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DESIGNED BY M. NICOLAS — THE DRAWING BY R. WARREN.

PUBLISHED BY JOHN H. PRATT, W. H. FREEMAN

See page 52 —

AN
AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT
OF ALL THE PROCEEDINGS ON THE
FOURTH OF JULY, 1815,
WITH REGARD TO LAYING THE
CORNER STONE

OF THE
Washington Monument,

NOW ERECTING IN THE
CITY OF BALTIMORE,
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENGRAVING OF THE MONUMENT.

AN ADDRESS FROM THE CITIZENS OF BALTIMORE
TO THE MAN WHO WAS

"First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."
Together with his answer.—Also,

TWO SIMILES OF THE ENGRAVED PLATE DEPOSITED UNDER
THE CORNER STONE,

AND A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF

GENERAL WASHINGTON.

John Horace Pratt

Baltimore :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
JOHN HORACE PRATT.

1815.

*Library of Congress
1867
City of Washington*

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District of Maryland, ss.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the thirteenth day of July, in the fortieth year of the independence of the United States of America, JOHN HORACE PRATT, of the said district, hath deposited in this office, the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as Proprietor, in the words following, to wit: "*An authentic account of all the proceedings on the fourth of July, 1815, with regard to laying the corner stone of the WASHINGTON MONUMENT, now erecting in the city of Baltimore; accompanied by an engraving of the Monument; an address from the citizens of Baltimore, to the man who was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," together with his answer. Also, fac similes of the engraved plate, deposited under the corner stone; and a biographical sketch of General Washington.*" In conformity to an act of the congress of the United States, entitled "an act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned." And also to the act entitled, "an act supplementary to the act, entitled an act, for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving and etching historical and other prints."

PHILIP MOORE,

Clerk of the District of Maryland.

AN

AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT, &c.

AGREEABLY to previous arrangements, the managers of the monument met in Howard's Park, at twelve o'clock, on Teusday, the fourth of July, eighteen hundred and fifteen, and in the presence of from twenty-five to thirty thousand of their fellow citizens; among whom were a number of the reverend clergy; the president and members of the Cincinnati of Maryland, his excellency the governor R. W. G. M. and members of the grand lodge of Maryland, and the subordinate lodges of Baltimore; the mayor and city council of Baltimore; officers of the army and navy;

major general R. G. Harper and aids; and the third brigade of Maryland militia, under the command of brigadier general Sterett; they proceeded to perform the pleasing duty assigned them by the legislature of Maryland, of laying the first corner stone of a monument, to be erected in the city of Baltimore, to the memory of **GENERAL WASHINGTON**, the father of the republic.

In an elevated situation, near the spot prepared for laying the corner stone, was exhibited an excellent likeness of the deceased hero and sage; an original portrait, painted by **MR. REMBRANDT PEALE**; and, immediately under the picture, a correct and beautiful representation of the monument to be erected, as designed by **MR. MILLS**, painted by **MR. HENRY WARREN**. These were richly decorated by **MR. HUGH FINDLEY**, forming, together, an appropriate **TROPHY** for the occasion; and, at the beginning of the ceremony, the ensigns from the attending volunteer corps displayed their flags, on which were painted the arms of the United States around the trophy.

The ceremonies of the day were commenced by some national airs from a volunteer band of amateurs, MR. BUNYIE leader. A salute of thirty-nine guns, commemorative of the number of years which was on that day completed since the declaration of independence.—Washington's march, by the band.—JAMES A. BUCHANAN, esq. president of the board of managers, then addressed the audience as follows:

“The distinguished honor, my fellow citizens, of presiding on this interesting occasion, has devolved upon me, in consequence of the death of my predecessor, the founder and first president of the board of managers, JOHN COMEGYS; to whom, more than to any member of the board, more indeed, than to all the other members of the board, is to be ascribed whatever there may be of merit in the procuring for our city the glory of being the first to erect a monument of gratitude to the father and benefactor of our country.

“And, my fellow citizens, is it not with peculiar propriety that this first expression of national gratitude should be made

in the city of Baltimore? at all times the first to evince its attachment to those republican institutions, to secure which was the great object of WASHINGTON'S labours. Baltimore has at no time been backward with testimonials of her love and gratitude towards him. When she saw him elevated to the highest honours in the gift of his country, Baltimore was among the first to approach him with her homage. 'The tokens of regard and affection,' said he, 'which I have often received from the citizens of this town were always acceptable, because I always believed them sincere.'

"When, descending from his exalted station, he relinquished his power, and sought for happiness in the bosom of retirement, the first to thank him for his services, and to regret his departure, was Baltimore. In reply to an address, presented to him on that occasion, by the city, he observed — 'I pray you to accept of my sincere thanks, for the evidence you have now given, of approbation of my past services; for those regrets which you have expressed, on the occasion of my retirement to

private life, and for the affectionate attachment which you have declared for my person.'—If these be sufficient to establish, in Baltimore, a priority of claim to the hallowed services of this day; recent interesting events, of which she was the theatre, lean powerfully in support of them. During the war in which we have been engaged, the city, destined to bear the proud name of WASHINGTON to future ages, fell an easy conquest to the ruthless invader. The shock produced by this stroke was felt from the one end of these United States to the other. The minds of our countrymen appeared to be transfixed with horror and dismay; a night of awful darkness seemed to overshadow our land; the gloomiest apprehensions were entertained for the republic; the timid and the desponding, not recollecting that freedom rises with an elasticity proportionate to the pressure made upon it, were approaching a state of political despair. At this most awful moment for our country, Baltimore, the city of our affection, in which was contained our altars, our families, our all, became the next object of attack to a vindic-

tive, and *at that time*, a vainglorious foe. The eyes of all America were fixed upon us! On the destiny of Baltimore seemed to be suspended the fate of the republic! She breasted the storm; and, thanks to her gallant defenders, exists now, in prosperity and glory, to perform her most grateful of duties.

“The desire, my fellow citizens, of perpetuating the memory of illustrious men, has prevailed in every age of the world. The ingenuity of men has been exercised, as well in his rudest, as in his most polished condition, in devising methods by which effectually to gratify this desire. The song of the poet, the pen of the historian, the pencil of the painter, the chissel of the sculptor, all have, in every age, been employed, to render their fame imperishable. It has, indeed, been sometimes said that the only monument real excellence requires, is an existence in the recollection of those who have been blessed by its operation: and that in the gratitude of posterity, it has its best reward. It would be superfluous, under present circumstances, to enquire into the correctness or in-

correctness of this sentiment. We have taken the sense of mankind, as exhibited in immemorial usage for our guide; and, I therefore proceed to state, that we are assembled here, my fellow citizens, to lay the corner stone of a monument, intended to commemorate the virtues of our great WASHINGTON; of the hero and the sage who was 'first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.' On an occasion so grand, so interesting, it might perhaps be expected, that some notice should be taken of 'the services of the mighty dead;' but when we recollect, that the world is filled with his glory, and that its radiance shines with a lustre which requires no aid from eulogy, I feel relieved from a task which it would have been the height of presumption for *me* to have undertaken.

"With these few observations, my fellow citizens, more than which I have not believed to be necessary, and less than which would not have satisfied my own impressions of duty, allow me to solicit your devout attention to the next feature of our arrangement, which is to invoke the bless-

ings of Almighty God, on the purpose for which we are assembled.”

The following prayer, was then addressed to the Throne of God, by the right reverend bishop KEMP.

“ O God! in whom we live, and move and have our being. Every good thing that we enjoy here, we derive from thee, and every good thing that we hope for hereafter, thou alone canst bestow.

“ We acknowledge, with deep humility, that we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts; that we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and that we have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and that there is no spiritual health in us. Pardon, O merciful father, our manifold transgressions; purify our hearts from every defilement, and grant us grace, to enable us to devote our hearts and our lives more particularly to thy service.

“ We magnify and adore thee, the Supreme Ruler of nations, for the many and distinguished blessings, which we enjoy, as a people, for the liberty, prosperity, and

happiness, which we have derived from that memorable *act*, whose anniversary has again rolled round! On this day let every heart expand with gratitude and joy—let it be distinguished by our citizens as the commencement of a new era in the history of nations, when a great and extensive empire rose into existence; when a Supreme Being opened a way for the rapid dissemination of liberty, learning, and religion, over an uncultivated wilderness, ameliorating the condition of man, and spreading light and salvation through a wide extended land. O God! for these blessings give us grace to be duly thankful.

“In particular we come before thee, at this time, to implore a blessing on our present undertaking; and that in all our works begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name; may perpetuate and extend those principles, upon which depend our happiness here and hereafter.

“May this monument, whose corner stone we are now about to deposit, stand as a memorial of the blessings and advantages that our country derived from the character

and conduct of that personage whose name it is to bear, and whose virtues it is to perpetuate. May it excite in us those noble affections, that will entitle us to the continuance of his favor, who is the author of every good and perfect gift; may we view it as a continued monitor, to emulate the virtues and to follow the example of him, whose character implies *everything that is great*. ‘O let our hearts, and all that is within us, praise the Lord for his goodness.’

“Let the soldier, when he views this monument, remember, that America requires he should form his character upon the model of WASHINGTON; that he should combine bravery with prudence; courage with humanity; the service of his God with the service of his country.

“Let the statesman here learn the important lesson, that integrity is the rule, by which all his plans are to be measured; honesty the scale in which all his schemes are to be weighed; that religion is the only base on which the happiness of a nation can stand secure, and that true patriotism consists in that ardent love of our

country, which excites to originate and promote measures to dispense the blessings of freedom, justice, and plenty, among all descriptions of citizens.

“ Let the private citizen, when he looks upon this monument, remember that it is erected in memory of a man, who was an ornament to private life as well as public; who, to the bravery of a soldier and the integrity of a statesman, added the virtues of an affectionate husband, a kind neighbor, an useful citizen, and a pious christian.

“ O God! as it pleased thee to appoint the rain-bow, as a token that the earth should not again be destroyed by a flood, so may this monument remain as a token that America must not be deluged by sin; that the land of WASHINGTON must not be torn by faction or ruined by vice; that no domineering tyrant shall raise his head on this soil, or the happiness of our citizens be sacrificed at the shrine of ambition.

“ To this monument let the father lead his son, and tell him, that to be great he must possess the virtues and the principles of him to whose memory it is dedicated.

“On this monument, O God, may we all look as a reproof of sin, and an encouragement to virtue—as the ark of independence, the model of patriotism, and the reward of greatness—and may it be happily instrumental in inspiring our hearts with noble sentiments, in elevating our souls above mean pursuits, and in preparing us to share in the everlasting rewards of all those who love God, who trust in a redeemer, and whose souls are adorned by the noble qualities of pure christians.

“These, our prayers, we offer unto thee in the name and through the merits of our blessed Redeemer; to whom, with thee and the holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end—*Amen.*”

The president, accompanied by the board of managers, then descended to the place where the corner stone was suspended, and by their secretary invited his excellency LEVIN WINDER, R. W. G. M. of masons, colonel JOHN E. HOWARD, president and general S. SMITH, vice-president of the Cincinnati, and EDWARD JOHNSON, mayor of the city of Baltimore, to witness the laying of the stone. To whom, when assem-

bled, the president made the following address:

“ I have, gentlemen, been requested by the board of managers, to ask your participation with them on this interesting occasion; and, worshipful sir, (addressing the R. W. G. Master) to present you with these implements, (handing the square, plumb, and level,) used by your ancient fraternity, with which you will be pleased to proceed and ascertain the fitness of this stone.”

The R. W. G. Master replied, “ Honourable sir, on behalf of the free and accepted masons of this state, I accept, with pleasure your invitation, and it will afford us peculiar satisfaction to render all the assistance within our power, so that the stone may be laid agreeably to the ancient usages of the order, especially, as the object of the building to be erected is to hand down to the latest posterity the virtues and patriotism of the greatest of men; who, during his valuable life, honored our order by becoming a zealous and faithful member of the fraternity.”

His excellency, the R. W. G. Master, then proceeded to try the fitness of the stone; and, addressing the president, pronounced the same "true and trusty."

The architect, assisted by Messrs. WILLIAM STEUART and THOMAS TOWSON, the operative masons, under the direction of the president, placed the stone in its proper position.

The secretary then deposited in the stone a copper plate,* and a sealed glass bottle, containing a likeness of WASHINGTON, his valedictory address, the several newspapers printed in this city, and the different coins of the United States. On the stone was engraved—

"WILLIAM STEUART

AND

THOMAS TOWSON,

STONE CUTTERS.

SATER STEVENSON,

STONE MASON."

The president, accompanied by the R. W. G. Master, the president and vice-president of the Cincinnati, and the mayor of

* See fac similes of its engraving, facing pages 16 and 17.



WASHINGTON HALL,

LEMUEL TAYLOR,

GEORGE HOFFMAN,

EDWARD J. COALE,



Reverse side of the Plate.



JOHN COMEGYS,

WASHINGTON HALL,

JAMES A. BUCHANAN,

LEMUEL TAYLOR,

ROBERT GILMORE, Jr.

GEORGE HOFFMAN,

ISAAC M'KIM,

EDWARD J. COALE,

WM. H. WINDER,

JAMES PARTRIDGE,

DAVID WINCHESTER,

NICHOLAS C. RIDGELY,

FIELDING LUCAS, Jr.

ROBERT MILLER,

JAMES CALHOUN, Jr.

NATHANIEL F. WILLIAMS,

JAMES COCKE,

LEVI HOLLINGSWORTH,

JOHN FRICK,

WILLIAM GYWNW,

JAMES WILLIAMS,

B. H. MULLIKIN,

JAMES BARROLL.

DIRECTORS.

ELI SIMKINS, *Secretary.*

ROBERT MILLS, *Architect.*

The Site presented by

COL. JOHN EAGER HOWARD.

EDWARD JOHNSON,

Mayor.

ented by

MR HOWARD.

EDWARD JOHNSON,

Mayor.

JOHN FRICK,

to

of the State of New York.

the city, proceeded and settled the stone. The Grand Master then pronounced—
 “May the Grand Architect of the universe grant a blessing on this foundation stone, which we have now laid, and by his providence enable us to finish this and every other work which may be undertaken for the benefit of the republic and the perpetuity of our free institutions.”

The R. W. G. Master then received, severally, the vessels containing corn, wine, and oil, and addressed the president—
 “Sir, as the scattering of corn, and the pouring out of wine and oil, on such occasions, are a part of our ancient ceremonies, with your assent I will perform that duty.” The president signified his assent, when the grand master scattered the corn, and poured out the wine and oil on the stone, saying, “May the all bountiful author of nature bless this city with an abundance of corn, wine, and oil, and with all the necessities, conveniences, and comforts, of life; and may the same Almighty Power preserve this city from ruin and decay to the latest posterity.”

ON THE 4th OF JULY, A. D. 1815.

Was laid this

FOUNDATION STONE

of a

M E M O R I A L

to be erected to the

m e m o r y

o f

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

The R. W. G. Master, then addressing the rev. JOHN HARGROVE, Grand Chaplain, said, "Have we here the first and greatest light of masonry?"

He replied, "it is in my hands, R. W."

The R. W. G. Master again asked, "What instructions does it give on this occasion?"

The Grand Chaplain read the following select passages from the holy writings :

"Thus, saith the Lord God, behold I lay in Zion, for a foundation, a *stone*, a *tried stone*, a precious *corner stone*, a sure foundation, &c.

"Judgement also will I lay to the line and righteousness unto the plummet."

Isaiah, xxviii ch. 16 & 17 v.

"For behold the stone which I have laid before Joshua: upon one stone shall be seven eyes. Behold I will engrave the engraving thereof, with the LORD OF HOSTS."

Zech. iii ch. 9 v.

"Bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord.

"Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and bless the Lord.

"The Lord that made heaven and earth
bless thee out of Zion." *Psalm cxxxiv.*

Grand honors by the masons.

The president then addressed Mr.
MILLS*—

"The managers, appointed by the legislature of Maryland, to superintend the erection of this monument, intended to hand down, to the latest generation, the love of country, the disinterestedness, the valor, and the patriotism, of one of the greatest and best of men, that ever lived in any age, having the most unbounded confidence in your skill and integrity as an architect, do now entrust you with these symbols, (handing the s. p. and L.) by which you are to prosecute, according to that design, (pointing to a representation of the monument, as designed by Mr. MILLS, painted by Mr. WARREN,) a monument which may do honor to yourself as an architect, as well as those who have confided in you, and be in some degree commensurate with its object."

* MR. ROBERT MILLS is a native of CHARLESTON, South Carolina, and has the honor of being the first American educated architect.

MR. MILLS replied—

“The honor, sir, you have been pleased to confer upon me, I hope to prove that I duly appreciate, by a faithful performance of the duties incumbent on me as your architect.

“I feel a double inducement to use my best exertions to execute faithfully, and with ability, the important duty entrusted to me, from the recollection, that the work to be performed is the execution of a monument, to perpetuate our country’s gratitude to *the father of her liberties*; and that you have given a preference to native genius in the choice of a design for the work.”

The rev. DR. INGLIS, then addressed the throne of Divine Grace as follows:

“*Sovereign of nations*, whose throne is the only throne before which our free republic bows herself! If we know our own hearts, it is our delight to do the homage as our monarch, our judge, and our God. We give thee thanks, that at length the foul blot of reproach is effaced from the public name, and that a splendid memorial of the people’s gratitude is at length about

to be reared, to tell to the world that honor is due from them, and shall be paid, to the brave, the just, and the good, to their chief, their benefactor and their father.

“What people has ever had such cause of gratitude to thee, as this people? For what people, except of old, for thy chosen tribes, whom thou ledst through the wilderness to a land of rest, of plenty, prosperity and glory, hast thou ever done such deeds of wonder, as for this people? And of all thy multitudinous blessings bestowed upon us, we esteem it not the least, that thou didst give us the achievements and the example of thine eminent servant, whose spirit is now in other worlds, but whose happy memory lives undecayingly in our affections, and to the honor of whose transcendent character this monumental fabrick is devoted——thy servant, ‘first in war——first in peace——and first in the hearts of his countrymen’——thy servant, the delight of an admiring world, ‘whose country is the universe——whose fame is eternity.’
——We thank thee that thou didst form and adapt his mind to the crisis which called him into action—to the exigencies of

the eventful times during which he exercised his exalted talents and his no less exalted virtues. For while we cherish the name and memory of our glorious chief, we humbly and thankfully acknowledge that every perfect gift, whether of goodness or of greatness, cometh down from above; from thee, O fountain of excellence; from thee, O father of lights; with whom is no variableness or shadow of turning!

“We thank thee that this great man lived not in vain, and that his precious example has not been lost upon the people before whose eyes it shines. The wounds of those brave men who have survived the shock of recent battles on no distant fields, whose patience and fortitude, under the privations and exposures of war, whose self-denial, whose contempt of danger, and whose martial ardor, drove back the unsuccessful hosts of invasion to their ships, attest that the example of his valor and his patriotism has not been lost upon us. The annunciations of victory by our laurelled commanders, when the blood of the brave dyed the waters of the lakes, attest that the example of his modesty and

his piety, has not shone upon us in vain. They attest, that, like him, the intrepid leader and the warrior, who, with firm and faithful step, advances to the onset, forgets not, amidst the pomp and circumstance of war, that God is the Lord of Hosts, to whom all might and all success are to be ascribed.

“On this occasion, and at this sacred spot, may we be enabled to look back with gratitude upon the past, and forward upon the future with hope, confidence and courage. Thou who didst accomplish this unparalleled man with rich gifts for war and peace, that he might go in and out before this so great people, wilt not forsake the country that gave him birth and where his ashes lie. To thy blessing we solemnly commend its institutions and its interests. This day, the anniversary of that proud day which gave us national existence; of that glorious day, when first independence thundered from the Senate Hall, and scattered its lightening from the sword of the chief along the thorny and ensanguined pathway, that, under the auspices of Omnipotence, led, in

the event, to victory and to peace; this day, this joyful day, we invoke thy blessing. Bless these assembled multitudes; bless this flourishing and growing city, ever favored by thy smiles, and of late signally protected by thy providence. Bless the state, of which it is the ornament, our governor and public functionaries; bless the United States of America, united indissolubly; free and independent perpetually; God save the republic, which himself hath formed to be the refuge of freedom; never, O never, of freedom, may it prove the grave! Bless the president of the United States, and all in authority; and grant that, under their administration, the people may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty.

“Sovereign of nations; author of all good; patron and rewarder of integrity, patriotism and valor, we supplicate thy benediction upon the interesting solemnity of this day; deign to smile upon the deed which has been done, and to accept it. For while this monumental structure shall present to the beholder the emblematic regis-

ter of glory, shall it not proclaim the obligations of the republic to Him who formed her general for the field; her ruler for the the cabinet? O may this memorial of our dead friend and father speak in tones of deep interest to all his children. May it lead them to remember every particular of his moral, civic, and military virtue. Let the believer remember that our chief venerated the rites of religion and the name of God. Let the citizen remember, that our chief bowed to the supremacy of the laws, and gloried in rendering prompt obedience to the voice of constituted authority. Let the soldier remember that our chief fought because freedom, and truth, and virtue, and conscience, armed him; that his sword would have refused to leave its scabbard in an unholy cause, and that he never could have been induced by seduction or provocation to turn its point against the maternal bosom of his country. Let successive presidents, commanders, magistrates, counsellors, and all depositaries of power, remember that our chief sought not, in any one instance, *himself*, but at all times *his country's weal*.

“ Save Lord, save this fabric of the people’s gratitude; this structure to the blessed memory of our national father and benefactor, consecrated by the recollections, the sensibilities, and the prayers of his children. O save it from destructive casualties; protect it against the mouldering touch of time; and at what period soever the clangour of arms may again disturb our peaceful pursuits, let us look on this splendid pile; let us ask, where is the spirit of the hero whose fame it perpetuates; let us emulate his deeds, and gather round the monument of our father; let us guard it with a no less resolved and unshrinking purpose than we would our altars and our homes!

“ Almighty God, we believe that thou art never displeased with the expression of praise, where praise is due; we, therefore, deem it becoming us on this solemn occasion, to notice with tender recollection, the respectable, amiable, and patriotic person, to whose indefatigable labors, we, of this vicinity, are chiefly indebted for the honorable privilege of laying the first monumental stone, sacred to the me-

mory of the father of his country. In all patriotic offices, in all public works promotive of the interest of truth, virtue, benevolence, and liberty; grant that his example may be universally imitated with a perseverance and an enthusiasm worthy of the American citizen.

“Sovereign of nations; almighty creator; God of the spirits of all flesh; father of our Saviour; by whose divine permission we have united in these exercises; listen, we beseech thee, to our thanksgiving and supplications, and favorably, in much mercy, be pleased to answer them.—*Amen.*”

“Men, brethren, and fellow citizens—Jehovah bless you, and keep you—Jehovah make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you—Jehovah lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace—the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.—*Amen.*”

Music. First solemn, then national.

Grand salute of one hundred guns, the band playing a national air.

The whole ceremonies of the day were concluded by three vollies from the whole line of infantry.

The evening sky was beautifully bespangled by rockets, thrown from the Java frigate, and from the mansion of col. Howard, in the park. They rose in a brilliant line of fire, and forming a graceful arch, broke into stars as they descended. Divine providence seemed to smile upon the occasion; the air was delightfully cool and the firmament serene. The evening silence and tranquility that closed the joyful turbulence of the day, formed a striking contrast, and seemed to display that sobriety of pleasure which the solemnity of the occasion demanded.

A CARD.

The board of managers return their sincere thanks to Mr. BUNTIE and his associates, for their valuable acquisition to the solemnity of the ceremonies of laying the corner stone of the monument—as also to Messrs. WARREN, FINLEY and PEALE, for the elegant decorations furnished for the occasion.

ELI SIMKINS, *Sec.*

*The following is an original inscription,
proposed for the Washington Monument,
with an English version.*

MONUMENTUM PATRI PATRIÆ DEDICATUM.

Die quarto Julii, et Christianæ æræ anno 1815, cives BALTIMORENSES substructionis primum lapidem posuerunt Columnæ Magnificæ, memoriæ GEORGII WASHINGTON sacræ; cujus nomen, "et laurea et lingua," clarum ac venerabile, hisce Americæ civitatibus fæderatis semper æque inclytum et percarum erit et etiam per volventia sæcula, ut dux, miles et vindex patriæ libertatis heroicus, cunctis monumentis quæ tempus edax exciderit, gloria perenni ac fama inculcata, supervixerit.

TRANSLATED.

"On the 4th day of July, and in the year of the Christian æra 1815, the citizens of Baltimore laid the first foundation stone of a magnificent column, sacred to the memory of GEORGE WASHINGTON—a name as revered in the cabinet as renowned in the field; a name, which, to these United States of America, shall ever be as dear as it is illustrious.—And which, throughout revolving ages, as the soldier, the general, and the heroic defender of his country's liberty, in fame untarnished and glory immortal, shall outlive every perishable monument."

From the Federal Gazette.

In making the preparatory arrangements for laying the corner stone of the monument to the memory of WASHINGTON, the managers directed their committee to request, in the first instance, the venerable and universally respected archbishop CARROLL, to commence the ceremony, by invoking a blessing on the undertaking; not only on account of his high ecclesiastical rank, but as having been the cotemporary and intimate friend of that illustrious man—but as he was at a distance from the city, the wishes of the managers were conveyed to him in a letter from the reverend Mr. FENWICK, who received in reply the following answer, which we take pleasure in being permitted to communicate to the public:

"You will not fail to present immediately my very respectful and grateful acknowledgments to Mr. GILMORE, and through him to the gentlemen of the committee, for the distinguished honor done

me by their choice of me, as the person designated to open the august ceremony of the 4th of July, and remind our countrymen of the only true sources of real honor and glory, the moral, civil, and military virtues of that illustrious man, whose monument will that day begin to be raised, which even without the aid of marble, remains undefaced and imperishable in the hearts of his fellow-citizens; though it is likewise worthy of all praise to exhibit grand and solid testimonials of national gratitude to eminent benefactors. These are my sincere feelings on the present occasion; and with pride would I obey a call, which honors me so much; though at all times it would exceed my power to do it justice: but now more particularly, at my advanced period of life, and with a half extinguished voice, I must unavoidably fall so much below the solemnity of the occasion and public expectation, that respect for the supereminent WASHINGTON, and for my fellow-citizens, compels me to offer my excuse to the committee, which you will do in my behalf, and in terms the most expressive of my respect, and my regret, for my inability to answer their politeness with a ready compliance."

THE PORTRAIT.

A portrait of WASHINGTON, belonging to the Baltimore Gallery of Fine Arts, was displayed on the trophy. This painting was executed by Mr. REMBRANDT PEALE, who wished it to be distinguished on that extraordinary occasion, under a conviction (corroborated by the testimony of many of the general's relations and friends) that it is the most accurate likeness of WASHINGTON that exists, and it is intended to be handed down to posterity as a true delineation of his features and countenance.

THE PUBLISHER.

*Address of the mayor and corporation of
the city of Baltimore, to his excellency
George Washington, late president of
the United States, March 11, 1797.*

TO GEORGE WASHINGTON, ESQ.

SIR—To partake of the prosperity arising from your unwearied attentions to the welfare of our country; to admire that firmness which has never been disconcerted in the greatest difficulties, and which has acquired vigor in proportion to the exigency; to feel that honorable ascendancy you have obtained in the well founded opinion of your fellow citizens, by a wise administration, and the exercise of the virtues of a private life; and to suppress our admiration and acknowledgment, would be wanting to our own individual sensation, and the just expectation of those we represent.

Permit, therefore, the mayor and city council of Baltimore, amongst the first exercises of their corporate capacity, to gratify themselves, and their constituents, in the sincere expressions of regret for your retirement; their lively gratitude for your public services; their affectionate attachment to your private character; their heartfelt farewell to your person and family; and their increasing solicitude for your temporal and eternal happiness.

In behalf of the corporation and city of Baltimore.

JAMES CALHOUN, MAYOR.

His excellency returned the following answer to the mayor and city council of Baltimore.

GENTLEMEN—I receive, with grateful sensibility, the honor of your address.

To meet the plaudits of my fellow citizens, for the part I have acted in public life, is the highest reward, next to the consciousness of having done my duty to the utmost of my abilities, of which my mind is susceptible; and I pray you to accept my sincere thanks for the evidence you have now given me, of your approbation of my

past services; for those regrets which you have expressed on the occasion of my retirement to private life; and for the affectionate attachment you have declared for my person. Let me reciprocate, most cordially, all the good wishes you have been pleased to extend to me and my family for our temporal and eternal happiness.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Description of the Monument.

THE outline of this grand structure, presents a column of massy proportions, elevated on a socled pedesta, fifty feet square, and twenty-five feet high; the column, about twenty feet diameter, rises above the base one hundred and twenty-five feet, which gives a total height of one hundred and fifty feet, independent of the surmounting.

You enter the monument at each of the four sides, by a flight of marble steps, through a grand arch way, into the base, by which you pass to the centre; where circular iron winding stairs conveys you to the top of the base, and by following them lead you to the summit.

The whole facia of the monument will be of white marble. Such decorations as may be added, are proposed to be in brass or bronze.

BIOGRAPHY.

GEORGE WASHINGTON was the son of AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON, born on the 22d of February, 1732, and grand son of JOHN WASHINGTON, an English gentleman, who emigrated to this country in 1767. When only nineteen years of age he was appointed one of the adjutants general of Virginia, with the rank of major. In the unfortunate action of general BRADDOCK, with the French and Indians, on the banks of the Monongahela, colonel WASHINGTON, who had been appointed one of his aids, had two horses killed under him, and four balls perforated his coat. Shortly after the defeat and death of that general, he resigned his office and married the widow of Mr. CUSTIS. Our revolutionary troubles commenced about the same time, and colonel WASHINGTON was chosen a member of the first congress, from Virginia. On the 14th of June, 1775, he was unanimously chosen by that body, to be

general and commander in chief of the American forces. He refused compensations for his services, and repaired to Cambridge, to take command of the American troops, there assembled. The British army under general GAGE, then occupied Boston, where they were blockaded, and which place they were compelled to evacuate.

After the evacuation of Boston, the commander in chief departed for New York. He took possession and fortified Long Island, which was attacked by the British troops, under the command of general Hance. The Americans were defeated, and their situation becoming critical, the commander in chief, with his usual intrepidity, withdrew his troops in the night; which he did in the face of a victorious enemy, within the reach of the hostile fleet, carrying with him all his stores, &c. The general was on horseback thirty-four hours.

After this, WASHINGTON had to encounter difficulties, from which other men would have shrunk with dismay. His army was broken, dispersed and melting

away before a victorious foe, by whom he was incessantly pursued. His troops were destitute of clothing, and in their passage over the Delaware, the prints of their feet stained the snow and ice with blood. A general *déspondency* prevailed, until WASHINGTON, by the decisive battles of Trenton and Princetown, renovated the drooping ardor of his countrymen. The British general in the retreating commander beheld the conqueror; and found that he was a man to be dreaded when oppressed by misfortune. At the battle of Brandywine to the American army happened a defeat. At Germantown an attack was made by the Americans, which, in the outset promised success; but as the day was misty, neither party could recognize each other at a few yards distant, and our brave countrymen were repulsed. On the retreat of the American army from Long Island, a mist preserved them from falling into the hands of the British; and at Germantown, a heavy mist endangered their existence. In the attack on Red Bank, the British were repulsed with considerable loss—a place which was

finally surrendered. The battle of Monmouth was fought on a day, in which the heat was so excessive, that many fell as martyrs of the solar beam.

At this time the heart cheering intelligence was announced that the French cabinet had adopted the controversy of the United States. General LA FAYETTE arrived with intelligence of aid from France, and the exhausted spirits of the Americans were recruited. Count ROCHAMBEAU arrived with a reinforcement in 1781, and marched to the North River. Lord CORNWALLIS, after several severe engagements with general GREENE, in which he was equally unfortunate, either in victory or in defeat, retired to York Town. General WASHINGTON having formed a junction with count ROCHAMBEAU, invested that place and finally compelled his lordship with all his army to surrender. This was the decisive blow to the progress of the British arms in America. Partial engagements succeeded, which were however ended, by a full declaration, on the part of his Britannic majesty, to acknowledge the independence of the United States. Peace

was then restored, and general WASHINGTON resigned his commission as commander in chief of the American armies. His address to congress, convened at Annapolis, on that occasion, together with the answer, are too important and interesting to be omitted.

*Congress was then in session at Annapolis, in Maryland, to which place general WASHINGTON repaired for the purpose of resigning into their hands the authority with which they had invested him. He arrived on the 19th of December. The next day he informed that body of his intention to ask leave to resign the commission he had the honor of holding in their service, and requested to know, whether it would be their pleasure that he should offer his resignation in writing, or at an audience.

To give more dignity to the act, they determined that it should be offered at a public audience on the following Tuesday, at twelve o'clock.

When the hour arrived for performing a ceremony so well calculated to recal to the mind the various interesting scenes

* Marshall's Life of Washington.

which had passed since the commission now to be returned, was granted, the gallery was crowded with spectators, and many respectable persons, among whom were the legislative and executive characters of the state; several general officers, and the consul general of France, were admitted on the floor of congress.

The representatives of the sovereignty of the union remained seated and covered. The spectators were standing and uncovered. The general was introduced by the secretary, and conducted to a chair. After a decent interval, silence was commanded, and a short pause ensued. The president then informed him, that "the United States in congress assembled were prepared to receive his communications." With a native dignity, improved by the solemnity of the occasion, the general rose and delivered the following address:

Mr. President,

"The great events on which my resignation depended, having at length taken place, I have now the honor of offering my sincere congratulations to congress, and of presenting myself before

them, to surrender into their hands the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring from the service of my country.

“Happy in the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States, of becoming a respectable nation, I resign with satisfaction the appointment I accepted with diffidence; a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which however, was superseded by a confidence in the rectitude of our cause, the support of the supreme power of the union and the patronage of heaven.

“The successful termination of the war has verified the most sanguine expectations; and my gratitude for the interposition of providence, and the assistance I have received from my countrymen, increases with every review of the momentous contest.

“While I repeat my obligations to the army in general, I should do injustice to my own feelings not to acknowledge in this place, the peculiar services and distinguished merits of the gentlemen who

have been attached to my person during the war. It was impossible the choice of confidential officers to compose my family should have been more fortunate. Permit me, sir, to recommend, in particular, those who have continued in the service to the present moment, as worthy of the favorable notice and patronage of congress.

“I consider it as an indispensable duty to close this last act of my official life, by commending the interests of our dearest country, to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendence of them to his holy keeping.

“Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action, and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life.”

After advancing to the chair, and delivering his commission to the president, he returned to his place, and received, standing, the following answer of congress, which was delivered by the president:

“ *Sir—*

“ The United States, in congress assembled, receive with emotions too affecting for utterance, the solemn resignation of the authorities under which you have led their troops with success through a perilous and a doubtful war. Called upon by your country to defend its invaded rights, you accepted the sacred charge, before it had formed alliances, and whilst it was without funds or a government to support you. You have conducted the great military contest with wisdom and fortitude, invariably regarding the rights of the civil power, through all disasters and changes. You have, by the love and confidence of your fellow citizens, enabled them to display their martial genius, and transmit their fame to posterity.— You have persevered until these United States, aided by a magnanimous king and nation, have been enabled, under a just Providence, to close the war in freedom, safety, and independence; on which happy events, we sincerely join you in congratulations.

“ Having defended the standard of liberty in this new world; having taught a lesson useful to those who inflict, and those who feel oppression, you retire from the great theatre of action, with the blessings of your fellow citizens; but the glory of your virtues will not terminate with your military command; it will continue to animate the remotest ages.

“ We feel with you our obligations to the army in general, and will particularly charge ourselves with the interests of those confidential officers, who have attended your person to this affecting moment.

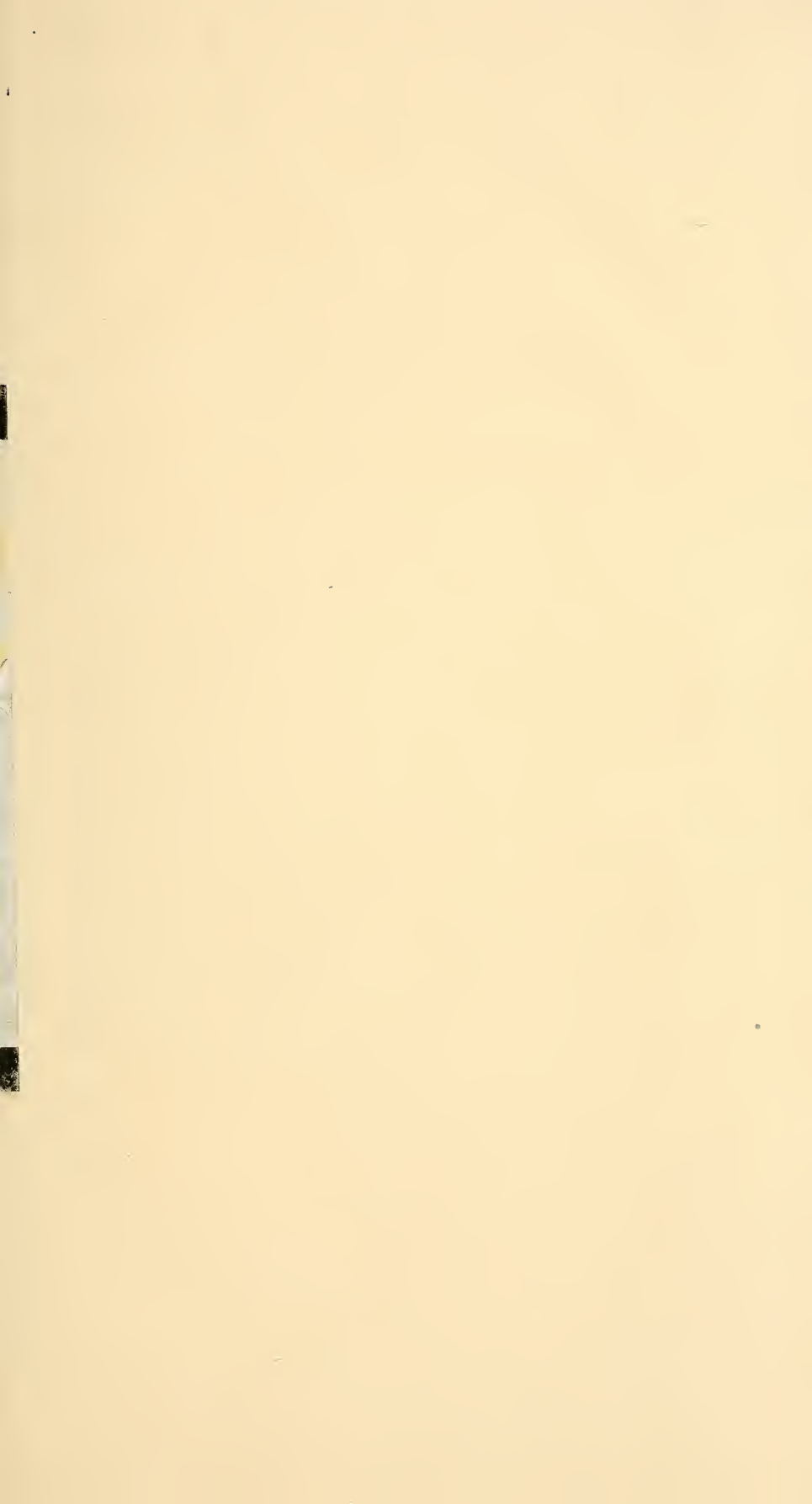
“ We join you in commending the interest of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God, beseeching him to dispose the hearts and minds of its citizens to improve the opportunity afforded them of becoming a happy and respectable nation. And for you, we address to him our earnest prayers, that a life so beloved, may be fostered with all his care; that your days may be happy as they have been illustrious; and that he will finally

give you that reward which this world cannot give.”

General WASHINGTON then retired from the fatigues, dangers, hardships, and turmoils of the camp, to repose on his laurels in the quietude of domestic retirement; beloved, admired, and almost idolized by his country. The public charter of confederation, however, by which the United States were held together, congress having no power to enforce their resolutions, was found defective. A convention was held for the purpose of forming a more vigorous constitution, of which body, he was made the president. That constitution was framed, submitted to the ratification of the different states, finally adopted, and is the very charter under which we now live. He was made the first president by an unanimous vote of the several states, at a time when they were torn by faction, and for eight years of his presidency, he left but one impression on the public mind, that of admiration of his virtues. Twice was he called by his fellow citizens, to that important office, and on the most trying occasions, twice were those suffrages unanimous.

When the old confederation was found inadequate, and a convention from the different states was formed, for the purpose of framing a more efficient constitution; of this body general WASHINGTON was elected president. When this instrument was put into operation, he was unanimously elected president of the United States. After his constitutional service had expired, he was again by the unanimous voice of his countrymen, called upon to administer that office. Can a more transcendent proof of integrity, of honor, be given, than that the same man should be three times summoned to superintend, once the military, and twice the political, concerns of a great people. The history of his life is the history of his country's glory. The guardian star of America gleamed with the same splendor in the soft cerulian firmament of peace, as through the darkening shadow of war: the depth of the shade only added lustre to the beam.

F I N I S.



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