

THE HERO AS HE WAS

WASHINGTON THE MAN OBSCURED BY TRADITION AND INVENTION.

Absurdity of the Claims of His Human Perfection—He Had Redeeming Vice and Was a Superb Man Physically, Morally and Mentally.

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O MAN born in this land certainly has ever been so much injured by excessive praise, by ridiculous exaggeration, as George Washington.

Having been represented as an orthodox saint, as the incarnation of goodly goodlyism, so incessantly, a natural reaction was the result. The carping, critical public the opposition after a time and began to sneer at and underrate his memory.

The bulk of Americans today seem to think that Washington was as popular at his renomination for the presidency as when first presented for the suffrages of the newborn nation.

Stripping aside the prejudice for and against the Father of His Country, as he well deserved to be called, we are enabled to see him as nature arrayed him, and he looks and is the better, because the truer, for it.

The ultra pious have roundly abused everybody who declined to admit that Washington was not a strict Episcopalian, a regular church attendant and communicant, a severe Sabbatarian.

Albeit a slaveholder—he had, it is said, 300 slaves, most of whom came to him through his marriage with the rich Widow Custis—he was never in favor of slavery.

Of moderate education, he was intelligent, observing, attentive, generous, charitable, thrifty. In spite of occasional losses he was successful in business. When he died, his property was valued, exclusive of his wife's and the Mount Vernon estate, at \$330,000.

all manner of cheap virtues he has been charged from youth to his closing years with overfondness for women, which seems to be unfounded. No doubt he had a general liking for pretty women, but so far as evidence can be adduced he did not carry it beyond bounds.

A great point was made against his connubial fidelity because there is reason to think that his wife was a bit jealous. Jealous wives, it is well known, have in all ages been oftener jealous without cause than with cause.

So much has been written of Washington's campaigns that very little truth has been told of him as a man. While not a military strategist—nor did he assume to be—the Revolution was not conducted by strategy.

George Washington was 43 when he drew his sword under the historic elm at Cambridge as "captain general and commander in chief" of the colonial forces.

Washington's Room. Silent we stand beside the open door. And all the room beyond is bathed in light. The golden sunlight thus distill half of yore, The smile that kissed away the tears of night.

MARY AND JEAN.

How oft at dusk did Burns along The banks of Ayr appear. A melancholy child of song, Musing amid a mournful throng.

THE INN AT BIRNLEY.

BY CHARLES B. LEWIS.

In every city and town in the land you will find a mill, store or factory which seems to be hoodooed. The location is apparently all right, but whoever buys, leases or rents makes a failure.

Grafton had a wife and three children, and he had not been in the house a month when two of the children were drowned in the river near by.

It had stood thus for a year or so, an eyesore to the town and a wonder to all strangers, when a man named Cummings came along and made certain inquiries, which at once revived all the gossip.

No one in Birnley recollected the arrival of the couple or anything connected with them—no one but me. It so happened that I was able to furnish information. They arrived at 8 o'clock one evening while there was a circus in town.

body had been buried there. The barn had never been rebuilt after the fire. Cummings hired a dozen men and had the debris removed, but still the search was unsuccessful.

Mr. Cummings, a constable and myself entered the old inn one evening after supper to make a thorough search. What the brother expected to find he did not say, but he made up his mind that his sister never left Birnley alive.

At half past 8 o'clock in the morning we gathered in that room. Most of the plaster was off, the floor was sinking and cobwebs hung from the corners.

There was a move for the stairs, and every one's face was as pale as death, but Cummings made a gesture which checked the retreat, and there was a long minute of silence.

The constable fetched a ladder, and Cummings was first through the scuttle. The garret was 40 feet long by 20 wide, with the end windows broken out and daylight and sunshine streaming in.

She had been murdered in the room below and carried up there, and one might have looked into the garret a hundred times without discovering the body. It had been there so long that there was only dust and bones to be gathered up and taken down for identification and burial.

PEOPLE ARE GETTING TIRED.

Fifty Subscribers Quit the State Journal in One Day at York.

Holcomb says that Bartley was not short during his first term. The settlement showed that he was not short. The supreme court decided that the governor should count bank certificates as cash.

On entering we mounted to the second story and entered the room the couple had occupied that night. We were standing still and gazing about when there suddenly came a sound as of a woman sobbing.

At half past 8 o'clock in the morning we gathered in that room. Most of the plaster was off, the floor was sinking and cobwebs hung from the corners.

Hastings college has an industrial department that was organized last year for the purpose of assisting young men and women to secure a liberal education.

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year for the purpose of assisting young men and women to secure a liberal education. The young men and women in this department are doing as much work as is necessary to secure their board.

No Property in Wyoming. The following is an extract from a letter from the wife of a railroad man employed on the U. P. in Wyoming. It would seem to indicate that the great wave had not yet reached the employes of that great corporation.

I suppose you folks have heard about the new railroad shooting everything to pieces here. They have fired all but a very few men in the shops, and everyone is holding their breath to find out what they are going to do with the road men.



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