



George Washington at Mount Vernon on the Potomac: To Give a Clearer Idea of the Character of Washington Is to Set a Higher Standard for American Patriotism (Classic Reprint)

James Hosmer Penniman

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George Washington at Mount Vernon on the Potomac James Hosmer Penniman, Litt.D. On the Potomac, a few miles below the city of Washington, has been standing for nearly two centuries a mansion which is a shrine of humanity, for Mount Vernon is more than a national memorial. Vessels from all parts of the world dip their colors and toll their bells as they pass the place, and distinguished pilgrims of many races lay wreaths at the tomb of him who devoted all he was and all he had to making freedom secure for mankind. George Washington, Mount Vernon, Potomac; what other three names can be found so closely associated and of such euphony and historic importance! There is no exaggeration in saying that Mount Vernon is the most famous home in the world. Nowhere else do we get so close to such an illustrious man. The mansions in which Washington lived as President, in New York and Philadelphia, have long ago been torn down, for there was no Ann Pamela Cunningham to protect them. At Cambridge, Harlem, Newburgh, Morristown and Valley Forge we are fortunate in having his headquarters still preserved, but in these places he was General Washington, Commander-in-Chief. It is at Mount Vernon alone that Washington comes down from his heroic pedestal and reveals himself to us in the majestic simplicity of the Virginia farmer, the Cincinnatus of the W

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