

A GROUP OF NOTABLE FRIENDS OF THE NEGRO, IN ATTENDANCE AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE ON APRIL 5.

From left to right in the front row are George T. McAneny, Robert C. Ogden, Booker T. Washington, Andrew Carnegie, President Eliot of Harvard. In the rear row, from left to right, are: J. G. Phelps Stokes, the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott and President Frissell of Hampton Institute.

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by no means accidental. I design for them. I am a strong believer in the value of such decorations, but I do not believe the schools should be so decorated entirely at the public expense. It seems to me that the alumni could help the project along wonderfully if they would only take an interest in it."

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMS.**

*Large Company of Russian Peasants Goes Thither at Easter.*

On Easter Day, one visiting the Jordan River in Palestine in the region beyond Jericho would be likely to see a large company of Russian peasants splashing up and down in the waters of the famous stream with rapt expressions on their faces. On the edge of the narrow river stand many others looking on with interest. Those in the water wear white clothing which suggests pajamas. One is surprised as one looks upon the simple faces of the pilgrims, for they have come hither from faraway homes in the land of the Little White Father on a pilgrimage to the sacred spots of the Holy Land, to find several with features resembling those of the traditional portraits of the Christ. This is especially true of the hair and beard, the former of which is allowed to flow freely and which curls somewhat.

This group of sincere, innocent, trusting pilgrims forms part of a movement which, some day, may be the source of political changes in Palestine, for it represents a deep feeling in the hearts of the Russian people. Those comprising it are only a few of the thousands who, annually, between Christmas and Easter, trudge up from Jaffa to the relics of the ancient capital of the Jebusites. In the company are poverty stricken peasants who left their homes in the heart of Russia a year before, and, following the custom of travelling afoot as far as possible, walked all the way to Odessa, where they took steamer for Jaffa. On the steamer with them were hundreds on the same errand huddled together like immigrants on the forward deck of an Atlantic liner. Landing at Jaffa they toiled across the plain of Sharon and over the hills to Jerusalem, where they visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Here the large company was split up into smaller parties in order to visit other sacred spots, some going to Nazareth, others to Bethlehem, to the Jordan and even to the monastery of St. Catherine at Sinai, carrying with them the all-important samovar, and stopping at every sacred spot and pool to worship and bathe. This group chose to visit the Jordan.

No sight in Palestine, many travellers agree, is more impressive than the devotion, the enthusiasm and the endurance of these Russian pilgrims. These qualities were illustrated on one occasion in a remarkable way. A beautiful bell had been sent from Russia for the Russian church at Jerusalem. The railroad had not been built at that time between Jaffa and Jerusalem, and no vehicle and no beast of burden having the capacity could be found to transport

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and in addition there are two honorable mentions at \$50 each.

The jury that is to pass upon the works submitted is composed of the following, none of whom are eligible as competitors: Robert W. De Forest, president of the Art Commission of the City of New York; Frederic Crowninshield, president of the Fine Arts Federation of New York; Richard H. Hunt, president of the Architectural League of New York; John La Farge, honorary president of the National Society of Mural Painters; C. Y. Turner, acting president of the National Society of Mural Painters; Karl Bitter, president of the National Sculpture Society; Charles Rollinson Lamb, president of the Municipal Art Society; H. K. Bush-Brown, William T. Evans, A. D. F. Hamlin, professor of architecture of Columbia University; Frederick S. Lamb, H. A. MacNeil, Edward D. Page, Calvin Tomkins and John De Witt Warner, all members of the board of directors of the Municipal Art Society; C. B. J. Snyder, architect to the Board of Education, and Francis Pendleton, president of the New York City Improvement Commission, ex officio. Nine members of the jury are to constitute a quorum, and in cases of unavoidable absence their places are to be filled by alternates. The jury membership as it now stands comprises ten professional artists and five laymen.

On the general subject of the decoration of public buildings with mural paintings of historical subjects, C. Y. Turner, one of the members of the jury, is enthusiastic.

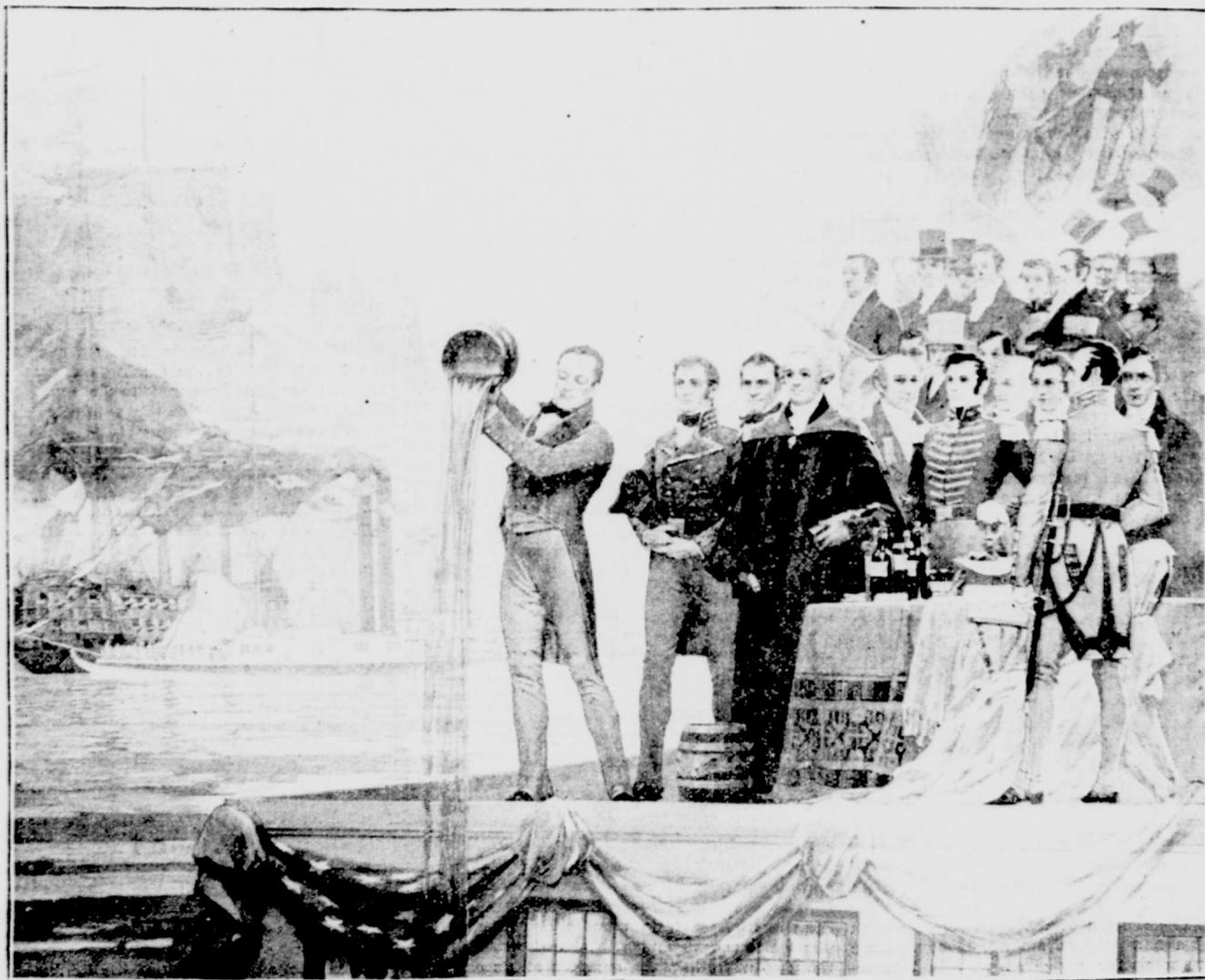
"I cannot say too much in favor of this project," said he. "We are far behind European countries in this respect, but I believe we are slowly but surely awakening to the value of such paintings. The day of ugly, bare walls in our schools, courts and other public buildings is passing. This step of the Municipal Art Society is one in the right direction, and I want to go on record as willing to do all I can to advance it. The cost of such paintings as those suggested for the Morris High School is insignificant when their educational value is taken into consideration. Go back to your childhood and you will find that the things you have remembered the longest have been those that were pictured out, things that you actually saw with your own eyes. It is so with these paintings. The stirring scenes they depict will be indelibly impressed upon the minds of the children, and they cannot fail to prove a great factor in the educational work of the city."

The hopes of the Municipal Art Society were explained by Calvin Tomkins, now one of the directors and formerly president of the society. "By the decoration of the Morris High School," said Mr. Tomkins, "the society hopes to be able to arouse public interest to such an extent as to make possible an appropriation of \$50,000 which the Board of Estimate and Apportionment can make annually for the permanent decoration of

the interior of all public buildings. The scheme of decoration contemplated is desirable not only from the artistic but the educational standpoint as well."

C. B. J. Snyder, architect to the Board of Education, is heartily in favor of the plan of the Municipal Art Society. He is a strong advocate of such decoration of the schools on gen-

eral principles, and is so certain that New York will some day carry out this scheme of decoration on as large a scale as some of the European cities that he admits he is incorporating in plans for new school buildings spaces suitable for such decorations with relation to the whole building. "These spaces," said Mr. Snyder, speaking of the scheme of wall decoration, "are



"THE MARRIAGE OF THE WATERS."

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A scene connected with the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. It is painted on a wall of the De Witt Clinton High School, and is an example of the kind of mural decoration intended for the Morris High School. Photograph by the Insee & Deck Co., New York.