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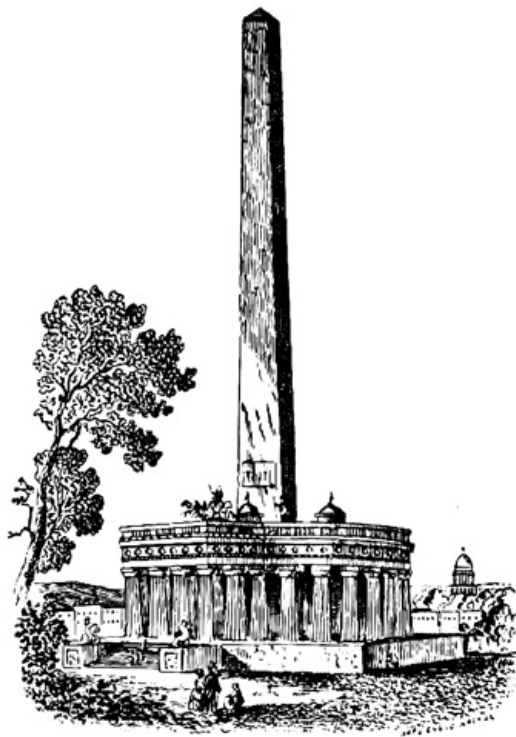
HISTORY  
OF THE  
WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT  
AND OF THE  
WASHINGTON NATIONAL  
MONUMENT SOCIETY.



BY FREDERICK L. HARVEY, Secretary,  
WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT SOCIETY.

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HISTORY  
OF THE  
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WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT SOCIETY.

[3]

The practical construction of the Washington National Monument, in detail, as a work of great engineering skill, is a subject for separate account and technical discussion.

The *history* of the Monument is found in the annals and proceedings of Congress and in the

records and archives of the Washington National Monument Society. This history, in the main, is the history of that Society—its original formation, subsequent incorporation by act of Congress, and its long continued and patriotic labors to fulfil the object of its existence, the erection at the seat of the Federal Government of a great Monument to the memory of Washington.

The origin of the Society is to be found in the failure of the National Congress, through a long series of years, to redeem a solemn pledge made by the Continental Congress, in 1783.

A review of this failure properly precedes any account of the Society or of the constructed Monument.

## IN CONGRESS.

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On the 7th of August, 1783, it was resolved by the Congress "that an equestrian statue of General Washington be erected at the place where the residence of Congress shall be established." The resolution also directed that "the statue should be supported by a marble pedestal on which should be represented four principal events of the war in which he commanded in person."

On the pedestal were to have been engraved the following words:

"The United States, in Congress assembled, ordered this statue to be erected in the year of our Lord, 1783, in honor of George Washington, the illustrious Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States of America during the war which vindicated and secured their liberty, sovereignty, and independence."

At this time Washington was beloved by the American people as their great leader in their struggle for liberty. But the passage of this resolution by Congress was not followed by any legislative action looking to its practical execution.

As President of the United States, by his wise administration of the affairs of the new-born Republic, he so added to his fame and so won the gratitude of his countrymen, that on his death a select joint committee of both Houses of Congress was appointed to consider a suitable manner of paying honor to his memory.

December 24, 1799, on motion of John Marshall, in the House of Representatives, it was resolved by Congress, among other things, "that a marble monument be erected by the United States at the City of Washington, and that the family of General Washington be requested to permit his body to be deposited under it; and that the monument be so designed as to commemorate the great events of his military and political life."

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A copy of the resolutions was sent to his widow by the President of the United States. In her reply, acceding to the request, she said:

"Taught by the great example which I have so long had before me never to oppose my private wishes to the public will, I need not, I cannot, say what a sacrifice of individual feeling I make to a sense of public duty."

The select committee which was appointed to carry into effect the foregoing resolution, and of which Mr. Henry Lee was chairman, reported on the 8th of May, 1800, that a marble monument be erected by the United States, at the Capital, in honor of General Washington, to commemorate his services, and to express the feeling of the American people for their irreparable loss. It was further directed by this report that the resolution of the Continental Congress of August 7, 1783, should be carried into immediate execution, the pedestal to bear the inscription which that Congress had ordered for it.

Upon considering the report and resolution of the select committee that part in reference to the equestrian statue was so amended by Congress as to provide that a "mausoleum of American granite and marble, in pyramidal form, one hundred feet square at the base and of a proportionate height," should be erected instead of it.

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To carry these resolves into execution no appropriation was then made; but on the 1st of January, 1801, it appears the House of Representatives passed a bill appropriating \$200,000 to cover the objects of their resolution.

The Senate, however, did not concur in this act. The reason, perhaps, may be found in the political questions then absorbing the attention of Congress and the people, and which continued until the War of 1812.

The subject of a suitable national memorial to Washington now slept apparently forgotten until 1816, when it again awoke in the Halls of Congress. In the month of February of that year, the General Assembly of Virginia instructed the Governor of that State to correspond with Judge Bushrod Washington, then proprietor of Mount Vernon, with the object of securing his consent to the removal of Washington's remains to Richmond, to be there marked by a fitting monument to his memory. Upon learning of this action by the General Assembly of Virginia, Congress, being then in session, Hon. Benjamin Huger, a member from South Carolina, and who had been in the Congress of 1799, moved that a select joint committee of both Houses be appointed to carry into effect the proceedings had by Congress at the time of Washington's death. In this the Senate concurred.

The committee proposed was appointed, and later introduced a bill and reported, recommending that a tomb should be prepared in the foundations of the Capitol for the remains of Washington, and that a *monument* should be erected to his memory. But this plan for the removal of the remains failed. Judge Bushrod Washington declining to consent to their removal on the ground that they had been deposited in the vault at Mount Vernon in conformity with Washington's express wish. "It is his own will," said Judge Washington, writing to the Governor of Virginia, "and that will is to me a law which I dare not disobey." The recorded action in the House of Representatives on this bill was, "And that said bill be indefinitely postponed."

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No report seems to have been made in the Senate. A vault, however, appears to have been prepared for the remains beneath the center of the dome and rotunda of the Capitol and beneath the floor of its crypt.

Again did Congress fail to take steps to carry out its deliberate action to build a monument to Washington. In 1819, Mr. Goldsborough, in the Senate, moved a resolution to erect an equestrian statue to General Washington, which passed July 19th. The resolution was read twice in the House, referred to Committee of the Whole, and was indefinitely postponed.

On the 15th of January, 1824, Mr. James Buchanan, then a member of the House of Representatives, and later President of the United States, offered to that body the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed whose duty it shall be to inquire in what manner the resolution of Congress, passed on the 24th of December, 1799, relative to the erection of a marble monument in the Capitol, at the City of Washington, to commemorate the great events of the military and political life of General Washington may be best accomplished, and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise."

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This resolution, after some discussion, was laid on the table. The hour was not propitious, and honor to the memory of Washington was again deferred.

In his first annual message to Congress, dated December 6, 1825, the President, John Quincy Adams, invited the attention of Congress to its unfulfilled pledge in the following language:

"On the 24th of December, 1799, it was resolved by Congress that a marble monument should be erected by the United States in the Capitol, at the City of Washington; that the family of General Washington should be requested to permit his body to be deposited under it, and that the monument be so designed as to commemorate the great events of his military and political life. In reminding Congress of this resolution, and that the monument contemplated by it remains yet without execution, I shall indulge only the remarks that the works at the Capitol are approaching completion; that the consent of the family, desired by the resolution, was requested and obtained; that a monument has been recently erected in this city over the remains of another distinguished patriot of the Revolution, and that a spot has been reserved within the walls where you are deliberating for the benefit of this and future ages, in which the mortal remains may be deposited of him whose spirit hovers over you and listens with delight to every act of the Representatives of this Nation which can tend to exalt and adorn his and their country."

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But this reminder of the President's went unheeded by the Congress to which it was addressed.

Several years now elapsed before the question again arose in Congress of a monument to the memory of Washington. On the 13th of February, 1832, a report was made to the Senate of the United States by Henry Clay, and to the House of Representatives by Mr. Philemon Thomas, chairmen, respectively, of committees to make arrangements for celebrating the approaching centennial anniversary of Washington's birthday. One of the resolutions authorized the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives "to make application to John A. Washington, of Mount Vernon, for the body of George Washington, to be removed and deposited in the Capitol at Washington City, in conformity with the resolutions of Congress of the 24th of December, 1799, and that if they obtain the requisite consent to the removal thereof they be further authorized to cause it to be removed and deposited in the Capitol on the 22d day of February, 1832."

It will be noted that this resolution does not suggest any connection between the removal of the remains and their being deposited under a monument, as proposed by the resolution of 1799. At this time, one of the standing committees of the House of Representatives, as it appears, had under consideration the erection of a marble statue of Washington, to be executed by Mr. Horatio Greenough, and which it was proposed to place in the centre of the rotunda of the Capitol. The resolution providing for this statue had been introduced into the House of Representatives in 1830.

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Upon the submission of the select committee's resolutions for the removal of Washington's remains discussion arose. From a remark by Mr. Clay, the purpose seems to have been to place the remains in the vault under the center of the rotunda, which had been suggested on a former occasion by President Adams, in 1825.

The two Senators and some of the Representatives from Virginia opposed the removal of the

remains of Washington from Mount Vernon. In the discussion Senator Tazewell referred to the application by Virginia in 1816 for the removal of the remains of Washington to Richmond, to be there deposited under a suitable monument. He remarked that Judge Washington replied that "it was impossible for him consent to the removal unless the remains of one of those dear relations accompanied the body."

"Are the remains," asked Mr. Tazewell, "of the husband to be removed from the side of the wife? In their lives they lived happily together, and I never will consent to divide them in death."

This thought appears to have made so strong an impression on Congress that the resolution was altered so as to ask the consent of Mr. John A. Washington and that of Mr. George Washington P. Custis, the grandson of Mrs. Martha Washington, for the removal and depositing in the Capitol at Washington City of her remains at the same time with those of her late consort, George Washington. [11]

In response to the purpose of the resolution, Mr. John A. Washington felt constrained to withhold his consent by the fact that General Washington's will, in respect to the disposition of his remains, had been recently carried into full effect. Mr. Custis, however, took a different view of that clause in the will, and gave his "most hearty consent to the removal of the remains after the manner proposed," and congratulated "the Government upon the approaching consummation of a great act of national gratitude."

In the debate in the House of Representatives on the resolution and accompanying report, Mr. Doddridge, of Virginia, remarked that he was a member of the State's legislature when the transaction by it took place in 1816, and "he felt entirely satisfied that the resolution for removing the remains to Richmond would never have passed the Assembly of Virginia but for the loss of all hope that Congress would act in the matter."

Mr. Duffie opposed the removal of the remains, saying: "As to a monument, rear it; spend upon it what you will; make it durable as the pyramids, eternal as the mountains; you shall have my co-operation. Erect, if you please, a mausoleum to the memory of Washington in the Capitol, and let it be as splendid as art can make it."

The refusal of Mr. John A. Washington to permit the removal of the remains of Washington seems to have prompted Mr. Clay to urge the adoption of the pending resolution to erect a statue of Washington at the Capitol. "An image," he said, "a testimonial of this great man, the Father of his Country, should exist in every part of the Union as a memorial of his patriotism and of the services rendered his country; but of all places, it was required in this Capitol, the center of the Union, the offspring, the creation, of his mind and of his labors." [12]

The resolution for the statue of Washington by Greenough was adopted, and it was ordered. The statue was made and was placed in the rotunda in 1841, but subsequently removed into the east park of the Capitol, where it now rests.

In 1853, Congress appropriated \$50,000 for the erection of an equestrian statue of George Washington by Clark Mills.

This statue, in bronze, representing Washington on the line at the battle of Princeton, was placed in its present location in the public circle at Pennsylvania avenue and Twenty-third street, in the City of Washington.

## THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT SOCIETY.

The resolutions and proceedings of Congress which have been referred to having remained unexecuted as late as 1833, certain citizens of the City of Washington, whose names were a passport to public confidence, took steps in that year to form a voluntary association for erecting "a great National Monument to the memory of Washington at the seat of the Federal Government."

In September, 1833, a paragraph appeared in the "National Intelligencer," leading paper of the City of Washington, calling for a public meeting of the citizens of Washington to take up the matter and redeem the pledges of Congress. In response to this call a meeting of citizens was held in the aldermen's chamber, in the City Hall, on the 26th of September, 1833. There was great interest and earnestness manifested on the part of those present in the object of the meeting. The oft-repeated failure of Congress to finally act in the matter of erecting a monument to Washington was reviewed, and it was deemed almost hopeless to expect that body to provide for such a monument in the near future. [13]

The meeting resulted in the organization of the Washington National Monument Society. Committees were appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws, and to report at a future meeting of the citizens and to devise a practical plan for the collection of funds and to prepare an address to the country.

On October 31 following the second meeting was had, Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, and officers were chosen, being nominated by a committee and elected by ballot:

John Marshall, the great Chief Justice, then seventy-eight years of age, was chosen the first President of the Society, and Judge William Cranch, eminent as a learned jurist, as a just and

impartial magistrate and for the uprightness of his life, was selected as the first Vice-President.

In accepting the office of President of the Society, Mr. Marshall replied as follows to the letter of notification addressed to him by Judge Cranch:

"RICHMOND, *November 25, 1833.*

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"DEAR SIR: I received yesterday your letter of the 22d, informing me that the 'Washington Monument Society' has done me the honor to choose me as its President.

"You are right in supposing that the most ardent wish of my heart is to see some lasting testimonial of the grateful affection of his country erected to the memory of her first citizen. I have always wished it, and have always thought that the Metropolis of the Union was the fit place for this National Monument. I cannot, therefore, refuse to take any place which the Society may assign me; and though my advanced age forbids the hope of being useful, I am encouraged by the name of the First Vice-President to believe that in him ample compensation will be found for any defects in the President.

"With great respect and esteem, I am, dear sir,

"Your obd't,

"J. MARSHALL."

Other officers then chosen were the Mayor of Washington, Second Vice-President (at that time John P. Van Ness, formerly a Representative in Congress); W. W. Seaton, Third Vice-President; Samuel H. Smith, Treasurer; and George Watterston, Secretary. A board of thirteen managers was also appointed to correspond in number with the original States. This board consisted of Gen. Thomas S. Jessup, Col. Jas. Kearney, Col. Nathan Towson, Col. Archibald Henderson, Matthew St. Claire Clark, John McClelland, Thomas Munroe, Col. Geo. Bomford, Robert C. Weightman, Peter Force, Wm. Brent, Esq., Wm. A. Bradley, and Thomas Carbery. Aside from other stated meetings to be provided for, an election for officers and managers was to be held every third year on the 22d of February.

Of the founders of the Society, the name of George Watterston calls for especial mention. With him originated the conception of the enterprise. He remained as Secretary of the Society from its beginning to his death, in February, 1854, conducting its extensive correspondence, preparing its numerous addresses and publications, and it appears, in every branch of the Society's business, he devoted his whole time and energies to its object with constant, ardent, and effective zeal. To no one name does the country owe more in the labor and effort to rear a monument to the memory of Washington than to that of the Society's first Secretary. On the death of Mr. Watterston he was succeeded in his office by Mr. John Carroll Brent, of distinguished family, a gentleman of culture and fine scholarship, and who continued actively and patriotically to discharge the duties of Secretary until his death, February 11, 1876. It is as well here to mention the other and succeeding secretaries of the Society, who in turn ardently and effectively aided the work of the Society through years. Dr. John B. Blake, a prominent, highly-respected resident of the District of Columbia, who served from the year 1876 to his death, in October, 1881, and to whose labors before Congress in connection with the Society's special committees, the certainty of an appropriation by that body to aid in the completion of the monument was assured. He was succeeded by Mr. Horatio King, formerly Postmaster-General of the United States, who in turn, on his death, was succeeded by Dr. Francis M. Gunnell of the United States Navy, and the latter by Frederick L. Harvey.

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The Society, upon organization, established its headquarters and offices in rooms in the basement of the City Hall, and where its office remained until the year 1878.

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An address was issued to the people of the country invoking them to redeem the promise of the Congress. In order that all might have an opportunity to contribute the amount to be received from any one person was limited to a dollar a year. Agents were everywhere appointed in 1835 and the ensuing years to collect funds, and care is shown to have been taken in their selection by requiring the highest and strongest endorsement of their fitness for the work, and as to private character and being men of respectability. The archives of the Society show that in nearly every instance collectors for a State or Territory were nominated to the Society for appointment by the Senators, Representatives, or leading men of the State or community. To obtain security in the returns front collections, it was required in every case that bond should be given by the agent for the faithful performance of his duty in accounting to the Treasurer of the Society. This method of collecting funds was adhered to until as late as 1855.

The following is the form of a commission that was given to the agents of the Society:

"To all who shall see these presents, Greeting:

"Know ye, That reposing special trust and confidence in the integrity, diligence, and discretion of — —, the Board of Managers of the Washington National Monument Society do authorize and empower him to receive from the White Inhabitants of the District for which he has been appointed Collector, embracing — — such donations money, not exceeding one dollar each, as they may be

disposed to contribute to the erection of a National Monument to the memory of Washington at the seat of the General Government.

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"Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, this — day of —, 183 .

"WM. CRANCH,  
"First Vice-President.

"Test.

"GEO. WATTERSTON,  
"Secretary."

Simultaneous with this commission instructions were given requiring the regular rendition of accounts at short intervals, and the deposit of the money collected by them in safe banks to the credit of the Treasurer. For these services a commission, in most cases of ten per centum (later increased to fifteen per centum), was allowed.

In 1835, the President of the Society, John Marshall, died, and he was succeeded in the office by ex-President of the United States James Madison, who, on accepting the position, addressed the Society as follows:

"I am very sensible of the distinction conferred by the relations in which the Society has placed me; and feeling like my illustrious predecessor, a deep interest in the object of the association, I cannot withhold, as an evidence of it, the acceptance of the appointment, though aware that, in my actual condition, it cannot be more than honorary, and that under no circumstances could it supply the loss which the Society has sustained. A monument worthy the name of Washington, reared by the means proposed, will commemorate at the same time a virtue, a patriotism, and a gratitude truly national, with which the friends of liberty everywhere will sympathize and of which our country may always be proud."

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It may be here remarked that upon the death of Mr. Madison the Society amended its Constitution so that thereafter the President of the United States should be *ex officio* its President. The first to so occupy the office was Andrew Jackson.

The progress of the Society was at first slow, and in 1836 only about \$28,000 had been collected. This fund was placed in the hands of Gen. Nathan Towson, Samuel H. Smith, and Thomas Munroe, gentlemen of the highest respectability, members of the Society. Under their faithful and judicious management this fund was invested, as also the interest accruing on it, in good stocks or securities. This fund was from time to time augmented by small amounts raised on special occasions by churches, organizations, and meetings of the citizens and collections by agents. The financial difficulties of the Union arising in 1837 operated largely to suspend collections for the monument for several years despite frequent addresses to the people and urgent appeals for funds by the Society and activity by its agents.

In this year, 1836, advertisements were published by order of the Society inviting designs from American artists, but no limitation was placed upon the form of the design. It was determined by the Society, and so recommended, that any plans submitted should "harmoniously blend durability, simplicity, and grandeur." The estimated cost for the proposed monument was not less than one million dollars.

A great many designs were submitted, but the one selected among the number was that of Mr. Robert Mills, a well known and eminent architect of the times.

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This plan, as published to the country, was described in the following language:

*Description of the Design of the Washington National Monument, to be erected at the seat of the General Government of the United States of America, in honor of "the Father of his Country," and the worthy compatriots of the Revolution.*

This design embraces the idea of a grand circular colonnaded building, 250 feet in diameter and 100 feet high, from which springs a obelisk shaft 70 feet at the base and 500 feet high, making a total elevation of 600 feet.

This vast rotunda, forming the grand base of the Monument, is surrounded by 30 columns of massive proportions, being 12 feet in diameter and 45 feet high, elevated upon a lofty base or stylobate of 20 feet elevation and 300 feet square, surmounted by an entablature 20 feet high, and crowned by a massive balustrade 15 feet in height.

The terrace outside of the colonnade is 25 feet wide, and the pronaos or walk within the colonnade, including the column space, 25 feet. The walks enclosing the cella, or gallery within, are fretted with 30 massive antæ (pilasters) 10 feet wide, 45 feet high, and 7-1/2 feet projection, answering to the columns in front, surmounted by their appropriate architrave. The deep recesses formed by the projection of the antæ provide suitable niches for the reception of statues.

A tetrastyle portico (4 columns in front) in triple rows of the same proportions and order with the columns of the colonnade, distinguishes the entrance to the Monument, and serves as a pedestal for the triumphal car and statue of the

illustrious Chief; the steps of this portico are flanked by massive blockings, surmounted by appropriate figures and trophies.

Over each column, in the great frieze of the entablatures around the entire building, are sculptured escutcheons (coats of arms of each State in the Union), surrounded by bronze civic wreaths, banded together by festoons of oak leaves, &c., all of which spring (each way) from the centre of the portico, where the coat of arms of the United States are emblazoned.

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The statues surrounding the rotunda outside, under the colonnade, are all elevated upon pedestals, and will be those of the glorious signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Ascending the portico outside to the terrace level a lofty vomitoria (door way) 30 feet high leads into the cella (rotundo gallery) 50 feet wide, 500 feet in circumference and 60 feet high, with a colossal pillar in the centre 70 feet in diameter, around which the gallery sweeps. This pillar forms the foundation of the obelisk column above.

Both sides of the gallery are divided into spaces by pilasters, elevated on a continued zocle or base 5 feet high, forming an order with its entablature 40 feet high, crowned by a vaulted ceiling 20 feet high, divided by radiating archvaults, corresponding with the relative positions of the opposing pilasters, and enclosing deep sunken coffers enriched with paintings.

The spaces between the pilasters are sunk into niches for the reception of the statues of the fathers of the Revolution, contemporary with the immortal WASHINGTON; over which are large tablets to receive the National Paintings commemorative of the battle and other scenes of that memorable period. Opposite to the entrance of this gallery, at the extremity of the great circular wall, is the grand niche for the reception of the statue of the "Father of his Country"—elevated on its appropriate pedestal, and designated as *principal* in the group by its colossal proportions.

This spacious Gallery and Rotunda, which properly may be denominated the "National Pantheon," is lighted in four grand divisions from above, and by its circular form presents each subject decorating its walls in an interesting point of view and with proper effect, as the curiosity is kept up every moment, from the whole room not being presented to the eye at one glance, as in the case of a straight gallery.

Entering the centre pier through an arched way, you pass into a spacious circular area, and ascend with an easy grade, by a railway, to the grand terrace, 75 feet above the base of the Monument. This terrace is 700 feet in circumference, 180 feet wide, enclosed by a colonnaded balustrade, 15 feet high with its base and capping. The circuit of this grand terrace is studded with small temple-formed structures, constituting the cupolas of the lanterns, lighting the Pantheon gallery below; by means of these little temples, from a gallery within, a bird's eye view is had of the statues, &c., below.

Through the base of the great circle of the balustrade are four apertures at the four cardinal points, leading *outside* of the balustrade, upon the top of the main cornice, where a gallery 6 feet wide and 750 feet in circumference encircles the whole, enclosed by an ornamental guard, forming the crowning member on the top of the tholus of the main cornice of the grand colonnade. Within the thickness of this wall, staircases descend to a lower gallery over the plafond of the proanos of the colonnade lighted from above. This gallery, which extends all round the colonnade, is 20 feet wide—divided into rooms for the records of the monument, works of art, or studios for artists engaged in the service of the Monument. Two other ways communicate with this gallery from below.

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In the centre of the grand terrace above described, rises the lofty obelisk shaft of the Monument, 50 feet square at the base, and 500 feet high, diminishing as it rises to its apex, where it is 40 feet square; at the foot of this shaft and on each face project four massive zocles 25 feet high, supporting so many colossal symbolic tripods of victory 20 feet high, surmounted by fascial columns with their symbols of authority. These zocle faces are embellished with inscriptions, which are continued around the entire base of the shaft, and occupy the surface of that part of the shaft between the tripods. On each face of the shaft above this is sculptured the four leading events in General Washington's eventful career, *in basso relievo*, and above this the shaft is perfectly plain to within 50 feet of its summit, where a simple star is placed, emblematic of the glory which the name of WASHINGTON has attained.

To ascend to the summit of the column, the same facilities as below are provided within the shaft, by an easy graded gallery, which may be traversed by a railway, terminating in a circular observatory 20 feet in diameter, around which at the top is a look-out gallery, which opens a prospect all around the horizon.



With reference to the area embraced by the foundations and basement of the Monument and the uses to which they may be applied, the underspace outwards, occupied by the lower terrace and colonnade, may be appropriated to the accommodation of the keepers of the Monument, or those having charge of it and attending on visitors.

These apartments, which are arched, are well lighted and aired, as they are all above ground, the light being disposed in the sunk panels of the stylobate (base). The principal entrance to all these apartments will be from the rear, or opposite side of the portico entrance. The *inner* space, or that under the grand gallery or Rotundo, may be appropriated to catacombs for the reception of the remains of such distinguished men as the Nation may honor with interment here. This subterranean gallery is so large and lofty that it would accommodate many catacombs.

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In the centre of the Monument is placed the tomb of WASHINGTON, to receive his remains, should they be removed thither, the descent to which is by a broad flight of steps lighted by the same light which illuminates his statue.

The feature of the pantheon surrounding the shaft was never formally and finally adopted by the Society as a part of the Monument. The first purpose was to erect the shaft and to secure funds to that end.

In this year (1838) the Society addressed a memorial to Congress praying that a site be accorded the Monument on the public mall. For this purpose a bill was reported in the Senate, which, being under consideration in that body, June 15th, caused much debate and adverse criticism of the Society and its work.

Mr. Roane, replying to an inquiry of Mr. Allen (Ohio), stated that the sum collected by the Society was about \$30,000 which was put out at interest.

To this Mr. Allen answered that he believed they had collected more than that sum in his own State.

Mr. Bayard thought that to erect the Monument on the place proposed would be to destroy the whole plan of the mall, and that as far as the prospect was concerned, nothing could be more unfortunate. Besides the means of the Society were very insignificant compared with the object in view, for as they had agents all over the United States collecting simultaneously it was to be presumed they had collected all they were to get.

Mr. Norvell was satisfied that they (the Society) were incapable of meriting the imputation impliedly, he hoped not intentionally, cast upon them by the Senator from Ohio. He presumed extensive subscriptions had been made to the work, but not yet collected, and that considerable expense must have been incurred in the employment of agents. As to the location of the site he could say nothing, but he was certain that such a monument as proposed ought long since to have been erected to the memory of the illustrious Chief under whose guidance this Nation had been led to victory, liberty, and independence.

[23]

Mr. Hubbard thought the original plan of building the Monument by the voluntary contributions of the people ought to be carried out, and that the President and the Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds ought to have nothing to do with it. As to the expense, he said, judging from the cost of the Bunker Hill Monument, the \$30,000 of the Society would not be enough to lay the foundations.

Mr. Morris (Ohio) thought the public ought to be informed why so paltry a sum had been contributed; his own county had contributed over \$1,000. There was a sort of enthusiasm on the subject in Ohio. The Governor had issued his proclamation in favor of it, and the *sheriffs* VOLUNTEERED to act as collectors, and judging from *these tokens* the sum collected could not fall short of \$30,000 (in Ohio). He also thought the work should go on without aid by Congress, and hoped the bill would be laid on the table. Mr. Allen, in further remarks said, in substance, he did not believe the story that only \$30,000 had been collected. He considered it a reproach to the liberality of the country. He would vote with the boldest to erect a suitable monument to the memory of the Father of his country; he would vote a million of dollars, but he considered it a reproach to the country to commence work with the paltry sum the Society say they had in hand.

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On motion of Mr. Morris, the bill was indefinitely postponed.

These proceedings appearing in the daily press, the Society adopted and presented the following memorial:

*"To the Senate of the United States:*

"The Board of Managers of the Washington National Monument Society, having seen in the public prints a statement that representations have been made in your body derogatory to their character, consider it their duty to lay before you an official account of their receipts and expenditures. They hope that the alleged statement is erroneous in ascribing to honorable members of your body imputations on private character which would not, without proof of their correctness, have been hazarded. The respect we entertain for the Senate restrains the expression of feelings which are not, however, the less indignant for

this forbearance.

"We make this communication in the confidence that it will be the means of correcting any honest misapprehensions that may have existed; that it will be gratifying to a body distinguished for its justice to shield honesty from wanton aspersion within its own walls; that it will afford an opportunity to men of honorable feelings, who may be conscious of having cast unmerited reproach on characters, we flatter ourselves, unsullied, to retract them; that more especially, in case the charges be not retracted, it may be lodged among the public archives as evidence as well of their unfounded nature as of the fidelity with which we have discharged duties of a disinterested and elevated nature; and that, if it be deemed expedient, it be printed by your order by such publicity challenging any detection of the slightest departure from truth. We indeed not only hold ourselves amenable to the public, but are ready at any moment to submit our proceedings to the most rigid examination which either House of Congress may see fit to institute.

[25]

"By order of the Board of Managers:

"PETER FORCE,  
"Second Vice-President.

"GEORGE WATTERSTON,  
"Secretary."

The statement of receipts and *expenditures* exhibited showed the following collections:

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Maine,                | \$1,600.00 |
| Vermont,              | 31.95      |
| Connecticut,          | 1,438.61   |
| New York,             | 1,167.21   |
| New Jersey,           | 1,491.61   |
| Pennsylvania,         | 2,102.85   |
| Delaware,             | 361.98     |
| Maryland,             | 3,057.99   |
| Virginia,             | 1,500.00   |
| South Carolina,       | 570.00     |
| Kentucky,             | 1,610.00   |
| Ohio,                 | 6,391.19   |
| Louisiana,            | 701.26     |
| Indiana,              | 340.00     |
| Illinois,             | 700.00     |
| Mississippi,          | 2,120.00   |
| District of Columbia, | 836.36     |
| Florida,              | 227.00     |
| Army,                 | 565.89     |
| Navy,                 | 228.25     |

Interest on stocks, in which net collections were invested, \$1,608.73, all of which sums, except \$476.67, cash in hand, and the *necessary* expenses of the Society, amounting to *only* \$465.56, had been invested in productive stocks.

[26]

June 19, 1838, Mr. Morris (Ohio) arose in the Senate to a question of privilege. He found in a morning paper of the city an editorial censuring the course which his colleague and himself had deemed it their duty to take with regard to the bill to grant leave to a Society or company of gentlemen who have united together to erect a monument to the memory of Washington upon a portion of the public grounds in this city. \* \* \* The object of his colleague and himself had been to obtain information on the subject, and he stated expressly, if in error, he wished the error to be corrected by authentic documents, and on that account he objected to the bill until it was clearly shown what money had been taken up and to what use it had been applied. \* \* \* He was not willing to attach the honor of his country to a scheme which, for aught he knew, might have been carried on by means of fraud and deception. Yet this reasonable *request* had been trumped up by the morning papers as making a grave charge, or at least casting imputations. \* \* \* He said it was evident to his mind that the object and design of this publication was to produce political effect. It was well known that a majority of the Senate were the friends of the administration, and if this article could impress the public mind with the belief that those who sustained the administration had no regard for the memory of Washington, he had no doubt it was expected it would tend to promote individual and *party* views. It was a kind of left-handed blow to injure the administration and its friends in the Senate by charging them with meanness in refusing to accede to the wishes of the Society. But he feared there was another motive beside veneration for the name of Washington that prompted the agents and managers of this project to be so ardent in their endeavor to link themselves and scheme to the public concerns of the country. They were reported as having about \$30,000. This sum they could easily expend on the foundation, or even the first corner-stone of the Monument. They could devise a plan for the superstructure that

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would cost millions of dollars, and if they could make this affair a government concern, they would insist, no doubt, that the country would be disgraced if the building was not completed, and Congress would be solicited and urged to appropriate for the purpose with all the force of speech and the *blandishments of parties*. Millions would be thus called for, and, in his opinion, appropriated if the scheme now in operation can succeed, to be expended by a private corporation, whose dependent friends and followers would grow rich in the progress of the work. He was totally averse to the Government having anything to do in this matter or any other in which individuals were also to be concerned. It was this that induced him to move postponement of the bill.

Mr. Allen concurred with his colleague. He objected to the bill because it placed the construction under the Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds, and being upon public ground, Congress must appropriate any deficiency or the people must be again visited by hosts of traveling agents. \* \* \* These he thought sufficient reasons for rejecting the bill without division. [28]

Mr. Clay deprecated the irregular discussion, and said that no newspaper in the country was conducted with more regard to propriety, decorum, truth, and *faithfulness* of report than the "National Intelligencer," and he could wish that the other journals of this city, and particularly the one connected with the Government, would look more to this point for example.

Notwithstanding the Society by its memorial had furnished the information *requested* by Mr. Morris, and stood ready for investigation of its affairs, the memorial was ultimately laid on the table and the matter was dropped.

This debate was noticed in the public press, local and elsewhere. It cannot be known what, if any, influence it had throughout the country to impair the efforts of the Society in the collection of funds or to weaken confidence in the enterprise. Such a result was not improbable.

December 10, 1818, the Society adopted and issued in pamphlet form— [29]

"AN ADDRESS  
OF THE  
BOARD OF MANAGERS  
OF THE  
WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT  
SOCIETY,  
WITH A STATEMENT OF THE  
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES."

This address was sent to the Society's agents and friends of the Monument in all parts of the country, which address they were "requested," in an accompanying letter, "to diffuse as widely as may be without incurring expense."

The measure of the result of the Society's efforts at this period, the discouragement met with, and its faith in the work it had undertaken, is evidenced by language in this address, which recited, in part:

"The annexed statement of the sums received and accounted for by them (the agents) shows the measure of their success. This, though various, has, in no instance, equalled the least sanguine expectations. This may be ascribed in some degree to the fundamental feature of the plan itself, which, in limiting the individual subscriptions to one dollar, has been found, excepting in towns, to have involved an expense to the agent nearly, if not quite, equal to the amount collected; while in the larger towns the abortion heretofore of schemes for a like purpose has produced a general impression that this plan would share the same fate. Other causes, some of a temporary, others of a permanent nature, co-operated in leading to this result, of which, perhaps, the most powerful was the general derangement of the currency, and the real or apprehended evils that followed in its train, with the impression that it was the duty of the General Government, out of the vast resources at its command, to effect the object. [30]

"In reviewing the course of measures pursued, the Board of Managers have satisfaction in perceiving no neglect or omission on their part in discharging the duties assigned them. If an assiduity proportioned to the dignity of the object, a devotion seeking no reward but in the gratification of honest feelings, and an economy attested by the small expenditures for contingent expenses, are the truest evidences of fidelity, they trust that they may, without unworthy imputations, lay claim to this humble virtue. \* \* \* Upon the whole, however great the disappointment of the Board of Managers, they have not abandoned the hope that a plan which, at its inception, was hailed with universal approbation, may yet, with proper modifications, be effected."

It is shown by this address that the amount collected and interest accrued on stocks in this year was \$30,779.84.

The restriction of a contribution to the sum of one dollar appears to have been removed on one occasion in 1839. A committee of the Society, having been appointed for the purpose on November 13, 1839, prepared and issued a special circular letter, to be sent to the deputy marshals of the United States, who shortly were to begin taking the census of the country. This [31]

appeal recited in part:

"The measures incident to the approaching census present an opportunity of overcoming this last difficulty (the former limitation of subscriptions). It will be the duty of the deputies of the marshals to see the head of every family; and as the greater portion of their time will be consumed in traveling from one dwelling to another, it is thought that but little additional time will be occupied in submitting a subscription paper for this object at each dwelling and receiving the sums that may be subscribed, whereby an opportunity will be offered to every individual in the United States to promote it by contributions corresponding to their means. There being no limitation in the amount, every man, woman, and child will be enabled to enroll their names by subscriptions according to their ability. The rich will, it is hoped, be munificent in their donations, while from those in inferior circumstances any sum will be thankfully received."

It was proposed to allow these special collectors a commission of twenty per cent. on "amounts that may be received and accounted for by a deposit in some sound bank to the credit of Samuel H. Smith, Treasurer of the Society, together with the transmission to him of the names of the contributors, with the respective sums subscribed by them, and the certificates of deposits." [32]

The address concluded:

"The subscription papers may be headed as follows:

"We, the undersigned, for the purpose of contributing to the erection of a great National Monument at the seat of the General Government, do subscribe the sums placed opposite our names respectively.

"The favor of an early answer is requested."

Beautiful lithographs, in two sizes, of the design selected for the Monument were printed and placed in the hands of the agents of the Society as certificates, and in the form of receipts, to be given individuals or organizations contributing the sum of one dollar to the funds of the Society.

These certificates bore the following words and autograph names on the lower margin and beneath the picture of the proposed Monument:

"Earnestly recommended to the favor of our countrymen,

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Z. TAYLOR,     | MILLARD FILLMORE,  |
| JAMES K. POLK, | JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, |
| G. M. DALLAS,  | DANIEL WEBSTER,    |
| H. CLAY,       | ALBERT GALLATIN."  |

There was also prepared for distribution through the Society's agents other lithographs, portraits of Washington, it being thought the contributor might prefer such a portrait to the lithograph of the Monument. [33]

The results of this special appeal are to be found in the subsequently stated accounts of the Treasurer, but the amounts returned did not meet the expectations of the Society.

May 25, 1844, a joint resolution (No. 514) was introduced into the House of Representatives, accompanied by a report submitted by Mr. Pratt from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, which provided "that the Washington Monument Society, in the City of Washington, be, and they are hereby, authorized to occupy that part of reservation No. 2, bounded by the Canal, B, Seventh and Twelfth streets, south, for the purpose of erecting thereon a monument to Washington, under the direction of the President of the United States, according to the *design proposed by the Committee on Public Buildings*, and to *aid* the said Society in *completing the same*, and for defraying the expense of enclosing the grounds, laying out walks and planting trees, the Committee on Public Buildings is hereby authorized and required to cause to be laid into lots and to sell at auction or otherwise, on condition that three-story brick, granite or marble buildings be erected thereon within five years from the day of sale, the piece of vacant ground bounded by the circular road, New Jersey avenue and B and First streets, north, and the piece of ground bounded by the circular road, Delaware avenue, B and F streets, south; also twenty-seven lots between the circular road and Third street, on Pennsylvania avenue, and twenty-seven lots between the circular road and Third street, on Maryland avenue, northwest, or so much as shall be necessary to complete the same. The same to be designated as 'Monument Square.'" [34]

The report stated, the proposed park would contain about fifty-two acres, which it was designed "to fence in and lay out in drives, walks, and trees, and to erect thereon a *National Monument* in the center thereof." The position would command a view of all the public buildings, particularly from the Monument, "which is to be one hundred and fifty feet high," and "devoted to the public as a place of resort where busts, statues, and paintings of all the great men connected with the history of our country may be seen." The site is nearly opposite to the "Patent and Post Office buildings, or center of the city, and but a square or two south of the *great* thoroughfare of the city, the Pennsylvania avenue, which, in point of magnitude and of easy approach to our citizens, there is no ground in the District, or in any other country, which could vie with it as a public square of beauty and recreation."

Lots were to be sold at auction and proceeds used for creating the park, as described in the resolution, and "so that preparations may be immediately made" for a "site for a *National Monument*, which in the course of a few years will become a beautiful resort for the citizens and visitors of the District as well as for strangers from all parts of the world." The park would have circles and every device of walk, all the emblems of the Nation together with forest trees of every State, plants, flowers, &c. The construction of a national monument the committee regarded as of great interest to the American people. Half a century had passed away, and no worthy memorial is found in the Capital. The committee recommend the "temple form" as best for a monument, "built to contain busts and statues of Presidents and other illustrious men of the country, as well as 'paintings' of historical subjects." The construction of the Monument "would carry out the views of this Society to erect a monument to Washington," and which it is understood will apply its funds toward this object "whenever Congress shall authorize its erection on some portion of the public ground," the site to be due west of the Capitol. The construction was to be under the direction of the President of the United States and the Washington Monument Society. A plan of the proposed temple form of monument accompanied the report, a statue of Washington surmounting its dome.

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While the Society at this time was willing to concede a change in the form of the Monument, and apply funds collected to speedily realize such change, no action by Congress resulted from the report quoted so far as authorizing the building of the National Monument suggested by the committee or lending aid to the Society, or granting a site for the Monument it had projected.

In 1845 the Society removed generally the limitation of one dollar as the amount of a subscription. This action seems to have been wise, as the later annual gross receipts were for a time greatly increased.

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In view of the previous recognition by the Society of this evil of limitation of contributions, it is surprising that it was not generally removed when it was specially removed for the occasion of the census in 1840.

In 1846 the Society issued a further address "to the American people," announcing that it had "appointed the Hon. Elisha Whittlesey, of Ohio, the General Agent of the Society, whose office will be held in Washington. To him has been delegated the power of appointing subagents, who will receive a commission on the funds they may collect as a compensation for their services. \* \* \* It is scarcely necessary to remark that the character of the General Agent appointed by the Board of Managers to make additional collections for the Monument is such as to insure success and produce entire confidence. It is known to the whole country; and Mr. Whittlesey's efforts in this new and noble undertaking, it is hoped, will be crowned with that success which cannot fail to accompany so glorious an object."

It was further said by this address:

"It may be proper to state for the information of the public that the delay in commencing the Monument has been occasioned by the want of a proper site, which the Board had hoped would long since have been granted by Congress. \* \* \* The Board designed at as early period to commence the Monument, but as no site could be obtained sufficiently eligible on any other ground than the public mall, near the Potomac, and as that could only be obtained by a grant from Congress, which has not yet been made, that purpose has been unavoidably postponed until the next session of the National Legislature, when it is believed no objection will be made to allow the Board the use of the ground it desires for so laudable and patriotic an object."

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This address, signed by the officers of the Society, James K. Polk, *ex officio* President; Wm. Brent, First Vice-President; Mayor of Washington, Third Vice-President; J. B. H. Smith, Treasurer; George Watterston, Secretary; and by the entire Board of Managers, including among the number Maj.-Gen. Winfield Scott, Thos. Carbery, Peter Force, Philip R. Fendall, Gen. Nathan Townson, Gen. Walter Jones, Col. J. Kearney, J. J. Abert, W. A. Bradley, and Thomas Munroe, contained the following eloquent language:

"The pilgrim to Mount Vernon, the spot consecrated by Washington's hallowed remains, is often shocked when he looks upon the humble sepulchre which contains his dust, and laments that no monument has yet reared its lofty head to mark a *Nation's* gratitude.

"It is true that the 'storied urn, the animated bust,' or the splendid mausoleum, cannot call back the departed spirit, or 'soothe the dull, cold ear of death;' but it is equally true that it can and does manifest the gratitude and veneration of the living for those who have passed away forever from the stage of life and left behind them the cherished memory of their virtues. The posthumous honors bestowed by a grateful nation on its distinguished citizens serve the further purpose of stimulating those who survive them to similar acts of greatness and of virtue, while the respect and admiration of the country which confers them upon its children are mere deeply and ardently felt. The character of Washington is identified with the glory and greatness of his country. It belongs to history, into which it has infused a moral grandeur and beauty. It presents a verdant oasis on the dreary waste of the world, on which the mind loves to repose, and the patriot and philosopher delights to dwell. Such a being but seldom appears to illustrate

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and give splendor to the annals of mankind, and the country which gave him birth should take a pride in bestowing posthumous honors on his name. It is not to transmit the name or fame of the illustrious Washington to future ages that a Monument should be erected to his memory; but to show that the People of this Republic at least are not ungrateful, and that they desire to manifest their love of eminent public and private virtues by some enduring memorial which, like the pyramids of Egypt, shall fatigue time by its duration."

The General Agent, Mr. Whittlesey, submitted a plan which was adopted by the Society for a systematic collection of funds, which included constituting Congressional districts as distinct collection districts, and in 1847 a circular letter was addressed to Members of Congress respecting the formation of such districts and the appointment of collecting agents therein. As formerly, it was required that the appointee should be well recommended and endorsed by Representatives, Senators, and well-known citizens of the district or State. [39]

It was also determined to specially appeal to the Masonic fraternity of the country.

The agents appointed were supplied with properly prepared blank books for the autograph enrollment of contributors, which books, when filled with names, were to be returned to the office of the Society for deposit and safe keeping.

On the request of the Society, Mrs. James Madison, Mrs. John Quincy Adams, and Mrs. Alexander Hamilton effected an organization of ladies to aid in collecting funds for the proposed Monument. Through appeals, entertainments, fairs, and many social functions given for the purpose by ladies in various parts of the country, there resulted but a very moderate addition to the funds of the Society, but in no way commensurate with its expectations in the premises.

On the 29th of February, 1847, the Society adopted the following resolution offered by Mr. Brent:

"*Resolved*, That the several Consuls of the United States abroad, and the Pursers of the Navy, be requested by the General Agent to solicit subscriptions for the erection of a suitable National Monument to the memory of Washington from American citizens, seamen, and others of liberal patriotic feelings, and that the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Navy be respectfully requested, on behalf of the National Washington Monument Society, to cause to be forwarded the letters and papers necessary to accomplish the object embraced in this resolution."

In accordance with this resolve (the consent of the Honorable Secretary of State and the Honorable Secretary of the Navy having been given), a circular letter was prepared and sent out to the persons named in the resolution. [40]

After setting forth the object of the Society, and earnestly appealing for funds to accomplish that purpose, the circular stated a compensation of 20 per cent. would be allowed on funds collected and faithfully accounted for. This circular was accompanied by a supply of "prints," to be distributed to subscribers, as follows:

"Copies of a large portrait of Washington, copied from Stuart's painting in Fanueil Hall, Boston.

"Copies of the large print of the design of the Monument."

Smaller prints of the same subjects were also furnished.

The subscriber of \$5.00 was to receive one of the large prints; of \$8.00, both the large prints; of \$1.00, one of the small prints; and to the subscriber of \$1.50, both of the small prints.

It was also publicly announced that the corner stone of the Monument would be laid "on the 4th of July next, and arrangements will be made to give to the ceremony a national character corresponding with the character and magnitude of the work."

The accounts of the Treasurer of the Society from time to time show, in response to this *special* appeal, a considerable collection of funds, especially among the officers and seamen of the Navy.

In 1847, the aggregate of collections and accumulated interest was some \$87,000, which amount was deemed sufficient to justify the Society in beginning the erection of the Monument. [41]

A resolution was adopted that the corner-stone be laid on the 22d of February next "provided that a suitable site can be obtained in time," and a committee was appointed to apply to Congress early in the session for a "site on the public mall for the Monument." A committee was also appointed to ascertain "the best terms on which a suitable site on private grounds within the limits of the City of Washington can be obtained."

Before the latter committee reported, in response to the memorial by the Society to Congress, desiring action by that body to accord a site for the Monument, on the 31st of January, 1848, Congress passed a resolution authorizing the Washington National Monument Society to erect "a Monument to the memory of George Washington upon such portion of the public grounds or reservations within the City of Washington, not otherwise occupied, as shall be selected by the President of the United States and the Board of Managers of said Society as a suitable site on which to erect the said Monument, and for the necessary protection thereof."

January 23, 1848, General Archibald Henderson, Lieut. M. F. Maury, and Mr. Walter Lenox were appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements to lay the corner-stone, but it being found impossible to make arrangements for that ceremony on the 22d of February, on the 29th of January it was postponed until July 4th following.

## SITE OF THE MONUMENT.

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The site selected under the authority of the resolution of Congress was the public reservation, numbered 3, on the plan of the City of Washington, containing upwards of thirty acres, where the Monument now stands, near the Potomac river, west of the Capitol and south of the President's House. The deed was executed on the 12th day of April, 1849, and was duly recorded among the land records of the District of Columbia on the 22d day of February, 1849.

This deed was executed by James K. Polk, President of the United States, "and in testimony of the selection as aforesaid of the said reservation, numbered three (3), for the purpose aforesaid," was also signed by William Brent, First Vice-President; W. W. Seaton, Second Vice-President; Archibald Henderson, Third Vice-President; J. B. H. Smith, Treasurer; George Watterston, Secretary; and Peter Force; the signing being "in the presence of Winfield Scott, Nathan Towson, John. J. Abert, Walter Jones, Thomas Carbery, W. A. Bradley, P. R. Fendall, Thomas Munroe, Walter Lenox, M. F. Maury, Thomas Blagden."

As to the reasons for the selection of this particular site, we find them stated by the Society in an address to the country, in later years, as follows:

"The site selected presents a beautiful view of the Potomac; is so elevated that the Monument will be seen from all parts of the city and the surrounding country, and, being a public reservation, it is safe from any future obstruction of the view. It is so near the river that materials for constructing the Monument can be conveyed to it from the river at but little expense; stone, sand, and lime, all of the best kind, can be brought to it by water from convenient distances; and marble of the most beautiful quality, obtained at a distance of only eleven miles from Baltimore, on the Susquehanna railroad, can be brought either on the railroad or in vessels. In addition to these and kindred reasons, the adoption of the site was further and impressively recommended by the consideration that the Monument to be erected on it would be in full view of Mount Vernon, where rest the ashes of the Chief; and by evidence that Washington himself, whose unerring judgment had selected this city to be the Capital of the Nation, had also selected this particular spot for a Monument to the American Revolution, which in the year 1795 it was proposed should be erected or placed at the 'permanent seat of Government of the United States.' This Monument was to have been executed by Ceracchi, a Roman sculptor, and paid for by contributions of individuals. The same site is marked on Major L'Enfant's map of Washington City for the equestrian statue of General Washington, ordered by Congress in 1783, which map was examined, approved, and transmitted to Congress by him when President of the United States."

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It may be here remarked, with reference to the site selected for the Monument, that the foundations were laid but a short distance to the east of the meridian line, run, at the instance of President Jefferson, by Nicholas King, surveyor, October 15, 1804. The report of Mr. King, as found in the Department of State, bears the endorsement, "to be filed in the office of State as a record of demarcation of the first meridian of the United States." This line, by the President's instructions, passed through the center of the White House, and where it intersected a line due east and west through the center of the Capitol a small monument or pyramid of stones was placed—an object which disappeared about the year 1874, in the process of improving the Monument grounds. It would also appear that the center of the District of Columbia, within its original lines, was not far removed northwestward from the Monument as it stands, being near the corner of Seventeenth and C streets, N.W., 1,305 feet north and 1,579 feet west of the Monument. (National Geographic Magazine, vol. 6, p. 149.)

[44]

It does not appear, however, that these latter existing facts were in any manner considered by the Board of Managers in the selection of the site for the Monument.

The corner-stone for the Monument, a block of marble weighing "twenty-four thousand five hundred pounds," was quarried and presented to the Society by Mr. Thomas Symington, of Baltimore, Md. On its arrival in the city, the stone was enthusiastically drawn to the site of the Monument by many workmen from the navy yard, and other persons.

In planning the ceremonies to occur on the laying of the corner-stone of the Monument, the Society invited ex-President John Quincy Adams to deliver the oration, but the invitation, however, was regretfully declined by Mr. Adams on account of the state of his health.

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Hon. Daniel Webster being requested to deliver the oration declined because of pressure of business and the shortness of the time allowed in which to prepare one.

Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, of Massachusetts, Speaker of the House of Representatives, being then requested consented to deliver the oration.

Invitations were sent by the committee of arrangements to Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, Mrs. Dolly

P. Madison, Mrs. John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, Millard Fillmore, Lewis Cass, General Sam Houston, Chief Justice Taney, George Washington Parke Custis, and other distinguished persons to attend the ceremonies of the laying of the corner-stone. The replies received indicate the interest of those invited in the erection of the Monument to Washington.

For the occasion transportation lines entering the District of Columbia reduced their usual rates of travel.

On the 4th of July, 1848, under a bright sky, in the presence of the President and Vice-President of the United States, Senators and Representatives in Congress, Heads of Executive Departments, and other officers of the Government, the Judiciary, Representatives of Foreign Governments, the corporate authorities of Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria, military commands, associations of many descriptions, delegations from States and Territories and from several Indian tribes, and a great multitude of citizens, the corner-stone was laid. [46]

The Rev. Mr. McJilton offered the consecration prayer, and the oration, lofty and eloquent, was delivered by the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop.

Mr. Benj. B. French, Grand Master of the Masonic Fraternity of the United States, then delivered a beautiful and appropriate address, after which he descended to the corner-stone and performed the Masonic ceremonies of laying it.

The gavel used was that employed by George Washington, as Master Mason, in the Masonic ceremonies in the laying of the corner-stone of the National Capitol. A patriotic song, written by Robert Treat Paine, was sung, after which the benediction was pronounced.

The corner-stone was laid at the northeast angle of the foundation. Among the distinguished guests on the stand at the laying of the corner-stone were Mrs. Alexander Hamilton (then ninety-one years old), Mrs. Dolly Paine Madison, George Washington Parke Custis, and others of eminence.

The proceedings are thus discussed in the papers of the times:

\* \* \* \* \*

"The day was fine. The rain had laid the dust and infused a delicious freshness in the air. The procession was extensive and beautiful. It embraced many military companies of our own and our sister cities—various associations, with their characteristic emblems; the President and Cabinet and various officers of the Executive Departments; many of the Members of Congress; citizens and strangers who had poured into the city. When the lengthened procession had reached the site of the Monument they were joined by a whole cortege of ladies and gentlemen; and we are free to say we never beheld so magnificent a spectacle. From 15,000 to 20,000 persons are estimated to have been present, stretched over a large area of ground from the southern hill, gradually sloping down to the plain below." [47]

"In a hollow spread with boards and surrounded with seats the crowd gathered. Around two sides of this space were high and solidly-constructed seats, hired out to spectators, covered with awnings, and affording a favorable position for seeing and hearing. A temporary arch was erected, covered with colored cotton and suitably embellished. But its most attractive ornament was a living American eagle, with its dark plumage, piercing eye, and snowy head and tail, who seemed to look with anxious gaze on the unwonted spectacle below. This is the same eagle which in Alexandria surmounted the arch of welcome there erected to Lafayette; and to complete its honors and its public character, it has since been entrusted to M. Vattermare, to be presented to the National Museum in Paris. He is now forty years old."

"The fireworks (at night) exhibited on the same theatre, and prepared by the pyrotechnists of the navy yard, were admirable beyond description. They were witnessed by an immense multitude. The President's reception at night in the East Room was very numerously attended. Thus passed one of the most splendid and agreeable days Washington has ever witnessed." [48]

Objections having been from time to time urged against the plan of the Monument, the Society, early in 1848, appointed a committee to consider them. In April of that year, pursuant to a report of a committee of its members, the Society fixed upon a height of 500 feet for the shaft, leaving in abeyance the surrounding pantheon and base. And this modification continued to be the plan of the Monument until it was again altered at a later period.

The corner-stone laid, the Society began active operations to raise the shaft, which were most vigorously prosecuted. The purchase of materials and the general construction of the Monument, embracing the employment of labor, skilled and common, were committed by the Society to three of their number, denominated a Building Committee.

The members of this committee devoted much of their time patriotically to the duties assigned them, held weekly meetings during several years, and served without any sort of compensation whatever.



With a view of having the States of the Union properly represented in the Monument, the Society extended an invitation for each State to furnish for insertion in the interior walls a block of marble or other durable stone, a production of its soil, of the following dimensions: Four feet long, two feet high, and with a bed of from twelve to eighteen inches, the name of the State to be cut thereon in large letters, and, if desirable to the donor, the State's coat of arms also. Later, this invitation to contribute memorial blocks of stone was extended to embrace such a gift from a foreign government. [49]

In response to these invitations were received from time to time the many rich and durable blocks which now adorn the interior walls of the shaft, in themselves smaller but not less impressive monuments to the memory of Washington.

In about six years from the laying of the corner-stone the Monument had reached the height of 156 feet, not quite one-third of its ultimate modified elevation. During this period the Society continued most actively at work in the raising of funds to carry the Monument forward.

An appeal to the people was adopted and issued by the Society in 1848, immediately after the laying of the corner-stone, in which the past history of the work was given, what was desired and in contemplation to do, and an urgent request for contributions was made, and an eloquent reference to Washington was embodied.

In June, 1849, a special appeal for contributions, to be made in all parts of the country on the ensuing 4th of July, was issued, and everywhere distributed.

Another special appeal was made in this year, which recited, among other things—

"The scholars and pupils, male and female, of all the institutions of learning, and the public and private schools in this country, are requested to make such *monthly* contributions as may be convenient towards the erection of the Monument till it shall be completed. It is estimated that there are about 3,000,000 of pupils of all ages in the United States, and the monthly contribution of even *one cent* by each would alone, in a few years, complete the structure now in progress. The assistance of the principals and teachers in these schools, however, will be essential, and the Board would be thankful if they would lend their aid to carry out this plan by making such collections monthly, and transmitting the amount collected to the Treasurer or to the General Agent of the Society here," &c. [50]

February 5, 1850, the Society adopted the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That in view of the liberal contributions made by two of the banks of the City of Washington, the General Agent be requested to address a circular letter to the several banking institutions of the United States, bearing the signatures of the Board of Managers, soliciting from them contributions to the erection of the Monument."

In accordance with this resolve a circular letter was issued March 1, 1850, appealing to all banks for contributions.

In May, 1850, circular letters were sent to all deputy marshals of the United States who were to be employed in taking the census then at hand, soliciting their aid in the collection of funds while engaged in the enumeration of the people, and offering a commission of 15 per cent. on the amount collected to each collector, following in this plan the one pursued in 1840. A further general appeal was also printed and distributed everywhere. [51]

Early in 1851 the following resolution was adopted by the Society:

"*Resolved*, That a circular be addressed in the name of this Board to the respective Grand Lodges of the Masonic and Odd Fellows' fraternities and Grand Divisions of the Sons of Temperance in the United States, requesting that arrangements be made to obtain such periodical contributions as they may deem proper, to be applied to the erection of the Washington National Monument, until the same shall be completed."

Accordingly, an appeal was issued to the bodies mentioned in the resolution.

In January, 1852, pursuant to a resolution of the Society, the military organizations of the country were specially called upon for contributions.

In 1853, another urgent and general appeal was put forth for funds, to be given by the Masonic bodies of the country.

In 1854, there was another general address to the country, similar in character to former appeals, and a special appeal was sent to the officers of the Navy of the United States, invoking their co-operation and aid in raising money to carry on the work of building the Monument.

The tangible result of these general and special appeals for funds was far short of hope. The funds collected went into the treasury of the Society, and were at once expended to meet the current and contract obligations of the work of building the Monument.

## STONE FROM ROME.

In this year an act occurred at the Monument which created much indignation and excitement in the District, and was the subject of much public discussion throughout the country.

The facts furnished to the press by the Society, after an investigation by it, were reported thus in the "Daily National Intelligencer" on March 8, 1854:

"A deed of barbarism was enacted on Monday morning last, between one and two o'clock, by several persons (number not known, but supposed to be from four to ten), which will be considered as belonging rather to some of the centuries considerably in our rear than to the better half of the boasted Nineteenth Century. We refer to the forcible seizure from its place of deposit, in a shed at the Washington Monument, of a block of marble sent hither from Rome, a tribute to the memory of Washington by the Pontiff, and intended to become a part of the edifice now erecting to signalize his name and glory. It originally stood in the Temple of Concord at Rome, was of beautiful texture, and had for its dimensions a length of three feet, height of eighteen inches, and thickness of ten inches. The account we hear of the matter is this: That at about the time above mentioned several men suddenly surrounded the watch box of the night watchman, and passed a cord, such as is used for clothes lines, around the box, and piled stones against the door, calling to the man within that if he kept quiet he would not be injured, at the same time they pasted pieces of newspapers on the two or three window openings that commanded the particular shed containing the fated block, so as to prevent the watchman from seeing their operations. They then removed one of the strips in front of the place where the block stood, and passing in and out by the opening carried it off by placing it on a hand cart used about the premises. There is no doubt they took the block to the river side, not less than a quarter of a mile off, and pitched it over the steep bank upon the river beach, where they enjoyed a favorable opportunity of breaking it up undiscovered or boating it off into the river, which they probably did after defacing it. All this went on, it seems, without effective remonstrance from the watchman, although he had with him a double-barrel shot gun loaded with buck shot, and the operations at the shed were within easy shot. As for the pasting on the windows, there was nothing in that, for they slid up and down like the sashes of an omnibus. These proceedings, the watchman says, took place about half-past one; but he gave no notice of it to the family residing at the Monument until four. For these and other similar reasons he has been suspended."

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A meeting of the Society was held on the 7th of March in reference to this vandalism, and it was resolved to offer a reward to discover the perpetrators. Accordingly, the following advertisement appeared in the "Daily National Intelligencer" on March 8th:

"\$100 REWARD. The Board of Managers of the Washington National Monument Society will pay the above reward of \$100 for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who, on the night of the 5th instant, stole and destroyed a block of marble contributed to said Monument."

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This advertisement availed nothing as to the discovery of the guilty persons. It was understood to have been the work of persons belonging to the party styled "Know-Nothings;" one of their professions being opposition to the Roman Catholic Church and any political preference of its members. It was not thought the persons were generally depraved characters, but, on the contrary, were supposed to be identified with the respectable part of the community. From the time of the reception of this stone from Rome by the Society until its destruction, there had been frequent expressions in a portion of the daily press in opposition to its being placed in the Monument, and the Society had received many protesting letters and, in some instances, long petitions from various parts of the country, numerously signed, urging that the stone be not used by the Society, as it was representative of the Roman Church, &c.

Many petitions from New Jersey recited:

"We, the undersigned, citizens of —, in the State of New Jersey, believing the proffer of a block of marble recently made by the Pope of Rome to this country for the Washington Monument to be totally inconsistent with the known principles of that despotic system of government of which he is the head; that the inscription, 'Rome to America,' engraved upon it, bears a significance beyond its natural meaning; that the construction is an artful stratagem, calculated to divert the attention of the American people for the present from his animosity to republican institutions by an outward profession of regard; that the gift of a despot, if placed within those walls, can never be looked upon by true Americans but with feelings of mortification and disgust; and believing that the original design of the structure was to perpetuate the memory of Washington as the champion of American liberty, its national character should be preserved, do therefore most earnestly protest against the placing of said stone within the Monument, or any other stone from any other than a republican government."

[55]

But the Society was not organized on sectarian or political lines, and to the opposition and protests no heed was given. The Society was composed of men of different political beliefs and

church affiliations.

The immediate effect of the destruction of the "Pope's stone" was to anger a large body of the citizens of the country, members of the Catholic Church, and then, and for a long time afterward, to estrange any interest they had had in the building of the Monument, and to this extent to impair the field for the collection of funds for the Monument.

It has never been certainly known what the precise fate of the stone was, though occasional uncorroborated statements of individuals, alleging knowledge of or participation in its destruction, have been made as to it. But their variance has rendered them of no value.

The further collection of funds for the Monument was not only curtailed by the destruction of the Pope's stone, but the political and business conditions of the country in 1854 caused a great falling off in contributions. The Monument had now reached a height of 153 feet above the foundation, and the Society had expended on the entire structure \$230,000. The funds being now practically exhausted, and all its efforts to obtain further sums proving abortive in this year, 1854, the Society presented a memorial to Congress representing that they were unable to devise any plan likely to succeed in raising the requisite means, and under the circumstances asked that Congress might take such action as it deemed proper. [56]

In the House of Representatives the memorial was referred to a select committee of thirteen members, appointed under a resolution July 13th, of which committee the Hon. Henry May, of Maryland, was chairman.

By a previous order, Mr. May, on the 22d of February, 1855, made an eloquent and able report to the House, in which, after a careful examination of the whole subject, the proceedings of the Society were reviewed and approved, and an appropriation of \$200,000 by Congress was recommended "on behalf of the people of the United States to *aid* the funds of this Society." There was no suggestion made that Congress should assume the completion of the Monument; the Society were to continue actively in the work they had been prosecuting. Congress would make simply a donation to the funds. The sum proposed was the same in amount which the House of Representatives, by their resolution of January 1, 1801, had agreed to appropriate for erecting a mausoleum to Washington, in the City of Washington. The report referred to the Society and its work in the following terms of approval: [57]

"The Society was organized on an admirable plan, and its officers undertook the duties assigned them by its Constitution, and have, as your committee are well satisfied, faithfully performed them.

"The funds were to be collected in all parts of the United States; and agents as competent and as faithful as could be found were appointed, after giving bond for the performance of their duties. These agents were sent to all parts of the country, and contributions were commenced and continued by the subscription of \$1.00 for each person. This plan was adopted in order that all might have the opportunity to contribute.

"In the appointment of these agents a careful scrutiny was exercised by the Society, and undoubted recommendations of both character and capacity were in every case required, and though an opinion may prevail in some parts of the country to the contrary, your committee are satisfied that these agents generally proved to be worthy of the confidence reposed in them. Of the large number employed but two of them failed to account for the money collected, and legal measures resorted to promptly by the Society against their bonds have, in one of these instances, obtained the full amount of the liability.

"It may well be questioned if any Society executing a plan for collecting money so extensively has met with equal success in justifying the integrity of its agents, and it is pleasing to state that not one cent of the funds received by the Society has at any time been lost by investment or otherwise." [58]

This report, recommending "that the sum of two hundred thousand dollars should be subscribed by Congress on behalf of the people of the United States to aid the funds of the Society" was submitted to the House with every assurance of its adoption, and that the appropriation recommended would be made. But an unfortunate occurrence arose, news of which, upon reaching Mr. May upon the floor, occasioned a suspension of further consideration of the report, and the whole matter was laid upon the table. The occurrence was the result of "a plot, secretly contrived and suddenly disclosed, to reverse the principles on which the Society had uniformly acted, and to degrade an enterprise, sacred to patriotism and humanity, into an instrument of party or sect." On the day the report of Mr. May was submitted to the House of Representatives, "a crowd of persons assembled at the City Hall and there voted for seventeen individuals, named in a printed ticket, to be officers and managers of 'the' Society. The only previous announcement of this proceeding was notice signed 'F. W. Eckloff, clerk W. N. M. Society,' and published on the evening of the 21st of February in the American Organ' and the 'Evening Star,' and on the morning of the 22d in the 'National Intelligencer.'" On the 24th of February the result of the election was proclaimed in the Press," by which it appeared 755 votes were cast, resulting in the election of the following officers: Vespasian Ellis, First Vice-President; George H. Plant, Second V. P.; Charles C. Tucker, Secretary; John M. McCalla, Treasurer; and the following Board of Managers: Samuel S. Briggs, French S. Evans, Henry Addison, Charles R. Belt, Joseph H. [59]

Bradley, J. N. Craig, Thomas D. Sandy, Samuel C. Busey, James A. Gordon, Robert T. Knight, Samuel E. Douglass, Joseph Libbey, Sr., Thomas A. Brooke.

This pretended election was not had according to the Constitution of the Society. The constitutional time of election was every third year from the year 1835, and the last election had been held in 1853.

It was the province of the Secretary of the Society to issue all notices of meetings, and the clerk (Eckloff), a mere recorder and messenger, had no color of authority to issue any such notice. The last regular weekly meeting of the Society was held on the 20th of February, and it had then adjourned to meet on the 27th of that month. Of the 755 votes cast all were given to each of the seventeen persons elected, except one, who received 754 votes, and not one of the persons elected was a member of the existing board. This election was carried on certificates of membership, which could be obtained from the Society or its agents on the payment of one dollar, but which were issued without any knowledge of the Society, and no money representing them was ever received by its Treasurer.

Abundant evidence shows that the plan of this election was "silently yet solemnly resolved," and framed in the secret lodges of the "Know-Nothing" or American party of that day, its object being to transfer the entire and exclusive management into its own hands, and to oust every other description of citizens from participation in the trust. [60]

On the 24th of February, the existing Society held a special meeting, protesting against the pretended election of February 22d, and appointed a committee "to investigate the existing state of things and report thereon at the next regular meeting."

The committee reported at a meeting of the Society on the 27th of February, and in accordance therewith adopted resolutions declaring "that the election held on the 22d instant of officers and managers of the Washington National Monument Society was in direct violation of the Constitution of said Society, and therefore null and void; that this Board, being by virtue of the Constitution of the Washington National Monument Society, the existing Board of Managers, and as such charged with a trust of the most solemn character, in behalf of the American people cannot voluntarily surrender the same; that the above resolutions be communicated to the gentlemen claiming under the election of the 22d instant, and that we propose that an amicable suit be instituted for the purpose of testing the rights of the two parties."

Replying to a transmitted copy of these resolutions, the "Know-Nothing" board adopted resolutions not admitting any right in "the late Board of Managers" to participate in the "administration of this Society other than as *members* thereof," and appointed a committee of three persons "to confer with those gentlemen in response to the resolutions received from them to-day, and that they report to the next meeting of this Board." [61]

The two committees met on the 3d of March, but were unable to agree on terms of arrangement, the committee of the "Know-Nothing" board adhering to a refusal to submit the dispute to judicial decision.

The Superintendent in charge of the Monument, William Dougherty, declining to recognize the authority of the pretended board or to surrender possession of any of the buildings on the Monument grounds to the new superintendent appointed by it, on the evening of the 9th of March these buildings were forcibly taken possession of in its name, and the "new" superintendent was installed in place. Thereafter, for several years, the Society had no further communication with the "Know-Nothing" board, and published in the daily press a full account of the controversy, which demonstrated the illegality of the organization of the board in usurped possession. Arrangements were also made to secure a decision by the courts in the premises. The Society's agents were also advised of the existing conditions. Being bonded, no moneys collected by them were paid to the treasurer of the "Know-Nothing" board, which board shortly issued the following address, thereby stamping its character:

"BRETHREN OF THE AMERICAN PARTY:

"For twenty years past a voluntary association has existed in this city, formed for the purpose of raising funds to erect a monument to WASHINGTON. It was founded on the scheme of voluntary contributions among the people of the United States, in such sums as would enable every citizen to contribute towards it. After years of patient waiting, a sufficient amount was accumulated to justify them in adopting a plan and beginning the work. A plan was adopted of a single shaft of white marble, of four equal sides, having a base 55 feet square, and rising to the height of 600 feet, diminishing gradually from base to top, and to be 33 feet square at the top. The base is to be a pantheon, surrounded by columns and ornamented by statues. The interior of the Monument is a square chamber: the walls, 15 feet in thickness, are composed of the solid blue stone of the Potomac in large masses, faced on the outside with white marble 18 inches thick, firmly bonded at every course into the blue stone. The corner-stone was laid on the 4th of July, 1848. The structure has reached the height of 170 feet at a cost of upward of \$230,000. And it appears to be firm as the materials of which it is composed.

"Last year the contributions were wholly insufficient to keep up the ordinary progress of the work, and the managers were constrained to apply to Congress for aid. In the course of its construction they had thought it expedient and proper to

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receive not only contributions in money from every quarter of the globe, but they invited contributions in ornamented stones, to be placed, under the direction of the architect, in the face of the wall of the chamber. Among others, a stone sent from the Pope of Rome, and was received by the managers, to be placed, as the others, in some conspicuous place.

"It was an American Monument, and its construction and management was said to be mainly in the hands of Catholics and foreigners. Complaints were also made of the administration of the association, and of the expenditures and losses in the collections of funds. For these and divers other causes, the Americans of this District resolved in their respective Councils that this work ought to be typical of their Government, completed by the free act of the People, under the direction and by the hands of the natives. Accordingly, at the election held on the 22d of February last, they nominated and elected a ticket of their own Order, who now have the control of the work.

"It will require at least one million of dollars to complete it as it was originally designed, and that sum must be raised by the Councils of our Order, or we must suffer indelible disgrace and become a bye-word. There are enrolled in the Order at this time not less than two millions of freemen. A contribution of fifty cents from each, a sum within the reach of every member, will effect it. There may be some too poor—there cannot be any too mean or too insensible to the obligation upon them—to give this sum. If this shall be so, we have adopted a plan by which that difficulty may be met. For every contribution of one dollar, a certificate of membership is to be issued to the person in whose name the subscription is made. It is therefore proposed that collections shall be made in each Council throughout the Nation in such manner as each may deem most expedient, and the money remitted to JOHN M. McCALLA, Esq., Treasurer of the National Monument, accompanied by a letter addressed to CHARLES C. TUCKER, Secretary of the National Monument, stating the amount thus forwarded, and transmitting a list of the names to whom a certificate for each dollar thus paid in is to be sent. For each single subscription of five dollars a handsome engraved plate of the Monument, of large size, will be sent.

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"But, Brethren, while the sum of fifty cents from each member of the Order may be barely sufficient to complete the structure, it will take as much more to finish the work and the grounds, and leave a surplus to be invested and yield an interest to keep it in repair and defray the incidental annual expenses.

"We have pledged the American party to this work. We have taken the great step of overthrowing, on this pledge, the administration which has preceded us, and which not only failed but went as beggars to Congress to ask legislative aid for that which loses all merit, unless it be the free-will offering of grateful hearts.

"Have we done right?

"Brothers, we come to you to demand your aid in this great work to which we have been appointed, and to which, through us, you are pledged. We do not come alone. Our brethren in the District of Columbia, beneath the walls of the Presidential Mansion, from which a frowning brow is ever turned upon us—these brethren, moved by the sacred fire that ever burns in their hearts, the altars of patriotism, defying the scorn and contumely and lust of those temporarily in power, have come up freely to our aid. They have set to you, the free citizens of free States, with power to remove and bring to account those who dare to turn a wrathful eye on the movements of those native to the soil—to you in every sense Freemen—they have set a bright and glorious example. May you walk by its light. The Councils in this the heart of the Nation—yet not one of its members—our Councils have, with wondrous unanimity, resolved to contribute *one dollar* for each member enrolled in each separate Council. Let it go forth—publish it wherever in this broad land, those born beneath the stars and stripes, the glorious banner of our Union, have met, or shall meet, to resolve that Americans must and shall govern America. Ring it in the ear of the slothful—breathe it into the heart of the earnest—the native Americans in Council, in the District of Columbia, have resolved to contribute a dollar for each member toward the completion of the work; and they have already begun their contributions.

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"Brethren, it is a national work—it is the heaped-up offering of mighty people—it is the work of the age. To it, from every kindred and nation, offerings have been brought—the tribute of far-off lands to that name which stands single, alone, mighty, majestic, in the history of the world, as though it were written in letters of starry light in the high heavens, to be read by all men. These are but the homage paid to virtue and renown, while the heart is cold or hostile.

"But to you, Brethren, his name is a household word. It was breathed over you on a mother's name and graven on your heart by a mother's love. It was taught you by a father's watchful care, and has been held ever before you as your beacon and your guide by a father's ceaseless anxiety. It was your watchword in the sports of youth; it is, it must be, your polar star in the mazes of a maturer life; it is the name for

patriotism; it is little less than that of a god. Oh, the heart—the true American heart—the heart that beats responsive to the call of country—the heart that thrills at those words of wisdom and warning which fell from his lips, teaching us the dangers of foreign influence—the heart that swells with gratitude to the great human benefactor, who, having led us through the perils of the terrible conflicts of the Revolution, and guided us through the scarcely less perilous history of the Federation, and presided over that grand and august assembly which framed our matchless Constitution, laid in practice the deep foundations of this mighty Nation—the heart of the native-born American leaps up with joy to testify its deep love and veneration for him and seeks some adequate means to express it. And, Brethren and Countrymen, we bring it to you; we give you, by the means spread before you, an opportunity to enroll your names in the book where is found the mighty company who have contributed to this the most remarkable Monument ever erected to man, which, as his name, shall stand unique, lofty—towering above all others known among men.

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"Brethren, come to our aid.

"By order of the Board:

"CHAS. C. TUCKER,  
"Secretary.

"WASHINGTON, D. C., May, 1855."

#### OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY:

FRANKLIN PIERCE,  
*President of the United States and ex officio President.*

VESPASIAN ELLIS,  
*First Vice-President.*

JOHN T. TOWERS,  
*Mayor of Washington and ex officio Second Vice-President.*

GEORGE H. PLANT,  
*Third Vice-President.*

JOHN M. MCCALLA,  
*Treasurer.*

CHAS. C. TUCKER,  
*Secretary.*

#### MANAGERS:

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| HENRY ADDISON,     | THOMAS D. SANDY,   |
| CHARLES R. BELT,   | JOSEPH H. BRADLEY, |
| FRENCH S. EVANS,   | SAMUEL C. BUSEY,   |
| CHARLES W. DAVIS,  | JAMES GORDON,      |
| JOHN N. CRAIG,     | ROBERT T. KNIGHT,  |
| SAMUEL E. DOUGLAS, | JOSEPH LIBBY, SR., |
| THOMAS A. BROOKE.  |                    |

The address was printed in certain of the daily papers, and transmitted to the "Councils" of the party by the following letter: [66]

"OFFICE OF THE  
WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT SOCIETY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., May, 1855.

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:

"Enclosed I send you an address from the Board of Managers of the Washington National Monument Society to members of our Order, asking their contributions in aid of the Washington National Monument, and request that you will place it before your Council and lend your influence towards the accomplishment of the object in view.

"By the action of your brethren in the District of Columbia our Order stands pledged to the country and the world to complete the Monument, and the glory of success or the disgrace of failure will be ours alone. The pledge was freely given;

for we were confident that our brethren in the States would rejoice at the opportunity thus presented of testifying their gratitude and veneration for him whose "memory, maxims, and deathless example" we endeavor to keep alive in the hearts of the American people.

"I would suggest that your Council appoint a Washington Monument Committee to receive subscriptions and forward the sums collected to the Treasurer of the Society. The committee should procure a book in which to insert the name and address of each contributor and the amount contributed. This book should be forwarded to me, to be placed in the archives of the Monument, and to each contributor of one dollar or upwards will be forwarded a certificate of membership and a print of the Monument or a portrait of Washington.

"The plan laid down by the Board of Managers is to forward to each contributor of one dollar or upwards and less than five dollars a small print of the Monument, and to each contributor of five dollars a print of the Monument, 22 by 30 inches in size, or a large portrait of Washington, and both the large print and portrait to each contributor of eight dollars or upwards. To each Council will be sent a copy of the large print or portrait or both, depending upon the amount contributed in such Council.

"It is not expected, nor is it necessary, that the subscriptions be paid at once; but they may be paid in weekly, semi-monthly or monthly payments, as the Council or committee may determine. One dime per week from each member of our Order for three months will be more than sufficient to erect the Monument to its destined height, thus bringing it within the means of all to assist us in our noble work.

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"If the Council deems it advisable to collect subscriptions outside of the Council, but within its jurisdiction, let it recommend a suitable person to act as agent, who will receive a compensation for his services by a commission upon the amount collected. Upon such recommendations being received, there will be forwarded to the agent named a certificate authorizing him to receive contributions. The Council will determine whether the proceeds of such collections be received and transmitted by the committee having charge of the collections within the Council or be remitted by the agent direct to the Treasurer. It is intended that the amount of such collection be placed to the credit of the Council in the reports from the Board of Managers to the State Councils and National Council.

"May we not rely upon your best exertion to aid us in the work in which we are engaged? We know that our brethren will cheerfully contribute their mites if the subject is properly placed before them. We wish to dispense, as far as possible, with the services of special agents; that all contributions may be applied directly to the purpose for which they are intended, and we must rely mainly upon those whose abilities or position enable them to render us the aid required; and who, like the officers of the Society, will desire no compensation for their services other than the pleasure of engaging in this patriotic undertaking.

"Fraternally yours,

"CHAS. C. TUCKER,  
"Secretary W. N. M. S."

The following "Notice to the Public" was issued by the "Know-Nothing" Board:

"OFFICE OF  
"WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT SOCIETY,  
"WASHINGTON, July 1, 1856.

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN ORDER OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS, the public are requested to pay no more contributions for the Washington National Monument to agents heretofore commissioned by the Board.

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"This notice is not to be construed as a censure on the agents, but it is designed to effectuate a general settlement of the affairs of the Society. The Board is well assured of eventual success in the patriotic enterprise in which it is engaged, but it has resolved to suspend further proceedings by agency until a plan, now under consideration, for combining efficiency, promptitude, and safety, is matured.

"Balances due from agents, or offerings from independent contributors, are to be sent by draft, *payable to the order of the Treasurer of Washington National Monument Society*, enclosed in a letter to the undersigned.

"By order: SAMUEL YORKE ATLEE,  
"Secretary W. N. M. S."

"N. B.—Editors throughout the United States will confer a favor on the Society and benefit the public by publishing this notice and sending to the Secretary a copy of the paper containing the same."

Manifestly, the rival claims of the two Boards of Managers, and the office, books, papers, and

property of the Society and the Monument itself, being in the possession and control of a narrow political faction, practically arrested the work of the Society's agents in the collection of funds and further building operations.

The "Know-Nothing" Board, as apparent evidence of its earnestness in the premises, and presumably to support its appeal for funds (several later ones being issued) and to establish public confidence, proceeded to add two courses of stone to the height of the shaft by the use of marble on the ground when it took possession. But this marble, in the main, were blocks which had been theretofore rejected and condemned as unfit for use. In later years, on the final resumption of work on the Monument, these courses were removed by the engineer in charge of its construction. [69]

The receipts of the Society for the year 1855, from January 3d to February 20th, amounted to \$695; for the remainder of that year, to \$51.66—evidence of the result of the dispossession of the Society and the disinclination of the public to contribute funds under the existing conditions.

The "Know-Nothing" Board continued in possession of the Monument until October 25, 1858.

The political party which it represented disintegrating, and not being able to secure contributions toward building the Monument, or to awaken any interest in the enterprise, it concluded to surrender possession of the Monument.

On the date named the surrender was made, and the Society was reinstated in the possession of its office, books and papers, and the Monument. A number of collectors' filled subscription books, however, were missing. The Treasurer of the out-going Board passed to the Treasurer of the Society, through the Bank of Washington, December 14, 1858, the sum of \$285.09. The full amount collected by the "Know-Nothing" Board during over three years of its control does not appear.

At a meeting, December 28, 1858, the Society reappointed the Hon. Elisha Whittlesey its General Agent. A committee previously appointed reported on the present condition of the Monument and other property of the Society, by which it appeared that the engine house and some other buildings on "Monument place" were in a dilapidated condition, though the engine and boiler were in good order; that of two large cranes for hoisting stone at the wharves, one had fallen down, the other had disappeared; that marble valued at \$300 had been taken away; that the rope wove through a block at the top of the Monument to enable persons to ascend had been pulled down, and no means remained for ascent of the shaft save by scaffolding on the inside. "It will require an expenditure of at least \$2,000 to place the fixtures and machinery in a condition to enable your Board to resume the progress of the work." [70]

The enterprise having now passed into the hands of the Society again, they proceeded at once to make suitable arrangements for the conservation of the Monument and protection of the grounds and other property connected with it. Admonished by the transaction of February 22, 1856, and its results, of the legal difficulties in the way of voluntary association, consisting of members residing in all parts of the Union, they applied to Congress for a charter.

This was at length granted. On the 22d of February, 1859, an act passed Congress, and was approved by the President on the 26th of the same month, incorporating "The Washington National Monument Society \* \* \* for the purpose of completing the erection now in progress of a great National Monument to the memory of Washington at the seat of the Federal Government." [71] The incorporators named were Winfield Scott, Walter Jones, John J. Abert, James Kearney, Thomas Carberry, Peter Force, William A. Bradley, Philip R. Fendall, Walter Lennox, Matthew F. Maury (as survivors of the grantees of the site under the grant made by President Polk), and Jonathan B. H. Smith, William W. Seaton, Elisha Whittlesey, Benj. Ogte Tayloe, Thomas H. Crawford, William W. Corcoran, and John Carroll Brent.

The charter vested in and confirmed to the Society all the easements, rights, privileges theretofore held by the Society under the name of incorporation, and all thereafter to be acquired, for the purpose of erecting the Monument; provided for the election of officers and for exercising the right of amotion; that the President of the United States should be *ex officio* President of the Society, and the Governors of the several States should be respectively *ex officio* Vice-Presidents; gave the right to sue and be sued, and rendered the members of the Society liable in their individual capacities for any indebtedness contracted in the name of the Society.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT SOCIETY UNDER THE CHARTER. [72]

The meeting for the organization of the Society under the charter granted by Congress took place on Tuesday evening, March 22, 1859, in the aldermen's chamber, in the City Hall, Washington, D. C.

President James Buchanan, as *ex officio* President of the Society, presided.

Mr. Fendall very briefly reviewed some of the circumstances out of which the original Society had sprung, stating that but four of its members now survived, and the object and aim of the Society were remarked.

Eloquently referring to Washington, he concluded:



"The completion of the Monument now in progress is far more important to the fame of the American people than to the fame of Washington."

The President, rising, referred to his efforts to awaken the interest of Congress in the erection of a monument to Washington while he was a member of the House in 1824.

"It was considered at that time (1824), and so remarked in Congress, that it was rather an indignity that any effort should be made to raise a monument to the honor and memory of Washington besides that which existed in the hearts of his countrymen."

Mr. Buchanan concluded:

"Not only in this country is his name loved and revered beyond that of all other men, but abroad, in foreign lands, our country is illustrated by him, and his name is never mentioned but as that of the purest, most unselfish patriot that ever lived; not only the most unselfish, but the most self-sacrificing of whom history has kept record."

[73]

Resolutions were then offered, accepting the act of incorporation by Congress, and making the charter the Constitution of the Society, providing for an annual election on the 22d of February of each year, and such other meetings as might be duly called; the officers of the Society to be a First Vice-President, (to be the Mayor of Washington;) Second and Third Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer and Secretary, committees to draft and report by-laws and to define and prescribe the duties of officers and agents, and to prepare "An Address to the People of the United States."

Maj.-Gen. Winfield Scott was chosen Second Vice-President, Thomas Carberry, Third Vice-President; J. B. H. Smith, Treasurer; and John Carroll Brent, Secretary.

Every effort was now put forth to revive public interest in the Monument, and to obtain substantial aid for its completion, the Society exercising great patience, forbearance, and industry to restore matters to their former condition.

The plan now proposed and to be carried into execution was the securing of contributions from voters at all municipal and general elections, and appropriations by State Legislatures and the invoking by circular letter of aid from all political, corporate, or voluntary bodies, the Army and Navy, *all* associations, societies, churches, and individuals.

[74]

June 6, 1859, at a general election in the City of Washington, contributions were received at the polls towards the funds of the Society amounting to \$150.76.

In the result of this first renewed attempt to raise money to complete the Monument the Society, however, was not discouraged.

The matter was noticed in a daily paper in an article which, after referring to the former dispossession of the Society and the long "silence" at the base of the Monument, said:

"It was not till this state of things unhappily took place that the popular enthusiasm drooped and cooled, and it is hardly fair to expect a resuscitation in an hour or a day. We trust, however, that the night is far spent; that the day is at hand, and even the tribute of the voters of Washington on Monday last, small as it was, is an evidence of new life and returning vigor.

"It will require on the part of the Monument Board the exercise of patience and forbearance as well as industry to restore matters to the condition they once were in."

In April, 1859, the Society applied to the Honorable the Secretary of War for the detail of an officer of the Corps of Topographical Engineers to assume the duty of Engineer of the Monument and to superintend its construction.

June 7, 1859, a letter was received from the Hon. John B. Floyd, Secretary of War, stating that in compliance with the Society's request he had detailed Lieut. J. C. Ives, of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, to act under the direction of the Society as Engineer and Architect of the Monument. Subsequently, Lieutenant Ives reported for duty to the officers of the Society. In his letter advising of the detail of Lieutenant Ives, Secretary Floyd stated:

[75]

"The favorable auspices under which the enterprise has been resumed encourage the hope that this reproach will be removed. Composed of gentlemen of well-known standing, \* \* \* the Society has a claim upon the confidence of the public that is the surest guarantee of the success of its labors."

Doubts having been raised as to the stability of the material which had been employed in building the Monument and as to the sufficiency of its foundations to support the shaft at its proposed height of 600 feet, Lieutenant Ives, on the 10th of August, 1859, made a report upon the subject after a careful examination of all the conditions, which recited, in part:

"To those who are aware of the care which was taken in laying the foundation of the Monument, both in the selection and preparation of the bed and in the execution of masonry work, it will be scarcely necessary to enter into any statement in regard to its present condition. \* \* \* For five years during which the

work has been suspended, the foundation has been bearing about four-sevenths of the pressure that it will ultimately be required to sustain, and, in a recent examination, I was unable to detect any appearance of settling or indication of insecurity. \* \* \* Whether the height of 600 feet can be attained without endangering the stability of the obelisk, a computation is herewith subjoined, from which it would appear that, without taking into consideration the adhesion of the mortar, the weight alone of the structure would offer a resistance nearly eight times greater than the overturning effort of the heaviest tempest to which it would probably ever be exposed."

[76]

The conclusions of this report set at rest at that time all doubts that had existed as to the stability of the Monument completed and of its foundation.

A proposition, submitted by Lieutenant Ives, to raise funds by erecting contribution boxes in the post-offices throughout the country, constituting postmasters agents of the Society for their care and supervision and the transmission of money thus collected to the Treasurer of the Society, was adopted, and Lieutenant Ives was charged with the execution of the plan. Amounts collected from the boxes were sent directly to the Treasurer, and memoranda of the same to Lieutenant Ives, a record being also kept at the Washington City post-office of all letters addressed to that officer as Engineer of the Monument.

May 17, 1859, the Society published and circulated a general appeal to the public. Collateral to the raising of funds by the "post-office plan," agents were appointed, under bond (allowed the usual 15 per cent. on the amount of collections to defray their expenses), in defined districts to solicit contributions, and a circular appeal was *especially* addressed to corporations, literary and benevolent institutions, to schools, organizations, the Masonic fraternity, and to officers of the Navy in command, asking their aid to bring the subject before the officers and men under them.

[77]

At the end of the first *four* months under Lieutenant Ives' plan returns were had from 841 post-offices, the sums aggregating \$2,240.31 (some 28,000 offices making no response at all), an amount far short of hope. It had been estimated that \$45,000 a year would be required to keep the work on the Monument in fair progress when again resumed.

Aside from the post-office receipts, the most considerable items collected in this year were: Contribution box at the Monument, \$822.40; box at the Patent Office, \$396.26; California, \$1,000; from collections in the City of Washington, \$49.73. The entire receipts for the year were \$3,074.96, while the expenditures made in preparation to resume work, printing, &c., amounted to \$1,429.39.

On the 15th of March, 1859, at the Masonic National Convention held in the City of Chicago, a number of the wives, daughters, and sisters of Masons in attendance upon the Convention, assembled in the "Richmond House" and formed a "Ladies' National Washington Monument Association to aid in the completion of the Washington Monument now being erected in Washington, D. C." Mrs. Finley M. King, Port Byron, N. Y., was elected President, and Mrs. John L. Lewis, Penn Yan, N. Y., Secretary and Treasurer, and Vice-Presidents were appointed, residents of different States, among the number Mrs. Reuben Hyde Walworth, N. Y.; Mrs. Robert M. Henderson, Mo.; Mrs. Floride C. Cunningham, S. C.; Mrs. William Sheets, Ind.; Mrs. Margaret C. Brown, Fla.; Mrs. Elbert H. English, Ark.; Mrs. Giles M. Hillyer, Miss.; Mrs. Jane Van Wagoner, N. J.; Mrs. Martha E. Holbrook, Or.; Mrs. Gilbert C. Morell, Neb.; Mrs. William S. Long, Cal.; Mrs. John G. Saxe, Vt.; Miss Sallie Bell, Tenn.; Mrs. Richard Vaux, Pa.

[78]

The Ladies' Association proceeded actively to work to raise funds by various plans, but with small result. In the year 1860 there was issued an "Appeal of The Ladies' Washington National Monument Society to the judges and inspectors of elections of the various towns, wards, precincts, and election districts in the United States, to every paper and periodical published, and to the whole people." After reference to the unfinished Monument and a glowing tribute to the memory of Washington, the address requested "judges and inspectors of election" in every place in the ensuing Presidential election (or *any person*, if they fail to do so) to provide boxes in which to receive contributions, and appoint suitable persons to take charge of them, and "every voter" was earnestly entreated to deposit in the boxes any sum, "however small," and the press were asked to give the appeal notice.

Money collected was to be transmitted by draft or "in postage stamps" to the Secretary or to any one of the lady Vice-Presidents in the several States, the amounts collected to be finally published in the daily papers.

The success achieved by the association of ladies was but indifferent compared with the expectations in its formation, and it collapsed in about two years. In 1860 it paid to the Treasurer of the Society, as shown by his account, \$458.50.

[79]

The prosecution of the "post-office plan" of collection was continued, and by September, 1860, response had been had from 1,118 postmasters, contributions received aggregating \$4,179.56. Of this amount, through the post-offices of California was received \$1,120.63, of which \$755.49 was from the City of San Francisco.

Having been ordered by the War Department to other duty, September 22, 1860, Lieutenant Ives resigned as Architect and Engineer of the Monument, submitting with his resignation a report of the operations he had conducted, together with an account of his receipts and expenditures. He was thanked in a resolution "for the faithful, efficient, and patriotic manner in which he has

discharged the duties as Engineer of the Monument and originator and superintendent of post-office contributions."

In his report Lieutenant Ives stated:

"I am still of opinion that if the plan could have had, as I at first supposed it would, the direct aid of the Postmaster-General, a great majority, if not all, of the postmasters would have united in it, and that it would have insured in a few years a sufficient sum to complete the work. Without that aid I have been unable to secure the co-operation of a sufficient number to accomplish the work."

A general appeal was now issued, requesting contributions at the polls at the Presidential election to occur November 6th, following. The success of this effort was marked and peculiar. From the State of California was realized \$10,962.01; Prince George County, Md., \$3.63; St. Louis, Mo., \$54.20. No other receipts are reported. Other contributions during this year were \$290 from employees of the Panama Railroad; \$25.80 from the Post-Office Department; \$807.45 from the box at the Monument, and \$413.55 from one maintained at the Patent Office. The total of all collections reported being for the year \$6,026.22; expenditures, \$3,514.32. The California collections were paid over in the following year. [80]

The expenditures were charged to the erection of new buildings on the Monument grounds and the necessary repair of others, reorganizing the plant, and the costs of collections, no salary being paid except to a watchman.

Improvements made were thus noticed in a daily paper:

"The place has been placed in such a condition that all the Board wants now in order to resume the work of erection is funds."

To an appeal issued asking contributions to be made on February 23, 1861, but one response was reported.

March 26, 1861, an appeal was addressed "To the people and postmasters," reciting:

"In consequence of the great falling off in post-office contributions, ascribable chiefly to the troubles of the times and the usual change on the advent of a new administration, the undersigned deem it proper to again appeal to the patriotism of the people and postmasters. They therefore respectfully request out-going postmasters to commend the system to their successors and the incoming to imitate the laudable example of their predecessors, and in cases where the latter have not responded and put up boxes to have them erected and forward contributions, however small." [81]

In response to this appeal the amount reported through the post-office for the entire year amounted to only \$88.52, of which Rhode Island sent 75 cents, Virginia 48 cents, and Mississippi 15 cents.

A memorial by the Society addressed to Congress, briefly reviewing the history of the Monument, giving an account of the Society's transactions, and asking the aid of Congress in the premises, was adversely reported upon by the Committee on the District of Columbia. A minority report by Mr. Hughes, from the same committee, to accompany a bill H. R. 769, among other statements, after referring to the report of the Select Committee of the House made in 1855, recited:

"Your committee find no reason for dissenting from the views unanimously taken by the select committee in the report already cited. We cannot but regard the proceedings adopted by Congress shortly after the death of Washington as pledging the public faith to the erection of a suitable monument to his memory. It cannot be doubted that the pledge was given in full consonance with the feelings and wishes of the whole country. Whatever may be said to excuse or explain the delay which has been suffered in redeeming the pledge, the contributions of nearly a quarter of a million of dollars which individual citizens have already made towards erecting a monument to the father of his country, abundantly shows that its completion is an object dear to the hearts of the people. They cannot understand why the universal custom of free States in all ages of the world, to commemorate by monumental representations deeds of patriotism and glory, has so long been disregarded in the instance of the noblest of all national benefactors." [82]

"Your committee recommend that the sum of \$200,000 be appropriated by Congress, on behalf of the people of the United States, to aid the memorialists in completing the Monument to Washington now in the process of erection at the seat of the Federal Government. But they are of opinion that this amount ought to be disbursed in annual sums of \$20,000 for each fiscal year; that each annual installment be paid to the Treasurer of the Society, on a joint warrant, to be signed by the chairmen of the committees of the two Houses of Congress for the District of Columbia; and that the accounts of disbursements be settled at the Treasury in the usual mode of auditing the accounts of disbursing agents. We report herewith a bill accordingly."

The recommendations of this report, however, were not adopted.

The reported collections for the year 1861 were \$9,917.64, of which amount \$9,000 was the contributions collected in California in November, 1860; the balance, \$424.08, was collected at the Monument, \$70.02 in the box at the Patent Office, and \$298.33 paid by the Ladies' Washington Monument Society. [83]

The funds the Society had now secured—about \$12,000 net over necessary expense incurred—was invested in good interest-bearing stocks. The change in the national administration and changes in the reorganization of the Post-Office Department demoralized the plan to secure collections through the medium of local post-offices, and it was shortly discontinued.

The funds of the Society were now but little augmented for a number of years, the only moneys received being deposits of small amounts in boxes placed for the purpose at the Monument grounds, in the United States Patent Office, and in the Smithsonian Institute. At no time did the sums thus received aggregate more than \$700 per annum (1867), the average being far less.

The paralyzing influences of the Civil War put a blight upon any further labors of the Society to accomplish the long-cherished object of erecting, on behalf of the people, a national monument to Washington, and public interest and attention being absorbed in more momentous questions, the erection of the Monument was all but forgotten. To the pen and to the patriotic devotion of the learned and scholarly Secretary, Mr. John Carroll Brent, is due what little public notice the Monument obtained during the years of strife.

At the meeting on the 22d of February, 1866, for election of officers, there was a large attendance. The President of the United States, Mr. Andrew Johnson, presided. Replying to some remarks of welcome, he said: [84]

"GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSOCIATION: It is no ordinary pleasure to me to have it in my power to meet you here on this occasion and participate in your proceedings, intended to resume and progress in the completion of a monument, if I may speak the language of his eulogist, to him who was 'the first in war, the first in peace, and the first in the hearts of his countrymen.'

"I repeat, it is no ordinary pleasure to me to meet you here on this occasion, on the birthday of the Father of his Country, and participate with you in your efforts to complete the Monument intended to commemorate his name. \* \* \* I hope and trust the work will soon be completed. I hope and trust if there are any States which have not yet contributed and placed their pledges in that Monument of the Union bearing their inscription, it will go on until all the States have done so. I will here remark, it will continue to go on notwithstanding we have disturbed relations of some of the States to the Federal Government; that it will continue to go on until those relations are harmonized and our Union again be complete. Let us *restore the Union*, and let us proceed with the Monument as *its* symbol until it shall contain the pledge of *all* the States of the Union. Let us go on with this great work; let us complete it at the earliest moment practicable; let your Monument rise—if I may speak in the language of that celebrated and distinguished statesman who made the greatest effort of his life in vindication of the Union of these States—'let this Monument to Washington rise higher and higher until it shall meet the sun in his coming, and his last parting ray shall linger and play on its summit.' [85]

"I thank you, gentlemen, for the compliment you have conferred upon me in inviting me to attend on this, the birthday of the Father of his Country, to participate in your proceedings, and I hope and trust your efforts will be crowned with success."

Little progress, however, was made toward resuming work on the Monument in this year. The receipts from all sources, chiefly at the Monument and Patent Office, and accrued interest, amounted to only \$1,281.06. Early in 1867 the Society again memorialized Congress, as on former occasions.

July 17th, Mr. Driggs, in the House, offered a preamble and resolution, which was adopted, reciting that the Society "had been in existence twenty years without having accomplished anything beyond the partial erection of a square column on the public grounds; that large sums of money had been collected, and that collections are still continued in the *Patent Office* and other buildings, and directing the Secretary of the Interior to inform the House what became of the money collected *in the Patent Office* and as to the present condition of the Association."

The memorial was referred to a committee of the House, and there filed. [86]

On the following day the Secretary replied to the House with the information requested, showing present resources of the Society, disposition of its funds, current expenses, present condition and purposes.

March 26, 1869, Mr. Nye (Nevada), in the Senate, introduced—

"A bill to insure the completion of the Washington Monument."

The preamble recited, in part—

"Whereas the Monument proposed to be erected in the City of Washington in memory of George Washington, the Father of his Country, has been shamefully

neglected and is now incompleated, with no prospect of its being finished at all for want of means; and whereas the Government is so deeply in debt in consequence of our late international war that there is no prospect of an appropriation for the completion of said Monument, and there is now, as there always has been, a general, even a national, desire, on the part of the people of the United States to complete this great work as originally designed for the credit of this country and the national respect for our heroic dead; and whereas a number of citizens propose that in case certain privileges are granted them by the National Congress *to complete* said Monument *within twenty-one years* from the passage of this act, and that one hundred thousand dollars shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States within two years from the date hereof, and a like amount per annum until the expiration of this act," &c.

[87]

The bill provided "that A. T. Stewart, C. Vanderbilt," and other persons named, "*as per agreement*, dated March 14, 1869, executed by Charles P. Briton and Charles B. Phillips, &c., are hereby created a body corporate and politic under the name and style of the *Washington Monument Union* for the purpose of devising ways and means for completion of said Monument."

It was further provided that the said Union could hold and convey property "and issue certificates of subscription, which shall entitle the holders thereof to any consideration that may be awarded by such system, scheme, plan, or means said corporation may devise or adopt, and use such agency as they shall deem necessary to their success." One hundred thousand dollars was to be paid in within two years, and thereafter the same sum *annually*.

April 1, 1869, Mr. Osborne offered a somewhat similar bill, which was also referred, but having other incorporators, who were to "have the right, privilege, and franchise of devising such ways and means as they may desire for the distribution of money or property for the term of twenty years from the date of the passage of this act."

Precedent to the exercise of these rights a bond should be given the United States in penalty of \$100,000 to pay into its Treasury within two years a like sum, and such sum every year thereafter for twenty years the first \$200,000 to be subject to the order of the Lincoln Monument Association, the balance to be subject to the order of the Washington Monument Association.

[88]

These schemes for completing the Monument, however, went no further.

Not until 1871 did the Society feel encouraged to again issue a general appeal to the public.

February 22, 1871, the Society resolved to offer through the public press the following propositions, either of which, when accepted, by the required donation should be a contract between the donor and the Society: The name of any person, corporation, or society contributing the sum of \$5,000 or more to the Monument fund shall be perpetuated by inscription on a block in the Monument, to be prepared by the Society for that purpose. The names of *all* persons, corporations, or societies contributing the sum of \$2,500 or more and *less* than \$5,000 shall be included in a list, and such list shall be inscribed on a *block* or blocks in the Monument, to be prepared by the Society for that purpose. The names of all persons, corporations, or societies contributing \$1,000 or more and less than \$2,500 to be inscribed on a tablet to be erected in the Monument. Any person or body contributing \$100 and less than \$1,000 to be recorded on a list, and such list kept perpetually in the archives of the Society.

Mr. John S. Benson was appointed the agent of the Society to place these propositions before the country and to invoke the aid of private citizens and public men; legislatures, municipal bodies, assemblies, and *every form* of organization of the people. Numerous articles in the press called attention to the claims of the Monument.

[89]

The Legislature of New York, April 20, 1871, by a two-thirds vote, appropriated the sum of \$10,000 "as the contribution of the State of New York, to be paid by the Treasurer on the warrant of the Comptroller to the Treasurer of the National Washington Monument Society whenever the Governor shall certify \* \* \* a sufficient sum has been subscribed from other sources to enable the said Society to resume work with a reasonable prospect of completing the obelisk or shaft."

By the second section of the same act the Governor was to transmit copies of it to the Governors of other States, "with a request that they communicate the same to the Legislatures of their respective States."

The New York "Jewish Messenger," of its own account, undertook to raise the necessary funds, and appealed to the Jewish people, and especially the Jewish ladies, to complete the National Washington Monument; "that the Israelites in America should be Americans in every relation of life, and distinct only in their fealty to the faith of their fathers. The Jewesses of America will earn the kindest and most-enduring acknowledgements of America's sons; they will rear a proud monument for themselves in working together for the accomplishment of this national duty."

Receipts this year from collections, chiefly at the Monument, and accrued interest, were \$1,008.

Following the act of New York, the Legislature of Minnesota appropriated, February 27, 1872, the sum of \$1,000 towards the completion of the Monument.

[90]

Also, by act of February 28, 1872, upon the like conditions, the Legislature of the State of New Jersey appropriated the sum of \$3,000 towards the work, which was followed on July 30, 1872, by an act of the State of Connecticut appropriating on the same terms the sum of \$2,000. But these

examples of duty discharged, not less than of patriotism, were not imitated by any other of the State governments.

In February, 1872, a bill was introduced in the House providing that the affairs of the Society should be vested in a board of directors, to consist of five members of the Society and President and Secretary *ex officio*. Any person on payment of \$5.00 to be a member, with all the rights and privileges of incorporators, to vote and hold office, except that of President of the Association. The bill was referred.

The Society once more addressed a memorial to Congress praying a *direct* appropriation might be made towards the completion of the Monument, or that "such action might be had as to the assembled patriotism of the Nation might seem meet."

The memorial was referred in the House of Representatives to the Committee on the District of Columbia, which subsequently reported the subject back, April 19, 1872, recommending that "it be referred to the Committee on Appropriations," and it was so ordered, but no action was taken on the report at this session.

January 27, 1873, a select committee of thirteen was appointed by the House under a resolution adopted to confer with the Society as to the practicability of completing the Monument by the "approaching Centennial." [91]

February 22, 1873, the committee submitted its report, which recommended that \$200,000 be appropriated to aid the Society in its work. The report recited in part—

"The committee have become fully impressed with the belief that the present time is not only opportune for Congressional action in the matter, but that the *honor* of the Nation demands it. \* \* \* "Some question has been made as to the security of the foundations, and the committee caused an examination to be made upon this point. The Chief of Engineers was called upon to detail an officer to make an examination and report. His report is appended hereto, and shows that no perceptible change has taken place since the Monument was raised to its present height. \* \* \*

\* \* \* "An opinion has also obtained some credence that the funds of the Society, though considerably increased from year to year, are absorbed in the payment of sinecures. The committee have had before them *the accounts of the Society from its organization to the present time*. \* \* \* It will there be found that the Society *has no salaried officers connected with it*. Their services have been gratuitous, and they are much to be commended for their faithfulness and their patriotic zeal in this great work. There are less than fourteen thousand dollars, funds of the Society, in the hands of the Treasurer, most of which are invested in interest-bearing securities." [92]

It was estimated that \$700,000 would be required to finish the shaft, constructing also a suitable base, and that the work might be completed by the 4th of July, 1876.

The report concluded:

"In considering the question as to what action Congress shall take in this matter, three views are presented: First, Shall the responsibility for the completion of the Monument rest wholly upon the efforts of the Monument Society? Second, Shall Congress assume the entire responsibility, and to that end repeal the charter of the Society? Third, Shall Congress aid the Society by an appropriation, leaving it to continue its efforts to raise funds for the completion of the Monument?

"As to the first, the committee find that the Society has made *every reasonable effort* to revive public interest and to secure subscriptions, but its efforts have failed and will *continue* to fail without *some expression of confidence on the part of Congress* in the form of material aid.

"As to the second view, the committee are unwilling to recommend the disbandment of an association which has already done so much, and is still willing to continue its patriotic efforts to redeem the plighted faith of the Nation.

"The committee have taken the third view—that of recommending an appropriation by Congress and of the continuation of the Society for the purpose of soliciting further subscriptions under the original idea upon which it started." \* \* \* [93]

The present consideration of the report, however, was postponed until the following "Wednesday, at two o'clock," and made a special order. But on the appointed day the committee failed to secure recognition, and not obtaining the floor at any time during the remainder of the session, addressed a letter to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate asking an amendment to the sundry civil appropriation act of \$200,000, to be expended as provided in the bill it had reported to the House. But Congress adjourned without action on the report.

At the next session the select committee of the last Congress was reappointed, and on May 1, 1874, submitted a report comprehending its former one, and to which was appended a transcript of the complete accounts of the Society. The report concurred with prior ones in Congress,

commending the Society's past management and efforts to erect the Monument.

A report by Lieut. W. L. Marshall, Corps of Engineers, bearing on the sufficiency of the foundations to support the Monument at a height of 600 feet was also submitted as a part of the committee's report, Lieutenant Marshall making his report as a result of a request preferred by the chairman of the select committee to the Chief of Engineers, U.S.A. It was stated by Lieutenant Marshall:

"It seems inadvisable to complete the Washington Monument to the full height of 600 feet. The area covered by its foundations is too small for a structure of the proposed dimensions and weight, causing an excessive pressure upon a soil not wholly incompressible." [94]

And he recommended the height be less than 500 feet.

The committee's report recommended the passage of a joint resolution "that it is the duty of Congress to provide by a sufficient appropriation for the completion of the unfinished Washington Monument, at Washington City, by the 4th of July, 1876, the one hundredth anniversary of American Independence."

The report was ordered printed, and recommitted to the select committee on the Washington Monument. No further action was had on the report before the adjournment of Congress.

Abandoning hope that Congress would aid in the resumption of work on the Monument that it might be under way by the "Centennial year," the Society proceeded to appeal to the country. Mr. Frederick L. Harvey, Sr., was appointed its General Agent, and charged with the execution of a plan he had proposed and which the Society had adopted. This plan was to appeal to all organized bodies and associations in the country to make a "contingent" contribution of funds towards building the Monument, one-half to be payable to the Treasurer of the Society on official advice that the total sum estimated to be required, \$500,000, had been subscribed, the balance to become payable in equal installments from six to twelve months later. The interest of the country was to be aroused by frequent articles in the daily press and by lectures. Contributions to be sought also from churches and schools and by placing contribution boxes in the exhibition buildings on the Centennial Exposition grounds, in the City of Philadelphia, when opened. [95]

Mr. Harvey proceeded most actively and energetically to execute the plan. The press of Washington and elsewhere earnestly commended the work and urged contributions.

Rev. Dr. Otis Tiffany, an eloquent pulpit orator, was commissioned to visit the larger cities of the country and deliver an address on the life and character of Washington, and this gentleman spoke in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, and other cities, thus helping to awaken public attention to the Monument.

President Grant and his Cabinet attended the lecture in Baltimore, going from Washington.

Between July and September, 1874, over two hundred pledges were received by the Society from organizations in every part of the country, chiefly, however, from the Masonic Order, Odd-Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Red Men, Temperance, and other fraternal bodies. Subscriptions ranged from five to fifty dollars each. Circular letters were prepared and sent directly to the executive officers of all organizations. Interest seemed once more aroused in the completion of the Monument, the contingent subscriptions continuing to be made. [96]

February 22, 1875, the Society adopted an address to the country, which, referring to the plan of contingent contributions payable direct to its Treasurer, continued:

"The result of their first appeal in this direction has been such as to strengthen their faith. \* \* \* The organizations which have been thus far reached have responded with subscriptions which, if generally and promptly emulated in amount by kindred institutions throughout the land, would secure the completion of the structure during the Jubilee Year. Had their recent appeal fallen dead upon the country and yielded no fruits, they would have been inclined to despair of ever reaching success in the great undertaking so long entrusted to their care."

A special letter to the railway and banking corporations embodying the "contingent" plan produced many substantial subscriptions.

In June, 1876, the Society published a further appeal, signed by its officers, U. S. Grant, *ex officio* President; W. W. Corcoran, First Vice-President; Robert C. Winthrop, Second Vice-President; J. B. H. Smith, Treasurer, and John B. Blake, Secretary, requesting collections in churches and Sunday schools throughout the country on the 2d of July following. This appeal was endorsed and signed by the pastors of the different religious denominations in the City of Washington. Application to the management of the Centennial Exposition to place contribution boxes for the Monument in the Exposition buildings was denied; but permission having been granted by proper authority, boxes were placed in the State buildings on the Exposition grounds in June, 1876. By the prosecution of this plan some \$90,000 had been contingently subscribed when the inflow of subscriptions was arrested by unexpected action by Congress in the matter. The "contingent" plan had been one of the most successful the Society had ever pursued, and had given every assurance of final success. [97]

Deferring to the opinion of Lieutenant Marshall the height of the Monument was reduced to 485

feet.

While pursuing its "contingent" plan of contributions, February 3, 1876, the Society appointed a special committee, composed of Rear Admiral Levin M. Powell (chairman), Hon. Walter S. Cox, Dr. John B. Blake, Dr. Charles F. Stansbury, and Fred D. Stuart, to prepare and present to Congress a memorial praying an appropriation in aid of its efforts as a contribution toward completing the Monument.

February 6, 1876, Hon. George F. Edmunds offered in the Senate the following resolution, which was considered by unanimous consent, agreed to, and referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds:

*"Resolved*, That the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds be, and it is hereby, instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an adequate provision for the speedy completion of the Washington Monument in the City of Washington, and that it have leave to report by bill or otherwise."

February 10, 1876, Mr. Edmunds laid before the Senate a memorial of the Society, presented by its committee, which was read and referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds. [98]

It being understood that plans were suggested in some quarters looking to a demolition of the uncompleted Monument, and the use of the materials of it in the construction of a different style of monument to Washington, at a meeting of the Society on March 30, 1876, among other things, it was resolved "that all idea of surrendering the character of the Monument or allowing the structure, as far as completed, to be taken down, should be positively and emphatically disavowed."

In view of the resolution of the Senate of February 6th, the chairman of its Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds received plans for changing the Monument to a Lombard Tower, and for erecting an arch of its materials. But the committee made no report.

### ACT OF AUGUST 2, 1876.

On the 5th of July, 1876, Hon. John Sherman, of Ohio, offered in the Senate a joint resolution declaring, after an appropriate preamble, that the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled, "in the name of the people of the United States, at the beginning of the second century of the national existence, do assume and direct the completion of the Washington Monument, in the City of Washington." This resolution was unanimously adopted in both Houses of Congress.

On July 22d, the Senate passed a bill appropriating \$100,000, "to continue the construction of the Washington Monument in the City of Washington." [99]

In the debate in the Senate there was some criticism of the design of the Monument as an obelisk, and preference was expressed for some other form of Monument.

It was said by Senator Bayard:

"I do not believe that the impression we desire to produce upon them (the people) will in any degree be assisted by the continuance of such a blot upon architecture, as I must consider this obelisk which stands here half-shorn of its height."

It was remarked by Mr. Sherman:

"I think it is the misfortune now of this Washington Monument that it has been talked of in Congress for one hundred years. We have made promise after promise, and the very moment we come to do anything like the execution of the promise we are met by these delays."

The question of the sufficiency of the foundation of the Monument was also raised, resulting in adding a section to the bill providing for an examination of the foundation before commencing work on the Monument, and if the same should be found insufficient no work to be done until the matter was reported to Congress.

The bill also provided that before the expenditure of any of the appropriation the Society should transfer and convey to the United States, in due form, all the property, rights, and privileges belonging to it in the Monument. [100]

The construction of the Monument was placed under a joint commission consisting of the President of the United States, the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, and the Architect of the Capitol.

In the House of Representatives the bill was referred, on July 24th, to the Committee on Appropriations, and reported back by Mr. Foster, of Ohio, on July 27th, with amendments. As amended, the bill provided for an appropriation of \$200,000, payable in four equal annual installments, to continue the construction of the Washington Monument, "and provided that nothing in the bill should be 'so construed as to prohibit the Society' from continuing its organization for the purpose of soliciting money and material from the States, associations, and the people in aid of the completion of the Monument, and acting in an advisory and co-operative



capacity with the Commissioners hereinafter named until the completion and dedication of the same."

The Joint Commission was increased from the three members provided by the Senate to five by adding to it the "Chief of Engineers of the United States Army and the First Vice-President of the Washington National Monument Society."

It was explained by Mr. Foster that the sum had been raised to \$200,000, with an annual expenditure of it of \$50,000, and the Society continued; "because we hope by continuing the Society in existence they can raise from the people the balance of the sum needed, and as it will take at least four years to complete the Monument." He further remarked: "This puts the appropriation of \$200,000 in the form of a donation, while at the same time it secures to the United States all the property and rights of every name and nature of the Society. \* \* The present purpose is to complete the Monument within live years," and to dedicate it "October 19, 1881, being the centennial of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, the last 'great act of Washington's' military career, and the closing act of the war."

[101]

In considering the bill, several amendments were adopted at the instance of Mr. Holman, of Indiana, and other members.

The bill passed the House July 27th, and as amended, was passed by the Senate the next day and was approved by President Grant on the 2d of August, 1876.

September 7, 1876, the Society adopted and issued an appeal "To the People of the United States," which was signed by its Secretary, John B. Blake.

After referring to the act of Congress appropriating \$200,000 to aid in the completion of the Monument, the appeal recited:

"The occasion is deemed a fitting one to address the citizens of the United States upon that subject, and to exhort them, in the name of patriotism, not for a moment, on that account, to relax their efforts to hasten the accomplishment of that long delayed but much desired result."

No response, however, was had from the appeal. The country evidently now looked to Congress to assume the whole amount required to finish the Monument.

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January 19, 1877. Mr. W. W. Corcoran and Dr. John B. Blake, as officers of the Society, conveyed by deed to the United States the property referred to in the act of August 2, 1876, which deed was duly recorded in the land records of the District of Columbia.

Of the funds in the possession of the Society was later erected the memorial building on the Monument grounds for the office of the custodian, the deposit of the Society's archives, and for the accommodation of the visitor.

The relations of the Society to the Monument were now limited as provided in the law. Such States as had omitted providing memorial blocks to represent them in the Monument had their attention called to the omission and supplied them.

In accordance with the proviso in the act of Congress the foundations of the Monument were examined. The board of officers detailed from the Engineer Corps of the Army by the President to make the examination reported adversely as to their sufficiency to sustain the weight of the Monument at its proposed height, and the matter was reported to Congress.

Under authority of joint resolutions of Congress of June 14, 1878, and June 27, 1879, authorizing it, the foundations were strengthened.

This difficult work was successfully accomplished by the eminent engineer, Lieut.-Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey (later Brigadier-General), Corps of Engineers, who had been detailed by the President, at the request of the Joint Commission, as engineer officer in charge of the construction of the Monument. Capt. George W. Davis, U. S. A., was detailed as Assistant Engineer. He had been recommended and endorsed for the position of engineer in charge by the Society. Later, Mr. Bernard R. Green, C. E., also acted as assistant to Colonel Casey.

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Many important features of the work performed emanated from suggestions made and worked out by these officers, and which were adopted. To Captain Davis was assigned the duty of observing and superintending the execution of the details of construction as the work progressed and the performance of the contracts for materials. The immediate direction of work and workmen on the grounds was the duty of the master mechanic, Mr. P. H. McLaughlin. To Mr. Green is to be ascribed the conception and working out of the plans for placing the pyramidion or top on the shaft, plans adopted by the Engineer-in-Charge and approved by the Joint Commission.

The detail plans of construction were drawn by Mr. Gustav Friebus, of Washington, D. C., an architect employed in the office of the Engineer-in-Charge, and under his direction.

The work of strengthening the foundations approaching completion, the fact was reported to Congress by the Joint Commission, and an appropriation recommended to begin and continue the erection of the shaft.

In support of this recommendation, and to secure adherence to the original plan of a simple obelisk and to meet the objections frequently raised, both in and out of Congress as to that form

[104]

of monument, the Society, after some correspondence with Colonel Casey, at a meeting held on the 1st of April, 1880, appointed the following committee "to take charge of the interests of the Monument before Congress:" Robert C. Winthrop, Joseph M. Toner, James G. Berret, Horatio King, John B. Blake, and Daniel B. Clarke.

This committee carefully prepared a memorial, addressed to Congress, which was adopted at a special meeting of the Society on the 26th of April, 1880. The memorial was presented to Congress by the committee on the 20th of April, 1880, referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia, and ordered printed. The memorial recited, in part:

"The undersigned are not unmindful that strong efforts have been made of late to throw discredit on the design of the Monument, and that various plans have been presented for changing the character of the structure. Nor has the Association, which the undersigned have the honor to represent, ever been unwilling that such modifications of the design should be made as should be found necessary for the absolute security of the work. With this view they gave formal expression a year ago to their acquiescence in the general plans of the accomplished American artist, Mr. Story, who had kindly given his attention to the subject: but now that the strengthening of the foundation has been successfully and triumphantly accomplished by a signal application of skill and science, they cannot forbear front making a respectful but urgent appeal to Congress to give their final sanction to the prosecution and completion of the work without more delay according to the plans recommended by the commissioners appointed by Congress with the President of the United States at their head and by the engineer under their direction. Any other course, they are convinced, would be likely to postpone the completion of the Monument for another generation, to involve the whole subject in continued perplexity, and to necessitate vastly larger appropriations in the end than have now been asked for. \* \* \*

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"It has been objected in some quarters that the ancient obelisks were all monolithic—massive single stones, cut whole from the quarry; but our country has been proud to give examples of both political and material structures which owe their strength to union; and this Monument to Washington will not be the less significant or stately from embodying the idea of our national motto, '*E pluribus unum.*'

\* \* \* \* \*

"Something more original and more ornate might have been conceived at the outset or might now be designed, but there are abundant fields for the exhibition of advanced art in other parts of the country, if not here. This Monument and its design will date back to the time of its inception, and will make no pretensions to illustrate the arts of 1880. It was not undertaken to illustrate the fine arts of any period, but to commemorate the foremost man of all ages. Indeed, it will date back in its form and in its proportions to a remote antiquity. It is a most interesting fact communicated to us in the letters, hereto appended, of our accomplished American minister at Rome, the Hon. George P. Marsh, as the result of his own researches, that the proportions of this Monument, as now designed, are precisely those of all the best-known Egyptian obelisks. The height of those monuments is ascertained by him to have been uniformly and almost precisely ten times the dimensions of the base, and *this proportion* has now been decided on for our own Monument to Washington, the measurements of the base being fifty-five feet, and projected elevation five hundred and fifty feet. \* \* \* It seems to the undersigned sufficient respectfully to suggest that the question before Congress at this moment is not whether the original plans might not have been improved to advantage, but whether this long-delayed work shall be finished within any reasonable period or be left still longer as a subject for competition among designers and constructors.

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\* \* \* \* \*

"By the adoption of the recommendations of the Commissioners and Engineer the work may be completed within the next four years. \* \* \* While the structure would make no appeal to a close and critical inspection as a mere work of art, it would give a crowning finish to the grand public buildings of the Capital, would add a unique feature to the surrounding landscape, and would attract the admiring gaze of the most distant observers in the wide range over which it would be visible. It would be eminently a monument for the appreciation of the many, if not of the few, and would thus verify the designation originally given it, of 'The People's Monument to their most illustrious Benefactor.'"

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In a letter to the chairman of the committee of the Society by Colonel Casey, dated April 19, 1887, he stated:

"The base of the Monument is 55 feet square, the top will be 34 feet 6 inches square, and it will be crowned with a pyramidion, or roof, 50 feet in height. The proportions of the parts of this obelisk are in exact accordance with the classic proportions of parts of this style of architecture, as determined after careful research by the Hon. George P. Marsh, American Minister at Rome."

The recommendations of the Joint Commission, of the Engineer, Colonel Casey, and of the Society, as to plan and proportions of the shaft, were happily sustained.

The prediction in the Society's last memorial to Congress was fully realized in the completed Monument, which has ever since attracted "the admiring gaze of the most distant observers in the wide range over which it is visible." None are found to regret the form of the Monument, which was firmly adhered to as most fitting to perpetuate the name and fame of Washington.

Congress making the required annual appropriation for the purpose, the work proceeded and the Monument was finally completed on the 6th of December, 1884, on which day its capstone was set in place. [108]

By joint resolution of Congress, approved May 13, 1884, a commission was created, consisting of five Senators, eight Representatives, and three members of the Washington National Monument Society to make arrangements for the dedication of the Monument. The following persons composed the Commission:

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,  
Hon. JUSTIN S. MORRILL,  
Hon. WILLIAM B. ALLISON,  
Hon. THOMAS F. BAYARD,  
Hon. LUCIUS Q. C. LAMAR,  
Hon. WILLIAM DORSHEIMER,  
Hon. JOHN RANDOLPH TUCKER,  
Hon. JOHN H. REGAN,  
Hon. PATRICK COLLINS,  
Hon. NATHANIEL B. ELDREDGE,  
Hon. HENRY H. BINGHAM,  
Hon. JOSEPH G. CANNON,  
Hon. JAMES LAIRD, AND  
Hon. W. W. CORCORAN,  
President JAMES C. WELLING,  
Dr. JOSEPH M. TONER.

Pursuant to the order of proceedings adopted by the Commission the Monument was dedicated on the 21st of February, 1885. The ceremonies, began at the base of the Monument at 11 o'clock, Hon. John Sherman, Chairman of the Commission, presided. After music, prayer by the Rev. Mr. Suter, of Christ Church, Alexandria, Va.; an address prepared by W. W. Corcoran, the First Vice-President of the Washington National Monument Society, read by Dr. James C. Welling, Mr. Corcoran being unable to attend; Masonic ceremonies by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, Grand Master Myron M. Parker; remarks by Col. Thomas L. Casey, the Engineer of the Joint Commission, delivering the Monument to the President of the United States, the Monument was dedicated by the President of the United States, Chester A. Arthur, in the following words: [109]

"FELLOW COUNTRYMEN: Before the dawn of the century whose eventful years will soon have faded into the past—when death had but lately robbed this Republic of its most beloved and illustrious citizen—the Congress of the United States pledged the faith of the Nation that in this city, bearing his honored name, and then, as now, the seat of the General Government, a monument should be erected to commemorate the great events of his military and political life.

"The stately column that stretches heavenward front the plain whereon we stand bears witness to all who behold it that the covenant which our fathers made, their children have fulfilled.

"In the completion of this great work of patriotic endeavor there is abundant cause for national rejoicing; for while this structure shall endure it shall be to all mankind a steadfast token of the affectionate and reverent regard in which this people continue to hold the memory of Washington. Well may he ever keep the foremost place in the hearts of his countrymen. [110]

"The faith that never faltered; the wisdom that was broader and deeper than any learning taught in schools; the courage that shrank from no peril and was dismayed by no defeat; the loyalty that kept all selfish purpose subordinate to the demands of patriotism and honor; the sagacity that displayed itself in camp and cabinet alike; and, above all, that harmonious union of moral and intellectual qualities which has never found its parallel among men—these are the attributes of character which the intelligent thought of this century ascribes to the grandest figure of the last.

"But other and more eloquent lips than mine will to-day rehearse to you the story of his noble life and its glorious achievements.

"To myself has been assigned a simpler and more formal duty, in fulfillment of which I do now, as President of the United States and in behalf of the people, receive this Monument from the hands of its builder, and declare it dedicated from this time forth to the immortal name and memory of George Washington."

The proceedings occurred in the presence of a great concourse of citizens and visitors from all parts of the country. The day was clear and cold, and a light fall of snow covered the earth.

The procession to the Capitol, comprising a military escort, embracing the regular forces of the Army and Navy and visiting military bodies and a civic division, under command of Lieut.-Gen. P. H. Sheridan, marshal of the day, was imposing. [111]

The proceedings arranged in the hall of the House of Representatives occurred in the presence of the President of the United States and his Cabinet, the assembled Congress, the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, Governors of States, Foreign Ambassadors and Ministers, official heads in the Departments of the Government, municipal officers of Washington, judges, distinguished officers of the Army and Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Militia, scientists, journalists, scholars of distinction, and many other invited guests of prominence. Among those present were descendants of the family of Washington, and of his friends and neighbors.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. S. A. Wallis, of Pohick Church, near Mount Vernon, Va. An oration by Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, of Massachusetts, was read by Hon. John D. Long, a Representative from Massachusetts. Music by the United States marine band was followed by an eloquent oration by the Hon. John W. Daniel, of Virginia.

The benediction was pronounced by the Rev. John A. Lindsay, Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

The resolution of Congress of 1799 was at last fulfilled. The efforts of the Washington National Monument Society were realized, and the American people beheld the consummation of their desire—a great National Monument erected at the seat of the Federal Government to the name and memory of George Washington. [112]

A provision in the sundry civil bill, approved October 2, 1888, dissolved the Joint Commission, and placed the Monument "in the custody, care, and protection" of the Secretary of War, and "continued" the Washington National Monument Society "with the same powers as provided in the act of August 2, 1876, creating the Joint Commission."

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## APPENDIX.

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### ROLL OF THE Washington National Monument Society.

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|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chief Justice John Marshall. | Thomas Blagden.            |
| Ex-President James Madison.  | John Carroll Brent.        |
| Hon. Roger C. Weightman.     | Col. James Kearney.        |
| Com. John Rodgers.           | Hon. Elisha Whittlesey.    |
| Gen. Thomas S. Jessup.       | Hon. W. W. Seaton.         |
| Col. George Bomford.         | J. Bayard H. Smith.        |
| Matthew St. Claire Clarke.   | Hon. W. W. Corcoran.       |
| Samuel Harrison Smith.       | John P. Ingle.             |
| John McClelland.             | James Mandeville Carlisle. |
| Judge William Cranch.        | Dr. John B. Blake.         |
| Hon. William Brent.          | Dr. William Jones.         |
| George Watterston.           | William L. Hodge.          |
| Col. Nathan Towson.          | Dr. James C. Hall.         |
| Gen. Archibald Henderson.    | William B. Todd.           |
| Thomas Munroe.               | Hon. James Dunlop.         |
| Hon. Thomas Carbery.         | Gen. U. S. Grant.          |
| Hom. Peter Force.            | George W. Riggs.           |
| Hon. John P. Van Ness.       | Hon. Henry D. Cooke.       |
| William Ingle.               | Hon. Peter G. Washington.  |
| William L. Brent.            | William J. McDonald.       |
| Gen. Alexander McComb.       | Hon. John M. Broadhead.    |
| John J. Abert.               | Gen. William T. Sherman.   |
| Philip R. Fendall.           | Dr. Charles H. Nicols.     |

Maj.-Gen. Winfield Scott.  
John Carter.  
Gen. Walter Jones.  
Hon. Walter Lenox.  
T. Hartley Crawford.  
Com. M. F. Maury.  
Benj. Ogle Tayloe.  
Edward Clark.  
Hon. Walter S. Cox.  
Rear-Admiral Levin M. Powell.  
Dr. Charles F. Stansbury.  
Fred D. Stuart.  
Hon. Robert C. Winthrop.  
  
Professor Joseph Henry.  
Gen. William McKee Dunn.  
John C. Harkness.  
Hon. Horatio King.  
Dr. Daniel B. Clarke.  
Hon. George W. McCrary.  
Dr. Joseph M. Toner.  
President James C. Welling.  
Hon. George Bancroft.  
Rear-Adm'l C. R. P. Rodgers.  
Hon. Hugh McCulloch.  
Hon. John Sherman.  
Hon. William Strong.  
Hon. Arthur McArthur.  
Brig.-Gen. Thos. Lincoln Casey.

David A. Watterston.  
Hon. Alexander R. Shepherd.  
Fitzhugh Coyle.  
Hon. James G. Berret.  
J. C. Kennedy.  
Hon. William A. Richardson.  
Gen. O. E. Babcock.  
Hon. A. R. Spofford.  
Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis.  
Gen. C. C. Augur.  
Professor Asaph Hall.  
Rear-Adm'l S. R. Franklin.  
Dr. Francis M. Gunnell.  
Professor E. M. Gallaudet.  
Hon. Martin F. Morris.  
Hon. George S. Boutwell.  
Samuel H. Kauffmann.  
Maj.-Gen. John M. Schofield.  
Rev. John F. Hurst, D. D.  
Rt. Rev. John J. Keane.  
Hon. Henry B. Brown.  
Hon. William A. Maury.  
Henry A. Willard.  
Charles C. Glover.  
Professor S. D. Langley.  
Frederick L. Harvey.  
R. Ross Perry.

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### GENERAL AGENTS.

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Elisha Whittlesey,   | 1848.         |
| Lieut. J. C. Ives,   | 1859 to 1860. |
| John S. Benson,      | 1870.         |
| Frederick L. Harvey, | 1874 to 1876. |

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### INSCRIPTION

ON

COPPER PLATE COVERING DEPOSIT-RECESS IN THE  
CORNER-STONE OF MONUMENT.

---

4th JULY, 1776.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA.

---

4th JULY, 1848.

THIS CORNER-STONE LAID OF A MONUMENT,  
BY THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE  
MEMORY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON.

---

JAMES K. POLK,  
*President of the United States and Ex-officio President of the Board*

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*of Managers.*  
WILLIAM BRENT, *1st Vice-President.*  
WILLIAM W. SEATON, *Mayor of Washington, 2d Vice-President.*  
GEN'L A. HENDERSON, *3d Vice-President.*  
J. B. H. SMITH, *Treasurer.*  
GEORGE WATTERSTON, *Secretary.*

---

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

MAJOR-GEN'L WINFIELD SCOTT.      PETER FORCE.  
GEN'L N. TOWSON.                      WM. A. BRADLEY.  
COL. J. J. ABERT.                        P. R. FENDALL.  
COL. J. KEARNEY.                        THOMAS MUNROE.  
GEN'L WALTER JONES.                  WALTER LENOX.  
THOMAS CARBERY.                        M. F. MAURY.  
   THOMAS BLAGDEN.  
ELISHA WHITTLESEY, *General Agent.*

---

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

THOMAS CARBERY.                        GEORGE WATTERSTON.  
WILLIAM A. BRADLEY.                  COL. J. J. ABERT.

---

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

GEN'L A. HENDERSON.      WALTER LENOX.      LIEUT. M. F. MAURY.  
   JOSEPH H. BRADLEY, *Chief Marshal.*  
   ROBERT MILLS, *Architect.*

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LIST OF MEMBERS  
OF THE  
JOINT COMMISSION,  
COMPLETION OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

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ACT OF AUGUST 2, 1876.  
(Commission Dissolved October 2, 1888.)

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*Presidents.*

ULYSSES S. GRANT.      JAS. A. GARFIELD.  
R. B. HAYES.                              CHESTER A. ARTHUR.  
   GROVER CLEVELAND.

*Chiefs of Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.*

Brig.-Gen. A. A. HUMPHREYS.      Brig.-Gen. HORATIO WRIGHT.  
Brig.-Gen. JOHN NEWTON.      Brig.-Gen. THOS. L. CASEY (1888).

*Architect of the Capitol.*

EDWARD CLARK.

*Architects of the Treasury.*

JAS. G. HILL.      JOHN FRASER, Acting.      M. E. BELL.

*First Vice-President of Washington National Monument Society.*

W. W. CORCORAN.

*Secretary.*

F. L. HARVEY.

*Engineers in Charge Under Joint Commission.*

Col. THOS. LINCOLN CASEY,      Col. JOHN M. WILSON (1888),

Corps of Engineers.

*Assistants.*

Capt. GEO. W. DAVIS,      BERNARD R. GREEN,  
14th Inf., U. S. A.      Civil Engineer.

*Master Mechanic*—P. H. McLAUGHLIN.

*Chief Clerk*—JAMES B. DUTTON.

*Draftsman*—GUSTAV FRIEBUS.

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## INSCRIPTIONS

[117]

ON THE  
FOUR FACES OF THE ALUMINUM POINT CROWNING  
APEX OF MONUMENT.

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(NORTH FACE.)

JOINT COMMISSION  
AT  
SETTING OF CAP-STONE.

---

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.  
W. W. CORCORAN, *Chairman.*  
M. E. BELL.  
EDWARD CLARK.  
JOHN NEWTON.  
*Act of August 2nd, 1876.*

---

(WEST FACE.)

CORNER-STONE LAID ON BED OF FOUNDATION  
JULY 4, 1848.

---

FIRST STONE AT HEIGHT OF 152 FEET  
LAID  
AUGUST 7, 1880.

---

CAP-STONE SET DECEMBER 6, 1884.

---

(SOUTH FACE.)

CHIEF ENGINEER AND ARCHITECT,  
THOS. LINCOLN CASEY,  
COLONEL CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

*Assistants:*

GEORGE W. DAVIS,  
CAPTAIN 14TH INFANTRY.

BERNARD R. GREEN,  
CIVIL ENGINEER.

---

*Master Mechanic.*  
P. H. McLAUGHLIN.

---

(EAST FACE.)  
LAUS DEO.

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ENGINEER OFFICE WASHINGTON MONUMENT,  
CORNER SEVENTEENTH AND F STREETS,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 19, 1880.*

[118]

Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP,  
*Chairman of Committee of Washington Monument society.*

DEAR SIR: Agreeably to your request that a succinct account of the project for the completion and the condition of the work upon the Washington National Monument should be given your committee, I have the honor, with the sanction of the Joint Commission for the completion of the Monument, to report as follows.

#### ADMINISTRATION.

Under the authority of the act of Congress of August 2, 1876, and joint resolutions of June 14, 1878, and June 27, 1879, the Monument is being constructed under the direction and supervision of a Joint Commission, consisting of the President of the United States, the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, the Architect of the Capitol, the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army, and the First Vice-President of the Washington National Monument Society.

#### PROJECT.

The project or design of the work is an obelisk 550 feet in height, faced with white marble mid hacked with dressed granite rock. Of this structure 156 feet is already finished.

The base of the Monument is 55 feet square, the top will be 34 feet 6 inches square, and it will be crowned with a pyramidion, or roof, 50 feet in height.

The proportions of the parts of this obelisk are in exact accordance with the classic proportions of parts of this style of architecture, as determined after careful research by the Hon. George P. Marsh, American Minister at Rome.

The shaft, as proportioned, both in dimensions and weight, will be entirely stable as against winds that could exert a pressure of one hundred pounds or more per square foot upon any face of the structure.

The project includes the preparation of the foundation so as to enable it to carry this structure. This preparation, or strengthening, consists in making the existing foundation wider and deeper, in order to distribute the weight over a greater area, and in bringing upon each square foot of the earth pressed no greater weight than it is known to be able to sustain.

#### CONDITION OF THE WORK.

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1. *Preparation of foundation.*—This consisted in placing a mass of Portland cement concrete beneath the existing foundation, extending downwards 13-1/2 feet; underneath and within the outer edge of the old foundation 18 feet; and without this edge 23 feet; then, of taking out the old foundation from beneath the shaft, for a sufficient distance back to obtain a good bearing upon the new masonry which is built out upon the slab first mentioned.

This work is so far advanced that it will be entirely completed by the 15th of June.

2. *Preparation for the shaft.*—The other operations have consisted in the erection of the interior frame-work for the staircases and elevator within the shaft, which frame-work will be used in the construction of the masonry; the collection of granite and marble for continuing the shaft; and the preparation of the machinery



for raising the stones to the top of the shaft, and setting them in place on the walls.

#### APPROPRIATIONS.

The only appropriation for this work as yet made by Congress is two hundred thousand dollars, contained in the act of August 2, 1876, which sum will be exhausted by the end of August, 1880.

The estimate for completing this work is \$667,000, and the time required will be four working seasons.

Very respectfully, your ob't servant,

THOS. LINCOLN CASEY,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel Engineers, U.S.A.,*  
*Engineer in Charge.*

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UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 31, 1879.*

DEAR SIR: I inclose, as possibly of interest, extracts from a letter I have just received from Hon. George P. Marsh, our Minister at Rome.

These extracts refer to the Washington Monument question. Mr. Marsh is among the most learned and accomplished of those in any country who have given the subject of architecture and monumental art attention.

Very truly yours,

GEO. F. EDMUNDS.

Gen. T. L. CASEY,  
*Corps of Engineers.*

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[Extracts.]

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ROME, *February 9, 1879.*

DEAR MR. EDMUNDS: By a letter from the sculptor Mead to Mrs. Marsh, I understand that the main feature of the Washington Monument is to be an obelisk of great height, surmounted by a colossal statue, and with *bas-reliefs* at a suitable height from the base. I believe I have not only seen but sketched every existing genuine—that is, Egyptian—obelisk, for no other can fairly said to be genuine. The obelisk is not an arbitrary structure which every one is free to erect with such form and proportions as suit his taste and convenience, but its objects, form, and proportions were fixed by the usage of thousands of years; they satisfy every cultivated eye, and I hold it an esthetical crime to depart from them.

In its objects the obelisk is monumental, its inscriptions having reference to and indicating what or whom it commemorates. I do of think *bas-reliefs* too great a departure from the primitive character the inscriptions, because we can come no nearer an alphabet answering the purpose.

The most important point is the form and proportions of the structure, as to which the modern builder of obelisks transgresses greatly. The Egyptian obelisks do not, indeed, all conform with mathematical exactness to their own normal proportions, but (probably from defects in the stone) frequently vary somewhat from them. When truly fashioned, however, they are more pleasing to the eye than when deviating from the regular shape.

The obelisk consists: First, of a naked shaft, with or without inscription, the height of which is ten times the width of its base, so that if the base of the shaft is fifty feet square, then the height of the shaft must be five hundred feet. For optical reasons (which cannot be considered in the Washington Monument, it being too late) the faces of the shaft are slightly convex.

The dimensions of the shaft are reduced as it rises, and in this point the ancient obelisks vary more than any other, the top of the shaft varying from two-thirds to three-quarters of the linear measurement of the base. Hence, if the base of the shaft (I do not mean of the pedestal or plinth, if there is one) is fifty feet square, its summit may be anywhere between thirty-three and one-third and thirty-seven and one-half feet square. The obelisks much reduced are the most graceful, but in this case the great height will of itself reduce the apparent measurement, so that perhaps thirty-five would not be too much. But the shaft has already gone up so far as to have settled those questions of form irrevocably. Second, of a pyramidion or

[121]

apex, the form and proportions of which are constant. The base of the pyramidion is of exactly the same dimensions as the summit of the shaft, and unites with it directly without any break (except, of course, one angle), and with no ledge, molding, or other disfigurement. The height of the pyramidion is equal to the length of a side of the base of the shaft, and therefore greater than the side of its own base.

There are cases where the hieroglyphics run up one or more faces of the pyramidion, but in general these faces are perfectly plain.

The Egyptians often covered the whole pyramidion with a closely fitted gilt bronze cap, the effect of which most have been magnificent.

It has been said that it was sometimes surmounted by a gilt star, but I doubt this, for the casing of the pyramidion would of itself have much the same effect.

The notion of spitting an the sharp point of the pyramidion is supremely absurd. Not less so is the substitution of a low hipped roof for an acute pyramidion, or the making of a window in the face of the pyramidion or of the shaft, both which atrocities were committed in the Bunker Hill Monument. There will no doubt be people who will be foolish enough to insist on a peep-hole somewhere; and if they must be gratified the window should be of the exact form and size of one of the stones, and provided with a close-fitting shutter colored exactly like the stone, so that when shut it would be nearly or quite imperceptible from below.

\* \* \* \* \*

Yours truly,

GEO. P. MARSH.

Hon. GEO. F. EDMUNDS.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., *May 12, 1879.*

MY DEAR GENERAL: I have received from Mr. Marsh a letter on the subject of the Monument, a copy of which I herewith forward to you, thinking it may interest you.

Yours truly,

GEORGE F. EDMUNDS.

General T. L. CASEY,  
*Corps of Engineers, Washington, D. C.*

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ROME, *April 25, 1879.*

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DEAR MR. EDMUNDS: I am much obliged to you for yours of April 8, with General Casey's letter and the two Congressional documents. I am agreeably surprised to learn from General Casey's interesting letter that the normal proportions have been so early observed hitherto in the construction of the obelisk. In fact, it being difficult to obtain such vast masses of granite rock, even in the quarries of Syene, entirely free from flaws, the Egyptians were very often obliged to depart more or less from the proportions most satisfactory to the eye, and the Washington obelisk conforms so nearly to those proportions, except in two points, that it is hardly subject to criticism. These points are, the batter, which is more rapid than in any obelisk known to me, and the pyramidion. Perhaps the designer adopted the proportions from considerations of stability, as a summit considerably less than the base would give greater security, and when the dimensions are all so great, differences of proportion are less appreciable.

As to the form and proportion of the pyramidion, the existing obelisks are more uniform than in the measurements of the shaft, and I think that, not merely on the ground of precedent but on that of taste, it would be by all means advisable to give to the pyramidion of the Washington obelisk a height of not less than fifty feet. In any case, if the height of the pyramidion is not greater than the side of its base, the summit will have a truncated shape quite out of harmony with the *soaring* character of the structure.

I infer from General Casey's drawings, accompanying Mr. Corcoran's letter, that the plan of a sort of temple-like excrescence from the base—a highly objectionable feature—is abandoned. It is curious that we do not know precisely what the Egyptian form of the base was. Some authorities state it was a die of larger dimensions than the shaft, and with sides battering at the same rate as the shaft,

but I do not find satisfactory evidence that this was by any means universal, though it would certainly be an appropriate and harmonious form. Of course any desirable base can be constructed around the shaft. There are obelisks the surface of which indicates that they were stuccoed, and this suggests that if the shaft of the Washington obelisk shall from time or difference of material be found parti-colored, surface uniformity of tone may be obtained by the same process.

We have no knowledge of any Egyptian obelisk much exceeding one hundred feet in height, though some writers speak of such monuments of considerably greater dimensions. The extreme difficulty of obtaining monoliths exceeding one hundred feet renders it probable that the measurements of the authorities referred to were mere vague estimates rather than ascertained dimensions.

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\* \* \* \* \*

Yours truly,

GEO. P. MARSH.

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BROOKLINE, MASS., *August 1, 1878.*

MY DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 20th ultimo reached me yesterday. I thank you for sending me the copy of Mr. Story's letter, which I have read with great interest. I am only a second vice-president of the Monument Association, and am not included in the commission for completing the work. I had no part or lot in the original design of the Monument. \* \* \* As an original question, I might have desired a different design; and I had no small part in inducing the building committee, many years ago, to omit the pantheon at the base, and to confine the design to a simple obelisk. After that was arranged, and when the Monument had reached so considerable a height, I was very averse to changing the plan. A whole generation of men, women, and children had contributed, in larger or smaller sums, to this particular Monument; and States, cities, and foreign nations had sent stones for its completion.

To tear it all down, with a view to improve the design, was abhorrent to me. Story called to see me when he was in Boston, and I told him that, so far as I was concerned, my first wish was to finish the Monument as a simple obelisk; but that, if a change was unavoidable, owing to any insecurity of the foundations, his idea of turning it into an ornamental Lombard Tower was the best plan I had seen suggested. \* \* \*

I am aware that what is called "advanced art" looks with scorn on anything so simple and bald as an obelisk, more especially when it is made up of a thousand pieces, instead of being a monolith shaft. Yet the Bunker Hill Monument, of which the design was furnished by one of our earliest and best artists, Horatio Greenough, is one of these complete obelisks, and Webster was proud to apostrophize it as "the true orator of the day," when he was pronouncing his own incomparable oration.

I recall other obelisks, at home and abroad, which tell their story most impressively; and when I look around to see what "advanced art" has done for us and done for itself to the myriad soldiers' monuments which have been recently erected, I fall back on the simple shaft as at least not inferior to any one of them in effect and as free from anything tinsel or tawdry.

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A grand arch, which I believe you once proposed, would be a noble monument of our Union, and might well be the subject of independent consideration in season for the centennial of the organization of the Government in 1889. I have repeatedly urged such an arch as commemorative of our Constitutional Union, in Boston. But it would have still greater propriety in Washington. I cannot help hoping, however, that it will be erected with new stones, and without any disturbance of the Washington obelisk.

Pardon me for so long a letter and for so frank an expression of my views.

I have heard nothing on the subject of late from any of the Commissioners or of the Association, but have taken it for granted that the whole matter was decided.

If, however, it is to be reopened, I shall be very glad to see Mr. Story's designs, and to consult with you agreeably to your friendly invitation.

Believe me, dear Mr. Morrill, respectfully and truly,

ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

Hon. JUSTIN S. MORRILL,  
*United States Senator.*

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ACTS OF CONGRESS RELATING TO THE COMPLETION OF  
THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

|                                      |    |           |         |
|--------------------------------------|----|-----------|---------|
| Act of August 2, 1876,               | 19 | Statutes, | p. 123. |
| Joint Resolution, June 14, 1878,     | 20 | "         | p. 254. |
| Joint Resolution, June 27, 1879,     | 21 | "         | p. 54.  |
| Sundry Civil Act, June 16, 1880,     | 21 | "         | p. 268. |
| Sundry Civil Act, March 3, 1881,     | 21 | "         | p. 444. |
| Sundry Civil Act, March 3, 1883,     | 22 | "         | p. 615. |
| Sundry Civil Act, August 9, 1886,    | 24 | "         | p. 245. |
| Sundry Civil Act, February 28, 1887, | 24 | "         | p. 424. |
| Sundry Civil Act, March 3, 1887,     | 24 | "         | p. 509. |
| Sundry Civil Act, October 2, 1888,   | 25 | "         | p. 553. |

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LIST OF BLOCKS

[125]

CONTRIBUTED FOR INSERTION IN THE INTERIOR  
WALLS OF THE MONUMENT.

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|                 |                 |             |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Maine.          | South Carolina. | Michigan.   |
| New Hampshire.  | Georgia.        | Iowa.       |
| Vermont.        | Florida.        | Wisconsin.  |
| Massachusetts.  | Alabama.        | Minnesota.  |
| Connecticut.    | Mississippi.    | Kansas.     |
| Rhode Island.   | Louisiana.      | Nebraska.   |
| New York.       | Texas.          | Wyoming.    |
| Pennsylvania.   | Arkansas.       | Dakota.     |
| New Jersey.     | Tennessee.      | Montana.    |
| Delaware.       | Missouri.       | Utah.       |
| Maryland.       | Kentucky.       | Nevada.     |
| Virginia.       | Ohio.           | California. |
| West Virginia.  | Indiana.        | Oregon.     |
| North Carolina. | Illinois.       |             |

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|         |                      |                  |
|---------|----------------------|------------------|
| Turkey. | Siam.                | Bremen.          |
| Greece. | Brazil.              | Switzerland.     |
| Japan.  | Paros and Naxos, in  | Cherokee Nation. |
| China.  | Grecian Archipelago. | Wales.           |

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CITIES AND TOWNS.

|                   |                    |                        |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| New York City.    | Washington City.   | New Bedford, Mass.     |
| Philadelphia, Pa. | Alexandria, Va.    | Lowell, Mass.          |
| Warren, R. I.     | Frederick, Md.     | Nashville, Tenn.       |
| Boston, Mass.     | Charlestown, Mass. | Newark, N. J.          |
| Baltimore, Md.    | Little Rock, Ark.  | Salem, Mass.           |
| Richmond, Va.     | Durham, N. H.      | City of Roxbury, Mass. |
|                   | Stockton, Cal.     |                        |

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F. A. A. M.

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|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Patmos Lodge, Maryland.  | Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. |
| Grand Lodge of Maryland. | " " Arkansas.                |

|   |   |              |   |   |                                   |
|---|---|--------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| " | " | Ohio.        | " | " | Georgia.                          |
| " | " | Mississippi. | " | " | Dist. of Colum.                   |
| " | " | Kentucky.    |   |   | Subordinate Lodges, Philadelphia. |
| " | " | New York.    |   |   | Roxbury Lodge, Mass.              |
| " | " | Virginia.    |   |   | St. John's Lodge, Richmond, Va.   |
| " | " | Alabama.     |   |   | Washington Naval Lodge, No. 4.    |
| " | " | Tennessee.   |   |   | Arthenia Lodge, Troy, N. Y.       |
| " | " | Florida.     |   |   | Lafayette Lodge, 64, New York.    |

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I. O. O. F.

|                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. | Grand Lodge of Ohio.             |
| " " Mississippi.              | " " United States.               |
| " " Kentucky.                 | " " Maryland.                    |
| " " Indiana.                  | Philadelphia, Penna.             |
| " " Iowa.                     | Eureka Lodge 117, New York City. |
| " " Virginia.                 | Troy, N. Y.                      |
| " " New Jersey.               | Germantown, Penna.               |

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SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

|                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Grand Division of North Carolina. | Grand Division of Ohio. |
| " " Connecticut.                  | " " Rhode Isl'nd.       |
| " " Illinois.                     | Philadelphia, Penna.    |
| " " New Jersey.                   |                         |

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|                                |                                       |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mount Lebanon Lodge, B. B. B.  | American Whig Society.                |
| Washington Naval, A. Y. M.     | Hibernian Society, Baltimore, Md.     |
| Addisonian Literary Society.   | Independent United Order of Brothers. |
| "Cincinnati Commercial, 1850." | Uni'd Amer'n Mechanics, Phila'a.      |
| United Sons America, Penna.    |                                       |

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|                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fire Department, New York City.     | Fire Depart't., Philadelphia, Pa. |
| Invincible Fire Co., Cincinnati, O. | Co. I, 4th U. S. Infantry. 1851.  |
| Washington Light Inft., D. C.       | National Greys, Washington, D. C. |

Continental Guards of New Orleans.  
 First Regiment, Light Infantry, Massachusetts Volunteers.  
 Westmoreland County, Va., Birthplace of Washington.  
 "Braddock's Field."  
 "Battlefield of Long Island." Kings County, 1776.  
 Association of Journeymen Stonecutters, Philadelphia, Penna.  
 "From the Home of Knox—Citizens of Thomaston, Maine."  
 Hawkins County, Tenn.  
 "From Otter's Summit—Virginia's loftiest peak."  
 Oakland College, Miss.  
 General Assembly of Presbyterian Church, Washington, May, 1852.  
 American Institute, New York.  
 "Maryland Pilgrims."  
 German Benevolent Society, Washington, D. C.  
 Columbia Typographical Society, Washington, D. C.  
 "Postmasters and Assistant Postmasters, Indiana, 1852."  
 "Pupils of the Public Schools, Baltimore, Md."  
 Clisophic Society, Nassau Hall, N. J.  
 Wilmington, North Carolina, Thalian Association.  
 Tuscarora Tribe, District of Columbia, I. O. R. M.  
 Anacostia Tribe, No. 3, I. O. R. M.  
 Oldest Inhabitant's Association, Washington, D. C.  
 Young Men's Mercantile Library Association, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
 Mosaic Block—ruins of ancient Carthage.

From Chapel of William Tell, Luzerne, Switzerland.  
Americans residing in Foo-Chow-Foo, China, 1857.  
"From the Temple of Æsculapius, Island of Paros. Presented  
by Officers of U. S. S. Saranac."  
American Medical Society.  
Jefferson Society, University of Virginia.  
Lava—Vesuvius. Geo. Wm. Terrell.  
Pupils Buffalo Public Schools.  
Honesdale, Wayne County, Penna., 1853.  
Citizens of Stockton, San Joaquin County, Cal.  
"From two Disciples of Daguerre," of Philadelphia.  
Children of Sunday Schools, M. E. Church, City of New York.  
Ladies and Gentlemen—Dramatic Profession of America.  
Erina Guard, Newark, N. J.  
Sons of New England in Canada.  
"From Alexandrian Library in Egypt."  
"From Tomb of Napoleon, St. Helena."  
Western Military Institute, Ky.  
Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia.

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## TRANSLATIONS

[128]

### OF THE INSCRIPTIONS ON FOREIGN BLOCKS.

#### TURKEY.

"So as to strengthen the friendship between the two countries, Abdul-Majid Kahn has also had his name written on the Monument to Washington."

These words form a chronogram—"1269-1779 of the Hegira." Above the inscription is a monogram signifying "Abdul-Majid, son of Mahomet Kahn." Upon a lower corner, "Written by the court poet, Mustapha Izyt."

Block is of white marble, highly polished, and ornamental.

#### BREMEN.

"Washington dem Grossen und Gerechten das befreundete Bremen."

(Friendly Bremen to the great and good Washington.)

#### JAPAN.

"Exported from the harbor of Simoda, in the Province of Isu, the fifth month of the year Ansey Tora." [April, 1853.]

#### GREECE.

Block of white marble from ruins of the Parthenon:

"George Washington, the hero, the citizen of the new and illustrious liberty: The land of Solon, Themistocles, and Pericles—the mother of ancient liberty—sends this ancient stone as a testimony of honor and admiration from the Parthenon."

#### CHINA.

"Su-Ki-Yu, by imperial appointment, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Fuh Kun, in his Universal Geography, says:

"It is evident that Washington was a remarkable man. In devising plans he was more decided than Chin-Sing, or Wu-Kang,<sup>[A]</sup> in winning a country, he was braver than Tsau-Tsau or Lin Pi.<sup>[B]</sup> Wielding his four-footed falchion, he extended the frontiers thousands of miles, and then refused to usurp the regal dignity or transmit it to his posterity, but first established rules for an elective administration. Where in the world can be found such a public spirit? Truly, the sentiments of three dynasties have all at once unexpectedly appeared in our day! In ruling the State he promoted and fostered good customs, and did not depend on military merit. In this he differed from all other nations. I have seen his portrait; his air and form are grand and imposing in a remarkable degree. Ah! who would not call him a hero?"

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"The United States of America regard it promotive of national virtue generally and extensively neither to establish titles of nobility and royalty nor to conform to the age, as respects customs and public influence, but instead deliver over their own public deliberations and inventions, so that the like of such a nation—one so remarkable—does not exist in ancient or modern times. Among the people of the Great West, can any man, in ancient or modern times, fail to pronounce

Washington peerless?'

"This stone is presented by a company of Christians and engraved at Ningpo, in the Province of Che Heang, China, this third year of the reign of the Emperor He-en Fung, sixth month and seventh day." [July 12, 1853.]

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## ARTICLES DEPOSITED

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IN

### RECESS IN THE CORNER-STONE OF THE MONUMENT

ON JULY 4, 1848.

Constitution of the United States and Declaration of Independence; presented by Mr. Hickey.

American Constitutions; by W. Patton.

Large design of the Washington National Monument, with the *fac simile* of the names of the Presidents of the United States and others. Lithographed.

Large design of the Washington National Monument. Lithographed.

Historical sketch of the Washington National Monument since its origin, in MS.

Portrait of Washington, from Stuart's painting, Faneuil Hall.

Plate engraved with the names of the officers and members of the Board of Managers.

The Statesman's Manual, containing President's Messages from Washington to Polk, from 1789 to 1846, vols. 1 and 2.

Copy of the grant for the site of the Monument under the joint resolution of Congress.

Constitutions of the Washington National Monument Society, addresses, circulars, commissions, instructions, form of bond, from 1835 to 1848.

Small design of Monument and likeness of Washington, with blank certificates for contributors. [131]

Watterston's New Guide to Washington; by G. Watterston.

Map of the City of Washington; by Joseph Ratcliffe.

Laws of the Corporation of Washington; by A. Rothwell.

J. B. Varnum, Jr., on the Seat of Government; by J. B. Varnum, Jr.

Statistics by John Sessford of the number of dwellings, value of improvements, assessments of the real and personal tax, &c., in the City of Washington, from 1824 to 1848, print and manuscript; by John Sessford.

Census of the United States, 1840; Force's Guide to Washington and vicinity, 1848; by W. Q. Force.

Drake's Poems; Catalogue of the Library of Congress, printed 1839; Catalogue from 1840 to 1847, both inclusive; by Joint Committee on the Library of Congress.

Memoir of a Tour to Northern Mexico, 1846-'47; by R. P. Anderson.

All the coins of the United States, from the eagle to the half-dime, inclusive.

Census of the United States from 1790 to 1848, inclusive.

A list of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, its Officers, with the dates of their respective appointments; by W. J. Carroll, Clerk Supreme Court of the United States.

Proceedings of the General Society of the Cincinnati, with the original institution of the order and *fac simile* of the signatures of the original members of the State Society of Pennsylvania; by Charles L. Coltman. [132]

Constitution and General Laws of the Great Council of the Improved Order of Red Men of the District of Columbia.

By-Laws of Powhatan Tribe, No. 1, and General Laws of the Great Council of the same Order.

American Silk Flag; presented by Joseph K. Boyd, citizen of Washington, District of Columbia, on the 4th of July, 1848.

The Temple of Liberty, two copies, one ornamented and lettered with red. The letters are so

arranged in each that the name of Washington may be spelled more than one thousand times in connection; by John Kilbourn.

Design of the Monument, small plate, produced by a process called electrotype; by Chas. Fenderich, Washington.

A copy of the Constitution of the first organized Temperance Society in America; by L. H. Sprague, July 4, 1848.

Sons of Temperance in the District of Columbia.

Report on the Organization of the Smithsonian Institution; by Professor Henry.

Coat of Arms of the Washington family; by Mrs. Jane Charlotte Washington, July 4, 1848.

The Blue Book for 1847; Congressional Directory; by J. & G. S. Gideon.

Thirty-first Annual Report of the American Colonization Society.

Message of the President of the United States and accompanying documents, 1847.

Navy Register, 1848; by C. Alexander.

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Coast Survey Document; Army Register for 1848.

The Washington Monument; Shall It Be Built? by J. S. Lyon.

Holy Bible; presented by the Bible Society; instituted 1816.

Vail's Description of the Magnetic Telegraph; by A. Vail.

Report of the Joint Committee on the Library, May 4, 1848, and an engraving; by M. Vattemare.

Morse's North American Atlas.

African Repository and Colonial Journal, 1848.

Military Laws of the United States, 1846; by G. Templeman.

Appleton's Railroad and Steamboat Companion.

Daguerreotype likeness of General and Mrs. Mary Washington, with a description of the Daguerreotype process; by John S. Grubb, Alexandria, Va.

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Report of Prof. Bache, Superintendent of the Coast Survey; by Coast Survey Office.

*Fac simile* of Washington's Accounts; by Michael Nourse.

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Letters of John Quincy Adams to W. L. Stone, and introduction; letters of J. Q. Adams to Edward Livingston, Grand High Priest, &c.; Vindication of General Washington, &c., by Joseph Ritner, Governor of Pennsylvania, with a letter to Daniel Webster and his reply, printed in 1841;

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American Antimason, No. 1, vol. 1, Hartford, Connecticut, 1839, Maine Free Press; Correspondence Committee of York, Pennsylvania, to Richard Rush, April, 1831; his answer, May 4, 1841; Credentials of a Delegate from Jefferson County, Missouri, and proceedings of a meeting of citizens to make the appointment of a delegate; by Henry Gassitt, Boston, Massachusetts.

Annual Report of the Comptroller of the State of New York, January 5, 1848; Tolls, Trade, and Tonnage of the New York Canals, 1847; State of New York—first report of the Commissioner, Practice and Pleadings; by Hon. Washington Hunt.

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Report of the Commissioner of Patents, 1847; by Edmund Burke.

Walton's Vermont Register and Farmers' Almanac, 1848; by Hon. Mr. Henry.

Maury's Wind and Current Charts of the North Atlantic; by M. F. Maury.

Astronomical Observations for 1845, made under M. F. Maury, at the Washington Observatory; by M. F. Maury.

Casts from the seals of the S. of T. and I. O. R. M.; by J. W. Eckloff.

Journals of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Congress and Documents; by R. P. Anderson.

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## NEWSPAPERS

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### Deposited in Corner-Stone.

#### MASSACHUSETTS.

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Worcester Palladium | Worcester.  |
| Salem Oracle        | Salem.      |
| The Telegraph       | Gloucester. |
| Cape Ann Light      | "           |
| Boston Daily Atlas  | Boston.     |

#### CONNECTICUT.

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| New England Weekly Gazette | Hartford. |
|----------------------------|-----------|

#### NEW YORK.

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Irving Democrat             | Irving.   |
| Long Island Farmer          | Jamaica.  |
| Cayuga New Era              | Auburn.   |
| Troy Daily Post             | Troy.     |
| Troy Daily Whig             | "         |
| Journal and Advertiser      | Auburn.   |
| Auburn Daily Advertiser     | "         |
| Star of Temperance          | "         |
| New York Day Book           | New York. |
| Mercantile Times            | "         |
| Northern Christian Advocate | Auburn.   |
| New York Daily Sun          | New York. |
| New York Weekly Sun         | "         |

#### PENNSYLVANIA.

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| American Democrat            | Carlisle.     |
| Pennsylvania Democrat        | Uniontown.    |
| Lycoming Gazette             | Williamsport. |
| American Press Republican    | Lancaster.    |
| Daily Morning Post           | Pittsburg.    |
| Lancaster County Farmer      | Lancaster.    |
| Bradford Argus               | Towanda.      |
| Pittsburg Daily Gazette      | Pittsburg.    |
| Daily Morning Telegraph      | "             |
| Pennsylvania Republican      | York.         |
| North American U. S. Gazette | Philadelphia. |
| Public Ledger                | "             |

#### MARYLAND.

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Somerset Herald | Somerset. |
|-----------------|-----------|

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Der Somerset Republican     | "               |
| Marlboro Gazette            | Upper Marlboro. |
| Baltimore Daily Sun         | Baltimore.      |
| Baltimore American          | "               |
| VIRGINIA.                   |                 |
| Spirit of Jefferson         | Charlestown.    |
| Valley Whig                 | Fincastle.      |
| Martinsburg Gazette         | Martinsburg.    |
| Weston Sentinel             | Weston.         |
| NORTH CAROLINA.             |                 |
| North Carolinian            | Fayetteville.   |
| Old North State             | Elizabeth City. |
| GEORGIA.                    |                 |
| Federal Union               | Milledgeville.  |
| Southern Recorder           | "               |
| ALABAMA.                    |                 |
| Mobile Register and Journal | Mobile.         |
| Mobile Daily Advertiser     | "               |
| Alabama Tribune             | "               |
| Hannibal Journal            | Hannibal.       |
| MISSISSIPPI.                |                 |
| Weekly Jacksonian           | Holly Springs.  |
| Vicksburg Weekly Whig       | Vicksburg.      |
| Mississippi Telegraph       | Louisville.     |
| OHIO.                       |                 |
| Daily Cincinnati Gazette    | Cincinnati.     |
| Western Reserve Chronicle   | Warren.         |
| Greenville Banner           | Greenville.     |
| Buckeye Eagle               | Marion.         |
| Defiance Democrat           | Defiance.       |
| Democratic Herald           | Greenville.     |
| Claremont Courier           | Batavia.        |
| Massillon Telegraph         | Massillon.      |
| Mahoning Index              | Canfield.       |
| Troy Weekly Times           | Troy.           |
| Daily Cleveland Times       | Cleveland.      |
| Cleveland Plain Dealer      | "               |
| Democratic Inquirer         | Portsmouth.     |
| KENTUCKY.                   |                 |
| Western Citizen             | Paris.          |
| Kentucky Flag               | Mazeville.      |
| FLORIDA.                    |                 |
| Quincy Times                | Quincy.         |
| DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.       |                 |
| National Intelligencer      | Washington.     |
| Union                       | "               |
| National Era                | "               |
| Saturday Evening News       | "               |

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NOTE.—The papers above all contained articles relative to General Washington or the erection of the proposed National Monument to his memory.

## FOOTNOTES:

[A] Chin Shing and Wu-Kwang, two Chinese patriots, who commenced the overthrow of the Tsin dynasty (B. C. 209), remarkable for their vigor of character.

[B] Tsau-Tsau destroyed the Han dynasty A. D. 220, and Ling Pi, having survived all his own efforts to uphold it, founded the Shuh State, which had a short duration.

# TRANSCRIBER'S NOTES:

Punctuation has been corrected without note.

Obvious typographical errors have been corrected as follows:

- Page 21: pannels changed to panels
- Page 72: Amercan changed to American
- Page 76: consituting changed to constituting
- Page 85: memoralized changed to memorialized
- Page 115: Rorert changed to Robert
- Page 118: missing word feet added
- Page 123: apostophize changed to apostrophize

\*\*\* END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK HISTORY OF THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT AND OF THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT SOCIETY \*\*\*

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