

moorn over the loss of his spirit and his principles, may well conceive them if he will imagine himself placed alone in a solitary spot near the ashes of the dead. At the same time, to a man of an opposite character any description would of course be lost. I regretted here the want of some truly appropriate national music, when I found myself breathing a very soft and plaintive Scotch lament. Of all the poetry I have seen written on Mount Vernon, none strikes my ear with so much simplicity and sweetness, mingled with so much elevation, as the lines of Brainerd.

There is something much more congenial to my mind in the simple and indeed humble depository of the ashes of Washington than in the most splendid monuments of Italy or even of Egypt. Where there is no attempt made to captivate the eye, the mind is left at perfect freedom to form her own conceptions; and it is no disrespect to the greatest artist to say, that a refined and virtuous fancy may transcend in its conceptions the work of any human hands. I have no objection to the erection of monuments to Washington; nay, I hope the day may come when every city, town, and village in the Union may possess one of some sort, constructed in the purest taste: but I feel that any fabric of art in this place would be only an impediment to the mind, which, if left to itself, will create the noblest conceptions out of nothing.

Surely enough is not made of the memory of Washington in our country, when we reflect what has been and now is the influence of his name in the world. His great example of disinterestedness has done more for the human race than we can possibly ascertain; and is likely to produce still greater effects. His birthday should be observed by our children as a day of becoming joy; and our schools should pour out their young inhabitants to hear his virtues recounted and to sing songs in his praise.

I returned from Alexandria to Washington in the steamboat. There were several Virginians on board, of different classes and characters, who engaged in conversation on slavery. This subject, which was long regarded as a prohibited one, and by general consent excluded from conversation in all societies, has become the most general topic throughout the state, as

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