

Poverty of Presidents.

If you will look back over the list, writes the Washington correspondent of the Cleveland (Ohio) Leader, you will see that from the beginning most of our Presidents have been poor men.

George Washington was perhaps the wealthiest of them and Lutherford B. Hayes will perhaps rank next. John Adams, at the age of 66, after twenty-six years of continuous public service, retired to his little estate at Quincy, Mass., with barely enough property to give him the needs of life on a farm.

Thomas Jefferson had to borrow something less than \$10,000 of a Richmond bank to pay his debts before he left the White House and the history of the last seventeen years of his life is one almost constant financial embarrassment.

President Madison left some property at the time of his death, but his widow, the peerless Dolley, was for a time dependent on the bread and meat furnished her by an old negro servant, and her last days were made easy only by Congress buying of her for \$10,000 the manuscript notes of the debates of the Constitutional Convention which Madison had taken.

President Monroe, though he declined, it is said, \$158,000 from the government for his public services, died very poor in New York. John Quincy Adams must have received over half a million dollars in government salaries, and he is one of the few Presidents who again took up the law after he left the White House.

He remained in retirement only about a year, and then entered the Lower House of Congress. After about sixteen years of service, there he died in the Capital in 1844, exclaiming, "This is the end of earth, I am content." Andrew Jackson gained nothing in wealth from the White House salary. It cost him, he says, every cent of it to pay his expenses, and the most of it he paid for his cotton crop in addition.

He returned to Washington at the close of his second term with just \$10 in his pocket, to find his term going to ruin, and himself so deeply in debt that he had to sell part of his land to go out. Van Buren was a close, cautious, money-making fellow. He got good law fees and began to learn economy while saving enough as a young man to get married.

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