

a handsome man. His face was pitted by smallpox—though you will get no hint of this in most of his portraits. His cheeks are too long and obstinate looking for beauty. His mouth in many pictures is distinctly unpleasant; but in all probability, much if not all that was due to his ill-fitting false teeth.

Washington was a slaveholder, as all know; and while he was no defender of slavery as an institution, he was at best a languid critic of it. His slaves were well treated, but he wanted them to work, and their laziness annoyed him. Perhaps a contract that he made with a man whom he engaged as overseer for one of his outlying plantations gives his attitude. The contract provides:

"That he (the overseer) will take all necessary and proper care of the negroes committed to his management, to treat them with humanity and tenderness when sick and prevent them when well, from running about and visiting without his consent."

"Bad" slaves in Virginia in those days were sold in the West Indies. In 1791 when Washington had been President for two years, one such "misbehaving fellow" was sold for "one pipe and Quarter Cask of wine." Long before, in 1766, Washington wrote to the captain of a ship bound for the West Indies:

"With this letter comes a negro (Tom)

which I beg the favor of you to sell in any of the islands you may go to for whatever he will fetch \* \* \* He may, with your good management, sell well, if kept clean and trim'd up a little when offered for sale."

Something has been collected on Washington's relations with free labor; but much more perhaps could be brought together by a careful search. In every new country, there is a shortage of skilled labor, and particularly of skilled labor available for hire by local magnates. American wages from the earliest colonial days always have been high by comparison with those of Europe.

It is interesting, therefore, to find that \$10 a month and "keep" seems to have been a standard wage for skilled labor in Virginia. Washington's contract with John Askew, joiner, requires that Askew "Shall work duely from sunrise to sunset, allowing proper times only for eating."

If Askew lost time, from sickness or other reasons, he must make it up at the end of the year. He was expected to teach his trade to negroes whom Washington assigned to such education, and for this, he was to get board and lodging, for himself and wife, and 25 pounds, cash, paid at the end of the year.

Benjamin Buckler (his X mark) was en-

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THE NATIONAL CAPITOL AND ITS SURROUNDINGS VIEWED FROM THE AIR

Center: The Capitol Building. Extreme right: The Congressional Library. Lower center: The House of Representatives' Office Building. Directly beyond may be seen the Senate Office Building, Union Station, and to the left of the station is the Washington City Post Office. The white stone building at the extreme left is the home of "Labor".