

My play is bk printed in  
America for copyright purposes  
perhaps at Baltimore, - if you  
will make me acquainted with  
a private publisher there: & so  
you shall have the first copy.

It is in preliminary print here,  
but I have only 4 copies, - & it  
is private & imperfect; or you  
shd have one. / Kindly then ex-  
pedite my perison as you best can.  
write, & advise: for we greet each other  
as ancient friends remembering a quarter of a  
century. Commend me to any who know  
me in my books. God be with you -  
Always yours  
Martin J. Tupper.

3788  
7.80

5. The Villas. Anerley.  
London. SE.  
(having let Albany practice)

answered 12 Jan 76  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 28 1875.

To General Brantz Mayne.  
J. K. K.  
Baltimore. U.S.

My dear General,  
At length, there  
is a reasonable dawn of hope for me  
that my long meditated American visit  
may be realized. My health is  
quite re-established, & all else  
agrees, & my great wish shall, I  
trust be accomplished.

So then, let me announce a  
probable coming your way of  
me & my daughter early in the  
Spring - I think at the end of  
Febry: sailing from Southampton  
& Baltimore, in order to go south  
first for warm weather's sake  
& because a Cousin at Charleston  
(S. Y. Tupper, President of the  
Chamber of Commerce there) invites  
us: then after going to New Orleans &c.  
My errand will be a business  
one, of the literary sort; Reading

my own writings, & especially  
sundry Plays suitable to America  
as Alfred, Raleigh, and in  
particular for this Centenary  
my "Washington". Let me  
have a chance of inaugurating  
this at Baltimore: I am skilled  
at the sort of thing, & have  
won scores of triumphs all over  
Scotland & the West of England &  
other places to the winning of many  
new friends & the rivetting many old  
ones, - as well as gaining themselves  
golden harvests.

P.S. As you may have seen  
from your papers, I have read my  
Play before Genl Schenck your  
Minister here, & a mixed audience,  
to great effect: & one chief  
feature in it is "Washington's  
Heraldry" - my '51 discovery  
at - Mt Vernon made known  
by me at your Baltimore Dinner  
with dear Kennedy in the  
chair, which you will recollect.  
The incident is now historic.  
I count on your support: &  
we perhaps may yet accomplish

What you & your good brother  
desired heretofore, — a travel  
with me even to St. Francisco!  
Who knows? — However, let me  
begin by calling on you at  
Baltimore in the end of Feb'y,  
Provide a permitting. —

Write still me that you are  
well, — & get this.

So many friends are gone before,  
that I send no message by name:  
commend me as aforesaid.

5 The Villas. Anerley, London S E  
(having let Albury for a while) Dec<sup>r</sup> 28. 1875.

To General Brantz Mayer &c &c &c Baltimore, U. S.

My dear General,

At length, there is a reasonable dawn of hope for me that my longmeditated American revisit may be realized. My health is quite re-established, & all else agrees, & my great wish shall, D. V., be accomplished. So then, let me announce a probable coming your way of me & my daughter early in the Spring - I think at the end of Febry: sailing from Southampton to Baltimore, in order to go South first for warm weathers' sake & because a cousin at Charleston (S. Y. Tupper, President of the Chamber of Commerce there) invites us; thereafter going to New Orleans &c. My errand will be a business one, of the literary sort; reading my own writings, & especially sundry Plays suitable to America, as Alfred, Raleigh, and in particular for this centenary my "Washington". Let me have a chance of inaugurating this at Baltimore: I am skilled at the sort of thing, & have won scores of triumphs all over Scotland & the West of England & other places to the winning of many new friends & the rivetting many old ones, - as well as gaining otherwise golden harvests. My play is to be printed in America for copyright purposes, perhaps at Baltimore, if you will make me acquainted with a first rate publisher there; and so you shall have the first copy. It is in preliminary print here, but I have only 4 copies, and it is private & imperfect; or you should have one. Kindly then expedite my purpose as you best can; write, & advise; for we greet each other as ancient friends remembering a quarter of a century. Commend me to any who know me in my books. God be with you.

Always yours

Martin F. Tupper

P. S. As you may have seen from your papers, I have read my Play before Genl Schenck your Minister here, & a mixed audience, to great effect; & one chief feature in it is "Washington's Heraldry" - my '51 discovery at Mt Vernon made known by me at your Baltimore Dinner with dear Kennedy in the chair, which you will recollect. The incident is now historic. I count on your support; & we perhaps may yet accomplish what you & your good brother desired heretofore, a travel with me even to St Francisco! Who knows? However, let me begin by calling on you at Baltimore in the end of Febry, Providence permitting. Write & tell me that you are well, & get this. So many friends are "gone before", that I send no messages by name; commend me as aforesaid.

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Washington's Heraldry. Notes & Queries (American) Vol. 180, 3, Jan. 18, 1941. Reply, clxxix, 224. Tupper refers to the supposed use of the Washington coat-of-arms as a basis for the design of the American flag. (The Washingtons bore: Argent, two bars gules, in chief 3 mullets of the second, i. e. "stars and stripes"). His play, 'Washington, a Drama', New York, 1876, pp 31-32, relates the incident of '51, as he states in his preface, and puts it into the mouth of Benjamin Franklin. In May, 1851, Tupper visited Mt Vernon, and there spied the Washington coat-of-arms on a cast iron chimney back. He reported this "find" to the Historical Society at Baltimore, and was awarded a diploma for it. Present-day authorities on the origin of the American flag are inclined to discount this theory of its origin. However, there is a striking similarity between the arms and the flag. The Washington crest was an eagle "issant", another striking coincidence, if it be that. (G. H. D. University of Wisconsin)

(Collection of Frank L. Pleadwell of Honolulu)