

**MEMOIRS OF THE
MOTHER AND WIFE
OF WASHINGTON**

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Memoirs of the Mother and Wife of Washington by Margaret C. Conkling

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MARGARET C. CONKLING

**MEMOIRS OF THE
MOTHER AND WIFE
OF WASHINGTON**

Mary

AND

Martha Washington.



SIXTEENTH THOUSAND.

MEMOIRS

OF THE

MOTHER AND WIFE

OF

WASHINGTON.

BY

MARGARET C. CONKLING,

AUTHOR OF HARPERS' TRANSLATION OF "FLORIAN'S HISTORY OF THE
MOORS OF SPAIN;" "ISABEL, OR TRIALS OF THE HEART;"
ETC., ETC.

"Of differing themes the veering song was mix'd."

"To teach us how divine a thing
A woman may be made."

NEW EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED.

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MILLER, ORTON & MULLIGAN.
1854.

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TO
MRS. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
A SLIGHT TRIBUTE TO HER MANY VIRTUES,
AND
IN TOKEN OF HIGH REGARD,
THIS VOLUME
IS VERY RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

THANKS for the picture of thy daily life—
Thy bright example, Daughter, Mother, Wife!
The watchful care that cheers thy sire's decline,
As a lone shaft's long shielded by a vine,
A gentle, holy lesson, graven deep,
Thy daughter, cherished in her heart, will keep;
Thy couch of suffering she'll bend above,
And soothe thee, ever, with devoted love.
Constant to thee, thy sons will crown thy days
With reverence, heart-felt blessings, fondest praise;
And we, still proving the truest of friends,
The *Assurance of whose faith* on thee attends,
Wherever tossed 'mid life's tumultuous jar,
E'er turn to thee, his fixed, his guiding star,
And in thy smile benign, confiding seek
The peace, the happiness, thy prayers bespeak!—
When thou in Heaven dost fold thy spirit-wing,
Around thy name will sweetest memories cling,
Soft as the balmy breath of fragrance cast
On earthly bowers, where Peri's wing has pass'd,

Or radiance ling'ring round the glowing West,
When day screens has gently sunk to rest!

Long may Columbia's Daughters thus portray
The lofty virtue of her earlier day!—
And may the blessings of thy heart and hearth
Change but for those of bright, unpyrean birth!

M. C. U.

Meirice, January 1st, 1850.

MEMOIR
OF
MARY WASHINGTON.



Life is not lost, from which is brought
Endless renown.

SPENCER.



. . . . Virtue, on no aid extraneous bent,
Is to herself, her own bright ornament.

TASSO.