

**THE RIVERSIDE LITERATURE SERIES.  
RULES OF CONDUCT, DIARY OF  
ADVENTURE, LETTERS, AND  
FAREWELL ADDRESSES. WITH  
INTRODUCTIONS AND NOTES**

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The Riverside Literature Series. Rules of Conduct, Diary of Adventure, Letters, and Farewell Addresses. With Introductions and Notes by George Washington

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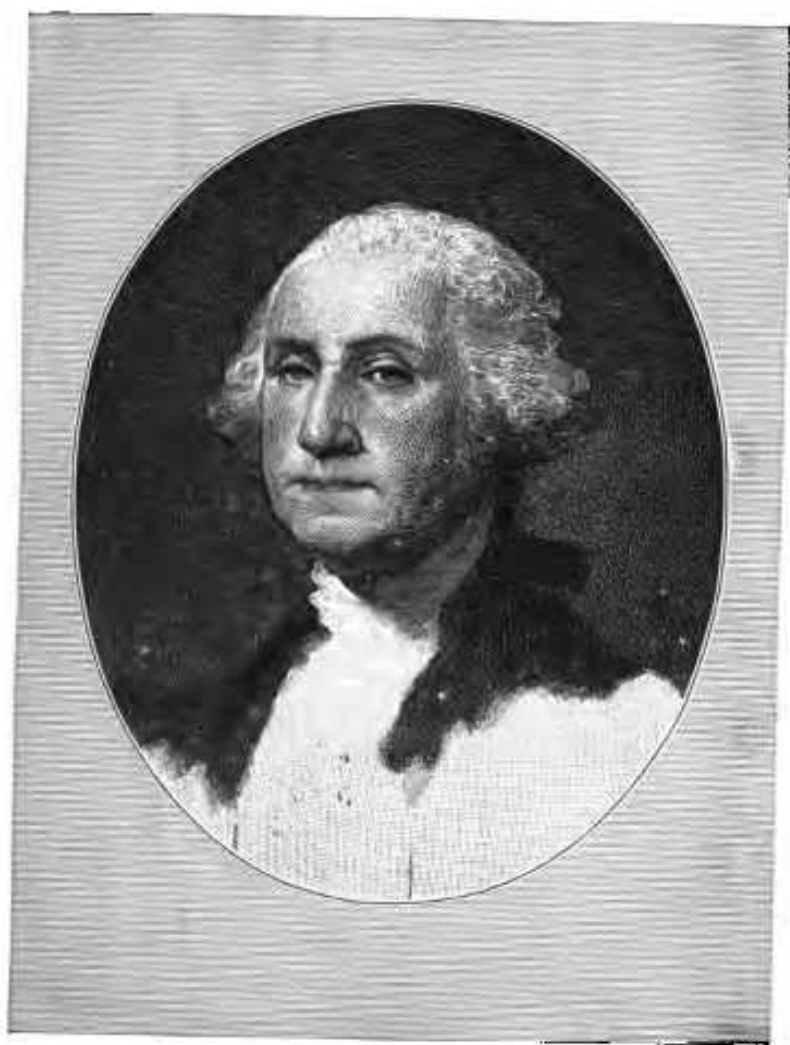
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**GEORGE WASHINGTON**

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G. Washington

The Riverside Literature Series

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**RULES OF CONDUCT**  
**DIARY OF ADVENTURE, LETTERS, AND**  
**FAREWELL ADDRESSES**

BY

**GEORGE WASHINGTON**

*WITH INTRODUCTIONS AND NOTES*



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## PREFACE.

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THERE are many biographies of Washington, and every history of the United States gives prominence to the facts in the life of the great leader in the war for independence, and the first President of the Union. The city where the Congress of the nation meets is named after the greatest American, and every year on the twenty-second of February the people are given a holiday to remind them of the man whose birth meant so much to the nation. It is of prime importance that a democracy, which recognizes the worth of the person, has for its great exemplar a man so wise, so noble, so unselfish as its first citizen. Character makes character, and the figure of Washington as it looms up in the past is a rebuke to all that is mean and ignoble in American public life.

The birthday of Washington, coming in the middle of winter, offers a capital opportunity for schools to take a little rest and enjoy a special celebration. This pamphlet gives in convenient form the most striking passages in Washington's life, told in his own words, with such preliminary notes as are needed to make the circumstances of the writing clear. There is material, therefore, for a celebration, and by a little ingenuity it can be used in a variety of ways. Thus, as part of the exercises, each member of the class may

choose one of the rules to recite and to take as a motto for practical conduct. If the school is situated near any point visited by Washington, some one of the scholars may prepare an essay upon the local associations with Washington, or there may be a written newspaper, edited by one of the class, and containing contributions from various members. It will often be possible to borrow from some museum in the neighborhood the dress of a continental soldier to use in an effective tableau.

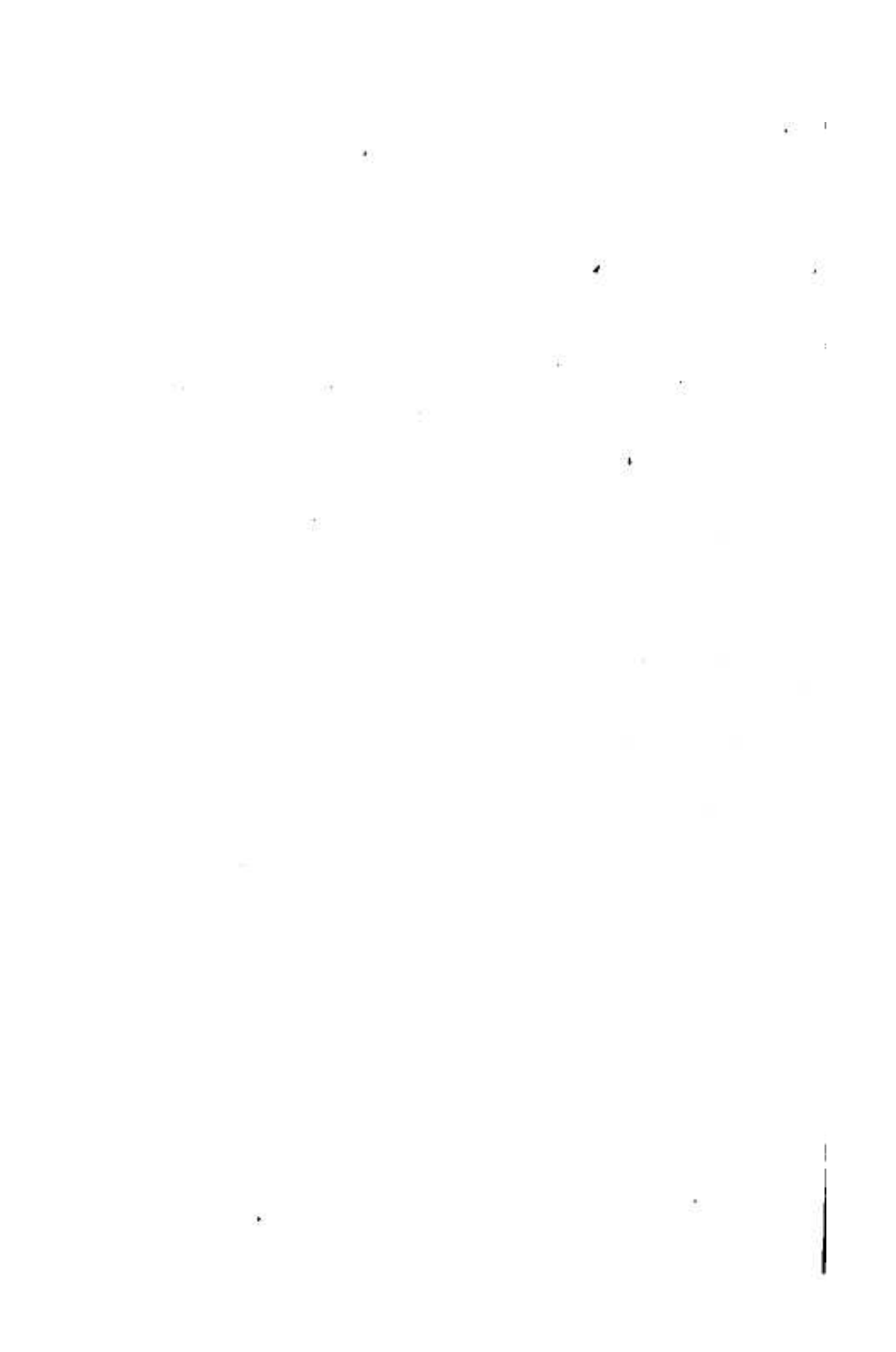
Mr. Lowell's poem, "Under the Old Elm," has some noble lines characterizing Washington. The fact that Longfellow's home was the headquarters originally of Washington in Cambridge, gives an opportunity for a pleasing connection between the statesman and the poet. As Washington is so closely identified with the war for independence, the children may be encouraged to bring in revolutionary relics, and a temporary museum can be made with talks about the different objects. Even if nothing else is done, this little volume can be read by turns in the class, and a geographical exercise connected with it.



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## WASHINGTON'S RULES.

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THE copy-books and exercise-books of most boys are early destroyed, but it chanced that those of George Washington have been kept, and they are very interesting. The handwriting in them is the first thing to be noticed, — round, fair, and bold, the letters large like the hand that formed them, and the lines running straight and even. In the arithmetic and book-keeping manuals which we study at school, there are printed forms of receipts, bills, and other ordinary business papers; but in Washington's school-days, the teacher showed the boys how to draw these up, and gave them also copies of longer papers, like leases, deeds, and wills. There were few lawyers in Virginia, and every gentleman was supposed to know many forms of documents which now are left to our lawyers or stationers.

Washington's exercise-books have many pages of these forms, written out carefully by the boy. Sometimes he made ornamental letters such as clerks were wont to use. This was not merely exercise in penmanship; it was practice work in all that careful keeping of accounts and those business methods which were sure to be needed by one who had to manage a large plantation. George Washington was to manage something greater, though no one then knew it; and the habits which he formed at this time were of inestimable value to him in his manhood.

The manuscript book which contains these exercises has also a list of a hundred and ten *Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation*. They were probably not made up by the boy, but copied from some book, or taken down from the lips of his mother or teacher. Fifty-seven of them are printed by Mr. Sparks in his *Writings of Washington*. They sound rather stiff to us, but it was a common thing in those days to set such rules before children, and George Washington, with his liking for regular, orderly ways — evident in his very writing — prob-