THE CENTENNIAL.

tion was over. There was no danger to be feared. And yet here we find the General dressed in a complete coat of mail covered with a Mexican blanket to keep it from rusting, and in an attitude which plainly indicates that

GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1789.

he is spoiling for a fight. The historian who would pass over such a thing as that without mentioning it at all is unworthy of any credence whatever, and yet you will find nothing about it in any of the standard histories of the United States. It is a good thing for historical research that this centennial has brought all these old "historical portraits" to light. They may teach us a thing or two worth knowing.

GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1789.

This portrait, which is the last of the series of the "historical pictures" of Gen. Washington in 1789, is chiefly remarkable as tending to show that hydrocephalus is not necessarily a fatal disease. Gen. Washington died from something entirely different. In the original colored portrait the coat is scarlet and the uniform is that of a Major-General in the British army during the Crimean campaign. That proves conclusively that Washington, having whipped the British out of their boots, had no further hard feelings against them. He was magnanimous to a degree. He was no anglomaniac, but, on the other hand, neither was he too stuck on a home-spun coat just because it happened to be the same kind as that worn by an Englishman in the Crimea. If it suited his complexion, that was all he cared about.

The owner of the above "historical portraits" has very kindly had many copies made of them, and they will be sold to any one for a humble quarter each as mementoes of the centennial. They are unique, and will doubtless prove of great value to future historians who will have the courage to show by them what kind of a dandy Gen. Washington actually was. They are neatly mounted on cardboard, and under each one is the legend:

GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON.
1789.

WASHINGTON AS A FREE MASON.

Facts Not Generally Known About his Career as a Member of the Ancient Order.

The relations of Washington with the ancient order of Masons form an interesting feature in his career. The first lodge of the fraternity established in this country was organized about the date of his birth, and when he took command of the Continental army there were several grand lodges in successful operation. The first regular lodge was established in Boston in 1733, under a deputation from the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England. It was organized by Henry Price, who was appointed Provincial Grand Master of New England, and within the following year, under an extension of his authority over all America, regular warrants were granted to lodges in other portions of New England and in Philadelphia and Charleston; so that "when Washington was yet in his swaddling clothes,"

says Hayden, the Masonic historian, "the star of American Masonry, which arose in the East about the period of his birth, may be said to have rested over the place where the young child was."

Before Washington had reached his maturity a lodge was organized in Fredericksburg, where he then lived, and in 1752 he sought admission as a member. The record shows that he was initiated on Nov. 6, and it also contains the following entries:

Received of Mr. George Washington for his entrance, £3 9s.
March 3, 1753.—George Washington passed Fellow-craft.
Aug. 4, 1753.—George Washington raised Master Mason.

The record book is still preserved, and the Bible on which he was sworn is a small quarto volume bearing date: "Cambridge, printed by John Field, Printer to the University, 1688."

The Bible on which Washington took his first oath as President belonged to St. John's Lodge, New York.

Washington was initiated a few months before he was 21, which was unusual if not without precedent in this country. A few months after he became a Master Mason he was summoned to Williamsburg by the colonial Governor and requested to bear a message to the French commander who had taken possession of a part of the English territory on the Ohio River, the purport of which was that such territory should be abandoned. This duty was difficult and dangerous, as Washington had to pass through a mountainous region occupied by hostile Indians, and would probably encounter the hostility of the French at the end of his journey. When asked if he would undertake the perilous enterprise, he replied promptly: "For my part, I can answer that I have a constitution hardy enough to encounter and undergo the most severe toils, and, I flatter myself, resolution to face what any man dares." With a guide and a half dozen backwoodsmen he started Nov. 30, 1753, and after months of hardship, hunger, peril, and almost every form of privation, he returned and delivered the French commandant's answer, it being a refusal to comply with the demand. Then followed the French war, in which Washington bore a conspicuous part.

During the war he and his military brethren organized lodges wherever his command happened to be located; and near where his headquarters were at Charlestown, Va., is a cave known to this day as "Washington's Masonic Cave" in which the lodge met.

When the Revolution came Washington did not abate his interest in Masonry, and it was doubtless greatly because of his zeal in behalf of the order that so many of the heroes of that period became conspicuous Masons. Military lodges were established in the camps of his army, and he attended them whenever his duties permitted. Among the most conspicuous Masons of the period were Peyton Randolph, who was Grand Master of Virginia; Edmund Randolph, Governor of Virginia and Grand Master; Benjamin Franklin, Master of the first warranted lodge in Pennsylvania; Gen. David Wooster, Master of the first lodge in Connecticut; Gen. James Jackson, Governor and Grand Master of Georgia; William Richardson Davie, Governor and Grand Master of North Carolina; John Sullivan, Major-General and first Grand Master of New Hampshire; Richard Caswell, Governor and Grand Master of North Carolina; Gen. Rufus Putnam, first Grand Master of Ohio; Gen. Mordecai Gist, Grand Master of South Carolina; Aaron Ogden, Governor of New Jersey, and a number of others hardly less distinguished.

In December, 1778, Washington visited Philadelphia, where Congress was in session, and while there the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania celebrated the festival of St. John. Washington was present and held the chief place in the procession, being supported on his right by the Grand Master, and on his left by the Deputy Grand Master. The procession, consisting of about 300 Masons, marched to Christ Church, where a Masonic sermon for the benefit of the poor was preached by the Rev. William Smith, Grand Secretary. During his sermon he referred to the honored presence of Washington, and an ode written to commemorate the occasion by Col. John Park, contained the following lines:

See Washington, he leads the train,
'Tis he commands the grateful strain;
See every crafted son obeys
And to the godlike brother homage pays.
* * * * * * *
Let Fame resound him through the land,
And echo, 'Tis our Master Grand:
* * * * * * *
'Tis he our ancient craft shall sway,
Whilst we, with three times three, obey.

On June 24, when Washington's headquarters were established at New Windsor on the Hudson, near Newburgh, the American Union Lodge met at Nelson's Point and proceeded to West Point, where they celebrated St. John's Day. A number of the officers and soldiers of the army participated. The procession moved to the Robinson House, where it was joined by Washington and his family. Addresses were delivered and a dinner given. After the festivities Washington returned to his barge, attended by the wardens and a crowd of the fraternity, the band playing "God Save America."

It was in one of these military lodges that Lafayette was initiated, and it is said Washington was present and took part.

There were also a number of military lodges organized by the British troops, and on two occasions the Masonic property pertaining to them were captured by the Americans. On one of these occasions the lodge chest fell into the hands of Washington's army. He directed that a guard of honor, under command of a prominent officer, take charge of the chest and convey it to the British lines. This was done under flag of truce, the regiment to which the property belonged presenting arms and cheering as the chest was conveyed along the line. On another occasion, while the American army was camped in New Jersey, a foraging expedition captured some prisoners, and with their baggage was found a Templar's sash and Master's apron. These articles were taken to Washington's tent. He ordered an inquiry, and had the prisoner who owned the property brought before him. The latter was treated with special kindness by the Commander-in-Chief, and the property returned to him and the prisoner paroled and sent to England. The soldier thus released died soon after; but before dying he committed the sash and apron to a brother Mason with the request that he send them to Montgomery Lodge in New York "as a memento to the fraternity of the kindness and fraternal regard of George Washington toward an humble brother and a stranger."

After the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Washington, Lafayette, Marshall, and Nelson attended a meeting of Yorktown Lodge, No. 52, together.

The knowledge of Washington's interest in Masonry soon reached France, and the firm of Watson & Cassoul both of whom were Masons, induced the nuns in a convent at Nantes to manufacture a Masonic sash and apron of the finest satin, wrought with gold and silver tissue, on which American and French flags were combined with various Masonic emblems, all executed with skill and at considerable cost, which they sent as a present, accompanied by a letter expressive of their admiration and reverence. The sash and apron were often worn by Washington, and after his death they were delivered by his legatees to Washington Lodge, No. 22, at Alexandria, Va., where they are still preserved.

In 1784 Lafayette came again to America, and brought, as a present to Washington, a handsome and costly Masonic apron of white satin, beautifully ornamented with needlework in colored silk, and lined with white silk. Mme. Lafayette, the apron, with some Masonic jewels, were presented in a highly finished rosewood box, curiously inlaid with Masonic emblems. The apron was presented to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, after Washington's death, where it may still be seen, and the box is occasionally exhibited at Masonic festivals.

The prominence of Washington in the order began to give it something of a political complexion, and dissensions arose in consequence. Resolutions were often adopted by the various lodges endorsing his political policy, committees were sent to him with addresses, and a movement was set on foot to make him General Grand Master of all the lodges in this country. This was never done, however, and Washington remained only a Master Mason, but became Grand Master of the local lodge at Alexandria. When he was elected President party spirit had developed to such an extent as to divide the Fraternity into two almost equal parts, those who favored Washington's political policy formed a separate lodge, or rather retained the old warrant, while those opposed separated.

The Society of Cincinnati was then organized, Gen. Knox being the leading spirit in the movement. The charter provided that only officers of the Revolutionary army and their lineal descendants should be eligible as members. It grew rapidly, but its exclusive and hereditary features rendered it unpopular, and the Legislatures of several States revoked the charters granted, the Legislature of New Jersey going so far as to provide that no one who remained in the society should be eligible to office or exercise any of the rights of citizenship. The organization was regarded as tending to establish hereditary distinctions in this country which were foreign to the spirit of American institutions and in imitation of the title system of monarchy, which was hateful to the Republicans of America. It was through the influence of Washington that the constitution of the society was changed, the hereditary feature being abandoned. But before this was done the Society of Tammany was established in New York as an offset to the more aristocratic order of the Cincinnati. The latter was organized purely for social and patriotic purposes, and it is said that the suggestion of it was taken from the Masonic sermon delivered in Philadelphia by the Rev. Mr. Smith on the occasion already described. It was closely allied to Masonry, and was not intended to have political complexion. But Washington's influence was dominant in everything where his interest was enlisted; his character was so strong and aggressive that most of those associated with him in any way unconsciously shared his political opinions and reflected them. Tammany assumed a political cast early in its career, and has so remained, surviving the revolutions and ravages of a century, and now, perhaps, more powerful than ever before.

After Washington's retirement to private life he often attended the lodge at Alexandria, participated in its festivals, and continued to manifest an interest in the order. The Masonic rites were performed at his burial in the most affecting manner, and the relics of his regalia, which are still in the lodge, are preserved with unabated veneration.

AT WASHINGTON'S DEATHBED.

The Last Hours of the Great Man Described by an Eyewitness.

From the Globe-Democrat.

The following circumstantial account of the last illness and death of Gen. George Washington was noted by Tobias Lear on the Sunday following his death, which happened on Saturday evening, Dec. 14, 1799, between the hours of 10 and 11:

On Thursday, Dec. 12, the General rode out to his farms at about 10 o'clock, and did not return home till past 3. Soon after he went out the weather became very bad, rain, hail, and snow falling alternately, with a cold wind. When he came in I carried some letters to him to frank, intending to send them to the Post Office. He franked the letters, but said the weather was too bad to send a servant to the office that evening.

I observed to him that I was afraid he had got wet; he said no, his great coat had kept him dry. But his neck appeared to be wet; the snow was hanging on his hair. He came to dinner without changing his dress. In the evening he appeared as well as usual. A hoarseness had set in, which became at length so much increased as to prevent the General from sliding out as usual. He had taken cold undoubtedly from being so much exposed the day before, and complained of having a sore throat; he had a hoarseness, which increased in the evening, but he made light of it, as he would never take anything to carry off a cold, always observing, "Let it go as it came." In the evening, the papers having come from the Post Office, he sat in the room with Mrs. Washington and myself reading them till about 9 o'clock, and when he met with anything which he thought diverting or interesting he would read it aloud. He desired me to read to him the debates of the Virginia Assembly on the election of a Senator and Governor, which I did. On his retiring to bed he appeared to be in perfect health, except the cold, which he considered as trifling. He had been remarkably cheerful all the evening.

About 2 or 3 o'clock on Saturday morning he awoke Mrs. Washington and informed her that he was very unwell and had an ague. She observed that he could scarcely speak and breathed with difficulty, and she wished to get up and call a servant, but the General would not permit her lest she should take cold. As soon as the day appeared the woman, Caroline, went into the room to make a fire, and the girl desired that Mr. Rawlins, one of the overseers, who was used to bleeding the people, might be sent for to bleed him before the doctor could arrive. I was sent for, and went to the General's chamber, where Mrs. Washington was up, and related to me his being taken ill between 2 and 3 o'clock, as before stated.

I found him breathing with difficulty and hardly able to utter a word intelligibly. I went out instantly and wrote a line to Dr. Plask and sent it with all speed. Immediately I returned to the General's chamber, where I found him in the same situation I had left him. A mixture of molasses, vinegar, and butter was prepared, but he could not swallow a drop. Whenever he attempted it he was distressed, convulsed, and almost suffocated. Mr. Rawlins came in soon after sunrise and prepared to bleed him. When the arm was ready the General, observing that Rawlins appeared agitated, said, with difficulty, "Don't be afraid." and after present had