

GEORGE WASHINGTON

BY JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL



OLDIER and statesmen, rarest union;
High-poised example of great duties done
Simply as breathing, a world's honors worn
As life's indifferent gifts to all men born;
Dumb for himself, unless it were to God,
But for his barefoot soldiers eloquent,
Tramping the snow to coral where they trod,
Held by his awe in hollow-eyed content;
Modest, yet firm as Nature's self; unblamed
Save by the men his nobler temper shamed;

Not honored then or now because he wooed
The popular voice, but that he still withstood;
Broad-minded, higher-souled, there is but one
Who was all this and ours, and all men's.
—WASHINGTON.

Never to see a nation born
Hath been given to mortal man,
Unless to those who, on that summer morn,
Gazed silent when the great Virginian
Unsheathed the sword whose fatal flash
Shot union through the incoherent clash
Of our loose atoms, crystallizing them
Around a single will's unpliant stem.
And making purpose of emotion rash.
Out of that scabbard sprang, as from its womb,
Nebulous at first but hardening to a star,
Through mutual share of sunburst and of gloom,
The common faith that made us what we are.

He chose, as men choose, where most danger showed,
Nor ever faltered 'neath the load
Of petty cares that gall great hearts the most,
But kept right on the strenuous up-hill road.
Strong to the end, above complaint or boast;
The popular tempest on his rock-mailed coast
Wasted its wind-borne spray,
The noisy marvel of a day;
His soul sate still in its unstormed abode.

Virginia gave us this imperial man
Cast in the massive mold
Of those high-statured ages old
Which into grander forms our mortal metal ran;
She gave us this unblemished gentleman:
What shall we give her back but love and praise
As in the dear old unestranged days
Before the inevitable wrong began?
Mother of states and undiminished men,
Thou gavest us a country, giving him,
And we owe always what we owed thee then.

Be to us evermore as thou wast then,
As we forget thou hast not always been,
Mother of States and unpolluted men,
Virginia, fitly named from England's manly queen!

Extracts from Farewell Address of Washington

One of the expedients of party to acquire influence, within particular districts, is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart-burnings which spring from these misrepresentations; they tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection.

To the efficacy and permanency of your union a government for the whole is indispensable.

All obstructions to the execution of the laws, all combinations and associations, under whatever plausible character, with the real design to direct, control, counteract or awe the regular deliberations and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of the fundamental principle, and of fatal tendency.

It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government.

Promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it

is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.

As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit.

Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all.

A passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils.

The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible.

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world.

Taking care always to keep ourselves, by suitable establishments, on a respectable defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

Harmony and a liberal intercourse with all nations are recommended by policy, humanity and interest.

There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. It is an illusion which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY



THE FIRST ELECTION

Party Feeling Unknown, with Washington the
Unanimous Choice of the Country.

Only ten states voted at this first election. New York, although having ratified the constitution and thereby having the right to vote, lost this privilege through a bitter contest between the two branches of her Legislature over the appointment of electors. There is no satisfactory record of the number of popular votes cast at this election, nor at any of the succeeding elections until the year 1824, when Andrew Jackson received 155,872 votes; John Quincy Adams, 106,311 votes; W. H. Crawford of Georgia, 44,282 votes, and Henry Clay, 46,587 votes. Although the popular vote cast for Andrew Jackson exceeded the number of votes cast for John Quincy Adams by a little more than 50,000, the electoral college gave Adams 16 more votes than Jackson received, and Adams was declared President, to the disappointment and rage of the supporters of Jackson.

Washington's cabinet had in it Thomas Jefferson, Edmund Randolph and Timothy Pickering as secretaries of state. Pickering was from Massachusetts, and he became secretary of state in December of the year 1795.

Alexander Hamilton and Oliver Wolcott served as secretaries of the treasury during Washington's administration, while Henry Knox, Timothy Pickering and James McHenry served at different times as secretaries of war and navy.

All was not harmonious in the Pres-

ident's cabinet, peaceful as his election had been. Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton were not the best of friends, and the breach widened as it became more and more apparent that Hamilton had more influence than Jefferson over Washington and was able to bring more things to pass.

Washington was as unwilling to receive his second nomination as he had been to receive the first, and he was anxious to retire from public life, but again his friends made him feel that it was his duty to accept the office. The second campaign, like the first, was without conventions, without nominations, and such a thing as a "platform" on which the party might "stand" was as yet unheard of. But party spirit had made itself felt, and there were Federalists and Anti-Federalists, to whom the name of Republicans began to be given.

But both parties were eager that Washington should remain in office, although there was an effort made to oust John Adams from the vice presidency and to give that office to George Clinton, but Adams was, as is well known, elected for a second term. Party spirit ran high. Indeed it became so violent before the close of Washington's second administration that he might well have wished himself back on his peaceful Mt. Vernon farm, leaving behind all the vexatious cares of state that must be the portion of every President of the United States.

Some folks keep diaries in which they jot down thoughts that are meant for no other eye, but they have little thrills of delight in anticipating the day when the diaries shall be accidentally lost.

Dr. Spitzka says the brains of criminals are in no sense abnormal. If the whole truth were known it would probably appear that a majority of the criminals are merely too lazy to work.