

## TALLEST IN THE WORLD.

The Great Monument at Washington to the Father of His Country.

Completion and Formal Dedication of the Colossal Marble and Granite Shaft.

Composing Ceremonies, Interesting Incidents, and Eloquent Addresses by Distinguished Orators.

After a century of agitation, and thirty years since the corner-stone was laid, the national monument to George Washington—the loftiest structure ever reared by human hands—is at last completed, and on Saturday, Feb. 21, it was dedicated with appropriate and imposing ceremonies. W. W. Corcoran, the Washington banker, made the formal presentation, and President Arthur the speech of acceptance. There was a procession, with General Sheridan as Chief Marshal, which was reviewed by the President. In the halls of Congress the oration of Robert C. Winthrop was read by Representative John C. Long, and John W. Daniel, of Virginia, delivered an eloquent address.

### THE DEDICATION.

Exercises at the Monument. Despite the boisterous weather over the city, a Washington correspondent, and the incomers attending the outdoor exercises, the great Washington Monument was dedicated with all of the intended pomp, and with little less than the anticipated enthusiasm. Pennants, avenue flags, and garnished with bright sunning national colors, it seemed arched with a compact mass of saffron-blended colors. At an early hour the shivering spectators began to arrive at the grand stand, just in the shadow of the Washington Monument, being Ebenezer Burrows, Ball, of London County, Va., a member of the Washington family.

There were present of the descendants and relatives of Washington: Mrs. Lewis Washington, vice-regular for Virginia in the Mount Vernon, Mrs. John Washington, Mrs. B. W. Morrison, Pittsburgh; Mrs. B. B. Washington and daughter, Frederick County, W. Va.; Miss Elizabeth Washington, Charlestown, W. Va.; Col. Thorn Washington, Texas; Bushrod C. Washington, and B. W. Washington, Charlestown, W. Va.; Robert Washington, Washington, County, Va.; George Washington, Jefferson County, W. Va.; Mrs. L. Montgomery Bond, Elizabeth, L. J., a great-grand niece of Washington; Miss Mary Mitchell, Charlestown, W. Va.; Miss Harriett Richmond, and Mr. Myrvin C. Buckley, Marion, W. Va.

As 11 Senator Sherman, Chairman of the Joint Congressional Commission, called to order the 500 people who had assembled at the center land.

The commission authorized by the two houses of Congress to provide suitable ceremonies for the dedication of the Washington monument, began "directed me to preside. I need not say anything to impress upon you the dignity of the event you have met to celebrate. The commission speaks for itself, simple in its aims, admirably proportioned, composed of enduring marsh and granite, resting upon foundations broad and deep, it rises into the skies higher than any work of man. It is the most imposing, costly, and appropriate monument ever erected in honor of man."

It has its origin in the desire to honor the nation of the people, irrespective of party, creed, or race, not only in this country, but in all the civilized countries that the name and fame of Washington should be perpetuated by man's highest testiment to the nation's gratitude to its heroic statesmen and fathers. Senator Sherman recounted the history of the work from its inception and concluded with the remark that the monument would stand "a prototype of purity, manhood, and patriotism for all lands and time."

Proceedings, as affected by the Rev. Dr. Luther of Christ's Church, Alexandria, Va. In closing a lengthy address the Hon. W. W. Corcoran said: "It is glory enough for the Washington Monument Society that its plow labors, have put to the proof the time, the heart, the soul in the majestic structure, which stands before us to-day, and it is glory enough for the legislative and executive departments of the government that in assuming and directing the construction of the monument, on the foundation laid in the people, they have at once relearned a great national lesson."

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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 speak the truth, wrote thus to a young friend in a pastoral time: "Some good man must be singled out and kept before our eyes, that we may live after if we were looking on, and do everything as if he could set it."

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any degree of satisfaction to his hearers or to himself?

Modest, disinterested, generous, just—of clean heart, he had a heart—self-sacrificing, seeking nothing for himself, devoting all remuneration beyond the reimbursement of his outlays, scrupulous to a farthing in keeping his accounts, of spotless integrity, sparing gifts, charitable to the needy, forgiving insults, a man of few words, honest and with a prudence ever governing his impulses and a wisdom ever guiding his valor—true to his God, believing in Christ, no stranger to private devotion or public worship, but who, in his heart, was a man of God, he believed, but ever gratefully recognizing a divine aid and direction in all that he accomplished—what epithet, what attribute, could be added to that consummate character to complete it an example above all other characters in the history of the world?

From first to last he never solicited or sought an office, military or civil. Every office stood candidate for him and was ennobled by his acceptance of it. He never intruded around him as by the force of his "first arrival." He responded to all the themes of his situation, if by the laws of gravitation. They could rest surely nowhere else, and they found him ever ready to bear them all, even equal to discharge them to the last. What is called personal magnetism is not to be confounded with personal magnetism. A man of high personal magnetism is one who has righteously made his peculiar characteristic in marble and on canvas, repressed all familiarities with him. His magnetism was that of merit—superior surpassing merit—the merit of spotless integrity, rare wisdom, and ability, and spent in the service of his country. That was sufficient to attract irresistibly to his support, not only the great mass of the people, but the wisest and best of his contemporaries in all walks of life. He was a man of the world, with signal discriminations, such as advisers and counselors in war and in peace, as have never surrounded any other American leader.

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