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The Life of George Washington, by John Marshall

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THE LIFE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, by John Marshall. Republished by Walton Book Company, New York. 1930.

The only reason for a review of this book appearing in the Journal is the fact that it was written by the distinguished Chief Justice. The names of Washington and Marshall are of interest to all lawyers. The work attracts further attention by reason of its contrast with Beveridge's great work, "The Life of Marshall."

Marshall, in his work, thought it advisable to separate the military life of Washington from his political life, on the theory that his political life belonged to general history rather than the field of biography. Beveridge, in writing of Marshall, was at great pains to show how his (Marshall's) professional life was interwoven with and made general history as well as material for a biography.

The author also rather apologetically offered the private opinions of General Washington. Contrast this with present day biographers, who seem to think that gossip is the foundation of biography.

Marshall's work is a rather painstaking record of facts, figures and dates, without any attempt to set them in a background and paint thereon a portraiture of Washington or the times and conditions that produced and motivated him. It is not on a par with his judicial ability and will never leave him in the class of Beveridge or Plutarch. Beveridge will soon be forgotten as a political leader, but will live forever as a biographer. Marshall's fame as a judge is still growing, but, as a biographer, he has long since been forgotten.

The work, as issued, was without index and cross-reference was not used. A few explanatory notes in each volume are given. It is a poor

biography of a great man—yet through it runs restraint and the consideration and respect of one noble man for another.

The reprint is admirably done. Good paper, print and binding make it an attractive addition to any library.

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