

David Humphreys's "A Poem on the Death of General Washington," 1800

---

*[Excerpt]*

...

Where that foul stain of manhood, slavery, flow'd  
Through Afric's sons transmitted in the blood;  
Hereditary slaves his kindness shar'd,  
For manumission by degrees prepar'd:  
Return'd from war, I saw them round him press,\*  
And all their speechless glee by artless signs express.

\* [Humphreys's note:] General Washington, by his will, liberated all his negroes, making an ample provision for the support of the old, and the education of the young. The interesting scene of his return home, at which the author was present, is described exactly as it existed.

Document Source: The Miscellaneous Works of David Humphreys