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## LIFE OF WASHINGTON.

After an interval of some weeks, the public have been favored by the appearance of the second volume of this interesting work. Gibbon says it is the peculiar advantage of English literature, that the fame of a book read with approbation in London, immediately spreads to the shores of the Delaware and the Ganges. Of the work coming from the pen of Mr. Marshall we may say, it will immediately have its readers from the lakes to St. Mary's, from the woods to the ocean. What can be so interesting to Americans as the eventful history of their own empire, the recorded patriots. In the pages of Mr. Marshall the aged sire calls up the animating remembrance of his early toils. The young are told who were their benefactors, receive in full system, what they had caught as traditionary fragments, and listen with an enthusiasm to the story that recounts the glory of their fathers.

After a judicious introduction, presenting, under one view, the original settlement and early progress of the different colonies, Mr. Marshall has opened the first chapter of his second volume with an account of the birth of the illustrious subject of his work. In this chapter most readers are presented with a new, and all, with an interesting scene. They are introduced to Washington at a time of life when character is unfolding. They see him a youthful soldier, constant, intrepid, and aspiring and aiming at distinction and thirsting for glory. They see him, in posts of inferior military command, the faithful and zealous executor of every trust, displaying, in the onset of his military career, a skill and valour that drew admiration from the experienced and disciplined captains of a martial people. The narrative of this chapter is successfully conducted, and attains the first purpose of every narrative, that of leaving upon the mind a distinct and lively impression of its subject.

The second chapter gives a full account of the causes of the difference between the colonies and the mother country. The great question of the right of Britain to tax her remote subjects is here viewed in every light. To this chapter the American reader, in a distant generation, will resort as the voucher of the rectitude and patriotism of his ancestors. He will see in it a sense of justice that perceived wrong, and a high minded spirit that stood forth to resist it. In scenes of political collision he will be reminded that the birth of his country was in virtuous jealousy and honorable pride, and will hesitate how he ever consents to a recall of those pledges of national security and independence. The remainder of the book comprises a history of the military operations of the revolution, down to the winter of '76 and '77. Of the expedition into Canada, a vivid narrative is given.—To have been a spectator of the conflict at Quebec could alone have given a more distinct idea of it than Mr. Marshall's recital. The official letters of General Washington are copiously spread throughout the work, and taken in connection with existing events, shew in impressive lights, the quick sighted and pervading apprehension of an able chief. It will be the praise of Mr. Marshall's work that it contains so minute an account of the war. It is properly observed, that history is biography. Roscoe's life of Lorenzo de Medici is a history of the learning and arts of a modern age of Italy.

The life of Alexander embraces a history of the overthrow of the Grecian states, and the biographer of Cæsar must shew us the characters of Brutus and of Anthony. Dr. Ramsay's history is faithful and interesting; but Mr. Marshall's will, in all probability, become the standard authority upon subjects connected with the American revolution. The latter draws full pictures of what the former gives general outlines, and only faint sketches.

Of the style of the book before us, it may be confidently said the general result is favorable. Its principal characteristics are, perspicuity and ease; without high ornament or periods very glowing. It is so elevated that it will adorn the library of the man of letters, and yet, so familiar, that most of its characters may delight the evening leisure of the mechanic or the husbandman. The writings of some of the historians of our language make the taste for style somewhat luxurious. In the life of Washington there is now and then an embarrassed sentence, and, in a few instances, diction somewhat loose. A nice ear is sometimes offended by the repetition of particular modes of expression, and does not always find the

harmony it could wish. But, whoever is disposed to exert verbal criticism upon this work should keep in mind the peculiar circumstances under which it has been written; he should recollect that the second volume has extended to near six hundred octavo pages, and should be told that this volume is to be followed by three more of equal bulk. Mr. Marshall has shewn himself a sufficient master of style to assure his readers, that when, unperplexed by "the pressing hour of publication" he shall review his composition for another impression, a task which, at a future day, must be imposed on him, its inaccuracies will disappear. His pages form a body, the solidity of which qualifies it to take any polish.

The author's narrative has been suspended at an interesting crisis of the revolution, and when the fame of his hero was beaming with peculiar lustre. The reader waits with anxiety for the continuation.

(Phila. Register.)

From the NORTH CAROLINA JOURNAL.

## To Farmers and Planters, &c.

MY FELLOW-CITIZENS,

INDULGE an old man, in your own line of life & business, with the privilege of addressing you. He is happy to think that a display of learning & elegance of expression, would be no less improper than unexpected, from the pen of one, who moves in the same sphere of mediocrity with yourselves. If he can be but so fortunate as to express himself intelligibly, both to the weak and to the wise, his ambition rises no higher, and will be fully gratified.

As it would, perhaps, be impossible for the ablest pen, during the present infatuation, to advance any thing on a political subject, that would be generally approved, I shall comfort myself, from the purity and disinterestedness of my motives, while, from a sincere regard for what I conceive to be the true interests of our common country, I risk some observations and reflections, in reference to the approaching election, together with certain facts, which appear to me of too interesting a nature, to have escaped your attention, during the political bustle, which has so long and so unhappily prevailed, and more particularly under the present administration.

The constitutional term of the presidency is soon to expire, and we are consequently soon to be called upon, either to re-elect the gentleman who now fills the chair, or to make choice of another who may appear to us a man of equal, and perhaps superior merit, to occupy that exalted station of honour and responsibility. And as men are naturally fond of power and elevated stations, it is not improbable there will be competition. Gentlemen of different character, and different degrees of respectability, will, it is likely, offer themselves, as the individual objects of your joint suffrage. Permit me, therefore, to suggest to you, the vast importance of that occasion, as involving in it the highest interests of our beloved country. And give me leave, at the same time, to suggest the great necessity of caution, in an affair which certainly claims the most serious forethought, together with the most deliberate and unbiased exercise of our best judgment. Let this caution then, this wise forethought, and due exercise of our judgment appear to our honor, as a free, a wise and understanding people, in our choice of the Electors; for in our choice of them, we choose the President. This, my fellow-citizens, is our indispensable duty. It is a duty we owe to ourselves, to our families, and to our yet unborn posterity. This consideration, therefore, cannot be too deeply impressed on our minds, that, in affairs of high importance, abundance is much more easily made, than recalled, and that much mischief may result from it, before a remedy can be provided.

We will suppose, however, that but two Candidates should offer for the Presidency, the one a Christian, & a man of unimpeached honor, integrity and reputation,—the other a professed Infidel, whose honor, integrity and reputation have suffered from public censure and impeachment, without satisfactory defence or vindication, either from under his own hand, or the hands of his friends. Now, on taking a serious view of these two characters, set thus in contrast; permit me, my fellow-citizens, as seriously to ask you, which of them do you think is the most eligible? Which of them does that regard which you owe to the honor of your country, and the sacred interests of your religion call upon you to elect? for you elect one or the other in your choice of the Elec-

tors. Sure, I am, if you are Christians, or friends to the Christian religion, you cannot hesitate a moment in the choice.

Do you reply, "an infidel may, however, make a very good President, as his religious notions and opinions need not interfere with his political principles.—of this we have sufficient proof in the administration of our present executive: for it is generally said, and perhaps as generally admitted, that he denies the Christian religion?"—As I beg leave, my friends, to controvert this opinion, that an Infidel may make a very good President, permit me to observe, that the constitution and laws of our country are founded on the religion of our country, and, that the man who is so unfriendly to that foundation, that, were it in his power he could subvert it, must be equally inimical to the superstructure, as in the subversion of religion, he would overturn the government, which is founded on it, and thereby reduce us to a most deplorable state of anarchy. A very little thought and observation, may be sufficient to convince any one, that the laws would of themselves, be but a feeble restraint on the human passions, and consequently on the moral conduct of the multitude, without the aids of religion. Do you say, our executive has not appeared in any particular instance that we can recollect, unfriendly to our religion? In answer to this, permit me to ask you, what are we to call his importation of that arch infidel, Thomas Paine, after his having first sent from France a large edition of his blasphemous performance, foolishly called the *Age of Reason*, by which the principles of thousands, it is to be feared, have been greatly injured? Was it for this meritorious service, or was it because he had under the influence of the French Directory sent a most insolent and abusive letter to the truly great and good Washington, just prior to their depredations on our commerce, by way of previous excuse or defence of that breach of faith? Or was it because a strong and invincible attachment had taken place, from the congeniality of his mind with the mind and principles of that old degraded and infamous English exciseman? Let us decide upon these interrogatories by a recurrence to scripture principles, as comprized in the words of the great Redeemer and author of our holy religion, "Can two walk together except they are agreed?" It is reduced to a proverb, that a man is known by the choice of his company.

But a few more interrogatories occur.—Permit me, therefore to ask, did our executive import his friend Tom Paine, to act for him as a *bow-wow*, to bark at, and insult our countrymen, in his fulsome and egotistic scribbles, by telling them that they were seized with canine, or dog-like madness, thro' fear of him, while writing under the benign influence of such a patronage? Or was it because in his impudent *sermon* to President Washington, he had declared our constitution defective, and that when he should come into the country he would have it altered? And are we to believe that the alteration which has taken place since his arrival, is through his instigation? It is quite likely, as it tends indirectly towards the change which has taken place in France, from republicanism to monarchy. And what are we now to expect, but a succession of alterations, until our constitution shall be quite metamorphosed, should the present administration continue by re-election. On falling into a dreaded state of anarchy, it is not unlikely, we should have some such five headed demon of a thing conjured up for us, as that invented by the mighty aid of Paine, and presented to the people of France, as one of the steps to monarchy. And have we not cause to think that that old seditious & constitution monger, has so extensively disseminated his principles through our country with some such views?

In corroboration of this suspicion, give me leave to observe, that Paine is properly a citizen of France, and ought to be considered by us, in the light of a French spy.—In a late publication, which he has addressed to his countrymen, the people of England, he endeavors as an emissary of France, to reconcile them to the French design of invading their country, in dependence on the generosity of Bonaparte; and tells them, that the scheme was in agitation under the Directory, and in some degree of forwardness; also that he was to have accompanied the commander in chief; that is, he was to have piloted him to the most favourable place for landing his troops, and afterwards, we may suppose, to have taken him in the most promising routs, to get possession of the capital of the kingdom. So lost is the

wretch to shame and every vestige of goodness that he can thus publicly avow to the world, his having conspired against the country which gave him birth, for a little French favor, and we may also suppose from a hope of sharing the plunder. Now, my friends, as that scheme of invading England is yet unexecuted, and still in contemplation, and he is come to this country, is it not reasonable to suspect, that he has some other scheme or plot of a similar nature to execute in regard to our country, whereby his services here are expected to be of equal advantage to France, as that of piloting the invaders of England? What that scheme is, time only can discover. But this we may be assured of, that a miscreant who can conspire to betray his own country to its enemies, will be true to no other country, and is a dangerous monster to be suffered a harbor in ours, and more especially under such patronage. It appears to me rather, that amongst the grateful friends and admirers of the exalted character, and loved memory of the illustrious Washington, the despicable creature, who dared to insult and abuse him in the most of probricious language, as Paine has done, ought, before this time, to have had the expectation of Cain verified upon him, by every one who met the fugitive and vagabond. Paine is not the only one however, who has been employed to insult and calumniate that truly great and good man. But they, and their sneaking employers, have only acted the part of those impudent and foolish dogs who bay the moon.

It is observed by way of reply, we can say nothing in favor of Paine, who we believe to be an unprincipled wretch and true to no country longer than it flatters his pride and arrogance, by sacrificing to his insufferable vanity. But in regard to our executive, he has the character of being very frugal and economical. This is admitted, particularly in matters wherein he is personally interested, and it is but too clearly evinced by the way he took, when governor of Virginia, to pay a sum of borrowed money, to his acknowledged friend Gabriel Jones, Esq. after a loan of six years, with a sum which did not amount to half the interest. Of this, we have seen a fair and candid statement in the papers by Mr. Jones himself, and we have never seen, that it has been followed with either a denial or refutation.—But when we turn from his own matters, to the pecuniary arrangements of the present administration does that rigid regard, and strict adherence to the rules of frugality and economy appear? Are we not rather struck with profusion. Do we not find the civil list crowded with very liberal compensations and allowances, for comparatively small services? And are not our meritorious countrymen either dismissed from offices, or overlooked, while foreign flatterers are promoted, that every officer from the judge on the bench, to the collector in his office, may be a dependent creature of his own? And why are officers rendered thus dependent on his good will? Is it that they may be excited to execute their offices with greater faithfulness? Or is it that they may the more easily bend to the furtherance of his particular views & designs? But I forbear.

Do you say,—but he has reduced our taxes? How? In the name of all that is sacred! how? Why, he has had the duty taken off our stills. And why was that done? Was it not to please the still holders, that in return they might promote his popularity amongst their too numerous customers? My friend, I hold a still myself, nor is it always an idle one; yet, if I am not independent in my circumstances, I glory in having it to say, I am independent in my principles; and, at the same time, that I do in my conscience believe that tax to have been laid with very great propriety, and repealed with a view to popularity alone, while the arch insurgent against it, and the government, has since been rewarded, although a foreigner, with a very lucrative place at the head of the treasury. What honest farmer, what honest planter, or what honest stiller does not spurn at such sacrifices to popularity?

Do you add, but he has lightened our burthens, for he has had the taxes taken off coaches, coachees, chariots, chairs, and all carriages of pleasure, & also off loaf sugar? And what is all that to us my friends?—What relief does that contribute to you or me, as plain farmers?—In this he has contributed greatly to the pleasure and advantage of the affluent and voluptuous, who are but too often our oppressors. This appears evidently to have been done in expectation of their influence over us, being exerted in his favor, while they condescend to give us, before elections, the familiar shake of the