...RY, MOTHER of WASHINGTON

...AL ART PAINTING BY MIDDLETON

DICKINSON SHERMAN

...ORGE WASHINGTON ...is known to have said ...that his mother was the ...most beautiful woman ...he ever saw. That Mary Washington was a remarkable woman the world has always known; history has taken care of that. But it was ...ed for a long time—is ...believed by many—that ...portrait of Washington's ...existence. It was known ...gton had an oil portrait ...r; that it had been badly ...d that he kept it in his ...Mount Vernon as one of ...possessions. But it was ...at this portrait had dis...ver to be seen again.

...is reproduced that por...appears after it had been ...skilled hands in England. ...as to the possession by ...of a portrait of his moth...ed by the following para... a letter written by him ...ernon under date of May ...Charles Carter, who had ...niece:

...good of you to get the ...edful done to my mother's ...inted by an Englishman ...leton, who formerly held ...on in the British service, ...been a professional artist ... Robert Cary has fre...ed its being sent to Eng...he might confide the re...hole and the completion ...ure itself—which, but for ...by most persons deemed ...o one of the most emi...n painters; but I have been ...stomed to look on the mu...almost to disregard it. The ...identified with my whole ...other gave it to me, and ...ole was thrust through it ...e of wagon travel to Phil...arters. Under the disfigure... Washington and myself ...ards preferred it hanging ...om, where its wounded, un... apparently neglected con...e frequent unpleasant re... change wrought in the ...ond repairing the hole ...he reverse of improvement ...I am happy above measure ...t, wounded and apparently ...s it is, rather than incur ...of its absence.

...on, it is evident, was ...rt with the portrait, even ... Presumably, also, he had ...dence in Charles Carter's ...ave it restored.

...nes Sharples, the English ...ent to Mount Vernon to ...aits of Washington and his ...s a different story. The Mary Washington went to ...d through Sharples and ...ry, Washington's English ... personal friend, it was ...r to an artist named Bird, ...a Royal Academician and ...ablest portrait painters liv...

...s portrait of Washington's ...er got back to America is ...e unanswered questions of ...t is a matter of conjecture Washington's death interest ...ain on this side of the At... ...less. It is guessed that ...d Bird and that Cary re... Sharples. At any rate the ...ntirely went into the ...Cary.

...Grant, when in England, expressed a fervent wish to see the Middleton portrait of Mary Washington. The owner, Miss Edwardes of Northamptonshire, a grand-niece of Robert Cary, sent it to London, General Grant's acknowledgment was in part:

General Grant presents his respectful compliments to Miss Edwardes, the envied owner of the Middleton painting of Mary Washington, and begs to tender her his hearty thanks for exceeding kindness in sending to London, for his convenience and gratification, this admirable and evidently "to the life" portrait of Mary Washington, who, above all others, must be held in deepest affection and exalted remembrance by every American.

Whenever the day arrives for the return of these paintings (this and the Sharples portraits of the Washingtons) to America, congress will, he doubts not, unanimously do its duty in the matter. The painting of Mary Washington has especial claims as the only portrait of her known to exist. General Grant had hoped that Middleton's portrait was free for disposition, he hears therefore with regret that family arrangements prevent for a few years this desired accomplishment.

General Grant begs to repeat his becoming sense of the honor done him, as also to express his entire confidence that at the proper time Miss Edwardes' family will give due weight to his countrymen's natural wish to possess the gem, happily, for America, under her family control.

The Middleton portrait of Mary Washington goes far to substantiate Washington's claim as to his mother's beauty. There are few allusions in writing as to her personal appearance before her marriage. And here is an odd thing: a letter found in a deserted mansion near the York river during the Civil war, 140 years after its writing:

WmsBurg, ye 7th of Octr, 1722—Dear Sukey: Madame Ball of Lancaster and Her Sweet Molly have gone Hom. Mama thinks Molly the Comeliest Maiden She Knows. She is about 16 yrs old, is taller than Me, is verry Sensable, Modest and Loving. Her Hair is like unto Flax, Her Eyes are the color of Yours and her Chekes are like May Blossoms. I wish You could See Her.

But Mary Washington was much more than beautiful. Lawrence Washington of Chotank, toward the close of the Eighteenth century, wrote this:

"I was often here (at the home on the Rappahannock) with George—his playmate, schoolmate, and young man's companion. Of the mother I was more afraid than of my own parents; she awed me in the midst of her kindness; and even now, when time has whitened my locks, and I am the grandfather of a second generation, I could not behold that majestic woman without feelings it is impossible to describe."

When the Revolution began Washington persuaded his mother to move from her estate on the Rappahannock to Fredericksburg. She declined the offer of a home with her daughter, Mrs. Lewis, preferring to rule her own home. At Fredericksburg she was in constant receipt from Washington by special courier of important news. As the war went on and the fate of the nation seemed to depend upon her first-born, as his renown mounted day by day, as his name became a synonym for hero and patriot in two hemispheres—why, this indomitable, level-headed, imperturbable, religious mother pursued the even tenor of her way, the same industrious, efficient, thrifty housewife and farm manager as ever.

FREDERICKSBURG HOME

"I am not surprised at what George has done," she said, "he was always a good boy."

April 14, 1789, Charles Thomson, secretary of congress, arrived at Mount Vernon with official certificates that Washington had been elected the first President of the new nation. Washington prepared to accompany Thomson to New York, then the seat of the national government. That afternoon he rode to Fredericksburg to say good-by to his mother. She was then past eighty and wasting from the effects of a painful and incurable disease (cancer). He found her feeble in body, but as ever strong in spirit and bright in intellect. After an affectionate greeting between them Washington said to his mother:

"The people, Madam, have been pleased, with the most flattering unanimity, to elect me to the chief magistracy of the United States; but before I can assume the functions of that office I have come to bid you an affectionate farewell. So soon as the public business, which must necessarily be encountered in arranging a new government, can be disposed of, I shall hasten to Virginia—"

"You will see me no more," she said, interrupting him. "My great age, and the disease which is rapidly approaching my vitals, warn me that I shall not be long in this world. I trust in God I am somewhat prepared for a better. But go, George, fulfill the high destinies which Heaven appears to assign you. Go, my son, and may that Heaven's and your mother's blessing be with you always."

It is known that Washington felt that he was then seeing his mother for the last time. It is said that he put his head on her shoulder and wept. For it is not least in the greatness of George Washington that he appreciated his mother. And it is said that she clasped feeble arms about his neck and mingled her tears with his—and she was not a woman given to tears. Let us hope that her tears were not all of sorrow at parting. And it was the final parting of a great son with a great mother—his best friend. She died August 25, 1789. Her death was felt as a solemn public event and so observed throughout the land.

Mary Washington was never known to show a feminine weakness except one. She had an unconquerable fear during thunderstorms. And that was because, soon after marriage, an intimate woman friend sitting beside her was killed by a stroke of lightning.

What does a man owe to his mother? What did George Washington owe to his mother? What does the United States of America owe to Mary Washington?

Merging Their Interests

By GRIMBALL AVERY

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"ALL aboard," shouted the conductor as the "Florida Limited" stood ready to leave New York.

"Hey, there, hold that train a second," yelled an excited but handsome man as he came trudging along the platform with six small children.

John Chapman had just finished landing the two-year-old twins, when the conductor called out: "Hurry up there, we've got to pull out. Here, porter, give him a lift with his excess baggage."

By the time the train had reached Philadelphia Chapman was actually dozing off to sleep. His nap, however, was soon interrupted, when a jolly prosperous looking business man greeted him with a healthy and vigorous slap on the shoulder.

"Why, hello, Chapman! What are you doing here? It's been years and years since I saw you last. What, are all these your children?"

Fifteen years before Chapman had roomed with Henry Smyser. He had joined the same fraternity at Ringer college, had played football with him, and had wooed the same girl.

"What's wrong with you, Chapman?" asked Smyser.

"I lost my wife about two years ago, but before I start, let me ask you a serious question. Are you married and have you any encumbrances?"

"No, I didn't marry that college widow we were both so daft about; she's still frisking around roping in the freshmen. There isn't any progeny to perpetuate my glorious name. But I want to hear how the world has been mistreating you."

As Chapman began to reply his twins started bawling. With a look of despair he opened a large suitcase, the interior of which looked partly like a drug store and a great deal more like a nursery, brought out a big, free-for-all milk bottle and after having abated the children's clamor, the father gave a long sigh, then with tears in his eyes began again: "Smyser, I don't know how to begin to tell you all I've been through since my wife died and left me all these six children on my hands."

Smyser meditated for several moments. Here was a chance to get revenge for that joke Chapman had played on him the night of the graduation dance. Never had he forgotten the time Chapman had poured tabasco sauce into his dancing pumps.

"Why don't you get a good nurse?" he ventured casually.

"Oh, tell me something new! Haven't I had hundreds of nurses already and they always leave me in the lurch?"

"That being the case," interrupted Smyser in a tone of profound wisdom, "then I have a better idea. What you need is a good wife—one that is highly domestic."

"That's not very encouraging, for no woman in her senses will have me."

"Old man," began Smyser gravely. "You are too quick to throw up the sponge. Right now I know a charming young widow at Palm Beach, and I'm sure you two would harmonize. I'd go in for her myself, but she adores tall men, and will not look at short men like myself. We'll have to sidetrack the kids till you've landed her. I'll keep them for you in some nearby town. Is it a go?"

Chapman was "game."

When they reached the famous resort Smyser played his part as a matchmaker admirably. Seldom in the varied history of knot-tying had a couple been so irresistibly drawn together. They decided to get married and leave at once for her native home in Georgia.

Smyser had consented to go on ahead and gather up Chapman's children, who had been interned at Jacksonville during the diplomatic negotiations, and take them with him to Atlanta, so that the bride would not hear of their existence till she reached her home town.

Two days later Chapman and his pretty bride were on their way to Georgia.

On alighting at Atlanta they had taken but a few steps when Smyser walked up with all of the waiting brood.

"Oh, papa, is this our lovely new mamma you said was so beautiful?" called out Chapman's eldest.

Mrs. Chapman simply beamed and looked surprised, then ran to meet an excited old black mammy, who came hobbling toward her with six other children swarming around her.

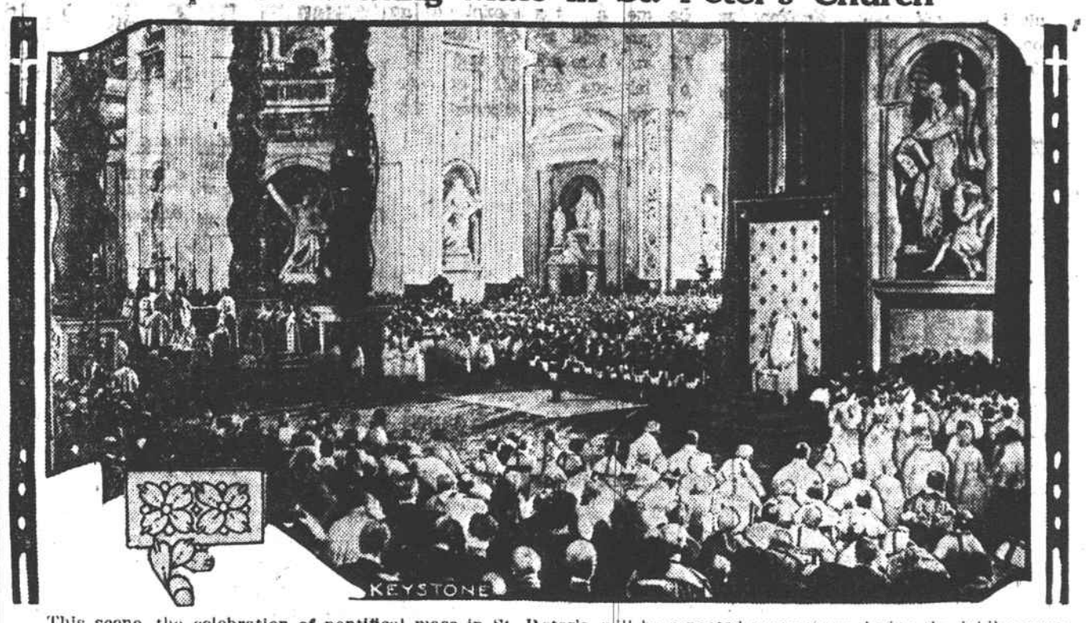
"Howdy, Miss Jenny! I'se sho glad ter see yo'; I done brung all yo' chillums to show 'em to their new daddy."

Before the grinning nurse could say more, the children were hugging their mother. Then spying their newly acquired father, one of the oldest girls called out: "Is this our papa? He is mighty handsome, just as you wrote."

To his intense delight, his bride leaned down and kissed each one of his little darlings. Never had they seemed so entirely angelic as now. She exclaimed cheerily: "Oh, how I shall love them because they are yours. We've both had such a surprise! They won't be one bit more trouble, for mammy will take perfect care of them as she does of mine, and we'll go right on and finish our wedding tour, won't we, John, dear?"

No one even thought of poor discomfited Smyser. He crawled off to a far corner, and as he watched the happy couple getting in the pullman he muttered to himself: "Well, if that wasn't a regular boomerang. I'll know myself if I ever try again to get even with John Chapman!"

Pope Celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Church



This scene, the celebration of pontifical mass in St. Peter's, will be repeated many times during the jubilee year of 1925 and will be witnessed by hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from all parts of the world.

Air Mail Gains in Popularity

Phase of Postal Service Here to Stay, Says Paul Henderson.

Washington.—Advocates of the development of aviation on a big scale in this country are besieging congress to increase appropriations and to embark upon an air program comparable to that of other great nations. To this end they are employing everything from war threats and scares to ridicule, but their strongest argument is the record of accomplishment in the air-mail service.

The air-mail service is here, and here to stay. This statement is made with all possible emphasis by Col. Paul Henderson, second assistant postmaster general, who has charge of that phase of postal activity.

"I am not absolutely certain that we are, as a civilization, any better off for our ability to fly," he says. "I think there are many arguments on both sides of that rather broad question, but we are able to fly. We cannot undo what has been done and, taking that as a fact, it is quite patently our national duty to fly better than anybody else, and to make every possible practical application of this new trick which we have learned."

Colonel Henderson cites as the outstanding accomplishment of the air-mail service that San Francisco has been permanently moved up to within 34 hours of New York. On one record test this time was beaten by almost eight hours and the schedule will never be longer than the limit now set.

This coast-to-coast service, involving the great hazard of night flying, is now six months old and is operating regularly seven days a week. Every day it is becoming more popular with the public, and in consequence is constantly better patronized. Not everybody uses this service, of course, but those who do use it have learned the value of being able to get important mail in New York the day after it leaves San Francisco and they are insistent that the service be extended rather than curtailed.

What May Be Accomplished.

All this has been accomplished within six years after the establishment of the first air mail route between Washington and New York. What may be done within the next like period is almost beyond conjecture, but perhaps the most important of the things hoped for by departmental authorities is that the cost of carrying mail by air will be reduced from $2.63 to less than 30 cents per ton mile.

This cutting the cost of operation to less than 11 per cent of what it is now is attacked by some as the dream of visionary, but Colonel Henderson says he is confident it can be done.

"In the last analysis," he says, "efficiency of transportation may be measured by its cost per ton mile, its regularity and dependability, and its speed. The airplane has proved itself, as far as regularity and speed are concerned, but much remains to be accomplished in the matter of cost. The present cost of operating the air mail is altogether too expensive. From now forward the most urgent task of the Post Office department is to attempt to bring down this cost per ton mile. This means ships with greater carrying capacity. That such ships are possible of design and construction, I have no doubt. That they will be built and put into operation I have no doubt."

Best at Long Distance.

With reduced operating costs the department hopes to reduce the schedule time between coasts, to increase the frequency of dispatches, and to provide additional service each night between New York and Chicago. Then will come a nation-wide connecting up of all important centers, with nightly service between such centers that are from 1,000 to 1,400 miles apart.

The next step will be the carrying of certain classes of merchandise in the air, and, ultimately, the carrying of passengers. Colonel Henderson does not, however, even suggest that the airplane will ever become in the true sense of the word a competitor of the railroads. He says it is simply a new kind of transportation. There are more goods to transport each year, and some of these goods will find their way into air channels of transport, but the railroads will continue to enjoy even more traffic then than they are able to take care of.

Many people have expressed surprise that the air-mail route between Washington and New York was abandoned, believing that it is of prime importance to have the nation's political and financial capitals linked together with the fastest possible system of communication. The fact of the matter is there was very little saving of time in sending mail by airplane between the two cities, and not enough to make it really worth while.

It is approximately 200 miles by air line from Washington to New York and it took the mail planes at least two hours to fly that distance. It required the better part of an hour to carry the mail out to the flying field at this end of the route, and fully as much time was consumed in getting it from the New York flying field to the post office, ready for distribution. By train the mail could be transported from the heart of Washington to the heart of New York in five hours. This meant an advantage of about an hour on the side of the air service, but that was not deemed sufficient.

Early in the experimental work the men who were studying the subject became convinced that the airplane could not really begin to mean much in the matter of postal transportation until the distances covered were at least 1,000 miles.

When night flying was planned naturally the first question was one of lights. The mail plane pilots must have the way blazed for them across the continent by friendly beacons, the regular landing fields must be adequately illuminated and emergency landing places must be indicated. Almost all of the earlier suggestions made to the air-mail service were for the use of some sort of high-powered beam, shining directly and vertically into the air, but experiments with such lights proved them to be anything but desirable. Other suggestions included the illumination by means of searchlights on large white conical structures, such as the dome of the national capitol, the idea being that the reflection would turn the trick.

Hit Upon by Chance.

But that was found impractical and it was only through the merest chance that the effective system was hit upon. Late one night Colonel Henderson was awaiting a train at a station in a small Illinois city. He saw his train coming, or at least he saw the headlight, and began to get his baggage together when a friend told him that there was no hurry, that the train was still at least seventeen miles away, and that the reason he saw it was because the track was perfectly straight for those seventeen miles and he was looking directly into the headlight of the locomotive.

"Right there we solved at least for the moment, our problem of lights," says the air mail chief. "All we had to do was put a brilliant searchlight up in the air and revolve it so that at least once in each revolution it would shine directly into the eyes of the pilot."

The department now has lights, operated on this principle, the larger of which is visible on an ordinary night for over 150 miles, and the smaller for over forty miles.

FILTER HAS BEEN INVENTED TO STRAIN OUT DISCORD

Professor at the University of Iowa Seeks to Make Unpleasant Sounds Kill Each Other.

Iowa City, Iowa.—By causing successive waves of sound to interfere with each other's transmission Dr. G. W. Stewart, a professor of physics at the University of Iowa, has perfected a device which, he believes, in time may be used to eliminate undesirable noises and to adjust sounds "to an individual's esthetic taste."

With the theory that sound waves would expend themselves were they placed in conflict with one another, Doctor Stewart worked out his device, which he calls an acoustic wave filter.

The results are obtained, Doctor Stewart explains, not by placing obstructions in the path of sound, but by setting up a sort of battle between the various waves, thus causing a disordered transmission.

A brass tube one-half inch in diameter and six inches long, containing nothing but air and open at both ends is caused to transmit all tones of a piano up to a certain note, and above this to transmit no audible sound. With another and slightly different tube the tones below this same, or any other note, will be refused transmission, whereas all higher tones pass freely.

"Other equally remarkable results of a similar nature can be obtained," said Doctor Stewart in explaining his device. "The tubes, while entirely open and free from obstructions, have, at regular intervals, branching tubes and chambers. At each branching point waves are reflected backward through the tube. The design of the branches can be made in such a manner as to produce a backward reflection and an interference of almost any group of tones."

Doctor Stewart explained that he considered the device truly a filter. It is a new basic method of manipulating sound waves and may find application in many acoustic devices in use.

"The telephone, the phonograph and even musical instruments themselves may sooner or later profit by this new device," Doctor Stewart said. "In fact, there is opened to the imagination the possibility of the eliminaton of undesirable noises and the enjoyment of sounds adjusted to an individual esthetic taste."

Bar Steel Traps

Rushville, Mo.—A nationwide movement against the steel trap was launched when a "stop the steel trap" society was formed. L. F. Gingery, editor of the Red Ranger, a foxhound magazine, was elected president.

Holds Lodge Record

Leavenworth, Kas.—It is believed that Edward W. Osgood holds the record as secretary of a Masonic lodge. He has held that office in Leavenworth lodge, No. 2, for fifty years.

...ar Memorial

...e village of Hedge End, in ...England, will shortly own ...best state one of the most ...r memorials in England. It ...es of the men of the county ...in the World war, and is be... in Swiss chalet style, en... ex-service man. He has ...e bulk of his leisure to the ...last months, and the me... ...tains many symbolic figures and inscriptions, as well as medallions containing the names of war celebrities. In it is a model of the Europa, and on the ceiling are about eight hundred wooden diamonds bearing regimental crests, colors, ribbons, buttons, divisional and corps signs, and the crests of all the ships in the British navy.

Be Positive

Positive resolutions are better than negative ones. Don't swear off; swear on.—Boston Transcript.

Much-Traveled Mullein

The common mullein plant of our fields, usually referred to as "only a weed," is really a foreigner and centuries ago was used by the Romans, who dipped its dried stalk in suet to burn for candle light in their processions. The Greeks soaked its leaves in oil to use as wicks in their graceful lamps. It is said, too, that Spaniards in ancient times used the seeds of the plant for stupefying fish. So it seems that mullein is a plant globe-trotter.

...eteran Fireman

...men's parade held at Phil... Pa., William H. Hinkle, of ... won the prize for being ...t uniformed fireman, mem... an organized department or ... Hinkle is ninety-five years ...has been a member of the ...nt company, Mt. Holly, for ...rs. He is reputed to be the ...man in America.

...ard of a thing well done is ... done well.

Famous Battlefield

Torres Vedras is the name of a range of lofty and rugged hills extending across the peninsula on which stands the city of Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. The hills are about fifteen miles from Lisbon, and extend from the Tagus river across the peninsula to the sea. In 1810 Wellington caused this chain of hills to be strongly fortified, unknown to Napoleon's generals, who, with forces greatly superior in numbers, were opposing Wellington in Spain and Portugal. Wellington suddenly retreated behind the lines of Torres Vedras, which the French found to be impregnable. When the proper time came Wellington advanced and finally drove the enemy out of the peninsula of Spain and Portugal.

American Peculiarity

We are queer people, and if a man announces a cure for existing evils we call him a nut.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Father of Greek Music

Terpander, the father of Greek music, was celebrated among his contemporaries of the Seventh century B. C. for his development of the lyre and for his many victories at the Pythian contests in honor of Apollo.

Ancients Knew Corn

Corn is found among the relics of the most ancient tribes of Indians, says Nature Magazine. It was cultivated by all the agricultural natives of which there is any record.

Harvard to Get $110,000 if Heir Dies Under 40

New York.—Harvard university is the contingent legatee of $110,000 under the will of Alden Sampson, author and naturalist, on file in the Surrogates' court.

The provision for Harvard is contingent on the death of Edward Sampson of Washington, a son, before the age of forty.

In that case the university is to receive the $110,000 to endow a chair of poetry. Under the same condition the residuary estate is to be divided equally between Harvard and Princeton universities and Haverford college.

Edward Sampson, the son, is to receive realty and personal belongings of his father. He is to receive the income from the residuary estate until he is forty, when he is to have the principal.

The testator left to his widow the income from a $50,000 trust fund. Two sisters received $5,000 each.

America produces four-fifths of the world's output of oysters.

WINS ENGINEERS' MEDAL

Bernhard F. Jakobsen, a consulting engineer of San Francisco, Cal., who has been awarded the Norman medal, the highest award of the American Society of Civil Engineers, for his method of figuring stresses on dams. This was conceded to be the greatest contribution to engineering science during the year.

Scholarships in France for American Students

Washington.—Receipt of a number of scholarships and fellowships for American students in French universities and normal schools from the French department of education was announced today by the American council of education. The scholarships, offered in appreciation of similar courtesies extended to French students, in the United States, are open, with a few exceptions, to American-born men or women graduates of institutions approved by the council. Two scholarships each are made available at the universities of Bordeaux, Lyons, Nancy, and Toulouse, and one each at Strasbourg, Grenoble and Paris.

Nearly two-thirds of our pepper comes from Java and Madura.