

labored hard to employ peaceful means for the adjustment of the difficulties. But when he realized that the English government fully determined to be heedless to the appeal of the colonists he raised his voice in defense of his country, and to that end was willing to sacrifice pleasure, home, fortune and even his life.

When it became evident that war was inevitable, and the command as chief of the army was given him how grand and how sublime he looks to us. He knew the difficulties he would have to contend with. He knew the hardships he would have to suffer, for Washington saw and measured, as did no one else, the magnitude of the work before him. He knew that he was about to face the best troops of Europe which he would have to oppose with an army untrained and undisciplined and unprepared for war; without money, without arms, without allies to rely upon. But realizing that a sense of duty and a love for his country called him to accept that high office, he did so, and humbly invoking the assistance of the Almighty was willing to leave his delicious retirement, his family and his friends, sacrificing his ease and hazarding all in the cause of his country.

As a general he is the greatest that ever lived. It is true that others have won laurels on the battle field that have overshadowed those won by Washington. But no general ever lived who, fighting under analogous circumstances and difficulties, was as successful as was Washington. Had the command of the army been entrusted to a man of inferior ability, it is easily to be conjectured how the revolution would have terminated. With an army undisciplined and unused to war, no navy, no arms and no money, nothing but the enthusiasm of the people to rely upon against the most disciplined army in the world, under such propitious auspices he undertook, that which to a man of less courage and ability seemed an impossibility, and brought order out of chaos. In Washington were combined all those qualities which go to make up a great general. He had the prescience of Marlborough, the quick determination of Napoleon, the courage of Wellington and unlike them, he was patient and persevering