

His Country's Father.

A London Girl's Prize Letter on George Washington—First Prize and Compliments Come to the Talented Young Writer.

The Boston Pilot, one of the most widely-circulated newspapers in the United States, contains the prize paper written by Miss Maud Regan, of this city, which is given below, at the request of many readers. In an introduction to the paper, the editor says:

"A little while ago our readers inquired if the Boys and Girls intended to permit the prize for the Washington essay to go to a Canadian. Judging by the careful work prepared by some of them, they did not, but nevertheless to a Canadian it must go, and when they have read her essay her rivals will be the first to concede that Miss Maud Regan deserves it."

Here follows Miss Regan's paper, which we so love to linger, no page more replete with romantic interest, than that which tells of the splendors of picturesque antiquity in old colonial days. Poets have delighted in singing the praises of this "Mother of States and Undiminished Men," tradition has busied itself with tales of the former extent and riches of the States divided to insignificant, till we have come to paint the glories of Virginia's past in brighter tints than the reality may have possessed.

A great novelist in pastes as deathless as fame itself, has immortalized in fiction's realms names already immortal in their country's annals, till they are so familiar to us, these Virginians of the olden time, as though it were yesterday they had lived, and their bustle and turmoil and their loyal hearts found rest in quiet corners of the grass-grown Virginia churchyards.

But whether our fancy pictures them the courteous and warm of heart, dispensing the lavish hospitality which was their Virginia birthright, or whether we gaze upon them transfigured by the stern exigencies of war into a race of heroes, we find in them one noble figure stands out from among them all, pre-eminent alike in peace and war, upon whose admiration centers as the greatest of Virginians.

Perhaps in no career more distinctly than in Washington's were the habits and inclinations of childhood propaedeutic of the pursuits and attainments of later years. We recognize in the youthful commander of the Lilliputian forces on the play-ground battle-field the first dawnings of that military spirit which subsequently impelled him to embrace the career in which he achieved such renown; in the child whose innate rectitude and sound judgment constituted him an arbiter of all boyish disputes, the same qualities which in after life guided the deliberations and actuated the decisions of the brilliant statesman. Nor are there lacking in the quality phrases and maxims which were early indications of the gracious manners founded on delicate consideration for the feelings and convenience of others, which throughout his life proclaimed him a gentleman of nature's own fashioning. Even the yellow tinge of his school exercise books bear silent witness to his character, testifying to his thoroughness manifested thus early in all his undertakings, which in after years established upon a solid basis and rendered of enduring advantage to the country his brilliant military and legislative successes.

In youth grave, thoughtful and scrupulously upright, self-respecting and, therefore, readily yielding respect and obedience to all lawful authority, the value of whose studies was enhanced by an early acquired habit of self-discipline, the guiding principle of a character which was as much loved in private as it was respected in public life.

Possessed of a naturally quick mind, ever eager in the acquisition of knowledge, he had likewise the faculty, rare in one so young, of selecting for his attention the studies destined to be of most value to him in his future undertakings. Guided by this faculty, he devoted himself with particular diligence to the acquisition of thorough practical knowledge of the science of land surveying, in which study his diligence was crowned with so much success that at an age when children are still in the schoolroom he was deemed competent to make surveys of the immense Fairfax estates. His early surveying expeditions were of immense benefit to him, confirming his habits of self-reliance, inuring him to the hardship and fatigue attending his practical knowledge of the country, helpful to him throughout the frontier war, and of inestimable value in the struggle with which his name is identified.

Washington gained the career in which he was to become so famous just when the mutual jealousies engendered by the rival claims of English and French to the lands which they force or intrigue they had wrested from the Indians, threatened to culminate in open hostilities. Before the actual outbreak of the war, the English governor wished to make a peaceful adjustment of the differences by means of a letter of remonstrance addressed to the French commander. The task of conveying this missive to its destination was one fraught with much danger and responsibility. It involved a journey through an unknown country in the depth of winter, dependent for guidance upon the doubtful faith of Indians who were in English and French alike spoilers eager for their land. It required in the messenger a constitution inured to fatigue, coolness, courage and sagacity sufficient to enable him to forestall the diplomatic French in obtaining the Indian alliance in the event of hostilities.

The choice of Washington as messenger in this important mission is a high testimony to the esteem in which his talents had already commanded, an esteem greatly augmented by the skill and courage with which he acquitted himself of his arduous commission, and by the respect which he received the commendations of his chiefs and the praises and congratulations of the country at large. It was too tedious to follow in detail the varying fortunes of the Indian war, throughout the whole course of which Washington was distinguished alike by intrepidity in action and prudence in council. After Braddock's disastrous defeat the popular appreciation of his services found expression in the historical him, unsolicited and in defence of high influence at work against him, of the responsible post of commander-in-chief of the colonial forces. In this capacity his first care was to effect a much-needed reform in martial laws and army discipline, and justly incensed at the ridiculous claims of crown-appointed officers to supremacy over those holding commissions from the colonial governors, he succeeded in obtaining a permanent settlement of these questions of precedence entirely satisfactory to the colonial officers, and by which many evils were obviated. Though manifesting a proper sense of what was due to his rank, when time and occasion warranted in his intercourse with his soldiers he was ever affable and accessible, watchful of their interests, and setting an example eloquent for good of scrupulous exactitude in the performance of duty.

Such were the qualities which displayed throughout the campaign won for him upon his retirement from service the public thanks of the Virginia Legislature, and pointed to him when the graver struggle began, as the able champion of his country's liberties.

Meanwhile Washington had retired to his beautiful home at Mount Vernon as to a haven of rest peculiarly grateful to him after the turmoil and privation of war, and secure in his dream of peace was devoting himself to the pursuits and recreations of a country gentleman. This quiet life in such accordance with his inclinations was destined to be of short duration, for with the cessation of frontier hostilities came graver causes of anxiety in the form of the arbitrary measures by which England was slowly but surely alienating the affections of the colonies, and paving the way for events in which Washington's talents were to find freer scope than in the comparatively insignificant engagements of Indian warfare.

England had long required the loyalty of the colonies by regarding them only as so many sources of wealth from which her great end aimed to be to extend the largest possible revenue. Quick to perceive this, the colonists were equally prompt to resent any infringement of their privileges, their indignation being especially excited by the burden of taxation laid upon them by a Government in which they were unrepresented, a proceeding as unjust as it was unconstitutional.

It was too long to review in detail the various measures by which smouldering discontent was fanned into open rebellion, to describe the spirited resistance which greeted each new exaction from the time when the general discontent was whirled around the family hearth till the day when it found eloquent expression in the glowing periods of Patrick Henry before the legislative body of Virginia, the great stronghold of loyalty. Our concern with the causes and events of the Revolution are chiefly as they affect the character and fortunes of Washington, and serve as a background against which his signal talents stand out in bold relief.

We cannot but admire when, after more than a century's lapse, we review the proceedings of Washington and the other "Fathers of the Revolution," the justice and moderation and the unimpassioned nature of their decisions. It was a tribute to Washington's worth that the authority of Patrick Henry himself to be in point of practical information and sound judgment the greatest man in that assemblage of great men. As long as there was hope of a peaceful settlement of the cause of moderation, his humane nature causing him to shrink from plunging the nation into a bloody struggle of which no one could see the end.

Yet when the conviction was forced upon the nation that the only hope of obtaining redress of their wrongs lay at the sword's point, it was to the gentleman that it confidently turned as leader of its undisciplined forces, and he it was who taught the mother country by sad experience the closeness of hope grounded in Gage's statement, that "the Americans would be lion only while the English were lambs."

The varying fortunes of the Revolution, the reverses, the successes and ultimate triumph of American arms, subjects too familiar to require further comment, but while we realize in a general way that the glorious issue of the struggle was due to the indomitable zeal and unselfish devotion of Washington, we do not, perhaps, sufficiently appreciate the enormous difficulties with which he had to contend during the achievement of his great work. From the moment when, refusing all remuneration save that reward which attends the performance of duty, he accepted the command of the colonies' undisciplined armies, till the day when the acclamations of a whole nation he resigned his commission, upon him alone devolved the entire responsibility of the campaign. The newly formed congress was inexperienced in meeting the exigencies of war, either in the raising of forces adequate for the country's protection or in the proper maintenance of existing armies. The period was short, and soldiers were enlisted for the term of service was over they would often return in bands to the homes whose safety was endangered by their absence. New armies would replace the old, and the weary work of disciplining recruits would recommence, and all this within market shot of the English encampments and in daily danger of attack. The day try warred of the inactivity of the force, would clamor for some decisive stroke, and firebrand patriots following from their comfortable homes the fortunes of the campaign, would censure the policy of the commander-in-chief, and show wherein he might better have improved his opportunities. Never was Washington more truly great than when, unmoved by jibe and censure, refusing to justify his conduct by the posing the weakness of the forces he possessed, the inactivity necessary to the safety of the country. His conduct throughout this ordeal displays courage of a higher order than mere physical bravery, for, as Irving says, "To lead the impulse of selfish ambition or bare-brained valor, to forbear as at times the proof of real greatness."

Perhaps that which most wounded Washington in this connection were the censures of a few of his generals, who should certainly have realized the impracticability of anything like a decisive engagement in the existing state of affairs. His sense of duty was not moved above all petty feelings to realize that jealousy, often the one ignominious element in otherwise fine natures, was the source of these criticisms, the object of which was his removal from command. The prospect of superseding Washington met with no favor at the hands of the people, who were too sensible of his value, too confident in the ultimate success of any cause with which he was identified, to risk its safety by the loss of his services. It is a striking tribute to Washington's magnanimity that, after the disastrous failure of the Carolina campaign, one of the most active members of the cabal against the commander-in-chief should throw himself upon the clemency and implore the intercession of the very man whom he had endeavored to be-leave and supplant.

Through Washington's entire military and diplomatic career, unselfishness was the keynote of his conduct,

his one object was the public good, an object to whose attainment he sacrificed every personal consideration. Other generals have distinguished themselves on the field, have won themselves a name, have won renown by one daring exploit. Washington purchased deathless fame by eight long years of struggle, by showing an equal front to failure and success, neither dismayed by the one nor unduly elated by the other. He purchased it by toilsome marches under summer's sun and winter's snow, by perilling his life in many a scarce remembered encounter where hundreds of the "nameless brave" paid in their life blood the purchase money of a nation's freedom. It is his, by right of the privations of Valley Forge as well as of the victory of Yorktown. When we consider all these titles to immortality, and remember that with undisciplined forces, scantily fed and poorly clad, and strong only in the "right which makes might," he set at defiance the experienced and well-equipped armies of the old world, we do not hesitate to rank him among the greatest generals of ancient or modern times. Moderate in success as he was constant under reverses, no sooner than he advocated an immediate cessation of hostilities, believing that "as the sword was the last resort in defense of the country, it should be the last thing laid aside when those liberties were firmly established."

With his touching farewell to his troops so eminently characteristic of their mutual relationship, Washington betook himself to his duties and responsibilities of public life. The country, through his means, was free and prosperous, and occupied the honorable position among the nations. Yet, while fully sensible of these advantages, Washington was also keenly alive to the dangers which threatened her at the outset of her national career. War had made sad havoc of her finances; symptoms were not lacking that since the cessation of the danger against which the different States had made common cause, a spirit of disunion might creep in, and the different States might forget in jealousy guarding their separate interests that the welfare of each depended upon the prosperity of the whole. He, therefore, endeavored to her, and to him who had been strong in her defense against external dangers she appealed as her protector against the scarcely less serious danger which menaced her from within. None better than he could "harmonize the jarring passions of the new confederacy," because none better than he could set the example of sacrificing individual interests to the common weal. Diffident of his own judgment, he only undertook the task of guiding the nation's first steps, after having appointed able conductors, eminently qualified for the position, to occupy and by whose judicious advice Washington was influenced in all matters of importance. It was with great reluctance that he abandoned the quiet home-life at Mount Vernon, to which through all these years he had looked forward as the reward of his labors, and amid universal rejoicing assumed the highest dignity within his country's gift.

We can picture him the central figure of all the fetes and pageants which celebrated the birth of the nation's freedom, as unspooled by adulation as he had been for his unimpaired by censure. No man could be better qualified by nature to adorn the highest station. The fine manners which are "the mantle of fine minds" were his in an eminent degree. Gracious and kindly to all with whom he came in contact, his chivalrous nature made him particularly affable toward those whom shyness or the novelty of their surroundings rendered diffident and embarrassed. Courteously with the old-time grace, and with an innate power of commanding respect, never was the dignity of the country safer than in the keeping of the first President. Still, though Washington was the popular hero, generally loved and admired, all his measures as President were no more exempt from criticism than were his proceedings as commander-in-chief. The cause of the country was his, his administration was the neutral policy which Washington deemed expedient that the country should sustain throughout the French Revolution, a policy which was the service of the French armies in their time of need, the people believed to favor of ingratiation. The judgment of posterity ratifies the expediency of this conduct, while it admires the sagacity of Washington, who, heedless of popular opinion, refused to plunge the country, when it most needed to husband its forces, into a struggle where its assistance, while a little benefit to France, would serve to draw upon itself the animosity of the other powers.

By sound judgment, firmness and rare disinterestedness, Washington assured and augmented during the eight years of his Presidency the advantages which he had gained during his eight years in command of the armies, and having established the Government, at first experimental, on a solid basis, he died in the frame of a well-constituted, left the country, as he himself stated, in a condition of national prosperity seldom equalled, never surpassed.

And when we look upon the result of his herculean labors, when we see his country occupying one of the proudest positions among the powers of the world, while before her lies a future which none more so than in grateful upon the untiring zeal and unselfishness of him to whom she owes her very life; when we see his memory cherished and revered by those who reap the fruits of his labors, and his name forever glorious among those of earth's heroes, we behold the fulfillment of the prophetic utterance once addressed to him by the President of Congress, for the fame of his virtues and his achievements has not terminated with active service or with life itself; it shall continue to animate remotest ages."

MAUD REGAN.

First Action—Second Action—Third Action.

So said the wise Athenian. We shall be wise to follow his advice in many matters, but none more so than in grateful, pling with a cold or with dyspepsia, or in seeking relief from consumption in its earlier stages. It is absolutely useless to sit down and hemoan our lot, and we must take action.

The first and most imperative action necessary is to procure a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. The second action will be to use it. The third action will be to follow—We shall proclaim abroad its virtues. Sardin, Big Stone county, Minn. R. V. Pierce, M.D., Buffalo, N. Y.: Dear Sir—Having felt it a duty to write of the good I received by taking your medicine, I now would say that one year ago I was given up by my family physician and friends; all said I must die. My people commenced to give me your "Medical Discovery," and I soon began to mend. It was not long before I became well enough to take charge of my household duties again. I owe my recovery to Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. Respectfully, MIRA MILLS.

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A WINTER IN PARIS.

Mr. G. T. Fulford's Return From the World's Gayest City.

A Reporter's Interesting Interview With Him—Some Statistics and Information of General Value.

(From the Recorder, Brockville, Ont.)

Mr. G. T. Fulford, who is understood to have been doing big things in Paris during the past winter and spring, introducing Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, has reached home with his family, and on the evening of his arrival was interviewed by a Recorder reporter, and asked to give an account of himself.

"Well," he said, in reply to a question on the status of the Pink Pills in France, "of course it isn't altogether an easy matter to introduce a foreign article into a strange market, but I don't think we can complain of the progress made, and it is gratifying to report that some, at least, of the Paris doctors are open to recognize a medicine of which the intrinsic merits can be demonstrated to them. One of the best of them—at Versailles, the Paris suburb where the Emperors used to keep their court—has given favorable testimony through the press of quite remarkable cures through the use of Pink Pills in his practice, and the Recorder has an order of mine like the Sisters of Charity, have also made an extensive use of Pink Pills in their charitable work, and given strong testimonials as to their good effects."

"How do you find business all round?"

"Pretty good. We have sold in the past twelve months a little over 2,300,000 boxes of Pink Pills."

"That is a pretty large order, isn't it?"

"It is the best twelve months' business yet. Look for a minute what the figures mean. If all the pills were sold out into a order of mine like the Sisters of Charity, would you be able to count them, working ten hours a day and six days a week, the job would take—I have reckoned it—4 years, 21 days, 6 hours and 40 minutes, at the rate of 100 a minute."

"Or, if you want further statistics, it is somewhere about two pills a head for the combined adult population of Canada, Great Britain, Ireland and the United States. I don't give these figures to glorify the business, you will understand, but to enable you to make the facts tangible to an ordinary reader."

"Great Britain alone has a population of 45,000,000."

"Yes, I think I have had a record there. The head of a leading advertising agency in London, to whom I showed my figures, told me that no business of the kind had ever reached the same dimensions in England in as short a time; for, though we have only been working in England two years, there are but a few months there that have as large a sale as Pink Pills, and one of these is over 30 years old, while the other has been at work at least half that time."

"How do you account for the way Pink Pills have 'jumped' the English market, then?"

"I cannot attribute it in reasonable terms to anything but the merits of the pills."

"Was everything lovely," asked the reporter, "or were there any crumpled rose leaves in the couch?"

"Can't grumble, except in one way. There's a certain amount of substitution in some retail stores, and there is a man in Manchester, England, that I have had to prosecute on the criminal charge for it."

"Do they duplicate your formula under some other name?"

"No, not a bit of it; that is the worst feature of the fraud. No dealer can possibly know what is in Pink Pills, and if he did, he couldn't prepare them in small quantities to sell at a profit. They are not common drugs, and by no means cheap to make. I suppose I have spent (from 1890 to 1900) since I took over the trade mark, in trying if the formula could be improved, and spent a share of it for nothing."

"What do you mean by 'nothing'?"

"After I acquired the trade mark I saw that if the thing was to be made a success it was imperative that I should have the best tonic pill that could be put together. Consequently, I obtained the advice and opinion of some of the most noted men in Montreal and New York—and expert advice of that sort comes high. I made the changes in the formula suggested by these medical scientists, and the favor with which the public has received the medicine demonstrates that it is the most perfect blood builder and nerve tonic known. However, I was anxious to still further improve the formula, if that could be done, and have since spent a great deal of money with that end in view. On going to London, two years ago, I saw Dr. Williams, and went into it again, with the best medical men there, and as you know, the medical expert is not too friendly to proprietary medicines; and least of all to a good one, and I don't think I have any more to say. It isn't good for their business if a man can get for 50 cents medicine that will do him more good than \$50 in doctoring. Consequently advice came high, but in the end the best there is, not only on this continent, but in London and Paris."

"When I went to Paris last winter I placed my formula and a supply of Pink Pills in the hands of one of the most noted doctors in that city for a three months' trial in his practice, with a view of getting suggestions for improvement. At the end of that time he wrote me, 'Leave it alone; it cannot be bettered. You now have a perfect blood and nerve medicine.' This opinion cost me 10,000 francs, but I consider it money well spent, as it determines the fact that it is for a man who goes to a store for Pink Pills to let something else be pushed on to him in place of them—more especially if it is a worn-out thing like Bland's pills—a formula in the French pharmacopoeia that has been a back number for years until a few storekeepers tried to push it on the strength of Pink Pill advertising. You can take it from me that a storekeeper who tells anyone that Bland's pill (which is not a proprietary at all; anyone can make it that wants to) is in any way a substitute for Pink Pills is an ignorant and mercenary druggist as ignorant as that certainly isn't fit to put up a prescription, and will poison someone one day."



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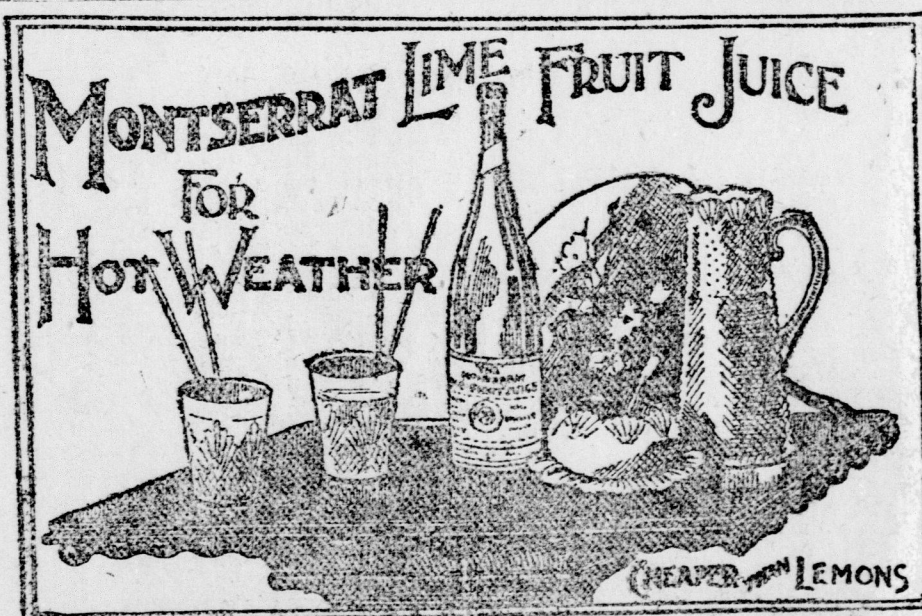
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