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Tyng, Stephen H.

Washington, an exemplification of the principles of Free Masonry.



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WASHINGTON,

AN EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE

Principles of Free Masonry:

AN ORATION

DELIVERED IN THE METROPOLITAN HALL, IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, NOV. 4, A. D. 1852,
AT THE CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF THE INITIATION OF GEORGE
WASHINGTON INTO THE ORDER OF FREE AND
ACCEPTED MASONS.

BY STEPHEN H. TYNG, D.D.

TOGETHER WITH

AN ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.



PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE M. W. GRAND LODGE.

NEW-YORK:
PRINTED BY ROBERT MACOY.
1852.

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TO THE
Most Worshipful Grand Master
AND
OTHER OFFICERS
OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS,
IN THE
STATE OF NEW YORK,
AND TO THE
BRETHREN OF OUR ORDER
THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, IN THE HOPE THAT IT MAY BE MADE
THE INSTRUMENT OF GIVING DUE HONOR TO THE
PRINCIPLES OF MASONRY,
AND OF
CALLING THE ATTENTION OF MASONS
TO THE
CHARACTER AND JUST INFLUENCE OF THEIR
EXALTED BROTHER,
AS AN EXAMPLE FOR THEMSELVES, THE FOLLOWING
Oration is Dedicated,
BY THEIR
BROTHER AND FRIEND,
THE AUTHOR.

Office of the Grand Secretary

OF THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF
NEW YORK.

New York, Nov. 10th, 1852.

REV. STEPHEN H. TYNG, D.D.

REV. SIR and BRO.—On behalf of the M. W. Grand Lodge of the State of New York, I have the honor to solicit a copy of your Oration, delivered at the Centennial Commemoration of the initiation of the illustrious WASHINGTON, on the 4th inst., with a view to its publication and subsequent circulation among the Craft.

Permit me to express my belief that no event which has occurred in our Masonic history since the days of the immortal WASHINGTON, is so well calculated to effect substantial good to our beloved Institution, in removing prejudice, convincing the skeptical, and strengthening the bonds of friendship, as the free diffusion of that Address amongst the Fraternity and the Public generally.

Believe me, with sentiments of high esteem,

Respectfully and Fraternaly yours,

JAMES W. POWELL, M.D.,

Grand Secretary.

ST. GEORGE'S RECTORY, *Nov. 10, 1852.*

DR. J. W. POWELL,

G. S. M. W. G. L., N. Y.

DEAR SIR and BRO.—The Address of which you speak so flatteringly, is at the service of the Grand Lodge. I shall be gratified to have it made useful in elevating the outward consideration and the inward self-respect of our Order.

With much respect,

Your friend and brother,

STEPHEN H. TYNG.



CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION
OF THE
Initiation of George Washington into Free Masonry,

NOVEMBER 4th, A.L. 5852.

It is one of the glories of Free Masonry, that the greatest, the wisest, and the best men of all ages have been enrolled under her banners; but amongst those honored names which are recorded in Masonic annals, there is none so high, none so honored by our American brethren, as that of WASHINGTON. The time when the Father of his Country received his first lessons in Masonry is authenticated beyond cavil; and as the solemn period approached which would mark the passage of a century from that interesting event, a very general desire was manifested by the brotherhood to celebrate it with becoming solemnities. Accordingly, the M. W. Grand Lodge of the State of New York being specially convened, appointed a Committee to make the necessary arrangements, consisting of the following brethren:—

W. FREDERICK FAWCETT,
“ WILLIAM LYON,
“ CHARLES L. CHURCH,
“ ROBERT MACOY,
“ L. A. SYKES,
“ J. D. STEWART,

W. J. P. FINKELMEIER,
“ JOHN W. SIMONS,
“ S. C. WESCOTT,
“ H. F. L. BUNTING,
“ E. LYONS.

The Committee invited our distinguished brother, the Rev. STEPHEN H. TYNG, D.D., to deliver the oration, which he kindly accepted. Our artist brethren volunteered their valuable services with a promptness and a fervor which at

once relieved the Committee from all doubt as to the success of the proposed festival. Brother JOHN BROUGHAM wrote a beautiful and appropriate ode for the occasion. Our distinguished brethren, WM. VINCENT WALLACE and HENRY C. WATSON, furnished original music; the latter gentleman consenting to take upon himself the direction of the musical arrangements. Brothers BRAHAM, BROUGH, and CAFFERTY, gave the powerful aid of their vocal talents. Brother TIMM consented to preside at the Organ.

It is not amongst the least of the glories of Masonry that learning and art have always sought her influences. To our artistic brethren the Fraternity of New York stands deeply indebted; with great liberality and enthusiasm they have on this, as on former occasions, lent their powerful aid to beautify and adorn "*The Temple*."

The Committee decided on engaging Metropolitan Hall, and issued the following

PROGRAMME.

The musical arrangements under the direction of BRO. HENRY C. WATSON.

OVERTURE.....by DODWORTH'S BAND.

OPENING HYMN.....FULL CHOIR AND ORGAN.

Great Source of light and love,
To thee our songs we raise;
Oh! in thy temple, Lord, above,
Hear and accept our praise.

May all the sons of peace
Their every grace improve,
'Till discords through the nations cease,
And all the world be LOVE.

MASONIC ODE.....TRIO AND CHORUS.

Music by Bro. Wm. Vincent Wallace.

Sung by BROS. BRAHAM, WATSON, and BROUGH.

CHORUS, accompanied by Brass Instruments.

To him who rules, be homage paid,
Where hearts with voice unite;
To him we bring fraternal aid,
Who guides in solemn rite.

Come, Brothers, bound by kindly ties,
 Your notes harmonious bring ;
 While acts of generous sacrifice,
 In thoughts of love, we sing.

As days and years roll silent by,
 As time's sad changes rise,
 No doubt shall dim the trusting eye,
 Where rule the good and wise.

To him who rules, be homage paid,
 Where hearts with voice unite ;
 'Till life shall cease, and time shall fade,
 We'll bring our solemn plight.

ORATION.....by BRO. THE REV. STEPHEN H. TYNG, D. D.

ODE, (written for the occasion by BRO. JOHN BROUGHAM.)

Music by Bro. Henry C. Watson.

Sung by Messrs. FRAZER, CAFFERTY and LYSTER, and
 Chorus with Organ.

THE WASHINGTON COMMEMORATION ODE.

Spirit ineffable of heavenly love, descend,
 And sacred Friendship, man's supremest joy,
 With God-like Truth, eternal forming as ye blend,
 A living Triad, time can ne'er destroy.
 In bonds of amity and peace
 Bind yet more closely each fraternal heart,
 That loving-kindness may increase,
 And every evil thing from hence depart :
 So that with one soul-uttered, grateful voice,
 We raise the song to Heaven's arch on high,
 For it is wisely said we should rejoice—
 Rejoice ! and not bewail when good men die.
 Hail to thy memory, Columbia's honored son ;
 Revered through all ages be—Immortal WASHINGTON !

Glory, unfading, sheds its lustre on thy name,
 Which shall endure while resteth land and sea,
 Coeval with the records of thy country's fame,
 For in thy pathway followed liberty.
 And anarchy and discord strove
 In vain, for never was thy banner furled
 Until the God of peace and love
 Gave freedom to the western world.
 'Tis not alone the warrior chief we praise,
 Though topmost he, the best among the best ;
 But that he did on earth a temple raise,
 Whose *Keystone* shall, in Heaven, for ever rest.
 Hail to thy memory, Columbia's honored son,
 Revered through all ages be—Immortal WASHINGTON !

SELECTION OF AIRS.....DODWORTH'S BAND.

CLOSING HYMN.....FULL CHOIR AND ORGAN.

Unveil thy bosom, faithful tomb !
Take this new treasure to thy trust,
And give these sacred relics room
To slumber in the silent dust.

Nor pain, nor grief, nor anxious fear
Invade thy bounds ; no mortal woes
Can reach the silent sleepers here.
And angels watch their soft repose.

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION, by the

R. W. and REV. SALEM TOWN, D.D., GRAND CHAPLAIN.

INSTRUMENTAL CLOSE.....DODWORTH'S BAND.

The demand for tickets of admission far exceeded the capacities of the Hall ; between five and six thousand, however, were issued, numerous applications being necessarily refused ; and long before the exercises commenced, the vast building was filled from the floor to the ceiling—not a place was unoccupied. Certainly not less than five thousand persons were present on the occasion. The Hall was decorated with the Banners of the M. W. Grand Lodge, the emblems of Masonry, the Banners of the Subordinate Lodges, the celebrated full-length portrait of Washington, kindly furnished by WASHINGTON COSTAR, Esq., and several other portraits of the “ Father of his Country,” one of them representing him in his Masonic Regalia.

At the commencement of the ceremonies a flourish of trumpets heralded the approach of the M. W. Grand Lodge, which entered in ancient form, accompanied with the Orator and Chaplains, numerous representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges near this Grand Lodge, and several distinguished Visiting Brethren ;—R. W. Deputy Grand Master, JOSEPH D. EVANS, officiating as Grand Master. The vast audience was called up with the usual Masonic signal, by W. Brother L. A. SYKES, and the public Grand honors were given with admirable precision.

The following is a list of the Grand Officers present:—

R. W. JOSEPH D. EVANS, as Grand Master.

M. W. OSCAR COLES, as Deputy Grand Master.

W. F. FAWCETT, as Senior Grand Warden.

R. W. JOHN W. SIMONS, as Junior Grand Warden.

R. W. JAMES W. POWELL, Grand Secretary.

W. GEO. S. GIBBONS, Assistant Grand Secretary.

R. W. THOS. DUGAN, Sr., Grand Treasurer.

R. W. and REV. SALEM TOWN, D.D., Grand Chaplain.

R. W. WM. H. UNDERHILL, Grand Marshal.

W. E. LYONS, as Grand Standard Bearer.

W. HENRY F. L. BUNTING, as Grand Sword Bearer.

W. CHAS. S. WESCOTT, Grand Steward.

W. THOS. DUGAN, Jr., as Grand Steward.

W. CHAS. A. PECK, as Grand Steward.

W. J. P. FINKELMEIER, as Grand Steward.

R. W. ROBT. MACOY, Senior Grand Deacon.

W. B. S. ADAMS, as Junior Grand Deacon.

Br. G. W. T. JONES, Grand Organist.

W. D. H. VAN SICE, Grand Pursuivant.

W. SEWALL FISK, Grand Tiler.

Next followed a Committee from St. John's Lodge, No. 1, with that venerable and precious relic, the *Bible*, (now the property of that ancient and respectable Lodge) on which the great WASHINGTON was inaugurated as first President of the United States. The Bible was accompanied by a guard of honor from the Continental Corps in uniform.

The M. W. Grand Lodge, the Committee from St. John's Lodge, the Orator, Chaplains, the Guard of Honor, and the Artist Brethren, were seated on the platform, together with the Chorus and the Band. At the moment of taking their seats, the Hall presented one of the most magnificent Masonic spectacles ever witnessed in this or any other country. Most of the brethren present were in full regalia, and the ladies in full dress. The brilliant costumes of the Chapters and Encampments, the gorgeous regalia of the Grand Officers, the vast Hall thus crowded to repletion, and the solemn occasion

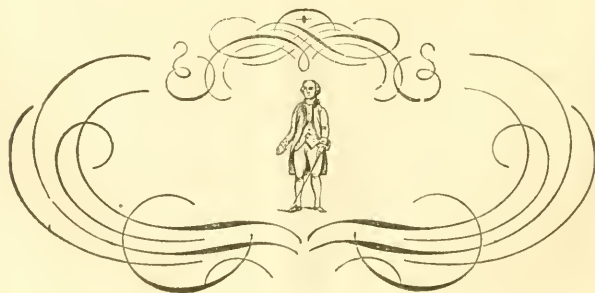
which had called this large assemblage together, produced an effect which none who witnessed it will ever cease to remember.

The R. W. and Rev. Bro. N. A. OKESON offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, our Creator and Preserver, and continual Benefactor, assist us now to draw near to Thee with reverence and humility. Enable us to realize that we are in the presence of that "all-seeing eye" to which "all hearts are open, and from which no secrets are hid." Impart unto us a sense of our own weakness and unworthiness, and of Thine unspeakable greatness and majesty. Fill us, also, with love to Thee, and with charity towards all mankind. And may our ancient and honorable Craft be known throughout the world, as an institution "full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." May our "light" so shine before men that they seeing our works may glorify Thee our "Master" in heaven. Prosper Thou our handiwork; strengthen the "mystic tie" by which we are bound together; bless our present assembling; and make us ever ready to recognize as incomparable and worthy of imitation the principles and character of him in commemoration of whose initiation into Masonry we are now met together. And when the "dangers" and "work" of life are over—when the infirmities of age come upon us, and the outward frame decays, may we be enabled to believe that we shall have a building of God, a "Temple not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Direct us, O Lord, "both now and forever," in all our doings, with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy Name; and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. So mote it be—Amen.

The M. W. Grand Master then introduced, with appropriate remarks, the Rev. Orator.

In regard to the Oration which the Rev. author has, at the request of the M. W. Grand Lodge, kindly consented to place before the public, it is but necessary to say, that its delivery was listened to with breathless attention, only interrupted by frequent and irrepressible bursts of applause, as its magnificent periods paused upon the ears of the delighted audience.



Centennial Oration.

MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER,
BRETHREN OF THE GRAND LODGE,
BRETHREN GENERALLY OF OUR ANCIENT AND
HONORABLE CRAFT,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

We are assembled to-night as Americans, especially as members of the Society of Free and Accepted Masons, to honor the memory, the merits and excellences of our noble brother, GEORGE WASHINGTON.

No American fact is more purely American, than the character of WASHINGTON. We view him as in all respects,—if beyond all measure the best specimen, yet in reality,—a true specimen of the American man. His whole life was passed in his own country,—and equally domesticated with his outward body, his heart and affections were, from youth to age, perfectly untravelled, living, acting, enjoying, and blessing, in his own native and beloved home. No foreign education,—or habits, or tastes acquired abroad,—or relations elevating or entangling with foreign parties,—made him a debtor, for any of the facts or parts of his unparalleled and uniform greatness of character and works. Perhaps no other American citizen distinguished at all in public life, was ever so completely American. His early youth was taught and disciplined wholly in the vales, and amidst the mountains and rivers of his own noble Virginia. His first blushing manhood was busily exercised in the military defence of his native State. His private maturity was passed, in contented

cheerfulness, amidst the elevating and tranquillizing employments of agriculture, and the joys of social neighborhood, on the beautiful banks of the Potomac. His full summer of life was dedicated to his country's defence, and his country's greatness. And his calm and dignified autumnal evening descended happily and quietly to the tomb, on the very spot which had been the first home of his manhood, and the seat and centre of all his earthly joys. Great in every quality of humanity beyond comparison, his greatness is to us of particular and priceless value,—that it was all our own.

As an example of American greatness, it is our privilege, and our duty, to commemorate him,—to contemplate and revere his character, and to transmit from generation to generation,—not only the memory of his excellence, but also the example, and the evidences, of our own estimation and appreciation of it, in each succeeding age. We thus make him, what he ought ever to be considered, a living American fact. Not so much, an individual who lived and finished his noble career, and then departed, and since remains upon the page of history alone,—but an actual and abiding type and embodiment of human greatness, which never passes, and which asks no effort of memory merely, to perpetuate it, because it lives and acts, and influences, and governs, in every successive age, as really and as completely as if in visible body, it lived and moved through all. It must never be, that WASHINGTON *was*, in the forming and establishing of our Republic, and then, like other men of parts and power, passed into sleep, to be called to mind among the living, only occasionally, as circumstances should demand a reference to the opinions which he held, or the facts which he accomplished. This is well. This is all to which the most of men departed are entitled. But *he* must remain a living influence; a power which never grows old; an authority and an example which is as fresh now as it was fifty years ago, and which shall be as effective and as manifest a century hence, as it is now. This is our privilege and duty. Not to open books of history and say to our children, “There is WASHINGTON.” Not to

point to beautiful specimens of the statuary's art, or pictures glowing on the canvas, or gorgeous monuments of marmoreal pomp, and say, "Behold him there." But to have him in his principles, and person, and character, so incorporated in our public institutions, and so vivifying in all the daily influence of our country, both relative and domestic, that the memory of his name shall be as imperishable as the existence of our race; and the unceasing tokens of his authority like a living hedge along the track of our Nation's history and geography. So that in every successive age of our Nation—America shall be WASHINGTON—and WASHINGTON shall be America.

This is the great object of our assembly and array this day. Is America entitled to his name? We feel that our Ancient and Honored Craft is particularly entitled to it also. Did he illustrate the true principles of his country, and do those principles still exhibit and display him? We feel justly entitled to say, that if the principles of Masonry did not make him what he really was, they were never more completely illustrated and exemplified than they were in him. And when we are asked for its principles, or its fruits; for what it has done, or what it can do; we point to the character of the Father of his Country, to say, See what Masonry is. See what the principles of Masonry can accomplish.

When scarce of age, a hundred years ago, he sought admission to our fraternity. Through all his subsequent career, he steadily wrought in the edifying of that great Temple, upon the walls of which our faithful craftsmen work. He maintained his outward typical connection with our work, keeping up his lodge in the tented field, through all the war of our Revolution, and frequently visiting the lodges in the various cities of our land. He honored in his age, our body, with his occasional presence. And all Free and Accepted Masons delighted to point to him, as a master workman among them, both in the symbolic and in the actual construction, in which the generations of our craft have been so long engaged. As the G. M. of the Masons of the United States, he laid the corner-stone of the Capitol, in 1793. And he was buried with

Masonic honors by the lodge of which he was the first Master, in 1799. In the very closing of his career, he said to our brethren in Rhode Island: "Being persuaded that a just application of the principles on which the Masonic Fraternity is founded, must be promotive of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them a deserving brother." To the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in perhaps his last communication, he subsequently said, "Flattering as it may be to the human mind, and truly honorable as it is, to receive from our fellow-citizens, testimonies of approbation for exertions to promote the public welfare, it is not less pleasing to know, that the milder virtues of the heart are highly respected by a Society, whose liberal principles must be founded in the immutable laws of truth and justice. To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution. And it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the Fraternity, as well as those publications that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind, that the grand object of Masonry, is to promote the happiness of the human race. Permit me to assure you, that I feel all those emotions of gratitude, which your affectionate address and cordial wishes are calculated to inspire. And I sincerely pray, that the great Architect of the Universe may bless you here, and receive you hereafter into his immortal temple." He was never ashamed of our Society, in its principles, or in the just exemplification of them in their living agents. If at any time professed members of our Fraternity have so far forgotten, or abused the duty which they owe to those principles, and to our social embodiment of them here, as to have dishonored or degraded them, in their private conduct and character, he would not have been more ashamed of them than is our Society itself. Let it be a rule in the practical government of our craft,—that we will respect and honor no workman, of whom WASHINGTON would have been ashamed. We read our principles in their manifestation and

fruits in his character and life, and we meet to-day, to perpetuate them in their power, and to hand them down as living principles to our successors, by identifying them with his history, and considering them in connection with his course. We will not say that Masonry taught him his principles of action. But we will say, that the principles of Masonry and of WASHINGTON were the same.

A remarkable illustration of the extensive veneration in which the name of WASHINGTON is regarded among the Masonic fraternity in foreign lands has lately fallen under my notice in an account of a celebration held in the City of Manchester, in England, on the 16th of March, 1852, although the ceremony itself originated in some strange mistakes. The recorded facts of Washington's Masonic history are in the register of the Fredericksburg Lodge, in the State of Virginia. He was there initiated as an apprentice on the 4th of Nov., 1752, a few months before he attained his full age—of twenty-one. On the 3d of March, 1753, nine days after he was of age, he was advanced to the second degree of Fellow-craft. And on the 4th of August, 1753, he was exalted to the full degree of a Master Mason. This is the indubitable record of his entrance into the full standing of the Order. And yet I find it declared in an English publication (*The Free Masons' Quarterly Review*, for July, 1834,) that he was initiated into Masonry, in a Lodge in the 46th Regiment of the British army, during the services of that Regiment in America. It is asserted that the very copy of the Holy Scriptures, upon which his obligation was taken, belonging to that Lodge, is now in the possession of a Capt. CHILD, an officer of that Regiment. On the 16th of March last, this Bible was brought, under a military escort, to the Lodge of Virtue, in the City of Manchester, as an object of very peculiar interest and veneration. Three times the procession of the brethren moved in solemn order round the Lodge, the Bible carried by the oldest member of the Lodge. And then they all united to sing in harmony, that beautiful hymn,

“Holy Bible, book Divine—
Precious treasure, thou art mine.”

The lecturer on the occasion says: “We were privileged to handle in our own hands, and to behold with our own eyes, and to seal with our own lips, that copy of the Sacred Law, upon which the great WASHINGTON was obligated, before his admission into the mysteries of our ancient and divine order. Was there a heart which did not throb with joy, when we joined in procession round this Lodge? Was there a voice which did not join in chorus whilst singing that beauteous hymn which was selected for this occasion? Dear Brethren, we enjoyed a great privilege, and it must not be permitted to become of a transitory character.”

We receive with great delight this token of foreign reverence for our great American, and the evidence which it gives us of the extending influence of his name, and history, and opinions, over the people in other lands. But in this instance it arises out of a total error in the facts of history, which it is our right and duty to correct. Gen. BRADDOCK, under whom WASHINGTON had his first connection with the British army, did not arrive in Virginia until the 20th of February, 1755—two years after WASHINGTON had become a Mason. Nor was WASHINGTON introduced to the British officers until April, 1755. Nor had he any personal connection with any regiment of English troops till after that time. Though it is very likely, therefore, that he maintained his Masonic connection with them in the subsequent campaign, if there really were a military Lodge in the army of General BRADDOCK, it is not the fact that he was by them initiated into Masonry. No. WASHINGTON’s entrance into Masonry was as truly American as the whole residue of his noble career. No foreign soldiers taught him its sublime principles. They gave him, indeed, ample scope to exercise and display those principles, in the many provocations of that early campaign, and in the long and faithful probation of his character, which their bitter and varied hostilities brought out in the subsequent Revolutionary war. But he owed no-

thing directly to their teaching. Of that army under BRADDOCK he says, in a letter to his mother after their defeat: "The dastardly behavior of the regular troops, (so called,) exposed all others who were inclined to do their duty to almost certain death, and, at last, in despite of all the efforts of the officers to the contrary, they ran as sheep pursued by dogs, and it was impossible to rally them." Of his own position in the unfortunate battle of that day he says: "By the all-powerful dispensations of Providence"—Ah, beautiful illustration of the way in which, from the very beginning of his glorious career, he was accustomed to acknowledge and reverence the Divine presence, and the Providence of God!—"By the all-powerful dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation. I had four bullets through my coat and two horses shot under me, yet escaped unhurt, although death was levelling my companions on every side of me." Of him, then but 23 years old, the Rev. SAMUEL DAVIES, afterwards President of Princeton College, said in a sermon delivered on the 17th of August, 1755, but a month after the battle, "As a remarkable instance of patriotic spirit and military ardor, I may point out to the public that heroic youth, Colonel WASHINGTON, whom I cannot but hope Providence has hitherto preserved in so signal a manner for some important service to his country." How wonderfully prophetic was this passage! We may now add in its actual accomplishment, important service not to his country only, but to the honor, dignity, and happiness of the whole human race.

But from this needful digression permit me to return to the beautiful display of some of our fundamental principles, which was so brightly exhibited in the life of WASHINGTON.

Never was our fundamental principle of JUSTICE more beautifully or perfectly realized by man. Every foot of his wall was built in rigid conformity to the square and the plummet. You may trace this principle in all his own private accounts. To be in debt, was, in his judgment, to be in slavery; a slavery to which no Free-Mason could be hon-

orably subjected. For years his books were kept by his own hands, in the most beautiful style of neatness and punctuality. He maintained a perfect oversight of his own business, detecting any mismanagement or carelessness in others,—and habitually choosing never to rely upon others, to do that which he could do for himself. In his management of public trusts,—during the whole eight years' campaigns of the Revolution, he kept an exact account of all his expenditures in the public service—and exhibited them in his own handwriting to Congress, at the close of the war; not only refusing any remuneration for the services he performed, but faithfully declaring himself largely a willing loser, in amounts of his own private funds which had been expended in the public service. When he entered upon his great trust as the President of the United States, he said to Congress: “When I was first honored with a call into the service of my country, then on the eve of an arduous struggle for its liberties, the light in which I contemplated my duty, required that I should renounce every pecuniary compensation. From this resolution I have in no instance departed. And being still under the impressions which produced it, I must still decline, as inapplicable to myself, any share in the personal emoluments which may be indispensably included in a permanent provision for the Executive Department. And must accordingly pray that the pecuniary estimates for the station, in which I am placed, may, during my continuance in it, be limited to such actual expenditures as the public good may be thought to require.”

How beautifully did this great principle rule, in all his exercise of official authority, both military and civil! Who ever sustained against him a single charge of injustice or tyrannical oppression? Armed with the conscious rectitude and dignity of his character, he could instantly arrest the insolent insubordination of men like Charles Lee. He could despise the cabals of Gates and Conway, from the death-bed of the last of whom he received the message of sorrow as the dying man departed. “My career will soon be over, there-

fore justice and truth prompt me to declare my last sentiments. You are, in my eyes, the great and good man. May you long enjoy the love, veneration, and esteem of these States, whose liberties you have asserted by your virtues." From the very same principle, he could resist all importunities to spare from merited punishment, the interesting André, the companion and agent of Arnold, because he firmly believed that unerring justice required him to suffer.

How tenderly and truly was this principle displayed in his own private affairs in his last will, at the close of his glorious career! "All my debts, of which there are but few, and none of magnitude, are to be punctually and speedily paid." "Upon the decease of my wife, it is my will and desire that all the slaves whom I hold in my own right, shall receive their freedom. To emancipate them during her life would, though earnestly wished by me, be attended with such insuperable difficulties, on account of their intermixture by marriage with the dower negroes, as to excite the most painful sensations, if not disagreeable consequences to the latter; it not being in my power, under the tenure by which the dower negroes are held, to manumit them. And whereas, among those who will receive freedom according to this devise, there may be some who, from old age or bodily infirmities, will be unable to support themselves, it is my will and desire, that all these shall be comfortably clothed and fed by my heirs while they live. And I do hereby expressly forbid the sale, or transportation out of the Commonwealth, (of Virginia) of any slave I may die possessed of, under any pretence whatever." Well may Virginia be proud in displaying this character and example of her noble Son! Thus, under the consciousness of the great All-seeing eye, never forgotten, the light of justice shone throughout his life, purely, brightly, steadily to the end.

Nor was he less distinguished by our other great principle of Love. Love, which wrought in beneficence to the needy, in forgiveness to the penitent, in the kindest and most liberal constructions of the motives and characters of other men, in

the strongest emotions of private friendship, and in what is perhaps one of its highest exhibitions, in the perfect toleration of the religious conscience of mankind. Strong and binding was this cement of his edifice. Plastic and soft as the purest gum in its application. Grasping, and tenacious, and abiding as the sculptured adamant which it united to form the whole outward aspect of his noble structure. See this beautiful principle of Masonry, in his instructions to his agent, while absent with the armies of his country: "Let the hospitality of the house, with respect to the poor, be kept up. Let no one go hungry away. If any of this kind of people should be in want of corn, supply their necessities, provided it does not encourage them in idleness. I have no objection to your giving my money in charity to the amount of forty or fifty pounds a year, when you think it well bestowed. What I mean by having no objection is, that it is my desire that it should be done. You are to consider that neither myself nor wife is now in the way to do these good offices."

In his most intimate domestic relation, how perfectly did this blessed principle govern! Forty years he passed most happily with the wife of his choice. She was indeed an object worthy of his love. Her character was an honor to his name. Exemplary in her whole deportment, bright in her acts of kindness, unostentatious and sincere in her piety, she adorned every station in which his increasing greatness placed her. No Mason ever adjourned from labor to refreshment, to find a lovelier home, or a happier companion. Well does he say to her, when called to his country's service, and refreshment must again give place to labor: ("I should enjoy more real happiness in one month with you at home, than I have the most distant prospect of finding abroad, if my stay were to be seven times seven years. It was utterly out of my power to refuse this appointment, without exposing my character to such censures as would have reflected dishonor upon myself, and given pain to my friends. This, I am sure,

could not and ought not to be pleasing to you, and must have lessened me considerably in my own esteem."

How deeply affecting was the display of this principle of his action, in his last separation from his faithful companions in arms! "At noon," says Marshall, "the principal officers of the army assembled; soon after which their beloved commander entered the room. His emotions were too strong to be concealed. Turning to them, he said: 'With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy, as your former ones have been glorious and honorable. I cannot come to each of you, to take my leave, but shall be obliged if each of you will come and take me by the hand.' General Knox, being nearest, turned to him. Washington, incapable of utterance, grasped his hand and embraced him. In the same affectionate manner he took leave of each succeeding officer. The tear of manly sensibility was in every eye, and not a word was articulated to interrupt the dignified silence and the tenderness of the scene. Leaving the room, he passed through the corps of Light Infantry and walked to White Hall, where a barge waited to convey him to Paulus Hook. The whole company followed in mute and solemn procession, with dejected countenances, testifying feelings of delicious melancholy, which no language can describe. Having entered the barge, he turned to the company, and waving his hat, bade them a silent adieu. They had expressed to him, on a previous occasion, the distinct answer which their hearts would then have uttered, declaring that they had 'engaged with him in the service of their country from the purest love and attachment to the rights and liberties of human nature,' and assuring their Commander 'that they reciprocate his affectionate expressions with the greatest sincerity of which the human heart is capable.'"

The great Masonic principle, of persevering FIDELITY in appointed duty, also shone most conspicuously in him. Never was a man more truly right upon principle,—or more sys-

tematically persevering in following his chosen principle of right. A perfect recognition of the great subordinating rule of *order* governed him in every step and act. He learned, in every succeeding gradation, in the work of edifying the human character, and building the great moral temple, to be equally faithful in that which was least, and that which was much. And his work, from the time that he mounted the wall as an apprentice, to the glorious day when, as a wise master builder, he set the key of his arch, and brought forth the topstone of his excellence as a man, was eminently distinguished by uninterrupted, and the most modest fidelity in every duty to which he was called. From his first entrance upon public life, when but one and twenty years of age, supreme confidence was placed in him, as a military commander, by his native State; a confidence which was never forfeited or withdrawn. On his return from his first series of early campaigns when yet a youth, "by a vote of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, the Speaker was directed to return their thanks to Col. WASHINGTON on behalf of the Colony, for the distinguished military services which he had rendered to his country." As soon as Col. WASHINGTON took his seat, the Speaker, in obedience to his order, and following the impulses of his own generous and grateful heart, discharged the duty with great dignity, but with such warmth of coloring and strength of expression as entirely confounded the young hero. He rose to express his acknowledgments for the honor; but such was his trepidation and confusion, that he could not give distinct utterance to a single syllable. He blushed, stammered, and trembled, for a second;—when the Speaker relieved him by a brilliant and happy rejoinder: "Sit down, Mr. WASHINGTON: your modesty equals your valor, and that surpasses the power of any language that I possess." All through his life this beautifully modest fidelity distinguished his course. For eight years and a half in command of the American armies, he was never once absent from the army for a visit to his own house. He saw his beloved Mount Vernon but once during this period, when in the line of his mili-

tary journey to Yorktown, in Virginia. In the midst of the war, Congress conferred upon him the unlimited powers of a Dictator, granted in consequence of their "perfect reliance on his wisdom, vigor, and uprightness." But in the fulfilment of these unrestricted powers, (says Mr. Sparks), "fearless in the discharge of duty, and never shrinking from responsibility, he was at the same time free from the vanity, which too often besets men in high stations, of gaining personal consequence by making himself felt as the centre and moving spring of the operations over which he had control. No man was more vigilant in seeing that everything was properly done. But he was willing that others should be the agents or the contrivers, and that every one should have the credit and praise of his worthy deeds." "He was a silent, thoughtful man," says a grand-daughter of his wife, a member of his family. "He spoke little generally—never of himself; I never heard him relate a single act of his life during the war." Bishop White says of him, "Although I was often in company with this great man, and had the honor of dining often at his table, I knew no man who so carefully guarded against the discoursing of himself or of his acts, or of anything that pertained to him. And it has occasionally occurred to me when in his company, that if a stranger to his person were present, he would never have known from anything said by the President, that he was conscious of having distinguished himself in the eye of the world."

This was the spirit of his fidelity from youth to age. "In the midst of scenes of trials and discouragements he stood firm. His letters in the darkest period breathe the same determined spirit, and are marked by the same confidence, calmness and forethought, which distinguish them on all occasions. When asked what he would do in case of the continued success of the invaders? Faithful to the cause of liberty, he said, 'We will retreat beyond the Susquehanna River—and thence, if necessary, to the Alleghany Mountains.' In the midst of the dismal winter of 1776, he wrote to the President of Congress: 'My feelings as an officer and a man have been such as to force me to say, that no person ever had a

greater choice of difficulties to contend with than I have. It may be thought that I am going a good deal out of the line of my duty to advise thus freely. A character to lose, an estate to forfeit, the inestimable blessings of liberty at stake, and a life devoted, must be my excuse.' "

To trace this great principle of character in all its manifestations, is impossible. I may be allowed to adduce a single extract illustrating it, from his Farewell Address: "In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old and affectionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish. But if I may even flatter myself that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good, this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare, by which they have been dictated. How far, in the discharge of my official duties, I have been guided by the principles which have been delineated, the public records and other evidences of my conduct must witness to you, and to the world. To myself, the assurance of my own conscience is, that I have at least believed myself to be guided by them. Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration, I am unconscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope, that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence, and that after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be, to the mansions of rest."

Thus he lived and triumphed, and the crowning of his fidelity with success gives us the permission to meet and commemorate his unparalleled greatness this day. Let it be the purpose of United Masons throughout this happy land, and in every succeeding age of our country's history,—to maintain and perpetuate the great truths and principles so happily expounded in his Farewell Address,—assuring the memory of our exalted brother, that to the utmost of our in-

fluence, union, harmony, co-operation and peace,—great tokens of our order, in opposition to all sectionism or sectarianism—shall be established over the whole extended soil, the wealth of which we all reap,—and the responsibility of which we must all bear.

Permit me to adduce one more illustration of WASHINGTON'S Masonic greatness. It is his distinct and constant maintenance of the AUTHORITY of RELIGION. Our honored Society maintains this open profession in carrying ever before us, and in our midst, with solemn reverence, the Holy Bible ; AN OPEN BIBLE. We have in our midst, this day, guarded by soldiers who look as if they had lived from WASHINGTON'S time to ours, the very Bible over which our exalted WASHINGTON uttered his first obligation of conformity to the Constitution of his country, as the Chief Magistrate of this Union. This venerated Bible is in the possession of St. John's Lodge in this City, who never allow it to leave their Lodge, but with a committee of their body, and a suitable guard of Continentals, whose privilege it is always to attend it—which Guard you see before you here.* And, as his whole life illustrated and displayed our other principles with constancy and power, so did it also this, Masonic reverence for the Divine revelation, and maintenance of the precepts and obligations of religion. From the commencement of his military career, a youth of 21 years old, he constantly maintained the services of religious worship in his camp. He remonstrated against the neglect of Virginia in providing chaplains for his army, and insisted with success upon their appointment. Among the first orders of that early campaign was his solemn prohibition of all profanity in the army. The same order he frequently repeated in the subsequent campaigns of the Revolution. His habitual regard for the Sabbath, and the public worship of God, and his own private personal worship, were among the most prominent facts of his character. When the Burgesses of Virginia appointed a day for fasting and prayer, in May, '74, to implore the Divine interposition in their heavy calamity, WASHINGTON records, in his

* The "Continentals," a Military Company of New York in the ancient military dress of the American army.

diary, little imagining that fourscore years after, this diary would remain, a striking evidence of his religious spirit, that he "went to church and fasted all day." The same member of his family, from whom I have already quoted, says of him: "He never omitted attending church in the morning, unless detained by indisposition. The afternoon was spent in his own room, at home—but visiting and visitors were prohibited for that day. No one in church attended to the services with more reverential aspect." How valuable the example to all the rulers of the nation who have come after him! The records of his orderly book display continually, his supreme and constant regard for religion. Ordering attention to the services of the appropriate Chaplains, he says to his army: "The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary, but especially so in times of public distress and danger. The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier, defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country." Again: "That the troops may have an opportunity of attending public worship, the General, in future, excuses them from fatigue duty on Sundays. The General is sorry to be informed that the foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing,—a vice heretofore little known in an American army,—is growing into fashion. He hopes that the officers will, by example as well as influence, endeavor to check it, and that both they and the men will reflect that we can have little hope of the blessing of Heaven on our arms, if we insult it by our impiety and folly." I might vastly multiply such quotations as these, were it necessary, to illustrate the religious habit of his mind. When the war was concluded, he says in his general orders, "The chaplains with the several brigades will render thanks to Almighty God for all his mercies, particularly for his overruling the wrath of man to his own glory, and causing the rage of war to cease among the nations." In his different letters, he speaks most earnestly to the same effect: "The hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an Infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked,

that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations." Again: "I am sure there never was a people who had more reason to acknowledge a Divine interposition in their affairs than those of the United States, and I should be pained to believe, that they have forgotten that agency, which was so often manifested during our Revolution, or that they failed to consider the omnipotence of that God who is alone able to protect them."

His addresses to the various religious bodies of the United States all testify the same feeling and spirit. Religion in sincerity, but without bigotry, was his principle. Religion in its spirit, but without sectarianism, was his habit. He says in one of these addresses: "It would ill become me to conceal the joy I have felt in perceiving the fraternal affection which appears to increase every day among the friends of genuine religion. It affords an edifying prospect, indeed, to see Christians of every denomination dwell together in more charity, and conduct themselves in respect to each other with a more Christian-like spirit, than they have done in any former age, or in any other nation." Again he says: "Of all the animosities which have existed among mankind, those which are caused by difference of sentiments in religion appear to be the most inveterate and distressing, and ought most to be deprecated. I was in hopes that the enlightened and liberal policy which has marked the present age, would at least have reconciled Christians of every denomination, so far as that we should never see religious disputes carried to such a pitch as to endanger the peace of society." And again he says: "If I could now conceive that the general government might ever be so administered as to render the liberty of conscience insecure, I beg you will be persuaded that no one would be more zealous than myself to establish effectual barriers against the horrors of spiritual tyranny and every species of religious persecution. You doubtless remember that I have often expressed my sentiments, that every man, conducting himself as a good citizen, and being accountable to God alone for his religious opinions, ought to be protected in

worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of his own conscience." Again, to the Roman Catholics in the United States, he says: "Your fellow-citizens will not forget the patriotic part which you took in the accomplishment of their Revolution and the establishment of their Government, or the important assistance which they received from a nation in which the Roman Catholic religion is professed. May the members of your Society in America, animated alone by the pure spirit of Christianity, and still conducting themselves as the faithful subjects of our free Government, enjoy long temporal and spiritual felicity." Well does Mr. Sparks say of him, "If a man who spoke, wrote and acted as a Christian through a long life, who gave numerous proofs of his believing himself to be such, and who was never known to say, write, or do anything contrary to his professions,—if such a man is not to be ranked among the believers in Christianity, it would be impossible to establish the point by any train of reasoning. He was educated in the Episcopal Church, to which he always adhered; and my conviction is, that he believed in the fundamental doctrines of Christianity, as usually taught in that Church, according to his understanding of them, but without a particle of intolerance, or disrespect for the faith and modes of worship adopted by Christians of other denominations." Rarely was there ever a more perfect illustration of the great Masonic principle upon this subject—a principle which may well be summed up in the two great commandments of the Divine Author of Christianity: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and mind, and strength, and thy neighbor as thyself."

This was the character of our exalted brother, as viewed in the light of the principles of our fraternity—a character of which we are justly proud, in his relation to us. A character, the living example and influence of which we would love to perpetuate;—a character the authority of which we desire Americans ever to vindicate, and wish, to the utmost of our power, to exalt and honor. Never may a Mason violate the principles, or stain the reputation of WASHINGTON.

Never may a Mason unite in breaking a single stone of that glorious Union of States, which his fidelity in war obtained, which his wisdom in administration cemented, and which his whole life and character honored and adorned. Let us unite to inscribe his living pattern upon the mind of our posterity. In youth, the perfect pattern of submission and system for our young. In maturity, the very model of patriotism and fidelity by which every citizen should be fashioned. In age, the noble specimen of ripened dignity, and humble faith descending to the tomb, without a cloud upon his character,—without a single weakness of senility,—and with a bright and rational hope, of an inheritance where the wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament,—and the brethren of the redeemed family of God, shall meet in a dwelling-place of glory—rejoicing forever in their Father's House.

These interesting ceremonies were closed by a truly eloquent and impressive Masonic benediction, pronounced by our venerable brother, the R. W. and Rev. Salem Town, D.D., Grand Chaplain.

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