



D. Edw. sc.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

THE
WASHINGTONIANA:

CONTAINING
A Sketch of the Life and Death
OF THE LATE

Gen. George Washington;

WITH
A COLLECTION OF ELEGANT
EULOGIES, ORATIONS, POEMS, &c.

SACRED TO HIS MEMORY.

ALSO,
AN APPENDIX,
COMPRISING ALL HIS MOST VALUABLE PUBLIC PAPERS,
AND HIS LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.

L A N C A S T E R :

Printed and Sold by WILLIAM HAMILTON, Franklin's Head,
in West King-Street.

1802.

be placed next the system of faith and religion which has been handed down from your ancestors.—In this you will find the words of eternal life, and in both those maxims of truth, morality, and policy, which will secure your individual, social, and national happiness.

LET us support our constitution, our laws, and the administration of our amiable and enlightened chief magistrate. He who never deceived has told us that ‘IT OUGHT TO INSPIRE UNIVERSAL CONFIDENCE,’ and while with reverence and an humble resignation, we submit to the late awful dispensation of providence ; and mingle our tears for the loss of the man “first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen,” let us in his words pray “that God would incline the “ hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination “ and obedience to government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, and that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and “ pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the “ divine author of our blessed religion, and without an humble “ imitation of whose example in these things, we can never “ expect to be a happy nation.”

Funeral oration on the death of general GEORGE WASHINGTON, delivered in the presbyterian church of Carlisle, to a crowded assembly of the military and other citizens. By ROBERT DAVIDSON, D. D.

Friends and fellow-citizens,

WE are this day assembled, to pay funeral honors to the late beloved chief of the armies of America,—general GEORGE WASHINGTON. The loss we have sustained by the decease of this illustrious man can best be estimated, by that

deep sentiment of grief which penetrates all our citizens, from the president of the United States to the humblest peasant.

POSTERITY will scarcely believe, that one man could have united in himself so many great and shining qualities,—could have been in every point of view so accomplished,—as to attract the high admiration and unbounded confidence of all ranks and descriptions of men, during so long a period; and while discharging the highest duties, and filling the highest stations to which he could have been exalted. Early did he begin his career of glory; and so remarkable were the first essays of his military genius, that a pious divine,* as if moved by a prophetic spirit, near half a century ago predicted, that his services would one day be highly important to his country.

WHEN these colonies found themselves aggrieved by the parent state, and driven to arms in defence of their dearest rights,—the grand council of our nation, as if directed by some heavenly impulse, unanimously appointed him to the command of their armies. Few and ill-provided were the troops committed to his care;—arduous beyond expression was the task assigned him, to face the veteran, brave, and disciplined forces of Britain, with a few thousand yeomanry, hastily collected, and unpractised in the science of arms. What greatness of mind,—what confidence in the justice of his cause,—what reliance on the God of armies,—were here displayed! At the head of a

* *The Rev. Samuel Davies, sometime president of the college in New-Jersey. The sentiment was advanced in a note to a sermon, preached by him, on religion and patriotism, to captain Overton's independent company of volunteers, raised in Hanover county, Virginia, August 17th, 1755.*

Speaking of the revival of a martial spirit, he says, "as a remarkable instance of this, I may point out to the public that heroic youth colonel Washington, whom I cannot but hope providence hath hitherto preserved in so signal a manner, for some important service to his country."

fluctuating army, sometimes almost dissolved in consequence of short enlistments, and at some critical moments nearly in total want of military stores,—how great must have been the firmness, and how vast the resources, of his active mind ! Unwilling to expose the life of a single soldier without necessity, or to risque an action without some good hope of success,—he was at the same time eager to seize every opportunity that offered, for striking some unexpected and decisive blow. To enter into particulars here cannot be expected : the faithful historian will do justice to the subject, in a full narrative of those campaigns, in which his patience was put to the severest trial, and his patriotism and fortitude most fully proved. In the gloomy periods of the revolution,—“ the times that tried men’s souls,”—when thousands were ready to despond,—his equanimity and perseverance gave animation to our troops and vigor to our councils. He infused as it were his own spirit into those that were placed under him, and may be said to have created as well as commanded the armies of America. Never did a people look up with more confidence, to any man placed at the head of their affairs, than we looked up to the father of our country. However threatening might be the aspect of the war,—as long as we heard that our Washington was alive, and his countenance still serene and wearing the placid smile of hope, we were confident that all would be well. Had we been deprived of him at a certain crisis, there was abundant reason to fear, our armies would have been dissolved, and our country brought to the brink of ruin ! But, thanks to a kind heaven ! that made his life and health its care ; he was preserved to see the arduous contest happily concluded.

As he had taken up arms, for the defence of his country, not for military fame ;—and as it was the height of his ambition, to see his country independent and her liberties established ;—so he cheerfully laid down his arms, and retired to his farm,* when the angel of peace bid the warrior rest. What numerous

* *With great propriety, therefore, is he stiled the American Cincinnatus, and those who partook in his toils, and nobly imitated his example, Cincinnati.*

congratulatory addresses were now presented to the savior of his country ! and how greatly admired were all his answers ; how dignified, and how modest ! how replete with excellent sentiments,—and especially those of gratitude to the great disposer of events, to whose favor he was always mindful to ascribe his victories ! I mention this, because it has always appeared to be one of the brightest traits in his character. He ever showed a profound reverence and sincere gratitude to that almighty being, who “ is governor among the nations,” and who “ raiseth up and casteth down at pleasure.”

HAPPY in his retirement,—in the contemplation of our national prosperity, and in the consciousness of a well-spent life,—he was again called by the unanimous voice of his country, to preside over her councils, and to contribute his aid to cement the union of the states. For the confederation was found on trial to be only a rope of sand ; and a new constitution and bond of union was absolutely necessary, to make us respectable abroad, and to secure a general co-operation and harmony at home. How much our illustrious Washington contributed to this good work, his grateful countrymen will long remember. Without this bond of union, we should have been, like some of the ancient rival states of Greece, engaged in perpetual quarrels among ourselves, and an easy prey to some bold invader. Under his wise and firm administration as first president of the United States, we enjoyed a great degree of peace and prosperity ;—while the fierce nations of Europe were seeking each other's destruction.

WHEN he had finished his course in this exalted station, he again retired to the shade of private life,—hoping never again to fill any public office.

BUT providence had something more for his chosen servant yet to do, before he should enjoy the repose of the grave. He must once more appear at the head of our armies. And we have reason to think, that his acceptance of this high command was of vast importance, both to call forth afresh the military spirit of his country, and to show foreign powers, that we know how to maintain, as we knew how to acquire, our independence.

BUT, ah ! how unexpectedly are we deprived of our accomplished chief ! How is the mighty fallen ! No rank, or power, no virtues, or honors, however pre-eminent, can save us from the great destroyer ! How exalted soever any man may have been, and however long and prosperously he may have lived,—the account must still be closed with the solemn sentence, he is here no more !

WEEP, O America ! thy loss is great, let thy tears be many ! for thy most accomplished and best-loved son is snatched away ! The heroic general, the patriotic statesman, the virtuous sage !—His glory was indeed complete. There is no merely human character, delineated in the page of history, round which shine in fuller radiance the beams of every soul-exalting virtue : we can scarcely conceive of any thing which could be added, to give it a brighter lustre. Although far advanced in years, and his active powers and military ardor somewhat perhaps abated,—yet still his glory was full-orbed ;—and like the setting sun, though less dazzling, still retained the same magnitude, as at its meridian elevation. Providence unwilling, (if I may be allowed the expression) that his glory should be tarnished in the least, by an exhibition of any of those weaknesses that are incident to extreme old age, removed him to a higher world, while yet his mental powers were entire, and his life active and useful. It was a saying of Solon, one of the wisest men of Greece, to one of the richest of kings, who wished to be complimented as the happiest of men, that, no man should be called fortunate or happy, before death had finished his course. Not a few, who once were honored, have outlived their fame, and at last sunk, unnoticed or despised, into the grave. Far otherwise the hero whose praises we celebrate : as he was great in life, so he was great and magnanimous in death ; and he is “ gone to the sepulchre of his fathers,” laden with honors. Never perhaps was the death of any man, in any age, more sincerely, more generally lamented. Every where is heard the voice of condolence and the language of eulogy ;—every where the sable tokens of mourning are seen !

WHAT an honor to a nation, to have given birth to such a man ; and to have his name, as a hero, a patriot, and a statesman, to adorn the first and brightest pages of her history !

How much soever, therefore, we may have cause to mourn ; let us be thankful that he has been called away, full of years, and with accumulated honors.

LET us see the hand of the Lord in all that befalls us ; and pray to him, “ whose arm is not weakened that it cannot save,” to raise up for us other Washingtons, to lead our armies, and to inspire our councils.

PATRIOTS of America, and military officers of every name ! view the great example that is set before you. Emulate the virtues of your departed chief ; and in due time, your heads will also be adorned with the wreath of honor. Here you will learn what is true and unfading glory. You will see, that it is not the man, who is led on by the blind impulse of ambition ;—who rushes into the midst of embattled hosts merely to show his contempt of death ; or who wastes fair cities and depopulates rich provinces,—to spread far the terrors of his name—who is admired and praised, as the true hero and friend of mankind ;—but the man, who, in obedience to the public voice, appears in arms for the salvation of his country, shuns no perils in a just cause, endeavors to alleviate, instead of encrease the calamities of war, and whose aim is to strengthen and adorn the temple of liberty, as resting on the immoveable basis of virtue and religion. The voice of justice, and the voice of suffering humanity, forbid us, to bestow the palm of true valor on the mad exploits of the destroyers of mankind. Our hero's delight was to save, not to destroy. His greatest glory is, that with small armies, and the loss of few lives, (compared with the wastes of other wars) he made his country free and happy.

MAY America, while she admires his virtues, follow his councils, and learn from his excellent writings those precepts of wisdom, which, through the blessing of God, may exalt her to the highest felicity, and glory !

MAY the great disposer of all events, when he takes away the fathers of our country, who were first in council and first in arms, raise up others, worthy to fill their places! And may he over-rule all that concerns us, for his glory, and the happiness of his people; and to his name be endless praises.

Extract from an eulogy, on general GEORGE WASHINGTON, pronounced at Boston, before the American academy of arts and sciences. By JOHN DAVIS, A. M.

IN common instances of mortality, when a father or friend returns to dust, we do not take our final adieu, though the funeral rites be accomplished. Grief first admits, then invites consolation, from conversing on the lives of the deceased: a recapitulation of their virtues and of their meritorious actions is like Ossian's music, at once, "pleasant and mournful to the soul."

WHEN the father of his country; when a nation's friend descends to the grave, it is fit that public commemorations should mingle with private condolence: that we should frequently recal to view his reverend image, and repeat our votive honors to him, who was never weary in contributing to our happiness.

WITH such impressions, my literary fathers and friends, you have appointed this solemn meeting: with such impressions only, could I prevail on myself to attempt the task, which it has been your pleasure to assign to me.

DEATH has frequently taken a distinguished victim from the circle of your association. You have mourned the loss of the venerable Bowdoin, your revered president, your liberal patron, the friend and promoter of all that was excellent and pure: the public spirited, the munificent Hancock: the classical, eloquent Cooper: Clarke, in whom shone forth all the beauties of holi-