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The Life of George Washington, by John Marshall

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what ludicrously referred to in the Table of Contents as the "Uniform Sale of Goods Act") and the Federal Bill of Lading Act, commonly called the Pomerene Act, are reprinted in full in the appendix. In section one of the Pomerene Act there is a very serious omission—undoubtedly due to an error in proof-reading—so that the reference of the act to transportation from one state to another is not included. This is rather seriously misleading as the omitted clause covers the most important single application of the act. There are, of course, a number of typographical errors in the book, but no others that the reviewer noted were more than momentarily misleading.

This book has then a somewhat limited scope but within that scope is entitled to commendation. There is very little discussion of controverted points and the work is therefore not likely to have any influence upon the development of this or any other department of the law. But indeed this was not intended. What was obviously intended was to furnish practitioners with a useable text book on the subject from which they could readily obtain the answer to any specific question as to the present law and could also obtain a lead as to the authorities. This purpose seems to be achieved with a reasonable measure of success. The book will certainly not be an epoch-making work but it should fulfill satisfactorily its humbler but useful role as a tool-in-trade of the active practitioner.

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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 consider-
ation 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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