

despise their motives and to condemn their actions. When will our children be trained up to a clear conception and a just estimate of the character of Washington, in whose heart alone was more real greatness than in all heathen antiquity? His principles and conduct, enforced by the injunctions of the Scriptures, what influence might they not exert upon the minds and hearts of American youth!

The rear of the family-mansion appears two or three times through openings in the foliage, before the visiter reaches it; and although it is venerable, it shows, on a nearer approach, evident marks of decay. I passed the dwellings of the negroes, where an old family servant offered his services as guide; and dismounting, hastened on to get rid of the groups which assembled around me. Two ranges of out-buildings, now partly disused, run back from the ends of the mansion and form a court,—in which what messengers have heretofore reined up, what guests have alighted! The plain piazza in front, with the fine sloping and partly shaded lawn, descending to the brow of the precipice over the Potomac, the clumps of old trees, the broad and winding river below, all appear much as they have been represented for half a century on so many sorts of landscape furniture with which we have been familiar.

The remains of the father of his country have been removed within a few months from the old family-vault, on the brow of the precipice, to a spot near the corner of the vineyard enclosure, where the river is concealed from view, but which was selected by him during life. A hasty sketch may give better ideas of its appearance than any description. I dismissed my guide, that I might indulge alone in the feelings which had been rising in my heart as I approached the spot I had so long regarded with reverence; and however difficult it might be to trace their source or to define their nature, I am sure that I have spent but few half-hours in my life in meditations more sweet and yet more bitter. They need not be detailed. Whoever loves virtue and his country, and has done any thing less than his duty, or whoever feels like a son of Washington, however humble he may be, and apprehends how much reason there is to