

and Hampden and Cromwell and others, all were there, and there too in that long line were the political liberators and the covenanting martyrs, their pale and famished faces contrasting strangely with their immortal and unbending spirits, which neither death nor torture could vanquish or subdue. The torch they lighted still burned in Washington's day, sometimes strongly, sometimes it is true with but a flickering flame; but its glow still lingered in the English sky; it never faded from the English cliffs; Washington had behind him traditions that inspired, traditions of protest against oppression and a faith in common men, not merely in the elevated few, but in that great mass of lonely uncounted souls who possess the treasures of the humble.

"And even in his own day when he uttered these memorable words which brought as if by magic a new nation into being Washington was not without friends and comrades in ideals in Britain. His ideals were those of Britain's best. The weight of power was against him, it is true, but we must not forget the courageous minority who sympathized with his views. Locke's political philosophy, expressed nearly a century before, had declared that all power was revocable at the will of the people. It had emphasized the rights of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness", - the very words used later in your Declaration of Independence. It had declared that no power should exist without the consent of the governed. Already that philosophy was coming into practice. The alarm bell of liberty had already been struck, although its pealing sounds were muffled but never silenced by those who usurped political power. It was in 1763 that the first criticism of the King's speech from the throne at the opening of parliament was made in No. 45 of the "North Britain" by Jack Wilkes, that stormy petrel whose name is immortalized in Wilkes-barre, your Pennsylvania town. The writer was expelled from parliament for his pains, but he was re-elected by his constituents. In Paris, to which he fled for refuge, he said when he was asked by Madame Pompadour how far could an Englishman go in criticising his sovereign, "that, Madame, is just what I am trying to find out". That was exactly what many Englishmen were trying to find out, but the answer to the momentous question was long delayed. Edmund Burke, the statesman who was too fond of the right to pursue the expedient, stood side by side with Washington in his advocacy of the rights of the Colonists. Robert Burns at a later date with his fiery Scottish spirit, refused to drink a toast to Pitt, but proposed instead a toast to George Washington, who, he said, was a better man. And Chatham protested against the attitude of England towards her Colonies and summed up the situation by saying "Three millions in America prefer poverty and liberty to gilded chains and sordid affluence and they will die in defence of their rights as free men. For myself, I must declare that in all my reading and observation --- for solidity of reasoning, force of sagacity and wisdom of conclusion under such a complication of difficult circumstances, no nation or body of men can stand in preference to the General Congress at Philadelphia!"

"The work of Washington was an extraordinary evidence of an ordinary and widespread aspiration, one phase of a general Anglo-Saxon movement on behalf of freedom, one milestone in the forward march of civilization. Washington gathered around him a group of illustrious advisors, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, Knox, Greene and the Adamses, all stirred by the same ideals. It was Jefferson who said, "I am not one of those who fear the people. I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society, but the people themselves", - an ideal voiced by his Anglo-Saxon kindred a hundred years before.

"In my own country the influence of Washington's ideals and of the revolution which these ideals brought about was far reaching. The disadvantages which arose from the severing of the National tie were offset in a measure by several advantages which accrued to Canada