

often during the war, was called Nelson, for the animal died long before Horatio Nelson was heard of on that side of the Atlantic. Not being much of a reader, Washington found cards and the card-table an agreeable pastime. He bought packs of cards by the dozen, and when weather was foul, spent much of the day at the game of whist. A faithfully kept journal furnishes most interesting details of his personal expenditure and of his habits, his taste for billiards, his modest cellar, his behaviour and enjoyments at table, matters which it is unnecessary to follow further at present: add to these tastes and habits a total absence of affectation and a certain unstudied naturalness of demeanour which in a society of lawyers and political *poseurs* made him many enemies. Here then was a gentleman of good descent, bred somewhat according to the feudal manner, with a fine estate and some ready money, a man of good exterior and presence, who dressed well and spoke little, ready at his country's call to go and do as the Congress of 1775 might direct.

The Congress was largely swayed by Hancock, John Adams, and his cousin Samuel; it was well understood that Hancock had an eye towards being made Commander-in-Chief himself. It was equally well known that the New England States would have welcomed the choice falling on Hancock. New Englanders not unnaturally regarded it as a prime recommendation of a man to any office that he should be a New England man. Hancock satisfied this condition, and some of his provincial friends believed him to be as competent to be Commander-in-Chief as to be President of Congress; yet to his great mortification, John Adams proposed, and Samuel seconded, the nomination of the Virginian gentleman for the high office.

Neither his proposer nor his seconder liked Washington. His somewhat frigid manner, his native dignity, and the great restraint he placed upon himself as to

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