

Weak men swear off. Strong men quit.

"Tact criticism" is much used in Germany. The other kind leads to the jail.

Rhetoric wedding fees are in sight for the minister who is urging women to do the proposing.

The trouble with the peace society seems to be that they want peace, but are not willing to fight for it.

After all man has a great advantage. He doesn't have to use a gauzy handkerchief four inches square.

A man's life, as estimated by the courts, is worth \$5,000. A prize bull has just been sold for \$10,000.

Some women are so addicted to the habit of not feeling well that they wouldn't feel well if they felt otherwise.

Secretary Shaw once sawed wood for a living. Sawing wood and saying nothing is an excellent formula for health.

Jesus' wife, of Oklahoma, has named his infant daughter Barbara. It won't be long till the people are calling her "Barb."

A young man imagines that a girl who is an interest in his welfare, when in reality she is interested only in his farewell.

Sir Thomas Lipton has ordered Shamrock III. As we have said before, Sir Tom is a "jolly good fellow" and a "dead game sport."

Violinist Kubelik has to hold hands with somebody before he can play. This is a peculiarity that he shares in common with the grass widow.

The Standard Oil office boy of a few years back is now several times a millionaire. He didn't spend all his energy soldering the work on the other office boy.

Ever since the day he wrote "What's the Matter with Kansas?" William Allen White has been telling the people what is the matter with the country's greatest men.

There is a magazine story of a man who was a poor newspaper worker two years ago, but who is now the executive head of a \$3,000,000 oil company. Poor newspaper men are usually driven out of the business into something of this sort.

A little British school boy made rather a natural mistake when he said that the man who looked on the bright side of things was called an optimist, but the man who looked on the dark side was called a pianist. A little girl not so far away said that a usurper was a man who could find use for other people's money.

Danger lies in everything. Here is O. A. Gilbert, of Montrose, N. Y., who is dead from handling too much money. He was a banker and in taking in bills over his counter he became infected with the smallpox, his wife nursed him and she also took it. The result of it is that both of them are dead. This is an afflictive circumstance and yet it will not prevent us from continuing to receive subscriptions. The risk is great but the reward is certain.

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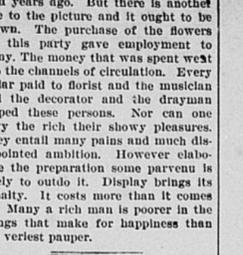
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WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.



THE observance of the birthday anniversary of George Washington has become more a national tribute to the spirit of patriotism than a memorial to a personality. The name of Washington is linked indissolubly with the revolution out of which sprang the republic of the United States, but the union of the man and the event is so close that they are practically interchangeable in the thought of the present time and will become more so as the years roll on.

The character of Washington happily lends itself readily to this phase of idealization. There were no peaks of pre-eminence in his equipment as a man and conversely no valleys of insignificance, and this admirable and unique equipoise of power and attainment qualified him for the conspicuous place he occupies in the hearts of the American people. The scrutiny of careful historians into the details of his life and the conclusions of students of his character have been unable to frame a more comprehensive or exact expression of the sum of his individuality than that contained in the familiar lines—

First in Peace,
First in War,
First in the hearts of his countrymen.

These words have become so common because of frequent, and often flippant, utterance, that their deep significance has become blunted by playing adapted applications. Washington was first in war, and in a war that won the freedom of this nation, because he achieved the distinction through a demonstration of exceptional courage, fortitude and persistence. He was first against obstacles, defeat, the heaviest blows of his adversaries, the disrupting plots of his jealous enemies at home, the strongest combinations of opposing factors of every kind because he kept before him always the inestimable prize of a nation's liberty which ultimate victory would achieve. He was first in peace because his ungenerous-able spirit was no less conspicuous than the wisdom and prudence of his counsel in matters of state, and because he resisted the most subtle and specious temptations and remained pure and uncorrupted to the end.

There have undoubtedly been many greater generals than Washington and many greater statesmen and men who have won a greater popular following, but there have been few men in history who have developed so many conspicuous qualities as Washington. His character was a unique combination of the best of the world's history. His critics have even gone so far as to ascribe the popular admiration merely to a "conventional acquiescence" in a patriotic fancy. It is well that such a dissimilarity of views has been expressed, because they have resulted in clear-cut comparisons which have supported the extreme measure of praise accorded to Washington.

The solemn, well-weighed verdict of the historians has fixed forever the stability and justice of Washington's fame. He is worthy the place of patron saint of the patriotism of the nation.

FROM WASHINGTON'S GARMENT.

His Waistcoat Buttons Made Into Cuff-Buttons.

A pair of pearl and gold cuff buttons which in the form of waistcoat buttons were owned by George Washington and worn by him upon the occasion of his inauguration as President and also at the marriage to Martha Dandridge Custis, are the valued possession of Prof. Leonard Wheat, of Virginia, who is now residing in Washington. These modest but greatly cherished relics of Washington are among the few personal belongings of the great patriot that have not been purchased or otherwise obtained by the government.

Prof. Wheat is a member of one of the oldest families in Clark county, Virginia, where resides a colony of descendants of the Washington family. The buttons were presented to Prof. Wheat by Henry Lewis, a descendant of the great-grandfather of Gen. Washington.

Mr. Lewis was Prof. Wheat's closest friend and neighbor from 1878 until the death of the former's father, and, as he says, the New York Herald, it was when Mr. Lewis was arranging for the transfer to the United States government of the Washington estate that he presented the buttons to Prof. Wheat.

Prof. Wheat obtained from Mr. Lewis and his wife a written guaranty that the buttons had been the property of George Washington and had been worn by him on several state occasions, notably at his inauguration as first President of the United States, and also at his wedding.

The buttons are of unique design, and in diameter about the size of a silver half dollar. Evidence of their authenticity is engraved on the reverse side of the buttons, and reads as follows: "Geo. W. from H. L. D. L. Property of George Washington."

Washington as a Drinking Man. Every one drank in the days of Washington, and the father of his country always had wine on his table. Nowhere is it stated that he ever drank to excess, although he usually consumed five glasses of Madeira wine at a dinner. During his youth he was a very fair politician, and among the items of his election expenses when he was a candidate for the House of Burgesses of Virginia were a hoghead and a barrel of whisky, forty-five gallons of wine and forty-three gallons of beer.

George Washington was simp' in his tastes, and during his youth he was an enormous eater, but was not particular as to what he had. He wanted plain food and plenty of it. During his later years he ate very little. His breakfast at Mount Vernon was of corn cakes, honey and tea, with possibly an egg, and after that he ate no more until dinner.

He kept, however, a good table, and usually had friends with him. His table manners were not of the best. I have a

CARE OF SHEEP IN WINTER.



Sheep are tender, and but for their dense covering of wool could not endure our severe winters. In the wild state the lambs are not produced until the weather is powdered snow, and the conditions somewhat, and lambs come early; but they are not well protected with wool covering, and require warmth. This fact must not be overlooked when the ewes are due to lamb.

TO DRY OFF A DAIRY COW.

To dry off a dairy cow, it is recommended that the animal be put upon rather dry food and the quantity of milk withdrawn at each meal should be gradually lessened—in other words, a little milk should always be left behind in the udder. After a few days only as much should be withdrawn as is found necessary in order to relieve the animal of an uncomfortable pressure of the milk glands. In addition to this the cow may be given a quart of powdered alum in her drinking water twice daily, and the udder should be rubbed with an ointment consisting of one drachm of belladonna extract to an ounce of lard.

ANALYZING SOILS.

Soil Analysis as a Guide to the Use of Fertilizers is discussed in a recent press bulletin issued by the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. This is a question of much practical importance, for it is a prevailing notion among farmers that by analyzing a soil, tell something of its needs in the way of fertilizer. A soil analysis is very expensive, and when made would usually have very little value as a guide to the use of fertilizers, for even though the chemist has as yet discovered no reagent which possesses the same capacity for extracting plant food from the soil as that of the living tissues of the plant. The only practical way of learning the needs of a particular soil is to make a series of experiments with fertilizers, which combination of fertilizing materials will produce the greatest effect.

VALUE OF PROPER PLOWING.

Proper plowing is one of the marks of advanced agriculture. No country is better than the United States, and Americans, largely because we have the best plows in the world. The ancients merely scratched the top of their land with wooden plows, and the Chinese and Russian farmers do the same today; but American deep plowing has done much to improve the soil, and turn and pulverize the earth so that its tilth is improved a hundred fold. We do not have to go over our land so many times simply because we have better mechanical implements to do the work for us, and first time. Set the plow deep, and let it bring up the subsoil so it can be used for increasing the productivity of the crops. With good plowing we are prepared to raise better crops with less worry and labor during dry seasons than if we neglect or slight this all important work—The Cultivator.

DAIRY METHODS.

Methods of dairy feeding is the subject of a timely bulletin by the Pennsylvania Experiment Station. The winter months anything which helps to do with improved methods is especially valuable. The bulletin is made especially valuable because it has a brief and comprehensive summary, without which any bulletin is incomplete. The experiments conducted show that if we neglect or slight this all important work—The Cultivator.

WHAT A FARMER SHOULD RAISE.

No matter what line a farmer may specialize in, he ought to raise as much of his own living as possible. It should be his aim to be self-sufficient in his own needs. If his business is cattle raising, let him supply the local butcher, retaining a quarter of beef for home use. If he is raising grain or running a dairy, let him put a small part of his farm to alfalfa, clover, peas, artichokes and other crops that will keep him enough to glean his stubble between harvest and replowing. Select some of the best pigs and feed them on wheat till they are in good order and then turn them into sausage, ham, and lard. Don't eat fat meat.

Had No Personal Ambition.

Though Washington's career in the Revolution it will be seen that he had no opportunity for personal distinction as a commander. He was an unlucky general; fortune did not seem to smile upon him, and he had more defeats than victories. Long Island, White Plains, Brandywine, Germantown—all these were defeats; some of them disastrous. Monmouth was little more than a drawn battle, while to offset these, Trenton and Princeton, while brilliant in conception and execution and great in effect, were so small in the numbers engaged that they amounted to little more than successful skirmishes. And besides they were with Hessians and not with British regulars. Yorktown was, indeed, a great crowning success, but it was won with superior numbers and the honors had to be divided with the French.

A Valuable Relic.

Bushrod D. Washington, a horse painter of Chicago, who says that he is a descendant of the Washington family, owned the seal with which George Washington signed the death warrant of Maj. Andre.

Convenient Husbands.