nathan Hale. Happily his ingenuity saved him from such a fate. It is by such acts, which are now being made public for the first time, that the country is learning the extent of Government efforts to defeat Spain.

Something Similar.

"The expression O. K. is an Americanism, I am told," said the Englishman. "True," replied the American, "and yet that is but little different from a term much used in despotic countries." "Indeed?" "Yes; in Russia, for instance, there is the ukase,"—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

Naturally Interested.

"You feel a deep interest in the stability of your country, don't you?" said the patriotic young man. "Of course I do," answered Senator Sorghum. "If there wasn't any country, there couldn't be any government jobs, could there?"—Washington Star.

GEORGE AND MARTHA.

The belles and beaux were courtly when
In powdered wigs they met;
The dames were prim and stately when
They entertained, and yet
Their ways to us seem curious ways—
In George and Martha's courtship days.

The world seemed young, all nature fair,
When George a-courting went;
Yet, if we look, perchance we'll find
To gain the dame's consent,
He sang to her love's sweetest lays—
In George and Martha's courtship days.

For lovers loved the same as now,
And maids were shy and coy;
And passion burned within the heart,
And turned to grief or joy;
And love's fire kindled to a blaze—
In George and Martha's courtship days.

Imagine, if we can, the time
When George, in velvet coat,
Sent perfumed notes to Martha's bower,
Or love-letters wrote in prose,
When Cupid sent his piercing rays—
In George and Martha's courtship days.

And when, perchance, he went to woo,
Mayhap his snowy lace
At wrist and throat just brushed across
His blushing lady's face,
And eyes met ones in fondest gaze—
In George and Martha's courtship days.

So picture to yourself her smile,
As there on bended knee
The lover knelt by Martha's side,
And vowed his constancy;
For theirs were lovers' old, sweet ways—
In George and Martha's courtship days.

WASHINGTON AT HOME

The Social Side of Life at Mount Vernon.

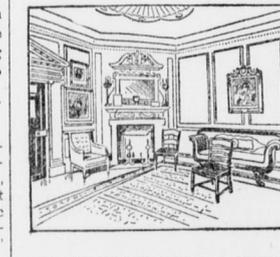
MARTHA CUSTIS first met George Washington when he was a Colonel. He was on his way to Williamsburg to see the Governor, when he was met by a Mr. Chamberlayne, who owned a plantation along the way, and was asked to stop and dine with him. Washington replied that his business was urgent, and he was only persuaded when Chamberlayne told him that he had a young widow visiting him who was rich and fair to look upon. He finally accepted, saying that it could be only for dinner, and that, the meal over, he must hasten on to Williamsburg by moonlight. He then threw the reins of his horse to Bishop, his body-servant, and told him to wait for his return. Dinner being over, the Virginia Colonel was so pleased with his company that he was in no hurry to go. He forgot all about poor Bishop and his horse, and accepted an invitation to remain over night. It was, it may be said, a case of love at first sight. Washington went on to Williamsburg next day, and on his return he called at the house of Mrs. Custis and asked her hand in marriage. She accepted and they were married in great style at her home on the Pamunkey River on the 6th of January, 1759. A honeymoon of several months was spent here, and then the couple took a wedding tour to Mount Vernon.

Mrs. Custis was twenty-six years old at the time, and Washington was three months her senior. Her maiden name was Martha Dandridge. She had been married at seventeen to Colonel Daniel P. Custis, the son of John Custis, of Arlington, who was one of the grandees of early Virginia. Martha Custis had four children, two of whom were living at the time she married Washington. By the death of her first husband she was left wealthy, and she brought to her new husband about one hundred thousand dollars in money and a large amount of real estate.

Martha Custis was a belle at seventeen, and at twenty-six she was a blooming widow. She was under middle size and had dark brown eyes and hair. Washington is said to have been a homely young man and a very fine-looking old one. Martha Washington was a very pretty girl, but not a very good-looking old woman. She was very proud of her husband, and they show the little room in the second story of the home at Mount Vernon in which she secluded herself after his death, seeing no one for months, and allowing only a cat to enter the room through a hole which was cut under the door.

General Washington stood six feet three in his slippers, and, in the prime of his life was rather slender than otherwise, but as straight as an arrow. His form was well proportioned and evenly developed, so that he carried his tallness gracefully, and looked strikingly well on horseback. There has never been a more active, sinewy figure, than his when he was a young man; it was only in later life that his movements became slow and dignified.

When Washington was appointed to command the Revolutionary armies, it is plain from his letters home that one of his greatest objections to accepting the appointment was the "uneasi-



A CORNER OF THE DRAWING ROOM AT MOUNT VERNON.

ness," as he termed it, that it would cause his wife to have him absent from home. General Washington was a very rich man; his wife was very rich, and her three children were heirs to great wealth. He had a little principality to govern. Besides the farms about his own residence on the Potomac, he possessed wild lands in most of the best locations then known, as well as shares in several incorporated companies. He derived an important part of his influence from the greatness of his wealth and the antiquity of his family—things which were then held in much more respect than they are now. Washington's estate was worth three-quarters of a million dollars; but it gave him far more personal consequence in the country than twenty times such a fortune could at present. The rich planter of that day, living as he did on a wide domain of his own, the owner of those who served him, riding about in his coach and six, and with no near neighbors to restrain, censure, or outshine him, was a kind of farmer-prince.

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 scorned the help of others. When she was advanced in years, her son-in-law offered to manage her business for her.



WASHINGTON PRESENTING LAFAYETTE TO MARTHA WASHINGTON. (The illustration represents the presentation of young Lafayette to Mrs. Washington during one of the few occasions of social enjoyment and ceremony which the vicissitudes of the war permitted to Washington and his aides during the trying campaign which followed the arrival of the gallant young Frenchman on our shores. The figure of Washington as represented by the artist is a noble and characteristic representation of the great soldier and patriot, and the portrait of Mrs. Washington and her costume are true to the traditional forms.)

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"You may keep the accounts, Fielding," was her reply, "for your eye-

stables, his hunting and fishing apparatus, his boats and his books to their choice. Then he would mount his horse and ride about his farms, returning at half-past two, in time to dress for dinner at three. He was always dressed with care for this meal, as on all other 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 ten 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.



THE BANQUET HALL AT MOUNT VERNON.

"Yes," observed Brown, "I have long since quit advising young men to follow in the footsteps left by George Washington upon the sands of time."

"But," protested Smith, "you surely will not deny that the integrity and the patriotism of Washington have raised up a standard which it should be the constant effort of every American youth to reach?"

"Oh, no," replied Brown; "I have no fault to find with either his integrity or his patriotism."

"Then why do you not consider it advisable for our young men to follow his example?" queried his friend in surprise.

"Well, I arrived at that conclusion from my own experience. You see, my father always advised me to take George Washington as the guiding star of my ambition, and insisted that I should follow with all possible exactness in the footsteps of that illustrious gentleman."

"Excellent advice. Did you follow it?"

"To the letter. I studied the life of Washington with unflinching diligence and all my actions were a reflex of his. Whatever he did, that did I."

"And you have lived to regret it."

"Bitterly. That is remarkable. What deed of his did you duplicate that caused your regret?"

"Well—er—Washington, you know, married a widow."

Numerous societies of women for the disarmament of the nations have been started in Holland.

A Talk With Grandpa.

"No school to-day! No school to-day!" The children shouted, wild with glee. "But, why," said Grandpa. "Tell me, pray." "Why such a thing should be? 'Tis but the middle of the week. 'Twas Christmas lately and New Year's. Don't hurry off to his-and-soak; there's some mistake, my dears."

"No, no! There's surely no mistake. A holiday we have again. We're sure our ears were wide awake; The teacher said it plain."

"But why?" "Grandpa, you ought to know! On such a February morn, More than a hundred years ago, George Washington was born."

"George Washington? And who was he?" "A manly boy who told no lies. He grew to be a General. So brave and good and wise! And first in war and first in peace, First also in a nation's heart; His birthday we shall never cease To love and set apart."

"You just pretend; you can't forget!" Said Grandpa: "Well you've found me out! I own I do remember yet That following him about For Freedom's sake, my grandsire won A wooden leg—and proudly wore The trophy when the war was done! You've heard the tale before."

WASHINGTON RELICS.

Articles of Priceless Worth Kept in the National Museum.

One of the most interesting relics in the National Museum at Washington is the camp chest used by Washington throughout the Revolution. It is a compact affair about the size of a tourist's wicker chest for cooking, of the present day, two and one-half feet long, two feet wide, one foot high, and it contains an outfit consisting of tinder box, pepper and salt boxes, bottles, knives, forks, gridiron and plates. Every bit of the outfit save one bottle, which is broken at the shoulder, looks strong enough to stand another campaign.

Nearly are the tents used by Washington, three in number. One is a sleeping tent, twenty-eight feet long, with walls six feet high and a roof with a six-foot pitch. It is made of linen. The other two are Marquee tents of smaller size, one with walls, the other a shelter tent open on the sides. The tenting material of Revolutionary days was good stuff is proved by the excellent condition of these tents, which sheltered the great commander through all his severe campaigns.

Here also is Washington's uniform, worn by him when he gave up his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the army, at Annapolis, in 1783. It consists of a big shadblow coat of blue broadcloth, lined and trimmed with soft buckskin and ornamented with broad, flat brass buttons; buckskin waistcoat and breeches. The size of the garments (which are in a state of excellent preservation) testify to the big stature of the "Father of His Country" and suggest that he had an eye to a fine appearance in his dress.

Washington's Personal Courage.

In personal bravery, the first requisite of a soldier, Washington was equal to any man he ever commanded. He was more courageous than Napoleon, unless we accept the theory that the latter was merely shamming irresolution to avoid responsibility on the memorable occasion when he temporarily yielded the command to Angereau during his Italian campaign and unless we are to be very charitable to his "Terrors on St. Helena."

The most convincing proof Washington ever gave of courage was when he marched with Braddock, knowing as he did that the column was doomed to destruction by the Briton's pig-headedness, and when he brought off the remnant of the beaten army under a storm of bullets. The four bullet holes in his coat, the two horses shot under him, proved that.

Tradition will have it that in this fight an Indian chief, astounded that this tall officer did not fall to any of the many bullets aimed at him, cried to his followers: "Fire at him no more! Can ye not see that the Great Spirit protects that chief? He cannot die in battle."

Braddock's rout came near the beginning of Washington's military career. Yorktown was almost his close. There Washington was standing exposed in one of his batteries, when an aide ventured to remind him that it was a dangerous place.

"If you think so, you are at liberty to step back, sir," was his rejoinder. A bullet struck a cannon by his side, and General Knox grasped his arm, crying out: "My dear General, we can't spare you yet."

"It is a spent ball; no harm is done," Washington replied.

Curiously enough, civil life furnishes an instance of the first President's coolness. This when "Citizen Genet," the Minister of the French Republic, was warned by Washington to cease violations of the neutrality of the United States.

Genet was fitting out privateers to war upon Great Britain, and American public sentiment, so soon after the war, was with him. Vice-President John Adams writes that "ten thousand people in the streets of Philadelphia day after day threatened to drag Washington out of his house and effect a revolution in the Government, or else compel it to declare war in favor of the French Revolution and against England."

But Washington was as little moved by yelling mobs as by whistling bullets.

Washington's Birthday. Blessed with genius, a gift so rare That none with him could then compare; Destined in the realm of fate— A mind organic, high estate— To be a Washington.

Behold the splendors of that night! Grand bonnets shibeth bright! Colors red, and white, and blue, Blending, mingling heavenly hue, As God and Man and Son.

If character's a gift supreme, Divine is man, divinity my theme, Divine is God, divine the Son, A blending, mingling into one— God's gifts to Washington.

—Emerson.

FARM AND GARDEN.

Sheep Raising.

Any farmer in the Eastern or Middle States having a farm of one hundred acres in good fence can keep a flock of fifty sheep and receive larger profits than from any other investment of the same amount, provided they will care for them in the following manner, namely:

Have a sheltered pen, with plenty of room, to protect them from the cold and storms; have an out-yard where they can be allowed to go in on nice, sunny days, in which throw corn-stalks, oat or wheat straw, if you have plenty of it, for what the sheep do eat will make manure, so there will be nothing lost. Also keep the sheltered pen dry by throwing in straw as fast as it is cut up in manure. Feed them on clover hay. If you do not grow any, buy it, for one ton of clover hay is equal to two tons of any other for sheep.

Try and have your lambs dropped in January or February. Build a small pen alongside of your sheep pen; cut a small hole so the lambs can get in, but not large enough to admit the sheep. Put troughs in the lambs' pen and feed them on ground feed. They will soon find the hole and learn to eat, and, if you have never tried it before, you will be surprised how much faster they will grow, and you will also find that the butcher will buy your lambs earlier, and pay a larger price for them than he will for your neighbors, who does not observe the above advice. Sheep are very profitable, and every farmer should own them. They are great renovators of the soil, scattering manure evenly and pressing it in, thus improving the ground on which they feed.

The months of July and August are the ones when sheep in many localities are subject to a most aggravating annoyance from a fly (oestrus bovis), which seems bound to deposit its larvae in the nostrils. Infected wooded districts and shady places, where the sheep resort for shelter, and by its ceaseless attempts to enter the nose makes the poor creature almost frantic. If but one fly is in a flock they all become agitated and alarmed. They will assemble in groups, holding their heads close together and their noses to the ground. As they hear the buzzing of the little pest going from one to another, they will crowd their muzzles into the loose dirt, made by their stamping, to protect themselves, and as the pest succeeds in entering the nose of a victim, it will start on a run, followed by the whole flock, to find a retreat from its enemy, throwing its head from side to side, as if in the greatest agony, while the oestrus, having gained his lodging place, assiduously deposits its larvae in the inner margin of the nose. Here, aided by warmth and moisture, the eggs quickly hatch into a small maggot, which, carrying out its instincts, begins to crawl up into the nose through a crooked opening in the bone. The annoyance is fearful and maddening as it works its way up into the head and cavities. The best known remedy is tar, in which is mixed a small amount of crude carbolic acid. If the scent of the acid does not keep the fly away he gets entangled in the tar, which is kept soft by the heat of the animal. Any kind of tar or turpentine is useful for this purpose, and greatly promotes the comfort of the sheep, and prevents the ravages of the bot in the head.

Profitable Milk Farming Near Cities. In March, 1894, I came from Florida, where I had been engaged in school teaching and/orange raising. I leased a farm near Boston and found myself with two cows, one old horse and \$300 in money. The first thing I did was to buy furniture for the house. I then bought cows enough to make ten giving milk, paying down all the money I had and going in debt for the remainder. I had nine good cows paid for by May 1. I was making thirteen and fourteen cans of milk daily, at which time I rented a small farm of twenty acres with buildings about one mile from where I was living. I planted five acres of this farm to corn and two acres to oats and peas, using the remainder of the farm for pasture. All the time I kept adding to my stock of cows, horses, implements, etc., so that by January 1, 1896, I had twenty cows, making thirty cans of milk daily at thirty-three cents per can, two fair horses, having early in the summer sold my old horse for \$20, two wagons, a few implements and a fairly furnished house nearly all paid for, and hay and fodder enough on hand and paid for sufficient to carry my stock through the winter. How did I get this feed? I got it in this way. I was right in the heart of a market garden region and very few of the gardeners kept cows, so that there was an abundance of stuff that they were glad to give away, such as pea vines, bean vines, weeds and grass, small squashes, turnip tops, small cabbages and cabbage leaves. I also bought ten acres of standing sweet corn for \$5 per acre, after the ears had been picked off. I was also during this time feeding brewers' grains, together with corn meal. These brewers' grains I bought at an average price of about three cents per bushel during the summer and seven in winter.

By the first of April, 1896, I had thirty cows and more milk being needed on May 1 I bought ten more, thus making forty cows, which number I kept until the following May, when I increased to fifty and through the following summer and fall I kept increasing until at the beginning of winter I had eighty cows, which I am now keeping and from which I have sold from October 1 to February 28 over \$700 worth of milk each month at an

Best Proportion of Fertilizer.

It has been demonstrated in Georgia that the application of 468 pounds of good phosphate, thirty-four of muriate of potash and 386 of cottonseed meal per acre gave better financial results than any other proportions. Drilling the fertilizer was more profitable than applying broadcast.

Farm and Garden Notes.

Barley meal is a very desirable dairy food in every respect. The amount of food consumed by fattening animals is not necessarily an index of its economic use.

Feeding, watering and grooming regularly will aid materially in keeping the horses in a good, thrifty condition.

Timothy hay, taking price into consideration, is one of the most unprofitable rough feeds for fattening cattle.

Recent tests at the Georgia experiment station indicate that subsoiling produces no appreciable effect upon the crops.

Sorghum silage keeps well but owing to the woody stems which it usually contains it is not relished by stock and is often found unprofitable.

Milk is the best food for all young animals, but as the young animal that is fed on milk grows rapidly its demands for a larger quantity at each meal increases.

Transplanting can only be successfully performed on well tilled ground. The soil must be thoroughly and deeply plowed and harrowed until all the clods have disappeared.

Nut growing is profitable, but it requires years to bring a nut tree to a stage of growth where it will pay well, hence only young farmers are induced to devote land in that direction.

Happy Chance.

"Your money or your life!" cried the robber. "Ha, ha!" laughed the artist, and he drew a pistol. The artist had no money, and according to the robber, not much life, but that was not why he laughed. He laughed because he belonged to the school which draws rapidly and boldly, rather than the school which draws laboriously, with great attention to detail.—Detroit Journal.