

AN Eulogy
ON THE
LIFE, CHARACTER AND SERVICES
OF
Brother George Washington,
Deceased — Pronounced before
THE FRATERNITY OF
Free and Accepted Masons,
BY REQUEST OF THE Grand Lodge,

At the OLD SOUTH Meeting-House, BOSTON,
ON TUESDAY, FEB 11, 1800

Being the Day set apart by them to pay FUNERAL HONORS to
their deceased BROTHER

BY BROTHER TIMOTHY BIGELOW.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

Two ADDRESSES to the Deceased, when PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES, and his ANSWERS *Together with* — THE
FESTIVE CONDOLENCE of the Grand Lodge to Mrs. WASH-
INGTON, and her ANSWER

 The *effe* shall forever bloom o'er his head for he hath gone
down clouds in the *full* ripe in years and full of glory

 Boston.

Printed by I THOMAS and E T ANDREWS, No 45,
Newbury-Street

*At a Meeting of the COMMITTEE of the GRAND LODGE of
MASSACHUSETTS, at Concert Hall, in Boston, February 12,
A D. 1800.*

VOTED, That our Right Worshipful Brethren, PAUL REVERE, JOSEPH BARTLETT, and JOSEPH LAUGHTON, be appointed to wait on our Honourable Brother, TIMOTHY BIGELOW, Esquire, with the thanks of the Grand Lodge for the chaste and appropriate Eulogy delivered by him on the 11th instant, before the most numerous and respectable assembly of the Fraternity ever convened in this Commonwealth, in display of the Sublime Virtues and unequalled Labours of that Pillar of the Institution, and Ornament of Humanity, our late Illustrious Brother, GEORGE WASHINGTON, and to request a copy for the pres.

Attest

DANIEL OLIVER, *Grand Secretary.*

*To the COMMITTEE of the GRAND LODGE of MASSACHUSETTS,
at Concert Hall, in Boston, February 12, 1800.*

BROTHERS,

THE Eulogy, delivered by me yesterday, having been written at your desire, custom, in some measure, renders it a duty to yield the copy requested for publication. Impressed with a grateful sense of the honour conferred on me by your approbation, I am your obliged Brother,
TIMOTHY BIGELOW,

BOSTON, February 12, A L. 1800.



*BRETHREN OF THE MASONIC FRATERNITY, AND
FELLOW-CITIZENS OF THIS RESPECTABLE AUDIENCE,*

THOUGH silence be justly considered the language of grief, yet it is equivocal. Hypocrisy or indifference may assume it. On great occasions, therefore, it becomes a duty to vindicate our feelings, though it be impossible fully to express them. Highly laudable then is the conduct of our generous nation, at the present mournful crisis. While all classes of our fellow-citizens, obedient to the injunctions, and imitating the example of Congress, are pouring forth their sorrows, and recounting the virtues of the deceased WASHINGTON ; while the great and good of other nations are mingling their regrets with the lamentations of his afflicted countrymen—shall the Masonic Fraternity be silent ? Suppress their grief they cannot ; and shall they attempt to conceal it ? No, my Brethren, he had a double claim to our attachment ;

attachment: and we will dwell on his memory with peculiar affection. If our departed Brother yet takes an interest in what passes upon earth; if his best shade still hovers over the country which he protected and loved, may we not hope that our tribute of respect will be acceptable; that our united plaudit may even touch his immortal soul with pleasure? A hope like this would soften our pangs, and dart a ray of comfort through the gloom of affliction which surrounds us. But ah, how unlike are our present emotions at best, to those we have been wont to indulge on the returns of this anniversary! Long have we been accustomed to hail it with joy, and regard it as the era of Heaven's peculiar favour to our country. Blind to futurity, we have fondly hoped that he would yet continue many years; that he would long defend us with his sword, and bless us with his counsels; that he would glide gently down the declivity of life, majestic as some mighty river, and late, very late, sink in the ocean of eternity. So long shall we deplore his apparently untimely departure. So long will this returning day call forth the mingled emotions of joy and mourning. But future times will again regard it as auspicious. Our remotest posterity, inheriting our freedom and independence, and that happy Constitution which alone can secure them, will never be unmindful of the MASTER, who presided at the building of the fair fabric of political glory, or forget that on this day WASHINGTON was born.

WHEN we see a whole nation of freemen in tears, disconsolate for the death of a fellow-citizen, what words can swell his panegyric? Indeed, the people
of

of the United States exhibit a spectacle that is scarcely to be paralleled in the annals of mankind. Nations, it is true, have often assumed the garb of sorrow, and pompously displayed the emblems of grief for the death of Emperors or Kings. But it was when obedience, perhaps reluctant, was yielded to the orders of a successor, or when, for reasons of State, mourning was established by laws. Under such circumstances, appearances may be deceptive: But, on our happy shores, we fear no tyrant frown; we need nothing extraneous to prompt our sighs; our sorrows are the spontaneous effusion of grateful hearts; they demonstrate our respect to be sincere; and are scarce less honourable to the nation, than to the memory of him whose death they deplore. Still more striking is another view of this interesting scene. Rarely has the world done justice to the merit of the great, while living: It has often ungenerously persecuted its best benefactors, or suffered them to pine in the gloom of neglect. **SOCRATES**, though a luminary to his own and future times, in science and in virtue, was condemned by his infatuated countrymen to death. **BELISARIUS**, who conquered a kingdom for his master, was suffered ignominiously to beg his bread.* **COLUMBUS**, who gave a new world to mankind, was loaded with chains, and pursued with insatiate rancour to his grave. Americans are more just: While the great **WASHINGTON** was yet alive, they knew how

to

* Though the truth of this anecdote be questioned by writers of eminence, it is nevertheless supported by good authorities of ancient date; and it is agreed by all that Belisarius was at one time unjustly deprived both of his honours and estates.

to appreciate the mighty blessing. Let us exult in the remembrance that they long since hailed him the FIRST OF MEN ; that they twice invested him with the chief command of their armies ; that with their unanimous suffrages they twice raised him to the dignity of Supreme Magistracy ; that their united acclamations and fervent blessings followed him in his repeated retirement from office ; that he lived in honour, and died in glory. Yes, they even claim from his family a right to share their afflictions ; with them to mourn their deceased Father, to plant the cypress on his grave, and water it with their tears. Heaven surely approves this conduct : Heaven will continue to distinguish a people duly sensible of their blessings.

VOLUMINOUS would be a detail of all the meritorious actions, or even of the great achievements of our departed friend. To recount his heroic deeds, would be but to recite the history of his country, while he was in the field ; would be but to repeat what thousands have already told, what many of you, my auditors, have personally witnessed, what even his vanquished enemies have published to the world. O that we could analyze his mighty mind ; that we could ascertain the elements of this splendid luminary in the moral world ; that we could with unerring eye trace on the intellectual map the path which he pursued to immortal happiness and fame !

IT has not unfrequently happened, that the possession of a single estimable talent in a high degree has rendered an individual an object of admiration to mankind. The military prowess of Alexander, besides

besides subjecting the world to his dominion, procured him the title of *Great*; and in the opinion of a superstitious age, enrolled him among the gods. SOLON and LYCURGUS acquired immortal renown for their wisdom as legislators. Nobility was considered a poor reward for CHATHAM's merit as a statesman. SULLY has been justly celebrated for cultivating the arts of peace. These talents all centered in our great Countryman, without their kindred vices, rashness, severity, pride or supineness.

JUDGING the conduct of others by the inadequate standard formed in their own narrow minds, there were not wanting those, who, at one time, dared even to question his ability for the command of our revolutionary army. The *Fabian* policy which induced him to avoid a decisive engagement with the invading enemy, at that time drew upon him an ill-judged imputation of timidity and indecision. But the illusion was transitory. It was soon perceived that the error was in the optics of his accusers; that the mist of ignorance which had enveloped them, had never obscured the sunshine of intelligence which constantly beamed on him. This very conduct is now universally acknowledged to be among the most decisive proofs of his greatness; without which, the issue of the contest, if not ruinous to our country, would at best have been extremely problematical. His penetration taught him that his countrymen were daily becoming more formidable, by experience in discipline and the duties of the camp; by habits of danger and an increasing knowledge of the art of war;

while none of these advantages attached to their enemies. Remote from the source of supplies, their subsistence was precarious ; and the waste of troops, necessarily occasioned by the casualties of war, was repaired with difficulty. To them, therefore, delay was defeat. Regardless of the mistaken or invidious suggestions which his prudence might draw upon him, he discerned the path of safety for his country, and steadily pursued it. It is strange that at that period his courage or his conduct could have been distrusted. Previous to that, at a time when the clouds of despondency overspread our hemisphere with their deepest shade, when despair had almost lost her energy, he had in person, with a handful of troops, gallantly surprised, defeated, and captured a numerous enemy at Trenton ; and, eluding the vigilance of an army sufficiently powerful to have crushed him, again astonished his adversaries by the brilliant victory at Princeton. On that memorable occasion, he at one moment exhibited a spectacle anxiously interesting to his companions in arms. From the necessity of rallying a disordered part of his troops, he intrepidly placed himself in their front, and led them on to the charge. More eager to repair their disgrace, than attentive to the peril of his personal situation, they rashly renewed the engagement while he was at their head ; and thus he was for some time exposed to the fire of both the contending armies.

BUT whatever ungenerous surmises might at any time have been indulged by the heedless or envious, the voice of murmuring had been silenced before

fore the victory at Monmouth. After that event, he was the object of uninterrupted confidence to his country, and of terror to her foes, till, by annihilating the power of the invaders by the splendid reduction of Yorktown, he put a glorious period to the war; and the admiring world pronounced his character as a General consummate!

HAVING finished his military career, and entered on the tranquil scenes of retirement, for which he had a peculiar fondness, it seemed generally to be thought that his public life was finished. As yet, however, he had executed but in part Heaven's high commission. Few, perhaps, had hitherto perceived in him that universality of mind, which has enabled him successively to adorn every station he has filled. Modest and unassuming in his deportment, he never indulged in a pompous display of talents unimportant to the duties before him, but unfolding them as exigencies required, he was always equal to the occasion. When the deserved partiality of the electors in his native State delegated him to the General Convention, and the respect of that body placed him in their chair, he there discovered the qualities of a great Legislator, and eminently contributed to the production of that instrument, which is justly considered a model of political wisdom, and which, we trust, will long secure that Liberty which his valour had achieved.

As a statesman he was yet untried. But gratitude for his services, respect for his character, and confidence in his integrity, impelled his fellow-citizens,

citizens, with one consent, to elevate him to the dignity of President. As if this had been his peculiar province, he here shone with unrivalled lustre. His administration was a satire on those who are born to rule. Making the general good the sole object of his pursuit, and carefully distinguishing the attention which was due from him as an individual to the claims of relation and friendship, from the duties he owed to the public, he never yielded to the influence of private partiality, nor stooped to the low policy of aggrandizing his family by the gifts of office. He bestowed employments on those only who added to integrity the qualities necessary to discharge them. Patient in investigation, and cautious in research, he formed his resolutions with deliberation, and executed them with decision. Conscious of the purity of his motives, and satisfied with the propriety of his determinations ; duly estimating also the sacred duty of maintaining the constitutional rights of his office, he was not to befooled into dishonourable compliance by the blandishments of flattery, nor diverted from his purposes by the terror of numbers, or the imposing weight of public character. When a revolution, unprecedented in its kind, had involved the European world in confusion, and the flame of war was spreading into other quarters of the globe, neither the infidious attempts of the emissaries of France, nor the treacherous arts of her American adherents, could induce him to hazard our quiet. Though himself a soldier, and equal to the emergencies of war, he perceived not only that the true interests of his country,

try, but justice and humanity enjoined a continuance of peace. He therefore wisely adjusted the misunderstandings which threatened our tranquillity, and resolved on a strict neutrality. Our own experience, and the events which have since transpired in other countries, have fully justified the measure. Yet, strange to tell, disappointed faction despatching of success in an impeachment of his discernment or understanding, has dared here to assail the purity of his motives. Circumstances seem to have placed him beyond the reach of suspicion. His wealth was more than sufficient for all the purposes of splendid enjoyment; he had no posterity to inherit hereditary honours, and he was surely too wise not to know that a crown would tarnish his glory; that his own reputation was inseparably connected with the prosperity of his country; that his fame would mount no higher than her Eagle could soar. What more than he possessed, could ambition pant for? What further had the world to bestow? Where then are these accusers, these self-imagined models of perfection, who can show us where WASHINGTON was wrong, where they would have conducted with more wisdom and integrity? Do they too join the general acclamations, or are they silent? If there are those upon earth who renounce all pretensions to morality, who disclaim the obligations of gratitude, who dare even refuse to ascribe glory to GOD, (and we have too much evidence of the melancholy fact) can a mortal expect justice from them? But how transcendent must be that greatness which either extorts applause from its enemies, or awes them into silence!

ABOUT to relinquish the toils of his arduous station, and retire once more to that domestic repose which he had left with reluctance, and which his declining years now seemed to require, he could not close his public life without an act peculiarly appropriate to his character, and which fully demonstrates that ardent attachment to his country which governed all his conduct. His farewell advice discloses an intimate knowledge of the internal concerns, foreign relations, present and future interests of the United States, sufficient of itself to have entitled its author to fame. But when it is considered as the result of an intelligence adequate to the subject, as the fruit of personal experience matured by profound meditation, and in which no motive could have operated but the welfare and glory of the nation, we may safely pronounce it an oracle of political truth, a palladium, which, while carefully preserved, will perpetuate our Union and Independence; an amulet, which, if constantly improved, will render the body politic invulnerable, we might almost say immortal.

IN WASHINGTON occurred a union rarely to be found, of greatness and goodness. Courage, wisdom, and magnanimity, those eminent qualities, which embrace the whole community in their operation, were not those only which distinguished his character. He was equally remarkable for the less splendid, though not less amiable virtues, which more immediately respected himself, his family, and friends. However the abundance of his means, or his long and familiar intercourse with

with the world might have exposed him to temptation, he preserved his morals not only pure, but even untroubled by the breath of suspicion. However the applause of mankind, and the wealth and honours which Fortune, no longer blind, bestowed on him with a liberal hand, might have attached him to the world, he never forgot that he was mortal and destined to another state of existence. In him religion was a steady principle of action. It not only taught him fortitude in danger, and patience under misfortunes, but instructed him in the yet harder lesson of moderation, of even humility in the full swell of prosperity. How often does history inform us of commanders, transported with the tide of success, and grown giddy in its eddies, forgetting their dependence, and arrogating even divine honours ! As a counterpart to this, our annals may record the concluding passage of the general orders, published on the surrender of Yorktown. " Divine service shall be performed " to-morrow, in the different brigades and di- " visions. The Commander in Chief recom- " mends, that all the troops that are not upon " duty, do assist at it with a serious deportment, " and that sensibility of heart which the recollec- " tion of the surprizing and particular interposi- " tion of Providence in our favour, claims."

THAT WASHINGTON was affectionate and endearing in his conjugal relation, the anguish of his widowed wife sufficiently evinces, and no language can do so much justice to her sensibility, as her own affecting answer to the condolence of Congress, and her more recent return of thanks for
those

those expressions of sympathy, which you, my respected Brethren, thought it your duty to communicate to her.* That he was compassionate and humane, is honourably told by the tears of his disconsolate domestics. That he was benevolent, his emancipated slaves will long remember, and even their posterity acknowledge with gratitude. How amiable, how consistent is the character of this illustrious man! Himself the champion of political freedom, he disdained to hold his fellow-creatures in abject domestic servitude. An advocate for mild and equal laws, he disclaimed the right of unlimited control over the actions of others. Not satisfied with barely restoring to them that freedom, of which, in common with their countrymen, a cruel policy had deprived them, but yielding to the claims of justice, though unaided by law, he gave them in a freehold the hire that had not been stipulated, and blest them at once with competency and independence. Highly honourable would it be to our fellow-citizens in the South, if this magnanimous example should have its proper effect; if, in their treatment of the wretches subjected to their power, they would emulate the benevolence of WASHINGTON, if, obedient like him to the voice of humanity, justice and religion, they would abandon the savage claim of holding human beings in slavery, and repeal every statute in their code which countenances a principle so derogatory to the laws of Freemen.

HAVING already contemplated such a variety of distinguishing features in this great and amiable character,

* See Appendix

character, does it still admit of addition ? Is there room in the portrait for another trace of the faithful pencil, that will increase its beauty ? Yes, my Brethren, to us another and no less interesting view remains. Animated with a generous philanthropy, our deceased Brother early sought admission into our ancient and honourable fraternity, at once to enable him to cherish with advantage this heavenly principle, and enlarge the sphere of its operation. He cultivated our art with sedulous attention, and never lost an opportunity of advancing the interest or promoting the honour of the *Craft*. While Commander in Chief of the American revolutionary army, he countenanced the establishment and encouraged the labours of a travelling Lodge among the military. He wisely considered it as a school of urbanity, well calculated to disseminate those mild virtues of the heart, so ornamental to the human character, and so peculiarly useful to correct the ferocity of soldiers, and alleviate the miseries of war. The cares of his high office engrossed too much of his time to admit of his engaging in the duties of the chair, yet he found frequent opportunities to visit the Lodge, and thought it no derogation from his dignity there to stand on a *level* with the Brethren. True to our principles on all occasions, an incident once occurred which enabled him to display their influence to his foes. A body of American troops, in some successful encounter with the enemy, possessed themselves, among other booty, of the jewels and furniture of a British travelling Lodge of Malons. This property was directed by the Commander in

Chief to be returned under a flag of truce to its former proprietors, accompanied with a message, purporting that the Americans did not make war upon institutions of benevolence.

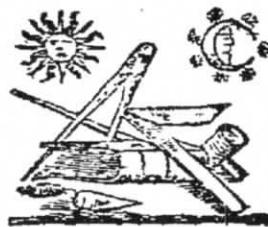
Of his attachment to our order in general, you, my respected Brethren of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of this Commonwealth, have had personal knowledge. His answers to your repeated addresses, breathe throughout the spirit of brotherly love; and his affectionate return of thanks for the Book of Constitutions, which you presented him, and for the honour, as he was pleased to consider it, which you did him in the dedication, must be evidence highly satisfactory of the respectful estimation in which he held you. The information received from our Brethren, who had the happiness to be members of the Lodge over which he presided many years, and of which he died the Master, furnishes abundant proof of his persevering zeal for the prosperity of the institution. Constant and punctual in his attendance, scrupulous in his observance of the regulations of the Lodge, and solicitous at all times to communicate light and instruction, he discharged the duties of the chair with uncommon dignity and intelligence in all the mysteries of our art. Nothing can more highly conduce to the prosperity and honour of Masonry, than a successful imitation of this bright example. It cannot fail of its effect upon our Brethren in its immediate neighbourhood in the south, they will beautify their column. And shall we be outdone in zeal? Placed geographically in the east, in a quarter of the Union

from

from which the nation has been accustomed to learn wisdom, it should be our peculiar care to diffuse light through the temple of Masonry. As it is known that we shared largely in the esteem and affection of our deceased Brother, it is easy to perceive that our good conduct will itself be an encomium on his memory. We see before us, among the sad emblems of mortality, not only the sword which in this neighbourhood he drew in defence of his country, but also the very attire which he has often worn as a Mason. How devoutly is it to be wished, that these striking memorials may stimulate us to a noble emulation, that, like the mantle of Elijah, they may inspire us with an unalterable attachment to virtue and benevolence! This day witnesses to the world in what veneration we hold the memory of departed greatness. Let not the solemnity be without its appropriate effect upon ourselves. While with funeral pomp and Masonic honours, we celebrate the obsequies of our deceased Brother, while we bend with anguish over the urn which contains a part of what was mortal in him,* let us like him remember, that we are animated with a heavenly flame, which the chill damps of death cannot extinguish, like him resolve to *square* our actions by the *rules* of *rectitude*, persevere in the *line* of our duty, and restrain our passions within the *compass* of propriety, knowing that the *all-seeing Eye* of our *Supreme Grand Master* above, continually observes us. That when we shall have performed the *task* assigned us here, we may

* A lock of General Washington's hair was deposited in the urn borne in the Masonic funeral procession on this occasion. See Appendix.

may like him be called from our work to the refreshments which alone can satisfy our immortal desires: That when we put off this earthly clothing, we may be arrayed with the garments of glory, put on the jewels of light, and shine forever in the sublime arch above.



A P P E N D I X.

An Address

*Of the GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED
MASONS, for the Commonwealth of MASSACHU-
SEETS, to their Honoured and Illustrious Brother
GEORGE WASHINGTON.*

WHILST the historian is describing the career of your glory, and the inhabitants of our extensive empire are made happy in your unexampled exertions while some celebrate the HERO, so distinguished in liberating United America, and others, the PATRIOT who presides over her councils—a BAND OF BROTHERS, having always joined the acclamations of their countrymen, now testify their respect for those milder virtues which have ever graced the MAN.

TAUGHT by the precepts of our Society, that all its members *stand upon a level*, we venture to assume this station, and to approach you with that freedom which diminishes our diffidence without lessening our respect.

DESIROUS to enlarge the boundaries of social happiness, and to vindicate the ceremonies of their institution, this Grand Lodge have published a *Book of Constitutions*, (and a copy for your acceptance accompanies this) which, by discovering the principles that actuate, will speak the eulogy of the Society, though they fervently wish the conduct of its members may prove its higher commendation.

CONVINCED of his attachment to its cause, and readiness to encourage its benevolent designs, they have taken the liberty to dedicate this work to ONE, the qualities of whose heart, and the actions of whose life, have contributed to improve personal virtue, and extend throughout the world
the

the most edearing cordialities, and they humbly hope he will pardon this freedom, and accept the tribute of their esteem and homage.

May the SUPREME ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE protect and bless you, give you length of days and increase of felicity in this world, and then receive you to the harmonious and exalted society in heaven.

(Signed)

JOHN CUTLER, *Grand Master*

JOSIAH BARTLETT, } *G. and Warden.*
MUNGO MACKAY, } *G. and Warden.*

Boston, December 27, A D 1792

The Answer.

To the GRAND LODGE OF THE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONs, for the Commonwealth of MASSACHUSETTS.

FLATTERING as it may be to the human mind, and truly honourable as it is, to receive from our fellow-citizens testimonies of approbation for exertions to promote the public welfare—it is not less pleasing to know, that the milder virtues of the heart are highly respected by a Society, whose liberal principles are founded in the immutable laws of truth and justice.

To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy the benevolent design of a Masonic Institution, and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the Fraternity, as well as those publications that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.

WHILE I beg your acceptance of my thanks for the "Book of Constitutions" which you have sent me, and for the honour you have done me in the dedication, permit

me to assure you that I feel all those emotions of gratitude which your affectionate address and cordial wishes are calculated to inspire. And I sincerely pray that the GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE may bless you here, and receive you hereafter in his immortal Temple.

(Signed)

G. WASHINGTON.

*The EAST, the WEST, and the SOUTH, of the
GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT, FREE AND AC-
CEPTED MASONs of the Commonwealth of MAS-
SACHUSETTS, to their Most Worthy Brother
GEORGE WASHINGTON.*

WISHING ever to be foremost in testimonials of respect and admiration for those virtues and services with which you have so long adorned and benefited our common country, and not the last nor least to regret the cessation of them in the public councils of the Union; your Brethren of the Grand Lodge embrace the earliest opportunity of greeting you in the calm retirement you have contemplated to yourself

THOUGH, as *Citizens*, they lose you in the active labours of political life, they hope as *Masons* to find you in the pleasing sphere of fraternal engagement. From the cares of State, and the fatigues of public business, our institution opens a recess, affording all the relief of tranquillity, the harmony of peace, and the refreshment of pleasure: of these may you partake in all their purity and satisfaction; and we will assure ourselves that your attachment to this social plan will increase, and that, under the auspices of your encouragement, assistance, and patronage, the Craft will attain the highest ornament, perfection, and praise. And it is our ardent prayer, that when your light shall be

no more visible in this Earthly Temple, you may be raised to the ALL-PERFECT LODGE above; be seated on the right of the SUPREME ARCHITECT of the Universe, and there receive the refreshment your labours have merited.

In behalf of the Grand Lodge, we subscribe ourselves, with the highest esteem,

Your affectionate Brethren,

PAUL REVERE, *Grand Master*

ISAIAH THOMAS, *Senior G. and Warden*,

JOSEPH LAUGHTON, *Junior Grand Warden*,

DANIEL OLIVER, *Grand Secretary*.

BOSTON, March 21, 1797

*To the GRAND LODGE of ANCIENT, FREE AND
ACCEPTED MASONs of the Commonwealth of
MASSACHUSETTS.*

BROTHERS,

IT was not until these few days, that I have been favoured by the receipt of your affectionate address, dated in Boston the 21st of March

FOR the favourable sentiments you have been pleased to express on the occasion of my past services, and for the regrets with which they are accompanied for the cessation of my public functions, I pray you to accept my best acknowledgments and gratitude.

No pleasure, except that which results from a consciousness of having, to the utmost of my abilities, discharged the trust which has been reposed in me by my country, can equal the satisfaction I feel from the unequivocal proofs I continually receive of its approbation of my public conduct, and I beg you to be assured, that the evidence thereof, which is exhibited by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, is not among the least pleasing or grateful to my feelings

IN that retirement which declining years induced me to seek, and which repose, to a mind long employed in public concerns, rendered necessary, my wishes that bounteous Providence will continue to bless and preserve our country in peace, and in the prosperity it has enjoyed, will be warm and sincere; and my attachment to the Society of which we are Members, will dispose me always to contribute my best endeavours to promote the honour and interest of the *Craft*.

FOR the prayer you offer in my behalf, I entreat you to accept the thanks of a grateful heart, with the assurance of my fraternal regard, and best wishes for the honour, happiness and prosperity of all the members of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

G. WASHINGTON

BOSTON, January 11, 1800

MADAM,

THE Grand Lodge of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have deeply participated in the general grief of their fellow-citizens, on the melancholy occasion of the death of their beloved WASHINGTON.

As Americans, they have lamented the loss of the Chief who had led their armies to victory, and their country to glory, but as *Masons*, they have wept the dissolution of that endearing relation, by which they were enabled to call him *their Friend* and *their Brother*. They presume not to offer you those consolations which might alleviate the weight of common sorrows, for they are themselves inconsolable. The object of this address is, not to interrupt the sacred offices of grief like your's, but, whilst they are mingling tears with each other on the common calamity, to condole with you on the irreparable misfortune which you have individually experienced.

To their expressions of sympathy on this solemn dispensation, the Grand Lodge have subjoined an order, that

a *Golden Urn* be prepared as a deposit for a lock of hair, an invaluable relique of the Hero and the Patriot, whom their wishes would immortalize; and that it be preserved with the jewels and regalia of the Society.

SHOULD this favour be granted, Madam, it will be cherished as the most precious jewel in the cabinet of the Lodge, as the memory of his virtues will forever be in the hearts of its members

We have the honour to be,
 With the highest respect,
 Your most obedient Servants,
 JOHN WARREN,
 PAUL REVERE,
 JOSIAH BARTLETT.

Mrs. MARTHA WASHINGTON.

MOUNT VERNON, January 27, 1800.

GENTLEMEN,

MRS. WASHINGTON has received with sensibility your letter of the 11th inst. enclosing a vote of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, requesting a *lock* of her deceased Husband's hair, to be preserved in a *Golden Urn*, with the jewels and regalia of the Grand Lodge.

IN complying with this request, by sending the lock of hair, which you will find enclosed, Mrs. WASHINGTON begs me to assure you, that she views with gratitude the tributes of respect and affection paid to the memory of her dear deceased Husband; and receives, with a feeling heart, the expressions of sympathy contained in your letter.

With great respect and esteem,
 I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
 Your most obedient Servant,
 TOBIAS LEAR.

JOHN WARREN,
 PAUL REVERE,
 JOSIAH BARTLETT, } *Past Grand Masters.*