

"Well," said the American, "you have the cannon, but we have the hill."

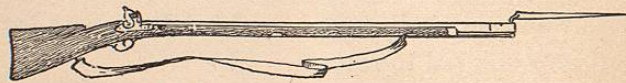
This battle showed General Gage that the Americans were not to be easily subdued. Franklin wrote to his English friends: "The Americans will fight; England has lost her colonies forever."

Give an account of Revere's early life.

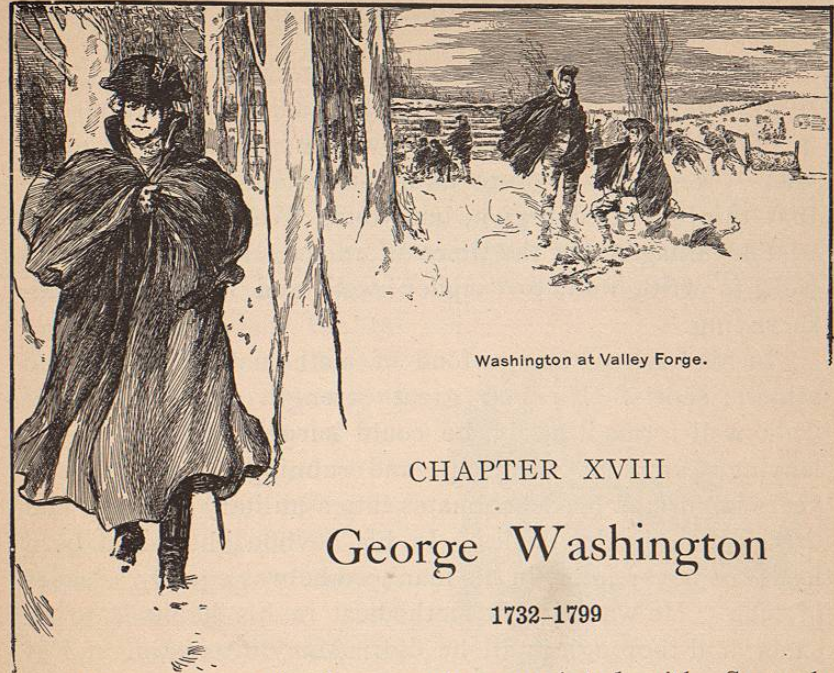
Tell the story of the night of April 18th; of the battle of Lexington; of the battle at Concord.

Describe the battle of Bunker Hill.

Why did Revere want to know how to make gunpowder? Why did Gage desire the arrest of Adams and Hancock? Where do you understand that General Warren was on the night of the 18th of April? Why did Pitcairn call the men at Lexington "rebels"? What did the minute men do after the battle at Concord? Who were the men in the "patriot army" at the battle of Bunker Hill? Who won the battle of Bunker Hill? Did the battle aid the Americans in any way?



A Revolutionary Musket



Washington at Valley Forge.

CHAPTER XVIII

George Washington

1732-1799

WE have already been made acquainted with Samuel Adams and Paul Revere, two Boston boys. We have also heard about Patrick Henry, a native of Virginia. Now we wish to learn about the most distinguished man that Virginia ever produced—George Washington.

George Washington was born February 22d, 1732. His birthplace was not far from the lower Potomac River, at a place called Pope's Creek, in Westmoreland County. His father was Augustine Washington, and his mother was Mary Ball. He was the oldest child of his mother, and his father died when he was eleven years of age. Few sons ever had a more lovely and more devoted mother, and it is certainly true that few mothers ever had a more dutiful and affectionate son.

In those early days the country sections of Virginia had few inhabitants. Well-to-do people had large plantations and but few neighbors. Travelling was mostly done on horseback. Negro slaves were numerous. Schools were few in that thinly settled region, but young Washington had the best advantages that the times afforded. He learned to read well, to write well, to "cipher" well, and he learned land-surveying.

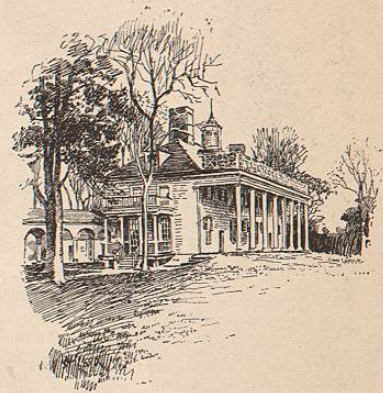
In his boyhood he was fond of mathematical studies and athletic sports. He had great strength and endurance. Tall, well formed, hardy, he could surpass all the boys in leaping, jumping, wrestling, and running. In his early years he formed his schoolmates into a military company and drilled them in the tactics. In his boyhood he was a born leader of boys; later, in his manhood he was equally a leader of men. He was always methodical in his habits, careful, exact, and thorough in all he did. Many interesting stories are told of Washington's boyhood. Some of them, however, are not true. It is a pity that even good stories, which are not true, should ever be told, especially of a great man.

But we must not stop for the interesting incidents of the boyhood and youth of Washington. You must find these stories in other books, and you will all enjoy reading them. When he was sixteen years old, Washington was engaged by Lord Fairfax to survey his wide tracts of wild land. These lands ran across the Blue Ridge and through the Shenandoah Valley. It was a severe task for a young man of his years to undertake. Moreover, it was full of danger. But it was done in such a manner as to give entire satisfaction to his friends and establish his reputation as a surveyor.

At nineteen he was appointed adjutant-general in the Virginia army. When he was twenty-one he was sent by the

governor of Virginia as commissioner to confer with the officer commanding the French forces on Lake Erie. This was a wonderful journey, full of adventures, but accomplished in safety. He made his report to the governor and his journal was published.

When only twenty-one Washington was promoted to be colonel and was made second in command of the Virginia forces. Then came the famous expedition of General Braddock and his disastrous defeat at the battle of the Monongahela. Braddock was killed and the troops returned to Virginia in disorder. At the age of twenty-three Washington was placed in full command of the entire force of the Virginia militia; this was twenty years before the battle of Bunker Hill.



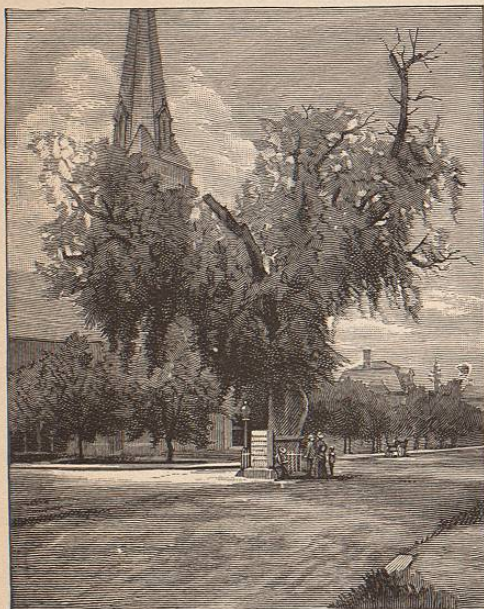
MOUNT VERNON IN WASHINGTON'S TIME.

But we must hasten to consider Washington's part in that war which made the United States one of the nations of the earth. Washington was a member of both Continental Congresses that assembled at Philadelphia, and on the 15th day of June, 1775, at the earnest request of John Adams, of Massachusetts, he was unanimously elected commander-in-chief of all the forces for the defence of liberty.

The battle of Bunker Hill had been fought when, on July 3d, Washington took command of the army, drawing his sword under an ancient elm which is still standing in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For nearly nine months the British army under General Gage and Lord Howe was penned up in

Boston, while all communication between the town and the surrounding country was cut off.

In March, 1776, Washington fortified Dorchester Heights by night. The British saw themselves so surrounded and the city so threatened that Gage and his forces left the city and



THE ELM AT CAMBRIDGE, WHERE WASHINGTON TOOK  
COMMAND OF THE PATRIOT ARMY.

sailed away to Halifax. The Continental troops marched in, to the great relief of the citizens of the town. On the next Fourth of July Congress passed the immortal Declaration of Independence.

The British army, having been driven out of Boston, took possession of New York City. They intended to obtain control of the Hudson River and thus to separate New England from the rest of the

country. Washington so managed as to prevent the British from carrying out these plans. His army, however, was now quite small, numbering only six or eight thousand men, and the outlook was very discouraging.

Washington was obliged to retreat across New Jersey into Pennsylvania. Then by a skilful movement he recrossed the Delaware River and gained the great victories of Tren-

ton and Princeton, finally driving General Howe back to the vicinity of New York. Howe left New York (in 1777) and transported his army south to the Chesapeake Bay. Landing there, he started on the march toward Philadelphia, defeated the Americans, pushed on, and entered Philadelphia unmolested. Washington with his army took up a favorable position on the Schuylkill River.

While all these movements were going on through New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, let us see what happened farther east. In New Jersey our Gen. Charles Lee had been captured by the British. The British General Prescott was in command of the forces at Newport, and Colonel William Barton, of the Rhode Island militia, laid a bold plan for his capture.

With a picked company of forty brave men, Colonel Barton rowed across Narragansett Bay one dark night, almost directly under the guns of the British vessels, and tied his boats to the bushes upon the shore. Then they silently stole across the fields and surrounded the house where Prescott was sleeping, disarmed the sentinels, burst open the doors, and took General Prescott and one of his aides out of their beds, grasping their clothing and carrying it with them without waiting for the prisoners to dress. They hurried them down to the water's edge, into the boats, and succeeded in rowing past the British guard-ship before the alarm had been given.

During their hurried march across the fields with the prisoners not a word had been spoken, but when they were once seated in the boat General Prescott quietly remarked to Colonel Barton:

"You have made a bold push to-night, colonel."

"We have done what we could, general," was the reply.

Prescott was exchanged for General Lee, and Colonel Barton, for his bold and successful enterprise, received a sword from the Continental Congress.

The first campaign of the British had been to cut the country in two by holding New York and the Hudson River. They now made their second great plan, which was to send an army by way of Canada and Lake Champlain down the Hudson and so accomplish what they had failed to do before. This plan led to Burgoyne's campaign (in 1777), during which occurred several battles, and which resulted in the surrender of Burgoyne and his army.

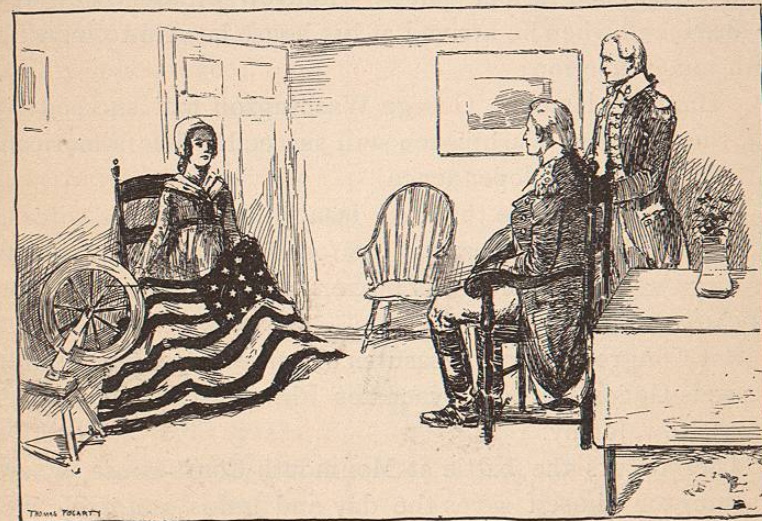
Meantime Congress had adopted the "Stars and Stripes" as a national banner. This flag had thirteen stripes, seven red and six white, and thirteen stars in a field of blue at the upper corner next to the staff. The first flag was made by Mrs. Betsey Ross, of Philadelphia, who lived near the foot of Arch Street. The house in which that first flag was made is still standing. This flag was patterned from a pencilled sketch drawn by General Washington himself. The new flag was used when Burgoyne's army was marched away as prisoners of war.

Soon after this, Franklin succeeded in making a treaty with France, by which the independence of the United States was acknowledged. This was the first acknowledgment of our independence by any European power, and the first treaty of commerce and friendship.

The winter of 1777-78 was a period of great depression to the American cause, and particularly in the American army. This army was encamped at Valley Forge, now a picturesque little village on the right bank of the Schuylkill. It was then a bleak and desolate place, where the patriots protected themselves behind breastworks which they had thrown up,

and lived in poor huts made of fence-rails and earth. One small room on the ground floor of a stone house, owned and occupied by a plain farmer, a Quaker, named Isaac Potts, served both for headquarters and lodgings for General Washington, the commander-in-chief.

The soldiers suffered much; clothing was scarce and of



WASHINGTON'S FIRST SIGHT OF THE STARS AND STRIPES.

poor quality. Their provisions were scant, and some of them were without shoes, so that frequently the soldiers could be tracked by the blood from their naked feet which crimsoned the white snow. There were three thousand men unfit for duty, as Washington said, "because they are barefoot and otherwise naked." And he added that "for seven days past they had little else than famine in the camp."

Then again, Washington was abused and slandered in a

way unwarranted and wicked. It is related that one day Friend Potts, the Quaker, when on his way up the creek, heard the voice of prayer. Following the direction of the sound, he soon discovered Washington upon his knees within the great forest of tall trees, at a place retired and hidden from view. His cheeks were wet with tears as he poured out his soul to God. The good farmer quietly withdrew without being discovered, and when he arrived at his house he said to his wife, with much emotion:

"Hannah, Hannah, George Washington will succeed! I tell thee George Washington will succeed! The Americans will secure their independence!"

"What makes thee think so, Isaac?" inquired his wife.

"I have heard him pray in the forest to-day, Hannah, and the Lord will surely hear his prayer. He will, Hannah, thee may rest assured He will."

But Congress adopts measures of relief. General Clinton succeeds General Howe, evacuates Philadelphia, and moves across New Jersey.

Then occurs the battle at Monmouth Court-house, where Washington himself saves the day and gains a notable victory. The British army now retreated to New York, and Washington took up his position at White Plains. This was the last important conflict fought in the Northern States.

The next year was another gloomy period, but through the whole war, whether in victory or defeat, even in the midst of the greatest discouragements, perplexities, and difficulties, Washington always preserved that good judgment, self-control, and confidence in the right which were such marked features of his character and which eventually brought to him the greatest and most permanent success.

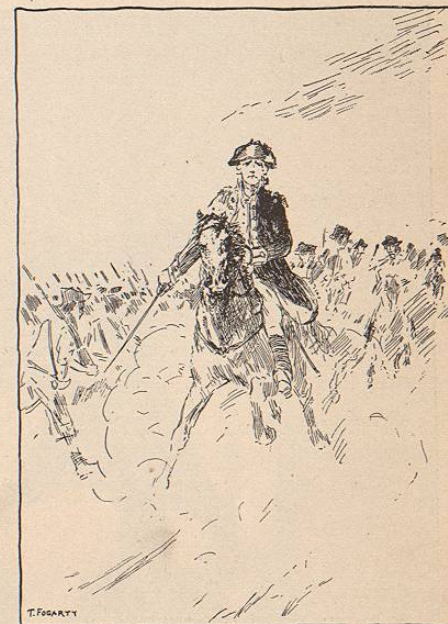
A further account of the progress of the war will be found

in the next chapter. We must not, however, part with Washington just here. We shall see, hereafter, that the war was continued vigorously and under serious discouragements, until finally the British army under Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown to the combined armies and navy of the United States and France. Practically this ended the war, and later our independence was granted by Great Britain.

General Washington now retired to private life, but a new constitution for the United States was adopted in 1787, and under it Washington was unanimously elected President. He held that high office eight years, from 1789 to 1797, and refused a third election. He died December 14th, 1799.

His death caused the most sincere mourning, not only all over the United States, but in every country of the civilized world. He had conquered Great Britain, the foremost power of the world on the battlefield. He presided over the convention which framed our national constitution, and he was chief magistrate of the young republic for eight years.

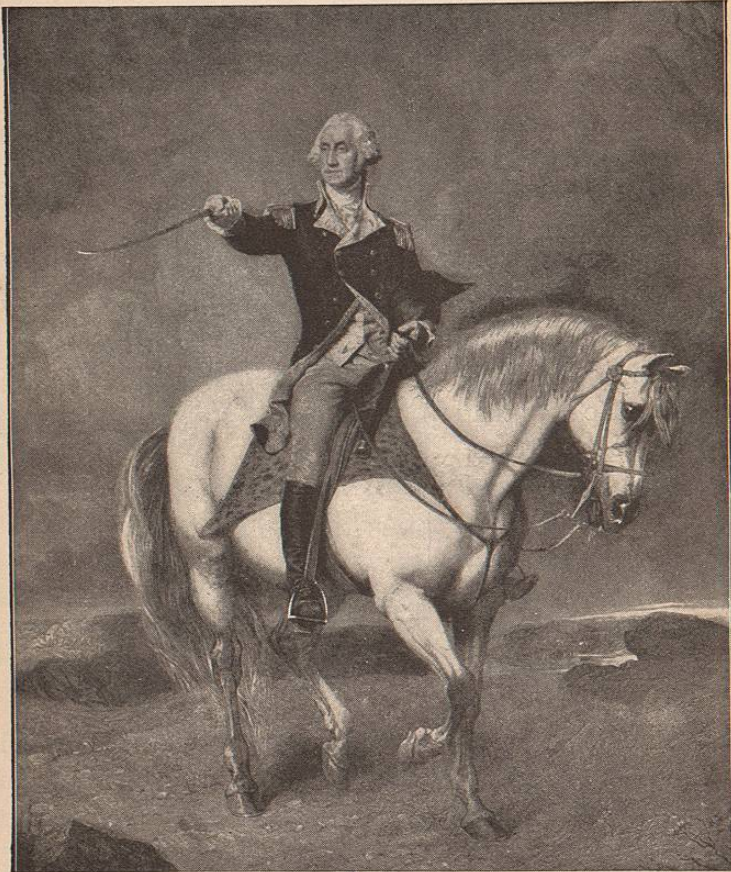
An anecdote is told to the effect that, after the treaty of



WASHINGTON TURNING THE BATTLE AT MONMOUTH.

peace with Great Britain had been concluded, a grand dinner was given in Paris in honor of the success of the commissioners in arranging terms of peace.

At this dinner the English ambassador offered a toast: "King George III.: like the glorious sun at midday, he illu-



WASHINGTON AT TRENTON.

(From the painting by John Faed.)

mines the world." Then the French minister offered as his toast: "Louis XVI.: like the full moon riding in splendor, he dissipates the shades of night." It was now Franklin's turn, and all eyes were fixed upon him. The philosopher slowly arose and called on the company to join him in a toast as follows: "George Washington: like Joshua of old, he commanded the sun and the moon to stand still, and they obeyed him."

Washington displayed the highest qualities as a leader of men, as a military chieftain, and as a statesman. He shrank from no duty, his patience and perseverance overcame every obstacle, his moderation disarmed all opposition; his courage, physical, mental, and moral, was of that kind which knew no fear whatever. In the case of obstacles which would discourage other men, he knew how to conquer by waiting until victory should come.

He stood first among men, not only in the eyes of his countrymen, but also in the opinion of the world. As his fame was bounded by no country, so it will be limited to no age.

Give an account of Washington as a boy; as a young man.

Describe the campaign about Boston; around New York City; in New Jersey; near Philadelphia.

Tell the story of the capture of Prescott.

Describe Burgoyne's campaign; also the last campaign in the North.

Why was the surveying of Lord Fairfax's lands a "severe task"? Why was it "full of danger"? Who were the "Continental troops"? Why did their entrance into Boston "relieve" its citizens? How has the United States flag been changed since it was first made? Why was Friend Potts so certain of Washington's final success?