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Omaha, Neb. January 8th 1884.

I have been pleased and edified by the reading of the new book of Mrs Laura C. Holloway, entitled "Mothers of great men and women."

It was a happy thought of Mrs Holloway's to send to our homes in such an attractive form this epitome of biographies. I gathered my children around me and in the presence of their mother read aloud first the sketch of Washington's mother. Some things in her life I had seen before, but Mrs Holloway has gathered her material here and there from the histories with most careful research, thoroughly digested the subject matter, and then written Mary Washington's own true story, in a style like herself, pure, clear, happy, but with enough ornament in the dress to please, and enough variety to sustain the interest.

Woman like, she enjoys to the full giving ^{the principal} credit for the noble qualities of their sons

Carefulness, honesty, firmness, dignity, great fortitude in adversity, extraordinary self-denial, an unvarying trust in God and a genuine love for those of His children who were com-

mitted to her care; these were the distinguishing marks of this noble mother of our Washington and indeed these were his virtues also.

It is very precious to any lover of his country to be able to honor those who have laid the foundations. It is delightful for the mind and heart to rest upon some emblem or symbol of its claim to existence, and to distinction among men. And pray what can we lovers of America have more precious, more delightful to our contemplation, than this portraiture of Mother and Son. Like that of Mary and Jesus, differing only in degree, it suggests gentle affection, completeness of sympathy, and grandeur of character; as all nations call the one Mary, "Blessed virgin" may not Americans call another Mary the "Blessed Mother," not of our Lord, but of his servant, our own beloved chief.

Thank ~~me~~ you, dear good lady author, for putting your own cheery heart into this work.

To me the history of Mendelssohn's mother was quite new, full of incident and suggestion. The devotion of the entire family following the bent of the husband and father,

who never ceased to be a lover in its purest and best sense, affords many a charming home-picture. The tendency of the sketch is to lead our minds to high and holy resolves.

The life and character of Mrs. Garfield, the mother of the late President, brings forth another distinctive type of womanhood! It is a type of the northern wife and mother subject to adverse surroundings, often to extreme poverty, who has given her heart fully to the Lord, who walks by faith and not by sight. No wonder her son was a "hero in the strife". No wonder he came to the front and sat with great men in the gates! No wonder he was chosen the standard bearer of the American people. He drank in unselfishness and heroism with his mother's milk. He was in childhood and youth fashioned by hands pure and gentle, yet hands that never shook or trembled in the midst of any terrors, for the Lord was his mother's shepherd, and never left her without His help and comfort, even at the last, when He permitted to her the greatest of human affliction.

Mrs Holloway, with no apparent effort, in wholesome dignified English, gives us here again, in family pictures, the history of a heroic christian life, reproving our weaknesses by inferences not written or printed, but by the contrasts we always draw when exalted virtues is well portrayed.

I have not yet found time to probe the book further, but I am delighted to have such a pure, good, interesting, finely illustrated work as this go into my family and into other families. Surely there is far to find nothing to condemn, and all to commend.

I know that the mother and the children at our house will say to the authoress, many, many thanks for the pleasure and the profit of your beautiful sketches of Motherhood.

Oliver O. Howard

Brig. Genl. U. S. A.