

# CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF WASHINGTON.

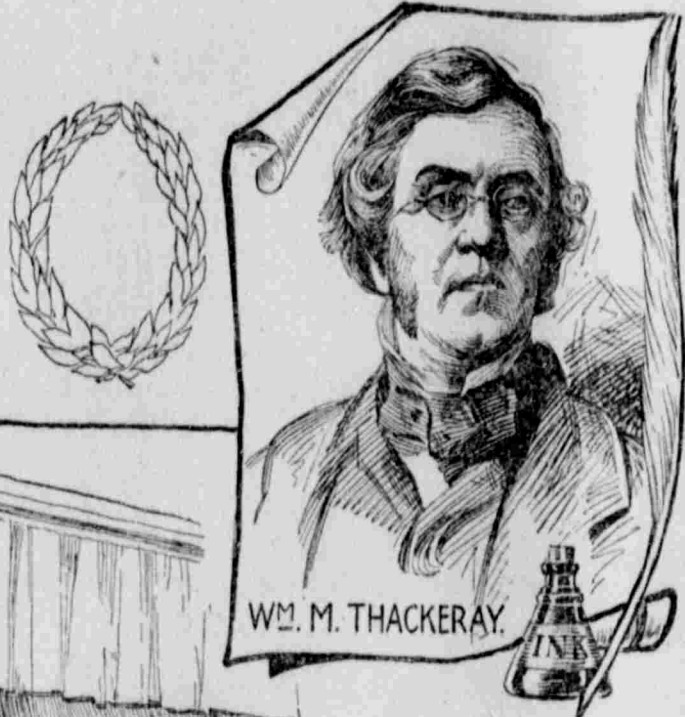
## Thackeray's Estimate of the Character of the First President of the United States.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, first president of the United States, died on the fourteenth day of December, 1799, just 100 years ago. This centenary of the death of America's first president is to be officially observed by the nation of the state of Virginia at Mount Vernon and has awakened unusual interest in the personality of the "Father of his Country." To a wide circle of readers it must be a matter of surprise that Thackeray, the conformed and ruthless cynic whose pen was turned against friend as well as foe, and held up to ridicule British as well as alien idols, had the grace and fine discrimination to eulogize Washington in the noblest language which a lofty and admiring mind could well conceive. The paragraphs here quoted are from Thackeray's famous novel, "The Virginians." Marvellous as it may seem, in these tributes paid by a light hearted Englishman the warmest American patriot may find deep inspiration. The first tribute is the author's direct

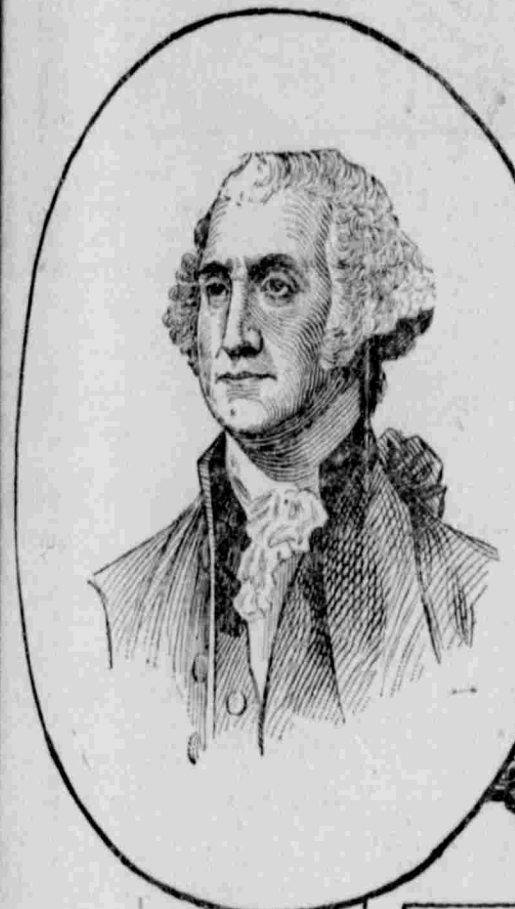
the English colonists had no settled peace. Then the French revolution was disturbing the world, and at Washington's death, half a century after his signal gun broke the primeval silence of the American wilderness, Europe was on the verge of the Napoleonic wars, which rounded out six decades of the mightiest social and martial struggles known in history. Thackeray wrote "The Virginians" after his visit to America in 1853. The passing away of Wellington just about that time, with the full glory of his victories over Napoleon clinging to him, drew to the hero of Waterloo the homage of nations. Just then, too, the mighty genius of the "man of destiny" furnished a theme for worldwide study and wrung admiration from those who could not ignore the many dark phases in the career of the adventurous Corsican. Therefore, for a European cynic with British blood in his veins to mount the forum and say, speaking with truth, that Washington brought out of these epoch making struggles of 1754 to

distracted parties; calm in the midst of conspiracy, serene against the open foe before him and the darker enemies at his back; Washington inspiring order and spirit into troops hungry and in rage; stung by ingratitude, but betraying no anger and ever ready to forgive; in defeat invincible, magnanimous in conquest, and never so sublime as when he laid down his victorious sword and sought his noble retirement—here, indeed, is a character to admire and revere; a life without a stain, a fame without a flaw. Quando invenies parem? (Where will the equal be found?) In that more extensive work which I have planned and partly written upon the subject of the great war, I hope I have done justice to the character of its greatest leader. And this from the sheer force of respect which

his courage never capitulated. Through all the doubt and darkness, the danger and long tempest of war, I think it was only the American leader's indomitable soul that remained entirely steady." While Washington was being discussed among a company of noted Virginians, "Harry Warrington" spoke of his bearing in the crisis brought about by the infamous Conway conspiracy. "And it was here," said he, "as I looked at the chief talking at night in the silence of the camp, and remembered how lonely he was, what an awful responsibility he carried, how spies and traitors were eating out of his dish, and an enemy lay in front of him who might at any time overpower him, that I thought, 'Sure, this is the greatest man now in the world, and what a wretch I am to think of my jealousies and annoyances.'



W. M. THACKERAY.



MOUNT VERNON.

reference and is brought out in the course of a historical narrative which introduces the Revolutionary period. After explaining the presence of the French in the American hinterland and the clashing of interests between them and the English colonists along the Atlantic coast, Thackeray tells how Washington went with his regiment of Virginia militia to expel the invaders from beyond the great lakes. "It was strange," he says, "that in a savage forest of Pennsylvania a young Virginia officer should fire a shot and waken up a war which was to last for 69 years, which was to cover his own country and pass into Europe, to cost France her American colonies, to sever ours (England's) from us, and create the great western republic; to rage over the old world when extinguished in the new; and of all the myriads engaged in the vast contest, to leave the prize of the greatest fame with him who struck the first blow."

The event serving as a text to draw forth this masterly summary was the opening of the Fort Mifflin campaign of 1776, when Washington's colonials first upon the advance guard of the French, killing their leader and precipitating a border war. From that hour until the establishment of the republic

his eminent virtues extorted. With the young Mr. Washington of my own days I had not the honor to enjoy much sympathy, though my brother, whose character is much more frank and affectionate than mine, was always his fast friend in early times, when they were equals, as in the latter days when the general, as I do own and think, was all mankind's superior. "His great and surprising triumphs," continues "George Warrington's" eulogy, "were not in those rare engagements with the enemy where he obtained a trifling mastery, but over congress, over hunger and disease, over lukewarm friends or smiling foes in his own camps when his spirit had to meet and master. When the struggle was over and our impotent chiefs who had conducted it began to squabble and accuse each other in their own defense before the nation, what charges and counter-charges were brought, what pretenses of delay were urged, what piteous excuses were put forward that this fleet arrived too late, that regiment mistook its orders, that these cannon balls would not fit those guns, and so to the end of the chapter! Here was a general who beat us with no shot at all at times, and no powder and no money; and he never thought of a convention;

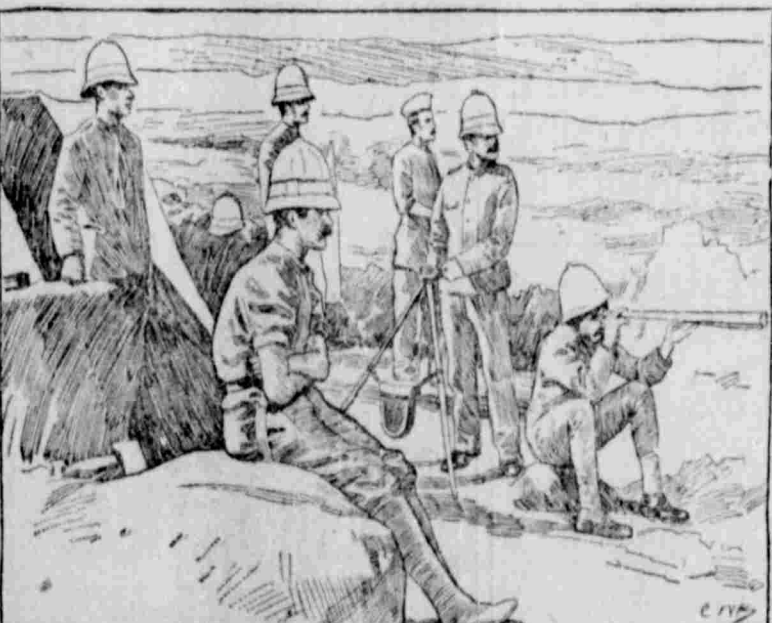
whilst he is walking serenely under his immense cares!" To this "George Warrington" the Tory responded. "We talked but now of Wolfe. Here, indeed, is a greater man than Wolfe. To endure is greater than to dare; to tire out hostile fortune, to be daunted by no difficulty, to keep heart when all have lost it, to go through intrigue spotless, to forego even ambition when the end is gained—who can say this is not greatness or show the other Englishman who has achieved so much?"

### WHERE GENERAL SYMONS IS BURIED.



Dundee is the Natal town which early in the war fell into the hands of the Boers. It was in this little frontier mining town that General Sir William P. Symons, who was mortally wounded in the battle of Glencoe and died a few days later, was buried. The body of this gallant officer was not put in a coffin, but simply wrapped in a union jack and buried in the churchyard attached to the English church. This churchyard and the vicarage are shown in the accompanying picture, which is made from a photograph taken by the Rev. G. C. Bailey, the vicar of this little Natal church.

### USING THE HELIOGRAPH IN WAR.



Although the British in South Africa are making use of the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy in the field, they still find plenty of use for the old fashioned heliograph, with its system of signaling by light flashes. The accompanying illustration is from a snap shot of the Britishers signaling from near Dundee camp, which was captured by the Boers early in the campaign.

## THE SPRIG O' MISTLETOE.

Holly, with its berries red an leaves o' cheerful green,  
Upon the wall o' cot an hall at Chris'mus time is seen.  
It seems to shed a happy air an sets the heart aglow,  
But I pass its crimson clusters fer the sprig o' mistletoe.  
Mistletoe above an a purty face below—  
What more could one be askin on this earth, I'd like to know?  
Is there anything a-missin,  
To complete yer joy when kissin  
The girl ye love on Chris'mus time beneath the mistletoe?



Trim the tree with presents gay, hang baubles on each limb,  
With popcorn, sugar plums an fruit its festive verdure trim.  
Pile the gifts o' love theop on each bough bends low,  
But don't forget upon the wall to hang the mistletoe.

Mistletoe above an a purty face below—  
What more could one be askin on this earth, I'd like to know?  
Is there anything a-missin,  
To complete yer joy when kissin  
The girl ye love on Chris'mus time beneath the mistletoe?



Tune the fiddle, touch the harp, let music have a voice,  
Chris'mus cheer is in the land, so every one rejoice.  
Trio the "light fantastic" while the fiddler draws the bow,  
An catch yer girl an kiss her beneath the mistletoe.  
Mistletoe above an a purty face below—  
What more could one be askin on this earth, I'd like to know?  
Is there anything a-missin,  
To complete yer joy when kissin  
The girl ye love on Chris'mus time beneath the mistletoe?

ARTHUR J. BURDICK.

### A NEW FAD IN DESIGNING.

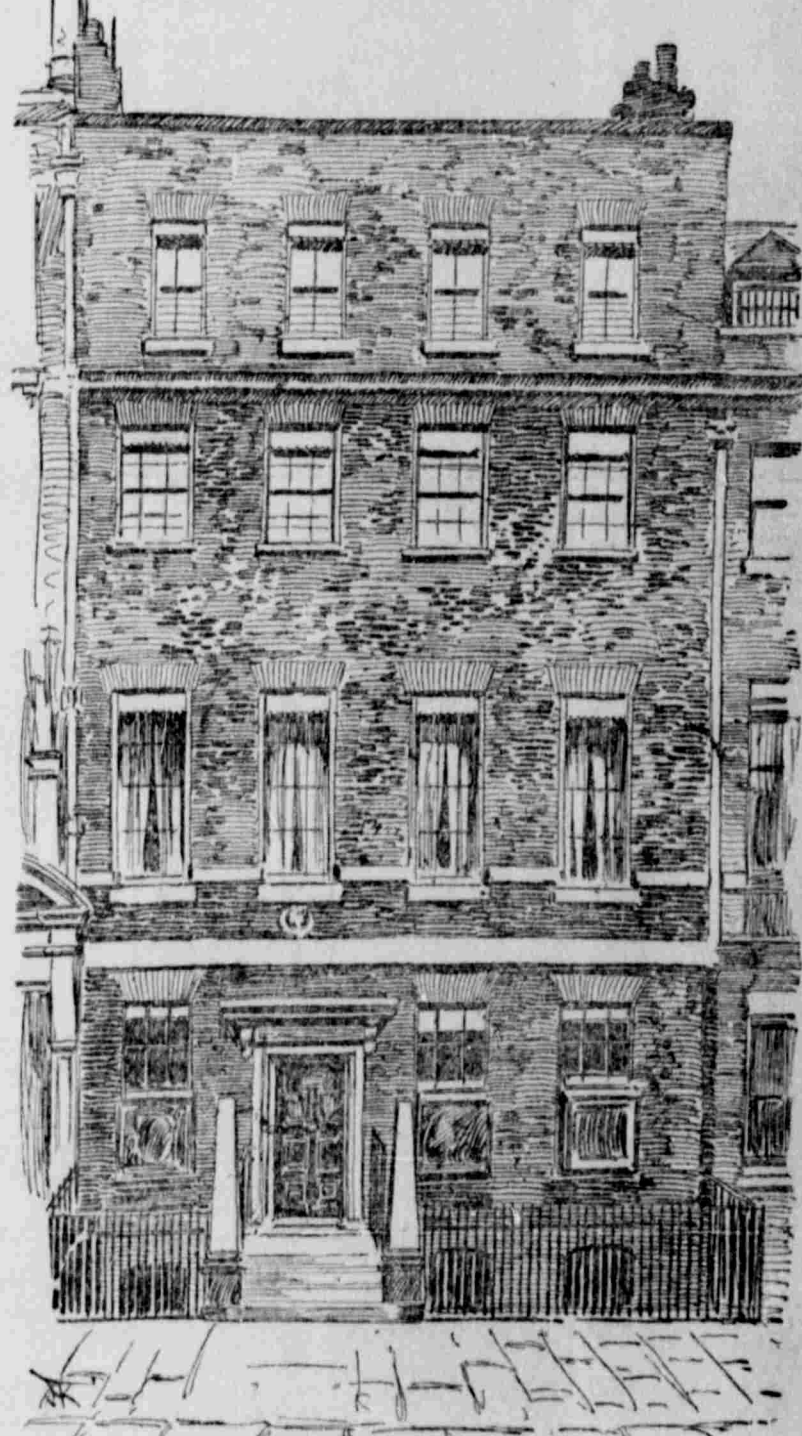
One of the latest fashions among artistic and talented women is designing in stained glass. In New York city a society of arts and crafts was recently



formed for the designing of decorative windows by women. The success of this society may be judged from the accompanying illustration, which shows one of the efforts of this society's youngest member, who bears a name well known in New York society.

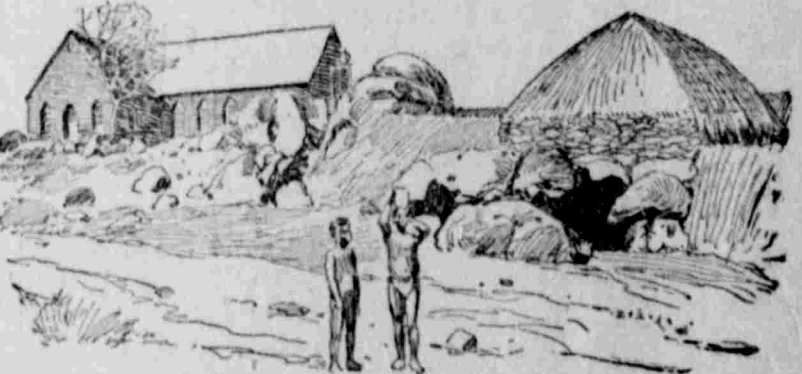
For every million inhabitants in Russia there are only 10 newspapers and journals of all sorts.

### WHERE A GREAT DRAMATIST ONCE LIVED.



Over in England they have just been celebrating the eighty-third anniversary of the death of Richard Brinsley Sheridan. A short life and a merry one—that was this great dramatist's lot, for he died in his fifty-fifth year, on his deathbed dunned by creditors and with bailiffs fighting among themselves for the remains. Sheridan was born in Dublin in 1751, went to London when but 19 and when only two years older booted from Bath with the beautiful and far famed Miss Linley, fighting two duels and going through two marriage ceremonies before his wife was finally acknowledged as his own personal property. In 1775 "The Rivals" was produced at Covent Garden and was a failure, though a later version made a great enough hit. Sheridan's London house is shown in the accompanying picture. This was not the house which Sheridan calmly watched burn down and when reproved for his unseemly jocularly on such an occasion gravely remarked that one ought to have a right to be happy beside one's own fire.

### THE MAXIM AGAINST THE MISSIONARY.



One of the interesting buildings destroyed by artillery during the sortie about Kimberley was the little native church shown in the accompanying illustration. This little mission church was kept up by English missionary societies and used regularly to have its Sunday congregations of blacks, to whom the missionary at the post would give instruction and spiritual advice. In South Africa, just at present, the Maxim has superseded the missionary.

## JOHN PAUL JONES' COMMISSION. IN CONGRESS.

THE DELEGATES of the UNITED STATES of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, TO

John Paul Jones Esq.  
Weirppling especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, DO, by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be  
in the name of the United States of North America, joined out for the Defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of a Captain—by doing and performing all manner of Things thereto belonging. And we do finally Large Powers all Officers, Marines and Seamen under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as they shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United States, or Committee of Congress for the Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Navy of the United States, or any other your Superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, the Usage of the Service, and the Instructions herewith given you, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force until revoked by this or a future Congress.

By Order of the Congress,  
John Hancock PRESIDENT

Now that the burial place of John Paul Jones has been discovered in Paris and there is some talk of removing this hero's ashes from the little Parisian cemetery to America, new and unusual interest has been awakened in the career of the first officer to attain flag rank in the United States navy. It has been found that Paul Jones was buried at the expense of the French government, and that the cause of his death was "dropsy of the chest." The spot where his bones now repose is covered by a building once used as a stable, and later as a laundry. It is just northwest of the Hospital St. Louis, Rue de la Grange aux Belles, and his interment must have been one of the last which took place in this old cemetery. When an excavation was made not long ago for the purpose of placing a boiler in the laundry already spoken of, a number of bones and human debris were unearthed. This led to the investigation which resulted in determining the actual burial place of this American hero.

### SOME INTERESTING EVERYDAY FACTS.

General Sir William Penn Symons, who died in the hands of the Boers at Dundee, owed his grandmother was the actress Penn, who, according to her memorial tablet, was "a lineal descendant of the excellent William Penn and inherited many of his pious and amiable qualities." Captain C. Beattie of San Francisco has entered into an agreement to sail around Cape Horn to New York and

thence to Europe in his 30 foot boat Mabel. She is a centerboard boat, drawing three feet six inches of water. Captain Moldron of California will sail to the Paris exposition in a schooner made of the trunk of a single redwood tree. An enterprising Georgia farmer has

become the pioneer in a new industry—namely, making sirup out of watermelons. He cuts the melon into halves, scoops out the pulp, runs it through a cider mill, presses out the juice and then boils the liquid for 12 hours over a hot fire. Out of 270 melons, worth \$5 or \$6 at wholesale, he gets 30 gallons of

sirup and markets the product at 50 cents per gallon. The refuse is fed to the hogs, cattle and chickens, and the whole operation is very profitable. A sewing machine is supposed to do the work of 12 women. Ira D. Sankey said the other day that he first sang "The Ninety and Nine" in

Edinburgh 26 years ago. The verses he had seen in a newspaper and had never had time to put to music. It was a case of emergency. He didn't know what to sing, but seemed inspired to attempt "The Ninety and Nine" without music. He started to play, then to sing, each note coming to him until the song

was finished. The music, he added, has not been altered to this day. Aluminium, which had no commercial existence a few years ago, was produced in the United States in 1898 to the extent of 5,200,000 pounds, valued at \$1,716,000, or 23 cents a pound, which is one-tenth of the cost of ten years ago.