

**WASHINGTON: A  
DRAMA, IN  
FIVE ACTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649334414

Washington: A Drama, in Five Acts by Martin F. Tupper

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**MARTIN F. TUPPER**

**WASHINGTON: A  
DRAMA, IN  
FIVE ACTS**





*George Washington*

FROM FOUNDER'S BEST  
COPYRIGHT 1870

# WASHINGTON:

A DRAMA, IN FIVE ACTS.

BY

MARTIN F<sup>r</sup> TUPPER,

D.C.L., OXFORD; AND F.R.S.:

*Author of Proverbial Philosophy, Alfred, Raleigh,  
Crock of Gold, &c., &c.*

---

Written for the Centenary of American Independence in  
honour of its founder. Not yet published in England.

---

NEW YORK:

JAMES MILLER, PUBLISHER.

1876.





## NOTICE.

---

This Play will be read in public by the author during his present visit to America.

Condensation of the incidents of a lifetime within the limits of an hour or two needs must involve leaps between act and act, and gaps from scene to scene; but it is hoped nevertheless that the narration flows on naturally. My work has been a very rapid labour of love, but still a labour, and no indolent outpouring of extemporary fancies; seeing there will be found due historical authority for most of the incidents, and a fair amount of truthful consistency pervading all the characters; everywhere, an intelligent auditor, who is conversant with Washington and his times, will detect touches of quotation from celebrated speeches, and allusions to famous anecdotes. It will be remembered that biographers sometimes contradict each other (indeed a single one would always be sufficient, if



his facts were undisputed), and that the writer of a play from such materials must select the most picturesque points and make the best of them.

Having all through my life had an honest admiration for George Washington [in a very early book of mine, "The Modern Pyramid," he is one of my "Worthiest of Mankind"], I rejoice in the chance of making a monogram of his noble life: and my own well-known international sentiments now for nearly half a century, dating as they do ancestrally from much older times, will be a good excuse, if such be needed, for producing this Play on the Centenary of American Independence.

Appropriate music for the overture and Entr'actes, if by possibility it comes to be dramatically represented, might be some well-managed olio of international tunes, arranged to be in keeping with the libretto of each act; and the dresses must of course be of the period. Washington as President (act 1 sc. 2) first appears in his conventional black velvet, and the deputies in court dress. Afterwards his changes will be the dress and undress uniforms of an American General in 1776.

The play being a short one, and every line well considered, the author hopes it will be acted as written, without excisions or insertions.

It may be as well to state with respect to the national

flag (act 2 sc. 3), that the incident at Mount Vernon occurred to myself, and that I long after verified the matter at Herald's College: in May, 1851, I announced it to the Historical Society at Baltimore, who paid me the compliment of their diploma thereupon, after a public dinner, with Mr. Kennedy as chairman, and Sir Henry Bulwer and the present writer as his supports. Washington's original coat—as explained by Franklin—can be copied from Herald's College and possessed by any one for a small fee: an engraving thereof is on the outer title of this Play.

About the quasi-Corday incident, I have only invented as to sex; for Washington's life was more than once attempted, and he excused the culprits. It was also permissible for me to suppose his earliest love—the unknown "lowland beauty"—to have been Arnold's sister; and I may add that it is not only likelihood but truth, that Washington's wife frequently accompanied him in his campaigns, especially at Valley Forge.

Some knowledge of the subject is presupposed in a discerning and enlightened audience on either side of the Atlantic. I would not weight the action of the play with more than could be helped of explanatory matter, nor overlay its incidents with the petty and prosaic details of conflicting testimony. It may be as well to state that,

although I have lately heard of several plays on the great name "Washington," I have seen none of them; if any similarities are perceptible, they are accidental, and due probably to an honest use of the like materials by the several authors: history must not be originally invented.

With this preface, Reader, I commend my drama of "Washington" to your favour.

MARTIN F. TUPPER.

ALBURY, 1875.

