A Lost Lincoln Monument.

In 1867 It Was Proposed to Erect a National Memorial in Washington in Honor of the Great President—Captured Confederate Cannon Supplied for the Work—No Record Now of the $100,000 That Was Raised for This Object.

A movement to erect a monument to President Lincoln has recalled the existence and mysterious passing of the National Lincoln Monument association, chartered by act of Congress, March 30, 1867.

The plan was backed by the most prominent men in the country at the time, and $100,000 was raised by popular subscription. The design for the monument was executed by Clark Mills, the sculptor, a site in front of the Capitol was selected, and captured Confederate cannon were turned over to the association by the war department from which to cast the bronze figures surmounting the pedestal.

But the association and its organizers seem to have vanished into thin air, work on the monument was never even begun, and so far as can be learned the money was never returned.

From 1867 to 1882 the record of the association is clear, but there is absolutely nothing to show what became of it after that date. The list of incorporators submitted to Congress in the former year with the application for a charter included such prominent men as James Harlan, Alexander Ramsey, Schuyler Colfax, Frederick Douglass, Godlove S. Orth, Shelby M. Cullom, Samuel Shellenbarger and Richard Yates. Senator Cullom of Illinois, whose name appears as one of the incorporators, said recently that he didn't remember anything about the association and couldn't say why the project was not carried out or what became of the $100,000 collected in one-dollar subscriptions from all over the country.

From the record it appears that on June 25, 1868, a little more than a year after the association obtained its charter, Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of War to place at the disposal of the association damaged and captured bronze and brass cannon and ordnance out of which to cast the principal figures surmounting the pedestal. The act provided that no such allotment of ordnance should be made, however, until the voluntary subscriptions to the fund should reach $100,000.

While no record can be found to show just how much money was collected, it is probable in view of the above law that the amount was in excess of $100,000, as the records of the War department show that under the act twelve brass cannon were issued to the association.

The last Congress record of the association is an act passed in 1882, providing that five trustees should constitute a legal quorum of the association; and it is believed that this provision was enacted owing to the dying out of interest in the project and the difficulty that had been experienced in securing attendance at the necessary meetings.

Recently a number of the engraved subscription receipts of the association have been found. They were executed at the bureau of engraving and bear the signature of Gen. F. E. Spinner, treasurer of the association and at that time treasurer of the United States as well. In view of this fact it has been suggested that if the books of the treasury department were carefully examined the $100,000 or more subscribed by the people and placed in Gen. Spinner's care would be found on deposit.

The following description of the monument, as designed by Clark Mills and accepted by the association, was published at the time:

"The pedestal to be of granite, and figures bronze, the whole structure to be 70 feet, surmounted by thirty-five colossal figures. Its construction triangular, the base of which and its three groups representing slavery.

"The first presents the slave in his most abject state, as when brought to this country. Here we behold him nude, deprived of all which tends to elevate the heart with any spirit of pride or independence.

"The second represents a less abject stage. He is here partly clad, more enlightened, and hence, realizing his bondage, startles with a love of freedom.

"The third is the ransomed slave, redeemed from bondage by the blood of Liberty, who, having struck off his shackles, holds them triumphantly aloft. The slave is pictured gratefully bowing at her feet.

"Between these groups are three has reliefs. The first represents firing on Fort Sumter. The two others represent the senate and house amending the Constitution.

"The second story, first group, represents the members of the cabinet in council, while Seward points toward Europe, as though explaining the importance of the act. The second group, officers of the navy and prominent Union men who stood by the president during the civil war.

"Third, the fall of Richmond, and the surrender of Lee.

"The crowning figure is the president in the act of signing the proclamation. At his feet are Liberty and Justice, while behind sits Time, watching the hour-glass, missioned, as it were, from heaven. At the base of the steps leading from the center structure are the equestrian statues of leading commanders of the army."

It can easily be seen from the above description just how pretentious was the monument proposed, and it is evident from such of the records as exist that the members of the association lost interest in their task before sufficient money was collected to enable them to begin work on the memorial. There are many prominent men in Washington who think that Lincoln should have such a memorial, and they hope that the awakened discussion of the matter may lead to some definite result.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

MRS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN

HELD GREAT RIVAL'S HAT.

Stephen A. Douglas at the Inauguration of Lincoln.

When Lincoln was inaugurated the first time there was one little incident that impressed those who saw it. The president-elect came forward upon the platform prepared at the east front of the capitol, with his natural awkwardness increased by the momentous circumstances of the occasion, and by a gorgeous wardrobe, in which it was evident he felt exceedingly uncomfortable. The stiff dress coat, vest and pantaloons of black broadcloth were enough of themselves to disturb his mental and physical equanimity, but to these were added other incumbrances in the shape of a brand new silk hat and a ponderous gold-headed cane.

The cane he managed to put away in a corner, but the disposition of the hat perplexed him greatly. It was too good to throw away, too fine, as he thought, to rest upon the rough boards, so, for a minute at least, poor Lincoln stood there in the gaze of assembled thousands, grasping the hat desperately and seeking in vain for a safe place to deposit it. Douglas, who sat immediately in the rear, saw the embarrassment of his rival, and rising took the shining beaver from its sorely bothered owner and held it during the delivery of the inaugural address.

Probably had Stephen A. Douglas been told, five years before, that he was destined to hold the hat of Abraham Lincoln while that individual was appearing for the first time as president of the United States the "Little Giant" would have laughed at the very idea.

New Story of Lincoln.

Lincoln's birthday brings out the usual complement of Lincoln stories, and most of them have been published in one form or another, but J. D. Velver of New York tells one that he says never appeared in print.

In the thick of the civil war, when Lincoln was troubled almost beyond what he could bear, two men from a western state applied to him for some minor offices. The president was disgusted at their importunities, but finally told them a story.

"One time a king went hunting. On his way to the forest he met a subject riding a donkey. 'Hello, king,' said the subject. 'Hello subject,' said the king. 'Where are you going, king?' 'I'm going hunting, subject.' 'Better not, it's going to rain.' 'No, it won't,' said the king, 'my court astrologer said that it would be fair weather.' 'No, it's going to rain,' persisted the subject, but the king laughed at him and went hunting. It rained hard and the king returned to his castle wet and bedraggled and ordered that his astrologer's head be cut off. He sent for the subject who had foretold rain and made him court astrologer. 'But I am no good at forecasting,' said the subject. 'But you told me it was going to rain,' said the king. 'I knew that because my jackass hung his ears down,' replied the subject. 'Every time he does that it is going to rain.' 'Then I will make your jackass court astrologer,' said the king and he did.

Lincoln stopped there and his visitor laughed a little, but he hinted that they did not see much point in the story. Then the president added: "Ever since that time every jackass in the kingdom has wanted a job."

A man may fish with the worm that hath eat of a king, and eat of the fish that hath fed of the worm.—Shakespeare.

DRAMATIC INCIDENT AT LINCOLN'S INAUGURATION

"In his later life Nast remembered much of this Washington experience with that feeling of shuddering horror with which we recall a disordered dream," Mr. Albert Bigelow Paine writes in describing some of Nast's experiences just before the civil war, in "Pictorial Comment." "The atmosphere was charged with foreboding. Even the busy days about the Willard hotel were strewn with ominous incidents.

"The day of inauguration was one of gloom, and the city drew a great breath of relief when it was over and there had been no outbreak. Yet the tension was not relaxed. The men who had sworn that Abraham Lincoln should never take his seat were not quiet. Night came down, brooding danger.

"'It seemed to me,' said Nast, 'that the shadow of death was everywhere. I had endless visions of black funeral parades, accompanied by mournful music. It was as if the whole city were mined, and I know now that this was figuratively true. A single yell of defiance would have inflamed a mob. A shot would have started a conflict. In my room at the Willard hotel I was trying to work. I picked up my pencils and laid them down as many as a dozen times. I got up at last and walked the floor. Presently in the rooms next mine other men were walking. I could hear them in the silence. My head was beginning to throb, and I sat down and pressed my hands to my temples.

"'Then, all at once, in the Ebbett house, across the way, a window was flung up and a man stepped out on the balcony. The footsteps about me ceased. Everybody had heard the man and was waiting breathlessly to see what he would do. Suddenly, in a rich, powerful voice, he began to sing 'The Star Spangled Banner.'

"'The result was extraordinary. Windows were thrown up. Crowds gathered on the streets. A multitude of voices joined in the song. When it was over the street rang with cheers. The men in the rooms next mine joined me in the corridor. The hotel came to life. Guests wept and flung their arms about one another. Dissension and threat were silenced. It seemed to me, and I believe to all of us, that Washington had been saved by the inspiration of an unknown man with a voice to sing that grand old song of songs.'"

Y. M. C. A. Review.

The international committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, which has the oversight of the associations in North America, gives some astonishingly large figures in its review of the year's work. The associations now number 1,615, their membership is 372,502, and their receipts and expenditures in the year balanced at $2,830,828.

EARLY SPRING ARRIVALS.

The Early Spring Styles in Dress Fabrics and Wash Stuffs are coming in. We bought early and were among the few for first choice. This means much to the purchaser. It insures clean, unhandled and the choicest goods the market affords.

Prices this spring will be quite reasonable and considerable lower than we anticipated.

We must have room for the heavy purchases to follow and many of our winter goods are being disposed of at very low prices. Respectfully, WAITE BROS. & ROBERTSON.

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Evangeline ..... Longfellow
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Gulliver's Travels ..... Swift
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Her Shattered Idol ..... Logan
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In the Golden Days ..... Chinn
In the Rockies ..... Kingston
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Samantha at Saratoga ..... Hesler
Sartor Resartus ..... Carlyle
Scalp Hunters ..... Reid
Scarlet Letter ..... Hawthorne
Self Help ..... Smiles
Self-Raised ..... Southworth
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M. N. G. Annual Inspection.

Maj. Verney, United States inspecting officer of the Michigan National Guard, has started on his annual tour of inspection of the various companies of the guard. It is expected the work will take until about March 10.

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