CHATEAU AT NYON -- THE BIRTHPLACE OF JOHN FLETCHER
[With an Engraving = hdm0887a.jpg]

(From Number 3 -- March, 1848)

The beautiful Chateau represented in our engraving was the birthplace of Jean Guillaume
de la Flechere, better known in this the country of his adoption, as the Rev. John William Fletcher,
Vicar of Madeley. His father was a scion of a highly respectable Bernese family the descendant of
a noble lineage in Savoy, and allied to the House of Sardinia: he had been a General Officer in the
French service, but on his marriage he retired from the army; a predilection for his profession,
however, induced him afterwards to accept of a colonelcy [the rank and position of a Colonel] in
the militia of his own country. Jean Guillaume was his youngest son. This paternal residence, still
in the possession of the family, was erected about five hundred years ago: it is a fine old mansion,
built on an elevation at the extremity of the town of Nyon, in the Pays de Vaud, Switzerland, fifteen
miles north of Geneva. Like many of the more ancient houses in Switzerland, the entrance is by a
spiral stone staircase, which opens into a spacious hall; on one side of this is the room that Mr.
Fletcher occupied in one of his visits to his fatherland, and it still retains his venerated name. One
of the windows commands a view of a beautiful wood, the favorite haunt of Mr. Fletcher in
meditative mood, and beyond, a far-extended landscape, varied with hill and dell, vineyards and
pastures, bounded by the dark chain of the Jura mountains. At a few paces from the Chateau there
is a terrace which overlooks one of the most exquisite prospects in that romantic country. The
whole expanse of Lake Leman is spread out: tracing its margin, so gracefully curved, there are
many richly-wooded bays; and at the farthest extremity, on the right, appears Geneva, the cradle of
the Reformation and of liberty; on the left Lausanne, and the celebrated Castle of Chillon; while the
horizon is indented by those Alpine peaks which embosom the hospitable Convent of St. Bernard,
and the lovely valley of Chanouy. It is one of those charming scenes which can never be
described: painters strive in vain to delineate its beauties, and poets must borrow a lyre from
heaven fitly to celebrate its praise. With what rapt emotion would the seraphic Fletcher, who
brought away from the mount of his transfiguration the joy and gladness that beamed from his
shining countenance, gaze on these enchanting features of nature's face, and with uplifted hands
exclaim, "My Father made them all!"

At early dawn, the gossamer-mists would play in fairy form around the hills, and half
conceal the sloping vineyards; till the rainbow-beams of the lord of day lighted up the landscape,
dispelling the fleecy clouds, and glancing upon the waters his loving smile. At midday, in that
transparent atmosphere, the surface of the lake, clear as a mirror, reflects the image of Mont Blanc,
robed in shining vestments of unsullied snow, as he rises in the far distance, the Monarch of the
mountains; while the gloomy forms of the Mole and the Saleve in front are attended, on either side,
by a train of lesser Alps. At sunset, the valleys, the woods, and the mountains, cast into shadow,
assume their richest livery of purple; and Mont Blanc from his lofty station catching the last rays of
the sinking luminary, glitters in burnished gold, or becomes fused in dyes of crimson.

"Above me are the Alps,
The palaces of nature, whose vast walls
Have pinnacled in clouds their snowy scalps.
And throned eternity in icy halls
Of cold sublimity, where forms and falls
The avalanche, the thunderbolt of snow!"

"Come," says Mr. Fletcher in a letter to a friend in England, "come and share a pleasant
apartment in the house where I was born, and one of the finest prospects in the world. I design to
try this fine air some months longer. This is a delightful country. We have a fine shady wood near
the lake, where I can ride in the cool all the day, and enjoy the singing of a multitude of birds. But
this, though sweet, does not come up to the singing of my dear friends in England. There I meet
them in spirit several hours in the day." At this time Mr. Fletcher was a great invalid: he had long
been threatened with consumption [Tuberculosis], and was compelled to quit his beloved flock in
Madeley, to try the effect of a tour in southern Europe. This fine climate and delightful scenery, the pure air and relaxation from public duties, in connection with the nutritious milk of the goat, and the luxuriant grapes of the country, of which his own little vineyard produced an astonishing quantity that year, appear, through the divine blessing, to have contributed to the re-establishment of health. His recovery, however, was slow, and frequently interrupted by relapses which brought him to the verge of the grave, while they powerfully illustrated the influence of that religion which irradiated his whole character. Once during his residence among his kinsfolk he was so reduced by fever and consequent debility, that he could neither recall his own name, nor those of his ministering friends; but, even in this state of physical and mental prostration, there was one name engraven on his heart as with a pen of adamant, and it was continually on his lips. With his attenuated hands upraised, and clasped in the attitude of devout and fervent prayer, he was often heard to whisper, "Jesus, blessed Jesus." The Saviour had let fall one drop of his sweet-smelling myrrh into his cup of affliction, and his servant was constrained, in the midst of his privations, thankfully to acknowledge that the bitter became sweet.

It would be impossible to enter the ancient and venerable church at Nyon, -- where the plain, open pews, large projecting gallery, and unadorned stone pulpit, present a fine specimen of Swiss simplicity, -- without being deeply impressed with the remembrance, that in this hallowed place the apostolic Fletcher had so powerfully preached the glorious Gospel of the blessed God. Those walls bear silent testimony to the fervor of his overpowering eloquence, and the eminent talents which he blended with so much humility. Such was the anxiety manifested to hear him, that the crowd who were unable to gain admittance placed ladders against the windows, which were clustered round with people listening with the most devout attention; and not only the outer court, but the streets adjacent to the church, were completely filled. And though his voice could not reach them all, his fervid piety and ethereal spirit which beamed forth, told all beholders, "in the perpetual doxology of his shining countenance, the blessedness of a walk with God."

Who could traverse that wood, consecrated by his private meditations, without experiencing a mixture of unutterable feelings? Here was the secluded spot where he poured out his soul in prayer and praise; a little farther was the place where he taught the children, whom he first met gathering strawberries, to warble praises of their Saviour; and here is the sacred stand where, with a heart glowing with love to God and man, he called upon all around him to embrace the precious promises of the Gospel, and to partake of those joys which glowed in his own experience. There is fascination in the spot; the stillness of the air, the purity of the atmosphere, the rich verdure of the trees, the blithe songsters of the wood, and the sight of an immense stone table which might have been placed there for a pulpit, at the junction of several roads, might warm a more phlegmatic mind than Fletcher's to rouse the thoughts of those around him from the contemplation of "nature, up to nature's God."

"There was an energy in his preaching that was irresistible. His subjects, his language, his gestures, the tone of his voice, and the turn of his countenance, all conspired to fix the attention, and affect the heart. Without aiming at sublimity, he was truly sublime; and uncommonly eloquent, without affecting the orator. He was wondrously skilled in adapting himself to the different capacities and conditions of his hearers. He could stoop to the illiterate, and rise with the learned; he had incontrovertible arguments for the skeptic, and powerful persuasions for the listless believer; he had sharp remonstrance for the obstinate, and strong consolation for the mourner. To
hear him without admiration, was impossible; without profit, improbable. The unthinking went from his presence under the influence of serious impressions, and the obdurate with kindled relentings." -- Gilpin

"Instead of being confined to a country village, he ought to have shone in every corner of our land: he had a striking person, a winning address, together with a rich flow of fancy, a strong understanding, and great treasures of learning, both in languages, philosophy, philology, and divinity; and, above all, deep and constant communion with the Father, and with the Son Jesus Christ." -- John Wesley

"Grave and dignified in his deportment and manners, he yet excelled in all the courtesies and attentions of the accomplished gentleman. In every company he appeared as the least, the last, and the servant of all. From head to foot he was clothed with humility; while the heavenly-mindedness of an angel shone from his countenance, and sparkled in his eyes. His religion was without labor, and without effort; for Christianity was not only his great business, but his very element and nature. As a mortal man he doubtless had errors and failings; but what they were, those who knew him best would find it difficult to say, for he appeared as an instrument of heavenly minstrelsy, always attuned to the Master's touch." -- Melville Horne

When the Lord said, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord," his soul seemed to have no taint of earthliness remaining. The close of his saintly career was like the burning of some aromatic gum, which is consumed in its own brightness; leaving no ashes, no residuum behind, nothing but the lingering perfume of its own fragrance. -- M.

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LIFE OF GENERAL WASHINGTON

[With an Engraving = hdm0887b.jpg]

(From Numbers 11-12 -- November/December, 1848)

[In our December Number a portrait will be given of this eminent man; but as we think our room in that one Number will not be sufficient, and it would be improper to carry forward the remainder into another year, -- everybody knows that after December, 1848, will come January, 1849, -- we have resolved to commence the narrative in the present Number, and to connect the portrait, for once, with conclusion instead of commencement.]

NOTE BY DVM:-- Please bear in mind that "The Youth's Instructor" was an English publication and the following sketch of George Washington was therefore written from the prospective of an English writer, not an American. Nonetheless, I think his estimation of Washington was quite complimentary and even-handed. He had scarcely anything negative to say about our First President except in his evaluation of him as being deficient regarding some of his Christian views. I include this selection from the 1848 Youth's Instructor, not for its spiritual value, but as an item of interest to patriotic Americans. -- Duane V. Maxey
General Washington commanded the forces of what had been, up to that time, the North American British Colonies, during the war they waged in the course of their resistance to what they considered to be the unconstitutional encroachments of the British Government, and which issued in their independence; so that henceforth they took their place among the nations of the earth, exercising all the rights and duties of independent sovereignty; when the colonies became the "United States," constituting a federal republic, -- one in which each state is sovereign in its own territory, and over its local concerns, but which constitute a united whole, having a government ruling over the whole in all that belongs to the common interest of the whole, and the maintenance of fitting relations with other countries. This federal republic has, as its highest officer, a President, elected for four years. The man who had commanded the forces fighting for independence, when peace ensued and independence was secured, became the first President. He was subsequently elected for a second term of four years; and then quietly withdrew into private life, seeking to serve his country by the honest and honorable discharge of the duties of an ordinary citizen. He used and received power for the public good; and when the public good required him to renounce it, he sought not to retain it. Can the history of a man who thus stands almost alone in the annals of mankind for the unambitiousness of his character, be other than interesting and instructive?

George Washington, the son of Augustine Washington, was born in Virginia, one of the colonial possessions of Britain in America, February 22d, 1732. His father, we might almost say, of course, was of English extraction. The first of the family who emigrated had lived in Northamptonshire, but the family came originally from Lancashire.

Mr. Augustine Washington was a gentleman of large property. This appears from the provision he made for his children at his death, which took place somewhat suddenly in 1743. He had been twice married, and left two sons by his first marriage, and by his second four sons, of whom George was the eldest, and one daughter. The eldest son (by the first marriage) had an estate left him of two thousand five hundred acres, and shares in some iron-works. Another similarly large estate was given to the second son. Such was his confidence in his widow, that the proceeds of all the property left to her children was placed under her management till they respectively attained their majority. The sons had large estates left them, and for the daughter a suitable provision was made. The mother sustained a high character, and lived to see her son the President of the independent, sovereign United States.

The education of the future Commander-in-Chief and President was by no means equal to the condition which he subsequently attained. He was sent to one of the ordinary schools of the country, and left it before he had finished his sixteenth year, having learned little more than reading, writing, and accounts. The state of the country, in which there was much unappropriated land, and in which many large estates were, in the greater part of them, both uncultivated and unmapped, appears to have induced him, during the last two years of his continuance at school, to study geometry, trigonometry, and land-surveying, with the use of logarithms; and, in after-times, the knowledge he thus acquired was of great service to him. With any other language besides his own he appears through life to have been unacquainted. He was, however, thoughtful and observant, and the accurate and extensive knowledge of men and their proceedings, of the living world whose events were passing before him, seems to have been derived entirely from his own observations and reflections. He had scarcely left school when he drew up "Rules of Behaviour in
company and conversation," partly from books, partly from his own convictions of their propriety. In fact, the germ of the future man appears in the youth. He was not what is properly called a philosopher; nor was he addicted to abstract or metaphysical speculations, any more than to polemic disputation of which the chief object was victory or display: his character was practical, combining a large fund of common sense, with a strong sense of obligation and duty. It may now be seen that he was growing up for just such a position as the one into which he was at length brought, not by his own will, but by the powerful influence of circumstances; and they who receive the scriptural doctrine of a divine providence ordering all things in heaven and earth, will see in him a prepared instrument for the remarkable work which he had subsequently to perform, fraught with such important consequences to America, and to the world at large. Had Washington been other than he was, -- had he been a development of ambition and despotic self, as was [Napoleon] Bonaparte; of cunning and grasping self, as was Monk; or even of vain, sentimental, theatrical self, as was La Fayette, -- either the result of the American contest had been very different, or the constitutional form which American independence was enabled to assume, under which the new nation has so rapidly advanced and so greatly prospered, would never have existed.

Soon after he left school, Lord Fairfax, with whose family, by the marriage of his brother, he had become connected, having formed a favorable estimate both of his character and abilities, possessing vast tracts of land among the mountains of the Allegheny range which had never been surveyed, committed the task to him. The country which he had thus to explore was little more than an almost impassable desert of rocks, and hills, and valleys, and forests; and when he commenced his work, winter had scarcely passed away. But his form was athletic, and his health good; and notwithstanding the difficulties and hardships which accompanied him at every step of his progress, he so completed the undertaking as not only to satisfy his noble employer, but to convince the public of his abilities and fidelity: the state government, therefore, gave him a commission as public Surveyor. The next three years were spent in the same kind of employment, by which, spending so much time in solitude, his habits of thoughtfulness and self-reliance were strengthened and he not only became more accustomed to hardship, but acquired both that particular knowledge of the country, and that facility of judging of its general appearance, and the distance and relative bearing of places, which were of such important service to him in the course of that military career in which he was so soon to enter, and in which, ultimately, he acquired such high and imperishable renown.

When he was scarcely twenty years of age, the western frontier, then [progressed to a point] far less distant from the [East] coast-line than it has since extended, was threatened, not only by the Indians, but by the French from Canada. Virginia was in consequence divided into military districts, over each of which was an officer, with the rank of Major; and such was the opinion formed of the character and abilities of George Washington, that he was appointed to be one of them. He was thus thrown into the company of the other officers, several of whom had seen actual service, and commenced a regular course of military studies. He soon after accompanied his elder brother, who was laboring under a pulmonary complaint, to Barbados, where he remained several months. His brother died in July, 1752; and on George devolved, as his executor, the arrangement and settlement of his affairs. Scarcely was this task fulfilled, when circumstances demanded greater attention than ever to be paid to his military duties. The number of districts in the province was reduced to four, the northern one being entrusted to Major Washington. He had regularly to
visit the different ports, instruct the officers and men, and establish a regular system of discipline. With the year 1753, however, a series of more arduous duties commenced.

The next twenty years of Washington's life may be regarded as his practical training in the use of those qualities and habits which, in his advances towards manhood, he had been steadily acquiring, for the efficient discharge of the duties arising from those important stations which, at the end of that period, he was called to occupy, and by which his name has been enrolled, for perpetual remembrance, in the public annals, not only of America, but also of Europe. George Washington is now numbered, in the records of history, among the great men of all countries and all ages. The French, at that time, were the possessors of Canada; and it was their ambition to draw a frontier-line from thence to the Gulf of Mexico, beyond which, to the westward, the Anglo-Americans should not pass. Occasional movements, in pursuance of this plan, had of late years not infrequently been made; but they now became so active and systematic as to call for prompt and efficient counteraction. Troops were sent southward by means of the great northern lakes and the Ohio, while others embarked on the Mississippi at New Orleans, for the purpose of forming a junction with the French Canadians by proceeding to the north. A military frontier was thus to be formed, and strengthened by fortresses which were to be constructed in proper positions, and constituting what it was hoped would prove an impassable barrier. Little did they think that they were thus, instrumentally, educating talents, and contributing to the formation of a character, which should eventually be the chief means of consolidating revolting and agitated colonies into one vigorous and united nation, the influence of whose example should give the first impulse to movements issuing in a revolution in their own land, by which the proudest of European thrones should be overturned, and the (seemingly) strongest European Government shattered. It is scarcely too much to say, that the ambitious movements of the French in America, in 1753, gradually led the way to the Revolution in France, nearly forty years afterwards.

The Governor of Virginia, hearing much of the proceedings of the French, and suspecting their design, resolved to send a Commissioner to the French Commander, to remonstrate with him on these encroachments on British territory, who should also, as far as possible, ascertain their nature and extent. The task was as delicate as it was difficult, and required a person possessing great judgment and discretion, undaunted courage, yet unconquerable patience, together with a thorough acquaintance with Indian manners, and the physical strength and hardihood requisite for traveling in the then unpeopled wilds and forests of the country to the west of the colonial settlements. Such was the opinion entertained of Washington at that early age, -- he was little more than twenty-one, -- when he was selected for the mission. He so accomplished it as to open the way for his speedy employment in still more arduous services. In 1754, the military force of the colony was increased, and directed to march against the French. Washington was appointed the second in command; but in the course of the campaign, the sudden death of his superior officer placed him at the head of the troops. Ultimately, towards the close of the year, being numerically inferior to the enemy, he was obliged to retreat; but his whole conduct had displayed such courage and sagacity, such vigor and steadiness, that he received the thanks of the Governor and Legislature, and was evidently regarded as possessing no ordinary talents, whether for political and civil, or for military, employment. In the course of the winter, a new Commander arrived from Europe, General Braddock, who, with a strongly reinforced army, opened the campaign in 1755, taking with him Colonel Washington, as his Aide-de-camp. Braddock was brave and ardent, but self-confident, and unwilling to believe that colonial officers were fit for anything but obedience to
the orders of a British General. He was altogether ignorant of Indian warfare, as well as of the method of conducting troops through dense and pathless forests. Washington imparted all the counsel which his own experience suggested, and so far succeeded as to prevail on the General to divide his forces into two bodies, the first of which should be some marches in advance of the others, who were to follow with the heavier artillery and baggage. But for this precaution the whole army would have been destroyed. The advanced column were surprised in, for them, a most disadvantageous position, by the Indians and French, and soon put completely to the rout. Braddock was fatally wounded, and only lived to be carried to the troops in the rear, and then died. All that personal bravery could do was performed by young Washington; but the defeat was total, and the men fled as if panic-struck. But, disastrous as was the campaign to the British arms, the character of Washington was rather brightened than obscured. His courage had been conspicuously displayed; and it was believed, not without reason, that to the neglect of his advice was the mischief to be attributed. In later years some have been found who, in looking to the precursors of the American Revolution, have referred its remote causes to the campaign of General Braddock. In colonial warfare, they say, it was shown that even British troops were not invincible, and that, on American ground, colonial officers might surpass, in the direction of military movements, the more highly trained Commanders sent from Europe. At all events, Washington attracted more notice than ever. He was appointed to organize the provincial army; and though for several years chiefly acting on the defensive, he acquired both a kind and degree of military knowledge which in after-times was of the greatest service to himself and his country.

At the close of 1758, he resigned his command, and retired into more quiet life. In January, 1759, he was married to a young widow lady, with two children, and possessing large property. By the death of his brother's heiress his own possessions, too, were greatly increased. He was now one of the wealthiest proprietors in the province. He made Mount Vernon (descended to him from his deceased brother) his principal residence; and, till the commencement of 1763, was chiefly occupied in attending to his own private affairs. The public duties of his station, however, were by no means neglected by him. He was a member of the House of Burgesses; and though he seldom spoke, his attendance was constant, and his influence continually increasing.

It is not intended to enter into any discussion of the merits of the disputes that soon arose between England and America: although not to advert to them in a memoir of Washington, however brief, is impossible. To meet the expenses which the war with France had occasioned, and to assist in those necessary for the defense of the colonies, in 1765 the British Parliament passed the celebrated "Stamp Act," by the authority of which taxes were to be levied in America. It was agreed on the one hand that, as colonies, the Americans owed allegiance to the British Crown; and that where allegiance was due, there also support of the state expenditure was due. As a general maxim this is incontrovertible; but a reply was ready: "We are British colonists; and of the British constitution it is a maxim, that taxation and representation are inseparable; and as we are not represented in the British Parliament, we ought not to be taxed by it." This is the substance of the principles of the dispute which led to the independence of the colonies, under the term of the "United States" of North America. Against the claims of the British Government, memorials were repeatedly but vainly addressed, and at length, at Boston, in New England, resistance, by armed collections of people, commenced; while delegates, having been assembled in "Congress" from the different States, and having tried all means of procuring freedom from the claim of the right of taxation, prepared to assert and maintain their independence. Resistance at first was local, with
little or no concert; though the "Congress" of delegates seemed to confer an incipient nationality. At length independence was declared, an army raised to maintain it, and George Washington, in 1775, appointed Commander-in-chief.

We enter not into the details of the eight following years. The difficulties of Washington were all but insurmountable. Surmounted they could not have been but for the combination in him of the requisite civil, military, and moral qualifications. He had no ordinary difficulty with his undisciplined troops, especially considering the powerful enemies with whom he had to contend. And there was the natural jealousy among a people whose tendencies were all republican, lest a military Commander, if successful, might use his success and his troops to usurp the sovereignty. But his whole conduct evinced his perfectly disinterested and unambitious patriotism, as clearly as it manifested his high talent as a General. At length American independence was acknowledged by the French Government, who thought the opportunity favorable for humbling the pride and weakening the power of their ancient rival; and, though at peace with England, a treaty was entered into with America, in consequence of which, war commenced with England, and large succors were sent to the people struggling for their independence, the result of which was, that Britain had to acknowledge her successful colonies to be an independent sovereign nation. Washington, his great object being secured, resigned his commission into the hands of the President of the Provisional Congress, December 23d, 1783. The French troops, officers and privates, -- and the celebrated La Fayette maybe particularly mentioned, -- returned home thoroughly leavened by republicanism, and in two or three years the French Revolution had begun.

For six years the labors of this Provisional Congress, one of the most active members of which was Washington, were directed to the necessary measures for governing the country till a Constitution should be formed. In the meanwhile each State had its own elements of government, both legislative and executive; and the people, with an attachment to order and law which has ever characterized the race from which they were descended, entered from the beginning into their usual pursuits, regularly obeying the existing authorities, till a permanent form of government should be established. This was at length done. In what may be termed local measures, each State was sovereign; but, all being united in one Federal Republic, general measures were placed under the direction of a President, Senate, and House of Representatives, all chosen by the people.

Washington, during these years, was as active as ever. The management of his own property, and the maintenance of the hospitality which his position in society required, occupied much of his time. To the public concerns of his own State he likewise devoted great and practical attention. And thus he was one of the most active and influential members of the general Congress, and of the Convention by which the American Federal Constitution was formed. This important work being completed, the grand question arose, Who shall be the first President? A higher tribute to character never was paid than the selection -- by such a people, and at such a time -- of the very man who had been during the whole war the military Commander-in-chief, to be the highest civil officer. He was chosen in February, 1789, and in April took the oath of office. At the close of the four years for which he had been elected, he was again chosen; so that he held the office for eight years, from 1789 to 1797. His conduct abundantly justified the preference that had been given to him. No shade ever obscured that grand development of his character, -- pure, disinterested, unambitious patriotism. In many respects his political feelings might be termed British; that is to say, in their respect for order and law, as well as in their love for liberty. During his Presidency
the French Revolution occurred; but between the republicanism of Washington, and that of the
French revolutionists, there was not the slightest sympathy. The more violent in America wished to
join France; but Washington was firm, and maintained an honest neutrality. It would not be easy to
say whether America is more indebted to Washington for his conduct during the war which he
conducted to a conclusion successful for his country, or during his Presidency, when he assisted to
give her institutions that character and form best calculated to secure their permanency, and to
promote the prosperity of the people for whom they were designed. If the adage be a significant
one, "Well begun is half done," Washington's great gift to America was the good beginning of her
working of the political system in the eight years in which it was directed by him.

In September, 1796, he published his farewell address to the United States, and delivered
his last address to the Congress in December. At the beginning of 1797 his term of office expired,
and he retired into private life. He died in the last month of the year 1799, aged nearly sixty-eight.

Among public men, Washington stands as one of the greatest, inasmuch as he was one of
the best. From the first to the last of his public life, he was unselfish. He was not a great genius, not
a great scholar; but he had a strong will, and lived in that self-government which directed all his
proceedings in what he believed to be the path of duty. He attended to the public forms of religion
according to the rules of the English Church in America: perhaps, like too many others, he did not
sufficiently enter into the spirit which that Church, at its commencement, sought to establish. He
was not like one of his successors, Jefferson, who rejected Christian doctrine; but he does not
seem to have considered very deeply that part of the subject. His opinion of the importance of
virtue to a State, and of the necessity of religion as the stimulus and support of virtue, is ably
declared in his "Farewell Address."

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality
are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should
labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men
and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and cherish them. A
volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be
asked, Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious
obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let
us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever
may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and
experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious
principle. It is substantially trite that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular
government. The rule, indeed, extends, with more or less force, to every species of free
government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the
foundation of the fabric?"

This "Address" is dated September 17th, 1796. Washington had long had before him the
excesses into which French republicanism had plunged, and was still plunging. Why had not
Anglo-American republicanism followed the same course? The former were infidels: the latter, in
public profession, acknowledged the Bible, and had their public opinion largely influenced by it.
How great the difference between George Washington and Napoleon Bonaparte!
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THE END