

TWO STORIES OF WASHINGTON.

Told by Dr. Edward Everett Hale in His "Memories."

Dr. Edward Everett Hale in his "Memories of a Hundred Years" now publishing in The Outlook adds to his own memories those of his father and of others. Some of these anecdotes go beyond the limits of the century; in the instalment for January, for instance, are collected several reminiscences of Washington. In relating these Dr. Hale says:

"An old parishioner of mine once told me that the day when Washington entered Boston in triumph, that is, on the 17th of March, 1776, he took up his headquarters at the best public house in Boston, which was at the head of State street, until then called King street. According to my old friend's account, General Howe had occupied the same inn. The mother of my informant was the daughter of the keeper of the inn, and was a little girl playing about the house, and, of course, interested in all that passed. Washington, with his usual kindness to children, called the child to him and said, 'You have seen the soldiers on both sides; which do you like best?' The little girl could not tell a lie any more than he could, and with a childish frankness, she said she liked the red coats best. Washington laughed, according to my friend's story, and said to her, 'Yes, my dear, the red-coats do look the best, but it takes the ragged boys to do the fighting.' This is one of many well authenticated anecdotes which disproves the old demigod theory that Washington never smiled.

When I was in college, Jared Sparks, always a near friend, was lecturing on American history. I stopped after the lecture to ask him some question, and he told me this story of the Battle of Princeton. I dare not call it my personal touch with the Revolution, but it removes me from it by only one gap. Sparks told me of the Massachusetts officer, whose name he did not give me, who was at Princeton on the day of the battle. There is a certain bridge, which the well-informed reader will remember, which it was important to destroy. Washington instructed this Massachusetts captain to take a file of men and destroy the bridge. The captain touched his hat and said, 'Are there enough men?' and Washington said, 'Enough to be cut to pieces.' This man told Dr. Sparks afterward that as he went back to his men he pinched his cheeks for fear that they should see that he was pale; and they destroyed the bridge."



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