

advertisement in a Baltimore paper of 1773 states that he had 20,000 acres of land for sale on the Ohio river. His will, which is now kept about twenty miles from Washington, in the safe of the old court house at Fairfax, Va., gives a detailed statement of every article he possessed down to the calves and sheep. His personal estate was then put down at \$532,000, and this included a vast amount of tobacco, large numbers of cattle, sheep and horses, nearly all of which he willed to his wife. This will is now kept in a wooden box, the top of which is covered with glass. It was torn in two some time ago by some careless sightseer, and since that no one has been allowed to handle it. The account books which are kept here in the state department show that Washington was very careful about keeping a record of his expenditures. He put down everything and among other items you see here and there the amounts which he lost at cards. In April, 1772, he lost \$100 in this way at the house of Rev. Bouscher, and a little further on there is an item stating "Paid for toddy for self, Walker and others, at a little jam-boree near the Drummond lake, five pounds." During the time he was candidate for the house of burgesses of Virginia, when he bought the whiskey above spoken of, his losses at cards and at the horse races are frequent. The curious thing about his accounts is that there was almost always a deficiency at the end of the year which he could not account for. This made no difference, however, with his starting the new year with a fresh account, for one item at this time is as follows: "By cash, either lost, stolen or neglected to charge, 144 pounds 8 shillings and 11 pence." In other words, he was short that year over \$700.

Through his letters now owned by the government you see here and there correspondence which shows that he was very hard up at times. In 1785 he wrote that he could get no wheat on credit, and that he had no cash to pay for it. Three years later he urges a man to pay the \$1,000 which he owes him, and says he has put off the sheriff three times already, and that he needs this money to pay his taxes. He was not afraid to dun his debtors, and he is said to have been one of the shrewdest dealers among the planters of his time. He was always preaching economy to his servants, but on the whole was somewhat lenient, as, for instance, he employed one man, a carpenter, making a contract with him for a year and providing therein he was to have four days in which he might get drunk about Christmas. Washington was economical, but not stingy. He could not endure waste of any kind, and he went about over his estate doing his best to stop the leaks. In one of his letters home he urges that the greatest economy be used in feeding the hay at the mansion house. He writes:

"I enjoin upon you to particularly guard against Mrs. L. Washington's Charles and her boy in the stables, both of whom are impudent and self-willed and care not how extravagantly they feed or even waste, for I have caught the boy several times littering his horses with hay. I see no sort of necessity for feeding the horses either grain or hay when they are not used or any horse that is at liberty and able to provide for itself. I can plainly perceive that in a little time there will be nothing either for my negroes or horses to eat without buying it, which will neither comport with my interest or inclination. By Stuart's report I find that he still continues to feed horses with corn instead of cut oats, as I directed. What two saddle horses are those which stand in the mansion house report? I know of none but the one

Mr. Whitting used to ride." The planter who demanded reports like that must have been a good business man.

Speaking of Washington as a farmer, from an almanac of 1790 comes the following:

General Washington possesses 10,000 acres of land where he lives. He employs 250 hands and keeps twenty-four ploughs going all the year when the weather will permit. In 1787 he sowed 600 bushels of oats, 700 acres of wheat and a large quantity of corn, barley and potatoes. He has 150 acres in turnips, 500 acres in grass and great fields of peas and beans. He visits his farms every day unless the weather is stormy, and he is making extensive experiments toward the improvement of agriculture. In 1756 he killed 150 hogs, weighing 18,500 pounds, for his family use, which was made into bacon."

From the above it will be seen that Washington had by no means an easy life. He had many troubles outside of those connected with his estate. He had as many enemies as our leading politicians have today and he was accused of all kinds of crimes and mis-

rs. The Philadelphia Aurora charged him with having committed murder during the campaign with Braddock. Griswold, in his republican court, states that an attempt was made to poison Washington when he was President, and it was John Randolph of Roanoke who during a dinner at Alexandria rose and proposed the toast:

"George Washington, may he be damned."

When his birthday was first celebrated in 1783, there was a great deal of criticism on the part of his enemies, and the Aurora, one of the opposition newspapers of Philadelphia, published long poems describing him as the worst of men. He was nicknamed the American Ceasar and the stepfather of his country. The House of Representatives was asked to adjourn for half an hour on the 22nd of February, 1796, to pay its respects to President Washington on the occasion of his birthday. This practice had been in vogue since Washington was first inaugurated. The House, however, refused to adjourn, on that it was the duty of Congress to attend to legislative business and not to pay foolish compliments. When Washington delivered his farewell address he was reviled by the opposite party. All sorts of libels were uttered against him, and the Aurora said there ought to be a jubilee in the United States because the Washingtonian administrations were at an end. Notwithstanding all this, the character of Washington shines brighter today than ever before. With his little weaknesses, which historians have done their best to hide, he is, taking him altogether, perhaps the greatest American our country has ever produced, and the false charges against him were but drops of moisture on the mirror of his fame, which time has long since washed away.

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NECESSITY OF AGITATION.

In a previous letter I have shown how the government of the United States was created by agitation, and how the "mother country," by cunning and bribery, at last succeeded in regaining what she lost in the war of the Revolution. That letter was closed with a question as to whether our republican government could be redeemed. I continue the subject.

Redemption is extremely doubtful. Better conditions can only come through the conduct of better men. American politics have become so corrupt, so much a matter of bargain and sale, so much a matter of favoritism, so much

a matter of procuring the indorsement of politicians for the advancement of politicians, that any arrest of the devil's-dance-to-destruction, on which we are far advanced, seems very doubtful.

A principal factor in this decadence is the cowardice of the church and of the press. Christianity, so-called, now lives on its success in pandering to popular tendencies that it may receive the donations of the wealthy. The press lives to a great extent on precisely the same regimen. An honest man is at a discount. An honest man, in politics, has no show for election. W. J. Bryan, whom I believe to be an honest, highminded man, has, in my opinion, no more show for the presidency of the United States, in 1900, than has any newsboy in Salt Lake. Our government is wholly in the hands of the most scoundrelly, selfish element of the nation. Politics that, rightly used, would never condescend to consider any proposition not for the highest good of the people, has become very largely the means whereby designing men work their way into place and power. This corruption has spread, to a very great extent, through the medium of the Republican party. That party took form from the greatest moral agitation the United States ever knew—the anti-slavery crusade. That party, in its early years, was the grandest political party ever known on the continent of North America. If I criticize it now it is because I was an abolitionist before the party was born and have been voting with it for many years. Had the election of Lincoln not precipitated the civil war the Republican party would have continued to be a moral party. But the rebellion brought with it the terrible upheaval that smashed political morals to smithereens and plunged the more ambitious and selfish people of the North into a mad rush to make money out of the nation's necessity. The California craze of '49, the Klondike craze of today, was and is of the same character as the craze of the North in the war years.

It grew out of the nation's necessities. When Lincoln entered upon his duties the South had been in control of the government long enough to bankrupt it. There was no money, there was no army, there were no munitions of war. Everything was needed, and the necessity created a craze that the country had never known. God was forgotten by everybody but the "Boys in Blue," in the field, at the front, and the wives, mothers and sweethearts in the blues at home. To the selfish there was but one object—the accumulating of riches. They believed the North would win, and on that faith themselves won thousands of dollars where, without the rebellion, they would have plodded on in the old way, making money slowly and giving everybody a chance. But of the brutality developed by the war, that which outstripped all competitors, was the selfishness of the speculators in money, the very life blood of the nation. They began then, and have continued to develop ever since, the worst curse that ever fell upon the American people, it might perhaps justly be said, upon any people in the history of modern nations. It was the system of speculating upon the circulating medium of exchange. I cannot in a letter go into that subject in detail. It is not necessary, in fact, since the people are generally familiar with the history. But this I must say, that the Republican party was the medium through which the curse grew and fixed itself upon the nation and finally brought about the coup d'etat of 1873, whereby the nation was captured by legalized pirates, more selfish and cruel than any of the cut-throats who sailed the Spanish main 150 years ago.

In the land where these pirates dwell,