THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

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HISTORIC GUNSTON HALL.

VIRGINIA HOME OF THE FAMOUS GEORGE MASON PURCHASED BY TOM WATSON.

American History Made Beneath Its Broad Verandas—Has Been Restored to its Original Beauty.

Tom Watson, of Georgia, author of a "Life of Thomas Jefferson," is reported to have bought Gunston Hall, Virginia, 15 miles from Washington, and which was from 1750 to 1792 the home of George Mason, friend and adviser of Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, James Madison and Patrick Henry. The house is preserved and a few rods from it is the grave of Mason. The pyramidal piece of granite shown in the picture stands above his grave and is inscribed:

GEORGE MASON,
Author of the Bill of Rights and First Constitution of Virginia.
1726-1792.

Gunston Hall is on a ridge commanding a fine view of the Potomac river, a mile distant. It is about five miles below Mount Vernon and three miles below the ruins of Belvoir, the home of the first Fairfax in Virginia. Gunston Hall was probably without equal in that part of Virginia at the time of its building, and is as well preserved as any other colonial house in Virginia. It is eighty feet long and forty feet wide and is built of bricks twice the size of those made now. To the right of the north entrance is the room which was occupied by Jefferson on his frequent visits to Mason. On the river portico is where Mason and Washington played at draughts by the hour.

Gunston Hall

Grave of George Mason

Several years after the war Gunston Hall in dilapidation was acquired by Colonel Edward Daniels, a Northern man. The place was partially restored by him. Colonel Daniels in the days of reconstruction was the editor of the Richmond Journal and was once a candidate for the House of Representatives, but was defeated. He was a close friend of President Grant, and Daniels really controlled the patronage of the State of Virginia. A spry old gentleman who has personally known a hundred celebrities of other generations, he lives on land adjoining Gunston Hall and which was a part of the estate. Gunston Hall passed to Joseph Specht, of St. Louis, and by him was completely restored and beautified. He died three years ago and the place continued in possession of his heirs and in charge of a colored overseer.

Ealry Opposed to Slavery.

George Mason was the Sage of Gunston. It was he who after conference and correspondence with Washington drew up the non-importation resolutions offered by Washington and adopted by the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1769. One of these resolutions pledged the signers to buy no slaves imported after November 1, 1769.

Mason was the author of a tract styled "Extracts from Virginia Charters and Some Remarks upon Them," supporting the contention that the British Parliament had no right to tax the American colonies. This tract had a wide vogue in pre-revolutionary times.

Mason and Washington attended the citizens' meeting at Fairfax Court House, Virginia, in July, 1774. Washington was moderator of the meeting. Mason presented twenty-four resolutions in advocacy of non-intercourse with the mother country. These resolutions were adopted, and were also adopted by the Virginia convention at Williamsburg in August, 1774. It was that body which elected Peyton Randolph, Richard Henry Lee, George Washington, Patrick Henry, Richard Bland, Benjamin Harrison and Edmund Pendleton delegates to the First Continental Congress, and that Congress substantially adopted the Mason resolutions.

Favored Election of Presidents by the People.

Mason after once declining election, and once refusing to serve after election to the Continental Congress, sat in the Constitutional Convention of 1787. In that great body he opposed slavery, saying it was a source of "national weakness and demoralization." He advocated the direct election of the President by the people and for a term of seven years with ineligibility for re-election. He opposed the requirement of a property qualification for voters and also opposed the plan to make slaves equal to freemen for purposes of representation in Congress. He refused to sign the Constitution as adopted, and fought against its ratification by Virginia.

In the Virginia convention to ratify the Constitution Mason led the opposition and standing with him were Patrick Henry, James Monroe, Benjamin Harrison and William Grayson. The leaders for ratification were John Marshall, Edmund Randolph, Richard Henry Lee, George Washington and James Madison, yet so great was Mason's influence that in 168 votes, the majority for ratification was only ten and this majority was obtained only after the required number of States had already adopted the Constitution.

Of a Famous Family.

The first American Mason was George Mason, great-grandfather of Mason of Gunston. He was a commander of a troop of horse at the battle of Worcester, where he fought in the Stuart cause, as did Colonel John Washington, a near relative of John and Lawrence Washington, English Royalists and the original Washington immigrants.

The Mason family was originally of Warwickshire and there are many Mason memorials in the Church of the Holy Trinity at Stratford-on-Avon. Colonel George Mason, the first, was, however, not a Warwickshire man, but was born in Staffordshire. One of his fellow Royalist refugees to America was Gerard Fowke, of Gunston, a hamlet in Staffordshire. The old English Gunston Hall was standing a few years ago, and was owned by the Giffords, descendants of the same Giffords who were Royalists with Fowke and Mason, and who owned Boscobel, near Gunston, where Charles II. lay in concealment after the battle of Worcester.

The commonwealth commander at Worcester was General Fairfax, and it was a strange fate that made a descendant of this man a neighbor to the Washingtons of Mount Vernon and the Masons of Gunston Hall. Belvoir, the Fairfax estate, lay immediately between Gunston and Mount Vernon

The first American Mason and Fowke settled in the northern neck of Virginia, but Fowke later removed to Maryland. George Mason, the second, married Mary Fowke, daughter of Gerard Fowke, and they built a home in Maryland, which they called Gunston Hall, in memory of the English Gunston. These people were grandparents of George Mason, the fourth, or George Mason, one of the republic's founders. In 1750 this man married Anne Eilbeck of Mattawoman, Maryland, and soon after his marriage began the erection of Gunston Hall, Virginia, which he named after his grandparents' place in Maryland and the ancestral home of the Fowkes in Staffordshire.

Mason was one of the vestrymen of Pohick Church, four miles from Gunston. Washington and William Fairfax were also vestrymen there.

UNCLE JOE CANNON'S ADVICE.

Never Keep Back Anything, But Always Tell the Whole Truth.

Speaker Cannon, whom everybody calls "Uncle Joe," told the following story one day when he wished to emphasize the necessity for telling the whole truth, and farther how a man may be deceived by half-truth:

A man rented a house, but after looking at it went back to the real estate agent with a complaint.

"You profess to have told me the truth," he stormed, "but you haven't told me the whole truth. There's that lawn, for instance!"

"Really, sir," protested the agent, "I distinctly remember describing the lawn, and a very nice lawn it is."

"Oh, yes," went on the kicker. "You told me there was a lawn, but you didn't tell me that the nearest owner of a lawn-mower lived two miles away! Where am I to borrow a lawn-mower, sir? Answer me that!"

Live Stock Matters.

"Oh," said the fair summer boarder, as a couple of calves gamboled across the meadow, "what pretty little cowlets."

"Yew air mistaken, ma'am," said the old farmer. "Them's bullets."

A NEW CABINET OFFICE.

LIKELIHOOD OF CREATION OF DEPARTMENT OF INSULAR AFFAIRS.

Field Covered by Secretary of War Considered Too Wide—President May Suggest Change to Congress.

Since the war with Spain, the enormous growth of the business of the War Department has given rise to an oft expressed opinion in high government circles that the time is fully ripe for the creation of another executive department to handle the control of the island affairs of the government. It is predicted that the President will make some such suggestion in his forthcoming message to Congress.

Following the Spanish War, the War Department naturally took control of the island possessions that came to the United States as a result of that conflict. These islands, Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, fell to the care of the War Department as long as they were under military rule, but when civil government took the place of martial law they were still left with the War Department.

Kept From State Department.

It would seem natural for them to belong to the Department of State, but they have been purposely kept from the province of that department in order that foreign powers might not have a chance to say anything about them. The bureau of insular affairs was created to attend to questions affecting our island possessions, but this bureau has been under the immediate control of the Secretary of War, and out of reach of foreign representatives.

With the turning of Cuba over to the Cubans and the passing of Porto Rico to the State Department and Guam and Tutuilla to the Navy Department, matters became even more involved.

Burden Too Great.

Almost of greater importance, at present, than the Philippines, is the canal zone. Secretary Taft tried to shunt this burden to the shoulders of Secretary Root, but failed in his attempt. He is now preparing to make a visit to the isthmus to see how the work on the big ditch is progressing. Mr. Root declared that the bureau of insular affairs was better equipped to handle canal affairs than any other department of the government.

However, when Secretary Taft left for the Phillipines and it was understood that Mr. Root would become Secretary of State, it was said to be Secretary Taft's wish that the canal matter be transferred to Mr. Root and there has been much speculation during the summer and fall as to who would eventually oversee this big job. On one hand it has been realized that Secretary Taft has had a great deal more than his proportionate share of government work and responsibility, and again it was understood that one of the arguments used by the President to induce Mr. Root to re-enter the Cabinet was the President's personal desire that he should undertake the direction of the can work. His acceptance of the trust would have enabled Secretary Taft to devote more of his time to important Philippine government questions and the business of the army generally. It seems to have been decided, however, that Mr. Taft is to continue permanently as the Panama canal builder, this decision having been reached at a recent Cabinet meeting.

These questions, together with questions relating to the general staff, the reorganization of the army, and other internal affairs, have made the Secretary by far the hardest worked man in the Cabinet.

Taft Travels Far.

This is proved, if in no other way, by the immense amount of traveling done by Secretary Taft in the past year He has been to Panama, to the Philippines, to Hawaii, to China and Japan. He has just left Washington for his second trip to the isthmus. Through his connection with the affairs of the Philippines, he has become involved in questions wholly outside the regular line of the War Department.

COL. CLARENCE R. EDWARDS,
Chief of Bureau of Insular Affairs and Possible New Cabinet Officer.

These are some of the reasons which lead the President and his advisers to consider the creation of another department to take complete control of island and colonial affairs. Whether Congress will consent to this at the coming session, or will move postponement, cannot be foretold, but the chances are that, within a reasonable time, the War Department will be relieved of some of its heavy burdens.

There is no pie or pudding, father,
But I will give you this;
And upon the blacksmith's toil-worn brow,
She printed a childish kiss.

ROOSEVELT IN DIXIE.

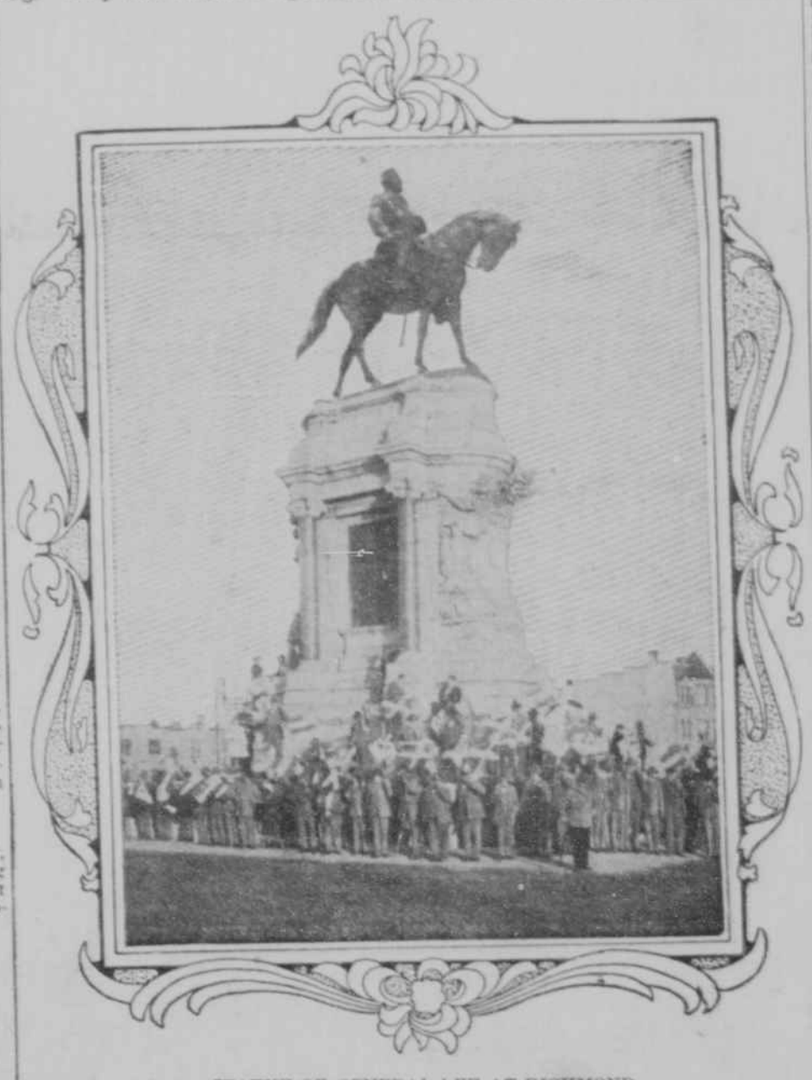
President Speaks to the Followers of Lee.

President Roosevelt's recent tour through the South was one continuous ovation from the people of Dixie. In fact his visit has been heralded as being as triumphant as the return of any Roman emperor. Dixie was captured by the Rough Rider President.

At Richmond, the old Confederate Capital, the greeting extended to him was unusually cordial. After much parading and speech-making, the President was taken for a drive through the residence section. In the center of this section is the great equestrian statue of General Robert E. Lee. At this point occurred a scene of the President's visit which will probably be remembered when all others have faded into oblivion.

Surrounding the Lee monument is an iron fence, inclosing a circle of lawn. The crowd was thickly grouped around this circle. Inside, standing upon the base of the monument and wandering about upon the lawn were seventy-five broken, tottering old men, clad in gray and carrying small Confederate flags. Many hobbled upon crutches, and nearly all leaned upon canes. Here and there an arm or a leg was missing. The voices of the old men were low, and they paid no heed to the crowd around them. They were waiting for the President of the United States, he was to drive past the monument. From time to time a little, old man climbed upon a pedlment and stood, like the very incarnation of the Lost Cause, shading his eyes and gazing toward the coming of the great, the powerful, the world-renowned successor of Lincoln and Grant.

It was such a sight as this which greeted the President when his carriage dashed up to the monument. Before the old men realized it, the President was facing them and shouting, "Come closer." With confused exclamations the old men hobbled forward, with small pretense of marching. They had almost forgotten the old marching orders in their confusion. They simply huddled forward to the fence. The line was not reformed. Then the President spoke to the South, ignoring the crowd behind him. He spoke only to the wearers of the gray. He spoke as the President of a reunited country. His voice seemed as the voice of a nation speaking to the followers of Lee.



STATUE OF GENERAL LEE AT RICHMOND.
Group of Confederate Veterans Waiting to See the President.

The veterans devoured every vigorous syllable of the President's address. They returned his earnest gaze with looks of unmistakable good will and loving friendship. Somewhat abruptly the President stopped, waved his hat. It was to them like the balm of Gilead, and shouted, "Good-by, and good-luck."

"Good-by, good-by," they shouted, and a moment later President Roosevelt was out of sight.

Expert Naval Testimony.

When Dick Thompson, of Indiana, was called to the Cabinet as Secretary of the Navy it is said that he had never even been on a large vessel. One of his earliest visits was made to an informal inspection on a large man-of-war, lying at the Navy Yard. He climbed up on the deck, was escorted around the vessel, admired and complimented the beauty and cleanliness of it all and finally peered down the hold. He looked back at the officer, took off his glasses, wiped them, looked down again and then finally turned to the commander and exclaimed, "Why the thing's hollow!"

THE STRENGTH OF JAPAN.

GARDEN FARMS THE FOUNDATION OF NIPPON'S POWER.

30,000,000 People Sustained in Comfort on Only 19,000 Square Miles of Cultivated Land.

(From "Chicago," The Great Central Market July, 1905).

"A hundred years hence, leaving China out of the question, there will be two colossal powers in the world, beside which Germany, England, France, and Italy will be as pygmies—the United States and Russia."

If any one had told Emile de Laveleye, when he made this prophecy, some years ago, that within a few years the power of Russia on the sea would be annihilated, and her land forces defeated again and again by the pygmy nation of Japan, would he have believed it?

No, neither he nor any one else, at that time, would have credited it.

The incredible, the unbelievable, has actually happened. There is no result without a cause. What is the underlying cause of this marvelous strength of Japan?

It is not in battle ships or siege guns not in torpedo boats or field artillery—not in arms or armor—not in munitions of war or equipment for battles on land or sea. Russia had all these, and yet she has suffered crushing, humiliating, and overwhelming defeat. What, then, is the secret of Japan's strength?

Efficiency of the Unit.

It is in just one thing, and that is men!

It is in the efficiency of the unit. It is in the physical and mental power—in the health, strength, and intelligence of the Japanese people as a whole, and as a consequence, of every individual soldier and sailor.

And this physical and mental efficiency of an entire people—of the entire citizenship of the Japanese nation—is a plain and distinct result of their mode of life.

The Japanese people are strong because they live as the human animal must live to be mentally and physically strong—next to nature.

They breathe the fresh air.

They eat plain food.

They neither starve nor [illegible].

They are mentally and physically active.

They are an "out of door" people.

They understand the laws of health, and obey them.

Their children draw their strength from the bosom of mother earth.

And above and beyond all, they are a nation of homes and home owners.

Each family is in a home and each home is in a garden where health and strength are gained by the labor of cultivating that garden for a living.

And in these garden homes the people of Japan have far more of real pleasure and happiness and the genuine enjoyments of life than the average wage worker in our country.

The White Plague Unknown.

We have fallen into a smug and self-complacent and wretchedly superficial habit of thought which loses sight of the life that a people lead and measures everything by a money wage—a totally false and deceptive standard of measurement of the best thing that human life affords.

In the United States two hundred and fifty thousand of our people are being annually destroyed by the great white plague, tuberculosis.

In Japan the disease is practically unknown.

Why?

Because the Japanese breathe fresh air.

What would the Japanese think if they were told that their people could not have fresh air because they did not have more money?

Or could not have exercise because they could not afford to belong to athletic clubs?

Or must go without food because they lacked money to buy it at a butcher or a grocery store, when every Japanese gardener has the land from which he knows how with his own labor to get all the food he needs for the abundant nourishment for himself and family.

The Garden Farm.

Of the 45,000,000 population of Japan 30,000,000 are farmers, or more correctly speaking, gardeners. The Japanese farm is a garden, irrigated and fertilized, and scientifically and intensively tilled.

And a recent writer, describing the life of the Japanese farmer, says:—

"Measured in money, he is not rich. But he dwells in a comfortable and inviting home, purged of every taint of dirt and dust. The transparent paper walls of his house, made of bark from his mitsumata shrubs, flood his dwelling with light and keep out the wind. He enjoys good food served in dainty, but inexpensive dishes made of native woods. Even in the homes of the poorest, there are no visible signs of poverty. There is no squalor in agricultural Japan. The humblest peasant farmer is clean, industrious and comfortable. The area of fence corners abandoned on many American farms to wild mustard, fennel, and pig weed, would furnish comfortable living to a whole family in rural Japan. Some idea of the trifling cost of living in agricultural Japan was given by an American who has spent fifteen years in the Empire. Frequently he takes a vacation in the farming regions. He has good food, sleeps on clean and comfortable quilts in impeccable houses is carried about in country carts, and at the end of two weeks finds that his total expenses have not exceeded ten yen, or five dollars."

And from the garden farms—the Home Acres—of agricultural Japan have come the soldiers who have faced death to drive the Russians from Manchuria and leaped into eternity in order that they might wipe the menace of the Russian Navy from the seas that wash the shores of their Home Land.

A Nation of Home Acres.

It is an old saying that a man will not fight for a boarding house, but the Japanese have proved that they will fight like demons to defend the institutions of a nation of Home Acres.

We instinctively think of the victories of Japan as the victories of her leaders.

We are naturally hero-worshippers.

But there, again, we are superficial.

Our military men were loud in their praises of the masterly way in which Kuropatkin played the game of war.

And Rojestvensky must have the credit due him for sailing his fleet four thousand miles and planning so efficiently to provide it with coal and provisions.

But Oyama and Togo had the men, and every Japanese soldier and sailor is not only a hero but a leader. If every officer in the Japanese army and navy above the rank of Captain were stricken dead tomorrow, their places would be filled and Japan would continue to prosecute the war to final victory. The secret of her power lies in the fact that in intelligence, in mental and physical strength, in individual initiative in patriotism, in all that goes to make up a fighting unit, every Japanese soldier and sailor is an Oyma or a Togo in embryo.

You might destroy every ship that Japan possesses, destroy all her arms and munitions of war, take away even the clothes on their backs, and transport every soldier in her army and every sailor in her navy back to the shores of Japan as naked as the day he were born, and leave the nation to its own devices, and in a few years they would completely reproduce their naval and military power and be stronger than ever.

But destroy the men of Japan and substitute for them the dull-witted peasantry of Russia or the ennemic factory operatives of England, and you have destroyed Japan.

Men Before Battleships.

True to his warlike impulses and instincts, President Roosevelt catches up the echo from the great naval battle which has just been fought, and calls on the country for more battle ships.

Rojestvensky had battle ships. He had more of them than Togo. But he didn't have the men. And he couldn't get them. Russian institutions could not produce them.

Now, would it not be wise for the people of this country to wake up to the fact that the foundation of our strength as a nation is not in an army or a navy, but in our citizenship.

And also wake up to the appalling fact, powerfully portrayed by Robert Hunter in "Poverty," his recent book, that we are deliberately following in the footsteps of England and degenerating our citizenship by crowding our working people into cities where they live in an unhealthful environment and are weakened by poor food and inadequate nourishment.

The lesson to be learned by this na-