

MASONIC THOUGHTS

Many things have been written about Freemasonry in countless books and in papers to be delivered to Masonic research associations, but how many of us know that there is wealth of beautiful material out there about Freemasonry, such as quotations or poems. Some of the world's greatest men of letters who were Freemasons themselves, have written some wonderful words. Let's take Rudyard Kipling and Robbie Burns as just two examples, yet equally some less well-known Masons have embodied the teachings and philosophy of Freemasonry in their writing and we will take a look at these too during the coming months.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

By Thomas Jefferson

Perhaps the strongest feature of his character was prudence, never acting until every circumstance, every consideration was maturely weighed.....His integrity was most pure , his justice the most inflexible I have ever known, no motives of interest or consanguinity, of friendship or hatred, being able to bias his decision. He was indeed, in every sense of the word, a great and good man. His temper was naturally irritable and high toned; but reflection and resolution had obtained a firm and habitual ascendancy over it.

If, however, it broke its bonds he was most tremendous in his wrath.

In his expenses he was honourable, but exact; liberal in contributions to whatever promised utility; but frowning and unyielding on all visionary projects and all unworthy calls on his charity. His heart was not warm in its affections; but exactly calculated every man's value, and gave him a solid esteem proportioned to itAlthough in the circle of friends, where he might be unreserved with safety, he took a free share in conversation, his colloquial talents were not above mediocrity, possessing neither copiousness of ideas, nor fluency of words.

In public, when called upon for a sudden opinion, he was unready, short and embarrassed. Yet he wrote readily, rather diffusely, in an easy and correct style.....

On the whole, his character was, in its mass, perfect, in nothing bad, in a few points indifferent; and it may be truly said, that never did nature and fortune combine more perfectly to make a man great; and to place him.....in an everlasting remembrance.