NEW HISTORIC FRIEZE AT THE CAPITOL.

Famous Men and Women Differ on What Event Shall Be Memorialized.

WHAT epoch marking incidents in American history shall complete the circle of the frieze about the rotunda of the capitol at Washington?

That question has been puzzling the committees of congress for a number of years. When Constantine Brumidi, the Italian artist, designed the decoration for the frieze, he chose fifteen historic incidents, beginning with the landing of Columbus and ending with the discovery of gold in California in 1849. These incidents were:

Cortes entering the temple of the sun in Mexico.

Pizarro, with the horse, progressing in the conquest of Peru.

The burial of De Soto in the Mississippi river.

The rescue of Capt. John Smith by Pocahontas.

The disembarkation of the pilgrim fathers.

Penn's treaty with the Indians and the settlement of Pennsylvania.

The industrial colonization of the New England states.

Gen. Oglethorpe and the Muscogee chief, an incident in the settlement of Georgia.

The battle of Lexington.

The Declaration of Independence.

The surrender of Cornwallis.

The death of Tecumseh.

The American army entering the City of Mexico.

The discovery of gold in California in 1849.

Not a very successful attempt to picture the history of America, almost anyone would say, especially as it nowhere represents the figure of George Washington.

Fifteen cartoons there are. Room remains for one large cartoon or two smaller ones. Four or five years ago it was planned to use the incident of the completion of the Pacific railroads, May 8, 1869, as one of the designs, but objection was made that too many of the figures of that incident were still living. This objection was supposed to be directed particularly at C. P. Huntington. Then the incident of the opening of the Columbian exposition at Chicago, May 1, 1893, was proposed, but this was open to the same objection—that most of the actors in the incident were living. Besides, there was some politics in the objection to this subject. Mr. Cleveland's enemies in both parties were not willing that he should figure so prominently in history.

So there the frieze stands today, incomplete, and for eight years the artist's rough scaffold has hung in place, useless, but a blot on the beauty of the rotunda.

It would seem that there are enough incidents in the history of America between 1849 and 1897 to furnish one cartoon, if not two, for the completion of the circle.

The signing of the emancipation proclamation or some other incident connected with the civil war suggests itself immediately, but unfortunately congress has been afraid of offending the South by choosing such a subject.

There are many American inventions in the last half-century which have revolutionized business and social conditions.

The opening of the great West, the admission of the prairie states to the union, the passing of the American Indian, are matters of deep moment in the development of the country.

There seem to be subjects enough, and probably it is to the multiplicity of subjects that the failure of the committees of congress to reach an understanding can be attributed.

Recently I addressed an inquiry on the subject to some leading men and women of America in the hope that an expression of popular opinion might help to guide the committee in its work and that a decision might be reached at this session of congress, so that the frieze could be completed within the year. The renovation of the dome and rotunda of the capitol waits on the completion of the frieze, and they are today in such a shabby condition that they are a disgrace to the nation.

The rotunda of the capitol is its most attractive feature. It is usually the first part of the building which a visitor sees. It is 95 feet 6 inches in diameter, and 180 feet above its marble floor hangs the canopy of the 9,000,000-pound dome which gives the capitol its imposing appearance. Around the dome are galleries to which visitors may climb. Thousands make the pilgrimage every month to get a nearer view of the decorations and a view from the dome's apex of the city of Washington. The view abroad which they have is no less beautiful than it was a dozen years ago, but close-range inspection of the splendid fresoes in the capitol dome is not gratifying. The beautiful coloring is half obscured by dirt, and, looking down from the galleries or looking up from the floor, the first thing to catch the eye is the rough pine scaffolding hanging suggestively in front of the blank space in the frieze.

When congress has accepted a design for this space and Mr. Costaggini has executed it, the scaffolding will come down and workmen will be put at the task of cleaning the frescoes in the dome. If this session of congress will act, the work of cleaning can be done next summer, and the capitol can be presentable by the time the first installment of tourists arrives, in the fall. But if congress does not act now, the whole matter must go over for another year, and then another, perhaps, and so on indefinitely.

Congressmen have not been wholly indifferent to the unfortunate condition of affairs in the rotunda. In January, 1896, Mr. Howe, of New York, introduced a joint resolution "that the joint committee on the library be instructed to ascertain the cause of the delay in completing the chiaroscuro (light and shade) by Mr. Costaggini in the rotunda of the capitol, and whether or not it would be advisable to remove the scaffolding still remaining for the use of completing the painting, and to report to the house the result of the investigation."

Nothing was done about the matter by the house committee, and in May Mr. Hansbrough introduced in the senate a joint resolution appropriating "for completing the painting of the frieze of the rotunda of the United States capitol by Filippo Costaggini, after designs to be furnished by him and approved by the joint committee on the library, $6,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary."

This was reported favorably, but no action was had, and when congress adjourned last March the resolution died. Meantime Mr. Boutelle, of Maine, had introduced the resolution to which he refers below, which died with the others March 4.

The suggestions below come from members of the senate and house of representatives, from eminent educators, from the governors of states and from representative women. They show as wide diversity of sentiment as is found in congress on this subject, but they contain some suggestions wholly new, which are so innocuous that congress may find in them a relief from the embarrassment which has delayed its action so long.

Preceding them is the story of the artist who has executed most of the designs which Brumidi outlined and whose four suggestions for the completion of the frieze are pictured here.

GEORGE GRANTHAM BAIN.

THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION.
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DESCENDANTS OF COLUMBUS AT THE OPENING OF THE WORLD'S FAIR.
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The Artist's Story.

The tracing which was taken from Brumidi's drawings of the subject of the frieze was made by one who was not an artist, and was the only thing that was given to me to go by when I accepted the work at the capitol. I have never seen the original sketch of Brumidi, and I prepared all of my cartoons myself, the tracing giving me the subjects as decided upon by congress, and were calculated to fill the whole frieze. I was allowed to make alterations in details as I saw fit, but was not permitted to make any important changes. It has often been erroneously said that I worked from Brumidi's drawings, but by comparing the tracing with the photos of my drawings it will be seen how little assistance, aside from the idea of the subjects, I got from the tracing. Upon the execution of the subjects upon the frieze it was found that it did not fill the entire belt, and a space about thirty feet in length still remains unfinished. When I was given the subjects I remarked in surprise that there was no representation of America's greatest hero, George Washington, but was informed that the subjects had all been selected and approved by congress. Like the other subjects, the final ones must be selected by the joint committee on library and submitted to congress for approval.

I cannot give an accurate period of time I worked on the frieze, as I did not work steadily and I seldom worked every day in the month. Sometimes several months passed without my working a day. But I can say that I commenced in the fall of 1880 and have not worked since 1889. I have painted about two-thirds of the belt and began at the three Indians in "Penn's Treaty."

I proposed several events of the civil war which I thought would be suitable as a completion of the historical frieze, as that seems to me the only important occurrence in the annals of history since 1849, but I was told too great a revival of the past feeling between the North and the South was not desired. About a year ago I was asked by the joint committee on library to prepare four sketches it thought would be appropriate. Two were presented to congress and were not decided upon on account of a slight partisan feeling in regard to ex-President Cleveland. The other two were never presented, as it was too near the time for the adjournment of congress. All of these sketches are still in the committee's rooms. In the sketch of the "Emancipation Proclamation by Lincoln," which I prepared lastly, I introduced a bust of Gen. George Washington as an ornament to the cabinet chamber, and though it is not as important a place as he deserves, still it is a slight memorial of him, and we could say at least that he also is represented in the historical belt.

I was born in Rome, Italy, August 13, 1837, and am a naturalized citizen of the United States. When I was but 20 years old my mother died, and at the age of 14 I lost my father. I studied at the Academy of St. Luke, at Rome, under the distinguished masters Cochetti, Podesti, Gagliardi and Mariani. My noted contemporary students were Fortuni, Simobretti, Lacovacca and the well-known sculptor Monteverda. In 1870 I came to America and engaged as a professor of painting in an academy in the West, but resigned owing to the difficulty I had in acquiring the English language and my strong desire of dedicating my time to painting. I then went back to Baltimore, and immediately received commission for several important works, chiefly church pictures; but my attention was turned to New York, where I executed many portraits and sacred paintings, and while living there I was called to Washington to complete the historical frieze at the capitol, and have resided there since, having built a studio suitable for large work.

I doubt if there is another artist who has done as much painting as I have in the United States. I will mention some of my works. Besides the work at the capitol, I have painted here in Washington a portrait of Hon. Justin S. Morrill, of Vermont; St. Patrick's church, and a portrait of Cardinal Satolli, which is in the Corcoran gallery of art. In New York my work can be seen in the cathedral, a portrait of Cardinal McCloskey. There are also paintings of mine in St. Ann's, St. Gabriel's and the Epiphany churches, and the C. P. Huntington parlors; in Philadelphia, in the cathedral, "The Ascension," "The Death of St. Joseph" and "The First Communion of St. Aloysius;" also works in the following churches: St. Ann's, St. James', St. Augustine's, St. Paul's, St. Joseph's, St. Agatha's, St. John's, St. Malachi's, the Nativity of the B. V. M.; at Harrisburg, the senate chamber, which was destroyed by fire, and for which paintings I received a very flattering letter from ex-Gov. Pattison; in Baltimore, the new additions to the cathedral, a portrait of Archbishop Spalding, which hangs in the parlor of the cardinal's residence, a painting of the "Ascension" for the Masonic temple; in Washington, also St. Peter's, St. Joseph's, the Immaculate Conception, St. Leo's, St. Ann's, St. Francis Xavier's, St. Pius and the Passionist monastery; at Buffalo, the drop curtain in the theater; at Rondout, the stations of the cross; at Richmond the cathedral; at Scranton, Pa., the cathedral; at Nazareth, Ky., the stations of the cross; at Hyde Park, Pa., St. Patrick's church; at Wilkesbarre, St. Mary's church; at Wilmington, Del., the cathedral, and many other works of importance not mentioned. I am at present painting twenty-three pictures for St. Charles' church, Philadelphia, which will be finished in January.

Before coming to America I did a great deal of work, and one of my pictures is in the vatican palace in Rome.

FILIPPO COSTAGGINI.

DRIVING THE LAST SPIKE OF THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.
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Opinions of President Eliot and Senators Morrill, Daniel and Cullom.

SHERMAN'S ARMY IN REVIEW.
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President Eliot's Suggestion.

Harvard University, Cambridge.

I would suggest the following events as subjects for the Brumidi frieze of the rotunda: The proclamation of emancipation, Grant's "Let us have peace," the Washington treaty, the last spike on the Pacific railroad and the first telephone.

CHARLES N. ELIOT.

President Schurman on Two of the Subjects.

President's Rooms, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Pressure of time prevents my giving to the questions you ask me the careful review it should have. I do not feel assured that either "the driving of the last spike on the Pacific railroad" or "the opening of the Columbian exposition" should be the topic used to complete the Brumidi frieze. The former is an event of such importance in our industrial development, however, that if others were excluded I should prefer it to the opening of the Columbia exposition.

J. G. SCHURMAN.

Senator Morrill Honors Lincoln.

United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

In revolving the subject as to what is the most appropriate for the completion of the Brumidi frieze in the capitol rotunda, it has occured to me that Lincoln reading the proclamation for the freedom of the slaves would do, but the South might object to it.

JUSTIN S. MORRILL.

Senator Gallinger Becomes Facetious

Concord, N. H.

A train of vestibuled Pullman cars.

V. H. GALLINGER.

Senator Cullom Says "The Freedom of the Slave."

Springfield, Ill.

Your favor inquiring of me what, in my judgment, is the epoch marking event in the American history since 1849 has been received. I think the epoch event was the freedom of the slaves in this country.

S. M. CULLOM.

Senator Wellington Says "The Emancipation Proclamation."

United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

In my opinion, the most important event in American history since 1849 was the emancipation proclamation of President Lincoln.

G. L. WELLINGTON.

Representative Boutelle's View.

Bangor, Me.

I send you copy of a resolution introduced by me, and referred to the committee on library, on this subject:

"Joint resolution providing for a commission to contract for finishing the historical frieze in the rotunda of the capitol.

"Resolved by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled, That the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives and the members of the committee on library of the senate and the house of representatives be and they are hereby appointed a commission to secure the completion of the historical frieze in the rotunda of the capitol by the painting therein of a suitable design by an American artist of national reputation that shall symbolize the great events in the national life since the close of the Mexican war and appropriately commemorate the preservation of the Union and the establishment of universal freedom by the heroic valor and sacrifice of the citizens of the republic under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln.

"Sec. 2. That said commission is hereby authorized to advertise for designs and to make contract for the painting of the design selected in its place in the frieze and to pay a proper compensation to competing artists and for the completion of the work out of the amount of $10,000, which sum is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated."

C. A. BOUTELLE.

Gov. Bushnell Votes for Lincoln.

State of Ohio, Executive Department, Office of the Governor, Columbus.

I would think the signing of the emancipation proclamation by President Lincoln should be considered the most important historic event in the period you mention.

ASA A. BUSHNELL.

Miss Barton's Choice.

The American National Red Cross Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

I can perceive that there would be difficulty in representing many events which would be of great interest, either lived through or read. Therefore it would seem to me important to select something which could be made apparent to the eye. Among these nothing seems to me so practical, and, perhaps so real, as the freeing of the 4,000,000 slaves by our martyr president, Lincoln. This event might be made to show more than one feature, a kind of panoramic view, if I may so speak—the slave in his old-time state "in de cotton an' de corn;" then, possible, some touch of the great and terrible gathering, the blows of which sundered his shackles; the great, beneficent, god-like man that in the midst of all that bade him go free, and then the years of equality and peaceful labor, as today, white and black as brothers in the great march of civilization and prosperity.

CLARA BARTON.

Miss Willard's Broad View.

It seems to me the crowning group at the capitol should include the figures of those who have been foremost in the service of the republic, and not in one historic event. We have had the representative of war always at the front, but such a group as comes to my mind should put our inventors, scientists, educators, writers, journalists, reformers and philanthropists in the lead, as they really are today, and will be vastly more tomorrow. The warrior is a diminishing figure down the perspective of time. The man and woman whose deeds represent humanity and its hallowed interests are looming figures, and will steadily grow upon our vision until the whole race is lifted to its rightful plane. Believe me yours in the hope of that day.

FRANCES E. WILLARD.

Senator Daniel's View.

United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

The proclamation of Mr. Lincoln emancipating colored people by force took away property of citizens of states that were fighting for the Union at the time and which never seceded—namely, Maryland and Kentucky. Slavery was recognized in the constitution of the United States, and however little some may regard property of rebels as worthy of consideration, I cannot see that an act of force depriving any man of constitutional property was that dire process of law mentioned in our constitution.

Our national public buildings should be decorated with those things which appeal to the general and universal sense of patriotism. Leaving out of consideration the Confederate war, I do not know that there is any event in our history since 1849 which might be regarded as epoch making. But the opening of the Pacific railway across the continent, the Atlantic cable, the electric light and the telephone were events of transcendant importance.

JOHN A. DANIEL.

A Voice From Alabama.

State of Alabama, Governor's Office.

I do not know that our people particularly object to a cartoon of the signing of the emancipation proclamation. There is no enthusiasm on that subject down here, but many look upon it as a complete violation of the constitution of the country, believing the president had no constitutional authority to issue such proclamations, and they are not in favor of commemorating that kind of an act. I have no suggestion to make as to the proper subject.

J. F. JOHNSTON.

A Political Suggestion.

State of Mississippi, Executive Department, Jackson, Miss.

No, it would not affect the people of the South to make the signing of the emancipation proclamation the subject of the final cartoon. In answer to your inquiry as to what epoch-making event since 1849 could I suggest as more appropriate, I would suggest the political deluge of 1875 that overthrew radical rule in Mississippi.

A. J. M'LAURIN.

Virginia Objections.

Commonwealth of Virginia, Governor's Office, Richmond, Va.

Nothing more objectionable to the South could be adopted than the "signing of the emancipation," and I cannot think any man but some wild fanatic or South-hater would entertain such a proposition for a moment.

CHARLES T. O'FERRALL, Governor of Virginia.

THE NECESSITY OF THOROUGH ORGANIZATION.

(The substance of a talk given by W. H. G. Temple, president of the Charity Organization Society, at its first conference of Organization Society, at its first conference of workers, Monday afternoon, January 24, 1898.)

The objects of these fortnightly conferences I take to be the mutual study of the principles upon which our society is based. It may not be known that the title of our society is no mere tautological name; but that it stands for a radical departure in the method of dealing with the deserving poor. It has a technical significance. The society is not merely a charity society. Its office is not the distribution of alms—the doling out of either money or provisions, etc., to those who are needy and worthy. It contemplates a deeper study of human needs than such a society endeavors or cares to make. It is emphatically an organized and thoroughly scientific method of dealing with the poor, especially in the larger cities. It represents the careful study of statistics with regard to influences as well as affluences, of persons as well as benevolences, of tendencies as well as contributions. It differs as much from the ordinary processes of charity societies, as a conscientious medical consultation differs from the snap judgment of a quack. It takes into consideration not only the relief of distress, but the education of the victim intellectually and morally toward independent self help. It purposes to destroy pauperism and vagrancy by putting into the minds and hearts of the sufferers the desire to do and to be something in life, for their own sakes and for the sake of society. It enunciates the advanced idea that the poor had better have no help than to have that which only tends to confirm them in their poverty, and by its unwise aid to strengthen them in their inclination to continue to ask help, because they find it can so easily be obtained. It takes the strong and radical stand that gifts to the poor are what the poor (except in extreme and emergency cases) least need. It advocates giving ourselves in sympathy, in time, in moral influence, in wise direction, and so place the poor, who hitherto had been helpless, in a position to help themselves, and so rise above the necessity of assistance.

In the little study I have been able to give to this new idea of charity, in its properly organized form, and animated by this Christian spirit of helpfulness, I have been surprised at the revolution that has taken place in my own conclusions. I have said from the pulpit, referring to the help of the destitute: "A long loaf and a short prayer are what is needed, and not a long prayer and a short loaf." I am not so sure now that that utterance is as true, in the sense in which I once meant it, as I thought at the time. If by the prayer may be meant the totality of a longing and loving heart going out for guidance, that what may be done materially may be done wisely and well, I am certain that my statement was untrue. There are many families that have never been shown how they can think for themselves. They have always been dependent. They have come to the settled conclusion that they must be helped to food and clothing, etc., by somebody, and it makes very little difference to them who that somebody may be. If by a well-to-do family in the neighborhood, they are satisfied. If by a charitable society, they object not. If the county commissioners step in to relieve their distress with a monthly order, they feel no humiliation. It is the "what" with them, and not the "who." The charity organization society claims that the "who" and the "how" make all the difference in the world. It sums up as its philosophy of charity: Let some warm-hearted, clear-headed human personality go with the gift always. Let the personality go anyway, and perhaps the gift will not be needed, or even desired.

I have been greatly benefited by reading a small book by Mr. C. S. Loch, secretary to the London (England) Charity Organization Society. It was prepared in 1889 and read at a charity congress in Paris. Mr. Loch, who, by the way, is the founder of the "Charity Organization" idea as a practical method, sets forth in this little book the underlying principles of the whole reform movement in charity work. He traces the history of this reform during the then twenty years of its existence. A single paragraph will indicate the tone of the whole volume, and all the statistics that are gathered and classified go to confirm its strong good sense:

"Pauperism is the social enemy of the modern state. The state wants citizens. It cannot have any outcast or excluded classes—citizens that are not citizens. All are citizens in name; it must see that they are such in reality. It must do its utmost to change the dependent sections of the community into independent. It cannot be content with the chronic indigence and social feebleness of any great mass of citizens—with paupers, who are paupers indeed, whether they be classified as such in public returns, or are the habitual recipients of the casual bounty of the rich and of charitable institutions. Accordingly, it becomes the duty of the state, by some means, to prevent pauperism, and of citizens to give their service to the state for that purpose."

The object of the Charity Organization Society is to do just this. Education is needed on the part of the well-to-do as well as on the part of the poor. People need to be taught how to give as well as to whom to give. The theory is that assistance wisely given will be bestowed on a continually decreasing scale. Gifts should tend toward no gifts, assistance toward independence. The thorough organization then contemplated by our society works both ways. It insists upon full investigation of each case of application for help, and demands that when the facts are laid bare there shall be an equally conscientious consideration of the best method to be used in each particular case. From the experience of the past nearly thirty years it has been demonstrated that money spent in careful study of the scientific principles governing the application of charity, and in educating the poor toward self-support, has been far more intelligently and beneficently used than in promiscuous or even discriminate almsgiving. In fact, wherever this new principle has been tested in the old world, or in our own country, it has been wonderfully successful. Boston, New York, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Baltimore and many other cities have attested to the practicability of the new charity. Its universal success is attributed to its thoroughly organized methods and its animated Christian heart.

Charity Must Do Five Things.

First—Act only upon knowledge got by thorough investigation.

Second—Relieve worthy need promptly, fittingly and tenderly.

Third—Prevent unwise alms to the unworthy.

Fourth—Raise into independence every needy person, where this is possible.

Fifth—Make sure that no children grow up paupers.

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