#### ISTORY OF THE OBELISK. JENTURY MARKED BY MANY EVENTS OF NATIONAL INTEREST.

w the Idea Originated-Early Plans ad How They were Changed-Con-.": Tal Appropriations at Last

ecessary-The Monument Society. ome cynic once remarked: "The first ing the American people do when a it man dies is to vote to erect a monuent to his memory, but they never do " Happily for the credit and honor of merica an exception must be noted in ie case of the "Father of his Country," monument to whose illustrious name row stands completed within the limits if the National Capital. That it took hirty-seven years to put the finishing ouches to the ponderous shaft is no bult of the American people, whose jearts have always been in the patriotic rork; nor can our National Legislature oe justly charged with culpable apathy in he matter. The fact was due rather to

hich necessarily delayed the work an to the indifference of Congress. than to the indifference of Congress.

The inception of a monument to Washington dates as far back as August 7, 1785, when Congress resolved "that an equestian statue of Washington be erected there the residence of Congress shall be restablished." On the pedestal of this same were to be inscribed the following tords:

s series of unfortunate circumstances

The United States, in Congress assembled, dered this statue to be erected in the year our Lord 178% in honor of Gorge Wash-agton, the illustrious communiar module of the united States of America, during the war which viniteated and secured heir liberty, sovereignty and independence.

This section it will be noted was taken heir liberty, sovereignty and independence. This action, it will be note I, was taken fix years before the death of Washington. The republic was then in its swad lling plothes, and that nothing was done lowards carrying out the resolution was solely due to the fact that the country was poor, and that Congress did not feel authorized to draw upon the Treasury for the large amount which would be necessary to carry out the enterprise. eary to carry out the enterprise.

A MARBLE MONUMENT PROPOSED. The death of Washington, in 1790, served to remind Congress of its remissioness, and on the 24th of December of that year a resolution was adopted "that a marble monument be creeted by the United States at the city of Washington, and that the family of Gen. Washington be requested to permit his body to be deposited under it, and that the monument be so designed as to comment rate the great events of his military and political life." The widow, to whom a copy of the resolutions was sent, in acceding to the request, said: "Taught by the great example which I have so long had before me never to oppose my private wishes to the public will, I need not—I cannot—say what a sacrifice of individual feeling I make to a sense of public duty."

Again, May 5, 1800, the House of Repositional feeling I make to a sense of public duty." posited under it, and that the monument

Again, May 5, 180, the House of Reposition of the House of Reposition of the build a marble monument and a mausoleum—the latter in place of the proposed equestrian statue; but no appropriation was made. January 1, 1801, the House appropriated \$200,000 in furthers of the object a view; but, for some reason, the Sent failed to concur, and the whole may was temporarily dropped. The get was, however, soil discussed among the people, who in iversally agreed that a monument should be erected to the great chieftain who had led them from bondage to light the monument, which has ended in such a grand, practical result.

THE WASHINTON MONUMENT SOCIETY. The first to move in this matter were preminent citizens of Washington, who met at the City Hall on the 25th of September, 1833, and organized the National Washington Monument Society, as they expressed it, "for erecting a great national Propured to the memory of Washington monument to the memory of Washing-on, at the seat of the Federal Governon, at the seat of the Federal Government." Among the public-spirited and patriotic citizens present were: Messrs. Joseph Gales, Peter Force, Daniel Brent, James Kearney, W. W. Seaton, John McClelland, Pishy Thompson, Thomas Carberry, George Watterston, and Judge William Cranch, late Chief Justice of the Figurial Court of the District of Columbia, rion of Justice Marshall was chosen president of Justice Marshall was chosen president. rior of Justice Marshall was chosen presi-capitals the society; Judge Wm. Cranch, carry president, and George Watterston,

scretary.

It seems to be pretty generally conceded that of the original members of the society Mr. George Watterston, the secretary, was one of the most active and enthusiastic in the work. During his enthusiastic in the work. During his connection with the society, he was tireless in promoting the grand enterorise and wrote many articles for the newspapes in its advocacy. Judge Marshall was succeeded, after his death, two years later, by ex-President Madison, then in his eighty-lifth year, who in accepting the resistion spoke with great temporary. his eighty-lifth year, who in accepting the pesition spoke with great fervor of Washington and expressed his grateful sense of the honor conferred upon him. The successive presidents of the society have been John Marshall, ex-President Madison, and, ex officio, all of the Presidents of the United States from Jackson to Arthur, both inclusive. The secretaries have been George Watterston, John Carroll Brent, Dr. J. B. Blake, and Hon. Horatio King, who is the present incum-Horatio King, who is the present incum-

The society bas included in its mem-The society bas included in its membership not only many of the first citizens of Washington, but men of national repute, among whom may be mentioned Commodore Rodgers, U. S. N., Govs. H. D. Cooke and A. R. Shepherd, Gen. McCon.b, Peter Force, Robert C. Winthrop, James M. Carlisle, Judge W. A. Richardson, Gen. O. E. Babcock, Judge George W. McCrary, Dr. James C. Welling, Admiral Powell, and many others. All of the mayors of Washington, from J. P. Van Ness down to M. G. Emory, were constituted vice presidents of the society. constituted vice presidents of the society

AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC FOR FUNDS. The originators of the movement naturally believed that it would be a very popular one and seemed to entertain no tears that their appeal for aid would meet with a quick and generous response. They therefore fixed the maximum subscription of individuals at one dollar. In 1836 these subscriptions aggregated \$28,000, but the financial storm of 1837 caused the suspension of further collections for some

In 1845 the Washington National Monument Society made another effort to col-lect subscriptions. They agreed to accept contributions in any amount, and the result was that in 1847 the aggregate sum collected had reached \$57,000, suffi-cient, it was believed, to warrant the commencement of the great work.

THE FIRST DESIGN ADOPTED. In the meantime designs from American artists had been solicited, and a large number had been received. The plan finally agreed upon was that submitted by Robert Mills, architect of the Interior Department, and also architect of the Washington Monument in Baltimore, then in progress of construction His then in progress of construction. His plan contemplated a circular colonnade building, 100 feet high, 250 feet in diame-ter, with a shaft in the center 500 feet high,

tapering to forty feet square at the top. The rotunda was to be surrounded with thirty massive columns surrounted with an entablature twenty feet high and crowned with a balustrade fifteen feet in height. The estimated cost of the enure structure was \$1,000,000. WHY THE PRESENT SITE WAS SELECTED.

WHY THE PRESENT SITE WAS SELECTED. The site of the monument was selected by President Polk and the board of managers of the society, on authority given them by a resolution of Congress adopted January 31, 1818, which gave them permission to select any Government reservation not otherwise occupied. There were several reasons why the site finally selected was fixed upon. It was the place chosen by Washington himself as a suitable spot for the creetion of a monument to commemorate the war for independence, and when the plan of the National Capital vas land out Maj. I Enfant designated "Eccervation No. 3" as the site chosen for a monument to the memory of Wash-

for a monument to the memory of Washington, the plan for a Revolutionary n comment having apparently been anau-cored. The first Washington meridian

was run during Jefferson's administra-

tion, in the year 1804, and passed through the west door of the White House. This the west door of the white House. Inis was intersected at right angles at almost the exact spot selected for the site of the proposed monument by a line due west from the Capitol. At that time many supposed that Washington would become a point of considerable commercial importance. Erected on the proposed site the chelisk could be seen for many miles. portance. Erected on the proposed site the obelisk could be seen for many miles down the Potoniac by incoming vessels and was in view not only of Alexandria and Georgetown but of Mt. Vernon, the birthplace of Washington, whose fame it was intended to commemorate.

PEEPARATIONS FOR THE CORNER-STONE In November, 1847, the Monument Society passed a resolution to lay the corner-stone on the 22d of February of the next year, 1848, but subsequently the ceremony was postponed until the 4th of July following. In the meantime the design of the monument had been materially changed. Instead of a colonnaded buildchanged. Instead of a colonnaded building it was agreed that a plain shaft, not less than 500 feet high, should be erected. The first contract made for stone by the National Washington Monument Society was with Mr. Thomas Symington, of Maryland, who owned a crystaline marble quarry at Cockeysville, in Baltimore county, which produced the finest marble then known to exist in the country. It was of this material that the first 150 feet, on the old portion of the shaft, was built. The corner-stone, which was contributed gratis by Mr. Symington, was received at the Baltimore and Ohio depot, in this city, then at the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Second street, and weighed twelve tons. It had been prepared with a zinc-lined cavity, for the deposit of various articles. The train was met at the depot by, an enthustatic crowd of entizens, who formed a procession to escort it to the monument astic crown of citizens, who formed a pro-cession to eccort it to the monument grounds. While crossing the bridge over the canal at Fourteenth street the truck broke down and remained on the bridge until the next day, when, by the aid of employes from the navy yard, it was safely conveyed to its destination.

#### LAYING THE CORNER-STONE.

An Imposing and Important Event in the History of the Monument. The laying of the corner-stone of the monument (July 4, 1848,) was an event in the anna to of the new capital. It was estimated that fully 20,000 people—most of them visitors-turned out to witness the ceremony. Among the honored guests present were Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, then ninety-one years of age; George Washington Park Curtis, Mrs. Dolty Paine Madison, Mrs. John Quincy Adams, Chief Justice Taney, Lewis Cass, Martin Van Buren and Millard Fillmore.

Actins, Chief Justice Taney, Lewis Cass, Martin Van Buren and Millard Fillmore.

The society first asked John Quincy Adams to deliver the oration, but ill health prevented his acceptance. Daniel Webster also declined, on account of a pressure of business engagements, and Hon, Robert C. Winthrop, then Speaker of the House of Representatives, was finally selected as the orator of the day.

The National Intelligencer of July 4, 1848, printed on its first page three long poems, filling nearly two columns, all having reference to the great event of the day. The first, anonymous, was entitled "The Corner-Stone of the Washington Monument;" the second, by Francis H. Davidge, of Washington, "Hail to Columbia's Natal Morn!" and the third by "E. B. M.," "The Corner-Stone." The concluding stanza of Mr. Davidge's poem was as follows:

His luilaby the winds shall sing, And rolling seasons tribute bring.
While dimess orbs shall vigils keep
To guard him in his dreamless sleep.
Earth's everlasting hills shall be
Proud alters to his memory;
Their drapery, the clouds unfuried;
Above his conotaph, The World.
The same paper of the 6th of July 6

The same paper of the 6th of July (there was no issue on the 5th), in giving an account of the occasion of laying the corner stone, said:

Stone, said:

Since the inauguration and funeral of Harrison cur streets and public avenues have never been so thronged with people, and never was the day signalized in this capital of the nation as it has been on this occasion.

\* \* The ordinary cars proved insufficient to bring the multitudes, and, extra trains being added to meet the emergency, those, too, were crowded and continued to deposit load after load of visitors, who spread themselves, all eye and ear, into every quarter, inquiring for the President's house, the Patent Office, and all the other localitics of which they have heard and rend. Fire bells began their carillon soon after it was light, sunrise salutes from the arsend and navy yard, the discharge of guns and pistols in the streets, the popping of crackers and liliputian artiliery in the pards and yacant lots, to say nothing of trums and trumpets, and the thrilling lotes of the bugle, put all idea of siceo out of he heaviest heads.

\* \* A more mixed or mother bonder well behaved.

\* \* It were long to tell of the many bright rib boned country bonnets which bastled and swayed about in the crowd like poppyheaus in a garden-bed shaken by the wind. snayed about in the crowd like popyheads it a garden-bed shaken by the wind. It were harder to describe the thousand youthful—yes, and infantine—faces, so full of raised carnestness; the round eye; the open mouth; the dimpling hands "linging to mother's dress or thrown about father's neck and supporting arms.

The military mustering ground was immediately in front of the City Hall. The commander-in-chief was Maj. Gen. Quitman, U. S. A., with Gen. Cadwalader and Col. May commanding the infantry and cavalry, respectively. The civic part of the procession was commanded by Mr. Joseph ft. Bradley. The display was very creditable, and as to spectators from neighboring dwellings, the Intelligencer says: spectators from neigh the Intelligencer says:

Windows! The very word calls up the vivid Windows! The very word calls up the viylal picture of those groups who crowded them. leaning out, talking with one another and politing to some striking figure on horseback, or gracefully bowing to acquaintances in the crowd: "Is that he? What a fine-looking man!" "Is Gen. Scott here?" "No; ho's sick, and can't be out." "Ita! What a pity. I wanted to see him. I wish Gen. Taylor was here." "Watt a little. Miss, and we shall have him here." \* \* The spectaclo of the morning procession filled the eye and swelled the proud and Joyous feeling.

An amphitheatre had been erected on the grounds, and an arch covered with colored cotton and suitably embellished. "But," says the Intelligencer, "its most atractive and interesting ornament was : living American eagle, with its dark plumage, piercing eye and snowy head and tail, who seemed to look with anx-ious eye on the unwonted spectacle below. This, we understand, is the same eagle which in Alexandria surmounted the arch of welcome there erected to Lufayette, and to complete its honors and its public character it has since been entrusted to Mr. Vattermare to be presented to the National Museum in Paris. He is now forty years old, but is sufficiently vigorous to warrant the idea that the entry lives a century? and lives a century."

In referring to the oration of Speaker Winthrop, the same authority says: "For eminent propriety and appropriateness to the occasion, for classic purity of diction,

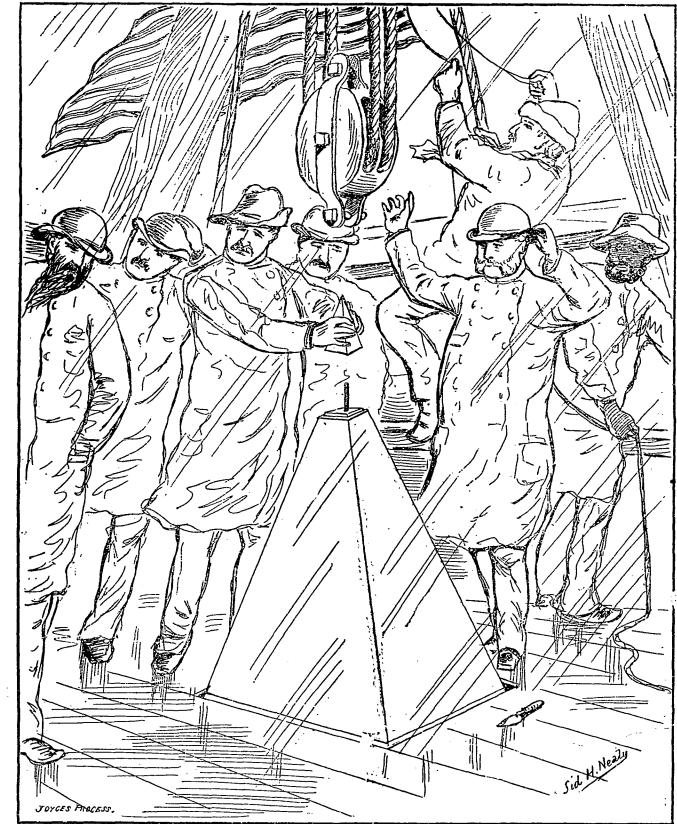
unaffected ease and grace in the delivery, manly, heartfelt, thrilling eloquence and patriotic fire, it has perhaps never been equaled."

The corner-stone was laid with Masonic

The corner-stone was laid with Masonic forms by Master Mason B. B. French, who used on this occasion the givel of Washington, now in possession of Potomac Lodge, F. A. A. M., of Georgetown, and wore Washington's Masonic apron and sat in the chair which Washington occupied in the Alexandria Lodge, of which he was a member. Fully one hundred copies of newspapers published throughout the country were placed in the corner-stone Among them were the following Washington journals: National Intelligencer, The Huntress, Union, National Eca and Saturday Evening News. Besides newspapers, a large variety of articles were deposited in the corner-stone, including a history of the monument, with designs, a map of Washington, almanacs, Morse's North American Atlas, portraits of Gen. North American Atlas, portraits of Gen. and Mrs. Washington and daguerreotype pictures, the latter deposited by John S. Grubb, of Alexandria; a Bible, an American dollar, report of the Commissioner of Patents, journals of the Senate and House, an American flag, &c.

It is interesting to print this morning, alongside of the elaborate order of procession which marked yesterday's dedication ceremonies, the order of the corner stone procession on the 4th of July, 1848. stone procession on the 4th of July, 1848. Many of the persons whose names are given below are no longer living. The chief marshal, Joseph H. Bradley, is, however, still alive, venerable and respected, and with his faculties in such complete preservation that he witnessel yesterday's ceremonies with deep interest. There are perhaps a some ten or twelve

THE ORDER OF PROCESSION.



Mr. B. R. Green. Capt. Geo. W. Davis. Supt. P. H. McLaughlin. Dennis O'Leary.

Col. T. L. Casey. James Hogan.

COMPLETING THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT --- LAYING THE CAP-STONE.

others of the following persons who have others of the following persons who have lived to see the completion of the great shaft, at whose corner-stone laying they were young and active participants:
The marshal Joseph H. Bradley, and his aides, Major Howle, Major Lewis, Captain Stuart, W. Lenox, and Philip Barton Key:
Major General Quitman, commanding, and staff;
Colonel May commanding caraly;
General Cadwalader, commanding infantry;
Military escort;
Officers of the army and navy of the United States;
Military officers of the several States and Territories;
Officers and soldlers of the War of 1812.

CIVIC PROCESSION.

CIVIC PROCESSION.

First Division. Marshal A. A. Nicholson, marshal of division; Mr. George S. Gideon, marshal; Firemen; The President of the United States;

The President of the United States;

Heads of Departments;

Judges of the Supreme C rit;

Judges of the Supreme C rit;

Judges of State courts;

The Diplomatic Corps;

The reverend clergy;

Wm. F. Bayly, marshal;

Independent Order of Odd Fellows;

The Scante of the United States;

The House of Representatives of the United

States:

Charles W. Boteler, jr., marshal;

The Order of Red Men;

Governor of States; The Order of Red Men; Governor of States; Delegations from the States;

Second Division. Maj. Selah R. Hobble, marshal of division: Temperence Orders;
Delegations from Indian Nations;
Charles E. Ball, marshal;

Charles E. Ball, marshal;
Rechabites;
The corporate authorities of Alexandria,
Georgetown, and Washington;
A. J. Joyce, marshal;
The Washington Benevolent Society;
A. Keese, marshal;
The German Benevolent Society;
Literary associations;
Colleges and schools.

Third Division. Capt. J. A. Blake, marshal of division; Citizens not celegates from States. Open barouche with Revolu ionary officers and Soliers; Barouches with Mrs. Madison and Mrs. Hamiton;
Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott and staff, mounted;
The orator of the day and the chaplain;

The orater of the day and the chaplain;
The Monument Society;
J. B. Thomas. marshal;
The Masonic fraternity.
The Masonic fraternity.
The following named gentlemen were appointed assistant marshals:
To the First Division—William Barker. G.
H. Barton, C. W. Boteler, W. B. B. Cross, Dr.
Dove, John H. Gibbs. R. Gott, B. Green, William H. Gunnell, J. R. Hanson, H. N. Henning, C. P. Hoover, John A. Hunnicutt, J.
H. McBlair, D. W. Middleton, Augustus
Perry, R. Ray, Frank Riley, T. J. Robinson,
William J. Stone, Lem. Towers, A. S. H.
White. Perry, R. Ray, Frank Riley, T. J. Robinson, William J. Stone, Lem. Towers, A. S. H. White.

To the Second Division—Dr. C. Boyle, P. H. Brooks, Francis Burche, A. H. Clements, William Clarke, W. W. Davis, Z. D. Gilman, Edward Hall, A. Harvey, John A. Liuten, James Maguire, Dr. J. E. Morran, William Porter, Benjamin Rogers, James Ronch, Dr. W. H. Saunders, Richard Sims, Harvey Semmes, James Scott, Frederick White.

To the Third Division—Washinzton Adams, A. O. Bowen, John D. Brown, William Brown, Edward M. Clarke, Daniel Campbell, Reuben Clarke, Robert M. Combs, Fenwick Young, V. E. Kirg, C. King, K. Lambell, W. J. McDonald, J. W. Martin, J. H. Nevitt, James Nokes, J. R. Queen, Thomas Riley, T. P. Tench, W. Wise, Isaac Hall.

Messrs, J. H. Smith, Anthony Addison, W. D. Addison Samuel M. Edwards, James F. Haliday, Alexander McIntire, John Potts, John Pettibhne, Walter Warder, Joseph Wilson, and Charles F. Winder had charge of the Morument Square.

Among the organizatious participating

Morument Square.

Among the organizations participating in the exercises were the Marlborough Cavalry, the Maryland Light Horse, commanded by Capt. Capson, the Ringgold Cavalry from Alexandria, the Eagle Artillerists from Baltimore, the Capitol Hill Artillery, the Mounted Carbineers from Baltimore, the Fredricksburg Guards, the Washington Light Infantry, commanded by Capt. Tate; the National Blues, commanded by Capt. Bacon; the Maryland Cadets and the Boston Light Guards. A grand display of fireworks on the monugrand display of fireworks on the monu-ment at night closed the festivities. Among the pyrotechnic representations was one of the monument as it would apnear when completed. The copper plate covering the deposit-recess in the corner-stone of the monu-ment was inscribed as follows:

4TH JULY, 1776. Declaration of Independence of the United States of America. 4TH JULY, 1848.

THIS CORNER-STONE LAID OF A MONUMENT, BY THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE MEMORY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, JAMES K. POLK,

President of the United States and Ex-officion President of the Board of Managers. WILLIAM BRENT, First Vice President.
WILLIAM W. SEATON, Mayor of Washington,
Second Vice President.
GLN A. HENDERSON, Third Vice President.
J. B. H. SMITH, Treasurer.
GEORGE WATTERSTON, Secretary.

BOARD OF MANAGERS. Peter Force,
William A. Bradley,
P. R. Fendall,
Thomas Munroo,
Walter Lenox,
M. F. Maury, Col. J. Kearney.
Gen. Walter Jones.
Thomas Carbery.
Thomas Blagden.
Elisha Whittlesey, General Agent. BUILDING COMMITTEE. Thomas Carbery. Goorge Watterston William A. Bradley. Col. J. J. Abert. COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS. Gen. A. Henderson. Walter Lenox. Lient. M. F. Maury. Joseph H. Bradley, Chief Marshal. Robert Mills, Architect.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PEOPLE. The work on the monument now progressed favorably. Besides the memorial blocks contributed by various States and organizations and described elsewhere, a large amount of money was sent in by patriotic ladies throughou' the country, who gave balls, fairs and other entertainments in aid of the enterprise. Fanny Elsler, then at the height of her famny Eisier, then at the height of her fame as a danscuse, gave a scries of beuefit performances which netted a handsome sum. Hon. Edward Everett gave a series of lectures, the proceeds of which were given to the Monument Society. The total contributions received from all sources up to the year 1855 were \$230,000.

A DIVISION IN THE SOCIETY. In the year 1855, a contest arose in the Monument Society as to the management of its affairs and a new board of managers was elected, as it was claimed at the time, illegally, and before the terms of the old members had expired. The new board, which consisted of Know-Nothings, then went on and added four feet to the shaft. On October 18, 1858, the board was induced, mainly, it is said, by the late Dr. J. B. Blake, to retire from the position it had assumed and turned over the management of affairs to the old board.

THE WORK OF CONSTRUCTION CEASES. Having built the monument to a height of 152 feet in 1855, and being out of funds the National Washington Monument Society appealed to Congress for aid. Their memorial was referred in the House to a special committee of thirteen, of which Henry May, of Maryland, was chairman. The committee subsequently reported in favor of an appropriation of \$200,000, but no action was taken, and the work on the shaft in 1855 temporarily ceased.

A LONG PERIOD OF DELAY. . The Society Incorporated and Congre Continually Appealed to. On the 26th of February, 1859, Congress incorporated the "Washington National Monument Society" and confirmed the grant of land where the monument now stands to it. The incorporators were Winfield Scott. Walter Jones, John J. Abert, James Kearney, Thomas Carberry, Peter Force, Wm. A. Bradley, Philip R. Fendall, Walter Lennox, W. F. Maury and Thomas Blagden, as survivors of the grantees of the site selected by President Polk, J. B. H. Smith, W. W. Seaton, Elisha Whittlesey, B. Ogle Tayloe, Thos. H. Crawford, W. W. Corcoran and John Carroll Brent. Mr. Corcoran and Mr. Smith are the only survivors of the original incorporators. On the 22d of March, 1859, a meeting for organization under the act of incorporation was held at the City Hall, President Buchanan presiding. During that year the plan of receiving contributions at the polls was soluted. At the shorter in the During adopted. At the election in the District of Columbia that year about \$150 was received, and the contributions in California the same year aggregated nearly \$10,000. Several thousand dollars in contributions were also received through boyes abased at various posteribuses. boxes placed at various nostoflices throughout the country. Individual contributions were also received in response to circulars sent out asking for aid.

On the 7th of June, 1859, Secretary of War Floyd, at the request of the society, detailed Lieut. J. C. lives as enginer and architect of the monument, but the civil war breaking out less than two years later, operations came to a standstill.

During the Forty-Second Congress two reports were made to the House in relation to the monument, both recommending Congressional aid, but nothing was done. In 1873 the society and in the

select committee reported in favor of an appropriation of \$200,000 on the 22d of February, 1873, but the matter went over without action. On the 1st of May, 1874, Gen. Chipman again reported "that it is the duty of Congress to provide, by a sufficient appropriation, for the completion of the untinished Washington Monument at Washington City by the 4th of July, 1876, the one hundredth anniversary of American Independence." Nothing was done by Congress, however, until July, 1876, when a resolution passed both houses appropriating \$200,000 in four annual installments of \$50,000 each to continue the

the supervising architect of the Treasury was placed in charge of the construction of the monument, and later Col. T. L. Casey and Capt. George W. Davis, United States army, were detailed as engineer and assistant engineer, respectively.

# THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

Work Recommenced by Strengtheniog the Foundation. For fully one-quarter of a century the

shaft stood (150 feet high) in an incomplete condition, and known, somewhat in decision, as "the great unfinished." It was a mockery and an object of scorn. and, if the truth be told, the nation deerved the reproach caused by its neglected condition. But, at last, as above stated, Congress had been arouse I to acstated, Congress had been arouse! to action, a joint commission was appointed, the strengthening of the foundation was agreed upon and a contract to furnish marble was made with Mr. Hugh Siss m, of Baltimore, whose quarries at Beiver Dam, in Baltimore county, thenceforth supplied the material for the upper portion, about four lifths, of the obelisk.

The successful accomplishment of the first step in again beginning work on the first step in again beginning work on the Inst step in again beginning work on the monument, the strengthening of the foundation, is justly regarded as one of the greatest feats of engineering. It consisted in excavating into the old blue gueiss rock foundation beneath the base of the monument and filling in with concrete material. This mass was extended 23 teet 3 inches beyond the old foundation or 126 feet to inches source. The tion, or 126 feet 6 inches square. The weight of the monument at that time was 32.176 tons. Naturally, as each successive side of the shaft was excavated under, it leaned in that direction, but so carefully had the engineers gauged their work, and with such skill were their plans carried out, that when the new foundation was at last completed the monument was not at last completed the monument was not only perfectly true, but a deflection of 1.4 inches which had had been noticed in the old structure was corrected. Fifty-one per cent, of the cubical contents of the old foundation were removed and forty-tight per cent, of the area of the shaft undermined. It the list operation the corner-stone was exposed. The total settlement of the completed shaft has been but 4 inches, of which 2½ inches occurred during the underpointing. curred during the underpinning.

THE FIRST NEW COURSE COMMENCED. On Saturday morning, the 7th of August, 1880, after the four feet added during the division in the society had been removed, the corner stone of the new course, measuring six feet long by two feet wite and deep, was laid at exactly one minute to 11 o'clock. The event was not trally made the occasion of interesting ceremones. Col. Casey, in charge of the momes. Col. Casey, in charge of the work, had invited Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, Dr. J. M. Toner, Dr. J. B. Blake, and Capt. Davis, the assistant engineer, to mending Congressional aid, but nothing was done. In 1873 the society again appualed to Congress for aid and Gen. M. P. Chipman, then holding a seat as delegate from the District, urged the matter so earnostly that on the 18th of January, 1874, a select committee of thirteen was appointed to examine into the succession and report. This committee conferred with the Monument Society and it was decuel practicable to finish the work in time for a centennial celebration in 1876. The

party deposited similar coins. The ston was then set in its place, and the party, after waiting to see the workmen complete the setting of the stone, descended. It was at this time that the rope net outside of the monument wall was placed in position.

side of the monument wall was placed in position.

During the season of 1880 twenty-six feet of the monument were laid. In 1881 the shaft progessed upward seventy-four feet. In 1882 ninety feet were added, and in 1883 seventy feet more were placed in position, bringing the monument to the height of 410 feet Work was again resumed as when a resolution passed both houses appropriating \$200,000 in four annual installments of \$50,000 each to continue the work. The resolution provided for the careful examination of the foundation, which was made by Lieut. W. L. Marshall, engineer officer U. S. A.

On the 3d of August, 1876, the Monument Society, in accordance with the proviso of the appropriation bill, adopted a resolution transferring their title to the site on which the monument stands to the General Government, and the 20th of January, 1877, the society formally deeded the ground over to the United States. The deed, executed by Mr. W. W. Corcoran, first vice president, and Dr. J. B. Blake, seeretary, is now on file in the Department of State.

In 1877 the foundation of the monument was again resumed as carly in 1884 as the weather would permit, and on August 9, 1884, the height of 500 feet was reached. The work of putting on the roof, which was now to be commenced, had been a very interesting problem, the solution of which had been worked out by Superintendent Mc. Laughlin through the winter months of '33—'84. To describe in detail the manner in which the roof was crected would be so technical as to prove uninteresting to the general reader. Suffice it to say, that by a system of buttresses, held in place by a key-stone, the outer stones were afforded places on which to rest, and were thus projected upward at the angle which the top of the monument exhibits. Above the key-stone arec yet four courses, surmounted, at the height of 550 feet from the ground, by the capstone was an event which must be classed as of equal importance to the laying of the corner-stone in 1845 and the dedication in 1835.

SETTING THE CAPSTONE.

# SETTING THE CAPSTONE.

The Event Which Marked the Comple tion of the Greatest Monument, It was a singular coincidence that the

same day of the week which marked the beginning of the new work on the monument should also have marked its completion. Saturday, the 6th of December, 1884, was perhaps as miserable, so far as the weather was concerned, as any one could imagine. All the morning a heavy rain and sleet storm prevailed, and the clouds, as they scudded before the east wind, hid from sight the pointed peak of the great white shaft. Although the ceremonies had been set for 2 o'clock, it' seemed almost impossible, even up until an hour before that time, to hold the o remonies according to programme: but the pluck which had met and conquered the problem of the monument's construc-tion was not to be daunted by rain, wind, or cold. Col. Casey gave orders to curre out the programme, and this fact became quickly known. About fifty persons assembled by invitation at the foot of the monument, and were taken in sections to the summit. The capstone, surnounted by the aluminum point, which is described elsewhere, was hanging in position, and upon the topmost platform position, and upon the toomost platform, 550 feet from the ground, were gathered the persons who were to take active part in the ceremonics. These were: Col. T. L. Casey, the engineer officer in charge; Capt. Davis and Mr. Bernard R. Green, his assistants; P. H. McLughlin, the superintendent of the work of constructing the monument; Dennis O'Leary, the principal mason; James Hogan, the principal mason; James Hogan, the rigger; Edward Wayson, the elevator conductor, and Louis O'Brien, the col-ored man who has mixed all the cement used in setting the stones.

Everything being prepared, each person on the capstone platform spread some cement upon the bed of the stene, Col. Cascy being the last to handle the trowel. Cascy being the last to handle the trowel. An order to "lower away" caused the 3,300-pound pyramid to sink slowly into position. It fitted exactly, not a chip being taken from it. Cement was then placed on the shoulder up in which the aluminum point was to rest. In this coins were placed, from \$5 gold pieces to pennies, each person on the platform contributing something. Superintendent McLaughlin placed the point upon the top, Col. Casey set it, a shout arose, the rigger handed the halvards to Col. Casey, the string was pulled, the stars and the string was pulled, the stars and stripes floated in the breez, the cannon in the White Lot were fired, and the capstone was set. The ceremony took exactly fifteen minutes, and was concluded

at 2:17.

When the firing of the cannon announced the completion of the great work, Gen. W. McKee Dunn, Mr. H tratio King, Dr. J. M. Toner and Dr. Daniel B. Clarke, members of the Monument Spicer Label was a superscript.

the completion of this enduring monument of our Nation's gratitude to the Father of His Country.

The resolution had just been adopted when Col. Casey, smiling and happy, descended from the top and stood upon the elevator platform. Congratulations followed, and in a few moments more the followed, and in a few moments more the elevator began to descend, the "Star Spangled Banner" being sung with considerable spirit. Two or three trips of the elevator carried down the remaining guests and working, and the top of the monument was left in its solitary glory. During the exercises the wind blew a perfect gale, its rate being estimated at fifty niles an hour. So furious indeed was it that for some time it was impossible to fly the flag from the staff surmounting the capstone, but when at last the stars and stripes were flung from the top of the staff they fleated at a distance of 600 feet from the ground, thus displaying the American colors at the greatest ing the American colors at the greatest height of construction ever yet known to

THE ALUMINUM POINT.

Mention has already been made of the aluminum point. This is a small pyramid of metal resembling polished silver, 9 inches high, 4½ inches in diameter at the base and weighing 100 ounces. It is not only ornamental, but useful, serving the same purpose as the tip of a common lightning rod. The point projecting from the capstone in the accompanying illustration, upon which the point is about to be placed, connects with four copper rods, which in turn, being fastened to the elevator framework, will carry off any excess of electricity which might otherwise damage the shaft. The four faces of the point bear the following inscriptions:

Chief engineer and architect, Thomas Lifacoln Caser, colonel corps of enginees; assistants, George W. Davis, Fourteenth United States Infantry, Bernard R. Green, civil eaglieer; master mechanic, P. H. McLaughlin.

Corner-stone had on bod of foundation July 4, 1848. First stone, at height of 152 feet, laid August 7, 1880. Capstone set Docember 6, 1881.

Joint commission at setting of capstone: Chester A. Arthur, W. W. Corco can (cheirman). M. E. Bell, Edward Clark, John Neyton; act of August 2, 1876.

Laus Deo.

Aluminum was selected because of its lightness—one-third that of counger—and THE ALUMINUM POINT.

ton; act of August 2, 1876.

Laus Deo.

Aluminum was selected because of its lightness—one-third that of copper—and its freedom from oxidation. As long as the obelisk remains the point will be as bright as when placed in position. In its crude state the metal is a white dust, obtained with considerable difficulty and in small quantities by heating chloride of aluminum with potassium. The point on the monument is the largest piece ever cast. The metal is not easily acted upon by water, and when heated in the air burns with great brilliancy and forms oxide of aluminum by the absorption of oxygen. When heated red hot, or man undurated state, as it exists, it is autolutely insoluble. In its our and crystalline form alumina—constitutes the sapphire, one of the hardest and most valuable of the gens. The only mercantile use for aluminum is for opera glasses. Its lightness is especially adaptable for this use, and it is less costly than silver.

WORK WHICH IS YET TO BE DONE. Mork willfell is yet to be done before the monument can be said to be completed, and the time required for all that is proposed to be done cannot be definitely estimated. An appropriation for the amount needed is at pre-ent before Congress, and although it may possibly be reduced, yet it is likely to be p issed to a large extent. It is proposed to line the entire monument from the base to the commencement of the new masonry with commencement of the new masonry with a thick coating of cement marked oil into blocks, thus obviating the present unsightly appearance of the old work. The elevator, which is at present nothing more than a mere platform surrounded by rough wooden seats, will be replaced by a handsomely painted and upholstered car.

Around the base the temporary sheds and structures of various kinds, the tramways and trustles and the accumulation of stone and lumber will have to

be remoyed. the method of finishing the base of the obelisk, as recommended and probably to be adopted, is to fill earth about the presbe adopted, is to fill earth about the present terrace and joining with it, and to extend this filling so far from the meantment as to fade the slopes of the embankment gradually into the surrounding surfaces, and this to be done with so much skill as to give to the mound an appearance as far from artificial as possible. This mound is then to be planted with trees and shrubs, paths are to be laid out, a pavement to be put around the foot of the monument, and far enough from it to monument, and far enough from it to prevent the storm-waters from washing out the filling, and a keeper's lodge is also to be built near the work to accou the watchmen and visitors.

# FACTS ABOUT THE MONUMENT.

Its Cost, Height, Weight and Other In-

teresting Details. The total amount expended by the United States in the work, was \$557.76) -31, and by the Washington Monument Society, \$300,000, making the total cost of the structure \$1,187,710.31. The total estimated weight of the monument is of,-129 tons.

As finished, the monument is 555 feet 5k inches in height, the shaft being 500 feet 5! 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 506 feet 9.36 inches above the mean level of the Atlantic at Sandy Hook, N. Y. The shaft as completed is 55 feet. 14 inches square at the base, and 31 feet 5½ inches square at the top, where the walls have a thickness of 1 foot 6 inches. The bitter of the siles is .247 of an inch to one foot in rise.

The height of this shaft is slightly greater than pine times the width of the

greater than nine times the width of the bose. Its width at top is live-eighths the width of the base, and it would some to a point at a height 25 its present height. The walls of the new portion are faced with a fine-grained white marole from the Braver dam quarry in Baltimore county, Md., and backed with granite from sev-Md., 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 178½ pounds to the cubic foot. The walls at the level of 150 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.

The monument, as it now stands, is higher by about thirty feet than any other structure in the world. Among those which approximate its height are the spires of Cologne Cathedrat, nearly 525; the spire of St. Paul's, London (destroyed by fire in 1561), 508; Pyramid of Cheops, 489; St. Nicholas Cathedral, Hamburg, 473; Strasburg Cathedral, 465; spire burg, 473; Strasburg Cathedon, 465; spire at Landsbut, Germany, 45; Notre Dune, Rouen, 465; St. Peter's, Rome, 457, and the stack (Townshend's) at Glasgow, 451 feet. The tower of the new municipal building in Philadelphia, when com-pieted, will stand next in height to the monument—537 feet 4 inches.

nonument—37 feet 4 inches.
Col. Casey estimates the cost of the earth terrace work to be placed around the monument, including iron work, electric lighting apparatus, &2., at \$165,800, and with a marble wall at \$312,300.

# BUILDERS OF THE SHAFT.

A Sketch of Superintendent McLaughlin -Facts About the Workmen. Chief among the workmen employed

iron the monument, and the one to whom a great amount of credit is due for its successful completion, is Mr. Patrick H. McLaughlin, the superintendent. He was born at St. Johns. New Brunswick, in October, 1843, and served an apprenticeship at the mill-wrighting business. He entered the United States Navy when only nineteen years old as carpenter' only fineteen years one as emperors mate, rishing in a short time to chief carpenter. In 1866 he left the navy and settled in Baltimore as a carpenter and staic builder. The work of building the Shirley Hotel and boarding house was called rusted to him in 1872, and he succeeded so well that two years later he was called to this city to superintend the building of Ascension Church. It was while engaged on this work that his sterling ability and courteous manners attracted, the notice of Mr. W. W. Corogran, who soon became his fast friend. When it was decided to recommence the

construction of the monument in 1878 Mr. Corcoran, who was a prominent member of the Monument Society, recommended Mr. McLaughlin to the place of master carpenter on the work. Mr. Nevarre was then superintending the construction under Col. Casey, but in 1879 he was removed to other engineering work in Tennessee. Mr. McLaughlin was promoted to the vacancy and has filled it ably and well.

It is naturally to be expected that such a man as Mr. McLaughlin would choose as his assistants the very best men he could obtain. This was the case, and the men, being picked out on account of their special fitness for the work and imbued with the enthusiasm and energy of their superintendent, became almost invaluable. Nearly all these men have had interesting histories. Jeseph Engelinger, nicknamed "Old Corporal," was in the army for sixteen years. He entered during the war and served in Capt. Davis' regiment on the frontier. He used to carry the mails from one post to another and was always in the saddle. He displayed upon the plains and amid treacherous Indians the same cootness which characterized his actions when at work upon the dizzy height. William Branson was formerly a sailor in the United States Navy, and, of course, was fitted by training for the monument work. Another old saifor was James Raean. Upon him devolved all the rigging that had to be done, and a saior in the United States Navy, and, of course, was fitted by training for the monument work. Another old saior was James Ragan. Upon him devolved all the rigging that had to be done, and he climbed in and out among the perious places at the top of the monument as coolly, and certainly with more case, than if he had been walking upon a wax floor.

fames Wells, one of the skilled laborers, was the first man to be thrown over the side of the structure and fall into the the side of the structure and fall into the net. Since that rather startling accident all the men, including Superintendent McLaughlin, have fallen into the net at various times, the narrowest escape being that of John Flynn, who, while working with a guy rope, slipped and fell over the side. Although considerably frightened he clung to the guy rope, and was caught by the net, from which he channel, hand over hand, to the platform above him. Charles Cumberland and James E. Talbox were also skilled laborers employed on the top. Samuel Maston and Theodore V. Ryder were the carpenters, Joseph Faunce a laborer, while George Knightsey, James Flynn, James Chauncey, Dennis O'Leary, and Thomas Purcelt were engaged upon the masonry work. The only colored man on the top was Lewis

sey, James Flynn, James Chauncey, Dennis O'Leary, and Thomas Purcell were engaged upon the masonry work. The only colored man on the top was Lewis O'Brien, a negro who was born free in North Carolina, his grandmother having been liberated by her master, a Mr. John Jackson, for having secued one of his children one night from a lattinging. He went to Baltimore and enghinself as a laborer. While there he taught himself as a laborer. While there he taught himself to read and write by occasionally attending a night school and by picking up scraps of learning from his fellow-workmen.

Another man who deserves mention is Edward Wayson, who was working under McLaughlin as a carpenter when he was building the Ascension Church. He accompanied the superintendent to the monument and followed his trade there until the erection of the elevator, when he was made conductor. It is estimated that he has made between thirty and forty thousand trips up and down on the elevator, having taken up all the 9,612 stones and all the woodwork used in the erection of the obelisk and its interior furnish ince he erection of the obelisk and its interior furniskings.

#### VARIOUS DESIGNS PROPOSED.

Ideas Which Were Carried Out-What Remains to be fone.

During the years in which the monument remained untinished, and especially during the time immediately preceding the recommencement of the work, people with designs for the completion of the monument were as numerous as could well be imagined. Among the designs furnished was an exceedingly ornate and and elaborate one, prepared by Mr. Henry R. Searle, architect. It represented the monument with three marble terraces at its base, large panals of each terrace being

its base, large people of each terrace being occupied by has representing scenes in the history of the scenes in the history of the At the summit of these three tereached by marble stairways, was to be a statue of Washington, sword in hand, looking southward over his native State. The entrance faced the east, and was surmounted by a large eagle with outspread wings. From this terraced base, which would have been nearly 100 feet high, the monument was to tower upwards, and terminate in a handsome carved capital with a pyramidon roof, surrounded by a handsomely carved railing. The estimated cost of this structure, exclusive of the statuary, would have been \$975,000. If Mr. Searle's design had been adopted, which it was not, the monument would have really been a the monument would have really been a work of art, and not merely an achieve-

work of art, and not merely an achieve-ment of engineering.

Another design, and one adopted by the Monnment Society in 1877, provided for a shaft 485 feet in height. Around the base a double terrace, 200 feet square and 17 feet in height, was contemplated. At the four corners stairs were to lead to the upper terrace, on a level with the onthe four corners stairs were to lead to the upper terrace, on a level with the entrance to the shaft. At a distance of thirty first from the base of the shaft were to be bronze bas relieve on the four sides of the shaft, thirty feet in length and four-teen feet in height, representing prominent events in the life of Washington. On each side of the steps to the terrace pedictals were to be placed bearing statues representing the distinguished characteristics. ues representing the distinguished charactors of revolutionary times. This design, although adopted both by the Sec. and the House in 1878, was finally abandoned.

# AN OLD HISTORIC BIBLE.

The Book Upon Which George Washington Was Sworn Into Office. The Bible upon which Gorge Washington took the oath of oding on March 4, 1789, and which has been carefully preserved in New York up to the present time, was brought to this city by St. John's Lodge of Masons, of New York, an organization which anted ites the revolution itself. George Washington, as it will be remembered, was inaugurated President in front of Federal Hall, which at that time stood at the corner of Wall and Nassau streets, New York city. The site of this hall is now covered burnly site of this hall is now covered burdle. United States sub-Treasury building in front of which the merchants of this city connected with the Chamber of Commerce caused a few years. city connected with the Chamber of Commerce caused, a few years ago, to be erected a colossal statue of the first President, in front of which has been placed the stone slab on which Washington stood at the time he took the eath of office. In those days the Bibles in general use were not so elaborately gotten up as those of the present time. That on those of the present time. That on which the first President placed his hand while taking the oath of effice was a quarto volume, printed in the peciliar type of the period and embelished with a number of what would be considered

ornament, and differing widely from the embossed gilt covers which now are to be found on the larger Bibles used on altars of the pulpit desks.

After the inauguration ceremonies of 1789, as there was then no Historical Society in existence, or other safe place where such a relic could be kept, the only Masonic lodge then in this city, known under the name of St. John's Lodge No. I, took possession of the volume. It was for some time used at the meeting, of the lodge, but as time advanced it was thought judicious to preserve it from constant use, and another Bible was substituted, the relic being deposited in a safe place under the control of the lodge, only to be used on important occasions, such as when the ledge meeting fell on Washington's birthday or other national events.

now very rude engravings—many of them made to fold up within the leaves of the book. The binding was also of cause leather, intended more for strength than

ornament, and differing widely from the

day or other national events.

When the New York lodges were invited to participate in the monument ceremonies St. John's Lodge was, of correct named as to whom the invitation was extended. The proposition to take part was accepted, and it was desirbed to take the long parserved seared volume to the National Capital. It arrived here under a guard of grand officers, who will be responsible for it until its return to its iron safe in New York city. It was yesterlay toe object of considerable curious attention.