

I have a most grateful recollection of the old General, my "Uncle Charles," and of his very interesting and hospitable family of cousins at Cumberland.

He was devoted to the memory of our father, his brother Robert. He loved to talk about him and of his admiration for him, and this was a magnetic bond of affection between us. Our aunt Jeanette Thruston married her second cousin, Leven M. Powell, of Winchester, Virginia, a commander in the navy, who later rose to the rank of Rear Admiral. He commanded one of Admiral Farragut's war ships at the battle of Mobile Bay. The old Admiral and Aunt Jeanette were great favorites in Washington society. I love to recall the many happy days I passed in their cheery hospitable home and their devotion to me and my brother and sisters.*

Fortunately for me the greater portion of Judge Thruston's interesting and varied correspondence fell into my hands.

While visiting our Aunt Jeanette in Washington before the civil war, she suggested that I might find something of interest in his old papers packed away in a trunk in an attic room. I was soon at work there and it was nearing midnight before I left that dusty old trunk. A veritable epistolary bonanza I found there; material enough, indeed, to give the

*Admiral Powell was a grandson of Colonel Charles Mynn Thruston by his second wife, Sarah Alexander. In his will he bequeathed to me the fine original portrait of Washington, painted by Charles Wilson Peale. It was purchased by Judge Thruston in 1832 from Martha Washington's granddaughter, Miss Peter. The Powell heirs endeavored to break the will, but the executors found that both the Admiral and his wife had signed the statement on the back of the portrait that it belonged to me, and they sent it to me without waiting for the result of the litigation, which lasted some years. See Johnson's Portraits of Washington, page 15.