

The present Congress should take a firm stand against widowhood for penance only.

Miss Wheeler Wilcox may not be a poet, but she is great at writing rhythmic common sense.

Does compulsory education mean that even if a boy is not the right stamp he must be licked to make him stick to letters?

Mrs. Daisy Violet Flower of Missouri has been sued for a divorce. Is her husband thinking of picking another bouquet?

A great group of sunspots has been observed near the center of the sun's disk. Can it be that old Sol has an attack of the measles?

Some think if the chain is dropped from the bicycle a use could be found for it to hold in those who want to take part in six-day races.

It wouldn't be surprising if one symptom of that long-distance telephone operator who draws an army pension for business was a ringing round in the head.

A Pennsylvania court has ruled that a woman need not swear to her age in open court. This decision ought to decrease the annual perjury output very materially.

The Emperor of China is badly scared over a coming total eclipse of the sun. Perhaps the Germans will utilize the circumstance to steal a little farther into the country.

England agrees not to interfere with Germany in China if Emperor William will not concern himself over British territorial acquisition in Africa. Now let the grab game go on.

At the coming trans-Mississippi exposition Kansas will exhibit a "carload of cancelled mortgages," and presumably not one of them was cancelled through foreclosure proceedings.

Russia wants a still bigger slice of China, as a compensation for the return by Germany of a mere foothold in Kiao-Chow. It is difficult to describe the ethics of this description of plucking.

Territory grabbing by the great powers almost necessitates morning and evening editions of maps, so rapid are the changes. A series of maps makes an interesting record of racing to outstep competitors for territory which the weaker must give up to the stronger.

A great amount of labor has been expended in getting into position the 50-ton slab that is to hold down the mechanism of Millionaire Mackay. The coming billionnaire, if he ever arrives, will doubtless call for a small-sized crowd.

Our very handsome export of laundry machinery to heathen lands is an element of practical Christian work which some people think is of hardly less importance than the running of disputed Scripture texts through the wringing machine of doctrinal theology.

Women's sphere, in Germany, is pretty large. In the empire three women are employed as chimney-sweepers, thirty-five as slaters, seven as gunsmiths, 547 as coppersmiths, 379 as farriers and millers, 309 as masons, eight as stonecutters and 2,000 in marble, slate and stone quarries.

"I believe in the interview," says William D. Howells. So do most authors and others who have anything to sell. Much as they detest notoriety they eagerly seek to get themselves interviewed by the newspapers. Distinguished men even condescend to write interviews with themselves and ask the press to publish them.

The annual report of Pension Commissioner Evans shows that the names of about fifty thousand new pensioners were added to the rolls during the year, and that there was a net increase of a little more than five thousand in the whole number. The number now borne on the rolls is but a little short of one million—in exact figures, 976,514; and the amount disbursed in pensions during the year was about one hundred and forty million dollars. The report recommends the publication of a complete list of pensioners, to aid the detection of fraud.

The postal authorities are properly paying attention to a class of advertisements that has appeared too frequently in some periodicals of late. The advertiser promises to give valuable prizes to persons sending him accurate solutions of a collection of "puzzles," of which the subjoined is a fair sample: "Supply the missing letters in the following name of an important New England city—B-e-t-n." It is said that the people have been swindled out of a sum of money large in the aggregate through this transparent fraud. Periodicals will henceforth publish such advertisements at the risk of being excluded from the mails.

The diabolical assassination of William Turner, the distinguished British actor, by a worthless crank with a homicidal mania brings up before us, again, and in a most urgent form, the question of dealing with this class of man. There is no law for punishing

or even locking up a crank, no matter how dangerous he may notoriously be. Justice waits until he commits murder, and then offers to society the beggarly reparation of the gallows. The peril is one which the individual must meet for himself. Government avenges him only after he has been slain and his family desolated.

The gratifying progress made by the South in the development of manufactures is incidentally alluded to in the report of the Secretary of Agriculture in connection with the statistics on the cotton crop. It is shown that the number of cotton mills in the Southern States has increased in ten years (1886 to 1896) from 233 in the former year to 401 in the latter. The increase in the number of spindles has been still greater, the advance being from 1,100,132 to 3,341,5755, while the value of the cotton manufactured into goods has been increased in still larger proportion. The value of the raw material consumed in 1886 is estimated at \$380,447, and in 1896 at \$13,023,352, or more than 13 to 1. There has been a still more striking increase in the value of the cotton seed product during the same period, the growth being from \$741,000 to \$30,000,000, while the exports have grown from \$1,578,935 in 1887 to \$6,987,961 in 1896. Who will dare to say the South is not progressing, both in agriculture and manufactures?

While Spain is holding out a specious offer of autonomy to Cuba, in Crete, the Cuba of the Mediterranean, the autonomous regime promised nearly a year ago has not yet gone into effect. The country is still in a state of disorder in the interior, the only places where life and property are fairly secure being along the coast. The assembly, by means of a loan effected among the wealthy Cretans and Greeks, is attempting to organize a gendarmerie to counteract the prevailing lawlessness. Meanwhile no governor has been elected and the promise of autonomy made by the powers is still unrealized. Had it not been for the crushing defeat administered to Greece by Turkey the situation in Crete to-day would be even worse than it is, as there is an apparently "irrepressible conflict" between the Cretan and the Turk. As it is the Cretans realize the hopelessness of further struggle, but trusting in the promise of the powers are still hoping that autonomy is to be granted them in fact as well as in name.

The "art of longevity" surely is the "art preservative." It seems to be acquiring rules and a literature, now that so many old men hold the center of the stage directing the affairs of the world with all the vigor and brilliancy that has been ascribed wrongfully to youth. The London Hospital discusses the subject with professional care. It refuses to accept the rule that temperance in drinking promotes long life. Lord Eldon drank a bottle of port every week day and every Sunday Lord Stowell dined with him, and each of them drank two. "They lived to be a good deal past 80." The writer tells the old story of a yeoman of 85 who amazed Justice Denman (was it not Chief Justice Mansfield?) with the erectness of his figure, the vigor of his intelligence and the resonance of his voice. The old man explained that he was a vegetarian and a total abstainer. The Judge, in dismissing him, expressed a hope that all who were present might profit by his example, and then the next witness was called. This was another yeoman, the elder brother of the preceding, and fully a match for him in strength, activity and intelligence. As he was about to retire the Judge stopped him with the observation: "I presume that you also, Mr. Greenfield, are indebted for the preservation of your strength and faculties to a careful observance of the same sobriety and of the same regimen which have been so well described to us by your brother?" "Hain't been to bed sober for fifty years, my Lord," was the unblushing and startlingly unexpected reply. The Hospital declares that if there be any single characteristic common to long lives in general, or to the majority of them, it is probably the avoidance of excess—or rather the habitual practice of moderation—in eating. The old saying that men dig their graves with their teeth has manifestly a basis of truth underlying it. But it must probably be assumed that length of days in most cases is largely dependent upon some inherent peculiarity of the organism, by which it is enabled to exist for a period beyond the average. Given this "inherent peculiarity," men who think not at all seem to live about as long as men who think a great deal. The tranquil life is the long life. The cloidhopper who vegetates in an out-of-the-way country place vies with men "whose minds are kept alive and recipient" by the study of questions remote from the nerve-grawing pettiness of daily existence. Great mathematicians, great poets, great statesmen live long. We have in Bismarck, Gladstone, the Pope, Lord Kelvin—to name but a few—bright examples of the preservative power of lofty mental exercise. It is the middling man, the plodder, who fights the gnats in his journey, not the sleepy plowman or the philosopher striding on with his head among the stars, who perishes. As the Hospital says, "Our advice to those who desire longevity would be to eat sparingly, and, unless their business—like that of lawyers—demands constant exercise of the higher mental faculties, to study some abstract question in such intervals of leisure as they can obtain."

The Question. "And," continued the physician, as he was about to leave, "eat only what agrees with you."

"But, doctor, how am I to know whether it agrees with me until after I eat it?"—Yonkers Statesman.

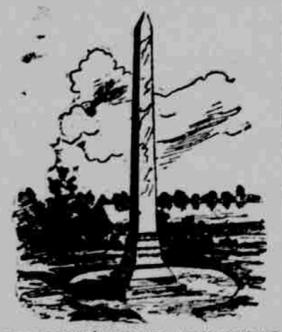
1732. GEORGE WASHINGTON. 1799.



George Washington, the first President of the United States, was born on Bridge Creek, Westmoreland County, Va., Feb. 22, 1732, and died at Mount Vernon, Dec. 14, 1799.

WHERE WASHINGTON WAS BORN.

Monument Marks the Birthplace of the Father of Our Country. A monument in honor of George Washington now marks the place of his birth. In 1896 Congress appropriated \$11,000 in furtherance of the project, but not until July 4 of the following year did the unveiling take place. The monument stands fifty-one feet above the cement foundation, the monolith shaft rising 40 feet 4 inches above the base. The shaft springs from a foundation fourteen feet square and eight feet high. Dressed down the shaft weighs about thirty-six tons. Above this rises the stone of the first base, twelve feet square and one foot eight inches high. On this rests the second base, nine feet three inches square and three feet high. Above this is the die upon which the inscription is cut, and this is six feet five



WASHINGTON'S BIRTHPLACE MONUMENT. Inches square and four feet ten inches high. The plinth just above it is four feet five inches square and one foot two inches high. The shaft that springs from this is three feet eight inches square and rises forty feet four inches above the plinth. The marble for this notable landmark was quarried at Barre, Vt.

Washington's birthplace is near Wakefield, forty-two miles from Fredericksburg, Va., and no one can imagine the dreary isolation of the place. The site of the house in which Washington was born, which was determined before the erection of the monument only by a scattering pile of broken bricks and mortar from the chimney, is about one mile and a half from the Potomac at a point where that river is about seven miles wide and about six or seven hundred feet from Pope's creek, formerly Bridge's creek. The Government has built a wharf 1,080 feet long out into the Potomac, and when the grounds are beautified it is intended that the river steamers shall stop here.



HOUSE WHERE WASHINGTON WAS BORN.

The nearest point now to be reached is Colonial Beach, some ten or twelve miles distant, from which point one has the choice only of driving or sailing to the spot. Where Washington Took the Oath. An interesting relic of the early days of the republic was discovered by workmen remodeling the old Senate chamber in the Court of Common Pleas building, adjoining Independence Hall. In the course of the work the court platform was removed and underneath it was found an

old platform, which the members believe was that of the Senate chamber, and they argue that there is little or no room to doubt that upon these boards George Washington was inaugurated President. The historical associations of this building, and particularly of the room in which the old platform was found, are thus briefly recorded on the tablet placed on the Chestnut street wall: "In this building sat the first Senate and first House of Representatives of the United States of America. Herein George Washington was inaugurated President March, 1793, and closed his official career when herein; also, John Adams was inaugurated second President of the United States March 4, 1797."—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Experiment Failed. No man admires the memory of George Washington more than Chauncey M. Depew, and the only defect Mr. Depew ever saw in the character of the greatest American he related at a dinner in honor of the celebration of the battle of Princeton. Washington's quiet dignity and sternness of character prevented not only himself but his companions from enjoying the hilarity necessary to a good dinner. "The grandfather of Gen. Cochrane was surgeon general of the staff, and he used to tell this story of the attempt of the younger members to break through this reserve and bring the commander-in-chief into sympathy with both the serious and hilarious incidents that happened. The novel method of producing this result was that the best raconteur should tell the story which had found the greatest success, and then that Gov. Morris, the most brilliant, audacious and best loved of the officers, should play the general on the back and say, 'Old gentleman, how do you like that?' Washington was first astonished, then a grieved expression came over his face and he slowly rose and with great dignity retired from the room. This was the last experiment they made upon Gen. Washington."

MRS. WASHINGTON'S BEDTIME.

A Homelike Picture Described in Mrs. Wharton's "Martha Washington." MRS. JAMES GIBSON, who frequently visited Mrs. Washington when, as the President's wife, she resided in Philadelphia, then the capital of the United States, gives a homelike picture of that lady and her favorite granddaughter. Mrs. Gibson's language is quoted by Miss Wharton in her "Martha Washington": "Mrs. Washington was in the habit of retiring at an early hour to her own room, unless detained by company, and there, no matter what the hour, Nellie (Miss Curtis) attended her. "One evening my father's carriage being late in coming for me, my dear young friend invited me to accompany her to grandmamma's room. There, after some little chat, Mrs. Washington apologized to me for pursuing her usual preparations for the night, and Nellie entered upon her accustomed duty by reading a chapter and a psalm from the old family Bible, after which all present knelt in evening prayer.

"Mrs. Washington's faithful maid then assisted her to disrobe and lay her head upon the pillow. Nellie then sang a verse of some sweetly soothing hymn, and then, leaning down, received the parting blessing for the night, with some emphatic remarks on her duties, improvements, etc. The effect of these judicious habits and teachings appeared in the granddaughter's character through life."

When Washington Was Young. The stagecoach rolled along its way, On tireless axle hung, The speediest travel of the day When Washington was young. A wick in tallow was impaled Its feeble luster sung

To light the darkness of the world When Washington was young. But thirteen States and thirteen stars Historic posts sung, Who scanned the patriotic bars When Washington was young. That selfsame flag to-day is fraught (O'er seventy millions swung) With principles of honor taught When Washington was young. Grand history lessons are enrolled Its stars and stripes among Horrah, then, for the days of old, When Washington was young! —Chicago Post.

WASHINGTON'S POLITENESS.

A Very Pleasant Anecdote of the Great American Gentleman. In the Century there is an article by Martha Littlefield Phillips, giving "Recollections of Washington and His Friends." The author is a granddaughter of the youngest daughter of Gen. Nathaniel Greene, and she tells the following story in the words of her grandmother, concerning a visit of the latter to Washington at Philadelphia: "One incident which occurred during that visit was so comical in itself, and so characteristic of Washington, that I recall it for your entertainment. Early in a bright December morning a droll-looking old countryman called to see the President. In the midst of their interview breakfast was announced, and the President invited his visitor, as was his hospitable wont on such occasions, to a seat beside him at the table. The visitor drank his coffee from his saucer, but least any grief should come to the snowy damask, he scraped the bottom of his cup on the saucer's edge before setting it down on the tablecloth. He did it with such audible vigor that it attracted my attention, and that of several young people present, always on the alert for occasions of laughter. We were so indiscreet as to allow our amusement to become obvious. Gen. Washington took in the situation, and immediately adopted his visitor's method of drinking his coffee, making the scrape even more pronounced than the one he reproduced. Our disposition to laugh was quenched at once."

WASHINGTON'S ANCESTORS.

Old English Building Dates from the Seventeenth Century. Washington Hall, in Durham County, England, which was lately sold under the hammer, with the adjoining grounds, for \$2,025, was the early home of the ancestors of George Washington. The building dates from the early part of the seventeenth century, and it was erected by William James, Bishop of Durham. It is of stone, having millioned windows and boldly projecting porches. A large outstanding chimney is at one end of the house. The building is now fast falling into ruin. The Washington family occupied the old manor for five centuries before the hall was built. William de Westington's name appears as witness to the charters of the Bishop



HOME OF WASHINGTON'S ANCESTORS.

of Durham between 1260 and 1274, and Washington Irving has traced to the Westingtons of Durham George Washington's ancestry.

Bobby's Reason. I know that Washington was true And good, and beat the British, too, And never once lost hope—that is, When things went wrong he just kept cool. But what I like him for is this, 'Cause on his birthday there's no school. —Household.

Quite Different. 'Tis said he could not tell a lie, George W., noble youth, With him my son George does not vie; He cannot tell the truth. —Judge.

Imitating George. Fond Papa—Now, my little son, I hope you will never forget this story that I have told you about the immortal Father of His Country, and that you will strive to follow his noble example.



Fond Papa (next day)—What the—Boy—I couldn't find any cherry trees, Pop, so I cut down a couple of rows of apple trees instead.



The British crown is made up of diamonds, rubies, sapphires, pearls and emeralds, set in silver and gold bands. It weighs 39 ounces and a penny-weights, troy. In it there are 3,452 diamonds, 278 pearls, 9 rubies, 17 sapphires and 11 emeralds.

Feet and Feathers. Mixing cornmeal with water and then baking hard as a crumbling fine makes a better feed for chickens than if fed raw. Baked wheat makes an excellent feed for young chickens. It is easy to prepare and is clean and healthy. But do not let it get sour. One of the best ways of destroying a hen's digestion and inviting disease is to keep feeding soft feed and rob the gizzard of its proper function.

OH, WHAT SPLENDID COFFEE. Mr. Goodman, Williams County, Ill., writes: "From one package Kaiser's German Coffee Berry costing 15 cents I grew 300 pounds of better coffee than I can buy in stores at 30 cents a pound." A package of this and big seed catalogue is sent you by John A. Kaiser Seed Co., LaCrosse, Wis., upon receipt of 15 cents stamps and this notice. a.n.

The mistake the average wheelwoman makes is in having her tires too flat, thereby increasing the fatigue, and also endangering herself and others on the roads.

Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children. Successfully used by Mother Gray, nurse in the Children's Home in New York, in curing Feverishness, Bad Stomach, Teething Disorders, Croup and Whooping Cough, and in restoring the system after illness. They never fail. At all druggists, 25c. Sample FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, La Roy, N. Y.

It is said that only one woman in a thousand can whistle; but as long as a woman can talk she doesn't care to whistle.

FITB. Permanently Cured. For those who are afflicted with St. Vitus' Dance, Spasms, and other Nervous Disorders. Send for FREE 62-cent bottle and treatment. Dr. H. H. Kline, Ltd., 221 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Christmas comes but once a year and the man with seven children and nineteen grandchildren is glad of it.

Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c bottle.

A bumble bee has been known to distance a locomotive going twenty miles an hour.

Rheumatic Pains

Confined to Her Bed, but Hood's Sarsaparilla Cured Her. "I was taken with rheumatism and suffered a great deal of pain, and at times I was confined to my bed. I obtained only temporary relief from medicine, and a friend advised me to try Hood's Sarsaparilla, which I did, and it cured me."—Mrs. P. P. HAY, Central, Ill.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

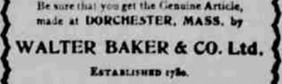
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per thousand and up. 12,000 Peach Trees 10c and up. Orange Orange Hedge, \$1.00 per thousand and up. Ash Seedling, 50c per thousand. A large supply of all kinds of exceedingly well-rooted, true to name, and strictly first-class nursery stock. Write for Price List to HUNSMAN NURSERY, Reynolds, Neb.

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Largest growers of Clover and Clover Seed in America. 1896's new seed. Our seed is the best in the world. We have a large supply of all kinds of exceedingly well-rooted, true to name, and strictly first-class nursery stock. Write for Price List to HUNSMAN NURSERY, Reynolds, Neb.

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The best Red Hope Roofing for all purposes. Caps and nails included. Substitutes for Pine-roofing. Write for Price List to HUNSMAN NURSERY, Reynolds, Neb.

DR. ISAAC THOMPSON'S EYE WATER

A KIDNEY PILLS—It gives you in mail order but see it first on hand. You can make 100 weekly stamped envelopes for the price of one. A large supply of all kinds of exceedingly well-rooted, true to name, and strictly first-class nursery stock. Write for Price List to HUNSMAN NURSERY, Reynolds, Neb.