

at the seat of government"—The levees held by Washington, as president, were generally crowded, and held on Tuesday, between three and four o'clock. The president stood, and received the bow of the person presented, who retired to make way for another. At the drawing rooms, Mrs. Washington received the ladies, who curtsied and passed aside without exchanging a word. Tea and coffee, with refreshments of all kinds were laid in one part of the rooms, and before the individuals of the company retired, each lady was a second time led up to the lady president, made her second silent obeisance and departed—nothing could be more simple, yet it was enough.

LAST HOURS OF WASHINGTON.

Twenty-eight years have passed away, since an interesting group were assembled in the death-room. So keen and unsparring hath been the scythe of time, that, of all those who watched over the patriarch's couch, on the 13th and 14th of Dec. 1799, but a single personage survives.

On the morning of the 13th, the General was engaged in making some improvements in front of Mount Vernon. As was usual with him, he carried his own compass, noted his observations, and marked out the ground.—The day became rainy, with sleet, and the improver remained so long exposed to the inclemency of the weather, as to be considerably wet before his return to the house. About one o'clock, he was seized with chillness and nausea, but having changed his clothes, he sat down to his *in-door work*—there being no moment of his time for which he had not provided an appropriate employment.

At night, on joining his family circle, the General complained of slight indisposition, and, after a single cup of tea, repaired to his library, where he remained writing until between 11 and 12 o'clock. Mrs. Washington retired about the usual family hour, but becoming alarmed at not hearing the accustomed sound of the library door, as it closed for the night, and gave signal for rest in the well regulated mansion, she arose again, and continued sitting up, in much anxiety and suspense. At length the well known step was heard upon the stair, and upon the General's entering his chamber, the lady kindly chided him for remaining up so late, knowing himself to be unwell; to which Washington made this memorable reply: "I came as soon as my business was accomplished. You know well, that, through a long life, it has been my unvaried rule, never to put off till the morrow the duties which should be performed to day."

Having first covered up the fire with care, the mighty man of labors at last sought repose; but it came not as it had long been wont to do, to comfort and restore; after the many and earnest occupations of the well spent day. The night was passed in feverish restlessness and pain. Tired Nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep, was destined no more to visit his couch; yet the manly sufferer uttered no complaint, would permit no one to be disturbed in their rest on his account and it was only at day break he would consent that the overseer might be called in, and bleeding resorted to. A vein was opened, but without affording relief. Couriers were despatched to summon Dr. Craik, the family, and Doctors Dick and Brown, as consulting physicians, all of whom came with speed. The proper remedies were administered, but without

producing their healing effects; while the patient yielding to the anxious looks of all around him, waived his usual objection to medicines, and took those which were prescribed, without hesitation or remark. The medical gentlemen spared not their skill, and all the resources of their art were exhausted in unwearied endeavors to preserve this noblest work of nature.

Night approached—the last night of Washington—the weather became severely cold, while the group gathered nearer to the couch of the sufferer, watching with intense anxiety for the slightest dawning of hope. He spoke but little. To the respectful and affectionate inquiries of an old family servant, as she smoothed down his pillow, how he felt himself? he answered, "I am very ill." To Dr. Craik, his earliest companion in arms, longest tried, and bosom friend, he observed: "I am dying, Sir—but not afraid to die." To Mrs. Washington, he said: "Go to my escrutoir, and in the private drawer you find two papers;—bring them to me." They were brought. He continued: "They are my Wills; preserve this one, and burn the other." Which was immediately done. Calling to Col. Lear, he directed: "Let my corps be kept for the usual period of three days."

Here we would beg leave to remind our readers, that Washington was old fashioned in much of his habits and manners, and in some of his opinions; nor was he the less to be admired on these accounts. The custom of keeping the dead for the scriptural period of three days, is derived from remote antiquity, and arose, not from fear of premature interment, as in more modern times, but from motives of veneration toward the deceased; for the better enabling the relatives and friends to assemble from a distance, to perform the funeral rites; for the pious watchings of the corpse; and for the many sad, yet endearing ceremonies with which we delight to pay our last duties to the remains of those we have loved.

The patient bore his acute suffering with manly fortitude, and perfect resignation to the Divine will; while, as the night advanced, it became evident that he was sinking, and he was sinking, and he seemed fully aware that his "hour was nigh." He inquired the time; and was answered, a few moments to twelve. He spoke no more: the hand of death was upon him, and he was conscious that his "hour was come." With surprising self possession, he prepared to die. Composing his form at length, and folding his hands upon his bosom—without a sigh—without a groan—the Father of his Country expired, gently as though an infant died. No pang or struggle told when the noble spirit took its noiseless flight; while so tranquil appeared the manly features in the repose of death that some moments had passed ere those around could believe that the patriarch was no more.

It may be asked, and why was the ministry of religion wanting to shed its peaceful and benignant lustre upon the last hours of Washington? Why was he, to whom the observances of sacred things were ever primary duties through life, without their consolations in his last moments? We answer, circumstances did not permit. It was but for a little while that the disease assumed so threatening a character as to forbid the encouragement of hope. Yet, to stay that summons which none may refuse, to give still farther

length of days to him whose "time-honored life" was so dear to mankind, prayer was not wanting to the Throne of Grace. Close to the couch of the sufferer, resting her head upon the ancient book, with which she had been wont to hold pious communion, a portion of every day, for more than half a century, was the venerable consort, absorbed in silent prayer, and from which she only arose when the mourning group prepared to bear her, from the chamber of the dead. SUCH WERE THE LAST HOURS OF WASHINGTON.

INVENTIONS OF THE ARABIANS.

The following account of the "useful inventions of the Arabians," is taken from *Sismond's Literature of the South of Europe*, an interesting work recently republished in New-York:—

A great number of the inventions, which, at the present day, add to the comforts of life, and without which literature could never have flourished, are due to the Arabians. Thus paper, now so necessary to the progress of the intellect, the want of which plunged Europe, from the seventh to the tenth century, into such a state of ignorance and barbarism, is an Arabic invention. In China, indeed, from all antiquity, it had been manufactured from silk; about the year 30 of the Hegira, (A. D. 649.) this invention was introduced at Samarcand; and when that flourishing city was conquered by the Arabians, in the year 85 of the Hegira, an Arabian, of the name of Joseph Amrou, carried the process by which paper was made to Mecca, his native city. He employed cotton in the manufacture; and the first paper nearly resembling that which we now use, was made in the year 88 of the Hegira, A. D. 706. This invention spread with rapidity throughout all the dominions of the Arabians, and more especially in Spain, where the town of Sativa, in the kingdom of Valencia, now called San Felipe, was renowned from the 12th century for its beautiful manufactures of paper. It appears that at this time the Arabians had substituted in the fabrication of paper, flax which grew abundantly with them, for cotton, which was much more scarce and dear. It was not until the end of the 13th century, that at the instance of Alphonso X, king of Castile, paper mills were established in the Christian states of Spain, from whence the invention passed, in the 14th century only, to Trevisa and Padua. Gunpowder, the discovery of which is generally attributed, a German chemist, was known to the Arabians at least a century before any traces of it appear in the European histories. In the 11th century it was frequently employed by the Moors in their wars in Spain; and some indications remain of its having been known in the 11th century. The compass, also, the invention of which has been given alternately to the Italians and French, in the 13th century, was already known by the Arabians in the 11th. The geographer of Nubia, who wrote in the 12th century, speaks of it as an instrument universally employed. The numerals which we call Arabic, but which ought rather to be called Indian, were undoubtedly at least communicated to us by the Arabians. Without them one of the sciences in which calculation is employed, could have been carried to the point which they have arrived in our day, and which the great mathematicians and astronomers among the Arabians very nearly approached. The number of Arabic inventions of which we enjoy