



MARTHA WASHINGTON

THE first maiden to kindle the divine spark in the breast of George Washington was a young lady, whom he called his "Lowland Beauty," and to whom, at fifteen, he wrote some very execrable verses. In one doggerel he tells about his "Poor, Restless Heart," surrendered to "Cupid's Feathered Dart" and lying "Bleeding Every Hour," for her that "pitiless of my Grief and Woes will not on me pity take."

The identity of this "Lowland Beauty," who was the object of Washington's first affections has been much disputed. Loring, the historian, pronounced her Mary Bland, and some are inclined to the belief that she was a Miss Ellbeck, a beauty of Charles county, Maryland, who married George Mason. Others maintain that she was Lucy Grymes, who married Henry Lee and became the mother of the famous "Light Horse Harry," who was a great favorite with Washington, and who referred to the commander in chief as "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." Those who favor the Lucy Grymes identification point to the affection of Washington for "Light Horse Harry" as a result of the early love he entertained for Harry's mother. Others will have it that the "Lowland Beauty" was Betsy Fauntleroy, and base their assertion on a letter written in May, 1752, by Washington to the grandfather of Miss Fauntleroy, in which he says, among other things, he purposed as soon as he recovered his strength (he had been ill with pleurisy) "to wait on Miss Betsy in hopes of a revocation of the former cruel sentence, and see if I can meet with any alteration in my favor."

In 1748 Washington became surveyor of Lord Fairfax's lands. He was then but sixteen. In an undated letter, probably written about the end of 1750, or the beginning of 1751, to his "Dear Friend Robin," (possibly Robert Washington of Chotauk, affectionately remembered in his will) he also find allusion to the "Lowland Beauty." "My place of residence is at present at my lordship's, where I might, were not my heart disengaged, pass my time very pleasantly, as a very agreeable young lady lives in the same house but often and unavoidably being in company with her revives my former passion for your 'Lowland Beauty'; whereas, were I to live in a retired place from young women, I might, in some measure, alleviate my sorrows by burying that chaste and troublesome passion in the grave of oblivion of eternal forgetfulness."

History might have been different had Washington been accepted by the "Lowland Beauty." If the "Lowland Beauty" was Betsy Fauntleroy—and good authorities think she was—she married Ebenezer Adams, progenitor of the Virginia family of that name, and became the mother of Thomas Adams, alumnus of William and Mary college, signer of the articles of confederation, and member of the Philadelphia convention (1778-1780).

The "agreeable young lady" mentioned by Washington in his letters from the Fairfax residence, was Miss Mary Cary, the sister of Colonel Fairfax's wife. He turned to her for consolation and it seems her charm mitigated his "troublesome passion." But Miss Cary had no genuine love for the ardent young man. In 1752 she married Edward Ambler.

After his wooing of the "Lowland Beauty," he had another charmer, presumably a member of the family of Alexanders, who had a plantation near Mount Vernon. Washington, while in Barbadoes with his sick half-brother Lawrence, met a Miss Roberts, who exerted an influence over his tender heart and to whom he refers as "an agreeable young lady." It would seem that nearly all the young ladies were agreeable to him. Miss Roberts, it appears, was the only one, however, who really captivated him in Barbadoes. While allowing that all the ladies generally are agreeable," he notes that "by ill custom, they affect the negro style."

When returned from his first campaign and resting at Mount Vernon, the time seems to have been beguiled by some charmer, for one of his intimates writes from Williamsburg: "I imagine you by this time plunged in the midst of delight heaven can afford and enchanted by charmers even stranger to the Ciripian Dame," and a footnote by the same hand only excites further curiosity concerning this latter personage by definitely naming her as "Mrs. Neil."

It is said that at one time and another Washington had half a hundred sweethearts along the banks of the Potomac, the Rappahannock, and the James, and even up to the gates of Mount Vernon. Perhaps the number is exaggerated, but at any rate we have but scant account of most of the fair ones and are not even told the names of the great majority. This we do know, that

The MANY LOVE AFFAIRS of WASHINGTON



ONE OF THE HOMES OF THE WASHINGTONS



THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL MANSION NEW YORK

Washington was a welcome guest with the Fairfaxes at Belvoir, with the Carys at Eagle's Nest, with the Fitzhughes at Stratford House, with the Carters at Sabine Hall, and with the Lees and Fauntleroy at Richmond.

Through the death of his half-brother, whom he accompanied to Barbadoes in the West Indies in search of health, Washington became master of Mount Vernon. On his return journey he called at Bermuda, where he had an attack of smallpox which, according to Parson Weems, "marked his face rather agreeably than otherwise." He was seized with a military ambition. He had already been a military inspector with the rank of major for the protection of the frontiers of Virginia. At twenty-three he was an aide-de-camp to General Braddock, commander in chief of the Virginia forces. At twenty-four we find him journeying to Boston on military business.

In going and returning he tarried in New York for about a week, on each occasion as the guest of Beverly Robinson, a Virginia friend who had married Susannah Phillips. Mrs. Robinson's sister, a very pretty girl, happened to be on a visit with her relatives. Washington came under the glamour of her glances. "He did not spare expense in seeking popularity. He spent sundry pounds in 'treating the ladies,' with the object of getting one of them to treat him with favor, but all his efforts were in vain. He gallantly proposed to Miss Phillips and donned his best suit for the occasion, but that cultured and charming lady courteously declined—the honor he would thrust upon her. Two years afterwards she married Lieut. Col. Roger Morris."

There is no doubt that Washington was desperately in love with Mary Phillips, and her refusal of his suit was a keen disappointment to him. A curious sequel to his attachment for her occurred in the fact that her husband's house in Morristown became Washington's headquarters in 1776, both Morris and his wife being fugitive Tories. History in this case might also have been materially changed had Mary Phillips become the wife of George Washington.

In the spring of 1750 Washington met his fate. Ill health had taken him to Williamsburg to consult physicians. On this trip he met Mrs. Martha (Dandridge) Custis, widow of Daniel Parke Custis, one of the wealthiest planters of the colony. At that time she was twenty-six years old, three months younger than Washington, though she had been a widow seven years. In spite of his ill health he pressed his suit with as much ardor as he had done in the case of Mary Phillips, and with better success. Though her first husband had been faithful and affectionate, he had not much appealed to her imagination, but the big, dashing Virginia colonel took her heart by storm. She favored his suit, and they became engaged.

He ordered a ring from Philadelphia at a cost of £2 16s (two pounds and sixteen shillings), big price in those days, but they could not be immediately married, as military duty called him away. After several months in the field, during which time they saw each other only three or four times, Washington came back to Williamsburg, and there in St. Peter's church, on January 6, 1759, they were married. It was a grand wedding, attended by all the aristocracy of Virginia.



GEORGE WASHINGTON

The bride was attired in heavy brocade white silk, interwoven with silver thread. Her shoes were of white satin and sparkled with buckles of brilliants. The bridegroom was costumed in a blue cloth coat, lined with red silk and ornamented with silver trimmings. His shoes and knee buckles were of solid gold, his hair was powdered, and a sword hung at his side. He appeared the beau ideal of a gallant and a gentleman.

Mrs. Washington had four children by her former marriage—Martha, Daniel, John Parke, and a girl, who died in infancy. Washington fathered her little progeny, but had none of his own. "Providence," it was said, "had denied the great man children that he might be the father of the whole country."

Washington was fortunate in his marriage. John Adams, in one of his jealous outbursts, exclaimed: "Would Washington have been commander of the Revolutionary army or president of the United States if he had not married the rich widow of Mr. Custis?" Mrs. Washington's third of the Custis property equaled "fifteen thousand acres of land, a good part of it adjoining the city of Williamsburg, several lots in the said city, between 2,000 and 3,000 negroes, and about £8,000 or £10,000 upon bond," estimated at the time as about £20,000 in all. Besides, this was increased by the death of the daughter, "Patsy" Custis, in 1773, by half her fortune, a sum of £10,000. But it must be remembered that Washington's colonial military fame had been entirely achieved before he had even met Mrs. Custis. Washington was worth about \$800,000, the richest man in his day.

It has been said that his penchant for lovely women was acutely alive all through his active career. Washington was human, and there is no question that fair women always had attracted him.

In his sixty-sixth year he wrote, "Love is said to be an involuntary passion, and it is." Therefore he contended that it "cannot be resisted."

Though a lover himself, Washington was not a matchmaker. In a letter to the widow of Jack Custis ("Jack" his wife's son, who had been his ward) he writes: "I never did, nor do I believe ever shall give advice to a woman who is setting out on a matrimonial voyage." And again, "It has ever been a maxim with me through life, neither to promote nor to prevent a matrimonial connection. . . . I have always considered marriage as the most interesting event of one's life, the foundation of happiness or misery."

Yet in a letter to Eliza Custis Bates (the eldest of Jack's four children), dated January 6, 1796, Washington gives some interesting advice—"Neither shun by too much coyness the addresses of a suitable character whom you may esteem; nor encourage them by advances on your part however predisposed toward them your inclination may be."

"In choosing a partner for life, prefer one of your countrymen (by this I mean an American) of visible property and whose family is known and whose circumstances (not depending on fortuitous matters) may not, like a foreigner's, reduce you to the heartrending alternative of parting with him or bidding adieu to your country, family and friends forever."

"In forming a connection of this durability, let the understanding as well as the passion be consulted; without the approbation of the first the indulgence of the latter may be compared to the rose, which will bloom, glow for a while, then fade and die, leaving nothing but thorns behind it. There are other considerations, though secondary, nevertheless important. Among these congeniality of temper is essential, without which discord will ensue and that walk must be unpleasant and toilsome when two persons linked together cannot move in it without jostling each other."

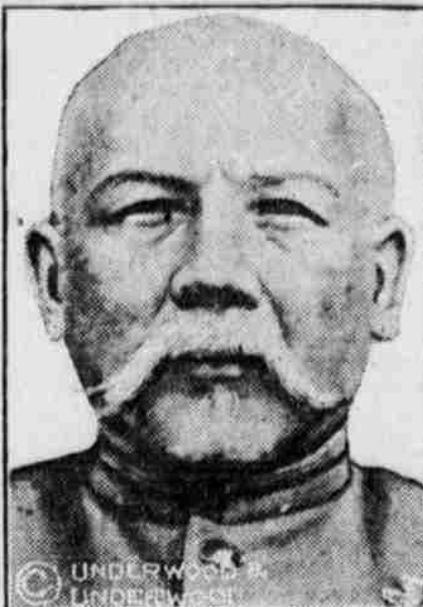
Alas, Eliza Ann ("Betsy") didn't take Washington's advice. She married Thomas Law, an Englishman, the nephew of Lord Ellensborough, yet it is said she was comparatively happy in her choice.

Though Washington loved, and loved often, there is no doubt that a good deal of romance has been woven around his early career. According to some, Washington had "a rag on every bush," from the vine-clad hills of old Virginia to Boston Commons. But the truth is Washington was not an indiscriminate lover, nor did he triffling with the affections of women. Despite the efforts of forgery and calumny no deed of shame in regard to the sex ever could be laid at his door.

During the time he was president a Mrs. Hartley is mentioned to whom some say he was very devoted. Yeates says: "Mr. Washington once told me on a charge which I once made against the president at his own table, that the admiration he warmly professed for Mrs. Hartley was a proof of his homage to the worthy part of the sex, and highly respectful to his wife."

PROMINENT PEOPLE

WILL YUAN BECOME EMPEROR?



YUAN SHI KAI

Since Yuan Shi Kai has declared himself president for life of the Chinese republic, with power to nominate his successor, and furthermore has made himself the head of the Chinese state religion of Confucianism, many persons are wondering if he will not soon proclaim himself emperor.

While there was no one to predict that the young Yuan Shi Kai would ever become a "Son of Heaven" there were plenty who knew the gentleman in his youth who were willing to wager anything they possessed that he would make his mark in the world. The Manchus, the Chinese and the foreigners in China all labeled him "a coming man."

He was born in 1859, the son of a district governor. His school teachers picked him out for a bad egg, for to save his life he could not master the old classics as the good little boys in the class could. In China the very first thing to be accomplished if you wish to enter official life is to master the classics.

So Yuan Shi Kai, the failure, gave up his aspirations and went into Korea as a secretary to the army. Li Hung Chang appointed him to a most important position at Seoul when Yuan was only twenty-six years old. After the war with Japan he reorganized the Chinese army, and it is generally asserted that a few years later he helped the Empress Dowager wrest the throne from the Emperor Kuang Hsu.

When the republic was founded in 1912, he had attained such power that he compelled the retirement of the provisional president and himself assumed the office of president. He has ruled with great firmness, authority and ability, according to some of the foreign residents of China, but with a tyranny greater than that of any emperor in recent years, if the word of many Chinese is to be taken for truth.

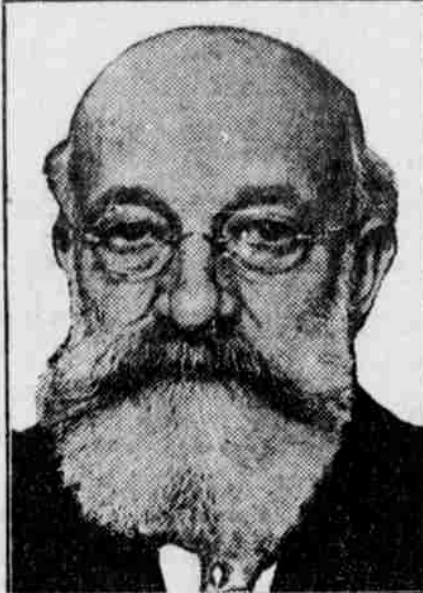
COLONEL CROOK'S JUBILEE

Col. William H. Crook, disbursing officer of the White House, celebrated recently his golden jubilee as an employee in the offices of presidents, and everybody connected with the executive mansion, from President Wilson down, congratulated heartily the man who is known as the "White House encyclopedia."

It was 50 years ago that Colonel Crook, then a metropolitan policeman who had served in a district regiment in the Civil war, was assigned as a bodyguard to President Lincoln along with four other policemen. He was not with Mr. Lincoln the night of the tragedy in Ford's theater, but he had wanted to accompany Mr. Lincoln and had been told that it would not be necessary. He served in the same capacity for President Johnson, in the White House.

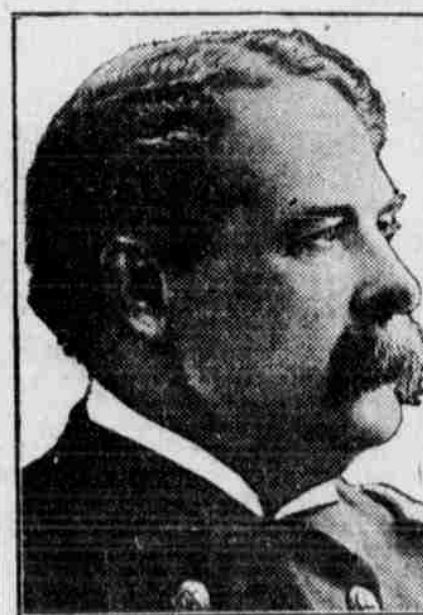
Through all administrations since then Colonel Crook has remained, serving each so faithfully and efficiently as to receive praise from the highest officials of all.

Colonel Crook is a veritable encyclopedia on White House affairs of the past, and has written a number of magazine and newspaper articles giving some of his experiences. He can throw light upon many of the dim and dusty archives of the White House.



COLONEL CROOK

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK



REAR ADMIRAL CLARK

Rear Admiral Charles E. Clark who, when a captain, took the battleship Oregon on its famous trip from San Francisco around the Horn in time to take part in the battle of Santiago, will not be in actual command of the Oregon when she passes through the Panama canal in March at the head of the procession of modern dreadnaughts, cruisers and destroyers. The rear admiral, however, will be on the bridge of his old battleship and so far as appearances go he will be in command.

The reason that the old officer will not issue the orders on the trip through the waterway is a simple one. Under the rules governing the passage of the canal no captain is allowed to command his ship while the journey is being made from Colon to the City of Panama or the reverse. When a pilot comes on board a ship he is in supreme command and the United States government, by the advice of the governor of the zone, has decreed that every ship going through the canal must have on board a pilot who shall rank every man on the vessel whether he be the president of the United States, an admiral of the navy or what not.

MADAME PANARETEFF'S ROMANCE

Madame Panareteff, wife of the first minister to be sent to the United States by Bulgaria, is a Massachusetts woman, and her wooing and wedding make a pretty romance.

Dr. Stephen Panareteff held a chair in the Roberts college at Constantinople for many years, and during that time became familiar with Americans and American customs and ideals. It happened that a charming woman named Lydia Giles of North Andover, Mass., and noted for her vivid intelligence, went out to Constantinople to teach in Roberts college and met Doctor Panareteff in the usual order of things collegiate.

It was not until one day when she was riding out among the hills and her mount became vicious and threw her on to the rocks that Doctor Panareteff became a potent factor in her life. He rescued her from certain death, and thereby began the interesting love story, which still goes on in the newest legation in Washington, established in the modest Noble house on N street.



MADAME PANARETEFF