

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TROUBLES

The father of our country has told in personal letters what heavy burdens he had to carry during the war for independence

BECAUSE George Washington believed sincerely in the inborn inalienable right of men born on this soil, or transferred to it, spiritually as well as physically, to the fruits of freedom and independence; because he believed that this nation was to be held by them free of all oppression, whether in the form of unjust taxation or any other infringement of the interests, welfare and principles of the inhabitants, he receives today the homage of the millions who enjoy the heritage of the free America for which he fought and which he helped establish. This, according to an article in the New York Herald, which goes on to say:

In this he was at one with other great men bred in the new, free spirit and atmosphere of the colonies. He did not seek to set himself over them, but to work with them, contributing as his part in the struggle his military genius and experience and his carefully trained executive ability. His ideal was the common good. For that he gave his time and strength unstintedly, risked his all and withdrew only when government was so well established that it would not suffer from his retirement.

Throughout his career the one reward he sought was that he might partake, "in the midst of my fellow citizens, the benign influence of good laws under a free government, the ever favorite object of my heart."

Washington, although possessing wealth and position, although observant of forms and ceremonies, was in the best sense a democrat, a man who sought the same privileges and opportunities for everyone of his fellow citizens which he enjoyed and who devoted his gifts and energies to that end.

That they might have them he not only expended freely his energies of mind and body, but he constantly exhorted his fellow countrymen to prepare themselves for the high destiny that he foresaw for this country, first, by raising and equipping an adequate army, a task that frequently hung leaden on his hands, and, second, by properly safeguarding their rights after they had been won.

George Washington received less education—in school—than most lads of poor parentage do today. He left school before he was sixteen years old, and except in mathematics, in which he had advanced through geometry and trigonometry, his education did not extend beyond that which boys usually get in the grammar grades of the public schools. What he studied he knew, however, as his carefully kept notebooks attest. He manifested a special aptitude for surveying and for military affairs. This taste led to his having a royal midday's warrant, obtained for him when he was fourteen years old, and only because of his mother's reluctance to have him go to England he was spared to fight for the colonies instead of becoming an officer in his majesty's service.

He had been out of school only a few months when he got his first job—as a surveyor. It was a good one, too, for Lord Fairfax, having noted the lad's mental equipment and his intrepidity, gave him a commission to survey his wild acres in the Shenandoah valley. So well did Washington accomplish the arduous task that he was made a public surveyor. Almost coincident with his entrance upon a private career young Washington identified himself with public interests. Fond of athletics and sports as well as of military affairs, he joined the local militia and when nineteen years old was made a major.

When he was still in his twenties he won his first colonelcy in his gallant but disastrous first campaign against the French. It was there that he first tasted the bitter fruits of unpreparedness.

When Washington went to Philadelphia as a member of the Second Continental congress he wore his provincial uniform, an instructive expression of his feeling in regard to the crisis that was to come—in its way a fulfillment of prophecy—for during the session he was put at the head of the irregular army near Boston. He found that army not only without discipline and equipment, but without powder. Men who had enlisted only for a few months ran away. Washington ardently appealed to the Continental and Provincial congresses to provide for longer enlistments and an adequate system of recruitment.

Conservative and aristocrat as he was classed, Washington now favored the radicals, who sought to break with the home government and set up their own. "I have never entertained the idea of an accommodation," he said, "since I heard of the measures which were adopted in consequence of the Bunker Hill fight."

His staunch attitude was maintained in the midst of disheartening experiences, not only with the enemy in the field, but with troublemakers in his own camp. "I know the unhappy predicament in which I stand," he wrote; "I know that much is expected of me; I know that, without men, without arms, without ammunition, without anything fit for the accommodation of a soldier, little is to be done; and, what is mortifying, I know that I cannot stand justified to the world without exposing my own weakness and injuring the cause by declaring my wants. My situation has been such that I have had to use art to conceal it even from my officers."

Jealousies hampered him so sorely that he sternly proclaimed: "The general most earnestly entreats the officers and soldiers to consider consequences; that we can no way assist our enemies more than by making divisions among ourselves; that the honor and success of the army and the safety of our bleeding country depend upon harmony and good agreement with each other; that the provinces are all united to oppose the common enemy and all distinctions in the name of



America. To make this name honorable and to preserve the liberty of our country ought to be our only emulation, and he will be the best soldier and the best patriot who contributes most to this glorious work, what ever his station or from what ever part of the country he may come. Let all distinction of nations, countries and provinces thereof be lost in the generous contest who shall behave with the most courage toward the enemy and the most kindness and good humor to each other.

"If any be so lost to virtue and love of country as to continue in such practice after this order they will be severely punished and discharged from the service in disgrace."

After the disastrous battle of Long Island Washington "once more took the liberty of mentioning to congress that no dependence could be put in militia or other troops than those enlisted and embodied for a longer period than our regulations have heretofore prescribed.

"Our liberties must of necessity be greatly hazarded, if not entirely lost, if their defense is left to any but a permanent standing army. I mean one to exist during war. Men who have been free and subjected to no control cannot be reduced to order in an instant."

"There is no situation on earth less enviable or more distressing," continues Washington, "than that person who is at the head of troops regardless of order and discipline and unprovided with almost every necessity. The difficulties that have surrounded me since I have been in the service have kept my mind constantly upon the stretch; the wounds which my feelings as an officer have received by a thousand things that have happened contrary to my expectations and wishes; the effect of my own conduct and present appearance of things so little pleasing to myself as to render it a matter of no surprise to me if I stand capitally censured by congress. . . . Induce a thorough conviction in my mind that it will be impossible, unless there is a thorough change in our military system, for me to conduct matters to give satisfaction to the public, which is all the recompense I aim at or ever wish for."

This unhappy state of things was almost wholly due to the feeling manifested in several sections of the country, persisted in to the hampering of Washington's campaign and to the detriment of the cause. Congress was finally prevailed upon by Washington's representations and the tardily dawning consciousness that war was inevitable and that, being so, unpreparedness meant calamity. On December 20, 1776, he wrote to the president of congress: "Short enlistments and a mistaken dependence upon my militia have been the origin of all our misfortune and the great accumulation of our debt. . . . I beg leave to give it as my humble opinion that eighty-eight battalions are by no means equal to the opposition you are to make, and that not a moment's time is to be lost in raising a greater number, not less, in my opinion and that of my officers, than one hundred and ten. . . . In my judgment this is not a time to stand upon expense; my funds are not the only object of consideration. . . . It may be thought that I am going a good deal out of my line of duty to advise thus freely. A character to lose, an estate to forfeit, the inestimable blessings of liberty at stake and a life devoted must be my excuse."

Far from holding himself aloof and wanting to keep all power in his own hands, Washington welcomed co-operation. After he had been invested with the dictatorial powers necessitated by the emergency of public affairs, the Council of Safety of New York apologized for certain measures they had taken in regard to New York troops which were later discovered to have been an infringement of his authority. Washington replied: "I should be unhappy in the belief that any part of my letter to you could be construed into the slightest hint that you wish to interfere in the military line. Heaven knows that I greatly want the aid of every good man, and that there are not such enviable pleasures attending my situation as to make me too jealous of its prerogatives. Rather than complain of your efforts in the military way, you deserve the thanks of us all, and I feel myself happy in this opportunity of returning you mine in the greatest truth and sincerity."

At Valley Forge, where Washington's troops were almost naked, had few blankets and scanty food, he was moved to resentment against "the gentlemen, without knowing whether the army was really going into winter quarters or not, reproaching the measure as much as if they thought the soldiers were made of stocks and stones and equally insensible of frost and snow, and, moreover, as if they conceived it easily practicable for an inferior army under the disadvantages I have described ours to be to confine a superior one, in all respects well appointed, within the city of Philadelphia and to cover from depredation and waste the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. . . . I can as-

sure these gentlemen that it is a much easier and less distressing thing to draw up remonstrances in a comfortable room by a good fireside than to occupy a cold, bleak hill and sleep under frost and snow without clothes or blankets. However, although they seem to have little feeling for the naked and distressed soldiers, I feel superabundantly for them, and from my soul I pity those miseries which it is neither in my power to relieve nor prevent."

Washington made persistent efforts to get a guaranty of half pay for his officers after the war, himself having no personal interest in the measure; he had declared from the first that he would never profit by it to the amount of a single penny. He deprecated constantly the jealousy of the military part of the government by the civil department.

"If we would pursue a right system of policy," he wrote to a member of congress, "in my opinion, there would be none of these distinctions. We should all, congress and army, be considered as one people, embarked in one cause, in one interest, acting on the same principle and to the same end."

"That I have not been able to make bows to the taste of poor Colonel B. (who, by the way, I believe never saw one of them) is to be regretted," he wrote in a letter to David Stuart, "especially as upon these occasions they were indiscriminately bestowed, and the best I was master of. Would it not have been better to throw the veil of charity over them, ascribing their stiffness to the effects of age or to the unskillfulness of my teacher rather than to pride and dignity of office, which, God knows, has no charms for me? For I certainly say I had rather be at Mount Vernon with a friend or two about me than to be attended at the seat of government by the officers of state and the representatives of every power in Europe."

Washington explained that he had reception hours every Tuesday: from three to four o'clock, when gentlemen came and went, chatted with each other and acted as they pleased.

"At their first entrance they salute me, and I then talk with as many as I can. What pomp there is in all this I am unable to discover. Perhaps it consists in not sitting. To this two reasons are offered: It is unusual; a more substantial one, I have no room large enough to contain a third of the chairs which would be sufficient to admit it. If it is supposed that ostentation or the fashion of courts could give rise to this custom I will boldly affirm that no supposition was ever more erroneous; for if I were to give indulgence to my inclinations every moment that I could withdraw from the fatigue of my station would be spent in retirement. That it is not proceeds, from the sense I entertain of the propriety of giving to everyone as free access as consists with that respect which is due to the chair of government, and that respect I conceive is neither to be acquired nor preserved but by observing a just medium between much state and too great familiarity."

In 1793 Washington, in his second term as president, wrote to congress that while he sought peace and urged a faithful discharge of every duty toward others, he recommended prompt measures not only for defense, but for enforcing just claims.

"There is a rank due the United States among other nations which will be withheld, if not absolutely lost, by the reputation of weakness. If we desire to avoid insult we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war," he wrote.

As he wished to avoid war, so he also wished to avoid alliances which might jeopardize the peace of the nation.

"Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake," he said warningly.

"The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is in extending our commercial relations to have as little political connection as possible. . . . If we remain one people under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may deny material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we may at any time be resolved upon to be scrupulously respected; when belligerents, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interests, guided by justice, shall counsel."

WHO IS WHO NOW

CANTRILL, PLAIN FARMER

"I'm no lawyer, and I'm no orator. I'm just a plain farmer from Kentucky, but here's what I think."

In this wise James Campbell Cantrill, congressman from the Seventh district of Kentucky, began a speech that produced one of the most sensational climaxes that have been staged in congress for a long time.

Congressman Cantrill, long, lean, and lanky, is a Democratic member of the rules committee of the house. But, unlike the other Democratic members of that body, he did not vote for the majority report recommending that the "leak" on the president's note be indefinitely put out of the way.

What he said was sufficient to disrupt the Democratic majority completely and to stampede the entire house into overthrowing the majority report of the committee.

It is true that Mr. Cantrill is no lawyer, but he was brought up in the atmosphere of the law. His father, James E. Cantrill, was the judge who sat in the trial of Caleb Powers. Most of his forefathers were lawyers.

He hails from the richest blue-grass section of Kentucky, and is a real farmer. Ten years ago he was one of the chief organizers of the tobacco growers of his state, and figured prominently in the exploits of the so-called "night riders."

Farmer Cantrill has a mind quick to grasp the essentials of any situation and a logic, however roughly spoken, that is usually invincible.

He is a fighter through and through, and doesn't know the first sensation of fear. He showed that when he defied the leaders of his party and forced them to accept his views.



WISCONSIN'S PRIZE GIRL



Wisconsin, one of the most progressive of the states, has come forward the last few years with more new ideas regarding government and agriculture than almost any other state. To be a prize winner in any of these lines in Wisconsin you have to get up in the morning and keep going all day.

The champion farmer girl of the state, so adjudged at the state fair, is Miss Helen M. Hatch of Lake Geneva, and the list of her accomplishments sounds like the list of accomplishments of that most desirable of mortals, a good housewife.

These are some of the things she had to do to win the championship: She had to make her own cap and apron; she had to name 20 different kinds of cloth; she had to put up one can of carrots and one can of peaches; she had to bake a loaf of bread; she had to make a tin of baking-powder biscuit, the sort you used to eat at teatime with honey when you went visiting with your mother. She had to prove she can darn and patch. She had to make garments for herself out of whole cloth and make them well.

Miss Hatch also won the prize as "Miss Agriculture" in the big parade at the fair, in which she wore a costume of alfalfa, trimmed with goldenrod.

MAN WITH PERFECT BRAIN

Thomas J. Abernethy, now half through his senior year at Harvard, has learned that he is mentally perfect.

The expert who tested his mentality and gave him 100 per cent was no less an authority than the late Prof. Hugo Munsterberg, who made the test last spring and announced the result only a few days before his death.

It surprised Thomas J. Abernethy, '17, who was adjudged perfect, as much as it surprised anyone. The college records show that he has been only an average student. He says himself, "I have just about broken even on grades."

If Abernethy has not taken advantage of his natural endowments in college, he will start on the more serious phase of life aware of his extraordinary mental equipment, or aware at least that his mentality was labeled "A1" by one of the world's greatest psychologists. Abernethy specialized in romance languages, having had the idea originally that he might go into business in South America. He now plans to enter the canning business with his father in his home town, West Pembroke, Me.



LYAUTEY, MILITARY GENIUS



The new French minister of war is described by Stephen Lausanne, formerly editor of Le Matin, Paris, as follows: "As for General Lytautey, the new minister of war, in all France the premier could not have found another man so splendidly qualified to handle the big problems of the war office. He is a genius at organization, and I do not think I exaggerate when I say he is perhaps the greatest organizer that the French army has ever known."

"For the last five years, General Lytautey has been governor of Morocco, and in these five years he brought the Moroccans from a state approaching savagery to quasi-civilization. He is a great master of efficiency, and combines all the qualities of a great general with those of a great business man."

"General Lytautey is a native of Lorraine. He had a little home not far from Nancy, and when the Germans made one of their raids upon that city in the early days of the war General Lytautey's home was among the first to be looted and subsequently destroyed. He is between sixty and sixty-five years of age and is a member of the Academy and the one member who has yet to make his presentation speech to his colleagues."