AN AMERICAN

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An American by Belle Willey Gue

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TO THE MEMORY OF HIM WHOM WE ALL DELIGHT
TO HONOR AS FIRST IN PEACE . . . FIRST IN
WAR . . . AND FIRST IN THE HEARTS
OF HIS COUNTRYMEN . . .
GEORGE WASHINGTON

12.5

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INTRODUCTION

There are many characteristics that are essential to true Americanism; among these, none is more prominent than an inborn desire, not only to obtain personal liberty, but, also, to see justice done to others.

We, as Americans, say, with loving pride, that we are citizens of that one fair land whose single boast has always been that it was free.

Oppression of the weak and ignorant, by those who are wiser and stronger than they, has, always, aroused in us pronounced, and, often, openly expressed, indignation. More than once, have we, as a nation, arrayed ourselves upon the side of the down-trodden and pitiful, and, in every such instance, we have greatly increased and enhanced the well-being of those whose cause we have espoused.

We have never gone out of our way to look for trouble, being more inclined to attend to our own affairs than to oversee those of our neighbors, and, yet, when, repeatedly, gross acts of injustice and cruelty have been forced under our observation, we have, at times, been aroused to a state of what we have honestly believed to be righteous indignation,