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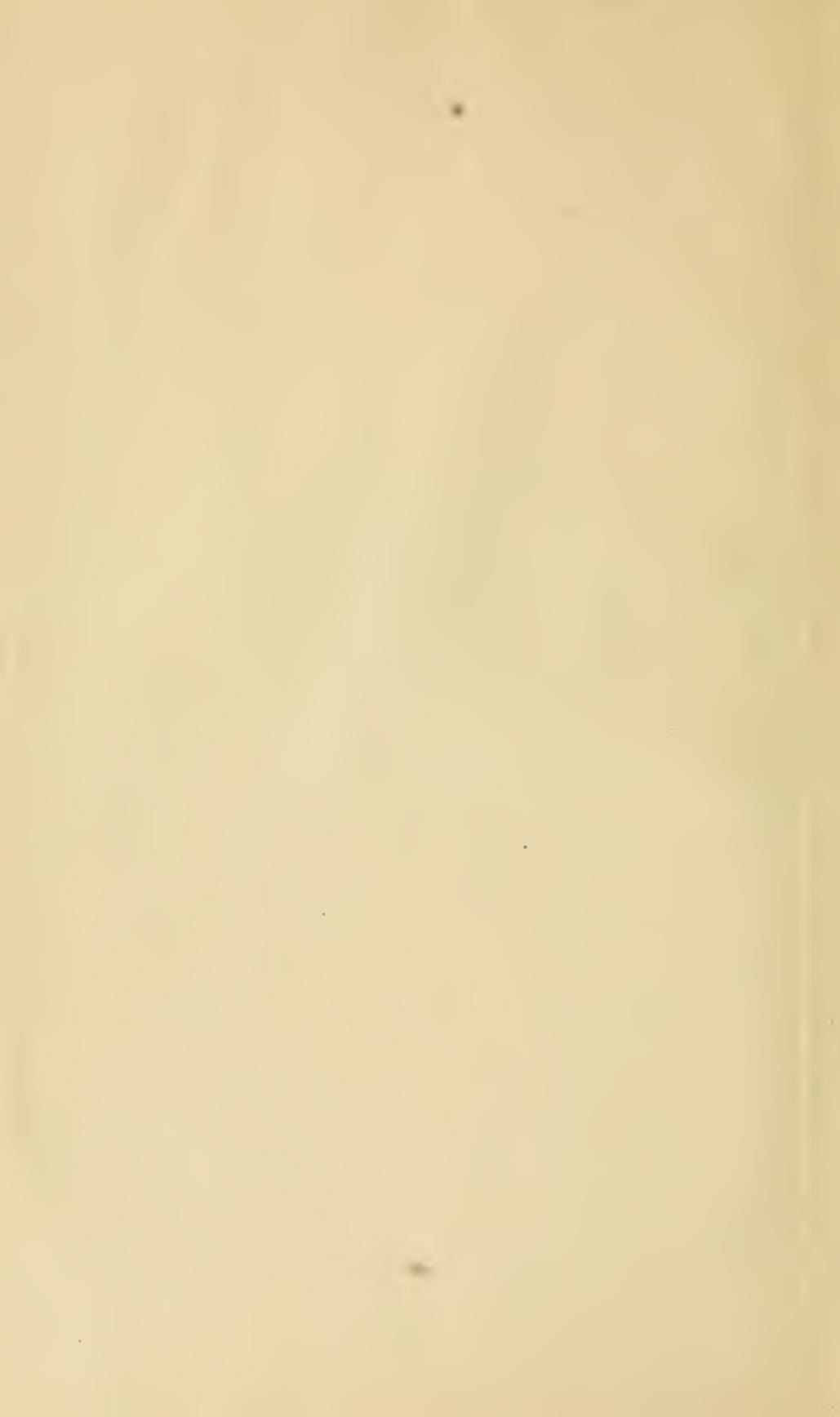
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UNVEILING OF THE
STATUE

OF

JOHN PAUL JONES

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WASHINGTON
APRIL 17, 1912





SECRETARY OF THE NAVY MEYER INTRODUCING THE SPEAKERS AT THE UNVEILING OF THE JOHN PAUL JONES STATUE APRIL 17, 1912.

18. Heavy duty.

UNVEILING OF THE
STATUE

OF

JOHN PAUL JONES



WASHINGTON
APRIL 17, 1912



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DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES.

The John Paul Jones Statue Commission selected the site, sculptor, and design for the memorial statue, and had charge of the ceremonies of its unveiling April 17, 1912. Invitations were issued and cards of admission mailed as acceptances were received.

Three elaborate stands in open square faced the memorial and tidal basin. The north stand occupied by the speakers and distinguished guests faced south. After the unveiling exercises the President passed through this stand, stood at the north side thereof, and reviewed the ceremonial parade which moved southward on Seventeenth Street to the reviewing stand, turned eastward into Basin Drive, and thence to Fourteenth Street, where it disbanded.

The north stand was roofed over, the east and west stands were uncovered, and all were handsomely decorated with flags, shields, garlands, and palms. The United States Marine Band occupied a raised platform south of the monument in the open court between the stands. Officers, sailors, and marines were posted at intervals around the square and gave a naval appearance to the scene. Launches were stationed in the landing basin. The statue faced north and was draped with the Stars and Stripes; the pylon was covered with a white canopy. A steel wire rope was stretched taut above the monument in a horizontal east and west line and to this rope were led halliards to hoist the ensigns draping the statue, signal flags, and the blue flag of a rear admiral, resembling in appearance a "dressed ship" at anchor. Over the north stand, directly above the President's box, on staffs floated the National Ensign, the President's flag, the flag of the Secretary of the Navy, and the flag of the Admiral of the Navy. There were present the Statue Commission, the French ambassador, United States Senators and Representatives, eminent officers of the Army and Navy, representatives of patriotic societies, and prominent men and women of the Nation.

The Secretary of the Navy, Hon. George von Lengerke Meyer, presided and introduced the speakers of the day.

The silence was broken by the clear voice of Rev. Charles Wood, who offered the invocation.

The Secretary of the Navy in felicitous words presented the eminent Gen. Horace Porter, who spoke eloquently of his discovery and identification of the body of John Paul Jones and the force and value of his character. The admiral of the Navy unveiled the statue by pulling a

cord attached to the toggle, a miniature gold sword, and the two ensigns were slowly drawn aloft. Signal flags spelling "John Paul Jones," "1747-1792" and "United States" were displayed. The blue flag of a rear-admiral was hoisted directly over the center of the pylon after the statue was unveiled, a signalman on the roof of the north stand wig-wagged "fire" to the *Mayflower* and *Dolphin* in the Potomac River abreast the basin, and a 21-gun salute, the national salute, thundered over the river and hills and city.

The President's brief and earnest address was warmly applauded. At its close four large wreaths were placed upon the pedestal of the statue by the President of the United States, by a representative of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, by a representative of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and by a representative of the Grand Lodge F. A. A. M., District of Columbia.

Rev. William T. Russell pronounced the benediction and the program of speaking was ended.

The order of exercises was executed substantially without variation in a continuous heavy fall of rain.

The military and naval forces were under the command of the grand marshal, Brig. Gen. Robert K. Evans, United States Army, aided by Capt. G. V. H. Moseley, chief of staff, with naval aides, Commander Archibald H. Davis, Lieut. Commander Richard D. White, Lieut. Robert Henderson; Army aides, Maj. Leroy W. Herron, National Guard, District of Columbia; Capts. Frank R. McCoy and Monroe C. Kerth, General Staff; Second Lieut. Edwin St. J. Greble, Third Field Artillery.

Capt. Herbert O. Dunn, United States Navy, commanded the naval forces, which included the brigade of midshipmen under Lieut. Commander L. M. Nulton, with the Naval Academy Band at the head, a battalion of sailors, a brigade of naval militia of the District of Columbia under Lieut. John Downes, with the Navy Yard Band at the head.

The Army forces included a battalion of Engineers; a battalion of Coast Artillery; the First Squadron, Fifteenth United States Cavalry; the Second Battalion, Third Field Artillery; the First Battery, District of Columbia National Guard; and the National Guard, District of Columbia, including the separate battalion of colored troops.



ADMIRAL DEWEY, U. S. NAVY, UNVEILING THE JOHN PAUL JONES STATUE APRIL 17, 1912.

PRAYER OF REV. CHARLES WOOD.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of Hosts. Through all the ages hast Thou, the captain of our salvation, led the armies of light against the hosts of darkness. Thou hast taught the hands of men to war and their fingers to fight with injustice, oppression, cruelty and wrong. As we come to praise Thee, and one of the great men whom Thou didst raise up and by whom Thou hast made this Republic great, we pray that Thou wilt continue mercifully to bless us as Thou didst ever bless our fathers. Graciously remember our President and all who are in official positions, the officers and men of our Army and Navy, and the entire people of these United States.

To-day we thank Thee for Thy servant whose heroic patriotism is commemorated in this statue, which we here unveil. We bless Thee for his supreme devotion to duty, for his indomitable courage, for his indifference to danger, for his fearlessness in the face of death, and for his unhesitating decision to fall fighting rather than surrender. We pray that we may have his spirit in the warfare to which we are trumpet called against public and private vice and corruption. May we have courage like his to fling our defiance to the haughty demands of tyranny, whether of the world, the flesh, or the devil.

May this statue speak with subtle and irresistible eloquence to the multitudes who shall pass by and gaze upon it. May they hear a voice from these closed lips, calling them to the love of country, and to the love of humanity even to that last full measure of devotion, such as thrilled our sad hearts when men we knew and honored yielded their only chance of life to women and children and sank with the ship without a cry. We thank Thee, O God, for all such men of the past and present, and for our confidence that their monuments shall stand forever unshaken in the grateful memory of humanity. Amen.

ADDRESS OF GEN. PORTER.

The Secretary of the Navy, Hon. George von Lengerke Meyer, introduced the general in the following words:

Mr. President, we are assembled here to-day to honor the memory of John Paul Jones, of the United States Navy, who rendered conspicuously gallant service in the long war which gave us national life. He won victories under adverse circumstances on account of his great skill and sublime courage, and he gave the American Navy its earliest traditions of heroism and glory. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Republic, a gallant officer, a brave man and true.

The first address to-day will be delivered by one to whom we are indebted for his careful work in collecting evidence of the burial of Jones in the cemetery of St. Louis in Paris, and, finally, the discovery and identification of his body. The work was carried on under the supervision of French officials, scholars, savants, archivists, and anthropologists, and mathematicians have decided that the evidence is positive.

Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor to present our distinguished citizen, diplomat, and former ambassador to France, Gen. Horace Porter.

In the heart of the Nation's Capital, in the presence of the Chief Magistrate of the Republic, and of this vast assemblage of representative citizens, we meet to dedicate a statue in honor of a hero who was the leading historic figure in the early annals of the American Navy. This enduring bronze will testify that his name is not a dead memory, but a living reality. It will quicken our sense of appreciation and give assurance that the land upon whose history he shed so much luster is not forgetful of his services.

The Capital City is to be congratulated upon this conspicuous and thoroughly meritorious addition to the art works that contribute to its embellishment.

The life of John Paul Jones presents a series of such singular contrasts and strange vicissitudes that history surrounds him with an interest that attaches to but few of the world's celebrities. His rise from the humble master's apprentice to the command of conquering squadrons, his transition from the low-born peasant boy to the favorite of imperial courts; crouching at times within the shadow of obscurity, at other times standing on the highest pinnacle of fame; exhibiting the fierce temerity of the



GENERAL HORACE PORTER EULOGIZING JOHN PAUL JONES APRIL 17, 1912.



ancient sea kings combined with the knightly courtesy of mediæval chivalry; now the rugged sailor striving desperately against overwhelming odds at sea, again the accomplished courtier arrayed in the height of fashion, displaying an easy manner and marked elegance in the brilliant salons of the most polite courts of Europe; replying gracefully to the compliments of kings and princes in English, French, and Spanish; showing that he could tread the polished floor of a royal palace as becomingly as the blood-stained deck of a man-of-war—these are some of the features of his marvelous career that fascinate the minds of all who make a study of his life.

The victory that covered the earth with his renown was when he sailed forth in the *Bonhomme Richard*—the frail merchant ship he had hurriedly converted into a man-of-war, equipped with condemned guns, whose explosion early decimated his crew—to attack the *Serapis*, a superior British ship just off her own shores; his vessel soon a wreck and sinking, most of his guns disabled, half of his motley crew of Americans and French lying about him dead or dying, the scuppers running with human blood, his ship a charnel house, over 200 prisoners confined in the hold rushing up from their prison and attacking the remnant of his exhausted crew, his own consort, even, with her treacherous captain, raking his vessel with her fire, flame and smoke issuing from the lower deck filled with splinters, the mad carnage raging till it seemed that hell itself had usurped the place of earth, the undaunted commander in the very thickest of the combat, hatless and begrimed with powder, the very incarnation of battle, preparing to lead a boarding party and try this one desperate chance of success, and when asked by his antagonist, who saw his desperate condition, whether he had struck his flag, replying: "I've just begun to fight"! Then, by the inspiration of his example, forging weaklings into giants, capturing his opponent, snatching victory from defeat, and transferring his crew to his prize just in time to see his own ship sink beneath the waves with the flag still floating defiantly from the mast.

Paul Jones never sailed in a man-of-war whose quarter-deck was worthy of being trodden by his feet. His battles were won, not by his ships, but by his genius. Employing the feeble vessels given him, or which he himself procured, he sailed forth boldly to strike the enemies of his country's liberty wherever he could find them, and paused not till he dipped the fringes of his banners in the home waters of the mistress of the seas. He captured 59 vessels from the foremost of naval powers, made four bold descents upon the land, seized large quantities of arms and military stores, destroyed more than a million dollars' worth of property on the sea, and took hundreds of prisoners, whose capture was used to force an exchange and release our men who were being slowly tortured to death in the loathsome, pestilential prison hulks in Brooklyn.

He was the very personification of valor. He ranked courage as the manliest of human attributes. He loved brave men; he loathed dastards. He did not believe the Lord ever intended his works to be made manifest by cowards. He showed this trait in all the aphorisms he uttered, such as: "Boldness, not caution, wins"; "Men mean more than guns in the rating of ships"; "I am not calculating risks, but estimating the chances of success"; "The sources of success are quick resolve and swift stroke"; "Bravery is that cheerful kind of spirit that makes a man unable to believe that there is any such word as 'danger' in the dictionary, or, if so, not able to see why it should be there."

He was a many-sided man. On the water he was the wizard of the sea; on the land he showed himself an adept in the realms of diplomacy. While his exploits as a sailor eclipsed by their brilliancy his triumphs as a diplomat, he often proved himself a master both of the science of statecraft and the subtleties of diplomacy. He early urged upon the Government the policy of weakening the blockade so disastrous to the colonies, which were essentially commercial, by sending warships into Great Britain's home waters, attacking her vast commerce on the sea, compelling her to keep fleets at home to protect it, raiding her coasts, and bringing to her people an awakening sense of the realities of war in order that they might tire of it. He aimed to save his prizes, so that he could exhibit captured British warships in French ports, show the people the hopefulness of the cause of the colonies, stimulate the Government of that power, and encourage it to send armies and fleets to our relief.

His chief diplomatic triumph was when he took the captured *Serapis* and *Countess of Scarborough* into the principal harbor of Holland for the express purpose of raising irritating questions regarding the rights of belligerent vessels in neutral ports and embroiling England in a war with Holland. He undertook this mission of his own initiative and against the advice of such experienced diplomatists as De Vauguyon, the French ambassador to Holland, and Dumas, the eminent international lawyer, and, by his ingenuity and the signal ability of his correspondence, he succeeded perfectly in his undertaking, and England soon had another foe arrayed against her. By a rare tact he escaped giving offense to Holland and at the same time avoided wounding the susceptibilities of France.

Washington said of him, in a letter addressed to Congressman Hewes:

Mr. Jones is clearly not only a master mariner within the scope of the art of navigation, but he also holds a strong and profound sense of the political and military weight of command at sea.

Generosity was one of his cardinal virtues. For a long time he bore all his personal expenses and abstained from presenting demands for pay to our poverty-stricken Government. When in foreign seas he found that the Government regulations did not authorize the pay the handbills of

overzealous recruiting officers had promised to his sailors, he paid the difference out of his own pocket so that his gallant crew should not feel that they were victims of a deception.

For one who lived in an age of loose morals and spent his youthful years amidst the temptations which then beset a seafaring man in the merchant service, he was singularly free from every form of dissipation. He had no fondness for revelry, jolly coffee-house dinners, or drinking bouts, which formed the principal amusements in foreign ports. While others were carousing ashore, he was studying in his cabin, perfecting himself in history and languages, pondering upon the maneuvering of ships and the grand strategy of naval warfare, and paving the way for his future victories.

He fashioned epigrams in prose and poetry.

Mrs. Livingston, in speaking of him in her diary as a conversationalist, said: "He by turns delighted, amazed, and mystified us."

The Duchess de Chartres wrote: "Not Bayard or Charles le Téméraire could have laid his helmet at a lady's feet with such knightly dignity."

The Marquis de Vaudreuil, the French admiral with whom Paul Jones once made a voyage, said: "His talents are so wonderful and of such diversity that each day he brings forth some new proof of cleverness."

Franklin spoke of the "strange magnetism of his presence, the indescribable charm of his manner."

Notwithstanding the gravity of his nature, he at times displayed a wit that could cut the sting from the keenest criticism and gild disappointment with a pleasantry.

But his heart was not often attuned to mirth; its chords were frequently set to strains of sadness. For years he was engaged in a struggle against insubordination, treachery, jealousy, neglect at home, and abuse abroad. The people against whom he fought opened their floodgates of calumny. No misrepresentation of his acts was too gross, no distortion of history too monstrous. These well-concerted attacks of the pen were intended to set him before the Old World in an aspect that was a vicious caricature of his true nature, and they even gave so erroneous an impression of him in this country that it has required a century of time to correct it.

He is the only commander in history who ever landed an American force upon a European coast.

He enjoyed the unique distinction of being the first to hoist the present form of our flag upon an American man-of-war, the first to receive a salute to it from a foreign power, the first to raise it upon a hostile warship of superior strength captured in battle, and under his command that banner was never once dethroned from its proud supremacy.

The Board of Admiralty in its report to Congress in 1781 said: "He hath made the flag of America respected among the flags of other nations."

Congress complimented him by a resolution, voted him a medal to commemorate his greatest victory, and awarded him the privilege of the floor of both Houses; he received a similar favor from the Constitutional Convention; the people of this and other lands organized public demonstrations in his honor, France knighted him, Louis XVI presented him with a gold-mounted sword, Denmark pensioned him, Catharine of Russia created him an admiral, conferred upon him imperial decorations, and loaded him with marks of distinction. If he had lived a little longer he would in all probability have been named Admiral of France. The rugged sailor had compelled the recognition of genius; the Scottish peasant boy had broken down the barriers of caste.

- Worn out by the fatigues of arduous service, at the untimely age of 45, alone in a foreign land, he surrendered to death, the only foe to whom he ever lowered his colors.

- In life he had been counted one of the rarest contributions to earth's contingent of master spirits. He was perhaps the most conspicuous personage on two continents, and yet the moment he was placed beneath the ground some strange fate seemed to decree that he was to be snatched from history and relegated to fiction. No inscription was engraved upon his coffin, no statue was erected in his honor, no ship was given his name, no public building was called after him. It required six years of research to find the apartment in which he had lived in Paris and held his brilliant salons, which were attended by the foremost celebrities of the period, and as long a time to discover his unmarked and forgotten grave.

When finally his exact place of burial in the St. Louis Cemetery for foreign Protestants had been definitely located by authentic documents and other positive evidence, the ground exhibited so repulsive an appearance that the aspect was painful beyond expression. There was presented the spectacle of a hero, who had once been the idol of the American people, lying for more than a century, like an obscure outcast, in an abandoned cemetery, which had been covered later by a dump pile to a height of 15 feet, where dogs and horses had been buried, and the soil was soaked with polluted waters from undrained laundries. No American citizen, upon contemplating on the spot these painful circumstances, could have shrunk from an attempt to secure for his remains a more deserving sepulcher.

There was authentic documentary proof that the corpse had been placed in a leaden coffin. When the body was exhumed it was fortunately found perfectly preserved, with all the flesh intact, in consequence of having been buried in such a coffin filled with alcohol—the usual method of embalming in those days. It resembled the anatomical specimens preserved in jars of alcohol that one sees in medical museums. There were only five leaden coffins in the entire cemetery, three of which were fully identified by inscription plates giving names and dates; the fourth contained a body 7 inches longer than that of Paul Jones. While

the features of the body in the fifth coffin, which was of superior workmanship to the others and of heavier lead, were easily recognizable when compared with the accurate bust, medals, and portraits of Paul Jones, and the identity was convincing from the first, yet it was deemed prudent, on account of the importance of the subject, to submit the body to a thorough scientific examination by the most competent experts in the profession of anthropology, in order that the proofs might be authoritatively established and officially placed on record. For this purpose, the body was taken to the Paris School of Medicine.

It was hardly expected that an inscription plate would be found upon the coffin. As the death of the admiral occurred on a day when the violence of the French Revolution was at its height, and the streets were filled with idlers and excited crowds of workmen, it is likely that, even if his friends had prepared a fitting inscription, no engravers could have been found to make a plate.

The most eminent scientists of France contributed their efforts to the task of identifying the body, in the presence of the officers of the American embassy, and the consulate, and the highest officials of the municipality of Paris.

These distinguished investigators were not paid experts; they cheerfully gave their services gratuitously, purely in the interest of science and as an act of comity between two friendly nations in solving an important historical problem. Their official and professional responsibility, their disinterestedness, and the fact that their established reputations were at stake, gave abundant guaranty that the service would be faithfully and impartially performed. The following is a list of the persons who participated in verifying the identification of the body and certifying thereto.

The American Ambassador.

Henry Vignaud, first secretary of the American embassy, commander of the Legion of Honor and a distinguished writer.

John K. Gowdy, American consul general.

Col. A. Bailly-Blanchard, second secretary of the American embassy, ex-aid-de-camp to the governor of Louisiana, officer of the Legion of Honor, officer of Public Instruction.

M. Justin de Selves, prefect of the Seine, grand officer of the Legion of Honor, since Minister of Foreign Affairs.

M. Louis Lepine, prefect of police, ex-governor general of Algiers, grand officer of the Legion of Honor.

Dr. J. Capitan, professor in the school of anthropology, member of the Committee of Historic and Scientific Works (ministry of public instruction), member of the municipal commission of Old Paris, member of the Society of Megalithic Monuments, member of a number of foreign scientific societies, ex-president of the Society of Anthropology of Paris,

officer of Public Instruction, author of more than 250 monographs, memoirs, etc., on medical and other scientific subjects.

Dr. Georges Papillault, assistant director of the laboratory of anthropology in the school for advanced studies, professor in the school of anthropology, officer or member of several learned societies at home and abroad, and author of numerous scientific articles, a scientist of rare experience in the examination and identification of human bodies.

Dr. George Hervé, professor in the school of anthropology, ex-president of the Society of Anthropology of Paris, and author of many monographs and volumes on this subject.

Dr. A. Javal, physician to the ministry of public instruction; laureate of the school of medicine.

M. J. Pray, chief architect of the prefecture of police, officer of public instruction.

M. Paul Weiss, engineer of the quarries of the Seine, doctor of laws.

In addition to the above, the services were secured of Dr. V. Cornil, the eminent microscopist, professor of pathologic anatomy of the Paris School of Medicine.

There now took place one of the most scientific, painstaking, and conscientious examinations conceivable, which resulted in placing, beyond any possibility of doubt, the identification of the body submitted.

Among the convincing points of evidence may be mentioned:

The finding of the body in the place where authentic documents described it as having been buried in a leaden coffin.

The striking resemblance of the features to those of the medal by Dupré, voted by Congress and executed under the personal supervision of Paul Jones in Paris.

The perfect agreement of measurements with those of the Trocadéro copy of the well-known life-size bust of Paul Jones by Houdon, which Jefferson, Madison, and Sherburne pronounced an exact likeness.

A photograph of the head of the corpse and of the Houdon bust made upon the same scale and on transparent paper which, when placed one upon the other, showed a perfect coincidence of the contours of the face, the line of demarcation of the hair, etc.

The de Biron bust, believed to be the work also of Houdon, was submitted but not used for comparative measurement, as it was less than life size.

The length of the body agreed with the admiral's stature.

The linen shirt found upon it of fine workmanship with plaits and ruffles, corresponding to the admiral's fondness for elegance in dress. There was nothing else in the coffin except the hay and straw packing and a shroud, consisting of a winding sheet, verifying the description that the admiral was "buried in a shroud without uniform, or trappings of any kind."

A peculiar formation of the ear identical with that on the bust.

The color of the hair and manner of wearing it, combed back and curled in rolls on the temples, such as is seen on several medallions representing him in full dress. The hair has been carefully arranged for burial apparently by a competent hairdresser.

No mark of any wound. Reliable biographers agree that the admiral was never wounded.

Condition of the teeth compatible with those of a man of his age.

His monogram composed of a P and a J embroidered on the linen.

The autopsy by Dr. Capitan, in which sections were made, and examined microscopically, of the vital organs which had been well preserved by the alcohol in which they had been steeped in the coffin, showing nothing particularly characteristic in the heart, liver, and right lung, the left lung exhibiting with the greatest exactness the marks of broncho-pneumonia, resulting from an attack of that malady, which records state was contracted in Russia three years before his death; the swollen legs caused by dropsy from which he had suffered for some time; the kidneys exhibiting the fibrous degeneracy of the glomeruli of Malpighi and other symptoms, which gave proof of chronic interstitial nephritis (Bright's disease), of which it is known he died.

This autopsy, verifying completely the clinical history of his last disease and death, made after so great a lapse of time, attracted much interest, and Dr. Capitan received many congratulations from his colleagues of the medical profession. The only disfigurement upon the face was caused by the cartilaginous portion of the nose having been bent over to the right side and pressed down. This was clearly due to the fact that, when the body was put in the coffin, some of the hay and straw packing had been laid across the face, an excess of it had been placed under the head, and the hair, about 30 inches long, had been gathered into a linen cap at the back. This raised the face so high that the cartilaginous portion of the nose was pressed out of shape by the coffin lid. At the angle at which the photograph of the head of the corpse was taken the distorted cartilaginous portion of the nose, seen in profile, makes that feature look as if it might have been Roman in shape, by giving to the bridge, which had not been crushed, an unnatural prominence. Prof. Papillault says in his official report that the form of the nose depends a great deal on the cartilage. That on the bust this is undulating and the bony part of it on the corpse is perfectly compatible with that form. As a consequence of a week's exposure to the air, it was seen that the skin had shrunk and the lips had contracted, showing the edges of the teeth, which were not visible at first. The internal organs were then restored to the thorax and the corpse, with the linen, was replaced in the coffin, which was put in a leaden casket. This was hermetically sealed and incased in an oaken coffin.

The 12 Americans and Frenchmen who participated in the identification, after six days passed in the application of every conceivable

test, gave their affirmative verdict, which was positive, absolute, and unanimous, and was formally certified to under the official seals of their respective departments, as may be seen from their detailed reports, enlarged photographs of the vital organs, etc., filed with the Government, both in Paris and in Washington. After the recognition of the identity by both Governments, the body was transported to America for permanent burial at Annapolis.

When Congress adopted the present form of the American flag, it embodied in the same resolution the appointment of Capt. John Paul Jones to command the ship *Ranger*. When he received the news, history attributes to him this remark: "The flag and I are twins; born the same hour from the same womb of destiny, we can not be parted in life or in death." Alas, they were parted during 113 years, but, happily, they are now reunited.

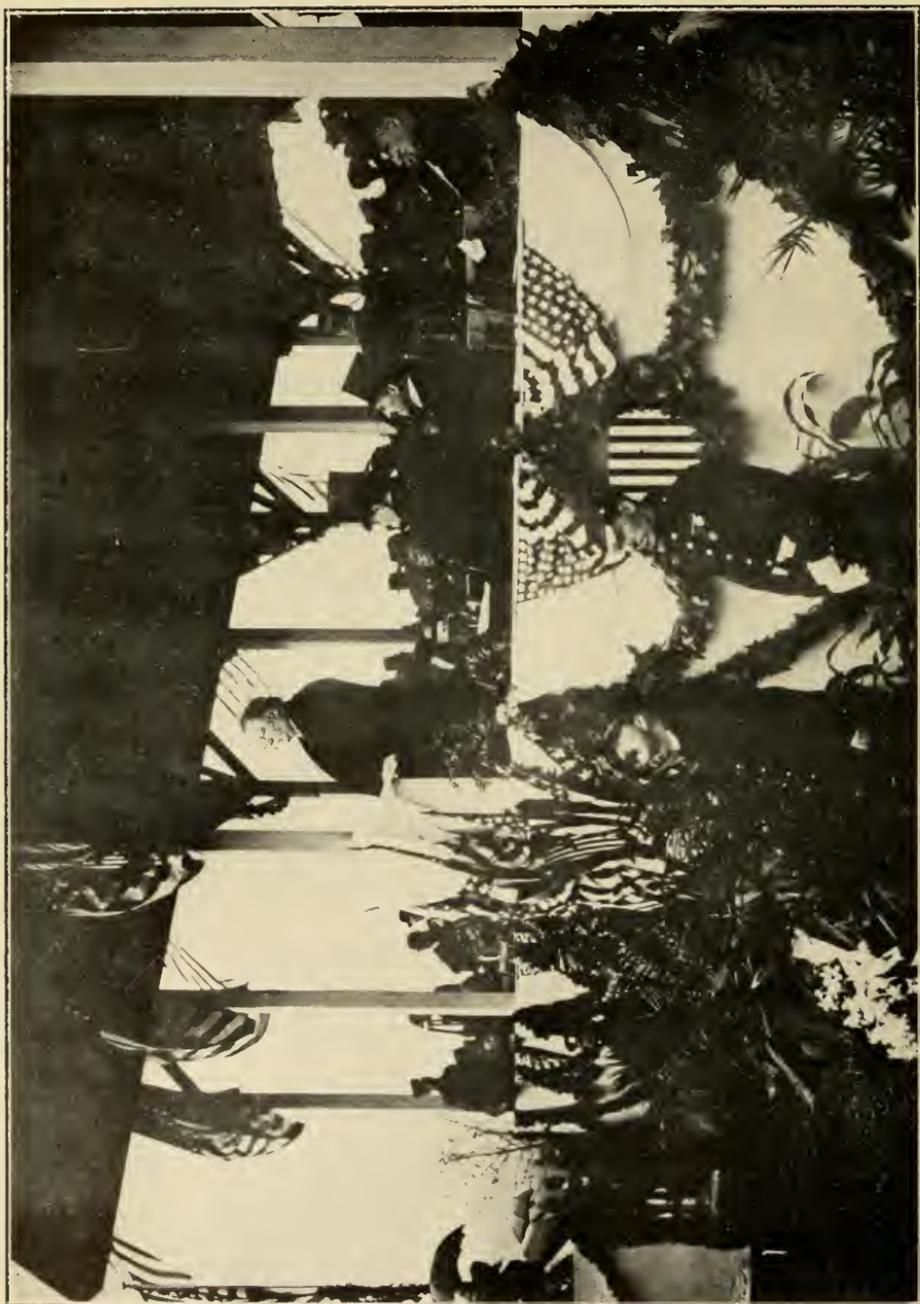
It was deemed well to bring back his body in the belief that it would bring back his memory. Living, he dwelt in the affection of his contemporaries; dead, he is enshrined in the hearts of their posterity.

When he passed the portals of eternity, earth mourned one hero less. In him the simplicity of the rugged sailor was mingled with the heroic grandeur of his nature. Wherever blows fell thickest his crest was in their midst. The story of his life rises to the sublimity of an epic, the recital of his deeds is worthy of the contemplation of the ages. He was the untitled knight of the blue waters, the wrathful Achilles of the ocean, the conqueror of the conquerors of the sea. The recollection of his deeds will never cease to thrill men with the splendor of events and inspire them with the majesty of achievement.

Yonder statue, which so well portrays his historic features, is the tribute of a grateful country. It will serve to recall the record of imperishable deeds and perpetuate a name which deserves to be immortal. Its mute eloquence will plead for equal sacrifice should war again threaten the Nation's life.

We may fittingly apply to this spot the words of Milton:

Thither shall all the valiant youth resort,
And from his memory inflame their breasts
To matchless valor.



PRESIDENT TAFT EULOGIZING JOHN PAUL JONES APRIL 17, 1912.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT TAFT.

Ladies and gentlemen, this monument preserves the memory of a Scotch boy who transferred his allegiance from Scotland to the United States, mastered the science of naval strategy, and furnished to our country the inspiration that has been felt for 130 years in our Navy, which is the pride of the Nation.

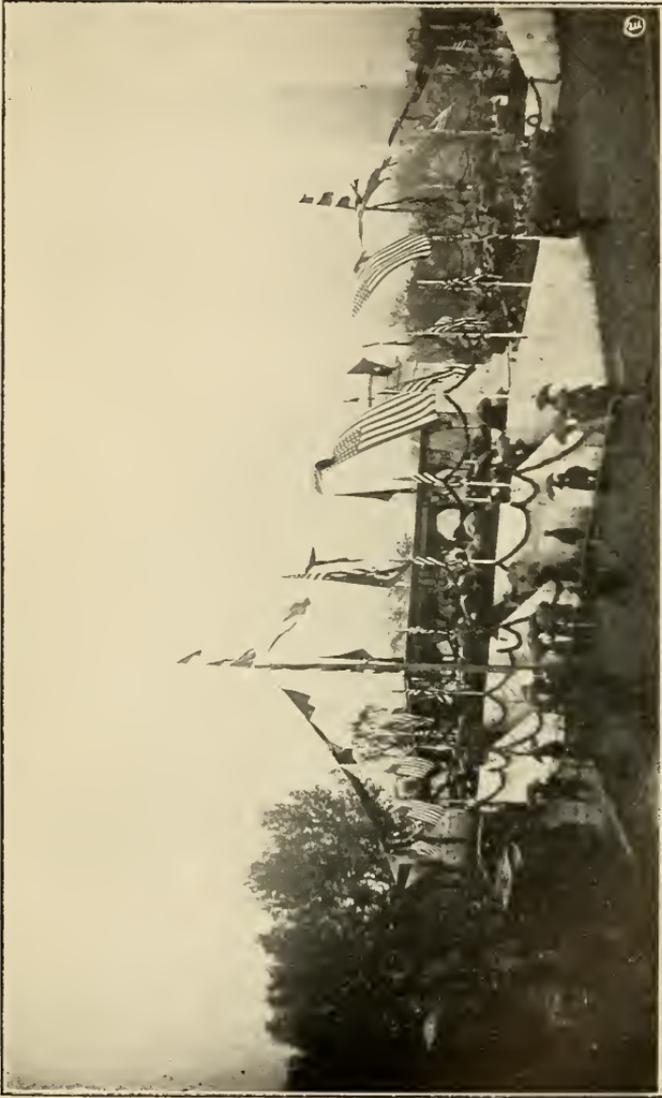
He came to this country at the age of 12 as an apprenticed seaman. At 19 he became a chief mate, and at 21 the master of a ship. In 1775, at the age of 28, he was made a first lieutenant in the Navy of the United States. His career was no accident or the result of fortuitous circumstances. From a boy of 12 he gave his time to the study of his profession, and he made himself a sailor, a soldier, a commander, and a diplomat. He mastered three languages, and after he had reached manhood he made himself to know the ways of the men of the world, so that when he appeared at the courts of Europe he honored the country which he represented.

It is fortunate for the Navy of the United States that it has such a hero to furnish the spirit to those who now make up its membership. The battle in which he had to take the deck of his antagonist to win the victory, as his own ship went down, will always stand out in the history of naval warfare as the greatest example of a victory won by the individual bravery and indomitable courage of a commander that has been known to the world. And now, when the Navy of this country has become so important a part of its Government, so essential to the maintenance by this country of its position before the world, it is fit that here, 133 years after that battle, a monument should be erected to its victor, dignified and beautiful as this one is, in the capital of the country that bears the name of the President who gave to this our hero the title of admiral.

I can not end what I have to say without rendering a just tribute to the soldier, the statesman, and the diplomat, who, appreciating the place in American history that John Paul Jones ought to occupy, devoted his time, his energy, and his treasure to bringing the bones of this great naval hero to rest at Annapolis, and to inspiring the movement that erected the memorial of to-day.



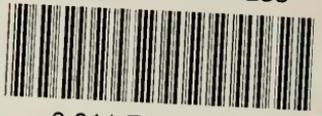




PANORAMA OF JOHN PAUL JONES MEMORIAL APRIL 17, 1912.



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