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## WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

On the eve of the birthday of the nation's first President, a few words regarding him as an individual seem not only in order but to some extent called for. It may be said that the subject is so familiar, that it is to such an extent a part of one's early education and constant reading in all stages of life that little that is not known can be said. This only goes to show that we oftentimes know really less of a matter with which we are constantly associated than of one that has recently been presented to us. We once heard a noted comedian apologize for breaking down in the midst of a song, saying that he had sung it a thousand times and relied so much upon his ability to go through it without effort that it had given him the slip. This illustrates the point tolerably well. We can all, or nearly all, tell who the first President was, but how many can tell in what year he was born or where he was born without consulting an authority? Not very many, and of these we venture to assert that a majority have had the subject brought to their attention by some means quite recently.

George Washington was born at Pope's Creek, Westmoreland county, Virginia, on the 22nd day of February, 1732. His ancestry was English, but despite the most rigid investigation and penetrating research, beyond this country it is largely a matter of conjecture. He was the first son of Lawrence and Mary Ball Washington, she being a second wife. His father died when he was eleven years old, and thus his training was thrown upon his mother, who possessed the proper qualifications and temperament to instill in the youthful mind those precepts and principles which in later life made him conspicuous above all men of his time. His education was altogether rudimentary, the advanced schools of that day being very few and widely apart; he acquired reading, writing, arithmetic, a little geometry, and from this something of practical surveying, of which occupation he was very fond. The number of great names which adorn the pages of history and whose owners were meagerly educated at the beginning of their career would of itself make a great volume; but considering the structure which was erected upon the foundation, there were few if any more poorly prepared in a scholastic way for the struggle with life than was George Washington. How, like Cincinnatus, he was called from peaceful fields to head an army consecrated to the liberation of his country and the independence of his countrymen; how, poorly clad, provisioned and armed, with superior

forces fully equipped ever confronting them, he and his Spartan bands fought on and on through the changing seasons till the last surrender at Yorktown—eight long, cruel, bitter, bloody years; how he was then called to the head of the nation which his arduous work had called into existence—all these have been read of and are familiar in every nook and corner of the land, not only in our land but in many places beyond the seas.

Washington, as shown, did not arise among his countrymen as a great man or as one especially prominent. The colonists, in fact, did not measure consequences or know upon whom they were to rely among the people of the earth. They felt the fire of patriotism burning in their breasts and with it was born the determination to forever throw off the tyrannical encroachments of Great Britain, to die if need be but leave to their children—to us—the boon of freedom unalloyed forever. Resistance to tyrants was truly obedience to God, for He made all things work to their eventual welfare; He raised up Washington from amidst the "common people" just as many a time before and since He has raised up leaders where they were least expected and provided the means of effectual work and ultimate success when all seemed dark and forbidding. To Washington and the patriot band, then, aided and directed by the Lord of hosts, we primarily owe our free institutions, our majestic attitude in the presence of the nations, our greatness as a government and the peace and prosperity which attend our individual lives. We cannot honor his name too much, albeit as a human he had his weaknesses and his faults, because in honoring it and him we honor our country and ourselves. The children in our schools are today engaged in memorial exercises, and certainly in no manner could they spend their time more acceptably; thus with the strengthening of mind regarding the history of the nation comes the bud of patriotic purpose which later in life blooms and becomes golden fruit on the tree of Liberty.

## GENERAL BRAUREGARD.

Shortly after 10 o'clock last evening, Gustave Pierre Toutant Beauregard laid down his life and went to the realm where Lee, Jackson, the Johnstons and many other compatriots in the cause of the Southern Confederacy had preceded him. He was 75 years old, had fought through the Mexican war and in the most exposed places in that of the rebellion, and finally died in the midst of peace and quietude.

General Beauregard was by many considered the ablest engineer on either side in the civil war. His defenses at Charleston and other points in the South were as perfectly strategic and nearly impregnable as human skill could make them. From the former, on the 12th day of April, 1861, was fired the shot that sounded throughout the world, that hastily summoned both sides of a divided nation to arms, that initiated the most terrific and fratricidal strife of modern times—the shot that crashed into the battlements of Fort Sumter. He

was almost as capable in the field as among the earthworks. To his unerring judgment and wonderful perception was largely due the crushing defeat of the Union forces at Bull Run; he followed up the damage inflicted upon General Grant's forces by Albert Sidney Johnston at Shiloh, and pushed back the Union army step by step for miles, the latter being saved from either destruction or capture by the arrival of heavy reinforcements flanked by gunboats; General Butler had the temerity to engage him in battle at Drury's Bluff, and was whipped neatly, completely and expeditiously for his pains; in short, the Confederate chieftain was a great if not a wonderful soldier. His later years have been passed in comparative retirement at his home at New Orleans.

## A LIBERTY BELL.

That is a patriotic as well as poetic scheme which the lady managers of the World's Fair have in hand. They propose the construction of a great liberty bell to be composed of metallic fragments from all over the country. Mrs. W. S. McCornick of this city is commissioner for Utah and will receive contributions of either materials or cash for the purpose, and will also give any further information that may be desired. It is proposed that every day the bell shall announce the sunrise and sunset and it will also be tolled at 9 o'clock on the morning of certain great anniversaries to be announced. Before us is the prospectus of the project, in which the bell's mission when created is fully set out; this, in brief, is that it is to be "a permanent missionary of liberty and peace." It is a worthy proceeding and in its consummation Utah, as usual, will not be found wanting.

## TIMELY TOPICS.

The News heartily endorses and commends to the attention of its readers the views expressed by "W. D. W." in his communication published in another column. The successful manufacture of iron has passed beyond the experimental stage in this Territory, all that is needed being capital and good management. Our opinion is that foreign capital would long since have entered the field and pursued the important industry had there been less uncertainty as to possible overcharges for fuel. With cheaper coal there is no likelihood that our immense iron resources would be permitted to lie unemployed.

"W. D. W.'s" views on bonuses are also full of sense and wisdom; they are timely and to the point, and should be borne in mind by those who are just now looking after the copper plant establishment.

## JUSTICE AT LAST.

Our people in Idaho have learned by enforced conditions how to be patient and wait, whether or not it is now a demonstration to them that all things come to those who wait. From two to three thousand citizens for several long years have taken no other part in the