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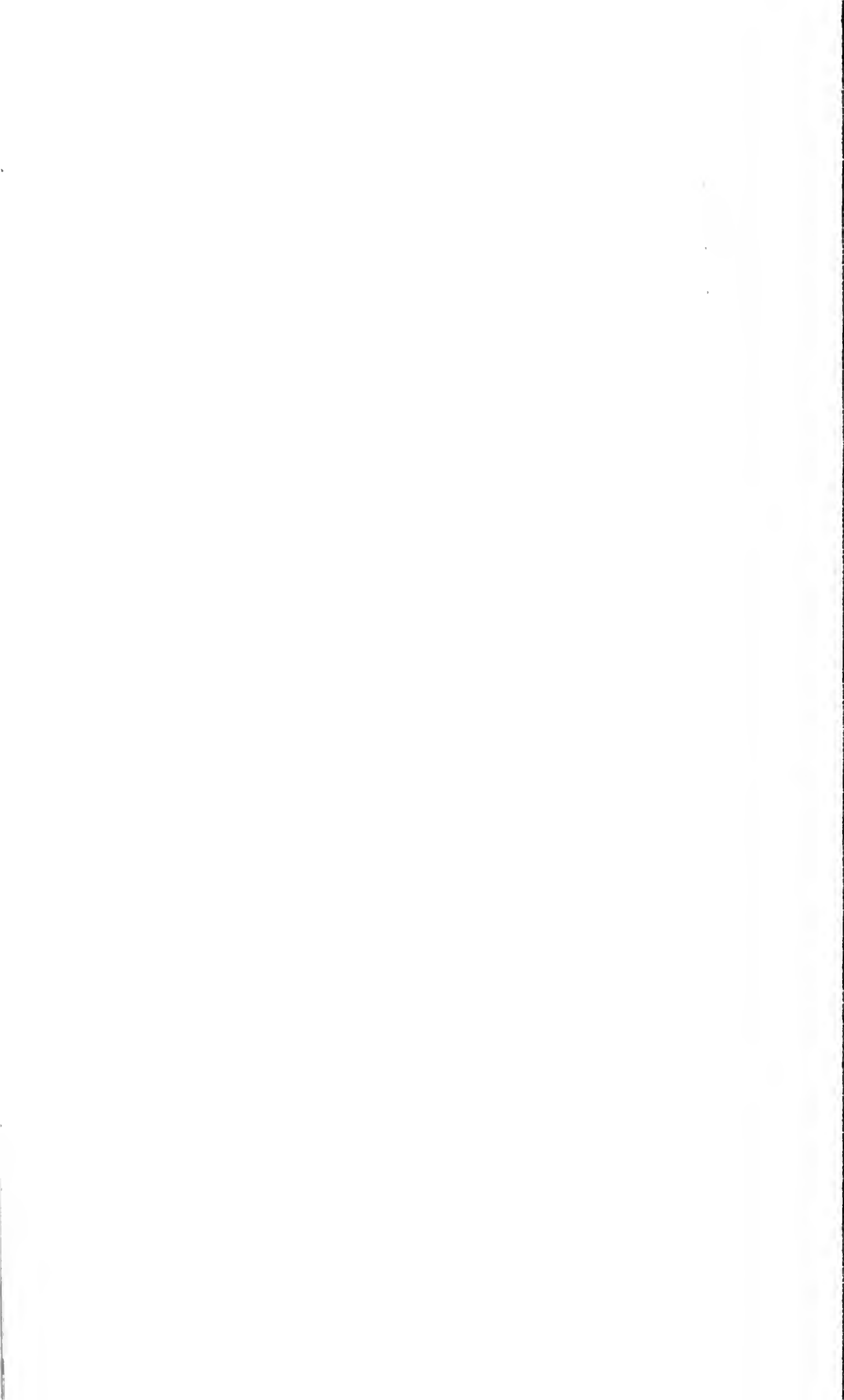
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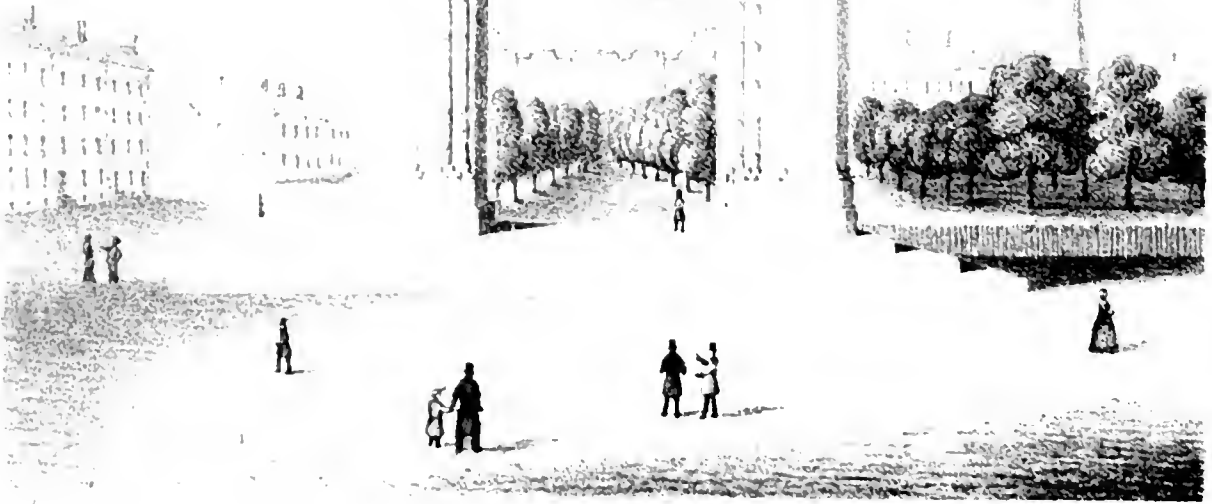


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DE WITT CLINTON



T H E
C L I N T O N M O N U M E N T .

M D C C C X L V I I I .

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THE

CLINTON MONUMENT.

THE erection of monuments to the memory of the illustrious dead is sanctioned by the practice of all nations, in every age of the world. The remotest antiquity, and our own times : the rudest barbarism, and the highest civilization, have alike concurred in this homage to departed worth.

The modes in which this universal usage has manifested itself, have been as various as the different characters and conditions of the people, among whom it has prevailed ; and the character of the monuments erected has served to mark the taste, as their erection has to indicate the appreciation of merit, of the various nations, and successive generations of men.

The great purposes of this universal practice, like the motives which have induced it, are twofold—to commemorate high virtues and distinguished services ; and, in so doing, to encourage their repetition. In this double aspect, of justice to the dead, and encouragement to the living, consists the motive, and the high moral influence, of the practice in question.

To preserve this favorable influence, and assure its legitimate fruits, great wisdom, and a just discrimination should be exercised in the practice itself, both in the selection of the persons to whom it is applied, and of the virtues and services it is intended to commemorate. The



former should be of such universally conceded excellence, and the latter of such acknowledged merit, as at once to commend them to the public admiration and gratitude, and thereby justify their monumental commemoration.

Few men have lived in our own, or any other country, whose character and services come more fully within the scope and spirit of the above general remark, than those of DE WITT CLINTON. Few men have impressed themselves more strongly upon the age in which they lived, or have left behind them more enduring memorials of public usefulness, than this distinguished statesman and public benefactor. The services of few men have been so early and so clearly apparent in the advancement of great public interests; or their fruits so widely diffused, or so universally acknowledged. Justice, that often comes late to public men and public services, has long since reached the memory of Clinton. The asperities of political or party feeling, from the effects of which few public men are wholly exempt, and which often, for a time, derange the even scales of justice, have, in regard to Clinton, like the evanescent vapour, already passed away; while the recollection of his great public services remains deeply engraved upon the public admiration and gratitude. Time will serve only to deepen these just public sentiments.

While, therefore, the public services of Clinton will ever form the best and most enduring basis of his fame, there has long been, in the public mind, an increasing opinion that some public monument to his memory was due alike to his character and services, and to the public sense entertained of them. This has, at length, led to the formation of an Association for the accomplishment of this public object. This Association and its undertaking have received the sanction of the Legislature of the State, by the granting to it of an act of incorporation, and naming

therein a board of trustees for carrying on its purposes. That act is as follows :

“ STATE OF NEW YORK.

“ AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE CLINTON MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.—PASSED FEBRUARY 11TH, 1848.

“ *The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :*

“ SECTION 1. William C. Bouck, Luther Bradish, Willard Parker, Herman C. Adams, Samuel B. Ruggles and William W. Campbell, of the city of New York, Eleazer Lord, of the county of Rockland, Rensselaer Bently, of the county of Rensselaer, Daniel Cady, of the county of Fulton, William Parmelee, of the city of Albany, Alfred Conkling, of the county of Cayuga, Henry K. Smith and Millard Fillmore, of the city of Buffalo, Daniel Crouse, of the county of Madison, Malcom Snowden, of the county of Westchester, and Oliver Phelps, of the county of Ontario, and such other associates as shall subscribe and pay at least one dollar for the purpose contemplated in this act, shall be and are hereby constituted a body corporate, by the name of The Clinton Monument Association of the State of New York, to erect a monument to the memory of De Witt Clinton, late Governor of this state, and as such shall have the powers, and be subject to the conditions, so far as applicable, contained in title three of chapter eighteen of part first of the Revised Statutes.

“ SEC. 2. The persons named in the first section of this act, shall be the first trustees of the said Clinton Monument Association hereby created, and shall hold their offices until and including the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, and until others shall be chosen in their places. The said trustees may be divided into classes, and may consist of such members,

and be elected at such times and places, and in such manner, as shall be provided by the By-laws of said association.

“SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the trustees to meet at the city hall, in the city of New York, or a majority of them, within thirty days after the passage of this act, and elect by ballot a president and vice-president, a treasurer and secretary of the association, who shall hold their offices respectively until the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, and until others shall be chosen in their places. Five of the trustees, at a meeting duly notified, shall be a quorum for the transaction of business; vacancies occasioned by death, resignation or otherwise, of the trustees named in this act, may be filled by the board.

“SEC. 4. The treasurer of the association shall give security in such manner as the trustees shall determine, for the faithful performance of his duties; the trustees may appoint a general agent for the purpose of collecting subscriptions and donations for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects of this association; said general agent to have power to appoint other agents for the like purposes, by the advice and consent of the president and secretary of said association. All moneys which shall be subscribed and collected for the purpose of erecting such monument, shall be paid over to the treasurer, or deposited in some bank in this state to his credit, and certificates of deposits forwarded to him from time to time, and as often as once in sixty days; and as often as once in three months a statement, verified by his oath or affirmation, shall be made by the treasurer to the board of trustees through their president, of all the moneys which have been received by him, and of all the persons from whom, and the persons by whom the same were collected; and also a statement, verified in like manner, of all the moneys which shall have been paid over by him, specifying to whom the same were paid, and for what purpose.

He shall pay over no moneys but by the direction of the trustees, on the written order of the general agent, countersigned by the secretary, and accompanied by vouchers duly audited and certified. The book to be kept by him shall be at all times open for the inspection of the trustees, and of any and every subscriber and donor to the funds of the Association.

“SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the secretary to record the acts and proceedings of the trustees, to keep a register of the names of every subscriber and donor to the funds of the association, the place of his residence, the amount of his subscription, and the day on which the same was paid over to the treasurer; which register shall be open to the inspection of the members of the Association, and shall be published by the trustees in some public newspaper, and in such manner as they shall determine.

“SEC. 6. The trustees shall commence the erection of said monument as soon as practicable after the sum of ten thousand dollars shall have been collected and deposited in the treasurer's hands; but no contract or engagement shall be entered into by the trustees involving the expenditure of money, until ten thousand dollars is collected and deposited as aforesaid; nor shall any contract at any time be made involving an expenditure of money, beyond the amount actually deposited in the treasurer's hands, without the personal liability of said trustees.

“SEC. 7. The said monument shall be erected on such site, in the state of New York, as the said trustees shall think most suitable to carry out the objects intended by this act, and by the erection of such monument.

“SEC. 8. This act shall take effect immediately.”

Under the foregoing legislative act, the Association it incorporates was, at a meeting held at the City Hall, in the city of New York, on the 5th day of March, 1848, duly

organized, by the election of William C. Bouck, as President, Daniel Cady, as Vice-President, Samuel B. Ruggles, as Treasurer, and William W. Campbell, as Secretary. The Association thus incorporated, and thus organized, assumed the responsibilities, and entered upon a discharge of the duties of their important trust.

To secure greater regularity in the transactions of the Board of Trustees, and render more orderly its proceedings, the Trustees, at a meeting held at the City Hall of the city of New York, on the 19th of April, 1848, adopted a code of by-laws. On the 30th of May, 1848, the Trustees met at the Capitol, in the city of Albany; and, after transacting other business, appointed a special Committee, consisting of Luther Bradish of New York, Millard Fillmore of Buffalo, and William Parmelee of Albany, "to ascertain the probable expense of a suitable monument to be erected to the memory of De Witt Clinton; and the form and material for such monument; and whether the relatives of the deceased would consent to the removal of his remains to the place selected for such monument; and where, and on what terms, suitable land could be obtained for the erection of the same; and to report thereon to the next meeting."

The Special Committee, in performance of the duty thus devolved upon them, addressed to Charles A. Clinton, Esq., the following letter:

"NEW YORK, July 15th, 1848.

"CHARLES A. CLINTON, ESQ.

"DEAR SIR.—At the late session of the Legislature of this State, an Association, consisting of William C. Bouck, Luther Bradish, Willard Parker, Herman C. Adams, Samuel B. Ruggles, William W. Campbell, Eleazer Lord, Rensselaer Bentley, Daniel Cady, William Parmelee, Alfred Conkling, Henry K. Smith, Millard Fillmore, Daniel Crouse, Malcom Snowden and Oliver Phelps, was incorporated, with ample powers, for the purpose of erect-

ing a monument to the memory of your distinguished father, DE WITT CLINTON, late Governor of this State. Under this Act, the Association it incorporated has been duly organized, and the persons above named constituted, by the Act itself, the first Trustees.

“At a regular meeting of the Trustees, held at the Capitol in the city of Albany, on the 30th of May last, the undersigned were appointed a committee ‘to ascertain the probable expense of a suitable monument to be erected to the memory of De Witt Clinton; and the form and material for such monument; and whether the relatives of the deceased would consent to the removal of the remains to the place selected for such monument; and where, and on what terms, suitable land could be obtained for the erection of the same; and to report thereon to the next meeting.’

“In performance of the duty thus devolved upon the committee, the undersigned now take the liberty of addressing you this communication, and beg you will have the goodness to submit it to your family, and obtain and transmit to us their and your own decision upon its subject, to the end that we may, in further discharge of our duty, report the same to our constituents at their next meeting, at the Capitol in the city of Albany, on the second Tuesday (the 5th) of August next.

“As the decision of your family, upon the subject herein referred to them, may be, in some degree, influenced by the *character*, the *location*, and the *probable completion* of the proposed monument, the undersigned take occasion to submit a few remarks upon these several points.

“As regards the first two, the *character* and *location* of the monument, these must necessarily depend, in a great measure, upon the consent of your family to the removal of the remains to the location of the monument; for if the monument is to cover or contain the remains, then it should be sepulchral in its character, and its location some public cemetery. If on the contrary, that consent be

withheld, and the monument consequently is not to cover or contain the remains, then it would seem that the monument should necessarily be *civic* in its character, and its location some public place or square, either at the capital or in some other prominent city of the State. But in either case, it is the design of the Association, that the monument shall be worthy its subject, and becoming the State.

“As regards the *probable completion* of the proposed monument, the undersigned would simply remark, as has been elsewhere observed, that the obligation to erect such a monument is becoming daily more strongly felt by the people of this great commonwealth, as they more and more experience the countless blessings, and increasing prosperity diffused throughout its ample borders, and which flow as a legitimate consequence, and are gathered, in a great degree, as the precious fruits, of the early and sagacious forecast, the practical wisdom, and indomitable energy of the eminently enlightened and patriotic statesman to whose memory the monument is proposed to be erected: and although these fruits of his wisdom and public services will ever form a monument more fresh and enduring than brass or marble, yet as a visible expression of the sense entertained by the public of that wisdom, and of those services, a monument to his memory such as is now proposed, is universally felt to be as fitting and proper, as its future erection is believed to be certain.

“Relying upon the strength and universal prevalence of this public sentiment, the undersigned cannot doubt that it will lead the people of this state, with alacrity, to afford the Association all the co-operation and aid necessary for the early and full accomplishment of their object; and that that object therefore will have its consummation so soon as may be consistent with the nature and magnitude of the work itself. To this end, by the acceptance of the act of incorporation, and the organization under it, the

good faith and character of the Association stand pledged to the public, and will, we trust, be faithfully redeemed.

“With sentiments of great personal respect and esteem, we remain, dear sir,

Your obd't servt's,

L. BRADISH,
WM. PARMELEE,
MILLARD FILLMORE, } *Committee.*”

The Committee also, by advertisement published in several newspapers in various parts of the State, invited offers of sites, and designs for the proposed monument, the latter to be accompanied by specifications of dimensions and material, and estimates of cost. Several offers of sites and designs for the proposed monument were in consequence received by the Committee, and all duly reported to the next meeting of the Board of Trustees, held at the Capitol, in the city of Albany, on the 8th of August, 1848.

At that meeting, among other business transacted, the Special Committee, appointed on the 30th of May preceding, was continued; and was directed to present to the Board, at its next meeting, “A report setting forth the considerations, which occurred to them, in favor of the erection of a *civic*, and those also in favor of a *sepulchral* monument; and such suggestions relating to the selection of a site appropriate to the respective styles of monument, and such information relating to particular locations, as should appear to them of importance.”

On the 20th of October, 1848, the Committee received from Charles A. Clinton, Esquire, in answer to the letter addressed to him by the committee on the 15th of July, 1848, the following letter:

“NEW YORK, OCTOBER 19, 1848.

“GENTLEMEN: On my return to the city a few days since, after an absence of some months, I had the honor

to receive your letter dated July 15, 1848, and take the earliest opportunity of acknowledging it.

It is hardly necessary for me to say how grateful to my feelings are your intentions in reference to the memory of my father; and how sensibly I am touched by the kind and friendly terms in which you have communicated them to me.

It might be indelicate in me to refer to the essential services rendered to our State by my father, or to the great personal sacrifices that he made to the public interests. This is matter of history, and if his fellow citizens respect and honor his memory, it is the highest proof of his merit: and whatever posthumous honors they may pay to his name will be regarded, by all, as the impartial judgment of posterity, after so many years have elapsed since his death.

In reference to the removal of his remains, it is my duty to say that it would not be agreeable to the feelings of his family; and although we appreciate the kind and generous intentions of your Association, it would be most painful to us to consent to a change of his present resting place.

Allow me to express my sincere regret that I did not receive your communication at an earlier day, and that my answer to it has been unavoidably postponed to the present time.

With great respect and esteem,

I am, gentlemen, your sincere friend,

and obedient servant,

C. A. CLINTON."

HON. L. BRADISH, HON. MILLARD FILLMORE, and HON.
WILLIAM PARMELEE, Committee.

On the 26th of October, 1848, the Committee received, from James Renwick, junior, Esq., of New York, three designs for the proposed monument, accompanied by specifications of dimensions and material, and estimates of

cost. Of these three designs one was an obelisk and colossal statue, one a single, and one a triple triumphal arch. All these were duly reported to the Board of Trustees at its next meeting, which was held at the City Hall of the city of New York, on the 27th of October, 1848.

At that meeting the Special Committee, appointed in May, and continued in August preceding, submitted to the Board the following report :

“The Special Committee, appointed in May last, in relation to the *character*, and *location* of the monument proposed to be erected to the memory of De Witt Clinton, was continued by resolution of the Board, at its meeting in August. By the terms of the resolution continuing the committee, they were directed to present to the Board at its next meeting, ‘A report setting forth the considerations which occurred to them, in favor of the erection of a *civic*, and those also in favor of a *sepulchral* monument; and such suggestions relating to the selection of a site appropriate to the respective styles of monument, and such information relating to particular locations, as should appear to them of importance.’

“The Committee, in the exercise of their continued powers, and in performance of the new duties thus devolved upon them, now respectfully submit to the Board, the following

REPORT :

“On the 20th of October instant, the Committee received from Charles A. Clinton, Esquire, an answer to the communication which, by direction of the Board, they addressed to that gentleman, on the 15th of July last, inquiring the pleasure of the family of the deceased, as to the removal of his remains from their present resting place, to the location of the monument, proposed to be erected to his memory.

“Mr. Clinton’s letter accompanies this report. By this letter it will be perceived that the family of the deceased do not yield their consent to the removal of his remains from their present resting place in Greenwood Cemetery. Although notice of this decision of the family of the deceased was not received by the Committee until after their report had been prepared, yet in the judgment of the committee, this decision does not, in any respect, change the views or the conclusions presented in the report: on the contrary, it furnishes an additional argument in their favor, and a new reason for their adoption: Indeed, independent of other sufficient considerations, it would seem, to the Committee, to be conclusive as to the *character*, and, of course, the *location* too, of the monument in question.

“The Committee have not received any further offers of sites, or plans and estimates of cost for the proposed monument, in addition to those already reported to the Board at its meeting in August last; except three designs, with specifications of dimensions and material, and estimates of cost, presented by James Renwick, Jun., Esq., of New York. These designs, with their accompanying specifications and estimates, are submitted to the Board, with this report.

“In regard to the other matters referred to the Committee, as they involve mainly questions of individual taste, and the expression of individual opinion, upon facts as fully before the Board generally, as they are within the knowledge of the Committee, the Committee would perhaps act most discreetly by abstaining from any preliminary expression of their own opinions, simply referring themselves to the decision of the Board upon all these points. But inasmuch as the Board has referred these matters to the Committee, and made it their duty to present a report thereon at its present meeting, the Committee will proceed to discharge this duty in such manner as the little opportunity afforded them for con-

sultation, research, or consideration upon these several interesting subjects, may have enabled them to do.

The views of the Committee, in regard to the *character* and *location* of the proposed monument, have been already partially expressed in their communication above referred to of July 15th, 1848, addressed, by direction of the Board, to Charles A. Clinton, Esq., and reported to the Board at its meeting in August last. To those views, the Committee still adhere; and they, therefore, beg leave to refer to them, so far as they go, for their present opinions upon the subject.

The Committee suppose the object of the contemplated monument to be to commemorate the public services, rather than the private virtues, of the distinguished deceased, to whose memory it is proposed to be erected: It is to De Witt Clinton as a public man, a statesman, and a public benefactor; and not to him as an individual, however distinguished as such, that this monument is to be erected: and even in this, such a monument is demanded not so much to perpetuate the public services of Clinton, as to present to the world a visible manifestation of the public sense entertained of them.

Those services require no such monument to perpetuate their memory. They, with their widely diffused, and now universally acknowledged fruits, will continue to live, in more than their original freshness, long after the monument, erected to their memory, shall have crumbled into dust, and its fragments have become mingled and lost among the ruins of the forgotten past. Indeed, the progress of time, that witnesses the perishable nature, and gradual delapidations of the monument, will furnish new proofs of their value, and stamp an imperishable character of immortality upon the services, that monument would commemorate.

If such then be the object of the proposed monument,—if it is to the public services of the statesman, rather than to the private virtues of the individual, that the monument

is to be erected, this would seem to indicate that its *character* should be *civic*, rather than *sepulchral*; and its *location* some public place, and not a cemetery.

It is true that, among the ancients, the sepulchral form was sometimes, although rarely, given to civic monuments; and the mausoleum served at once to cover or enclose the remains, and to commemorate the services, of the illustrious and honored dead. Such were the tombs of the Persian kings at Persepolis, those of the Pharaohs at Thebes, the Pyramids of Egypt, the monument erected by Artemisia to the memory of her royal husband, Mausolus, and which became the generic name for others of corresponding magnificence: Such, too, were the tombs of Augustus, of the Scipios, of Caius Cestus, and that of Adrian, now the castle of St. Angelo, at Rome, with many others. But these, generally, were erected by the individuals, or the families, whose names they respectively commemorate; and were the visible manifestations of personal vanity, or of individual ambition, rather than the free offerings, and voluntary monuments of a nation's admiration and gratitude.

Among the more modern *civic* monuments, few are sepulchral, either in their character or location. They are generally, in their style, artistic or architectural; and, in their location, they occupy some public place. Such are the columns of Trajan and Antoninus at Rome; the arch of the Simplon, or arc de la Paix, at Milan; and that de l'Etoile at Paris. Such, too, is the magnificent monument to Peter the Great, of Russia, in the principal square at St. Petersburg: Such, also, is the Nelson monument in London; the column of Austerlitz in Paris; the monument to Borromeo at Arona, in Italy; that to Joan of Arc, at Orleans, in France; and that to Brock, in Canada. Such, too, is our own noble monument of Bunker's Hill; and those to Washington, in Baltimore and Washington city.

It is true that some of these monuments commemorate

events, as well as persons ; but then the chief interest in those events, and of course the leading motive for their commemoration, consists in the high virtues they exhibit ; the patriotic acts and useful services that characterise them ; and the great benefits which flow from them to the public. The monuments, therefore, which are erected to commemorate those events, serve at once to perpetuate the memory of interesting and important facts, and of the persons identified with them. The very object of these monuments then, would seem to decide their character to be *civic* ; and to require that such should be their form. That object, with equal clearness and force, indicates, as the appropriate location of such monuments, some public place, and not a cemetery.

The cemetery is at once a fitting place for the repose of the dead, and an appropriate location for the sepulchral monument to their memory. Here the warmest affections of surviving kindred and friendship gather ; and, in the monuments they build to the cherished memory of the departed, they seek to commemorate their private virtues, personal qualities, and individual character. For this, the tranquil retirement, solemn air, and fitting accessories of the cemetery are most appropriate, and most in harmony with individual feeling, and with surviving and wounded affection.

But such is not the office, nor such the appropriate location, of monuments intended to commemorate the public services of public men. Such monuments are the visible manifestations, not of private friendship for the individual, but of public admiration and gratitude for popular talents and public services. They seek to emblazon the services they commemorate, not only as a public expression of the sense entertained of them, but as a motive and encouragement to their repetition. They seek not, therefore, the tranquil retirement and hallowed stillness of the cemetery, but the public place, the thronged city, and the busy haunts of men. If this be so, it should

determine at once both the *character* and the *location* of the monument now in question.

Should the Board concur with the Committee in the views above expressed, the field of our present inquiry will be thereby much narrowed. Excluding then, for the present, the public cemeteries, in which sites for the proposed monument have been most liberally offered, the selection of a location for the monument will, of course, be limited to the other places proposed. These are, Albany, Little Falls, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, Lockport, and Buffalo, embracing the whole line of the Erie Canal, with its two termini. Each of these points has its peculiar advantages, and presents its claim to a fair consideration. The Committee, therefore, without going into minute detail, will notice, in a general and cursory manner, these several sites proposed, with the considerations, which immediately suggest themselves, in favor of each.

Albany is one of the termini of the Erie Canal; is the capital of the State; was the residence of the deceased at the time of his death, and the principal scene of those public labors, which have illustrated his name, and so greatly benefitted the state. It is here, too, that the people's representatives come up annually to counsel and legislate for the welfare of the commonwealth; and, as they view this monumental expression of public admiration and gratitude, might catch from the example this monument would commemorate, a noble inspiration in the people's service, and in an honorable career of public usefulness. Albany, too, is a place of frequent passage and concentrated travel. A monument here, therefore, would meet the observation of the numerous persons, citizens and strangers, who traverse our state in pursuit of either business or pleasure. For the purposes of such a monument, Albany, by her public authorities, has most liberally placed at the disposal of the Association, without reserve,

any selection for a site that may be made from her public grounds.

Proceeding westward, the next place proposed is *Little Falls*. Around this spot many considerations of great interest cluster. This is the birth place of internal improvements by canal, in our state. Here one of the first experiments in this great public interest was made. Here, too, our great work, the Erie Canal, which occupied so largely the mind, and was so efficiently promoted by the sagacity, wisdom and energy of Clinton, encountered, and triumphantly overcame, one of its most formidable physical obstacles. Its unique and picturesque natural scenery would put in advantageous relief the contemplated work of art; while its mountain granite rock, of two hundred and fifty feet in height, would form a noble base for a noble monument.

Utica next claims our regard. From her position in the great central county of the state; and her being, in consequence, a radiant point of many important lines of internal communication, by canal, rail-road, and ordinary highway, she presents strong claims to consideration.

Syracuse, although no site for the proposed monument has been publicly offered by her, yet her position, and the peculiar and abounding elements of her future growth and prosperity, entitle her to notice, and render her an eligible site for a public monument.

Rochester has taken an early and deep interest in this undertaking; and has been most liberal in her action and offers in regard to it. Independent of the ground in her beautiful cemetery of "*Mount Hope*," which she has placed at the disposal of the Association, Rochester, from her position, her relation to our internal improvements, and lake navigation, as well as from the intelligence, enterprise and public spirit of her citizens, presents an eligible site for the proposed monument, well deserving the consideration of the Board.

The mountain ridge at *Lockport*, like the Little Falls,

presents another of those formidable natural obstacles, which our great work, the Erie Canal, had to encounter, and which nothing but untiring zeal, and indomitable energy enabled it to overcome. The rocky summit of this mountain ridge, the scene of that noble triumph, presents a fitting and appropriate site for a monument to the memory of Clinton.

Buffalo brings us to the other terminus of the Erie Canal. This queen city of the west not only stands at the head of this great work; but, from this proud position, she looks out upon that broad expanse of inland seas, which connect her with the boundless and fertile west. It is here, to this converging point, that commerce, upon her hundred radiant lines, brings the rich productions of that vast and fruitful region, and pours them upon the bosom of our artificial inland navigation, to be borne to their destined market. Buffalo has not only seen the achievement of this great work, but, more than at almost any other point, she daily, nay hourly, witnesses the important uses it subserves, and the immense objects of public good it accomplishes. Where else, then, more adequately than here, can the value of this great work be estimated; or the merit so duly appreciated of him, who, if he were not its original projector, was at any rate, its most efficient promoter and steadfast friend. Where then, in these respects, so suitable and proper a site for a fitting monument to the memory of that distinguished statesman and public benefactor? If this beautiful, enterprising and rapidly growing city, *thus situated*, be not unequalled as a site for such a monument, she yields only to the other terminus of the Canal, the capital of the state.

Your committee have thus noticed rapidly in succession, the several places, which have been proposed as a site for the contemplated monument. They have presented, in a very general and cursory manner, the peculiar advantages of each, and have endeavored to do justice to all, leaving it to the Board to make such selection as

in its judgment, shall be most in harmony with the character and object, and shall most fully accomplish the great purposes of the proposed monument.

If the Board should not concur with the Committee in their views, above expressed, as to the proper *character*, or appropriate *location* of the proposed monument, but should be of opinion that, whether *civic* or *sepulchral* in its style, a public cemetery would be its appropriate *location*, it may be proper, and perhaps expected, that the Committee should notice the several sites which have been offered in such cemeteries. These have been in the Mount Hope Cemetery at Rochester, the Rural Cemetery at Albany, and the Rockland Cemetery at Piermont.

The former of these, the Mount Hope Cemetery at Rochester, presents ground not only favorable in itself, but is situated near the junction of the Genessee Valley and Erie canals; commands an extensive view along the lines of both, as well as upon Lake Ontario.

The Rural Cemetery at Albany also presents a site exceedingly favorable in itself, and advantageous in its position. It commands an extensive view of the Erie canal, and overlooks its eastern termination. It is at the capital of the State, and would be in the view of many citizens and travellers.

The Rockland Cemetery presents a site in itself almost unsurpassed in beauty, and in the extent and richness of the view it commands. That view embraces the distant ocean, the intermediate waters, and surrounding country to a great extent. It is the crowning summit of a conical hill rising from the western bank of the Hudson river, near seven hundred feet. It commands an extensive view of the river, looks down upon the increasing commerce and travel which float upon its bosom, and which are, in a great degree, drawn to it through our various works of internal communication. It was originally within the native county of Clinton; and is situated at the eastern termination of that great work of internal im-

provement, the New York and Erie Rail Road. It abounds in an excellent building material of stone, which together with the site, the Cemetery Company most liberally offer gratuitously to the Monument Association. It is also due, in justice and truth, to this Cemetery Company to state, that they were the first, and have continued to be among the principal, to move actively in the present enterprise of erecting a monument to the memory of Clinton. All these circumstances entitle this site to the favorable consideration of the Board.

The Committee have not prepared, and, therefore do not now present to the Board, with this report, an estimate of the relative cost of the proposed monument upon the several sites thus offered to the Association; because, wherever the material of construction is not found at or near the sites proposed, our works of inter-communication will afford such facilities for transporting that material to the site, which shall be finally selected, as will render all nearly equal in this respect; and thus the labors of Clinton, while they form a solid and enduring basis of his fame, will contribute their aid in the erection of the proposed monument to his memory.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

L. BRADISH, MILLARD FILLMORE, WILLIAM PARMELEE,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
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October 27, 1848.

The foregoing report was accepted by the Board, and the following resolutions thereupon adopted:

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Board, the monument proposed to be erected to the memory of De Witt Clinton ought, in its style and character, to be *civic*, rather than *sepulchral*.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Board, the *location* of the monument proposed to be erected to the mem-

ory of De Witt Clinton, ought to be in some public place and not in a cemetery.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Board, the city of Albany, the capital of the State, presents the most eligible site for the monument proposed to be erected to the memory of De Witt Clinton; and therefore, that it be selected for that purpose.

Resolved, That the monument proposed to be erected to the memory of De Witt Clinton, be a single, or triple triumphal arch, and be located at the head of State street, in the city of Albany, and within the Capitol park, provided the assent of the Legislature be first obtained; the precise plan and dimensions of the monument to be settled by a committee to be designated by the Board.

Governor Bouck, Mr. Bradish, Judge Conkling, Mr. Ruggles, and Judge Parmelee, were thereupon constituted such committee.

This committee was authorised to apply to the Legislature for permission to locate the proposed monument upon the public grounds, within the Capitol park.

Marcus T. Reynolds, Esq., of Albany, was unanimously appointed, by the Board, as the general agent of the Association; and it was felt to be a subject of just congratulation to the Board and the Public, that in an office so important and so essential to the success of the enterprise, the Association were to have the benefit of the advice and services of one whose position, character, and known capacity, render him in every respect, so peculiarly qualified for an able and successful discharge of the duties of this important and responsible office.

All moneys of the Association were directed to be deposited in the New York State Bank at Albany, to the credit of the Treasurer. It was also resolved that no contract should, at any time be made, involving the expenditure of money, beyond the amount then actually in the treasury.

Mr. Campbell having tendered his resignation as Sec-

retary of the Association, it was accepted, and Judge Parinlee of Albany, was duly elected Secretary to fill the vacancy.

The Board then, after directing this publication, adjourned to the stated meeting at the capitol in the city of Albany, in February next.

The foregoing brief statement presents the motive and object of the formation of "The Clinton Monument Association," its act of incorporation, its organization under that act, and its proceedings down to the present time.

The members of this Association being themselves fully persuaded of the merit of the undertaking in which they are thus engaged, they cannot doubt that its object will commend itself to the cordial approbation of the citizens generally of the state; and lead to all the co-operation and aid, on the part of the public, necessary to its early and complete accomplishment. They cannot, for a moment, permit themselves to doubt that a just appreciation of the Public services of Clinton, an ever present and increasing enjoyment of the incalculable good those services have procured for the citizens of this great Commonwealth, as well as a proper regard for its own character, will induce the Public to come forward, and with alacrity contribute its effectual aid in the erection of a monument to the memory of this distinguished public benefactor, which shall be at once worthy its subject, and creditable to the State—just to the dead, and honorable to the living.

To that just and generous Public, therefore, the Clinton Monument Association earnestly and confidently appeals.

APPENDIX.

THE Committee, invested by the Board of Trustees with the power of determining the form, dimensions, materials, and other details of the arch, adopted for the monument to be erected to the memory of De Witt Clinton, having selected the single Triumphal Arch, designed by James Renwick, Jr., Esq., of New York, they are now enabled to present, together with a lithographic print of the arch selected, specifications of the dimensions and material, and estimates of cost, of the proposed monument. These are as follows :

SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES.

“The plan of the Clinton Monument adopted by the Association, consists of a single Triumphal Arch surmounted by a colossal statue of De Witt Clinton. The Triumphal Arch is peculiarly fitted for a civic monument; for which purpose it was employed by the ancients in preference to almost any other form.

“These arches were generally placed by them across the streets of their great cities, or at the entrance of their Fora, or other public places. On their exteriors were sculptured the principal actions of the great men whom they were intended to commemorate.

“The plan adopted by the Association consists of a single Arch, rising from a flight of steps: the steps to be of granite, or the grey limestone of the Mohawk valley, which was used in the locks and aqueducts of the grand canal. The latter material is to be preferred. The whole of the remainder of the monument to be of pure white marble, cut in the most perfect manner.

“The two principal fronts to be finished as follows: The shafts of the columns to be composed from the stalks, and the capitals from the ears, of the Indian corn. The arches to be richly moulded and ornamented with cables, beaks heads, and other appropriate ornaments, harmonizing with the style adopted. In the spandrils over the arches there are to be four figures of Fame, bearing trumpets and wreaths; and over these a richly moulded corbel course.

“The two sides of the structure are to be as follows: Two smaller arches are to rise to the height of the spring line of the great arches of the fronts; over these arches, and between them and the corbel course, there are to be four niches on each face, deeply sunk, in which it is proposed to place tablets, having inscribed upon them the names of the principal cities, lakes, and rivers, which border on, or intersect the canal.

“The cornice, which is to extend around the whole structure, is to be cut with a rich frieze, on which various prominent parts of the canal are to be cut in basso-relievo, with canal boats, horses, &c. in alto relievó.

“On the front of the attic the name of De Witt Clinton is to be inscribed; and on the other three sides appropriate inscriptions are to be made. The four corners on the top are to be decorated with trophies, composed from the arms of the State, and of the cities of New York and Albany. In the centre will rise a pyramidal flight of steps, which is to be surmounted by a colossal statue of Clinton.

“In the attic there will be a room, lighted from the top

or sides, which may be appropriated to the preservation of models of structures on those public works most connected with the labors of Clinton.

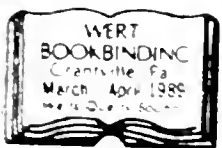
“The estimated expense of this monument is \$47,000, if constructed of the dimensions following :

“Steps 56 feet long, 46 feet broad, and 6 feet high : Monument 33 feet long, 24 feet wide, 55 feet high to the top of the cornice, and 72 feet high to the top of the figure.

“The monument will cost \$70,000, if constructed of the dimensions following : Steps 63 feet long, 53 feet broad, and 7 feet high ; Monument 40 feet long, 30 feet wide, 70 feet high to the top of the cornice, and 90 feet to the top of the figure.

“The cost of the Monument will be \$93,000, if it be of the dimensions following : Steps 80 feet long, 66 feet broad, and 8 feet in height. Monument 48 feet long, 34 feet wide, 78 feet high to the top of the cornice, and 102 feet to the top of the figure.

JAMES RENWICK, Jr.,
Architect.



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