



GEORGE WASHINGTON.

BY WILLIAM BISSON COBBE.

The father of his country took the greatest possible interest throughout his life in all matters relating to internal improvements, and based himself in furthering measures designed for the public good. There is now in existence in Norfolk, Va., or was a short time ago, an organization known as the Dismal Swamp company, of which George Washington was the first president, and its existence has been continued since his time. This company has for its object the drainage of the vast and fertile swamp lands of eastern North Carolina and Virginia, and the present Dismal Swamp canal was the outcome of that movement. Washington, in the enumeration of his assets, in a paper attached to his last will, mentions a large amount of stock held by him in the Dismal Swamp company, which had purchased a very large tract of the swamp, and all of which he more than once visited the property, which was then almost inaccessible, and which lies in near proximity to picturesque Lake Drummond, made in 1807 by Thomas Moore.

The fifteen years following his marriage are usually termed years of seclusion by the historians; yet in Washington took a most active part in political affairs in these years, was a member of the house of burgesses, and probably more than any other man contributed to the universal sentiment of hostility to the stamp act. Like Jefferson, he was not gifted in nature, but he was regarded as a man of the most profound knowledge upon affairs of state, and his counsels were received with the highest favor by his associates. The last nine years of the fifteen referred to, was that, from 1765 to 1774, were marked by almost constant agitation, ending in his election to congress, where he at once became chairman of

Washington lived here. The little state of New Jersey, as every schoolboy knows, was the scene of many stirring contests during the revolution, and almost every inch of soil and hamlet has, or claims to have, a landmark of which its inhabitants are very proud and delight to point out to visitors. While there is no doubt of the authenticity of the claims made for many of these places, they have certainly lost nothing by being associated with which they are surrounded. In many other parts of the country, however, some of these landmarks are very general and indistinct, and on the American people from a historical point of view have been neglected, apparently forgotten and allowed to decay and ruin. In the march of history and progress they have been lost sight of.

One of these is the old Berrian house at Rock Hill. It was the home that Washington resided for many months, and among other acts wrote his farewell address to the continental congress. The house is an old-fashioned structure, with large square rooms and low ceilings to retain the heat from the

Washington was an example in temperance. Charitable was his nature, he could with difficulty find excuse for extravagance in conduct or dissipation. In his boyhood he adopted a rule which he followed throughout his life: "Make no show of taking great delight in your victuals, neither did fault with what you eat." He was always a man of simple tastes at the table, eating cheerfully of what was set before him. His views on excess in drinking were frequently embodied in writing, and

SHERIFF'S TAX SALE

YATES PRECINCT, NO. 5. Alexander Irvine 50 acres land... 100

Monday, March 4th, 1895. Between the hours of 10 a. m. and 6 p. m., the following property to pay the taxes assessed against the same in the year 1894.

WHITES.

RICHMOND PRECINCT, NO. 1. Bolton N. B. (heirs) one town lot \$ 600

Washington was never a bright scholar at school and never was a learned man. He did not attempt to acquire a knowledge of the ancient languages, but he obtained a most intimate acquaintance with figures and was trained to methodical practical work, as the diary and detailed accounts he kept of his affairs throughout his life clearly proved.

Washington was a thoroughly practical and successful farmer, devoting to a universal rule of Virginia, being in being his own cooper and director, although, like them, he had a man who nominally filled that position, a legislator Patrick Henry sold of him in 1774, that "for solid information and sound judgment he was the greatest man in congress."

Washington was tall, and well proportioned, with a high forehead, and a large nose. He was also possessed of great strength, that continued through life, and in his youth he excelled in all manly exercises. Throughout his life as an expert horseman and excellent rider, he was treated affectionately and with admiration when riding a spirited animal.

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Sheriff's Tax Sale.

Warren Wm V. 7 acres land... 50

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COLORED.

RICHMOND PRECINCT, NO. 1. Ballard Lydia (heirs) 1 town lot... 200

Warren Wm V. 7 acres land... 50

Sheriff's Tax Sale.

Todd Andy 30 acres land... 100

Todd Andy 30 acres land... 100

COLORED.

RICHMOND PRECINCT, NO. 6. Blythe George 1 acre land... 100

Todd Andy 30 acres land... 100

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