

E

281

P95

Prison ship Martyrs' monument
association of the U.S.

Secretary's report of the
obsequies



Class E 281

Book P 95

PRESENTED BY



SECRETARY'S REPORT

OF THE

Obsequies of the Prison Ship Martyrs

AT

PLYMOUTH CHURCH, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

JUNE 16, 1900.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE

PRISON SHIP MARTYRS' MONUMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES.

PRINTED BY
HORATIO C. BIRD,
111 NASSAU ST., CORNER 112.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

OF THE

Obsequies of the Prison Ship Martyrs

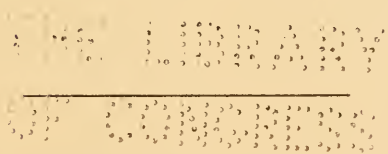
AT

PLYMOUTH CHURCH, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

JUNE 16, 1900.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE

PRISON SHIP MARTYRS' MONUMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES.



NEW YORK :

MACGOWAN & SLIPPER, PRINTERS, 30 BEEKMAN STREET.

1901.

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or date, appearing as "2000" and "2000".

Faint, illegible text, possibly a stamp or printed header.

E281
.P95

SECRETARY'S REPORT
OF THE
Obsequies of the Prison Ship Martyrs
At Plymouth Church, Brooklyn,
June 16, 1900.

In January, 1900, in excavating for the foundations of a new building at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, the workmen uncovered the bones of a number of those who died upon the prison ships during the war of the Revolution and were interred upon the shores of Wallabout Bay. Immediately upon the announcement of this discovery by the daily press, the Secretary of the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Association wrote to Rear Admiral John W. Philip, then Commandant of the Yard, and received the following reply;

Navy Yard, New York, January 25, 1900.

Mrs. HORATIO C. KING :

My Dear Madam: Replying to your note of yesterday, would say that the few human bones found while excavating near the water front are in a box and will be cared for until the Commandant hears again from you. Without giving the subject much serious thought, it was my intention to

cause them to be buried in the cemetery at the Naval Hospital. But now, as I said, I will retain them until I hear again from you.

J. W. PHILIP.

The excavations continued for some time and the bones, as they were exhumed, were reverently collected in temporary receptacles and stored in the Commandant's office, awaiting the public obsequies under the auspices of the Monument Association, which were fixed for June 16, the day preceding the Anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill, which fell on Sunday. In conjunction with Major-General John R. Brooke, Commanding the Department of the East, Rear Admiral Philip, on behalf of the Navy, and Brigadier-General James McLeer, Commanding the Second Brigade, National Guard of New York, a suitable military escort was provided. Hon. S. V. White, Hon. William B. Davenport and General Horatio C. King were appointed a committee of arrangements, and the last was designated as Grand Marshal. Col. Edward E. Britton was selected by Gen. King as Chief of Staff.

At 2 P. M. on June 16, the special escort, composed of Battery N, Fifth United States Artillery, Captain Thomas Ridgway, commanding, and a Battalion of United States Marines, Major Thomas Woods, commanding, headed by the band of the Fifth Artillery, assembled in front of the Commandant's office in the Navy Yard. The remains, in seven oak caskets, provided by the Monument Association, were placed in the several hearses by a detachment of United States sailors, and covered with American flags, the band playing a dirge. The procession moved at 2:30, followed by General Brooke and staff, Admiral Philip and staff, and other distinguished officers and civilians, in carriages, to Plymouth Church. Here, while the escort presented arms and the band played "Nearer My God to Thee," the caskets were carried into the church and placed in front of the pulpit.

The church itself was profusely decorated with flags chiefly provided by Mrs. Horatio C. King. Across the

whole front of the great organ was suspended a flag of the Revolution loaned by Mrs. Henry Sanger Snow, and on either side of the pulpit platform stood two handsome standards, one bearing the thirteen stars of the original States and the other the forty-five stars of the expanded Union, which, with numerous escutcheons, were especially ordered and provided by Mrs. S. V. White. Flowers, wreaths and grouped plants also decked the platform.

As the remains were brought in, the "Dead March from Saul" was played by Mr. George Waring Stebbins, organist of the church, who with the quartette, Mrs. C. M. Harvey, Mrs. Helen S. Gue, Mr. Geo. Leon Moore and Mr. A. M. Best, gave their services for the occasion.

At about 3 P. M. Honorable Elijah R. Kennedy, President of the Monument Association, Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, D.D., the pastor of the church, General Brooke, Admiral Philip, Honorable John D. Long, Secretary of the Navy, General Stewart L. Woodford, Honorable Amos J. Cummings, M. C., Honorable E. M. Grout, President of the Borough of Brooklyn, Major-General Robert Dalton, Adjutant-General of Massachusetts, and Brigadier-General W. L. Stryker, Adjutant-General of New Jersey, entered and occupied the pulpit seats. In the immediate front pews were Major-General Daniel E. Sickles, U. S. A., Honorable Benjamin F. Tracy, Ex-Secretary of the Navy, General McLeer and staff, Honorable Felix Campbell, and many members of the Monument Association, the Daughters of the Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution and Society of Old Brooklynites. Every seat in the auditorium was filled.

After the organ prelude, the meeting was called to order by President Elijah R. Kennedy.

Mr. Kennedy: It is appropriate that a ceremony to commemorate patriotism and martyrdom in the cause of a free country should be conducted in a place which is associated with the very ideas of civil and religious liberty, where such liberty has had its highest aspirations and its most eloquent and potent advocacy; and it is suitable for the solemnity of

the place, as well as of the occasion, that the exercises should partake, in part, at least, of a religious character. We shall therefore first listen to the reading of the Holy Scripture by the pastor of this church, the Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis.

SCRIPTURE READING.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain;

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all the flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

The voice said, Cry! And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the godliness thereof is as the flower of the field;

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it; surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever.

Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown; yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth; and he shall blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble. To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number; he calleth them all by name by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the

everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of this understanding.

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might, he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall;

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephtha; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets;

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.

Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again; and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

Of whom the world was not worthy: they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness,

And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise :

God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

And there shall be no more curse ; but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it ; and his servants shall serve him :

And they shall see his face ; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

And there shall be no night there ; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun ; for the Lord God giveth them light ; and they shall reign forever.

May God bless the reading of His word.

The quartet then sang the hymn 464, of the Plymouth Hymnal, commencing—

Who are these in bright array,
This innumerable throng.

At its close, Dr Hillis offered the following prayer :

PRAYER

By REV. NEWELL DWIGHT HILLIS.

O Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God. Our fathers trusted in Thee ; they trusted in Thee and were not afraid. In all their dangers Thou didst deliver them. In all hours of perplexity Thou didst lend them wisdom and guidance. In times of defeat Thou didst make the overthrow better victory. Thy providence was unto them a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night. And now we, Thy chil-

dren, give Thee unfeigned praise and gratitude for the inheritance of the founders and fathers. Our times are in Thy hands. In Thy generous love Thou hast ordained that we should enjoy liberty, intelligence, opportunity. We thank Thee that we dwell in this fruitful land, beneath benignant skies, and that our happiness and freedom have been secured by institutions that represent truth and justice. And we desire to receive these institutions of the fathers as gifts divine. And we ask that Thou wouldst deepen within us the sense of fidelity to conviction, and lend us increased love of home and church and school, and all that makes the republic the teacher of the nations in free institutions. Grant that, to the end of time, our children and our children's children may be faithful to the memory of the fathers who loved justice, did mercy, and walked humbly before God.

Eternal God, the author of all life, unchanged from age to age, we give Thee special gratitude this day for the memory of the heroes who once lived, but are not. In the discovery of these bones, as it were, those who were dead have risen up. Their very dust hath broken into voice, speaking of patriotism, courage, and fidelity to conviction. These are they who were honored in their generation, and were the glory of their times. They have left a name behind them that their praises might be reported. To-day we carry their bones to their resting place in peace and honor, and their names live forevermore. Deepen within us our admiration for their bravery, truth, their high sense of justice and their unyielding fidelity. We feel that they have taken vows of us to love and serve our country. Ratify Thou, we beseech Thee, this covenant, the while we consecrate ourselves anew to the cause of liberty and to the institutions for which our fathers lived and died. And as the generations come and go, may the multitude that will wear deeply the path unto this tomb, read these inscriptions, and swear fidelity to the convictions and principles of our founders and fathers, and of our God.

Oh, Thou who art the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, send Thy blessing this day upon thy servant, the President

of the United States, and upon all members of his cabinet, associated with him in positions of authority. May those who counsel with him be themselves taught of God. Grant Thy special favor upon Thy servant, the Secretary of the Navy, who this day represents our sailors upon the sea. Be gracious unto the soldier who represents our army. Oh, Thou who didst come to bring peace and not a sword, hasten the day when the sword shall be drawn only to smite oppression, cruelty and despotism. Bring in the era of peace, and of universal good will. Hold the people back from over-ripe prosperity, make the weak too strong to be oppressed, make the poor too wise to be led astray. Destroy selfishness, ignorance, fear and superstition; increase intelligence, justice and the sense of rectitude. May the lamp of liberty, lighted by our fathers, be fed by the children until its beacon fires, burning more and more brightly, shall lighten darkened lands beyond the sea.

Thou who hast made of one people all nations of men who dwell upon the face of the earth, once more we pray "Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done." This was our father's prayer, and still the era of peace on earth and good will toward men is delayed. How long, Oh Lord, how long? When shall the cry of the oppressed and the sound of wrath and strife die away upon the horizon? Even while we pray there comes to us from that ancient empire the battle cry, sounding the conflict. Grant, oh God, that if it be necessary that the plow-share of war shall pass through the soil, it may bury forever the evil seeds of ignorance, vice, superstition and tyranny. And sow deeply the good seed of wisdom, liberty and love. Hold the turbulent people back from conflict. Restrain hatred and anger and race prejudice. Increase the sense of brotherhood. Oh, for the time when brotherly love shall be universal, and the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the great deep. Oh, for the era when men shall learn the might of meekness, and the strength of gentleness, and the omnipotence of sympathy and love. Hasten the time when the angel shall stand upon the sea, and lifting his

trumpet, proclaim that the kingdoms of the earth have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. Thy Kingdom come, and Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.—AMEN.

ANTHEM—"What Are These," *Stainer*

Hallelujah! What are these that are arrayed in white robes, and whence came they? These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Mr. Kennedy: It is fortunate that at the moment when the remains of these nameless dead were discovered, where they were first interred by unfriendly hands, the United States government, on whose territory they were buried, was represented not only by one who had acquired distinction in the service at sea, but who had within him a heart and sentiments of appreciation for the heroism of these unknown martyrs—Rear Admiral John W. Philip, the Commandant of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, who will now tell us of the discovery of these remains and of their reverent care and custody in his hands, until this moment.

REMARKS OF REAR ADMIRAL PHILIP.

As the representative of the Honorable the Secretary of the Navy, at the Navy Yard, but not here on this platform, or in this holy edifice, I was told a few moments ago that I should be asked to tell you how these sacred remains came into the possession of the authorities at the Navy Yard. Some months ago, last winter, in excavating for the foundation of a new building that had been ordered to be erected by the Secretary of the Navy, the hallowed remains were found, as the sand was shoveled out for the excavation of

this building. They were apparently buried naturally together; but there was nothing found around them, only the bones remained. They were collected by the naval authorities, and as they were accumulating there, the Secretary of this Society asked the Commandant to retain them in his custody until the Society could take charge of them.

The sands on the beach of the Wallabout had been their custodian for nearly one hundred and twenty years, but being robbed of their charge by the naval authorities, and kept up to the present time in safety, I now turn them over to the custody of the Honorable the Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. Kennedy: It is a peculiar honor that the Secretary of the Navy, so well known to the people of the entire country, whose voice has never advocated an unworthy purpose, but has often led in causes that have received the approbation of all patriotic citizens, has been willing to defer the pressing and accumulating duties of his position and to travel from the capital of the country here to Brooklyn, to perform the honorable service of transferring now the care of these remains to this city, where they are to find final interment. I have the honor to introduce to you the Honorable John D. Long, Secretary of the Navy.

ADDRESS OF SECRETARY LONG.

As the representative here of the United States Navy I beg to express my appreciation of your courtesy in inviting me to a participation in these sad but inspiring ceremonies. These relics of dead heroes which the distinguished commandant of the Brooklyn Navy Yard has gathered, I now, so far as I may, transfer to the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Association for their care. Let me express to them the obligation which the navy, as well as the whole country, are under to them for this patriotic work in which they are engaged.

These men whose bones we bury to-day are of the navy of to-day. In the best sense of the word there is no modern

navy. The navy is not its organization, efficient as that is; it is not its Naval Academy, though that has become a modern university for the most complete naval education: it is not its ships, powerful and thoroughly equipped as they are; it is still its officers and men, as in the days of Paul Jones and Hull and Decatur and Farragut.

The navy to-day, as it was at the first, and has been ever since, is a power and a glory because its officers and men are inspired by a high sense of duty and a lofty patriotism. As the man is not the body, but is the spirit which is in him, as life itself is not the physical form which you see, but is the divine spark which animates it; so the American Navy is the American heart and intelligence, whether on the mighty Oregon, with its enormous guns, its revolving turrets, and its hundreds of engines, a masterpiece of mechanical ingenuity, or on the poor old Bon Homme Richard, with its rotten timbers and its bursting carronades and swivels. It is still in either case victory—victory over the waves and over the enemies' batteries because a true hero is behind the guns and at the helm. The fashion of the ship, the enginery, the ordnance, may change, but the man is still the same.

The naval heroes of to-day, who are the nation's pride are one with these naval heroes whose martyred bones you so sacredly and tenderly preserve, and to whom you now do these deserved honors. We in this generation have seen men who died that their country might live. We honor to-day the men who died to give their country birth, and with it the birthright of freedom.

Death for country in one position is as patriotic, though it may not be so glorious, as death in another. These patriot martyrs who would not purchase even life at the cost of treason, who endured unutterable sufferings rather than betray their country's cause; and who, thousands in number, perished in those horrible prison ships, deserve that you make their memory eternal and that you write their story on a monument that shall tell it to this and succeeding generations.

This occasion, therefore, these fitting ceremonies and this monument which you propose to erect, are the very education of patriotism. They are more than that. They are an education which shall train the American citizen for his duties and responsibilities. Education is not alone a matter of books and of the school room. It is a growth and culture which comes from the inspiration of noble deeds whenever enacted ; from contact with great events reproduced ; from association with noble ideas enforced by fitting symbols, and from the examples of brave heroic action impressed upon the public mind. It is in the very air we breathe ; in the scenes and surroundings and things which we have put about us, and in the atmosphere which we create. You can hardly point to a man who has made his mark in the history of the United States whose education was not of this sort rather than of the school or of the college. What education in the ordinary sense of the word had Washington or Hamilton or Jackson or Lincoln ?

And yet what education, in the best sense of the word, did they not have in the enlivening inspirations of American life ? The wonderful thing to me in this tremendous age of ours is the spirit of the time, the spirit of the republic, the spirit of development and growth for all, the spirit of patriotism, the spirit of intelligence universally diffused and tempered by the church, the school, the platform, the press and all the educating influences of modern life. While this spirit predominates there may be frictions, there may be convulsions, there will be sporadic instances of crime and fraud and evil ; but an underlying, irresistible force is always and surely at work toward the accumulating assurance of good morals, good citizenship and good government.

When you shall have consummated your noble and patriotic work, in which God give you good speed, and for which you have the gratitude of the country, and especially of the Navy whom you so signally honor, you will lay the corner-stone not only of a monument to these patriotic martyrs, but of a university education for all the people now and hereafter of your great and noble city.

Julia Ward Howe's immortal "Battle Hymn of the Republic" was then sung, Mrs. Harvey singing the solo and the vast audience impressively joining in the refrain; after which Mr. Kennedy said: As often happens, those who have done the most to bring about a desired end make the least appearance in it, and it is so to-day. This is not the time to award praise to those who have organized this Association and carried it to this point; they are silent to-day. But, for a voice to speak for this Society and for this city, who other should be chosen than that officer of the Prison Ship Martyrs' Association, that beloved and admired citizen of Brooklyn, General Stewart L. Woodford?

ADDRESS OF GENERAL WOODFORD.

My Countrymen: The Navy of the United States to-day commits to the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Association the custody for final interment of these unknown remains. In the prison hulks in Wallabout Bay, from the disastrous 17th of August, when the battle of Long Island was lost, until the close of hostilities, all privateersmen captured by the British fleet, many soldiers of the Continental Army and many citizens, driven from their homes, were imprisoned. To the horrible number of 11,000 they starved to death and their remains were flung into trenches rudely dug on the shore of the bay.

It is an indictment against King George and his ministers which time can never efface. Let us reverently thank God that the spirit of Christian civilization has so far advanced that the horrors of war have been so far mitigated that when, sir [here General Woodford turned toward Secretary Long] under your administration of our Navy more than 1,300 Spanish sailors fell into your custody, you cared for them as you did for your own men, and humanity thanks you for it.

When the hostilities of the revolution closed, the few survivors of the prison ships were rescued and freed, but such was the condition of the chief among their floating

prisons, the old Jersey, that she was left, without guard, to gradually sink as she might, and the waters of Wallabout Bay now cover her. To the care of a single citizen, John Jackson, we owe that the remains were gathered; to Benjamin Romaine that temporary sepulcher was provided and the first move made for a suitable burial. To the Tammany Society of New York, we owe thanks for the first effort made to place above them a fitting monument. But as the years passed and that effort did not crystallize, new effort was made in 1873, when our city government provided the large tomb now upon Fort Greene in Washington Park. To that tomb to rest until the final judgment, we shall commit these remains to-day. We hope, nay, more, we believe, that the present effort to secure a suitable monument will be successful. The city of New York has been authorized to contribute \$50,000. The State of New York will make contribution, and furthermore we are assured that the nation itself is to act in marking the burial place of its first heroes, men who belonged to the thirteen original States.

A liberal sum has already been contributed and is on deposit in a Trust company of our city, and we believe, Mr. Secretary, that we shall succeed in suitably marking the spot where these heroes are to rest.

Prolonged remarks after the scholarly and inspiring utterances of the Secretary of the Navy would be inappropriate; but this spot is eloquent with memory. Here as nowhere, in our beloved Brooklyn, the spirit of liberty has breathed in the days that are gone, and the voice of our dead Prophet of Liberty still echoes within these walls. The ashes of our heroes are here and they speak to us as do the memories of this sacred place; and they are all uttering one lesson—the lesson of patriotism, the lesson of fidelity, the lesson of duty. God help you and me, God help our people to be worthy of what these men died for. They did more than die in battle. In the awful joy of conflict, when bayonets are flashing and the blood is tingling, men spring to struggle; but these men, without a flag above them, with no sounds of

bugle or clarion, with no touch of comrade's elbow, these men walked into the most horrible of deaths, patient, calm, unwavering. They were bribed to leave their prison-house, if they would enter the service of the King. They spurned the bribe. They faced starvation. They died and became martyrs of liberty. God help us to keep that liberty.

After the singing of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," by the congregation, Dr. Hillis pronounced the benediction; the caskets were returned to the hearses, and the procession was re-formed in the following order:

Fifth Artillery Band, Chief Musician Frederic Frank. Battery N, Fifth Artillery, Captain Thomas Ridgway. Marine Band, Signor G. Savasta, Leader; Battalion Marines—Major Thos. Woods. Twenty-third Regiment Band, Thos. F. Shannon, Leader. Twenty-third Regiment, N. G., Major David K. Case, Commanding. Troop C, National Guard, Captain Charles I. DeBevoise, Commanding. St. Paul's Church Cadets, First Lieutenant W. Henry Allers, Jr., Commanding; followed by the hearses and by the distinguished officers and civilians already named and members of the Association, Old Brooklynites and others in carriages. The route was along Hicks to Pierrepont, to Clinton, to Schermerhorn, to Lafayette Avenue, to Cumberland to Myrtle and the Martyrs' Tomb in Fort Greene Park. Here the troops were massed in close column fronting a vast concourse of citizens who crowded the slopes and every available space, but in perfect order—a scene of unsurpassed beauty and long to be remembered. During the transfer of the caskets to the tomb, minute guns were fired by a platoon of the Third Battery, N. G. (Captain H. S. Rasquin) in charge of Lieut. Chauncey Matlock, Jr. Before the entrance to the tomb a tablet with these words from the Scriptures, chosen and printed by Mrs. White, was placed: "Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begot us. The Lord hath wrought great glory by them through His great power from the beginning. Leaders of the people by their counsels and by their knowledge of learning meet for the people wise and

eloquent in their instructions. All these were honored in their generations and were the glory of their time. There be of them that have left a name behind them that their praises might be reported. And some there be which have left no memorial, * * * but these were merciful men whose righteousness hath not been forgotten. Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name liveth forever.—Ecclesiasticus (Apocrypha), xlvi: 1-10.”

The flag on the staff in the Park and the flags on all the public edifices were placed at half-mast during the exercises, by direction of Hon. James J. Kirwin, Deputy Commissioner of Public Buildings.

The transfer having been completed, President Kennedy introduced Hon. Amos J. Cummings, M. C., who said :

ADDRESS OF MR. CUMMINGS.

Fellow Citizens: When these bones were ignominiously thrown into the trenches at the Wallabout, this was a nation of 3,000,000 people. To-day 3,000,000 people live within sight of this tomb. These ashes represent the hopes and aspirations of a nation struggling for liberty; they perpetuate the prayers and the tears of the noble women of the Revolution. They recall the days of Ethan Allen at Ticonderoga; they bring to mind the blood of Warren sinking into the sod at Bunker Hill; they recall the days of Saratoga, the Brandywine, and the bloody footprints in the snow at Valley Forge; they memorialize the triumphs at Trenton and Princeton, and the death of Hugh Mercer; they bring back the dying words of De Kalb at Camden and the glorious death of Pulaski at Savannah; they recall the days of Light Horse Harry and of Mad Anthony Wayne; they render vivid the battle of King's Mountain, the defeat of Tarleton at Cowpens, and the crowning victory at Yorktown. They recall the fate of Nathan Hale, of Isaac Hayne and of the innumerable heroes who gave up their lives for American freedom in the long ago.

It is to the glory of Brooklyn and its citizens that she took

the initiative in erecting a monument to the memory of these martyrs. It was high time that something was done. The very elements themselves had riveted the attention of the nation to their bones. Buried at low-water mark, the tide washed the sand from their skeletons, recalling their cruel sufferings and torture at the hands of the soldiers of King George. When the Tammany Society removed the remains and placed them in the terrace at the Navy Yard, the elements again spurred the nation to its duty. The bones were exposed by heavy rains and storms and were finally deposited here at Fort Greene, and the conscience of the nation has again been awakened. In the march of progress the uncoffined bones of 150 other martyrs have been unearthed. A third time Providence demands the action of Congress in the erection of a monument to the memory of the men who died the most horrible of deaths that the nation might live.

Fitting was it that a lineal descendant of that noble Puritan Captain Myles Standish, Mrs. Stephen V. White, took a leading part in this movement. It was an inspiration that speaks volumes for the American character. The city of Brooklyn is striving to do its duty by these dead patriots. The city of New York is in no way backward, and the State authorities have voted a substantial sum toward the erection of this monument. The government of the United States alone is laggard. These bones represent the soil of every one of the thirteen colonies. The Georgian sleeps here at the side of the Jerseyman; the bones of the Maryland line and of the Delaware regiment are mingled with the bones of those from Massachusetts and Connecticut. The dust of Virginia and of South Carolina is commingled with the dust of patriots from Pennsylvania and New York. The government of the United States ought to double these contributions. To be sure, these martyrs have a monument in themselves far more enduring than marble—the memory of their sufferings. A monument as high as Liberty enlightening the world should be raised, for these were the men who lighted the torch with which Liberty has illumined the world.

While in Congress I have tried to do my duty toward these fallen patriots. Four times have I reported from the Committee on Library a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the erection of this proposed monument. Twice has the bill been before the House for consideration. It met almost universal favor. Even that persistent objector, William S. Holman, favored the project. It was reserved, however, for a man from Texas to make the first objection to its consideration, despite the protest of the whole House. The bill was laid aside, but came up afterward in what was known as the morning hour. This was in the Fifty-third Congress. This same man from Texas, by filibustering and moving to adjourn and take recesses, wasted the time allotted for its consideration, and the bones were practically again left to the mercy of the elements. Then came a new Speaker of the House of Representatives. He formulated a rule by which no bill involving an appropriation of government money could come before the House in the regular order of business.

For the last six years the only way in which this bill could secure consideration in the House of Representatives was through a special order emanating from the Committee on Rules. The Committee on Rules practically was one man, the Speaker of the House. He firmly set his face against its consideration. I take great joy, however, in telling this audience that I am convinced the new Speaker of the House will provide a special order at the next session, and that a monument—a true tribute to the patriotism represented by these decaying relics—will be raised so high above them that it can be seen from the Highland Lights to Stony Point, and one that will awaken the interest and admiration of every patriot and every visitor who enters the historic Harbor of New York.

The caskets when deposited in the vault were profusely strewn with flowers by the ladies present. The tomb was then closed and three magnificent wreaths presented by the Association, the Daughters of the Revolution and the

Daughters of the American Revolution were laid against it. The audience uncovered and Dr. Hillis read the committal service :

And I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth ; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors ; and their works do follow them.

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes ? and whence came they ?

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said unto me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

And they shall see His face ; and His name shall be in their foreheads.

And there shall be no night there ; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun ; for the Lord God giveth them light ; and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life ; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live ;

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this ?

Earth to earth, dust to dust, ashes to ashes.

All again united in singing "America," and amid most solemn stillness Dr. Hillis pronounced the benediction :

And now may that God who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, make us all perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The silence was broken by Bugler Dennis Hogan, who sounded "Taps," and the booming of the artillery, which closed the deeply impressive ceremonies with thirteen guns.

From the inception to the close of these notable exercises, nothing occurred to mar the perfection of detail.

The co-operation of the War and Navy Departments, the National Guard and its local officers, of Hon. George V. Brower, Commissioner of Parks, and Deputy Chief P. H. McLaughlin in the admirable police arrangements, are warmly acknowledged by the Association. Said a local paper:

“Not a single feature of yesterday’s ceremony failed to take place as planned. At the church, the exercises were conducted with precision; at the fort, they were brief; but at both places they were significant and appropriate. The military portion of the afternoon’s arrangements surrounded the burial with a martial atmosphere distinctly in keeping with the nature of the ceremony.”

OFFICERS
OF THE
Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Association
OF THE UNITED STATES.

PRESIDENT.

HON. ELIJAH R. KENNEDY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

MRS. STEPHEN V. WHITE.

TREASURER.

HON. FELIX CAMPBELL.

SECRETARY.

MRS. HORATIO C. KING.

TRUSTEES.

HON. CORNELIUS N. BLISS. GEN. STEWART L. WOODFORD.
HON. THOMAS C. PLATT. MRS. DANIEL MANNING.
HON. S. V. WHITE. HON. HENRY E. HOWLAND.
MRS. HENRY SANGER SNOW. HON. WILLIAM BERRI.
HON. WILLIAM B. DAVENPORT.

COUNSEL.

HON. AUGUSTUS VAN WYCK.
GEN. HORATIO C. KING.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
OF THE
Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Association
OF THE UNITED STATES.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

There is hereby formed a voluntary Association to be known as the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Association of the United States.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT.

The object of the Association is to procure money, and to cause to be erected, and forever cared for, a monument at Fort Greene Park, in the Borough of Brooklyn, in the city and State of New York, which may appropriately commemorate the heroism and the patriotism of those brave men who died from privations and disease on the prison ships in the Wallabout Bay during the war of the Revolution.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS.

The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, and a Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE IV.

TRUSTEES.

The Board of Trustees shall consist of nine members who, with the other officers, shall be elected at the first meeting of this Association, or at an adjourned meeting to which said first meeting may be adjourned.

ARTICLE V.

CLASSIFICATION.

The said Trustees shall classify themselves into three classes of three each by lot, the first class to hold office for one year, the second class for two years, and the third class for three years, and each class shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.

ARTICLE VI.

TERM OF OFFICE.

All other officers shall hold office for one year and until their successors are elected and qualified.

ARTICLE VII.

ELECTION.

An annual election shall be held on the fourth Thursday of March in each year after the year eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, at which time shall be chosen three Trustees, to serve for three years; and a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, to serve for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE VIII.

VACANCIES.

Should any vacancy occur in the Board of Trustees or other office from death or otherwise, the Board of Trustees may fill such vacancy until the next annual election thereafter, and until a successor has been elected and qualified.

ARTICLE IX.

ADVISORY BOARD.

This Association may, by its By-Laws to be hereafter duly enacted, provide for an Advisory Board, and for auxiliary boards through which to extend and enlarge its work, and may provide for and appoint all such committees as may seem useful in the conduct of its affairs.

ARTICLE X.

OFFICE.

The principal place of business of this Association shall be in the Borough of Brooklyn, in the County of Kings, in the State of New York.

ARTICLE XI.

MEMBERSHIP.

Any person of good moral character may become a member of this Society upon the payment of one dollar to the Treasurer, and sending name to the Secretary.

ARTICLE XII.

COUNSEL.

There may be chosen by the Board of Trustees a Counsel and Assistant Counsel, who shall be men learned in the law and of eminent patriotism, willing to serve the Association, as shall all other officers, without compensation.

BY-LAWS
OF THE
Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Association
OF THE
UNITED STATES.

OFFICERS.

The officers of the Association shall be President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

PRESIDENT.

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Association and Executive Committee, to sign all certificates and legal instruments in behalf of the Association, and acknowledge and deliver the same.

To call special meetings of the Executive Committee and Advisory Board, and shall do so when thereunto required by five (5) Trustees in writing.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to assist the President in his or her duties ; and act in his or her place in his or her absence.

TREASURER.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect all dues, debts, and subscriptions not otherwise collected ; to deposit all moneys in the name of the Association in a bank or other

moneyed institution approved by the Executive Committee; to keep a detailed account of receipts and expenditures; to send receipts to the respective collectors and others for all moneys received from them, and to pay all bills after they have been approved by the Executive Committee. He or she shall also keep a record of property belonging to the Association.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

There shall be an Executive Committee, composed of the officers of the Association, the chairmen of the several committees, and three to be elected by the Board.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Reading of Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Communications.
3. Reports of Officers.
4. Reports of Committees.
5. Motions and Resolutions.
6. Miscellaneous Business.

AMENDMENTS.

These By-Laws may be altered or amended without notice at any adjourned meeting of this annual meeting of 1899, and thereafter at any regular or called meeting, ten days' notice of the proposed change having been given by mail to the Trustees at their last known places of residence.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 011 802 035 2

