To Mr. Brevett Esq. Sen.

The diary of Washington, is indeed an interesting document will be preserved by me, as you suggest as a "keepsake". I am duly grateful for your politeness in transmitting it. The events to which it relates are of common occurrence, yet their preservation is characteristic of Washington. The narrative bears the impress of his mind, true, clear, direct, perfect, revealing nothing because it is recorded; concealing nothing because it is self-illustrating. I was present at his entry into Boston on the 26th of October 1789 as soon as I reached through what is now Washington Street and under the arch at the Old State House, which, in his honor, was erected over it. I was also of an age with feeling, adapted daily to appreciate it and deeply impressed with the interest department inseparable from the scene. I had also several
contemplates of hero, both what is firm and what is fleshly are manipulated & combined, until they approximate, if they do not attain the aspect of heroism. This has been marvelously the fate of Washington. I have seen him, in the street, in the parlors, standing on horseback, in public at his lady's side, and no man could have less of that obtrusive look, or ostentatious bearing which men customarily associate with the aspect of heroism. Were I to attempt to express the impression made upon me by his presence, I should say it was the look of a soldier & experienced upon the manners & habits of a perfect gentleman. Serious, calm, self-posessed respectful to others, neither seeking nor shunning notice, but in look & word bearing the stamp of truth & uprightness. Indeed heroism is the last attribute to be applied to Washington, either in aspect, or character, if it be true, as the poet says, that it is "one strange part of their lives, to find or make an enemy of all mankind."
His mission was essentially one of love and conciliation. Circumstances and character enabled him to underwrite discontent and naturally favoring elements in states without sympathizing interests in the defendants of slaveholding correlating with those of puritanism, who did their own work and provided themselves, on their success condition. His social relations enabled him to secure the confidence of the former. His tact, judgment, truthfulness of speech, and the affection and support of the latter. More than Buonaparte he was the mandesting; thought he was less boastful, more conscious of it. Rather he was an instrument selected by Heaven to fulfill its purposes, in arranging and organizing the civilization of a new world. If his spirit had been that of a hero, he would not have been competent to the work, or have affected it.

Obstinacy and poets like Painters should sacrifice truth to artistic effect, but in real life their labor has few owners.
and enlarge what is striking and
"throw into the shade" what is common,
in their view not adapted to
excite the admiration or applause
of the multitude. It is especially
whatever they deem repugnant to
to their feelings or prejudices. They
instead of presenting a being of
"truth" they create one of fancy;
forgetting that virtues, above the
reach of humanity, are neither
examples, nor encouragement to
human beings.

The profusion in human nature
to regard as heroical what they
are disposed to idolize, is probably
the cause, why other cleavages
of Washington, which are known
to exist are kept concealed from
the public. The influence of a
man, with the infirmities and
passions, with his race, rising by
early date continence of virtue
it never ceasing self-culture to control,
is in a manner lost to mankind. If
he feared, or had been disposed to conceal
what was in his nature of weakness or
infirmity, he would not have written
those diaries, or would have destroyed
them. That he wrote them what they
exist are additional evidences of the
truthfulness, greatness of his nature.
He did not fear to stand before the
world in the simple state of his
being; and though thereby the
marble of his monument would,
to the common eye, lose something of
its purity, to the wise & the thought-
ful its stain, indicating the elemen-
tary struggles, it had overcome, not
only added to its beauty, but increased
both the splendor & power of its
whiteness.

But my interest in the subject
and my feelings have led me to neglect
pains, far beyond the limits of a letter
and my present essay which was only
to express my thanks for your kindness
and how truly I am your obliged...
Pocahontas, 16th June 1818
Josiah Quincy