

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Thought Always of Country's Welfare

In a letter to Colonel Hamilton, a delegate in Congress from the state of New York, Washington said: "My wish to see the union of these states established upon liberal and permanent principles, and inclination to contribute my mite in pointing out the defects of the present constitution, are equally great. All my private letters have teemed with these sentiments, and, whenever this topic has been the subject of conversation, I have endeavored to diffuse and enforce them; but how far any further essay by me might be productive of the wished-for end, or appear to arrogate more than belongs to me, depends so much upon popular opinion and the temper and dispositions of the people that it is not easy to decide. I shall be obliged to you, however, for the thoughts which you have promised me on this subject, and as soon as you can make it convenient. No man in the United States is or can be more deeply impressed with the necessity of a reform in our present confederation than myself. No man, perhaps, has felt the bad effects of it more sensibly; for to the defects thereof, and want of power in Congress, may justly be ascribed the prolongation of the war, and consequently the expenses occasioned by it. More than half the perplexities I have experienced in the course of my command, and almost the whole of the difficulties and distress of the army, have had their origin here. But still, the prejudices of some, the designs of others, and the mere machinery of the majority make address and management necessary to give weight to opinions which are to combat the doctrines of those different classes of men in the field of politics."

To Lafayette he wrote: "We are now an independent people, and have yet to learn political tactics. We are placed among the nations of the earth and have a character to establish; but how we shall acquire ourselves time must discover. The probability is (at least I fear it) that local or state politics will interfere too much with the more liberal and extensive plan of government which wisdom and foresight, freed from the mist of prejudice, would dictate, and that we shall be guilty of many blunders in treading this boundless theatre before we shall have arrived at any perfection in this art; in a word, that the experience which is purchased at the price of difficulties and distress will alone convince us that the honor, power and true interest of this country must be measured by a continental scale, and that every departure therefrom weakens the Union, and may ultimately break the band which holds us together. To avert these evils, to form a new constitution that will give consistency, stability and dignity to the Union and sufficient powers to the great council of the nation for general purposes is a duty incumbent upon every man who wishes well to his country, and will meet with my aid as far as it can be rendered in the private walks of life."

Gratitude of Congress Shown

When Washington returned to Newburg, at the close of the revolution, he found a letter from the president of Congress, asking his attendance on that assembly, then in session at Princeton. The object of this request was to consult him on the arrangements for peace, and other public concerns. While he was making preparations to leave camp Congress conferred on him new honors. It was voted unanimously that an equestrian statue of General Washington should be erected at the place where the residence of Congress should be established, and that it should be executed by the best artist in Europe, under the superintendence of the minister of the United States at the Court of Versailles.

Incident Typical of Washington's Life

A story illustrative of the firm and determined character of Washington is told in the following description of affairs during the frontier warfare: "The labors and dangers of the field were not the only troubles with which Col. Washington at this time had to contend. By an ill-timed parsimony, the pay of the officers was reduced so low as to create murmurs and discontent throughout the camp. Complaints grew loud and vehement, accompanied with threats to resign and leave the army to its fate. Under this pressure the character of Washington shone with the same purity and lustre that often distinguished it afterwards on similar trying occasions. In his letters to the governor he assumed a firm and manly tone, demanded for himself and his associates an allowance equal to that received by the king's troops, and deprecated the idea of being placed upon a footing, which should imply an inferiority in rank, or in the value of their services.

"While he took this high stand in defending the just claims of the officers, he endeavored to calm their feelings and reconcile them to their condition by appeals to their honor and the obligations of duty. I have communicated your sentiments to the other

officers," said he to the governor, "and, as far as I could put on the hypocrisy, set forth the advantages that may accrue, and advised them to accept the terms, as a refusal might reflect dishonor upon their character, leaving it to the world to assign what reason it pleases for their quitting the service." And again, "I considered the pernicious consequences that would attend a disunion and was therefore too much attached to my country's interests to suffer it to ripen." In this way he concealed his uneasiness, and tranquillized the minds of his officers, although he felt the wrongs they suffered, and approved the spirit that would not tamely submit to them.

"As to himself, it was not so much the smallness of the pay, that gave him concern, as the indignity and injustice of having his services estimated at a lower rate, than in the British establishment, when in reality no service could be more severe and hazardous, or less promising of glory, than the one in which he was engaged. 'Now if we could be fortunate enough,' said he, 'to drive the French from the Ohio, as far as your honor would please to have them sent, in any short time, our pay will not be sufficient to discharge our first expenses. I would not have you imagine from this, that I have said all these things to have our pay

increased, but to justify myself, and to show you that our complaints are not frivolous, but founded on strict reason. For my own part, it is a matter almost indifferent, whether I serve for full pay, or as a generous volunteer. Indeed, did my circumstances correspond with my inclinations, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter; for the motives that have led me here are pure and noble. I had no view of acquisition, but that of honor, by serving my king and country.' In this declaration, uttered in the sincerity of his heart, we perceive the principles, the eminent virtues, that dictated every act of his public life."

Washington Chosen Commander-in-Chief

At the outbreak of the war of the revolution, it should be said, to the credit of the New England delegates, that they were among the foremost to propose, and the most zealous to promote, the appointment of Col. Washington to the chief command. As the contest had begun in Massachusetts, the inhabitants of which had been the chief sufferers, and as the existing army was mostly raised there, it could not have been thought an extravagant assumption had that colony aspired to the honor of furnishing a commander-in-chief. But, happily for America, the patriots of that day rose far above the sordid aims of selfishness and party rivalships.

While the discussions were going on in Congress respecting military preparations, Mr. John Adams, one of the delegates from Massachusetts, moved that the army, then besieging the British troops in Boston, should be adopted by Congress as a Continental army; and, in the course of his observations enforcing this motion, he said it was his intention to propose for the office of commander-in-chief a gentleman from Virginia, who was at that time a member of their own body. His remarks were so pointed that all present perceived them to apply to Col. Washington, who, upon hearing this reference to himself, retired from his seat and withdrew. When the day for the appointment arrived, the nomination was made by Mr. Thomas Johnson of Maryland. The choice was by ballot, and, on inspecting the votes, it was found that Col. Washington was unanimously elected. As soon as the result was ascertained, the House adjourned. On the convening of Congress the next morning the president communicated to him officially the notice of his appointment, and he rose in his place and signified his acceptance in a brief and appropriate reply.

Title of Monarch Sternly Put Aside

When the revolution ended and peace was declared, the discontents of the officers and soldiers, respecting the arrangements of their pay, increased, and, there being now a prospect that the army would ultimately be disbanded

without an adequate provision by Congress for meeting the claims of the troops, these discontents manifested themselves in audible murmurs and complaints, which foreboded serious consequences. But a spirit still more to be dreaded was secretly at work. In reflecting on the limited powers of Congress, and on the backwardness of the states to comply with the most essential requisition, even in support of their own interests, many of the officers were led to look for the cause in the form of government, and to distrust the stability of republican institutions. So far were they carried by their fears and speculations that they meditated the establishment of a new and more energetic system. A colonel in the army, of a highly respectable character and somewhat advanced in life, was made the organ for communicating their sentiments to the commander-in-chief. In a letter elaborately and skillfully written, after describing the gloomy state of affairs, the financial difficulties, and the innumerable embarrassments in which the country had been involved during the war, on account of its defective political organization, the writer adds: "This must have shown to all, and to military men in particular, the weakness of republics, and the exertions the army have been able to make by being under a proper head. Therefore I little doubt that, when the benefits of a mixed government are pointed out and duly considered such will be readily adopted. In this case it will, I believe, be uncontroverted, that the same abilities, which have led us through difficulties, apparently insurmountable by human power, to victory and glory, those qualities that have merited and obtained the universal esteem and veneration of an army, would be most likely to conduct and direct us in the smoother paths of peace. Some people have so connected the ideas of tyranny and monarchy as to find it very difficult to separate them. It may therefore be requisite to give the head of such a constitution as I propose some title apparently more moderate; but, if all other things were once adjusted, I believe strong arguments might be produced for admitting the title of King, which I conceive would be attended with some material advantages."

To this communication, as unexpected as it was extraordinary in its contents, Washington replied as follows: "Newburg, 22 May, 1782.

"Sir—With a mixture of great surprise and astonishment I have read with attention the sentiments you have submitted to my perusal. Be assured, sir, no occurrence in the course of the war has given me more painful sensations than your information of there being such ideas existing in the army, as you have expressed, and I must view with abhorrence and reprehend with severity. For the present, the communication of them will rest in my own bosom, unless some further agitation of the matter shall make a disclosure necessary.

"I am much at a loss to conceive what part of my conduct could have given encouragement to an address, which to me seems big with the greatest mischiefs that can befall my country. If I am not deceived in the knowledge of myself, you could not have found a person to whom your schemes are more disagreeable. At the same time, in justice to my own feelings, I must add that no man possesses a more sincere wish to see ample justice done to the army than I do, and as far as my powers and influence, in a constitutional way extend, they shall be employed to the utmost of my abilities to effect it should there be any occasion. Let me conjure you, then, if you have any regard for your country, concern for yourself or posterity, or respect for me, to banish these thoughts from your mind, and never communicate, as from yourself or any one else, a sentiment of the like nature. I am, sir, etc.

"George Washington."

Such was the language of Washington, when, at the head of his army and at the height of his power and popularity, it was proposed to him to become a king. After this indignant reply and stern rebuke, it is not probable that any further advances were made to him on the subject.

"I Die Hard, but I Am Not Afraid"

After Washington's retirement from the Presidency, his health was remarkably good; and, although age had not come without its infirmities, yet he was able to endure fatigue and make exertions of the body and mind with scarcely less ease and activity than he had done in the prime of his strength. He spent several hours on horseback, riding to his farms, and giving directions to his managers. He returned late in the afternoon, wet and chilled with the rain and sleet, to which he had been exposed while riding home. The water had penetrated to his neck, and snow was lodged in the locks of his hair. A heavy fall of snow the next day prevented his going abroad, except for a short time near his house. A sore throat and hoarseness convinced him that he had taken cold, but he seemed to apprehend no danger from it. He passed the evening with the family, read the newspapers, and conversed cheerfully till his usual hour for going to rest.

In the night he had an ague, and before dawn of the day the next morning, which was Saturday, the 14th, the soreness in his throat had become so severe that he breathed and spoke with difficulty. At his request he was bled by one of his overseers, and in the meantime a messenger went for Dr. Craik, who lived nine miles off, at Alexandria. As no relief was obtained by bleeding and the symptoms were such as to alarm the family, another messenger was dispatched for Dr. Brown, who resided nearer Mount Vernon. These physicians arrived in the morning, and Dr. Dick in the course of the day. All the remedies which their united counsel could devise were used without effect.

His suffering was acute and unabated during the day, but he bore it with perfect composure and resignation. Towards evening he said to Dr. Craik: "I die hard, but I am not afraid to die. I believed from my first attack that I should not survive it. My breath cannot last long." From that time he said little, except to thank the physicians for their kindness, and request that they give themselves no more trouble, but let him die quietly. Nothing further was done, and he sank gradually till between ten and eleven o'clock at night, when he expired, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, and in the full possession of his mental faculties; exhibiting in this short and painful illness, and in his death, the same sample of patience, fortitude and submission to the Divine will, which he had shown in all the acts of his life. On Wednesday, the 18th of December, his remains were deposited in the family tomb at Mount Vernon.

Designed the Meteor

Gay in a dress of fresh paint, its hull moulded into form, Emperor William's yacht, the Meteor, is ready for the water at Shooter's Island.

To the lay observer the yacht seems a completed vessel stripped of its rigging. The painter's brush already has marked the water line on its sides, and the last rivet has been fastened in its plates. Nearly all the portholes have been cut. With the completion of the deck flooring and the deckhouse, which will be done in

A. Cary Smith. (Designer of the Meteor.)

a day or so more, all that remains to be done will be the fitting up of the interior and rigging. The 100 tons of lead ballast already has been stowed away in the hold.

The Meteor will be almost completed when it is launched. Stepping the masts, upholstering the interior, and finishing some of the detail work in the compartments is all that will remain to be done. The yacht may be ready to sail within two weeks after the launching.

Magnificent Telephone.

Last year the officials of the department of communications decided to make a present of a specially made set of telephone apparatus to his imperial highness, the crown prince, in honor of his wedding. But, as there was not time enough to manufacture it, in accordance with the suggestion of Dr. Furnichl, assistant secretary of that department, they presented only the drawings. Since then numbers of workmen have been engaged in its manufacture. The telephone itself is nothing but an ordinary instrument, except that it possesses excellent sensitiveness. All the outside decorations are of ivory, with gold inlaid. The imperial crest of chrysanthemums and cranes, at the corners of the square part, are made of gold. The telephone stand is lacquered work with inlaid mother-of-pearl.

An American Beauty

Miss Nance O'Neill, the American actress who has been engaged for a season at the Lyceum theater, London, during which she will appear in tragic roles, is at present enjoying a popular success in South Africa, despite the war. Miss O'Neill is one of the most beautiful women whom California has contributed to the American and the British stage. She was born at Hayward, near Oakland, and although a Protestant, she has been a warm friend of Rev. Father Lally, a well-known Roman Catholic pastor, at Hayward, who has watched

the Senate testified their respect and sorrow by similar proceedings. A joint committee of the two houses was appointed, who reported resolutions recommending that a marble monument should be erected to commemorate the great events in the military and political life of Washington; that an oration, suited to the occasion, should be pronounced in the presence of both houses of Congress; that the people of the United States should wear

close her career. She made her debut in London two years ago.

Dowry Her Own Weight.

A German paper reports a singular freak of paternal liberality in the matter of a dowry at a wedding recently. The marriage took place at Konigsgratz. On the betrothal of his daughter Herr Duchatschek had announced that he would give her, as a marriage portion, her weight in silver currency. Accordingly, on the wedding day, the bride was formally weighed in the drawing room, in presence of the assembled guests, before proceeding to



NANCE O'NEILL

Washington at 45. (From Portrait by Ince.)

Book Once Owned by Washington

Secretary Hay has a copy of Oliver Goldsmith's "Life of Shakespeare," an early and rare edition, but it has a greater value than its literary rarity, in having come from the library of George Washington. Washington's personal bookplate, the familiar arms of his family, on which the American flag was modeled, adorns the inside of the cover, and the signature of the first President appears on the title page, as clearly as if it had been written yesterday, instead of more than a hundred years ago.

church. The lady turning the scales at 62 kilogrammes, a sack was at once filled with silver crowns to the same weight, with half a kilogramme over—for the weight of the bag, as Herr Duchatschek playfully explained. The exact number of crowns was 13,500.

Old English Parish Clerk.

Henry Arnold, of Bradford Abbey, Dorset, the doyen of English parish clerks, was born in the spring of 1897, and although in his ninety-fourth year and well able to remember Waterloo and the peace rejoicings, still attends to his duties at two services every Sunday and can walk five or six miles at a stretch.

He first entered upon his duties in September, 1833, and by accepting the office of clerk disqualified himself for taking his place among the flute and violin players in the gallery, although an expert performer on both instruments.



A. Cary Smith. (Designer of the Meteor.)

Marriage Encouraged.

It is doubtful whether any inducement to marriage was more remarkable than that recently put forward by a well-known Austrian nobleman who was anxious to encourage matrimony among the peasants of his estate. He undertook to provide each bridegroom with tobacco supplies for life and each bride with four pairs of gloves per annum. The generous offer acted like a charm, and very soon there was scarce a single bachelor remaining on the nobleman's vast estate.

A Unique Will

"Where there's a will there's a way," according to the proverb, though it may not have meant the kind of will shown in the accompanying illustration. The picture tells almost the whole story. A fisherman in a New England town was fatally injured by



For the Purchase of Palestine.

At the request of influential Hebrews of New York a bill has been introduced in the state legislature for the incorporation of the Federation of American Zionists. The purpose of this organization is the purchase of Palestine from the Turkish government, so that it may be open to such Jews as may desire to go there from any part of the world and make it their home. It is stated that many rich men are interested in this measure, and that money can be raised to any needed amount, provided the Porte is willing to accept a proposition for a sale.

Not a Progressive Country.

Colombia, with only 4,000,000 inhabitants, is twice the size of Germany. It has only 605 kilometers of railway and apart from the rivers all communication with the interior is carried on with mules.

Odd Streets in London.

In London there are six Paradise streets, ten New streets, eleven Duke streets, twelve Church streets and twenty-three High streets.

Good Beer Drinkers.

The average consumption of beer by the factory hand in Germany is nearly a gallon a day, but in England it is still larger.

CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

