

A Funeral Oration

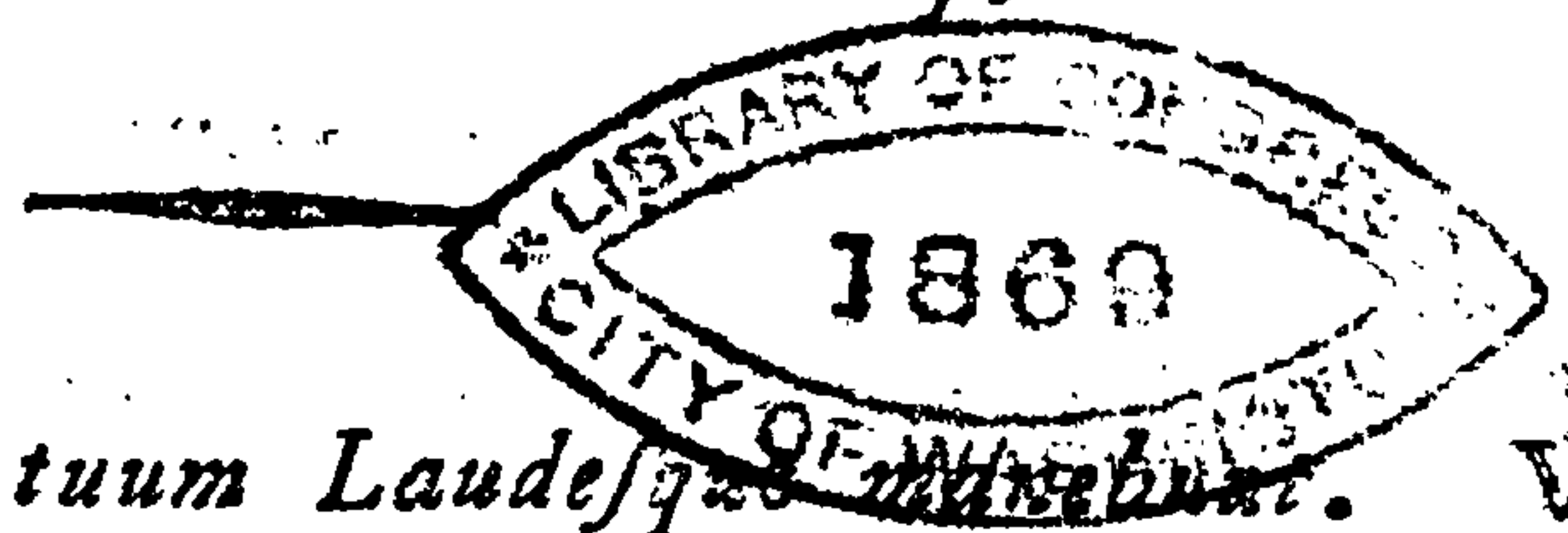
Commemorative of the illustrious VIRTUES
of the late GREAT and GOOD

GENERAL WASHINGTON;

The FATHER of his COUNTRY; and the FRIEND of MAN;

Delivered to a respectable Congregation of the Citizens of
Fredericktown, on Saturday the Twenty-second of Feb-
ruary, 1800. ——— Agreeable to the Proclamations
of the President of the United States and the Governor
of Maryland—A Copy of which was requested for publi-
cation by the Audience.

By SAMUEL KNOX, A. M. Minister of the Gospel; —
and Principal of the Frederick Academy.



Semper Honos Nomenque tuum Laudeſq; celebrant. Virg.

F R E D E R I C K T O W N :

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TO

The FRIENDS of pure REPUBLIC-
ANISM; — the LOVERS of genuine, ra-
tional LIBERTY; — and the ADMIR-
ERS of those Principles which immortalis'd our
WASHINGTON — throughout the UNI-
TED STATES; and over the WORLD; —
the following EULOGY is, most respectfully,
INSCRIBED by their

most devoted,

most obedient

and very humble servant,

The AUTHOR.



FUNERAL ORATION

ON

GENERAL WASHINGTON, as delivered

on Saturday the Twenty-second of February,

Eighteen-hundred, from these words—

*“And all JUDAH and JERUSALEM mourned for
JOSIAH. II. CHRON. XXXV. 24.”*

SYMPHATHY and Gratitude combined are, at once the most amiable and commanding affections of the human Heart. He who feels little of their influence is deprived of some of the most refined and exquisite enjoyments of the Soul.—He who feels not their restless energy on the melancholy Occasion which has called us together this day, has but little claim to be class'd with the human species; and none whatever to the character of an American Republican.

Public expressions of sympathy, sorrow and regret for the dissolution of the greatly good; the preeminently *excellent* ones of the Earth have, in all ages, been the spontaneous effusion of the most pious as well as the most enlighten'd States and societies;—They are equally sanction'd by the dictates of Nature and Religion.

When the condolence, gratitude and sympathy of a great and enlightened Nation are spontaneously moved by one melancholy event;—Are attracted, at once, to the same object;

ject;—Are concentrated on the same subject, greatly interesting must that subject be; and greatly distressing the event which has awaker'd the mournful sensations of every Heart o'er so extensive a Commonwealth.

The presence of this respectable audience; the multitudes who are this day solemnly assembled from Hampshire to the Floridas, with sorrowing Hearts, for the effusion not of a forc'd; but voluntary tribute to departed worth;—to all that could dignify the name of man, must form, my fellow Citizens! a scene glorious for Republics;—Glorious to the cause of genuine Freedom—and in the highest degree honourable to the Citizens of these States.

Let this day then be such as the enlightened genius of Republicanism;—the hallowed sentiments of Religion; and the pious effusion of sympathy; precious, Heart-felt sympathy should dictate. The afflicted voice of our Country calls us to mourn;—our own Hearts move us to mourn on this distressing occasion; and o'er that peopled globe which we inhabit, no society;—no State;—no individual whose mind has been awaker'd to a sense of merit, virtue and patriotism but would accord with us in this pathetic memento, to his memory whose death we now deplore.

On this day 1732 was announc'd the birth of GEORGE WASHINGTON delign'd by divine Providence to be the most conspicuous instrument in the political salvation of his Country;—as also to form a character, and example more illustrious in all respects for valour, virtue and patriotism, than the records of States have yet exhibited; or perhaps the annals of hoary time may again produce.

Yes—my respected audience! This day—this auspicious day, on which was announced the existence of your immortal WASHINGTON; on which arose the sun of your national boast and glory, raises an eternal monument of public gratitude to heaven for it's illustrious born—a monument more durable than brass or marble to the sublime merit and virtues of our lamented FELLOW CITIZEN. Since the first existence of civil society to the present moment, in all the length—

lengthen'd records of States or empires, there has not been a more just ; or a more illustrious instance of national sympathy and gratitude than that which this day exhibits o'er the enlighten'd Commonwealth of this new world. Where has been the Emperor, King, Prince or Potentate the memory of whose worth was embalm'd by the pure and voluntary effusion of a whole assembled nation's tears? This day, then, forever effaces every reflection on the gratitude of Republics to those distinguish'd sons of merit they may have produced. The effusive tribute of sorrow, this day shed by the Assembled millions of this extensive Country, while it gratifies the spontaneous dictates of our own hearts, will transmit to latest posterity an illustrious testimony how far republican gratitude transcends the ostentatious blazonry of all the vain funereal pomp, in which the useless hereditary despot is consigned to dust and oblivion.

In the period, alas! to us too short period of his sojournment on Earth, we have seen designated the sublime displays of that divine providence who directs the birth as well as the fate of States, and empires. Whose majestic hand forms the person ; endows the soul ;—And moulds the mighty genius of those who are to be the most conspicuous instruments of his almighty power or goodness. In the history of national revolutions ; in the annals of national judgments or calamities ; and in the too scanty records of redemption from slavery and oppression we may trace this interesting truth.

It may be here also remarked that, in general ; those who have become banefully conspicuous in society ; or in other words, those who have been employ'd in tearing down one system of Empire or tyranny, only, to gratify their own ambition in erecting one still more absolute or despotic, have been such as were either born themselves ; or were instigated by those who were born, nurs'd and rear'd on the lap of hereditary pride and Monocracy ;—while, on the other hand, those who with our lamented WASHINGTON have been form'd by divine Providence for the public weal, have, in general, been raised from the humble and most virtuous grade in society, on the solid ba-

his of personal merit; and the uncorrupted principles of the most pure and disinterested patriotism. The honest shade of a virtuous though obscure origin has by heaven, been made the morning maze, which served, more effectually, to introduce the effulgence of their meridian splendor.

He is who is born for the good of man; for the deliverance and happiness of his Country has, generally, been chosen by divine providence, from that State of civil life—and those scenes of conduct where the least evil, or corrupting influence have produced those wrongs and violence which he has been design'd to eradicate. The records of sacred and civil history afford conspicuous evidence of the truth of this observation. As the bright beacon star was that which alone could guide the wise and good in place of him who was to be the saviour of the world,—so it may be observ'd that the bright constellation of those virtues and endowments which, thro' the benediction of heaven, have form'd such characters have, in general, constituted that which alone designated the birth, as well as the life of all who have imitated H M in the religious; or in the civil redemption of their fellow men.

But have such characters—has your immortal WASHINGTON been the less ennobled on this account? So far from it that it is owing to this that his, as well as all such characters become the more eminently conspicuous. It is owing to this that they are stript of all that false glare; those childish toys and tinsel'd appendages with which the worthless seek to decorate themselves, instead of that genuine self-acquir'd merit which alone can truly enoble or dignify any of the sons of men. Could you add to the brightness of the sun by the twinkling of tapers, or the sparkling of gems? Or, admitting they had, in any degree, such an effect, what sort of a substitute would they make, were our system to be depriv'd of his enlightening rays? Just the same as all the vain baubles of Heraldry, the Escutcheon, the Star, or the Garter would make as a substitute for that heaven-born worth and self-form'd character which ennobled our WASHINGTON; made him an honor to the age—the

the boast of his Country — the pride of the virtuous and the brave — and alas ! the departed subject of this day's National sorrow and lamentation.

It has been observ'd by more than one able panegyrist on the present mournful occasion, that the annals of Grecian and Roman history have produc'd no character, in all respects, so completely perfect as that of his whose loss we now deplore. The observation is, by no means, exaggerated. It is true, those much famed ancient commonwealths, while they continued steady in the principles of pure Republicanism, produc'd men as greatly eminent as the then state of the world could possibly have furnish'd. But in estimating character, more especially that which is equally form'd by civil and military merit, we should consider the progressive improvement of the world ; as well as the great and important achievements which have enrolled them in the records of fame.

The admirers of ancient republicanism, of ancient dignity of character, patriotism and worth, as elegantly display'd in their classics, might find in a few instances, a striking similitude between the character of some of their most distinguish'd patriots and heroes—and that of the departed Champion of our Liberty and Independence.

Probably that of Epaminondas the illustrious Theban, whether we consider his distinguish'd virtue and talents in private or in public life ; his irresistible valour in the field ; or his incorruptible integrity and profound wisdom in the cabinet, would approach as near to the exalted character of a WASHINGTON as any that could be brought into view. The ancient, like our modern patriot left no offspring to inherit his name ; or the fruits of all his brilliant—his unparallled services to his Country. Being upbraided on this account by Pelopidas, one of his rivals in military fame, he nobly replied : “ I do not want for issue — the battle of Leuctra which emancipated my Country from the grasp of tyranny is an offspring that will not only survive me, but be immortal.”

In like manner, might our illustrious patriot have observed, "It is true I have left no descendent—no offspring to inherit my name, or my fame. But the emancipation of my country; her independence; her free-born constitution; her liberty and her laws procur'd, and secur'd on many a well fought field, — I leave as an issue that will not only survive me—will not only transmit my name to latest posterity; but shall be as lasting as the foundations of the earth."

Next to Epaminondas, Timoleon of Corinth, who emancipated the Sicilians from the tyranny of Carthage, might, probably merit being brought into view, would our subject be indulg'd with drawing any parallel between the characters of those who have been the champions of the rights and happiness of man in the ancient world, and that of HIS who has been — alas! *who has been*, the greatest Boast of the new.

If the resistless valour; incorruptible patriotism; and illustrious conduct of Epaminondas have merited the eulogiums of the eloquent in every age; — the public virtue of Timoleon was not less entitled to celebration. Like to our departed patriot, his brilliant achievements in the field could be equalled only by his undiminish'd attachment to equal rights and equal laws, when all his glorious trophies had rais'd him to preside over a free people. That dignified sense which Timoleon cherished of republican freedom of sentiment; — freedom of speech and freedom of animadversion on all, whether governors or governed, has immortaliz'd his fame; — and endear'd his name to every advocate of civil liberty in ancient, or in modern times.

When an unprincipled slanderer had the presumption to make an attack on Timoleon's conduct and views; — and for so doing was about to be torn to pieces by a grateful people, highly indignant at the least censure on their great deliverer, Timoleon nobly interfer'd. 'No!' said he, this man is only exercising the blessed fruit — the happy privilege arising from all the dangers I have
en

encountered ; — a'l the toils I have undergone ; — all the blood that has been shed in the vindication of your country's rights. This man, instead of injuring me, this day accomplishes all that I have ever besought the Gods to grant to Sicily — and that is : — That every man should without penalty ; or violence be perfectly free to say of me, and of every man whatever he pleas'd, so long as he was able to support it in a fair, open and candid manner."

Think not, my audience ! that these bright traits of ancient republicanism are calculated to eclipse the glory of him whose merited eulogy it is my highest ambition faithfully to delineate No. — On the contrary, all that was great and good, glorious, excellent or praiseworthy in either of those splendid characters of the ancient world ; or indeed, in both combined, was pre-eminently displayed in his illustrious life, with whom Providence felicitated this western hemisphere — the effulgence of whose endowments shall enrapture the hearts ; — and enlighten the minds of the truly virtuous and patriotic, as long as the sun and moon endure.

When the heroic patriots of ancient Greece and Rome exhibited those prodigies of valour, in defence of their Countries which their historians so well record, they enter'd the lists either with slaves effeminated by system, and debilitated by luxury ; or with barbarians rude in discipline and in arms. Most of them appear to have been equipt rather to decorate the train of their tyrant than prepar'd for conquest ; or to defend themselves in battle. But the Hero of the American revolution had to encounter those whom the advanc'd improvement of modern Tactics had raised to a knowledge of the military art and discipline far superior to whatever was attain'd to by the ablest generals of the ancient world ; — and which could not fail being little known to the inhabitants of this new hemisphere, inur'd to no arts ; but those of peace and a peaceful retirement.

To defeat the troops of a British monarch ; — to outmanœuvre his ablest generals ; and vanquish his best disciplin'd and bravest battalions was more than the celebrated

Heroes of Greece ever atchieved against all the myriads of the Persian despots. Neither MILTIADES nor THEMISTOCLES; neither CYRUS nor ALEXANDER; CÆSAR or HANNIBAL ever fought and conquer'd under such a complication of disadvantages, as did the departed Champion of our freedom and independence, in opposing the best-train'd regiments of Britain, long accustom'd to conquest and triumph.

In every situation; under every circumstance, in every view of his glorious career, we may trace the sublime; I might say, divine energy of that soul with which he was endowed by OMNIPOTENCE for the vindication of his Country's rights.

With the most invincible vigilance, fortitude and patience were combin'd the most penetrating sagacity and promptitude of resource. To the cool premeditation of a FABIUS was added all the fire of a CÆSAR. In the ordinary departments of his military service was display'd all the more humane and generous temperature of his soul; — meekness and humanity character'd his conduct. — But in the heat of action; — in the hour of danger; — in the momentous crisis of suspense between conquest and defeat; then all the soul of the mighty HERO shone in its native fire and splendor. — Then all his Country; — all her virtuous sons and their awful cause and destiny beam'd from his eagle-eye; and enshrin'd his every unexampled deed in the hearts of his gallant soldiers; and even in the estimation of an admiring foe.

If to be lov'd almost to adoration by his own army; — and to be even, in name, a terror to his enemies, constitute the most distinguish'd features in the character of the consummate General, then, indeed, was your beloved WASHINGTON, by universal assent, pre-eminently, entitled to that character.

But imperfect, indeed, is the sketch I am able to draw of his military worth and fame. The pencil of some of his brethren in arms can best delineate this part of his portrait. Some of those who shared with him in his triumphs; in all the toils and dangers of many an arduous
campaign

campaign, I hope do still survive. Their eulogy; on his part of his character, must be peculiarly expressive and interesting. It is only he who saw the light'ning flash, that can describe it's sublimity; — It is only he who witness'd, that can best delineate the various unparallel'd acts of his patriotic Heroism, thro' a bloody contest, in the cause of Freedom and his Country, of seven years duration.

But weak and imperfect would the most faithful delineation be, which, even the most exalted Genius could produce, which would exhibit only the outlines of his splendid triumphs or personal achievements, however great and heroic. Equally imperfect would be the pourtraiture of all his personal worth or exemplary conduct, in public or in private life, contemplated only as an individual; and abstracted, wholly, from any connection with the grand design of Providence in raising him up to be the deliverer of his Country and the benefactor of mankind.

It is only in connection with the gracious design of providence for the amelioration of the human race; for the emancipation of America in the first place; — and afterwards for the introduction of civil happiness to other less happy regions of the Earth, that the true greatness of that character, in it's fullest extent, the loss of whose living influence we now mourn, appears to the greatest advantage — appears in it's true and genuine colouring.

If we turn our attention to the history of the world, throughout all ages, we shall find that those, by whose instrumentality, Empires rose and fell, were, *evidently*, prepared or endowed by providence for those great events. CYRUS who overturned the stupendous fabric of the Assyrian empire was form'd with a mighty genius and every personal endowment for that purpose. By the prophet, inspir'd by God, he was mention'd by name, even before he had any existence but in the councils of heaven. The different overthrowers of Despotism; or founders of Empires and Republics; whether we consider them as the deliverers; or the enslavers of their fellow men, were, like
CYRUS,

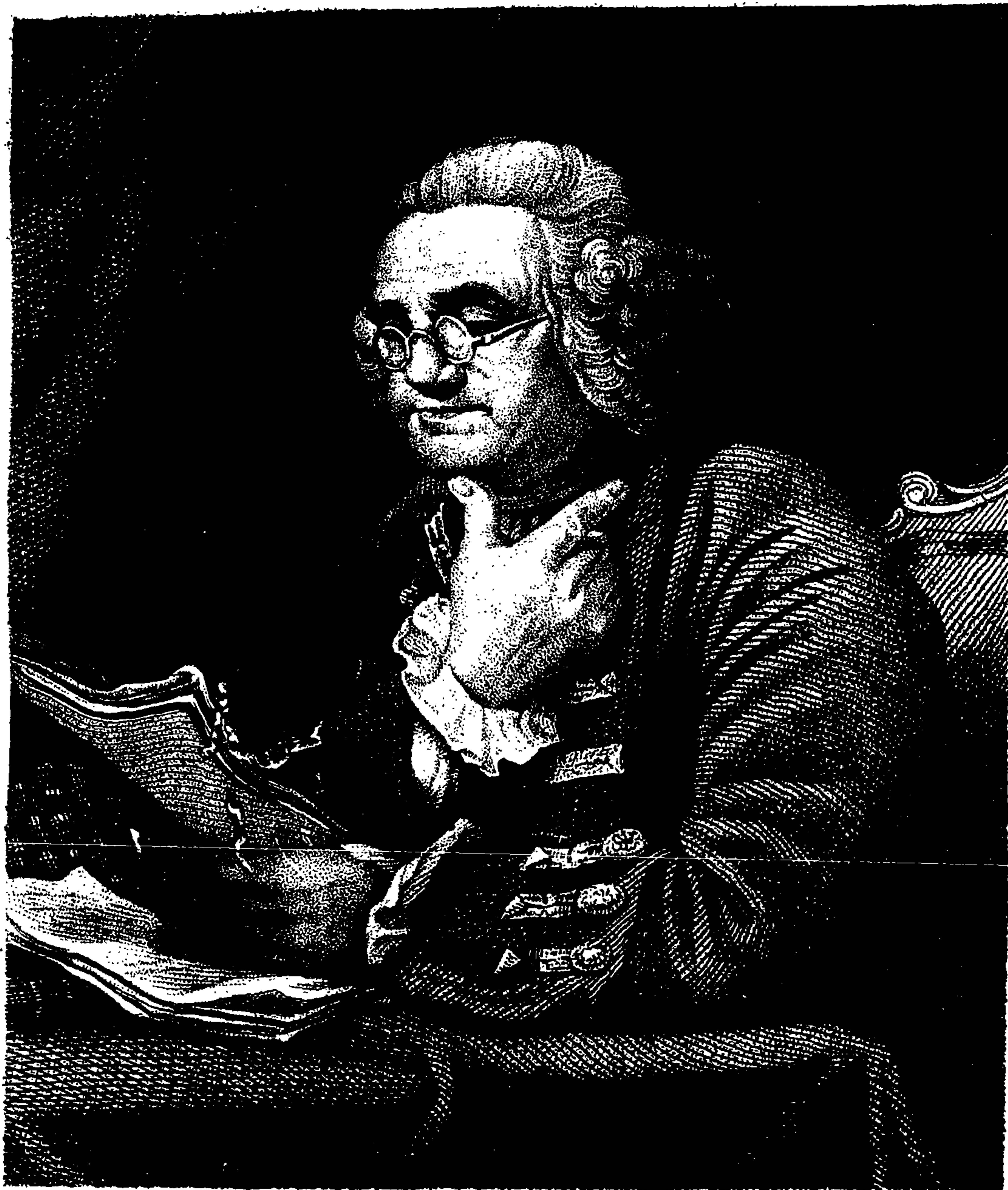
CYRUS, well fitted for the parts assign'd them by Providence, in the great drama of civil society.

As mighty Empires, States or Republics arose or fell; -- and, especially, as the improvement of society, from age to age, has progress'd, so may we trace the encreas'd advancement of personal worth and character in those who were design'd to bear the most conspicuous share in the progressive improvement of the condition of man. If no former age could boast of a character, in all respects, so completely illustrious as that of our lamented Father of his Country, it was because the less improved state of the civiliz'd world was not calculated to form or produce such a character; and also because that an æra, fraught with such general advantage or promotion to the interests of the human race, was not to commence at an earlier period.

This is not, by any means, the delusive speculation of a fanciful imagination. No — it is an observation supported by the acquiescence of every enlighten'd mind, capable of taking into one view the past and present state of the civil happiness of the world.

The progress of civil Liberty and the dissolution of Despotism have, either gone, hand in hand with; or at least have been the certain consequence of the literary improvement of the human mind and the progress of scientific light and philosophy. Heaven has been pleas'd to bless modern ages with a more general diffusion of scientific knowledge than ever was indulg'd, even in the hopes of the Ancient world; — as well as with more exalted and improved Geniuses for extending, beyond former limits, it's happy effects on the civil condition of men.

The Genius of a FRANKLIN, and especially the age that could give scope to such a genius, were probably as necessary in their sphere, for the establishment of that civil Liberty and Independence which America now enjoys, as the sublime Talents of a WASHINGTON. What the immortal NEWTON; or FRANKLIN, was to Philosophy, the immortal WASHINGTON was to the cause
of



Engraved by William K. Brown

Ben^d Franklin

of civil Liberty. If the most approved epitaph on a NEWTON was,

"When Nature and Nature's Laws lay bid in Night,

"GOD said—"Let NEWTON be," and all was right."

or that of FRANKLIN,

"Fulmen eripuit cælo : sceptrumque Tyrannis."

so that of the departed object of our this days lamentation might as justly be,—

When Tyranny was to be hurl'd from Earth—

GOD to our glorious WASHINGTON gave Birth.

YES, my FELLOW-FREEMEN ! this day ;—this auspicious day gave birth to your departed HERO. — The Champion of your Liberties ; — The Vindicator of the Rights and Honor of his Country. With him, too, it gave birth to a more happy æra of civil Liberty. — A bright beam of Republican splendor, which, tho' clouds may for a day obscure — tho' low'ring skies may hide for an hour, I am bold to say all the dark designs of Despotism shall be unable, finally, to prevent from spreading with encreasing light and strength 'till mankind be, in a great measure, emancipated from tyranny and oppression.

What an elevated view does this afford of the dignity of that PERSONAGE whose removal from among us, we now deplore ? Around all his heroic achievements and personal endowments it spreads the effulgence of honours in which, the laureated Crown ; — the decorated Trophy ; — or the sculptur'd Monument of Fame are lost, like meteors, in the Sun's meridian blaze.

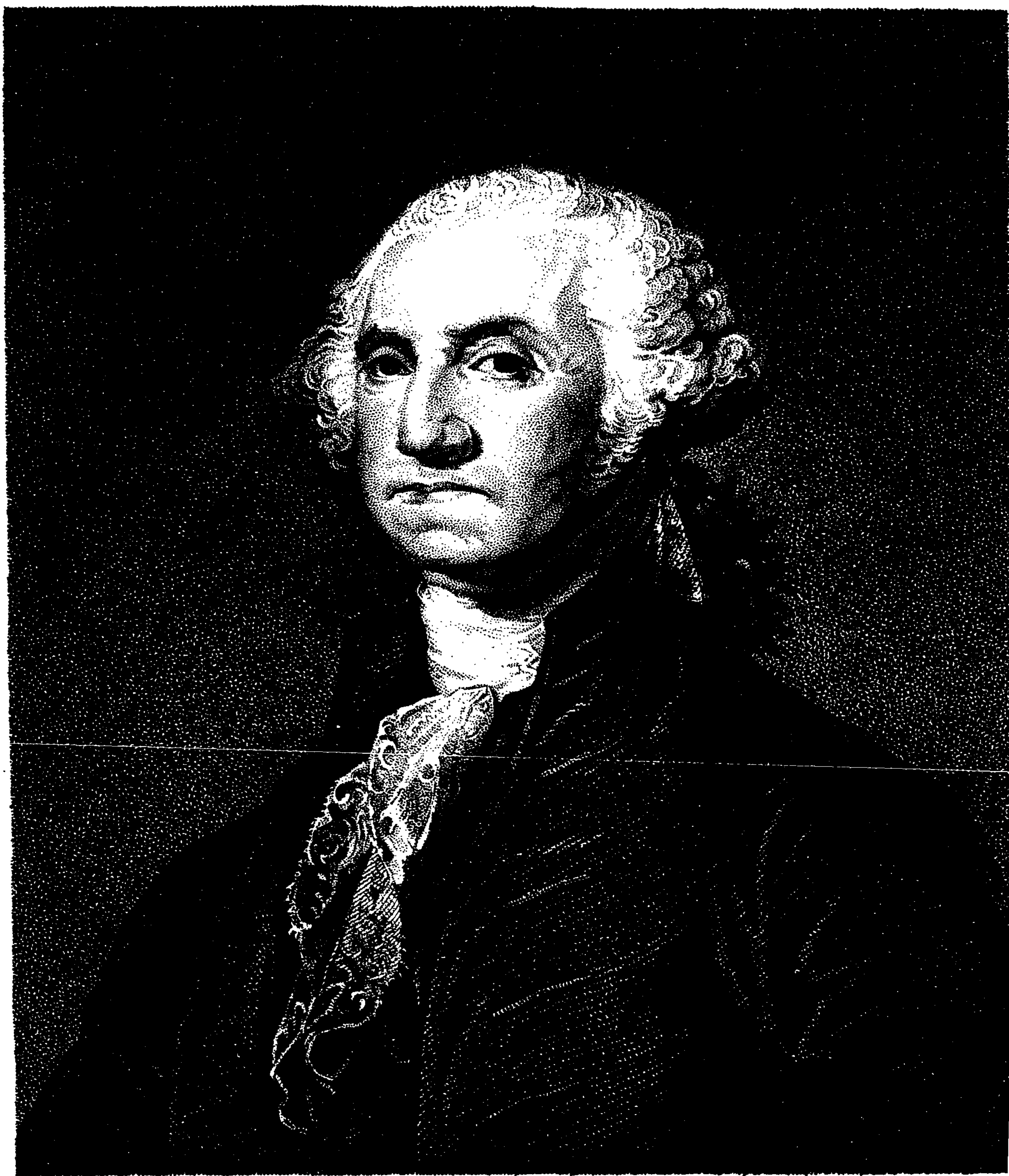
The whole history of our illustrious PATRIOT's life, from his cradle to his tomb, justifies these sentiments. Narrow and contracted, then, would that eulogy on his character be, which confined itself to those services, only, which he rendered the country of his birth, however great and essential. The exemplary conduct and achievements of a WASHINGTON are, and will continue to be dignified and renown'd o'er the remotest abodes of men ; and wherever known

known will be revered, as long as there exists a mind to be impress'd with the love of the sublimest worth and public virtue ; a heart to glow with philanthropy ; or, to rejoice in the encreasing felicity of social life.

In confirmation of these observations, we may trace, from his youth up, the divine influence of Providence in his favour, throughout every stage of his glorious course. That noble and I may say, unexampled disinterestedness which he was enabled to display in his Country's arduous service, as well as those relative and domestic virtues which appear to have been ever dear to his heart, were not only inspir'd ; but provided for at the proper period. His very first appearance in arms ; — the first movements of his military career ; — the first effusions of his magnanimous patriotism called forth from the lips of the pious servants of God, prophetic observations that he was design'd by heaven, to be the political Saviour of his Country.

But it has not been only his Country ; — it has not been his beloved AMERICA alone that has been benefited by his illustrious life. No.—The oppressed corners of every land have felt some alleviation by his priceless labours.—It is not only by the humble sons of virtue, in the middle ranks of society, that honor is conferr'd on his name. No—the proudest Monarch on Earth would change his Diadem for his well-won glory.—It is not only to the swarm of ambitious haughty oppressors that, like locusts, were ready to devour the land of his nativity, that his name has been a terror.—No — far distant despotism has been taught to shrink at the mention of his deeds ; Tyranny has trembled to it's base at the history of his achievements ; —and corrupt interest and ambition, at home and abroad, have stood appall'd — have blush'd at the honest rehearsal of his unshaken patriotism and worth. From pole to pole, the bright coruscation of that flame of genuine, rational LIBERTY, for which he fought and conquer'd, has diffused a ray of hope, o'er the dreary abodes of slavery — and in many places has utterly broken it's galling fetters.

AN HONOR in all respects, so truly sublime never was
paid



Painted by Stuart.

Engraved by T. Ke

G. W. H. H. H.

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paid to any of the sons of men, as that of one of the most powerful Nations on the Globe, in laying at the feet of your WASHINGTON the Key of that demolish'd Bastile of despotism, which for ages had immur'd, within it's infernal barriers, every soul that dar'd, in opposition to the mandate of a tyrant, raise a voice, or an arm in the cause of CIVIL FREEDOM. It was a noble evidence; a glorious acknowledgement of his being look'd upon as the first who, in modern ages, at the head of an army of his Co-patriots had effectually broken the oppressive spell of Tyranny, and rous'd the enlighten'd of all Countries to a sense of their civil rights.

Fir'd by his zeal and patriotism;—animated by his virtues; and excited by his example, other Deliverers of their Country arose. Train'd under his standard, and inspir'd by his Heroism, a FAYETTE and a KOSCIUSKO, dar'd, first to raise the banners of Liberty against the Tyrants of Europe — and, tho' yet unsuccessful, nobly essay'd to extend to their respective Countries similar blessings to those which they had seen our HERO secure to America..

It appears, then, that however honour'd and venerated; loved and admir'd by the Country bless'd by Providence with his birth and services, he has not been less enthusiastically honour'd, admir'd and imitated in far distant climes.

Instances could be adduc'd of the wretched victims of oppression, in some of the most enslav'd corners of Europe, delighting themselves, even with the Pourtrait of his beloved and invaluable person. As some of the ancient Republicans venerated their Palladium; or as the superstitious devotee venerates the image of some tutelary Saint, or supposed guardian Angel, so have the victims of tyranny been known to animate each other to patriotism and public worth, even by looking on the Pourtrait — and that probably a very imperfect one, of the HERO of the American Revolution.

Conceal'd from the jealous eye of their Tyrants;—from
the

the suspicious eye of overwhelming ambition, they have been known to hold up the image of his beloved person, as an encitement to their imitation of his virtues; and also as a testimony of their sense of his being design'd, by the author of his existence, to be a relief to the wretched subjects of oppression in every clime and in every age.

The brightest or most shining objects are often not best discern'd; or even admired by such as are so near as to be dazzled by their unusual splendor; — so is it, sometimes, with the most dignified or illustrious characters. Tho' such as are most contiguous, may be most benefited by their influence; and also most ready to acknowledge their worth; yet the more remote part of mankind, may be equally impress'd with a just sense of their merit, and also with as clear and distinct a view of those sublime qualities with which they have been endowed by their Creator for the public good. — Selfish and partial man conceives that the luminary which enlightens the heavens, has been form'd only for the small spot which he inhabits — while the eye of true philosophy views it as the centre of a vast system, diffusing it's vivifying rays to other Bodies of equal, or greater magnitude and importance.

Wherever the cause of CIVIL LIBERTY is rever'd; — wherever it will be rever'd to the remotest records of time; and in the remotest regions of the Earth, there will the remembrance of GEORGE WASHINGTON diffuse its benign influence. — There will the enraptur'd Patriot rehearse to the rising Generation his exemplary achievements for his Country; — there will the sublime Orator eulogise his fame to the delighted audience; — there will the Champion of Freedom rouse it's voluntary legions by the commemoration of his heroic perseverance; resistless valour, and unyielding courage.

In the sorrowful expression of our sense of the loss we sustain by his death; — in commemorating the sublime services he rendered his Country, we renounce every idea of that servile adulation which Fear, or Interest, or Ambition have

have often lavish'd on the too successful military Butcher of the human race. Our imperfect but sincere eulogium renounces with abhorrence the profane APOTHEOSIS of the ancient admirers of Military prowess. The improved state of the world ; — the genuine principles of our political system ; — the native Independence and enlighten'd improvement of the American mind ; — and, I may add, the transcendent Virtues of him whose loss we now deplore, all conspire in forbidding any such prostitution of public praise.

No — AMERICANS! we may appeal to that DIVINE BEING, in whose presence we have, this day, solemnly assembled for the sincerity of this tribute of our hearts; — for our sorrowful regret in parting with our most illustrious FELLOW-CITIZEN; — but that to his merit or his memory, however great and unexampled, we assign no more than is consistent with the spirit of our Constitution; — the gratitude of Freemen; and the deeply affected sensibility of a great and enlighten'd Republic; — a Republic in which I trust, we see, in embryo, thousands and tens of thousands, who, though an occasion may never present itself for their reaching the zenith of their glory, are ready to tread in the footsteps of a WASHINGTON and a MONTGOMERY; a WARREN and a MERCER; a GATES and a GREEN, with the whole ever to be rever'd assemblage of WORTHIES, Civil and Military, whose conduct and courage, under the blessing of Providence, laid the Foundation of all the National Dignity — public Prosperity and Happiness we enjoy.

Yes—ye younger part of my audience! I trust that your hearts, with those of your co-equals over the union, animated by the same Principles;—glowing with the same Patriotism ;—invigorated by the same DIVINE POWER ;—and influenc'd by so bright an example, will prompt you to form your characters after so excellent a model ; ——— that while you weep for the departed FATHER of the Independence of your Country ; — the Parent of all your civil Dignity and Happiness, you will resolve to tread in his

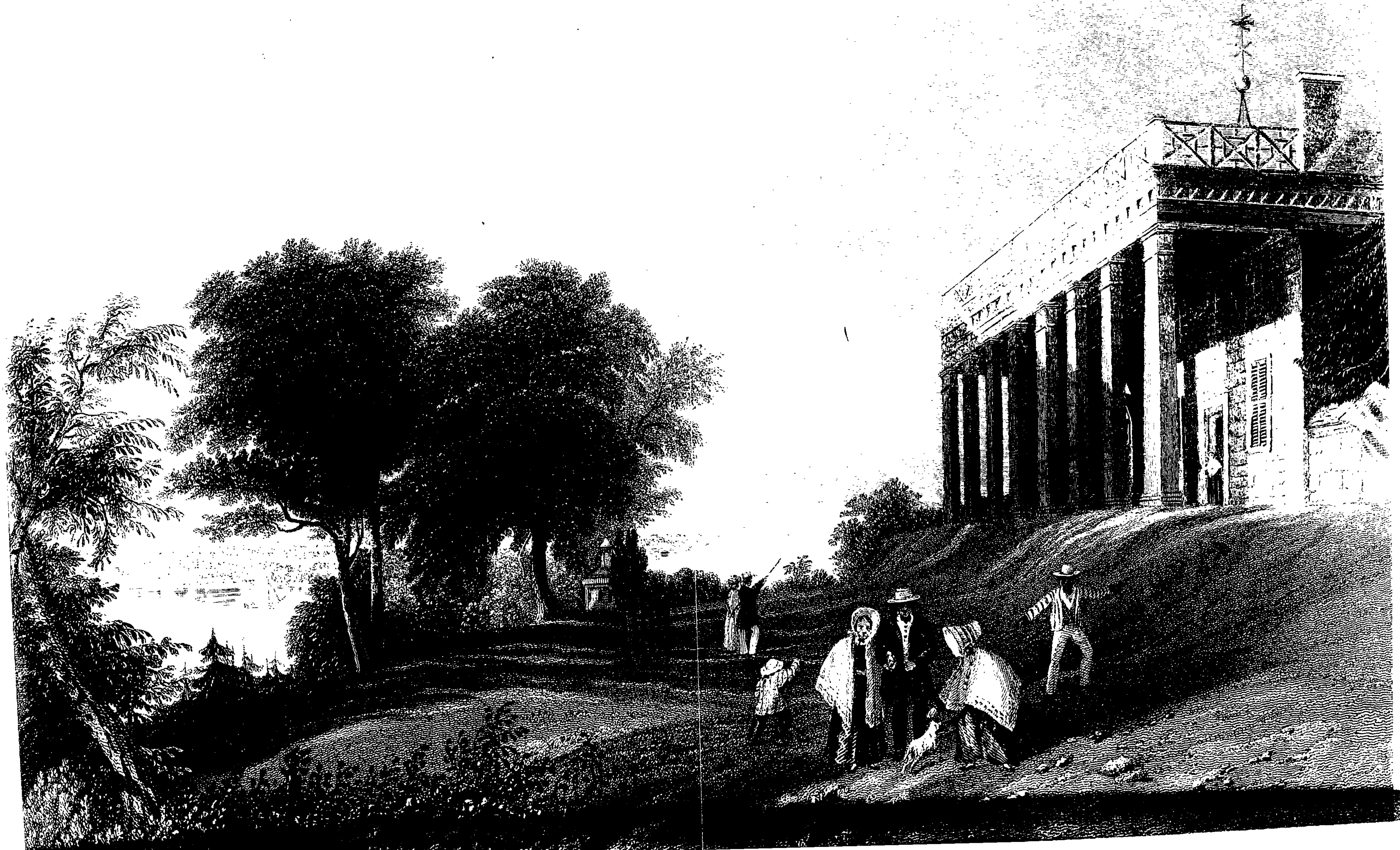
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 footsteps

footsteps ; — and preserve, with enthusiasm, embalm'd in your bosoms, those virtues public and private, which have immortaliz'd his name, and shed a dignified lustre over your common COUNTRY.

Leaving the exalted orbit of his public Fame, would I attempt to draw the modest veil that conceal'd his private or domestic virtues, it might serve to excite your sympathy not less than the most striking outlines of his personal glory in the service of the public.

Even in his most retir'd moments—in the sacred, sequester'd shade of domestic endearment, we cannot help tracing the same shining virtues—the same exemplary worth, and also the predominant passions of his soul—the Love—the Honor—the Felicity of his country. To these dearest objects to his heart every other duty seem'd subservient. In these every other affection, even his exemplary tenderness and attachment to every relative connection, seem'd, occasionally, absorb'd. For these too his favorite amusement consisted in those agricultural improvements which he consider'd as best calculated to promote that simplicity of manners ; as well as that species of prosperity and happiness which are, in all respects, best suited to his Country. For these, too, his house was the well furnish'd seat of Hospitality herself. — Rural elegance and œconomy spread around it their mingled charms. Despising that assumption of proud and ambitious distance, which, the vain hearts of the enslavers of mankind have ever indulg'd, his hospitable Hall, unguarded by frowning Janitors, was ever open to every Being in the dignified form of man.

In all his private or domestic pursuits, or concerns, it is not easy to discriminate whether Frugality ; or Humanity was predominant. The former appears to have been cherish'd, chiefly with the view of being enabled to give the more ample scope to the latter. No narrow illiberal affection appears ever to have curb'd the benevolent bias of his soul. His generous mind, in the common and spontaneous exercise of beneficence, was ever uncircumscrib'd by
par-



partiality, prejudice, or local situation. Those of every nation, kindred, tongue and climate had an equal admittance to his exalted philanthropy ; whenever a just claim might call for its exercise. This character and conduct, if generally cherish'd, he knew to be highly conducive to the interest of America—and in his own memorable words, to this purpose, he declared : — “ That if AMERICA merited the name of a great and magnanimous Nation, she would continue the asylum of the exiled ; or the persecuted for the cause of CIVIL LIBERTY, from whatever corner of the Earth they might be driven to her shores.”

His comprehensive mind let no subject escape his investigation, in which, the Honor, Interest, or Happiness of his Country were involv'd. The high estimation in which he held the Culture of Genius—of Arts and of Sciences, he illustrated by many generous and beneficent testimonies. That *Independence of MIND* ; — that Dignity of Soul ; — and that Elevation of Understanding which can be well form'd, only, by the cultivation of letters and philosophy ; and which are so essentially necessary ; — so absolutely indispensable for the uncorrupted support of a Republican constitution of Government, received, at all times, his most zealous patronage, and bountiful encouragement.

A most favourite object, to which some of his last and most fervent recommendations were directed, was the institution of such a dignified national seminary, as was best suited to the genius of our constitution ; and equally calculated to promote union and harmony of sentiment, as to diffuse the enlightening influence of Science to the remotest corners of his country.

Rightly judging that the illumination of a State by scientific knowledge, has ever been the purest and least dangerous guardian of its civil rights—its surest defence against the secret or open inroads of ambition, he was, thro' the whole of his public administration, uniformly disposed to lend it his liberal patronage and support.

Sinee

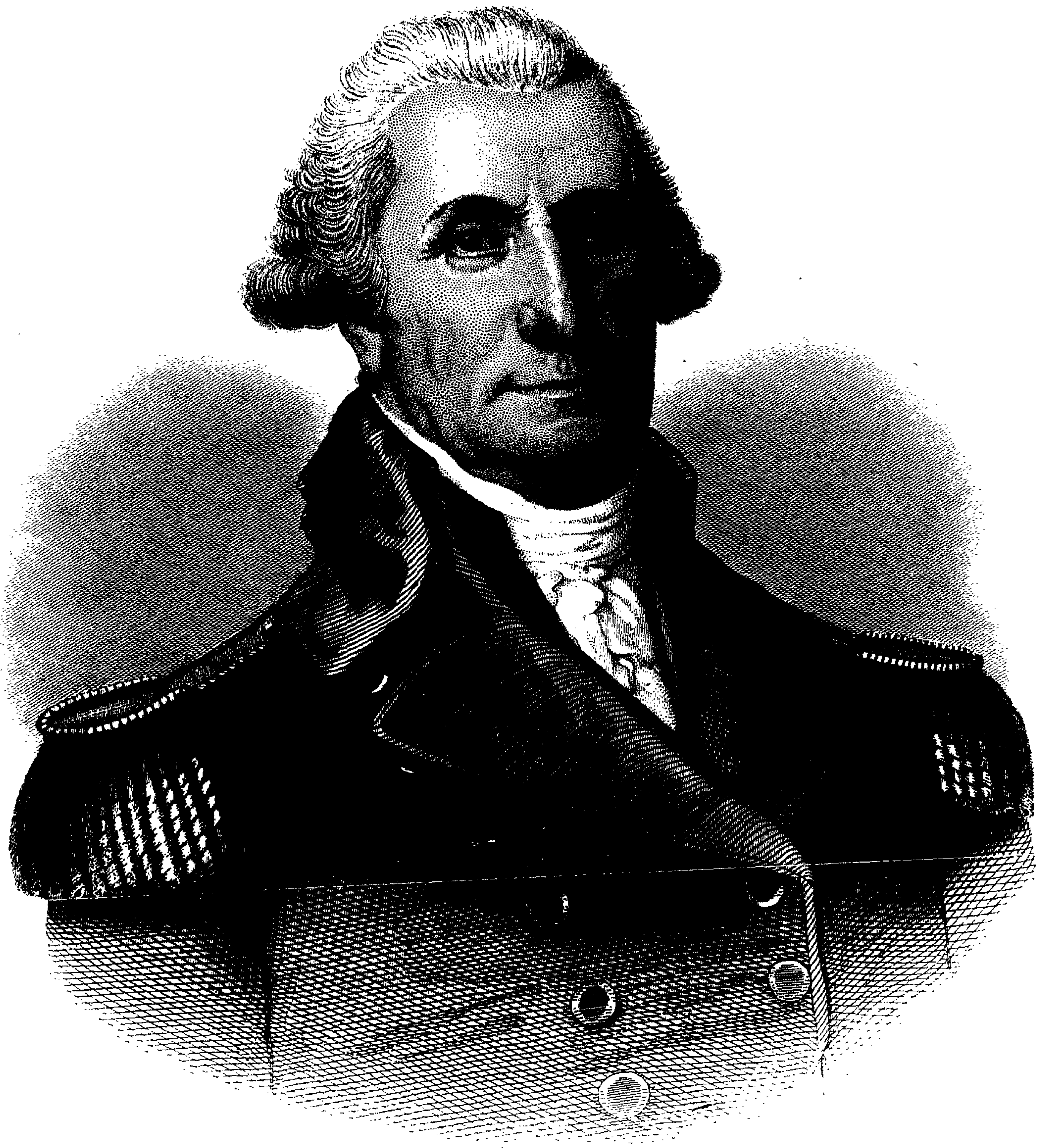
Since these ideas were suggested, it appears from his last Will and Testament, now in the hands of the public, how truly they are founded ; — and how peculiarly dear this object was to his patriotic heart.

Should it not then be a subject of sincere regret to the public, that his noble design was not more regarded and more warmly seconded than it appears to have been by those entrusted with the highest Interests of the UNION ? Alas ! When will that happy period arrive, when, even in the purest Republic, no object, in peace or in war, shall be more liberally patronized and promoted than an ample provision for the general means of intellectual improvement ?

As I have observ'd on another occasion, that this is a state to which we are not sufficiently solicitous to attain ; which exists among us only, in the flattering regions of hope, has been but too evidently manifested, by that kind of attention which was paid to the earnest advice and the most munificent example of our departed WASHINGTON on this important object. These reflections are not, by any means, inconsistent with our most heart-felt sympathy this day. In lamenting his removal, we have the most cogent reason to lament, the loss of every benefit ; every public blessing to which his admonition and illustrious example might have given birth.* In this—and in this alone we have it to lament, that a subject so near to his heart—that occupied his last precious moments ; — his last and most earnest recommendation was less rever'd than it ought ; — less estimated than it should have been by the enlighten'd Representatives of the Union ; in all other instances accusom'd to reverence his exalted understanding and the sage counsels to which it gave sanction.

Would

* These observations may appear to be dictated by a spirit of censure.—But in weighing their truth, let it be consider'd that at that time there were no apprehensions of any necessity for those extraordinary expenditures the S T A T E has been oblig'd to go into since—and yet the bill, even to admit of and sanction voluntary Donations, in behalf of that National Literary Institution recommended by our WASHINGTON,



Engraved by J. C. Barry

George Washington

GEORGE WASHINGTON.
FROM THE PORTRAIT BY WERTMÜLLER.

Would we fully appreciate his various virtues and merits — would our national sympathy see combin'd, in one view, the extent of what we have lost in him ; — we should contrast the present dignified state of AMERICA, in all her native independent glory, with what she would have been, as a conquer'd and enslav'd Province ; under the insulting and imperious mandates of that proud Empire, from under whose Tyranny she was rescued by his persevering Courage, Fidelity, and Prowess.

Let us estimate these ; by condescending to review the footsteps of that Tyrannic Power ; mark'd with the blood ; and glutted with the spoils of its Vassals in other parts of its dominion, where any resistance has been made to its absolute and oppressive will.

Let us contrast our blessed Constitution of CIVIL and RELIGIOUS PRIVILEGES with that *mingled Monster* of civil and spiritual Tyranny, with which, that Government lords it over the minds and consciences of its enslaved subjects.

Let us reflect on all the dire consequences of Subjugation. The harpies that would have fatten'd on the fruits of your industry ; — the insults of the veriest dregs of her sycophants. The intolerance of her Hierarchy, basking in royal favour, wallowing in the wealth of your Country — riding over the necks ; and trampling on the best rights of you and your posterity. — Think, AMERICANS ! O think on all these things

and in which it was his wish to set the first patriotic example of Munificence, was negativ'd and set aside !! When this is candidly consider'd, and that it probably would not have requir'd as large a demand on public contribution, to build, endow, and support such an Institution, as it would, to build, man, and support a single Ship of the Line, it is presumed that some ground may appear for the above animadversion. The enlighten'd part of Society and Posterity are left to judge, which of the two fabrics would probably redound most to the security of our Liberty and Independence, and the general Interests of the UNION.

things, and then hold up your united hands and this day, bless your GOD—for the heroic services; — the persevering Valour of a WASHINGTON—who was the, divinely, endowed instrument of your Civil—and I may add, Religious emancipation.

Would we lastingly engrave on our own hearts and those of our posterity a due sense of his exemplary worth; — Let us have recourse to the genuine Image of his magnanimous soul, as express'd in his own words, in laying down the high trust with which he was invested by the unanimous voice of his Fellow-Citizens. Can we be sincere in lamenting his loss as a CIVIL PARENT to the state; and yet pay no regard to the affectionate paternal admonitions he so earnestly address'd to our attention? Shall we pretend to venerate his virtues; and at the same time cherish all that party-animosity;—and those *uncharitable distinctions*, against which, his last—I may say, his last parting words, so feelingly and zealously, warn'd and instructed his Country? Can we pretend to venerate his name or his memory, and not endeavour to be actuated by their felicitating influence? Can any be deeply affected with a sincere sense of what we have lost in him—whose lives and conduct are opposed to that Virtue; that Morality and that Religion, which he, both by precept and example, so ably inculcated, as the only durable Basis of all our public Prosperity, Freedom, and Happiness.

It pleas'd divine Providence to bless this Country, in the new-born infancy of her Independence, with a Leader, eminently, qualified for guiding her through that feeble state. The task assigned him he gloriously completed; and his spirit has now return'd to that divine spiritual source from whence its magnanimity could have alone proceeded. — Well then may the tears of sensibility flow; — well may your hearts melt, ye Children of Columbia!

The eye that never saw him will soften at the tale of his departure; — the ear that never heard the effusions of his mighty mind will, with sympathetic reluctance, hear the
sad

sad account of his dissolution. The Sons of Freedom ;— the enslaved Victims of Tyranny and Oppression ;— the Children of Philanthropy ; and all the friends of the melioration of the state of Man, in every clime, will pay to his memory the sincere tribute of a heart-felt sigh. Even the rudest Barbarian, that roams the uncultur'd wild, will soften into humanity when he hears that his great and good Father WASHINGTON is no more. — Well then may the land mourn—well may an assembled Nation sympathize—and well may a grateful public deplore his death !

As in his exalted character, the Citizen and Soldier were ever mingled with equally distinguish'd lustre—so this day equally calls forth the mingled effusion of their condolence and sympathy. As long as his preheminent services, civil and military, shall be known to every true AMERICAN—so long must the remembrance of his worth be impressed, in affecting characters, on the sensibility of his beloved Country.

' O ! WASHINGTON ! If departed spirits can be impressed with what is done on Earth ; — then must thy terrific shade, with celestial complacency, look down, this day, on the pure uncorrupted expression of thy country's grief for thy irreparable loss. The mingled tribute of every age and sex ; — the united incense of every pure and fervent heart cannot fail to interest the hallowed abodes even of the blessed !

' Our hoary fathers are pouring out to heaven their highest strains of gratitude for those blessings which, thro' thee, they are enabled to transmit to their posterity. — Our venerable matrons are sending up to heaven their tearful ejaculations ; — that their sons—and their son's sons, to the remotest generation, may imitate thy great example. The afflicted hearts of our youth, with truly filial condolence—do this day review thy great example, and piously resolve
' to

to tread after thy footsteps, in the path to true glory ; —
 in the same arduous road to virtue and honor.

O ! that along with the general tribute of sorrow that
 shall this day be express'd, o'er the wide confines of thy
 Country, every heart could catch that flame of pure Patri-
 otism which animated all thy heroic conduct ; — O ! that
 it would impress every soul with that hatred to Tyranny
 and Oppression ; — to overbearing pride and ambition
 against which thou fought and conquer'd. O ! that it would
 inspire every mind with that magnanimous Virtue ; — that
 incorruptible regard for all that is truly great and good,
 which, so illustriously, distinguish'd every action of thy
 well spent life.

When now alas ! thy heroic form ; — thy loved remains
 are mingling with the dust. — O ! that the rulers of the
 Earth, under whatever name they are elevated over their
 fellow men, would copy after the sublime pattern of thy
 virtuous life ; — would learn to cherish that unambitious
 temper ; — that moderation of soul ; — that high sense of
 responsibility which breath'd thro' every act of thy happy
 administration.

O ! that thy lov'd Country ; that thy surviving Fellow-
 Citizens would impress it, deeply, on their hearts ; — that
 all, especially, who in the future records of her history,
 shall be rais'd to the possession of that high trust which thou so
 illustriously discharg'd, should be able to adopt and apply to their
 administration, these thy last parting words — thy ever memor-
 able Farewell — thy last solemn Adieu to thy Country.

“ Though,” said your immortal PATRIOT, “ in reviewing
 the incidents of my administration, I am unconscious of
 intentional error ; — I am nevertheless too sensible of my
 defects, not to think it probable, that I may have com-
 mitted many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently
 beseech

“beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to
 “which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the
 “hope, that my Country will never cease to view them
 “with indulgence ; — and that after forty-five years of my
 “life dedicated to its service, with an upright zeal, the
 “faults of incompetent abilities will be consign’d to obliv-
 “ion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.”

Ah ! too prophetic foreboding of the cause of our present
 sympathy ! — YES — “illustrious shade ! thy Country, this
 “day, bears witness ; — by every mournful expression, in
 “the power of mortals, bears witness, how much she has priz’d
 “thy priceless services ; — how much she values thy mod-
 “est, tho’ matchless worth ; — and how much she deploras
 “the dissolution of that Bond of Union with which thy
 “exalted living Virtues and Renown had link’d together
 “her every inhabitant.

“As long as our Independence shall be estimated ; — as
 “long as those Civil Rights, purchas’d by her blood,
 “under thy victorious arm, shall be regarded ; — as long as
 “Virtue, public and private, shall be cherish’d ; — as long
 “as Philanthropy and uncorrupted Patriotism shall bless thy
 “Country ; — so long shall thy Name ; — thy Fame and
 “dearest remembrance be embalm’d in her every heart.

“Follow’d by the plaudits, the love and grateful affection
 “of all thy Fellow-Citizens ; — wafted on the enraptur’d
 “benedictions of all the virtuous among men, thy heaven-
 “born Spirit rises to a new æra of celestial Freedom, Bliss,
 “and Felicity ! In the last general revolution of Nature ;
 “— amidst the wreck of matter and the crush of worlds
 “when all the BENEFACTORS of mankind, shall be exalted
 “to those pure Honours which, no tongue can express ;
 “— which have never enter’d into the heart of man to con-
 D, ceive ;

"ceive ;' then shalt thou, the brightest amidst that bright
 "ASSEMBLAGE, be hail'd by the seraphic concerts of
 "ELYSIUM ; — In choral symphonies, by Angels sung,
 "welcom'd into the joys of immortality, amidst the con-
 "gratulations of the Myriads who, bless'd by thy services on
 "Earth, shall have their Heaven enhanc'd by sharing with
 "*thee* in the Glories of ETERNITY."

While passing ages roll on their destin'd course—im-
 mortaliz'd on Earth ; — and usher'd into the joys of im-
 mortality above, to HIM, death's dark vale of separation
 becomes no more than, an introduction to the full reward
 of a well-spent life.—To HIM even the ghastly messen-
 ger of dissolution, becomes the Harbinger of Heaven ; —
 The Herald of TROPHIES that shall never decay ; — of
 LAURELS that shall never fade. Even under the grim Ty-
 rant's impartial stroke—under the irrevocable doom of every
 son of mortality, his undaunted spirit 'fears no evil.' —
 Regardless of the ruthless dart, it wings its way to FREE-
 DOM CELESTIAL—boundless as the presence ; — pure
 and benign as the DIVINE COUNTENANCE ; — and
 lasting as the Throne of GOD.

My Fellow-Christians ! having devoted this imperfect eul-
 ogium to his Memory whose exalted worth, on this day,
 so long gladden'd the celebrations of his Country ; — and
 now so justly and feelingly excites universal sympathy ; —
 what remains for us, but that we unite our hearts in strains
 of adoration to the AUTHOR of our nature ; — to that
 DIVINE BEING with whom are the issues of States and
 Empires ; — of Nations and Individuals ; — 'of Life and of
 Death' ; — 'who hath given and who hath taken away.'

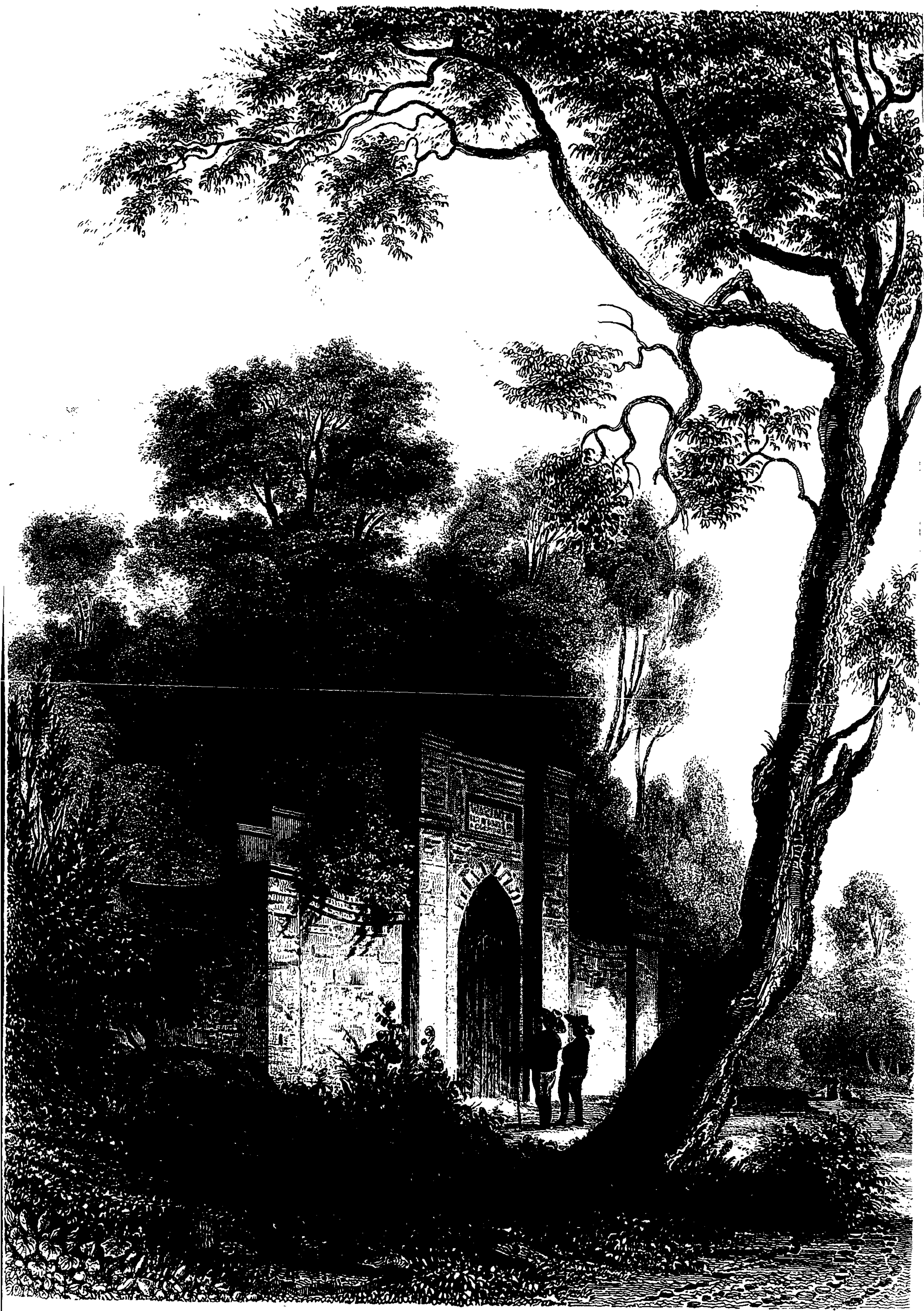
If the pride of our strength hath fallen ; — If the strong-
 est oak hath been broken before the resistless blast, should
 not

not the trees of the forest tremble? — Ought we not to be so impress'd as to apply this solemn MEMENTO to our own mortal state? — Should we not hence learn to acquire a character—to adopt a conduct that may, without conscious remorse, abide the last awful and solemn scene;— that may enable us, with our departed PATRIOT, to defy even death's most sudden and unerring dart; — “to be always ready; — and so to number our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom?”

Let, then, our best and most durable MONUMENT, to the Memory of our departed BENEFACTOR, be rais'd in our uniform imitation of his dignified character and worth; — his exemplary reverence of Virtue, Morals and Religion; — his unshaken love of Civil and Religious Liberty; — his aversion to every spirit of Intolerance and Ambition; — his hatred of Tyranny and Oppression; — and all that is ruinous to the Interest, Honour and Happiness of our Country and the human race.

As but few of the sons of men, in the lapse of Ages; or rise of Nations, may ever attain to his preheminent Fame or Character; — his justly merited applause; let it be our study, as Men and as Christians, in our respective spheres, faithfully to discharge our duty to GOD; — our Country; — and the great community of Mankind; — so that with HIM we may, finally, obtain from the same impartial JUDGE of Heaven and of Earth that approbatory sentence, “COME YE BLESSED! — you have been faithful over a few things; — I will make you ruler over many things; — enter ye into the joy of your LORD.”

F I N I S.



DRAWN AFTER NATURE.

For the Proprietor HERRMANN J MEYER

THE TOMB OF WASHINGTON