Memoirs of Washington

Kirkland Caroline M
MEMOIRS

OF

WASHINGTON.

BY

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

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Southern District of New York.
To

All My Young Friends,

Known and Unknown,

And Particularly to My Own Sons and Daughters,

This Attempt to Introduce

Washington

To Their More Intimate Knowledge and Tenderer Regard,

And

So to Make His Goodness and Patriotism

Irresistibly Inspiring to Them,

Is Affectionately Inscribed.
PREFACE.

"Another Life of Washington!"

Anticipating this very natural exclamation, let the new aspirant be allowed a few words of explanation, if not apology. Abundant and excellent are the biographies of Washington, certainly. Yet there seems room for one especially adapted to young people—not children, exactly, but the older pupils in our schools, and some learners who have done with schools.

For these, the very fulness of the best lives of Washington renders them unsuitable. Details of battles and statesmanship, the cruelties of war and politics, are not particularly interesting or instructive to the young. It seemed not undesirable to offer them some simple memoirs of our great benefactor and friend, in which the space usually occupied by public affairs should be filled with what relates more particularly to Washington himself, too generally looked upon
by the young as a cold, far-off, statue-like person, admirable rather than imitable, fit for reverence but not for love.

This idea of him has grown up very naturally; for one who attempts to write his life finds so many great things to tell of, that there is little place left for lesser traits and incidents. This very volume, begun with express intent to set forth the private and familiar, not the grand side of Washington's life and character, proved insufficient to contain at once the mere sketch of his doings and the more personal anecdotes and traditions respecting him, which last would make a volume, of themselves. All that could find space are here, but many were necessarily forced out, lest too voluminous a work should discourage youthful readers. In making selections, anecdotes less known have been preferred; and some of the personal details were taken down from the conversation of contemporaries of Washington, still able, in our day, to enjoy the homage which ever attends his name.

New York, October, 1856.
CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Washington's private papers—Little box in the State Department—Virginia Almanac—Care of Washington in preserving and preparing these papers—Variety of subjects treated in them—The use that has been made of them by his biographers—A more private and personal account still possible, partly by addition, partly by omission, 1

CHAPTER II.

English ancestors of Washington—Letter of Sir Henry—Family annals—Curious tradition in England—Intermarrriages in Virginia—Washington's birthplace—Old house suffered to go to ruin—Plain and simple manners of the day in Virginia—Advantages of these to Washington—Associations with the Potomac and its shores, 11

CHAPTER III.

Mr. Augustin Washington—Morts of Mr. Weems's little book—Family legends reported by him—Lesson in generosity—Another in natural religion—Country life and the love of it, 23

CHAPTER IV.

The mother of Washington—Her characteristics and those of her children—Her early estimate of her eldest son—What he was in youth—His only sister's resemblance to him—Mrs. W.'s only weakness—Simplicity of her manners—"Little George"—Obligations of great men to their mothers—Almost forgotten—Duty and virtue of Obedience, 31

CHAPTER V.

Out-of-door habits—Alfred the Great, and Napoleon—Influence on a generous mind of wide possessions and the power they confer—Plantation life—Field school—
CONTENTS.

"Old Hobby"—Mother’s practice of reading with her children—The Great Audit—The widow’s lot—Was Washington deficient in tenderness?—Softening power of pieté—Early love affairs—Washington’s later gravity—Love of children—Its advantages—Proofs of goodness of heart,

CHAPTER VI.

A new school and new master—No Latin—A good head can make more out of one language than a poor one out of half a dozen—Washington head boy, of course—Military sports and national prelilections—Washington a man of peace, after all—Early handwriting—Neatness of his school papers—Practice in mercantile forms—Rough physical exercises one grand element in his training—Pitching a stone—Love of horses and riding,

CHAPTER VII.

Washington little inclined to books—Early reading limited, but good—His mother’s idea of true kindness—Habit of writing a great deal—Its advantages and possible disadvantages—How it affected Washington’s after life—Poetry book—“Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior”—Their influence on his character—His style of writing, excellent, plain, pure English,

CHAPTER VIII.

Esteem of his brothers for Washington—Lawrence always his friend and benefactor—Fortunes of the family—George at Mount Vernon—Receives a midshipman’s warrant—Gives way to his mother’s wishes and stays at home—Learns military tactics and fencing—Contents himself with learning to be a good surveyor—Extreme accuracy of his papers—Old desk—Curious memorandum,

CHAPTER IX.

First surveying tour—Graves of sugar trees—Indian dance—People that wouldn’t speak English—Rough living—Good pay—Tender passion—Poetic taste not very prominent—Lord Fairfax—Planter life—High-bred manners—Letters to ladies,

CHAPTER X.

Important epoch in life—Appointment as adjutant-general against the French—Called upon to go to the West Indies—Matter-of-fact observations there—Seized with small-pox—Washingtonian touch—Returns home—Succeeds to Mount Vernon on the death of his brother—Circumstances force him too early into affairs—Becomes a member of the Masonic fraternity,

CHAPTER XI.