

One of the vexed questions with regard to the Washington Family is whether the stars and stripes of the American Flag have anything to do with the same in the Washington coat-of-arms. In the *Washington Number of the Magazine of American History* (edited by Mrs. Martha J. Lamb, New York), for February, 1888, there is an article on this question by Major-General Schuyler, which directly opposes an idea of such a connection. The reasons given are rather complicated, but the main points are as follows:—

In possession of the noted family of the Adamases of Massachusetts, of whom John and John Quincy, his grandson, were the most noted, is an heirloom, consisting of a seal representing an eagle holding in its beak a lyre with thirteen stars scattered over the latter, and the motto "Nunc sidera ducit" ("now it leads the stars,"—a quotation from Manilius II. 336), with these stars radiating, as it were, into another set of thirteen which form a circle round the whole. Now up till June 14th, 1777, the flag of the American colonies had been a Union of the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, the field of the flag being thirteen stripes, as now, alternately red and white. But on this day Congress passed a resolution "that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." And John Adams was President of the Board of War then, so that the question of the new flag came under his consideration. Moreover the drawing of the first Flag of the United States, in the State Department at Washington, represents the thirteen stars *in a circle*, no doubt to represent everlasting duration. Then when John Quincy Adams was Secretary of State in 1820 he "substituted for the Arms of the United States, on its passports, contrary to the practice of nations, the device above described of the lyre of Orpheus on the Adams' heirloom." And the writer goes on to say that he considers that John Adams, when the change of the flag was brought under his notice, proposed as a substitute for the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, this device of the thirteen stars and the lyre, as representing the harmony and endurance of the new Republic, that the circle of stars was adopted as shown in the drawing of the first flag and then was changed to the present form,