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OUR COUNTRY'S FATHER.

The Great Monument to His Memory Dedicated With Imposing Ceremonies.

A Fitting Testimonial of a Nation's Gratitude to its Hero, Statesman and Father.

The Prototype of Purity, Manhood and Patriotism For All Lands and All Times.

History of the Greatest Obelisk in the World; From the Start to the Laying of the Cap-stone.

The Most Brilliant Array That Ever Assembled in the Halls of the National Congress.

A General Description of the Manner in Which the Dedicatory Program Was Carried Out.

CEREMONIES AT THE MONUMENT.

With Favorable Weather the Program is Carried Out.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—With the mercury down almost to zero, and with a northerly breeze which bore a suggestion of its Arctic origin, the sprinkling of ticket bearers who began to fill up the seats of the grand stand at the base of the Washington monument at 10 o'clock this morning did not appear to be bent on pleasure, but with their up-turned collars, muffed chins and quick nervous movements seemed as if inspired by a stern sense of duty alone. A rough board shed, bedecked with bunting, opening upon a snow-covered field, a shaft of marble as simple, as unspotted, as majestic and towering as the character of the man it commemorates, were elements of the early scenes. The first distinguished arrival was an old gentlemen with long white hair, whose firm, clear-cut features betrayed possible relationship to the father of his country.

"Ticket, sir."

"I am one of Washington's kindred, but I will show my ticket."

It was Ebenezer Burges Ball of Loudon county, Virginia.

"My grandmother," he said to a reporter, "was George Washington's niece. My Grandfather Ball was of the family of Gen. Washington's mother, Mary Ball."

The military arrived betimes, the brass bands were marshaled to their places and the troops came to a rest. Senator Sherman, chairman of the joint congressional commission, from the center of the stand, at 11 o'clock, called about eight hundred people to order, and said something about the people keeping their hats on. These remarks were greeted with lively stamps, for the opportunity was a good one to restore circulation to chilled limbs and extremities. Senator Sherman then proceeded to speak, as follows:

SENATOR SHERMAN'S SPEECH.

The commission authorized by the two houses to provide suitable ceremonies for the dedication of the Washington monument direct me to preside and to announce the order of ceremonies deemed proper on this occasion. I need not say anything to you to impress upon you the dignity of the event you have met to celebrate. The monument speaks for itself. Simple in form, admirable in proportions, composed of enduring marble and granite, resting upon foundations broad and deep, it rises into the skies higher than any work of human art. It is the most imposing, costly and appropriate monument ever erected in the honor of one man. It had its origin in the profound conviction of the people, irrespective of party, creed or race, not only of this country, but of all civilized countries, that the name and fame of Washington should be perpetuated by the most imposing testimonial of a nation's gratitude to its hero, statesman and father. This universal statement took form in the movement of private citizens associated under the name of the Washington Monument association, who, in January 1848, secured from congress an act authorizing them to erect the proposed monument on this ground, selected as the most appropriate site by the president of the United states. Its corner stone was laid on the 4th of July, 1848, by the Masonic fraternity, with imposing ceremonies, in the presence of the chief officers of the government and a multitude of citizens. It was partially erected by the National Monument association, with means furnished by voluntary contributions of the people of the United States. On the 5th of July, 1876, 100 years after the declaration of American independence, congress, in the name of the people of the United States, formally assumed and directed the completion of the monument. Since then the foundation has been strengthened, the shaft has been steadily advanced, and now the completed structure stands before you. It is a fit memorial of the greatest character in human history. It looks down upon the scenes most loved by him on earth, the most conspicuous object in a landscape full of objects deeply interesting the American people, and all eyes turn to it and all hearts feel the inspiration of its beauty, symmetry and grandeur. Strong as it is, it will not endure so long as the memory of him in whose honor it was built; but while it stands it will be evidence to succeeding generations of the love and reverence of this generation for the name and fame of George Washington—"First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen." More even than this, the prototype of purity, manhood and patriotism for all lands and all time. Without further preface I proceed to discharge the duty assigned me.

The Marine band then played a short piece of music, which was rendered almost inaudible by the continual stamping of the shivering open-air audience. Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Luter of Christ's church, Alexandria, Va.

THE MONUMENT SOCIETY.

W. W. Corcoran then described at length the part taken on the initiation of the project and construction by the Monument society, and in conclusion said:

"It is glory enough for the Washington Monument society that its pious labors, as put to the proof of time, have issued in the majestic structure which stands before us today, and it is glory enough for the legislative and executive departments of the government that in assuming and directing the completion of the monument on the foundation laid by the people, they have at once redeemed a sacred national pledge and fulfilled a sacred national duty by giving to this great obelisk the culmination and crown with which it towers above the earth and soars heavenward like the fame it commemorates."

The remarks of the various speakers were inaudible, but the puffs of steam from their mouths was evidence that the proceedings were being carried on according to the program, and at every little intermission the audience stamped approvingly.

THE MASONIC CEREMONIES

by the grand lodge of the District of Columbia, which then followed, were brief. The proper functionaries declared the square, the level and the plumb had been applied to the obelisk, and that its corners were found to be square, its course level and its walls skillfully erected according to the plans. Grand Master Myron M. Parker scattered corn and poured wine and oil, emblems of nourishment, refreshment and joy, and in the course of the mystic ceremonies brought into use certain historic relics with which Gen. Washington was intimately connected. The gavel used was one prepared for and used by Gen. Washington as grand master pro tem. in laying the corner stone of the national capitol on the 18th of September, 1793. The sacred volume belonging to Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 of Virginia, upon which Washington took the first vows of masonry, that belonging to St. John's Lodge No. 1, City of New York, upon which on the 30th of April, 1789, he took the oath of office as first president of the United States; the great light belonging to the Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22, Alexandria, Va., upon which he, as worshipful master, received the vows of the initiate; the apron worn by him which was worked by Madame Lafayette; a golden urn containing a lock of his hair, belonging to the grand lodge of Massachusetts; the lesser light, and one of the three sperm candles burned in Washington's funeral procession, were exhibited. The address of the grand master concluded as follows:

"Know ye, all ye people, that we be Free Masons, loyal and true citizens, obedient to law and order, and can never be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the true government. The immortal Washington, himself a Free Mason, devoted his hand, his heart, his social honor, and if need be his life also, to the cause of freedom of conscience, of speech and of action, and from his successful leading has arisen this nation. To him and the memory of his deeds a grateful people have erected this memorial in the capital which he founded and which will bear his name to the remotest ages, a monument towering above other monuments as he towered above other men."

A brief prayer by the grand chaplain asking the blessings of nourishment, refreshment and joy upon all who were assembled, and a response by the brethren "so mote it be, amen," brought this part of the proceedings to an end.

ADDRESS OF COL. CASEY.

To Col. Thomas L. Casey, United States engineer, was assigned the duty of presenting the part taken by the general government in the construction of the monument, and of delivering it to the president of the United States. He gave an account of the first proceedings in congress with a view to the completion of the monument, and described each successive step in the construction work until the setting of the capstone finished the great undertaking, and then said: "Although the dimensions and the foundation of the base were originally planned without one regard to the tremendous forces to be brought into play in building so large an obelisk, the resources of modern engineering science have supplied the means for the completion of the grandest monumental column ever erected in any age in the world. In its proportions and ratios of dimensions of the several parts ancient Egyptian obelisks have been carefully followed. The entire height has been made slightly greater than ten times the breadth of the base, producing an obelisk that for grace and delicacy of outline is not excelled by any of the lost Egyptian monoliths, while in grandeur it surpasses any that can be mentioned. Mr. President, for and in behalf of the joint commission for the completion of the Washington monument, I deliver you this column."

President Arthur, in accepting the monument, said:

"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 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 from the plain whereon we stand bears witness to all who behold it that the covenant which our fathers made to their children has been fulfilled in the completion of this great work of patriotic endeavor. There is abundant cause for rejoicing, for while this structure shall endure it shall be to all mankind a steadfast token of 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 all his countrymen. 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 country 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 the simpler and more formal duty, in the 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 president then read his address in a firm, clear tone, and at its conclusion cheers broke forth and were hearty and prolonged.

THE MARCH BACK TO THE CAPITOL.

Upon a signal from the chairman, Senator Sherman, the assemblage again broke into cheers, the military wheeled into line, the civic bodies and distinguished participants in the proceedings of the day sought their carriages, and the procession, under the marshalship of Gen. Sheridan, took up its line of march to the capitol. Pennsylvania avenue presented a brilliant scene during the progress of the pageant. Thousands of people thronged the sidewalk and occupied grand stands erected on the avenue reservations. Along the line of march many buildings were handsomely decorated with flags and buntings. Although the sun shone brightly and the air was dry and clear, the temperature was much below the freezing point, and the spectators were compelled to stamp their feet and indulge in gymnastic exercises as a relief from the piercing cold. It was about half-past 12 o'clock when the head of the procession turned the corner of Fifteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue, and entered on the magnificent, broad and straight course of a mile to the western boundary of the capitol grounds. First in order came Lieut. Gen. Sheridan, U. S. A., marshal of the day, accompanied by his chief of staff, Brig. Gen. Albert Ordway, U. S. volunteers, and twenty-four aides-de-camp in showy army uniform. Among the honorary members of his staff were Col. C. W. Johnson of Minnesota; Col. W. P. Hepburn of Iowa; Dakota, Col. William Thompson; Wisconsin, Gen. J. Starkweather.

Next in order came the first troops of the Philadelphia City cavalry, (organized in 1774) Capt. E. Burd Grubb commanding, which was assigned to duty as escort to the marshal of the day. The marshal of the first division was Brev. Maj. Gen. R. B. Ayres, U. S. A., who was accompanied by ten aides in artillery uniform. Following in order came three battalions of regular United States artillery, numbering several hundred men. A battalion of the United States marine corps and the ancient and honorable artillery company of Massachusetts, (organized in 1638.) This attracted marked attention. The peculiar combination of the uniforms of the various branches of the service caused much comment, as did also the large number of men in line who had passed the meridian of life. Nevertheless their marching was excellent, and the evolutions of the company were rewarded by liberal applause. About eighty men represented the Governor's foot guards of Connecticut, (organized in 1771.) This company claims the honor of being the only military organization that has preserved its existence 114 years. The German fusiliers of Charleston, S. C., mustered about thirty-five men, and bore a magnificent banner. This company was organized in 1775. Another ancient organization was the Richmond Light Infantry Blues, which claims 1793 as the date of its birth. In their order came the Washington light infantry, Union Veteran corps, Washington continentals, Emmett guards, Washington rifle corps, Butler Zouaves, Washington cadet corps, Capital city guards, National rifles and Lawrence light infantry, Massachusetts volunteer militia. The Detroit light infantry of Michigan, First Lieut. Geo. W. Corns commanding, were greeted with cheers and waving of handkerchiefs all along the line of march. They marched with absolute precision, and their evolutions were executed with machine like accuracy. Their uniform was a striking combination of blue and white with white head gear. The Washington High School cadets and St. John Academy cadets corps, of Alexandria, Va., closed the first division.

The second division was in charge of Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, of Virginia. It was composed mainly of Masonic organizations and persons who participated in the ceremonies of the day. There were about sixty carriages in the line, including those containing the president and his cabinet, diplomatic corps, members of judiciary, visiting governors and their staffs, senators and representatives, officers of the army and navy, and persons who had taken part in the work on the monument.

Among the visiting Masonic organizations were the Grand Lodges of West Virginia, Michigan, Illinois and Pennsylvania. All wore full regalia and presented a fine appearance. Bands of music were distributed liberally throughout the divisions. The fire department of the district brought up the end of the line, and made a very creditable display.

ARRIVAL AT THE CAPITOL.

The procession did not reach the east front of the capitol, where it was reviewed by the president, until 1:20. President Arthur, with his cabinet, Gens. Sherman and Hawley and members of the diplomatic corps, occupied a stand directly in front of the east main entrance to the capitol, and facing the statue of Washington. Between 2,000 and 3,000 people were assembled on the capitol steps and in the adjacent grounds, and the windows of the senate and house committee rooms, overlooking the review grounds, were filled with spectators. Immediately after Gen. Sheridan and his aides passed the president they rode to a point opposite, from which the general also reviewed the procession. The visiting and local military organizations passed in review, formed in line by companies, and the spectacle presented was the finest of the day's proceedings. The glint of the winter sunshine upon the polished arms and bright colors of the uniforms lent a suggestion of warmth which was refreshing to the sensibilities of the shivering spectators. The review continued until 2 o'clock, when the president and cabinet repaired to the president's room in the capitol, where they took lunch before proceeding to the hall of the house of representatives.

AT THE CAPITOL.

The Ceremonies in the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The hall of the house of representatives this forenoon presented a novel appearance. The desks of the members had been removed and in their places were rows upon rows of chairs, varying in style from the capacious leather covered arm chair to the more plebean chair of plain pine wood. The seating capacity of the floor is about 1,500. Early in the day the galleries began to fill and by 12 o'clock there were few vacant seats to be found. A large majority of the spectators were ladies. The executive and diplomatic gallery was occupied, which is a very rare occurrence, and the only vacant seats were in the gallery exclusively for the families of senators and representatives, and they were filled before the ceremonies began.

At 1:17 Speaker Carlisle's gavel called the house to order, and Saturday's session was opened with prayer by the chaplain, and the journal of yesterday was read. Mr. Dorsheimer offered a resolution for the appointment of a committee of three members to notify the senate the house was now ready to receive the senate and proceed with the ceremonies which were appointed to take place in the hall of the house. The resolutions having been adopted, the speaker appointed Messrs. Dorsheimer, Tucker and Cannon as such committee. At ten minutes past 2 the National Washington Monument association was announced, and it marched in and took the seats assigned in front and to the left of the speaker's desk. Shortly afterwards Gen. Sheridan and staff entered amid loud applause, and their brilliant uniforms tended to lend an air of gayety to the scene. The president and cabinet next appeared, and the large assemblage rose and heartily cheered as the chief executive and his advisers passed down the main aisle and were assigned seats in the space directly in front of the speaker's desk. The supreme court, the judiciary of the District and the diplomatic corps followed, and flanked the presidential party, and at 2:30 p. m. the senate, preceded by its officers, was escorted to the space reserved for it. Its presiding officer, Edmunds, proceeded to the speaker's desk, where the gavel was courteously handed him by Speaker Carlisle. In calling the assembly to order, Edmund's said:

Gentlemen: You are assembled pursuant to a concurrent order of the two houses to celebrate the memorial of the completion of the monument to the memory of the first president of the United States. It is not only a memorial, but an inspiration that shall live through all the generations of our posterity, as we may hope, and which we this day inaugurate and celebrate by the ceremonies which have been ordered by the two houses.

Prayer was then offered by the Rev. S. A. Wallis of the Pohick church near Mt. Vernon, Va. Prayer being ended the Marine band, stationed in the members' lobby, played "Hail Columbia," and then Edmunds, expressing his regret that Mr. Winthrop was necessarily absent, introduced Representative John D. Long of Massachusetts, who, having been loudly applauded, proceeded to read Winthrop's oration.

AN ORATION.

By Hon. Robert C. Winthrop.

President Arthur, Senators and Representatives of the United States: By a joint resolution of congress, you have called upon me to address you in this hall to-day, on the completion of yonder colossal monument to the father of his country. Nothing less imperative than your call could have brought me before you for such an effort. Nearly seven and thirty years have passed away since it was my privilege to perform a similar service at the laying of the corner stone of that monument. In the prime of manhood, and in the pride of official station, it was not difficult for me to speak to assembled thousands, in the open air, without notes, under the scorching rays of a mid-summer sun. But what was easy for me then is impossible for me now. I am here to-day, as I need not tell you, in far other condition for the service you have assigned me,—changed, changed in almost everything, except an inextinguishable love for my country and its union, and an undying reverence for the memory of Washington. On these alone I rest for inspiration, assured that, with your indulgence, and the blessings of God which I devoutly invoke, they will be sufficient to sustain me in serving as a medium for keeping up the continuity between the hearts and the hands which laid the foundation of this gigantic structure, and those younger hearts and hands which have at last brought forth the capstone with shoutings. It is for this you have summoned me. It is for this alone I have obeyed your call.

Meantime, I cannot wholly forget that the venerable ex-president, John Quincy Adams —at whose death-bed, in my official chamber beneath this roof, I was a privileged watcher thirty-seven years ago this very day—had been originally designated to pronounce the corner-stone oration, as one who had received his first commission, in the long and brilliant career at home and abroad which awaited him, from the hands of Washington himself. In that enviable distinction I certainly have no share; but I may be pardoned for remembering that, in calling upon me to supply the place of Mr. Adams, it was borne in mind that I had but lately taken the oath of speaker at his hands and from his lips, and that thus, as was suggested at the time, the electric chain, though lengthened by a single link, was still unbroken. Let me hope that the magnetism of that chain may not even yet be entirely exhausted, and that I may still catch something of its vivifying and quickening power, while I attempt to bring to the memory of Washington the remnants of a voice which is failing, and of a vigor which I am conscious is ebbing away.

After giving a minute history of the monument from its first inception to its completion, and the great difficulties encountered, all of which were in turn successfully surmounted, Mr. Winthrop said:

Finis coronat opus. The completion crowns the work. To-day that work speaks for itself, and needs no other orator. Mute and lifeless as it seems, it has a living and audible voice for all who behold it, and no one can misinterpret its language. Nor will any one, I think, longer cavil about its design. That design, let me add, originally prepared by the Washington architect, Robert Mills of South Carolina, and adopted long before I had any relations to this association, was commended to public favor by such illustrious names as Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, Albert Gallatin, Henry Clay and Daniel Webster. A colonnade encircling its base, and intended as a sort of pantheon, was soon discarded from the plan. Its main feature, from the first, was an obelisk after the example of that which had then been recently agreed upon for Bunker Hill. And so it stands to-day, a simple, sublime obelisk of pure white marble, its proportions, in spite of its immense height, conforming exactly to those of the most elaborate obelisks of antiquity, as my accomplished and lamented friend, our late minister to Italy, so happily pointed out to us. It is not, indeed, as were those ancient obelisks, a monolith, a single stone cut wholly from the quarry; that would have been obviously impossible for anything so colossal. Nor could we have been expected to attempt the impossible in deference to Egyptian methods of construction. We might almost as well be called on to adopt as the emblems of American progress the bronze Crabs which were found at the base of Cleopatra's needle! America is certainly at liberty to present new models in art as well as in government, or to improve upon old ones; and, as I ventured to suggest some years ago, our monument to Washington will be all the more significant and symbolic in embodying, as it does, the idea of our cherished national motto, E PLURIBUS UNUM. That compact, consolidated structure, with its countless blocks, inside and outside, held firmly in position by their own weight and pressure, will ever be an instructive type of the national strength and grandeur which can only be secured by the union of "many into one."

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But oh, my friends, let us no longer forget, or seem to forget, that we are here to commemorate, not the monument but the man. That stupendous pile has not been reared for any vain purpose of challenging admiration for itself. It is not, I need not say it is not, as a specimen of advanced art, for it makes no pretention to that; —it is not as a signal illustration of engineering skill and science, though that may confidently be claimed for it;— it is not, certainly it is not, as the tallest existing structure in the world for we do not measure the greatness of men by the height of their monuments, and we know that this distinction may be done away with, here or elsewhere, in future years —but it is as a memorial of the pre-eminent figure in modern or in ancient history, the world over —of the man who has left the loftiest example of public and private virtues, and whose exalted character challenge the admiration and the homage of mankind—it is this example and this character—it is the man, and not the monument—that we are here to commemorate!

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Nor can any one who hears me require to be reminded of that last scene of all, when, in his eight-and-sixtieth year, having been overtaken by a shower of sleet and snow, in the midst of those agricultural pursuits in which he so much delighted, at Mount Vernon, he laid himself calmly down to die —"not afraid to go," as he whispered to his physician—and left his whole country in tears such as had never flowed before. "Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace!"

Eighty-five years ago to-morrow, his sixty-eighth birthday, was solemnly assigned by congress for a general manifestation of that overwhelming national sorrow, and for the commemoration, by eulogies, addresses, sermons, and religious rites, of the great life which had thus been closed. But long before that anniversary arrived, and one day only after the sad tidings had reached the seat of government in Philadelphia, President John Adams, in reply to a message of the house of Representatives, had anticipated all panegyrics by a declaration, as true to-day as it was then, that he was "the most illustrious and beloved personage which this country ever produced;" while Henry Lee of Virginia, through the lips of John Marshall, had summed up and condensed all that was felt, and all that could be or ever can be said, in those imperishable words which will go ringing down the centuries, in every clime, in every tongue, till time shall be no more: "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen!"

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A celebrated philosopher of antiquity, who was nearly contemporary with Christ, but who could have known nothing of what was going on in Judea, and who, alas! did not always "reck his own rede,"—wrote thus to a younger friend, as a precept for a worthy life: "Some good man must be singled out and kept ever before our eyes, that we may live as if he were looking on, and do everything as if he could see it."

Let me borrow the spirit, if not the exact letter of that precept, and address it to the young men of my country: "Keep ever in your mind, and before your mind's eye, the loftiest standard of character. You have it, I need not say, supremely and unapproachably, in Him who spake as never man spake, and lived as never man lived, and who died for the sins of the world. That character stands apart and alone. But of merely mortal man the monument we have dedicated to-day points out the one for all Americans to study, to imitate, and, as far as may be, to emulate. Keep his example and his character ever before your eyes and in your hearts. Live and act as if he were seeing and judging your personal conduct and your public career. Strive to approximate that lofty standard, and measure your integrity and your patriotism by your nearness to it or your departure from it. The prime meridian of universal longitude, on sea or land, may be at Greenwich, or at Paris, or where you will. But the prime meridian of pure, disinterested, patriotic, exalted human character will be marked forever by yonder Washington obelisk!"

Yes, to the young men of America, under God it remains, as they rise up from generation to generation, to shape the destinies of their country's future, and woe to them if, regardless of the great example which is set before them, they prove unfaithful to the tremendous responsibilities which rest upon them.

Yet let me not seem, even for a moment, to throw off upon the children the rightful share of those responsibilities which belong to their fathers. Upon us, upon us, it devolves to provide that the advancing generations shall be able to comprehend, and equal to meet, the demands which are thus before them. It is ours— it is yours especially, senators and representatives—to supply them with the means of that universal education which is the crying want of our land, and without which any intelligent and successful free government is impossible.

We are just entering upon a new Olympiad of our national history—the twenty-first Olympiad since Washington first entered upon the administration of our constitutional government. The will of the people has already designated under whom the first century of that government is to be closed, and the best hopes and wishes of every patriot will be with him in the great responsibilities on which he is about to enter. No distinction of party or of section prevents our all feeling alike that our country, by whomsoever governed, is still and always our country, to be cherished in all our hearts, to be upheld and defended by all our hands!

Most happy would it be if the 30th of April, on which the first inauguration of Washington took place in 1789, could be the date of all future inaugurations,—as it might be by a slight amendment of the constitution,—giving, as it would, a much needed extension to the short sessions of congress and letting the second century of our constitutional history begin where the first century began.

But let the date be what it may the inspiration of the centennial anniversary of that first great inauguration must not be lost upon us. Would that any words of mine could help us all, old and young, to resolve that the principles and character and example of Washington, as he came forward to take the oaths of office on that day, shall once more be recognized and reverenced as the model for all who succeed him, and that his disinterested purity and patriotism shall be the supreme test and standard of American statesmanship! That standard can never be taken away from us. The most elaborate and durable monuments may perish. But neither the forces of nature, nor any fiendish crime of man, can ever mar or mutilate a great example of public or private virtue.

Our matchless obelisk stands proudly before us to-day, and we hail it with the exultations of a united and glorious nation. It may, or may not, be proof against the cavils of critics, but nothing of human construction is against the casualties of time. The storms of winter must blow and beat upon it. The action of the elements must soil and discolor it. The lightnings of heaven may scar and blacken it. An earthquake may shake its foundations. Some mighty tornado, or resistless cyclone, may rend its massive blocks asunder and hurl huge fragments to the ground. But the character which it commemorates and illustrates is secure. It will remain unchanged and unchangeable in all its consummate purity and splendor, and will more and more command the homage of succeeding ages in all regions of the earth. God be praised, that character is our forever!

Mr. Long spoke from the clerk's desk in an impressive manner and in a voice which, though not long, was so clear as to reach every corner in the chamber. The eloquent passages of speech were delivered with fervor which elicited frequent bursts of applause, and as Long read the peroration, the multitude broke into a storm of applause. On the right of the speaker were the chaplains of the senate and house and Rev. Mr. Wallis, while on his left sat Hon. John W. Daniel of Virginia, and Senator Sherman, chairman of the congressional joint commission. As Long ceased, the band struck up "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean," and as the strains of the air ended, Edmunds introduced Hon. John W. Daniel, who was greeted with long continued clapping of hands. Daniel proceeded to deliver his oration.

Mr. Daniel said: "Solitary and alone in its grandeur stands forth the character of Washington in history; solitary and alone like some peak that has no fellow in the mountain range of greatness.

'Washington,' says Guziot, 'Washington did the two greatest things which in politics it is permitted to man to attempt. He maintained by peace the independence of his country which he had conquered by war. He founded a free government in the name of the principles of order, and by re-establishing their sway.' Washington did indeed do these things. But he did more. Out of disconnected fragments he moulded a whole and made it a country. He achieved his country's independence by the sword. He maintained that independence by peace as by war. He finally established both his country and its freedom in an enduring frame of constitutional government, fashioned to make Liberty and Union one and inseperable. These four things together constitute the unexampled achievements of Washington.

Conquerers who have stretched your sceptres over boundless territories; founders of empires who have held your dominions in the reign of law; reformers who have cried aloud in the wilderness of oppression; teachers who have striven to cast down false doctrines, heresy and schisms; statesmen whose brains have throbbed with mighty plans for the amelioration of human society; scar-crowned vikings of the sea, illustrious heroes of the land, who have borne the standards of siege and battle—come forth in bright array from your glorious fanes, and would ye be measured by the measure of his stature? Behold you not in him a more illustrious, and more venerable presence? Statesman, soldier, patriot, sage, reformer of creeds, teachers of truth and justice, achiever and preserver of liberty—the first of men—founder and savior of his country, father of his people—that is he, solitary and unapproachable in his grandeur."

If I seek the fountains from which sprung a character so instinct with all-embracing patriotism, I shall pursue a line that seems not without suggestion in the invitation given me, and may not be without a useful lesson."

Mr. Daniel then traced the political history of the country from the time the Puritans of England landed at Plymouth in 1620, closing with the remark that Washington's progenitors had for centuries, running back to the Norman conquest, been men of mark and renown. He then dwelt upon old Virginia's history and the homes of Washington from his infancy to his death. He related the many military achievements of Washington, and spoke at length of his political career. He eulogized him as the friend of liberty, a true son of nature and a disinterested patriot.

"Great in action as by the council board, the finest horseman and knightliest figure of his time, he seemed designed by nature to lead in those bold strokes which needs must come when the battle lies with a single man—those critical moments of the campaign or the strife when, if the mind hesitates or the nerve flinches, all is lost.

It was as a statesman that Washington was greatest. Not in the sense that Hamilton and Jefferson, Adams and Madison were statesmen, but in a larger sense. Men may marshal armies who cannot drill divisions. Men may marshal nations in storm and travail who have not the accomplishments of their cabinet ministers. Not so versed as they was he in the details of political science. And yet as he studied tactics when he anticipated war, so he studied politics when he foresaw his civil role approaching, reading the history and examining the principles of ancient and modern confederacies and making notes of their virtues, defects and methods of operation. With greater ascendency of character he held men to their appointed tasks; with more inspiring virtue he commanded more implicit confidence. He bore a true divining rod, and through a wilderness of contention he alone was the unerring pathfinder of the people."

After detailing at some length the latter part of Washington's career Mr. Daniels closed by saying:

"In the name of the people of the United States, their president, their senators and their representatives and their judges, do crown to-day with the grandest crown that veneration has ever lifted to the brow of glory, him whom Virginia gave to America, whom America has given to the world and to the ages, and whom mankind with universal suffrage has proclaimed the foremost of the founders of empire in the first degree of greatness, whom Liberty herself has anointed as the first citizen in the great republic of humanity.

Encompassed by the inviolate seas stands to-day the American republic which he founded—a free Greater Britain—uplifted above the powers and principalities of the earth, even as his monument is uplifted over roof and dome, and spire of the multitudinous city.

Long live the republic of Washington! Respected by mankind, beloved of all its sons, long may it be the asylum of the poor of all lands and religions—long may it be the citadel of that liberty which writes beneath the eagle's folded wings: "We will sell to no man, we will deny to no man, right and justice."

Long live the United States of America! Filled with the free magnanimous spirit, crowned with the wisdom, blessed with the moderation, hovered over by the guardian angel of Washington's example; may they be ever worthy in all things to be defended by the blood of the brave who knew the rights of man—may they be each a column, and all together, under the constitution, a perpetual Temple of Peace, unshadowed by a Cæsar's palace; at whose altar may freely commune all who seek the union of liberty and brotherhood.

Long live our country! Oh, long through the undying ages may it stand, far removed in fact in space from the old world's feuds and follies—solitary and alone in its grandeur and its glory, itself the immortal monument of Him whom Providence commissioned to teach man the power of truth, and to prove to the nations that their Redeemer liveth."

Though having his manuscript on the desk before him Mr. Daniel referred to it but once or twice during the course of his oration. He spoke in an easy manner, his voice being finely modulated to suit the meaning of his sentences, and his speech was accentuated and emphasized by graceful gestures. Many times was he interrupted by rounds of applause elicited by his clean cut and well balanced periods, and by his eloquent style of uttering them. As he closed Senator Edmunds and Senator Sherman, Speaker Carlisle and Representative Long warmly congratulated him, while once more the audience testified their appreciation of the orator's eloquence. After the benediction by the chaplain of the house the distinguished guests departed and the speaker called the house to order, and the house adjourned till Monday.

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

The Inception, Growth and Appearance of the Monument.

Special to the Globe.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—I went to the top of the Washington monument shaft this afternoon for the first time since its completion, and the sensation experienced in gazing out the windows or port holes was certainly peculiar. The capitol, which is over a mile from the monument, looked more like a small model of the real building than the structure itself. One peculiarity about the view of the capitol that I noticed was that one could not see the flags on either end of the building from the top of the monument, but when one was on the ground both the flags over the house and senate end could easily be seen. It is an easy matter to see these flags twice the distance from any ordinary view of the capitol, but when one is on top of the monument they cannot be seen with the naked eye. The White house and several other public buildings, which are about a quarter of a mile distant from the monument, looked from the top to be near its base, and it seemed that they were just adjoining the monument itself. Sugar-loaf mountain, thirty-five miles distant, in West Virginia, loomed up in the background and only appeared to be three or four miles distant. Alexandria, Va., seemed to be only a square or two distant, while the real distance is eight miles. Many of the houses in the city looked like small models of buildings, and, although apparently reduced in size, the most distant object appeared to be the nearest. It required ten minutes for the elevator to ascend and ten minutes more for it to descend. While the temperature appeared to be comfortably warm on the earth, when we reached the top all the visitors seemed to be chilled through and were really glad when the conductor of the elevator announced that he was ready for the descent. The highest point that visitors are allowed to go is five hundred feet above the ground, while the roof above that point goes up 55 feet higher.

The construction of the monument was begun in the early summer of 1848 by the Washington National Monument society. The structure, as designed by Robert Mills, was an obelisk 600 feet in height, with a very flat apex, surrounded at the base by a pantheon, with a peristyle of marble columns 100 feet high. Shortly after the commencement of the work the height of the obelisk was reduced to 500 feet, and the building of the pantheon deferred to some future date. The foundation of the obelisk as constructed was 80 feet square at the bed of foundation, and this bed was placed 7 feet 8 inches below the general level of the ground about the structure. The foundation was 23 feet 4 inches thick, and was 58 feet 6 inches square at its top. It was built of large pieces of bluestone gneiss, put in the masonry as they came from the quarry, the interstices between the masses being filled with spawls and a mortar composed largely of fat lime and sand.

The shaft was commenced 55 feet 1½ inches square at the base, with walls 15 feet thick. These walls had a facing of large grained white marble, in blocks of 2 feet rise and from 18 inches to 15 inches thickness, sawed without reference to the quarry bed; and rubbed smooth; and a backing of blue gneiss stone rubble. The walls as constructed contemplated a finished height of 600 feet for the shaft. By the year 1854 the obelisk had been built to the height of 152 feet, and by 1856 some 4 feet more were added, making the total height of the marble shaft 156 feet 4⅛ inches. At its top the sides averaged 48 feet 9⅝ inches in length. The well in the interior was 25 feet 1 inch square. The axis of the shaft leaned 1⅞ inches to the northward. The thickness of the walls at the top was 11 feet 10 5-16 inches. The weight of this obelisk and its foundation was some 31,152 tons, and the cost of the structure about $300,000. On the 19th of January, 1877, the Washington National Monument society conveyed by deed all their property, easements, rights and privileges in the monument to the United States, but no further work was done toward continuing the obelisk until 1878, when, under the act of August 2, 1876, providing for the completion of the Washington monument, and the joint resolution of June 14, 1878, to enable the joint commission to carry this act into effect, work was commenced upon the strengthening of the foundation, to the end that the obelisk might be completed to the height of 525 feet.

The work of strengthening the foundation was completed on the 29th of May, 1880, and as finished the new foundation is 35 feet, 10 inches in depth, and extends down to a level 6 inches below the permanent level of water in the site upon which the work is situated. The work of building the obelisk was commenced Aug. 7, 1880, the old shaft having first been reduced to a height of 150 feet, and, as before stated, the masonry of the obelisk was completed Dec. 6, 1884. As finished, the monument is 555 feet, 5⅛ inches in height, the shaft being 500 feet, 5⅛ inches high, and the pyramidion or apex 55 feet. The topmost point is 597 feet 3 inches above mean low water in the Potomac and 596 feet 9.36 inches above the mean level of the Atlantic at Sandy Hook, N. Y., as determined Dec. 1, 1884, by the United States coast and geodetic survey. The shaft as completed is 55 feet, 1½ inches square at the base, and 34 feet, 5½ inches square at the top, where the walls have a thickness of 1 foot, 6 inches. The batter of the sides is .247 of an inch to one foot in rise. The height of this shaft is slightly greater than nine times the width of the base. Its width at top is ⅝ths the width of the base, and it would come to a point at a height 2⅝ its present height. The walls of the new portion are faced with a fine-grained white marble from the Beaver Dam quarry in Baltimore county, Maryland, and backed with granite from several of the New England quarries. The courses are uniformly 2 feet in rise, the blocks of a wider bed than their rise, and the bond, the Flemish, alternate header and stretcher. The marble is very strong, fine-grained, and durable, and weighs 178¾ pounds to the cubic foot. The walls at the level of 160 feet were reduced in thickness to 8 feet 7 inches, but from that level are carried up plumb on the inside, giving a well of 31 feet 5½ inches square. An iron frame, supporting a staircase and elevator machinery, is carried from the floor to the top of the shaft. The weight of the structure is 81,120 tons. Up to the 1st of January the cost of the structure had been $1,187,710.31. Of this the Washington Monument society had expended about $300,000 and the United States $887,710.31.

At the close of the working season of 1883 the shaft had been carried to the height of 410 feet above the floor. During the past season the remainder of the shaft, and the entire pyramidion, 55 feet in height, have been finished, adding 145 feet to the structure.

The pyramidion is built entirely of marble, and its covering slabs are but seven inches in thickness. Each of these slabs rests upon projections on the marble ribs. These ribs are twelve in number, three upon each side of the well, and spring from the interior face of the walls at the level 470. They are then carried upward, until the ribs nearest the angles of the shaft meet in the hips of the pyramidion, while those in the center of each face are connected still higher up by voussoir stones, forming two arches intersecting each other at right angles. The thrust of a corner rib is transmitted to its opposite, by the use of horizontal stones between their upper extremities. The weight of the pyramidion is 300 tons of 2,240 pounds each.

In order to light the shaft and the passages leading to it, a dynamo of about 2,000 candle power is being set up in the engine house, and incandescent lights supplied to the several platforms.

The engine house at the monument will be enlarged some 6½ feet to the south, to accommodate the dynamo machine and its engine, and a low, galvanized iron, double roof, with louvered and glass sides, will be erected over the engines. The entrance to the engine house, and from it to the floor of the shaft, will be through a covered passage beneath the terrace, similar to the one in the east side, which is to be exclusively for visitors to the structure.

The presentation blocks on hand number 101. Of this number it is probable that some are not suitable for introduction in the walls. Those that are to be secured in the walls will have to be reduced to tablets from 4 to 8 inches in thickness. A depression may then be cut in the face of the wall, and the tablet inserted and fastened by bronze expansion bolts to the backing. The selection of the stones to be inserted will be made at an early day.

The backing of the first 150 feet of the walls is of rubble masonry, so roughly constructed along many of the joints as to catch the water of condensation running down the face of the well, and to deflect it into the interior of the walls. This portion of the interior face will be plastered with Portland cement mortar, rubbed down hard and lined off as coursed ashlar.

The present floor of the monument is some 5 inches below the finished floor of the structure. This space was left for a granite curb and cast-iron covering-plates, over the drum and shaft pits, and the foundation of a tiled floor. This work will be done as soon as the stairs, presentation blocks and plastering are finished.

The last block of marble for the shaft was delivered by the contractor June 23, 1884, and was set in its place Aug. 9, 1884, thus completing the shaft to the height of 500 feet in four working seasons. The contractor finished the delivery of marble under his contract, in a most satisfactory manner, Nov. 21, 1884, at which date it was closed. Twelve hundred and eighty-eight blocks of marble, containing 25,908 cubic feet, and 294 blocks of granite, containing 5,500 cubic feet, were built into the shaft during the season. The pyramidion is composed of 262 separate pieces of marble, containing 3,764 cubic feet of dressed stock. It will be observed that the difference between the least and greatest settlements under this load is less than 1-16 of an inch.

Quite an amount of work is required to put the finishing touches on the structure and its surrounding. An appropriation of $75,000 will be required for the ensuing year to go on with the completion of the monument and its surroundings in all their details.

The two doorways leading into the monument will be closed with thin marble walls, the stone to match the facing. The entrance will be through short passages beneath the terrace. It has been recommended that the pond just north of the obelisk be filled to the level of its banks in the interest of increased stability of the monument.

STRAWBERRIES.

The Result of Their Discussion by the Hennepin County Horticulturists.

The largest meeting of the season of the Hennepin county horticulturists was held yesterday afternoon, and the capacious store room of Northrop, Braslan & Co. was scarcely sufficient for the crowd. Strawberries were discussed at length.

In a paper read by William Lyons of this city, he gave an experience of thirty years in the growth and culture of strawberries, and suggested that the legislature be requested to distribute the new and desirable varieties of strawberry plants, which are tested each year at the state experimental farm, amongst the farmers of Minnesota. The result of this would be to stimulate an interest in growing fruits for the supply of their own families at least. The paper contained many valuable points and suggestions, and was received with much interest.

Mr. C. L. Smith, also of Minneapolis, then read a paper on the subject of strawberries for the farmer's garden, recommending the cultivation in hills and heavy mulching. He recommended only those varieties perfect in blossom, and recommended cornstalks as best for mulching.

President Pearce followed, with a paper on the varieties and method of cultivation of strawberries, recommending the alternating of the stamen and pistol varieties, one-third to two-thirds, grown in matted rows. He highly recommended potted plants, which is a strong point with him.

Mr. Gilpatrick, one of the most successful growers in the state, advocated hill culture, fruited one year, and removing the old vines when they cease bearing and the young ones come in. By this method he has raised large crops from the same patch for ten successive years. He claims he not only obtained better yield from hill culture, but far superior fruit. He sets them eighteen inches apart between the hills and two and one-half feet in the rows, and sets plants in the spring as soon as weather will permit. His experience has been confined to small patches, but he believed the same careful cultivation, given a large acerage, would pay proportionate well. He considers mulching necessary to the well-being of plants, mulching with cornstalks, straw or like material, but prefers cornstalk.

President Pearce, for new plantations, uses potted plants entirely, as he can get them out early, have large plants in the fall and obtain four times the yield next season than he could by any other method.

It was the sense of the society that if the plants were on a sandy soil they need not be cultivated in the spring, the mulching, however, to be left upon the ground; but if on heavy clay soil they should be cultivated before blossoming. The president regarded the best time for mulching was in midwinter on top of the snow. The members concurred in this, with the proviso that if not coveree with snow by the 10th of December they must be mulched, or the plant will be injured by successive freezing and thawing. The question was raised as to the advisability of using manure for mulching, but it was decided unsafe when a wet spring followed. Best mulching is done with, first, corn fodder; second, marsh hay, and third, straw. It was agreed that plants should always be selected from a young bed, or one that had never fruited. President Pearce said the form and color of a berry were the chief considerations, and that a berry embracing these was invariably a good one. Mr. C. L. Smith claimed that the staminate varieties impart their character to the pistilliates, and this important fact should always be considered in seeking quality of fruit.

The society recommends, for sandy soil, one row of Countess, or Downer's Prolific, and two rows of the Crescent. It was unanimously agreed that for heavy soil, the Wilson, Glendale and Crescent be recommended for general cultivation. One row of Wilson and two rows of Glendale or Crescent; for trial on any soil, the old Ironclad, James Vick and the Manchester, well fertilized, were recommended.

Raspberries and the best varieties for cultivation will be the subject of next Saturday's meeting.

Catechism modernized. Teacher—What is the difference between the body and the soul? Johnny (vacantly)—The body is mortal and material; the soul— Teacher (impatiently)—Yes, and the soul? Johnny—The soul is immortal and immaterial. Harvard Lampoon.

Schoolmistress (correcting exercises)—This is wrong. You should always use a capital E for England. Small boy—No, miss; beg pardon, miss: please, miss, father says while the Liberals are in power England will have to be spelt with a very small e. Sentence—A half-holiday and sixpence to spend. London Serio-Comic Journal.

"Can't you give me definition of nothing?" inquired a No. 17 school-teacher. "Yes, mum. It's a bunghole without a barrel around it," shouted little Ted Saunders, whose papa is a cooper. Cooper's Record.