

**WASHINGTON, A  
NATIONAL EPIC  
IN SIX CANTOS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649365623

Washington, a national epic in six cantos by Edward Johnson Runk

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**EDWARD JOHNSON RUNK**


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G. W. H. Waples

# WASHINGTON

A NATIONAL EPIC  
IN SIX CANTOS 

BY EDWARD JOHNSON RUNK

SECOND IMPRESSION

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS  
NEW YORK AND LONDON  
The Knickerbocker Press

1901

P.  
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11-2  
W3  
124

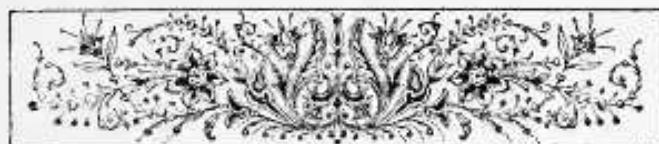
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BY  
EDWARD JOHNSON RUNK  
Entered at Stationers' Hall, London

The Knickerbocker Press, New York

DEDICATED  
TO  
THE PEOPLE  
OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA







## PREFACE

THE following poem was written at Cold Spring in the Hudson Highlands during the summer months which succeeded the centennial celebration of Washington's inauguration as first President of the United States, April 30, 1789-1889. Circumstances have delayed its publication until the present time.

To one residing in the Hudson Highlands the inspirations of mountain scenery are associated with historic memories of the romantic revolutionary period. As yet no one, to our knowledge, had woven or attempted to weave in unity of person and place the poetic thoughts, which nature and history here suggest in wonderful richness and importance.

So marvelous has been the growth of our country that the revolutionary epoch may appear relatively more remote than it really is, and to the young and the many who have come

from other countries to our shores a halo of romance may envelop the persons of the heroes of that age.

The nobility of his character, the difficulties with which he successfully contended, the importance of the humane principles for which he labored in conjunction with his fellow-citizens, render Washington as inspiring and honorable a character for poetic tribute as may be found among the imperfect children of mortality.

The following lines find in Washington unity of person, in the Hudson Highlands unity of place, in the American Revolution unity of history, and in the principles of constitutional republicanism unity of philosophy. The order of cantos is historic; their names are taken from places around us that have been centres of revolutionary association; and, while the principal events of such places have been elaborated in the respective cantos, the aim has been to maintain historic continuity and trace the relative significance of local occurrences in the totality of the general movement. The first canto, "Constitution Island," describes the advent of free principles to our country, the fortifications early erected in the place that names the canto, and the course of events until Burgoyne's campaign in 1777, at which time