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GEORGE WASHINGTON, THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

A Sketch of his life, Containing an Account of his Inauguration.

Before another issue of the TIMES the inauguration of our first President will have been celebrated. On the 30th of April millions of people will gather in New York to commemorate the virtues of Washington, and the great event of his inauguration as President in that city one hundred years ago.

George Washington was born in Westmoreland county, Va., Feb 22, 1732.

The house in which he was born was in a parish called by the family name of Washington, near Pope's creek, a small tributary of the Potomac, about half a mile from its junction with that river. It was destroyed by fire, during the boyhood of Washington, but in 1815 a stone with a suitable inscription was placed on the spot by George Washington Parke Custis. The family to which Washington belonged has not yet been satisfactorily traced in England. The genealogies accepted by Sparks and Irving and his other biographers have recently been proved to be inaccurate. His great-grandfather, John Washington, emigrated to Virginia about 1657, with his brother Lawrence. George Washington was the son of Augustine Washington and his second wife Mary Ball. After the burning of the house at Pope's creek, his father removed to a house on the Rappahannock, a short distance below Fredericksburg. Here he died in 1743, leaving a large landed property to his widow and five children. To his oldest son Lawrence he bequeathed an estate on the Potomac afterward known as Mount Vernon. George received only the education of the schools of the neighborhood, and his instruction at that did not go beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic, with the addition, which must have been somewhat exceptional, of bookkeeping and surveying.

Washington made his fortune by surveying lands in Virginia. In the course of his surveying he frequently came in contact with Indians and acquired valuable information as to their names etc. Washington served in the war against the Indians at the age of 19 years and with the rank of Major. In 1751 George was attacked with smallpox by which he was slightly marked through life. By the death of his brother Lawrence, George acquired the estate of Mount Vernon. In the troubles between the English and French over disputed territory, George Washington was appointed messenger to go 600 miles to confer with the French commandant. His mission was successful, though he narrowly escaped assassination by a treacherous guide.

On his return he was appointed Colonel of a regiment raised in Va. to drive the French from the Ohio river. This movement was unsuccessful, the enemy being too strong.

In the summer of 1758 George Washington fell in love with Mrs. Martha Custis, the wealthy widow of John P. Custis, and married her January 17th 1759. George then resigned his military commission and located with his bride at Mount Vernon.

Tobacco and wheat were the principal staple products of his farm. George kept a strict account of his farm receipts and expenditures (which every farmer should do). His farm consisted of 8,000 acres, half of which was in woodland and half in tillage. The lands lay in five farms, each with its appropriate set of laborers directed by an overseer. During his absence from home each overseer was required to make weekly written reports containing everything done on the farm, including the condition of the stock and work performed by each laborer. He owned 124 slaves at the time of his death.

June 15, 1775, Washington was elected Commander in Chief of the armies of the Revolution. His career as a soldier in the Revolutionary war will not be rehearsed in this brief sketch. There was great opposition to the war among the rich classes of America and much ridicule was heaped upon Washington. But he endured all and paved the way for a glorious freedom.

He was a member of the convention which met at Philadelphia in May, 1787, and framed the Constitution of the United States. Washington was unanimously elected its president; but as it is usual in deliberative bodies of this kind, most of the business was transacted in committee of the whole, Nathaniel Gorham of Massachusetts being placed by Washington from day to day in the chair. On Sept. 17, 1787, the fruit of the labors of this patriotic body was given to the people of the United States, with an official letter from the president of the convention; and having been ratified by the requisite number of states, it went into operation in 1789. This constitution, though not deemed perfect in every point by Washington, was regarded by him as the best that could be hoped for, the only alternative for anarchy and civil war. It was far from being warmly or generally welcomed; and it is doubtful whether it would have been ratified but for the transcendent popularity of Washington, who was instinctively marked out by public expectation as the first president. He was chosen by the unanimous vote of the electoral college, New York alone not having taken interest enough in the organization of the government to appoint electors. John Adams was elected

BILL ARP'S LETTER.

THE SAGE SMOKING THE PIPE OF PEACE—REFLECTION AND DE-DUCTIONS.

Bugs and Things—The rise and fall of Presidents and Preachers—A high minded Mule—A Little Political Discourse—Soldiers of the Camp.

I love to meet a laborer and hear him say, "how's crops?" I continue to like farmin'. I like it better and better, in precarious times, and in such a world. Disasters in this lonesome world. Flies and bugs and rust prey on the green wheat. Weevil eat it up when it is cut and put away. Rats eat the corn—mole eats the gubbers—hawks eat the chickens—the minks killed three of our ducks in one night—cholera kills the dogs—and the other night one my nabors' mules came along with the blind stagers, and fell up a pair of seven steps right into my front gate and died without kicking". Then there is briars and nettle and tread soft, and smartweed and pison oak and Spanish needles and cockle burs and dog fern and snakes that's always in the way on the farm, and must be looked after kearily, especially snakes, which are my eternal horror, and I shall always believe are some kind of devil himself. I can't tolerate such long insects. But we farmers have to take the bad and the good and there is more good than bad with me up to the present time.

I wonder if Harris ever saw a pack saddle. Well it is as putty as a rain bow, just like most all of the devil's contrivances, and when you crowd one of them on a fodder-blane, you'd think that forty yellereckets had stung you all in a bunch, and with malice aforethought. And there's the devil's race horse which plies around about this time, and as Uncle Isam says, chaws treacher like a gentleman, and if he spit in your eyes you'd go blind in a half a second. And one day he showed me the devil's darned needle, which winds up the old feller's stockings, and the devil's snuff-box, which explodes when you mash it, and one ounce of the snuff inside will kill a sound mule before he can lay down. Then there's some flowers that he wares in his button hole, called the devil's shoe string and the devil in the bush.

I like farmin'. It's an honest, quiet life, and it does me more good to work and get all over in sweat of perspiration. I enjoy my unbleed food and sweet repose, and get up every mornin' renewed and rejuvenated like an eagle in his flight, or words to that effect. I know I shall like it more and more for we have already passed over the Rubicon, and are beginning to reap the rewards of industry. Spring chickens have got ripe and the hens keep blooming on. Over 200 rosters to my old man's flock, and the hens keep blooming on. Over 200 rosters to my old man's flock, and the hens keep blooming on.

"I am ready to proceed," was Washington's reply, made with his accustomed elegant dignity.

The vice-president now led the way to the outside gallery; the president followed, with as many of the high functionaries as could find room, and all were presently gathered on the balcony fronting on Wall street. Of the group, perhaps the most striking person was Chancellor Livingston, in a full suit of black, and like Washington, one of the finest-looking men anywhere to be seen. Secretary Otis carried the Bible on a crimson cushion, and near him were Generals Knox and St. Clair, Roger Sherman, Hamilton and other noted persons of revolutionary fame. At the proper moment, the chancellor administered the oath, with great deliberation and emphasis, to Washington, who, bowing down, seized the book, kissed it, and exclaimed, with closed eyes and much emotion—

"I swear, to help me God!"

"It is done," the chancellor declared, and, turning to the crowd exclaimed, "Long live George Washington, President of the United States!"

Electric Bitters.

This remedy is becoming so well known and so popular as to need no special mention. All who have used Electric Bitters sing the same song of praise.—"Entire satisfaction guaranteed, or money refunded."—Price 50 cents and \$1.00 per bottle at Barwell & Dunn Druggists.

BILL ARP'S LETTER.

Hard Times.

From every section comes the cry of hard times, scarcity of money, etc., and yet we find comparatively plenty of the necessities of life. Laborers are complaining that they cannot obtain employment and when they succeed in doing so the remuneration is insufficient. The farmers of our land are falling farther behind each year. Few of them have money enough to pay current expenses for their farms, while nine-tenths of them are forced to purchase their farm supplies on time, and it may safely be stated that three-fourths are unable to pay their present indebtedness. This state of affairs is growing worse each year, and if it continues in the future as in the past the producers of the country will soon be bankrupt. This is not stating it too strong.

It is proper at this time to inquire into the cause or causes of this condition. It may first be assumed that class legislation contributes largely toward this depression of labor. An inspection of our statutes will reveal the fact that there are many laws favoring capital and few in favor of labor. The most casual observer cannot fail to discover the rapid concentration of wealth in our government.

This process, begun during the late war between the States, has been surely and systematically carried out till little is left to the producers of the country but to submit to the dictation of capital.

Protective tariff enriches the manufacturer at the expense of the laborer and effectually enables the former to control the latter. The national banking system of our country is another branch of class legislation, by which our bankers control the volume of our currency, increasing or contracting as may best subserve their interests. Having the power it becomes quite an easy matter to control legislation. The special privileges and immunities enjoyed by railroads enable them to extort from the people an unjust proportion of the proceeds of their labor. The immense appropriations heretofore made by the government to railroads has thrown into the coffers of these companies vast wealth. It is useless to mention the whole of class legislation. Suffice it to say that most of our wealth has, by the present systems, been concentrated into comparatively few hands, and it thus becomes an easy matter for the owners of this unjustly concentrated wealth to combine their powers and control the country. Hence we see all over the country, trusts, pools, combines etc., all for the purpose of trying to satisfy their insatiable greed for monopoly and power.

Were the wealth of the country properly and naturally distributed among our people it would be impossible to form trusts and combines. By a natural distribution of wealth is meant that all classes of our citizens should receive just and adequate compensation for services or labor performed, and that each individual should advance or retrograde as he might deserve in consequence of skill, intelligence, frugality and industry on the one hand, or worthless, ignorance, profligacy and indolence on the other. The perfect equality of all men in the eyes of the law would be established by the abolition of class legislation, and can be done in no other way.

The present ruinous credit system, which seems to have been purposely so arranged may be assigned another cause of hard times of laboring people. Of the manifold evils of the credit system much has been written. It may be said that by the credit system the farmer is made to pay exceedingly high prices, and, added to this, he has to pay for the privilege of being "carried over" compound interest at 12 per cent. Debts thus contracted are usually secured by mortgages (dead weight on the growing crop, and thus fall due, uniformly, at the same time throughout the country. Hence, the Missouri Republic of April 3, 1888, says truthfully that only those who handle farm products realize profit. The bulk of the mortgaged produce is forced on the market at the same time, and this affords an elegant pretext for declaring the market glutted, and thus is produced the anomalous condition mentioned before of the cry of the hard times and over-production. In the midst of plenty our working people are rapidly becoming pauperized. The purchasing of many things which should be produced at home is another cause of hard times. Our farmers cannot hope to become independent so long as other people hold the keys to their smoke-houses and barns, or can they reasonably hope to see the natural law of trade, supply and demand, obtain in our country till the present conditions are changed. Most of our farmers are too careless of protecting their farm implements, and are in consequence forced to buy too frequently. Finally it may be said that the greatest cause of hard times is a failure on the part of those who are the sufferers to properly understand the cause. It is generally said that farmers can never be united, and this may believe, and so act. It is quite evident that if our laboring people did but understand fully the causes of their hard times, it would be impossible to prevent consideration of their efforts in securing relief. But same say they will never be enlightened, and here it may be said that this will be true so long as they fail to do their duty in an organized capacity. The Farmers Alliance had its origin in necessity—the necessity being the enlistment of the laboring people of the country and the consolidation of their efforts in obtaining relief. There would be no necessity for an organization of farmers

BILL ARP'S LETTER.

WASHINGTON'S LOVE AFFAIRS.

The Father of his Country as a Rejected Suitor.

M. D. Conway in Harper's Magazine for April:

Major Byrd Willis, whose towering form was the most striking figure in Fredericksburg to my boyish eyes, writes: "My father, Lewis Willis, was a schoolmate of Gen. Washington, his cousin, who was two years his senior. He spoke of the General's industry and assiduity at school as very remarkable. Whilst his brother and the other boys at play time were at bandy or other games, he was behind the door ciphering. But one instance of youthful callidition is handed down while at that school, and that was his romping with one of the largest girls; this was so unusual that it excited no little comment among the other lads."

"The families of the neighborhood at that time are so well known that we may pretty surely identify the large girl as Jane Strother, who married Hon. Thomas Lewis son of the founder of Augusta county, Va., January 26, 1749. Their friendship, which began with their a e days at Falmouth, continued through life. The precocious cipherer, drawn from his retreat only by what Faraday described as the strongest force in nature—a pair of black eyes—survived in the surveyor and soldier. The youth's love affairs will largely remain among the historic unknownables. It is said a young couple came as a shepherd to the banks of the Junna, and each of the shepherdesses who danced to his piping thought she had him for a partner; there may have been a similar illusion in the minds of some old ladies after the huge and homely youth on the national saint. Leaving out these and two or three legendary disappointments, it is certain that Washington suffered deeply from the rejection of his suit by Sally Cray.

"She was descended from a noble English family (Hudson and Falkland), and no doubt there were influences enough to cause the preference for one of the homes of Fairfax over a humble surveyor on their magnificent estate. But that she loved him is proved by her preservation of the love-letters from him found among her papers after her death, at an advanced age, in Bath, England. I have heard from a relative of the lady that Martha Washington was always rather cool toward this beautiful Mrs. G. W. Fairfax, of Belvoir; and perhaps not without reason, as not even marriage could cure her disposition to flirt with the young soldier, between whom and herself there has been a thousand tender passages." That he could recall these fondly, as appears by one letter even after his engagement with Mrs. Custis, renders it but too probable that in the latter affair too the love was not romantic. But he was only twenty-six; and he was not a man on whom a wife's loyalty and devotion could be wasted."

BILL ARP'S LETTER.

Our Own Centennial.

The Fayetteville Observer announces jubilantly that Fayetteville will celebrate, with pomp and splendor, the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the federal constitution by North Carolina, and that "ex-President Jefferson Davis is to be invited to be chief orator of the day." Further on in the columns of one contemporary it appears that the patriotism of Fayetteville responded promptly to the call for a mass meeting of the citizens of the historic town for the purpose of taking definite steps looking to a grand and glorious celebration of the anniversary referred to, appropriate resolutions were enthusiastically adopted and all the necessary committees appointed.

We join our brother of the Observer in his jubilation. We rejoice that the matter of the celebration has been put thus early and enthusiastically in train by the good people of Fayetteville.

Now let the people of the rest of the State join with the Fayettevillians heartily in their efforts to make the celebration all it should be and we shall have such an event as will make us all prouder than ever that we are North Carolinians.—News and Observer.

W. KAUFMAN & CO'S EXTRAORDINARY SALE

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