

at peace, relatively free from the mental turmoil that engulfs nearly every other nation on the earth, we may wonder, whether any of us ever has given to the memory of our First President the reverence and respect due it.

There are times, it does seem, when the Almighty raises up on this earth a particular person to accomplish a particularly vital objective. Certainly, when our forefathers were in their death struggle with the Mother Country across the sea—a struggle that, as we are privileged to look back upon it now, was much more than an isolated bid for freedom by the thirteen tiny States of the American Colonies—it is doubtful if that struggle ever could have been brought to a successful conclusion had it not been for the heroic virtues of George Washington. In the darkest moments of Valley Forge, in the gloom of despair and defeat and treachery, it was Washington's fortitude, his glorious example, that held his ragged armies together, and gave them the hope and the will to carry on until victory was theirs.

There is an historic picture of this great leader in the State House at Annapolis, a picture which it would be well for every loyal American to view once in a while. It shows Washington standing with two of his Generals at Valley Forge—a resolute, sturdy figure, physically strong and composed mentally, a leader whose remarkable qualities of intellect and will have been translated forcefully on the canvas by the famous artist who painted it.

To look at that picture today, and to realize what he did for the entire world in leading the United States first out of the War, and then to a fuller realization of the opportunities offered the new Nation, is enough to give us quite a different, and larger concept of the mission he performed upon this earth.

Were it not for George Washington, it is entirely possible, nay, even likely, I would say, that this land now so free, now so important as the leader of the democracies of the world, would be another Africa—colonized for gain by the warring countries of the Old World, divided and distributed as the will of the conqueror or emergency demanded. Lost to the World would be the land of promise that has over a period of nearly one hundred and fifty years, opened up a new hope of living in hundreds of thousands of oppressed peoples the world over. Lost to the world, forever perhaps, would be the democratic leadership and inspiration that yet may be the deciding factor in saving the world from the degradation and despair that is the lot at least of the minorities in the totalitarian states that are seeking so steadfastly to extend their influence, and the influence of their doctrines, throughout the world.

At any time, in any condition of the world, it would be a salutary thing for us to pause a little while on this day set apart to Washington's memory, and contemplate the changes that have been effected in the world because of Washington's having lived. Most especially under conditions now obtaining in the world, is it advisable for us not only to contemplate, but to study and master so thoroughly that we may never lose it, the sturdy philosophy of life and government that was Washington's.

Thanks to George Washington and his devoted followers, this great America that we love is free today, free from oppressions of every kind, our of punishment. But while George Washington and those who fought so valiantly with him, won for us these rights, it will depend entirely upon us