

FUNERAL ORATION,

UPON THE DEATH OF

GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Prepared at the request of the Masonic Lodge, No. 14, of Wilmington, State
Delaware, and delivered on St. John the Evangelist's day, being the 27th
of December, anno lucis 5799; and now published at the
particular desire of the Lodge.

By GUNNING BEDFORD, A. M.

*Rerumque prudens, et secundis
Temporibus dubiisque reclus.*

HORACE,

WILMINGTON:
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1800.

Lodge No. 14, of Wilmington, Resolved, That out of respect to the
of their great, good, and beloved Brother, **GEORGE WASHINGTON**,
of the Lodges of the United States, the members go into mourn-
ing a black crape upon their arm for one month.

Resolved, That a funeral procession, in masonic order, proceed from
-room, at 11 o'clock on St. John's day, the twenty-seventh instant,
er meeting-house, where, by request of the Lodge, an Oration will
ed by Brother **BEDFORD**, suitable to the occasion. The members of
oring lodges are invited to attend, and the citizens generally to join in
ion.

Order,

THOMAS MENDENHALL, Sec.

er 20th, 1799.

FUNERAL ORATION,

UPON THE DEATH OF

GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON.

APOLOGY TO THE AUDIENCE.

My Friends and Fellow-Citizens,

Called upon by a respectable Society, with whom I am connected by the ties of friendship and brotherly love, to aid them in paying funeral honors to their Grand Master, and the most illustrious of men, I felt that diffidence arising from a want of abilities to do justice to so important a subject, and from the shortness of time allowed for preparation.

But knowing that every one could make the same excuse, though with less justice than myself; and an affectionate society and grateful people, requiring some immediate testimony of respect to be paid to the memory of the beloved WASHINGTON; I have ventured with unfeigned hesitation upon the difficult task.

To your candour I submit myself; and in the motives which have brought me here, I trust in your generous bosoms I can read an apology, for every defect which may appear in that oration I shall now deliver.

FUNERAL ORATION.

Upon an occasion the most solemn ever witnessed by America, listen to the voice of eternal truth—"It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to the house of feasting;"—for none of us "liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself."*

But there are some men, illuminated with a purer ray of divinity—Patriots of the first magnitude, who in a peculiar sense may be said to live and die, not to themselves, but to others. Endowed with that superior excellence, which does honor to our whole species, the virtuous of every nation claim kindred with them, and the general interests of humanity are concerned in their characters.

* The Exordium is principally taken from Dr. Smith's Oration to the memory of General Montgomery and others.

In veneration for such men, to exchange the accustomed walks of pleasure for the home of mourning—to bedew its sacred recesses with tears of gratitude to their memory—to strive, if possible, to catch some portion of their etherial spirit, as it mounts from this earthly sphere, into perfect union with congenial spirits above—is a laudable custom, coeval with society, and sanctioned by the example of the wisest nations.

It was the manner of the Egyptians, the fathers of arts and sciences, not only to celebrate the names, but to embalm the bodies, of their deceased heroes, that they might long be preserved in public view, as examples of virtue, and although dead yet speaking.

But this honor was not easily to be obtained, nor was it indiscriminately bestowed. It was decreed only by the public voice of a venerable assembly of judges; before whom the body of the deceased was brought for trial, and solemnly acquitted or condemned upon the evidence of the people.

Even kings themselves, however much spared when alive, for the sake of public tranquillity, had still this more than fiery ordeal before their eyes; and by the example of some of their number, who had been refused sepulture in those very tombs which their pride had prepared to their own memory, were taught both to venerate and to dread a law which extended its punishments beyond the usual time of oblivion.

The moral of this institution was truly sublime, constantly inculcating a most important lesson, that whatever distinctions our wants and vices may render necessary, in this short and imperfect state of our being, they are all cancelled by the hand of death; and through the untried periods which succeed, virtue and beneficence will make the true distinctions, and be the only foundations of happiness and renown.

The enlightened Athenians had an express law, appointing orations and public funerals in honor of those who gloriously sacrificed their lives to their country. Thucydides has recorded a celebrated oration of this kind, delivered by Pericles. The illustrious speaker, after a most animated description of the amor patriæ, the love of country, which he exalts above all human virtues, turns to the deceased:—

“Having bestowed their lives to the public, every one of them, says he, hath received a praise that will never die—a sepulchre which will al-

ways be most illustrious; not that in which their bones lie mouldering, but that in which their fame is preserved. The whole world is the sepulchre of illustrious citizens, and their inscription is written upon the hearts of all good men.”

The Romans rewarded deeds of public virtue according to their magnitude, with statues, triumphs, peculiar badges of dress at public solemnities, and songs of praise to the living as well as to the dead.

Republican France, ever since her regeneration, has been in the practice of decreeing funeral honors and orations to those whom she has deemed worthy of them.

And Congress early in our revolution resolved, that a funeral oration should be delivered in honor of General Montgomery, and those officers and soldiers, who magnanimously fought and fell with him, in maintaining the principles of American liberty.

This mode of paying respect to departed heroes and patriots, seems well calculated for republican governments. They are necessarily careful of bestowing honors upon the living, but may with great safety and propriety liberally bestow them upon the dead.

It must therefore give pleasure to every citizen of America to know, that the President of the United States, penetrated with grief for the great loss his country has sustained, and entertaining the most exalted opinion of the character of the deceased, has committed “to an affectionate and grateful people, in whose hearts he can never die, to pay suitable honors to his memory.”

Thy recommendation, worthy Adams! will be most faithfully obeyed, by that honorable body to whom thou hast committed the mournful trust. An affectionate and grateful people will raise a monument to his memory, which shall command the attention and respect of the world! It is already begun! the foundations are laid! America is weeping thro’ all her forests—her towns and cities are shrouded with black, and covered with mourning—nothing is heard but the still sounds of woe, and universal condolence—all business is suspended; and an awful silence pervades our country, as if nature herself had made a pause!

Early in life this great man, whose death we now deplore, was highly distinguished by his country. In seventeen hundred and fifty-four, he

held the commission of Colonel in the service of Virginia, in the war then carried on by Great-Britain and the Colonies against the French and Indians.

In fifty-five he gave a striking instance of that disinterestedness which ever afterwards characterized all his actions. By a royal arrangement of rank, no officer who did not derive his commission immediately from the king, could command one who did. Colonel Washington cheerfully relinquished his regiment, and accompanied General Braddock, as an extra aid-de-camp.

In this capacity he rendered the most important service, by extricating the troops from the fatal ambuscade, which cost the life of Gen. Braddock, most of his officers, and the discomfiture of the whole army. In covering the retreat, and saving the wreck of this army, he displayed the greatest abilities. The public prints in Britain and America, were full of applauses for the essential service he had rendered upon so trying an occasion.

The regulation of rank being afterwards settled, to the satisfaction of the colonial officers; Virginia, impressed with a due sense of his merits, gave him an extensive commission to command all the troops raised or to be raised in that colony. In this character he continued to defend and protect the frontiers, with the greatest skill and bravery, and commanded the van brigade of Gen. Forbs' army at the capture of fort du Quesne, in fifty-eight.

Tranquillity being restored on the frontiers of the middle colonies, and Colonel Washington's health having materially suffered, by incessant fatigue and unremitted attention to duty, in fifty-nine he resigned his military appointment. Authentic documents exhibit the tender regret which the Virginia line expressed at parting with their commander, and the affectionate regard which he entertained for them.

Amidst the numerous great lights which civil calamity produced in our country, during her struggle for liberty and independence, Washington shone with distinguished lustre, and rose pre-eminently above the rest.

Blest with the most commanding figure—a dignity which forcibly impressed all beholders—a complacency of manners—a mind highly cultivated, and stored with knowledge—and a military fame so honorably

acquired; he seemed formed by nature for great and glorious deeds, and pointed out by the hand of Destiny to America, as her revolutionary chief.

It would be incompatible with our present design, to mention in detail the various plans he devised, or the systems he pursued to protect and defend our country during a seven years' war, against a most powerful enemy. They are fresh in the memory of many of us, and recorded in the annals of America for the information of all. Suffice it in this place to say, he surmounted more difficulties than any other general ever encountered—his attention to discipline, raised our army to respectability and renown—his vigilance and prudence, defeated all the plans and devices of the enemy—his valor and military knowledge, excited the wonder and commanded the admiration of all. A father to his soldiers, he endured in common with them all the fatigues of war, in summer's heat and winter's cold. A brave commander, he always seized the most proper moment to attack the foe; but when inferior in force, and subjected to privations which rendered action imprudent, Fabius-like he eluded them by the most judicious movements, till they in their turn were reduced by casualties and drawn from their resources—then, sudden as the unexpected whirlwind, would they behold Washington before them, to their terror, confusion, and defeat!

Here let me borrow the animated description of a French officer of great celebrity as a soldier and a philosopher, who served under him.*
“ Brave without temerity, laborious without ambition, generous without prodigality, noble without pride, virtuous without severity; he seems always to have confined himself within those limits, where the virtues by clothing themselves in more lively but more changeable colors, may be mistaken for faults. Let it be repeated, that Conde was intrepid, Turenne prudent, Eugene adroit, Catinat disinterested. It is not thus Washington will be characterized. It will be said of him, at the end of a long civil war, he had nothing with which he could reproach himself. If any thing can be more marvellous than such a character, it is the unanimity of the public suffrages in his favor. Soldier, magistrate, people, all love and admire him; all speak of him in terms of tenderness and the highest veneration.”

* The Marquis de Chastelleux,

Behold, then, this illustrious general, having by his valor and prudence conducted us as a "pillar of cloud" by day, and a "pillar of fire" by night, to a happy and honorable peace, humbly bending before Congress, in seventeen hundred and eighty-three, surrounded by a numerous concourse of citizens, and resigning his commission, accompanied with the following pathetic address:

"The great events on which my resignation depended, having at length taken place, I have now the honor of offering my sincere congratulations to Congress; of presenting myself before them, to surrender into their hands the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring from the service of my country.

"Happy in the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States of becoming a respectable nation, I resign with satisfaction the appointment I accepted with diffidence—a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which however was superceded by a confidence in the rectitude of our cause, the support of the supreme power of the Union, and the patronage of Heaven.

"The successful termination of the war has verified the most sanguine expectations; and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from my countrymen, increases with every review of the momentous contest.

"I consider it an indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my official life, by commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendence of them to his holy keeping.

"Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action; and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life."

It is easier to conceive than express the effect such a solemn scene had upon those who beheld it. Tears gush from every eye—their bosoms swell with the generous glow of the most fervent gratitude and affection—while Congress, impressed with the magnitude of the act, in faltering accents assure him—they receive with emotions too affecting for utter-

ance, the solemn resignation of the authorities under which he had led their troops with success, through a perilous and doubtful war. They tell him, he has accepted the sacred charge of defending his country's rights, before any alliances were formed, and when we were without funds, or a government to support him—that he had conducted the great military contest, with wisdom and fortitude, invariably regarding the rights of the civil power through all disasters and changes—that he had displayed the martial genius of his fellow-citizens, and transmitted their fame to posterity—that in defending the standard of liberty in this new world, he had taught a lesson useful to those who inflict, and to those who feel oppression—that he retires from the great theatre of action with the blessings of his country—that the glory of his virtues will not terminate with his military command, but will continue to animate the remotest ages. They join with him in commending the interests of their common country, to the protection of Almighty God, beseeching him to dispose the hearts and minds of its citizens to improve the opportunity afforded them of becoming a happy and respectable nation. And address the Throne of Grace in earnest prayers, that a life so beloved may be fostered with all its care—that his days may be happy as they have been illustrious; and that he finally may receive that reward, which the world cannot give!

This great scene can only be heightened by the reflection, that this HERO, thus beloved by all, and almost adored by his army, buoyed above the axioms of interest and ambition, which govern most men, resolved, by the most magnanimous sacrifice, to put it out of his own power to make use of their affections to promote the one, or of his rank to advance the other.

The world looked with astonishment and admiration, at so disinterested and noble an action!

The good sense of America, having convinced them of the inefficacy of the first instrument of their confederacy, a great convention of the States is called, to new-model the league. Washington presides in this venerable assembly—and by his great weight and influence, added to the labours of others, our present constitution was produced.

of the affections of the people, had so long sat towards this great man, and his great and illustrious deeds having swelled it to a mighty stream, they look forward with joy to the opportunity, which was about to be presented to them, of making a noble display of that gratitude which had swollen their bosoms, and was now ready to overflow.

Washington is called by the unanimous suffrages of a great and free people, to take the chair of supreme magistracy.

The bright sun of American happiness then shone with meridian splendor! The protector—the defender—the political savior, of their country, was now to direct the helm of state, and every man felt himself safe and secure under his guidance. Hitherto loved as a soldier, now adored as a statesman—clothed with the power of the United States, and looking with native majesty in his exalted seat, he seemed “a wall of fire round about us,” and a “glory in the midst of us!”

The wisest establishments arose—the most wholesome provisions were made, for the peace, safety, and prosperity of our country—commerce flourished—agriculture was improved, and every art encouraged. Our name rose with lustre upon the European world. They admired—but they envied us. They could not behold the rising glory of America without jealousy.

The time limited by the constitution for the continuance in office of the President, at length expires. But the fountains of gratitude, fixed deep in the inmost recesses of the heart, being ever inexhaustible, and now replenished by the merits of a four years' labor and service devoted to the best interests of his country, a faithful people again cry out, with one voice—All hail, President Washington!

These instances of the affection and confidence of his country, so often repeated, fortified his mind against the difficulties that were to ensue.

France had proceeded far in her new organization, and assumed the appearance of a regular government. She was first welcomed by Washington, in the name of America, as a sister Republic. We considered her contest for freedom, congenial with that which we had accomplished. She gained upon our affections, and we felt an interest in every thing that

regarded her happiness, and ultimate success. But, alas! ambition grew out of her victories; and instead of confining herself within the limits prescribed by her ancient kingdom, she extended her conquests abroad, encouraged revolution every where, and seemed to aim at universal domination.

The pure mind of Washington, which had long studied and perfectly understood the rights of man and of nations, beheld with regret the virtuous struggle of twenty-five millions of people to rescue themselves from slavery, converted by the arts and intrigues of designing leaders, to the wild enthusiasm and extravagance of universal emancipation from government and law. Insidious measures were taken to involve this country in the vortex of European politics. England, jealous of our attachment to republican principles, and counting upon our partiality to France, made great depredations upon our commerce, and every thing seemed to announce an approaching war.

Our government having taken the dignified attitude of neutrality, was willing to hold the scales even, and do equal justice to the contending nations. But we are threatened from without, and assailed from within—The whisper of corruption is heard!

In the midst of these conflicting dangers, the steady intrepid Washington, who had so often exposed his life for his country, and was always ready to lay it down for her service, was now even willing to risk a reputation more dear than life, to secure her peace and prosperity. With a magnanimity truly heroic, collecting all the energies of his great mind, and pursuing the principles which had invariably governed his whole life, *to do what he thought was right*, he signs a treaty with Great-Britain.

It would be highly improper to discuss the merits of this measure here. We ought to be satisfied in knowing and believing, that through the whole tenor of the most important life, which had been open to the inspection of all, he never decided upon one public act, without the most mature consideration, the fullest conviction of its propriety, and having the best interests of his country always at heart.

Who can now possibly calculate, or who ever could with any certainty calculate, what might be the situation of this country at the present moment, if that treaty had not been concluded? Instead of that peace which

around for a commander, and the good genius of America still directs them to Washington. Delicacy almost forbids the approach. The wise Adams hesitates to make the request: But the venerable Hero meets the wishes of his country,—I come, he cries, to devote the remainder of my life to your service, if I can do any more good.—He did thus devote it, for in the character of commander in chief of the armies of the United States, he ended his days.

What a noble example of humility, disregard of personal ease, and enthusiastic love of country! Thrice has he exhibited to America, the most exalted proofs of disinterestedness and magnanimity! and thrice has he astonished the world!*

To all the distinguished features which characterise the illustrious man, he also added a probity of heart which has never been equalled, and a modest diffidence in his own abilities, which gave the highest finish to his exalted virtues.

Hear this moving language, in his Address to the People of the United States: "Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration, I am not conscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects, not to think it probable I may have committed many errors—What ever they may be, I fervently 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 consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest."

Even in his last moments too! as if every act of his life was to become instructive, and every word a precept, he inculcates the most important lesson upon mankind—"I do not fear death; I have made my will, my affairs are in good order, and my public business only two days behind."—With calmness, he resigns himself into the hands of his Creator—with confidence he falls asleep in death!

Well may the voice of lamentation be heard throughout our land! never had a country so much cause for mourning! Well may we cry out,

* Alluding to his resigning the command of the revolutionary army at the end of the war—His refusing to continue as President of the United States—And his afterwards acting in the subordinate character of commander of the armies.

"O! that our heads were waters, and our eyes fountains of tears," that we might continually weep over so irreparable a loss! Never can we again witness so solemn an occasion to call forth universal sorrow. But once in eighteen centuries, hath so perfect a character appeared to adorn the world! Happy the future age, that can boast of such a man! And thrice happy America, which gave birth to so illustrious a citizen!—Compared with him, the renowned sages of antiquity—the mighty princes of the earth—and the great conquerors of the world—all shrink back, and yield him a most just pre-eminence.

To abler orators, I leave a more particular description of the numerous and varied virtues of this great man. By them his praise will be founded much further than my feeble voice can reach. There it shall live, while the smallest vestiges of literature remain upon earth—yea, till "the cloud-capt towers, the gorgeous palaces, the solemn temples, this great globe itself, and all which it inherit, shall dissolve, and like the baseless fabric of a vision, leave not a wreck behind." Nor shall it perish then—but being the immediate care of heaven, "the great archangel, when he sweeps suns and systems from their place, and kindles up their last fires, stretching forth his mighty arm, shall snatch the deathless scroll from the devouring conflagration, and place it among the archives of eternity."

One further circumstance must not be omitted, in justice to that society who have honored me with this place, and whose boast it is that Washington was their grand master. To the fashionable philosophers of the present day, it may appear of little consequence, but upon this foundation are built all our works.

To the character of hero and patriot, this good man added that of christian. All his public communications breathe a pure spirit of piety, a resignation to the will of heaven, and a firm reliance upon the providence of God. In those achievements which redounded most to his reputation, we hear him exclaiming with king David, "Not unto us, not unto us, O! Lord, but to thy name be the honor and praise." Although the greatest man upon earth, he disdained not to humble himself before his God, and to trust in the mercies of Christ. He regularly attended in

the temples of the most high, and joined with his fellow mortals, in paying adoration to the Supreme Governor of the Universe, and in supplicating blessings for his country, and pardon and forgiveness for himself. — For thyself, christian, hero, and patriot! thy prayers have been heard. Thy blessed spirit hath ascended from this terrestrial orb, to mingle with congenial spirits above! there thou wilt drink of those rivers of joy and gladness, that flow from the right hand of the throne of God! there thou wilt be welcomed by the whole host of heaven!—Oh! that we had angels' wings, that we might follow him, and witness his joyful reception into those blest abodes!—Behold the gates of heaven are thrown wide open! See the band of heroes, and martyrs in their country's cause, rushing out to meet their chief, and welcoming him to immortal glory! See the venerable train of patriots, sages, and statesmen, advancing to bid him hail, to mansions of eternal peace and rest! Angels and archangels, and ten thousand times ten thousand glorified spirits, tune their harps at his approach, and the great vault of heaven resounds with one universal song of "Hosanna to the Highest!"—"Come, come thou blessed of" our "Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you, from the foundations of the world!"

Oh! that we may all "die the death of the righteous, and may our latter end be like his!"

ADDRESS TO THE MASONIC BODY.

We, my Brothers, lamenting in common with our fellow-citizens, over the grave of this great and good man, yet feel his loss peculiarly afflicting to us, in the relation he stood to our lodges.

Although high and exalted in character and rank, yet he always walked upon the LEVEL with a brother. Although particularly attached to this his native country, which had so loved and honored him, yet his extensive benevolence embraced the great CIRCLE of mankind. In all his actions he was governed by the SQUARE of doing unto others as he would wish they should do unto him; and he ever kept within the COMPASS of good will to all men.

He was indeed a great light, sent to us by the Grand Master above, to illumine the darkness here below. But it has pleased Divine Provi-

dence, to call him back from houses built with clay, to "mansions not built with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Those eyes which have looked with so much pleasure upon a brother, are now closed in death. Those ears which have listened with so much attention to their complaints, are now stopped in dust. And those hands which have been so often extended to relieve their wants and distress, will never be raised more.

Let us, then, seeing that death cometh alike unto all men, improve this solemn instance of mortality. Let us be up and doing the work of our hands, while it is yet day, before the night of death overtake us, in which no man can work. Let us embrace the present moment, to provide for that great change, when the pleasures of this world shall cease to delight, and the reflections of a life spent in the exercise of virtue and piety, yield the only comfort and consolation.

Let us copy the bright example of this our most beloved brother, and by a sacred regard to his memory, and our own solemn engagements, pursue with unremitting assiduity, the tenets of our profession. Let us feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the afflicted; do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. Then shall we be able to silence "the tribe of scorers, and to convince them, the only qualities we wish to honor, are those which form good men and good citizens; and the only buildings we seek to raise, are temples for virtue and dungeons for vice."

Finally, let us with becoming reverence, supplicate the throne of grace, that we may secure the favor of that Eternal Being, whose goodness and power knoweth no bounds. Thus shall our expectation not be disappointed, nor shall we be hurried unprepared into the presence of that awful Judge, to whom the secrets of all hearts are known; but may entertain the humble hope, that after we have performed our weary pilgrimage here below, we shall each of us be received into the great temple above, with the cheering salutation, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord!"

CONCLUSION.

Oh! thou great and mighty I AM! who said, Let there be light—and there was light! who spoke this world into being, by the word of thy mouth, and who disposeth of all events here below, as to thee in thy wisdom seemeth best! Look down in compassion, we humbly beseech thee! upon the sorrows of a whole people! May their sighs and tears, come up before thy throne, as an acceptable sacrifice at the shrine of virtue! Although thou hast wrote bitter things against us, yet let us never distrust thy providence! In six troubles thou hast delivered us, and in seven thou wilt not forsake us!

Raise up, Oh, Supreme Architect! for our distressed Lodges, another LIGHT, which shall be as a fire in the midst of us, and a glory round about us!—And oh! for our country, Heavenly Father! raise up another WASHINGTON—one who shall be equally loved—equally admired—equally confided in; and to whom thou shalt direct the eyes of this great nation, as thou hast done in times past, to that ever to be lamented man!

Now to the tri-une God, * *the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost*, be ascribed all honor and dominion, for ever more—Amen.

“Amen! So let it ever be!”

* Here the Masonic Body rose, and on mention of the words, *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*, gave the sign or symbol of divine homage and obeisance; concluding with the response,

“Amen! So let it ever be!”

Previous to the Oration, the following ELEGIAC ODE, prepared for the occasion, was sung by a Choir.

TUNE—ADMONITION.

Descend, St. JOHN, attune the plaintive lyre,
And through Columbia's regions spread abroad,
The mournful loss of her beloved Sire!
Call'd to the bosom of his Father, God.
The Trump of Fame announces his translation,
To the Grand Lodge of infinite duration.

The Master Warden summon'd him away,
On Jacob's Ladder he ascends above,
To the bright regions of eternal day,
To join the chorus of redeeming love.
The Trump of Fame announces his translation,
To the Grand Lodge of infinite duration.

But can Columbians e'er forget the day,
When proud Oppression bath'd our fields in blood,
Great WASHINGTON withstood the dire affray,
And swept the invaders from our ravag'd shores!
The Trump of Fame announces his Translation,
To the great Captain of his soul's salvation.

The Monarch may forget his pearly Crown,
The Mother may forget her first-born Son,
The Bride-Groom may forget his lovely Bride,
But we'll remember thee, O WASHINGTON!
And while thy name adorns Columbia's story,
Her Sons shall sound thy virtue and thy glory.