Example of Washington
Washington's Birthday

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Address
to Col. U.S. M.A.
Feb 22, 1851.
One hundred and forty nine years ago today George Washington was born. His name is as familiar to every child of ten years as that of his school companion or playmate—a halo of preciousness and sanctity clusters about it so that among some forty millions of people it is known as the household name. With no boundaries of his country who do not speak it and use it and print it is closely connected with a show of reverence and affection in the utterance or the statement. There is a hidden meaning in it, a singular, a unique for it excites interest among all the civilized nations of the earth. This preciousness, this sanctity, this reverence, this peculiar currency of interest which no other mortal name has yet attained have
2. for foundation character? So more physical superiority, greater feats of strength nor suppleness would have produced such an accumulation of noble qualities.

Neither the powers of Martin or of Napoleon touch them.

No display of intellect, whether passion like Webster's, crafty like Jefferson's, destruction like Napoleon's or shrewd as Douglas's, has produced a similar lasting impression.

The nobility of form, majesty, presence, and vigor of constitution, are, we think, to say, belongs to our first President General, first President. The well-balanced mind, sound judgment, and fair culture have left their wholesome record in the history of his eventful life. But oh, how like nothing would this mere so-called great appear, were there
3. Not his goodness or soul, but solid structure of uprightness, genuine honesty, purity, love, without within above. In brief, that wholesomeness of soul which the word integrity has garnered, solidified and cemented.

Who of us is not proud of the name of Washington? Whose heart does not go out toward him, toward his faithful and devoted mother and his well-beloved wife and all the intimates of his boyhood and youth with unbounded interest and singular affection? If in the farthest part of this sentence to the eyes of posterity, if we still cherish the hero, if we still hold the name of Washington in the highest veneration, then let us today cherish and sometimes idolize other names more worthy of our veneration, let us today turn...
to our nearest and best here, and back to the contemplation of some of those qualities which made up his character and which if we steadily emulate steadfastly follow, we shall each fill no mean place in history and at least have the consciousness that somebody is happier and better because we are living in this world.

It is a good thing for a young person to learn early in life the distinction between character and reputation. One's reputation should be only one of possible goods; certainly it is important to have a fair mind; a good name is better than rubies, more precious than ornament and delightful to our friends. But how many thousands of men of grand powers and brilliant acquirements have made their reputation the object of all of existence, and not being mortified been sufficiently careful of this means of acquiring and preserving
Meanwhile, 1944, my mother and father had been married for a year. My father, a doctor, was stationed in the United States Army. My mother, a nurse, worked at a hospital in Boston. They were both very excited about their new life together.

After the war, my father returned to his medical practice and my mother continued to work as a nurse. We moved to a small town in New England and started a family. My sister and I were born in the same year.

In 1950, my father was invited to speak at a conference in Paris. My mother and I accompanied him and we had the opportunity to travel around France. It was a wonderful experience for us.

After the conference, my father decided to pursue a fellowship in Paris. My mother and I stayed with her family in the city and continued to visit museums and historical sites. It was a time of great learning and adventure for us.

In 1952, my father completed his fellowship and we returned to the United States. We settled in a new town and started a new life together. My sister and I continued to grow and learn from our parents.

I hope this letter finds you well. My sister and I are both doing well in school and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,
[Signature]
It is not my object to abstract humanity, or a dogmatic apology, to the flesh, but to put as much as possible of my thought in positive, into the concrete. The mind is resting upon the model. The essential character of Washington. I write you first to the cradle of its formation. It was with the best gifts of God, a good mother.

We enjoy Burns's reference to his early years: he says: 'George was his intellect dwarfed, received the rudiments of education in the best establishment for the purpose that neighborhood afforded, as an old field school house'; humble enough in its pretensions & kept by one of his father's tenants named Roby. The instruction dealt out by him must have been his simplest kind, reading, writing, deciphering, perhaps, but George had the benefits of mental & moral culture at home, from an excellent father.

But shortly after his teaching his father dies. George was then but ten years old.
This is about the age when a boy begins to seek a father's discipline, and is most sensibly affected by a father's example. It is a great loss, I have felt it in my own life, but think it for those who speak to our Washington the last of mothers. The same author remarks of her: "Endowed with plain, direct good sense, and with a measure of decision, she governed her family strictly but kindly, exacting deference while she inspired affection. George being her eldest son, was thought to be her favorite, yet she never gave him undue preference and the implicit deference expected from him in childhood continued to be habitually observed by him to the day of her death. He inherited from her a high temper and a spirit of command, but her early precepts and example taught him to restrain and govern that temper, and to square his conduct on the great principles of equity and justice. These glimpses into the nursery and home-life afford all the revelations that we need.
It is a well-known custom to take pupils back to first principles, to axioms.

It was very plain, even if we did not know of the positive moral and religious teaching given to this child, so full of promise, by his father and mother, that he early learned one fundamental principle of character.

It is one of which the late 'Scientific Method' reduces from a divine precept to a mere human maxium.

It is one that a Herbert Spencer would derive from cultural selfishness deliberately refined.

It is one that the infidel Stoic, who holds up to public contempt his short evenings of his parents, was long since learned to despise.

Yet the undisputed fact of history is written in our Scriptures: "And God spoke all these words. Among them in the second table we find: Honor thy father and..."
My Mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord, my God, giueth thee.

These ancient words were graven upon tables of stone, and the same inspired authority declares: And ni hi tables were the work of God and the writing was the writing of God graven upon hi tables.

I knew a poor aspiring needy youth of about twenty years; he was away from his home. A friend of the family living near hi Academy told his father:

"I heard your son say that he would not willingly do what he knew his father would disapprove. God will bless + prosper such young men. They have the right inheritance in the only commandment with a promise."

Washington was so studiously observant of his divine law of reverence + love toward his country, judicious, Christian mother, that he denied himself a much coveted position, which.
but was offered to me before he was seventeen. It was the commencement of a midshipman in the British Navy. His brother's advice was that she should marry him. There was much entreaty from many powerful friends urging it. The matter was overpersuaded and almost to yield when a letter from her brother in England came in which her former residence and solitude. The mother's heart often has prophetic impressions for the child of her love. She again made strong objection, and Washington who became the man of a wonderful man. A mother's decision of character yielded to persuasion and gave up the prospects so delightful and satisfying to her heart.

If she could have opened her windows of the future & have beheld events in the order & color in which they were to appear on the stage of his life, she could not have decided better.
11) General George H. Thomas. While a Southern man
had to make his most important decisions
in the line of self-defense, and as he above
any officer in the late war of
Liberty won the confidence & love
of his soldiers & companions in arms, was
increasing in his devotion to the principle
of legal duty: "Children must be made
to obey their parents. Abusing children
will not grow up to desire to resist
a proper authority." When sent to
by a college authority in his District it
informed that the college boys were made
restless & ungovernable by the presence
of certain M.S. troops and that it would
be best to withdraw the offensive cause
of trouble. Thomas then in fact one
way to deal with refractory & disobedient
boys. They should be properly punished. Former
Nin troops till Nin had conduct licenses.
A far better way is that inaugurated
by Washington - Honors my mother yields his decision.
[Handwritten text not legible due to handwriting style and quality]
12. Because it is right. It is the sense of God written in the Book of Our Holy Heart.

13. A second principle of character contained in the words: her early precepts and example taught him to restrain and govern his temper—her ‘right temper’ and spirit of command which he had inherited.

Now from another, who has a high temper, to yield to a sudden impulse and contravene the best purposes and plans of his life. This unrestrained fury of an unchained tiger, usually leads to destruction and death.

When in times described a better specimen of noble manhood. When the ancient King who stood head and shoulders above his comrades—

Yet the power of an ungoverned temper. Threaten saved from his pedestal of his glory and left for him an ignominious record of injustice, failure, unmerited misery and finally self-destruction. Charles the twelfth of Sweden, who for a time shone like a meteor, lacked the self-control that his country needed. His

Soldiers, quickness & generosity prove him Victor and left to his great enemy a disastrous defeat.
Victory and self-confidence of Charles was her
new beginning of life. The victory
only remembered for its brilliancy disappeared as
suddenly as it came. While Peter the
great, his enemy and rival, profited more by
defeat than victory; for he brought under restrain-
ing his own fiery temper and forebore
himself to labor and to wait. Washington, in
a higher and better sense, with a soul
under self-control because loyal to duty to
God, no adverse circumstances, no suffering
of his soldiers, no unexpected defeats and no
reproaches of friends, never disturbed that high
temper which, like a noble war steed under
rein, carried him through.

III  A third principle of character is mainly
deduced from the motives early
in the life of Washington; he
was teaching and enforcing by his
own example and the exact principle of
equity and justice. These equity and justice constituted the
righteousness of the Bible. In New York,
Lo...
Testament. The word which we translate justice is always used for the term righteousness. There is a good old word that I used to hear in my boyhood which perhaps better expressed the thought...
possessed & exhibited a mode of purpose and life and showed such a facility for making upright decisions, that few men were found who would appeal from their judgments. By the study of such lives are now familiar to us, the lives of these men whose monuments adorn our public squares and give interest to our academic grounds, we can bring into closer observation and sympathy with life of Washington. We can respect him, noble brother, hold him so steadily to the practice of just dealing in his early youth, in his for making period, that he ever after, his more easily conform to the claims of duty.

There is no other institution in the land where the officers & pupils take upon themselves military duties & the practice obligations to be just & to do justice. No man aspiring to be just & to do justice, the sense of rightness must answer. The sense of rightness must have answer. The sense of rightness must have answer. It is a lie in our own individual hearts. As a lie in our own individual hearts, as is he. No one thinks more of his heart, so is he. No man thinks more of his heart, so is he. No man thinks more of his heart, so is he. No man thinks more of his heart, so is he.
of the Academy. His army. His service.

It is established in justice for his benefit of all who come under its operation of keeping the character that he had as Washington. Then a leader. Here, he would have sent to himself. "The regulation is to be kept, and I will do my best to keep it. Had he been an officer, he would have said the regulation is to be enforced. My duty is to contribute to its enforcement."

IV. To the earliest years—perhaps inherited from both parents, a constancy of purpose.

David as a child. Daniel purpose in his heart. That he would not eat of the meats forbidden to his people nor drink of his king's wine. He purpose in his soul to call upon his God for wisdom and knowledge. He obtained his request. He purpose that he would never bow down to any graven image. He suffered the penalty. But with inflexible courage trusting in the almighty he met the extreme changes of his position and received for reward not only the
The approval of his God & his conscience, but of the King & the Nation, whose orders were so lately expressly to prevent seeking his life.

According to Lieutenant T. N. Green.

Skocheff, of whom victories we are reading in the daily journals is a name of "stupendous military genius." Among the youngest & most prosperous, he had been from his proper environs, and obtained permission to go to the great war as an aide de camp of another General. At the close his reputation was the brightest on the face of the Russian army. Green ranks him beside Wellington, Blenheim, and von Moltke. He uses this expression with regard to him.

"His one talent was how to use his life so as to make an impression on his men and gain such a control over them that they would follow him anywhere." In this he had abundant success. For he fulfilled Napoléon's ideal, greatness of character or moral courage which produces resolution (purpose); coolness or physical courage which masters danger..."
Knowledge of his profession; and a capacity to see things as they are. It

marvelous

that he carried out in his own conduct and

enforced in those under his command was

"never hesitate in what you have to do."

The author further states concerning Shiloh:

Though he has lived but nearly forty years, he has

commanded nearly thousand men in battle; he

has served as commander of an entire army of

nearly forty thousand men; he has led more

assaults than any living man but Grant, and

in no one of them has he failed to carry the

line he assaulted, though in one case he

was subsequently overwhelmed with numbers

and driven out." These examples show

what I mean by readiness of purpose.

You will trace the same marks of genius in

George Washington. In his steady application

at school; in his surprising industry when

left to his own guidance; working successfully at

the dryest problems of mathematics, surveying,

tax-gathering, log-merchandising, forms of business, engaging

& reckoning with exactness; in his games & sports

of his childhood & youth; preparing to face his trials

to his utmost until he excelled; in the ordnance
18. more of survey in the valley of the
river. Accusing, Americans with physical
indian & white enemies. He then far west;
in his first maiden battle where he moderated
the effect of Braddock's terrible defeat and then
ever after him. His most marvelous career
was of defeats, disappointments, defeats &
victories which, like his discipline of the Chilren
of Israel in the wilderness prepared the way
for all the glories of the future
for this great nation
for this great nation
for this great nation
for this great nation.

Now see these results and we may well
recognize the fact that our leader always
had a plan in his mind & a purpose in his heart.

The famous Dr. Bushnell gave a
discourse on the subject entitled: 'The plan
of God in every man's life.' A young man at
first starts out in the dimmest dawn. He sees but a
few words before his face. He will often make
mistakes in his journey. But God Himself will surely
shape the plan - if the young man

I am not sure that this divinity is not always present in the breast.
1. If a success you will be sure the requisite light of decision as it is needed.

However, this may be, it is absolutely necessary to a genius to have a plan and purpose of his own.

There are often elements of character which gave strength and consistency to the Thoroughs, words and acts of George Washington which for the benefit of this example I have purposed to discuss but I find that with these my remarks to be too much extended for this occasion.

So I conclude with nothing but the straightforward candid statements that became more and more weight as respect for the man knowledge of the man widened and respect for him increased.

2. Reverence toward God. Profane words did not shake his lips.

3. Faith in an ever present helpful Divine Master and that satisfied his pleasure wants the hours of darkness by the appointed method of prayer.

4. Love, dutiful and devoted to the House circle to the Nation in whose creation he bore so prominent a part; from the Savior whose self-giving image he bore to all the children of men for whose sufferings.
Our less to study closely and search long to find evidence of his weaknesses and faults. That George Washington was doubtless not a man of the highest ambition, but high-minded, noble, God-fearing. The fact that such weaknesses and faults have gone into oblivion, disappearing with the past spirit that once did make him the handle of much sneer and abuse to advantage of living such a life.

When Washington stood upon the mountain, as one of his highest ambitions and looked for the future a free country people to whom he was soon to take his final leave. He spoke concluding words that we may always repeat with profit:

[Introduction from p. 705 portion marked]

Doubtless my main object in presenting these thoughts on the character of Washington has been very plain throughout. My desire is to do something to lift up our minds and hearts in ever so little. For this purpose nothing, on
"The situation in which I now stand, for the last time, in the midst of the representatives of the people of the United States, naturally recalls the period when the administration of the present form of government commenced, and I cannot omit the occasion to congratulate you and my country on the success of the experiment not to repeat my fervent supplications to the Supreme Ruler of the universe and Sovereign Arbiter of nations, that his providential care may be still extended to the United States; that the virtue and happiness of the people may be preserved, and that government which they have instituted for the protection of their liberties may be perpetual."
This anniversary of his birth nothing appears to a better test for a sermon than a reference to the elements of Washington's remarkable character.

Having just returned to my alma mater after an absence of nearly a quarter of a century, and being required to perform a post novel to me, I am especially desirous of understanding those with whom I have to do and to be understood by them.

This mutual knowledge will attain in time and by the regular, well-organized, and time-honored methods. There is no issue, however, which may be great good in a few words of explanation.

The often-cited speech of intervention in the Army a member of Congress on the floor of the House of Representatives said: "I do not say that we should mitigate the offense of using intoxicating liquors; but I do say that if every officer of the Army of the United States should be dismissed by court-martial for an offense of this character, we would not..."
Man enough commissions in the Army perhaps to take charge of a battalion."

Again, the same member says: "We select men for this business of sword-cutting and
train keeping. This general business of
death-dealing, because of their courage, because of
their ability to command, because they are
fitted for this particular service."

Again another intimates that if we discharge
a man because of a solitary instance of
intoxication, "the effect might be that we should
have no army at all." The case in hand
was one of drunkenness on duty.

Let me say, young gentlemen, that
the foregoing is not the character of our
army officers. For a test, at this post where I
have been serving a twenty-two officers & eighteen
of those did not habitually drink intoxicating
liquors, and I know for the term of two years that
I was at that post saw neither of the others under
my influence of drink. My accounts from
other parts of the Army are in this respect
most favorable. Army officers are just as a
most favorable. Army officers are just as a
most favorable.
Again I protest most respectfully & most solemnly against the portrait of our character & requirements of our profession.

The centurion the commander of 1000 men, whom our Lord complements for his strength & his faith is the type of a Christian.

While we stand for our rights, for the constant protection of the rights of others who are exposed & hold solidly to the claims of self-defense & the claims of our country upon us to protect its vital interests by arms even at the utmost risk of our own lives; we cannot & must not surrender our conscience, nor become mere hired bullets for any tyrannical assumption of power.

No, no, a thousand times no to every attempt to take from the soldier the high character to which he is under our government, he is entitled.

The American officer has a model before him in Washington, a model of high moral character, a gentleman, a man. Let our aspiration be then the highest & best attainments of which we are
24) capable, as a soldier, an officer, a man. We have a right to truth, frankness, honesty, industry, temperance, charity, or to any of the other virtues against which there is no law.

Any young man who by his vice brings disgrace upon this academy, the world, his country. The flag of his country is not worthy to belong to the Army. He is not a son of the first general who commanded its forces.

While we should not be over exacting with young men, who are careless and thoughtless, yet, if you make many mistakes, you have many shortcomings; still let the young man ever keep his eyes up, let him set himself on a high standard, even the highest, and best. A young man may fail; but he will with a proper feeling, a proper disposition to do right because it is right, he need never fail from his conduct.
I have found, from a long experience, as well as from reading and observation, that a close and regular discipline is the best in time it makes all parties happier as it makes them better any how of it, neither can the army be conducted successfully like a town meeting, something of individuality or opinion must be surrendered to the need.

This being the case, how much better it is for every man to try to do his best without grumbling, without irritation, and without resistance to perform as well as he can the part allotted to him.

There is one point that a soldier must deliver for I think it is a blunder wherever it exists. It may not be as bad here as formerly. I refer to a practice of ostracism. I cannot say that one should take to his bosom a thief, a liar, or even a profane speaker, or common drunkard; but I do say that a combination of three or four young men, to pursue him.
Astraeism and another often for a mere opinion, an idiocy, or of some unpleasant habit not corrected in our school of good manners, is wrong.

General McPherson, a man of great independence of character and purity of life, refused to ostracize a member of his class at the call of a clique which had succeeded in making him gently lonely and wretched.

Any thought is that man is no demand that can be made upon us here that shall debar us from all the rights and privileges of Christian manhood.

Let the heart of the youngest be clear and bright, let him emulate the virtues of the thousands of veteran graduates, who seldom or never met the face of danger nor difficulty but would rather die in their tracks than do a deliberate wrong. George Washington was their forerunner and exemplar.

(Over)
Shall we not aim equally high and compass at least a measure of this true nobility?