

GEN. GRANT'S TOMB

The Finest Mausoleum in America to Be Dedicated on April 27.

THE DEDICATION.

An elaborate ceremony, with imposing processions and many distinguished guests. April 27 will be the seventy-fifth anniversary of the birth of General Grant, and on that day the magnificent mausoleum which has been erected in honor of the great soldier statesman in New York city will be dedicated with splendid pomp and impressive ceremony.

We Americans have often neglected our great men in the past, and only to-day and great monuments are erected



GEN. GRANT.

in honor of a high and noble civilization. We have sadly betrayed our lack of age and the absence of refined sentiment which comes with years. But we are rapidly improving. This structure which has been erected as a last resting place for the dust of a man who has been a national hero but a few short years not only excites admiration of the kind in the new world, but rivals any of the great tombs which other nations have built for their illustrious dead.

We are going to make the dedication, too, as impressive and memorable as we know how. An elaborate programme has been arranged. The high officials of the state and the nation, use to participate in the land there will be a big procession of both martial and civic bodies. On the water there will be a naval demonstration which will be even more interesting and spectacular. The main massed procession in the affairs of today as well as those survivors of the stout leader who were in the forefront when he was winning fame and honor will be there to pay him solemn tribute.

President McKinley and most of his official family are expected to be there. General Miles and other officers of high rank in the army and navy will attend, and the governors of all the states of the Union have been invited. Many of them have accepted and will come with their staffs arrayed in all the martial magnificence which such dignitaries assume for state occasions.

Of course Mrs. Grant and other relatives of the great general will be the chief guests of honor. The family will be very well represented, for besides Mrs. Grant there will be her daughter, Mrs. Sartoris, and her three children and Colonel and Mrs. Post Grant. The widow of the dead hero will be the center of the group and the target for a million kindly glances. She carries her age gracefully, and her snowy white hair, partly covered by the dainty lace cap she generally wears, is very becoming. The old veterans who marched with Grant will be especially interested in Mrs. Sartoris, when many of them last saw whom a little girl, she occasionally visited her father at army headquarters. She, too, is now a widow and a very attractive one.

The dedication which the diplomatic corps at Washington will send to the ceremony will add a picturesque quality to the group on the reviewing stand. Every foreign country will be represented, for none of our great men was more universally respected and reported abroad than General Grant.

General Horace Porter, who is soon to cross the Atlantic as our representative



GENERAL PORTER.

through the beautiful Riverside park is to be a big and brilliant one. Besides a large body of regular troops and many members of the national guard there is to be this one old veterans, for many years of the Grand Army has to be in line. The entire militia force of the Empire State is to be mobilized for the occasion and this in itself will make a great host. Many civic bodies will also march in the procession, and New York alone can turn out a vast multitude. The day has been declared a holiday by the New York legislature, and all business will be suspended in the metropolis.

The whole parade will be under the direction of General Maxwell Grenville Dodge, who was one of Grant's most trusted staff officers, and to whom he entrusted the task of protecting the flank of his army in the Vicksburg campaign. He will have the advice of General Porter, who has but recently had the handling of two of the largest bodies of men which have been formed since the war. Other men of experience will serve on his staff of aids, so that no hitch need be expected in this part of the programme.

New York is about the only metropolis in the world which can add a naval parade to its public ceremonies. It was only a few years ago that this was discovered, but since then this peculiar national advantage has been frequently utilized. On this occasion, the white beauties of the north Atlantic squadron, with as many vessels from foreign navies as can be secured, will sail majestically up the Hudson to a point opposite the tomb, where the reviewing place of the military hero will be saluted in thunder tones by their numerous steel mouthpieces. As a general rule, our assembled warships burn their powder out as

pointed in securing the honor made criticisms which rankled deep in the bosom of patriotic New Yorkers. Just how General Horace Porter was made chairman of the committee. Within 60 days, under his well directed and energetic work, the fund had been increased to \$200,000, and the monument was an assured fact.

Even with plenty of money at command work on the tomb was necessarily slow. Unhappily for delays occurred. Months were spent in searching for the right kind of material. Granite was the stone wanted, but such another thing struck the New York parliament was wanted. Finally in the quarries of North Jay, Me., a granite of such hardness that it may last as long as the cosmos and of a light shade that the dressed blocks look like marble in the sunlight was found. But the workmen had never dug out such great blocks as were needed, and special apparatus had to be devised. It was done, however. The blocks were put into stanch Yankee caissons and taken by water to within hauling distance of the site of the monument.

On April 27, 1867, in the presence of just that 16,000 people, of whom more than one-third were Grand Army veterans. General Fremont, department commander of the U. S. A., turned the sod for the laying of the cornerstone.

General Porter delivered the oration, and a single wooden snipe, the Yacht, lay off in midwater and fired a salute. Mrs. Grant, her eldest son, her daughter, and her three granddaughters were there, but the national and state governments were not represented.

Then, black on black, the stately pile began to rise. When the site was first selected, there were many visitors to Riverside park, but after a month or two the people seemed to forget all about it, and only an occasional reference was made to it in the newspapers. Foreign tourists, as a rule, took particular pains to hunt up the insignificant little brick tomb where the almost old hero lay and where a solitary gray-headed park policeman kept the door.

Time and again the work on the tomb had to be stopped, and the dedication was postponed year by year. General Horace Porter, who is now the progress of the monument, is now the progress of the monument.

THE MAUSOLEUM.

Nearly a score of years ago, when General and Mrs. Grant were in Europe, they visited together the tomb of Beaulieu and Fontenay. The sight of that rural temple, which had been sleeping there side by side in peace for centuries engaged to the most practical and monumental soldier. Turning to his wife, he said solemnly:

"This, this is the way we should rest in death."

Years afterward, when death had claimed the great general and his body had been brought down from Mount McGregor to New York city, which it passed through miles of solidly packed coffins, there came requests from different parts of the country for the honor of burying the great hero. Some wished it because that state was popularly regarded as his home. Others protested that he was a native of that commonwealth. West Point, put in a strong plea because there he had begun his military career. Chicago clamored for the honor because many of Grant's friends lived there.

New Yorkers insisted that General Grant had become a citizen of that municipality after retiring to private life and that it was his right that he be buried on Manhattan Island. Mrs. Grant settled the question by deciding in favor of New York, whose citizens had not only promised to erect a handsome tomb, but to provide a place for her husband's illustrious husband which she should go to her long rest.

side, in which is the only entrance, is embellished by a portico formed by a double line of fluted columns. The entrance is approached by a long flight of stone steps 70 feet wide. The lower structure is finished with an ornate cornice, above which is a parapet. The cornice is 80 feet from the ground and is decorated by a frieze of carved lion's heads. The circular cupola is 70 feet in diameter. Above this is the lantern, somewhat smaller, and on this rests the conical dome.

Directly in front of the entrance is to be placed an equestrian statue of General Grant on a pedestal which will rise out of the center of the stairway. Above the portico are many equestrian statues of generals on Grant's staff who will also be placed, but none of these will be in position at the time of the dedication, or, in fact, for some time thereafter. There will be another group of statues in the center of the parapet and just above the simple inscription tablet, and towering still, on the very apex of the cone, will stand the statue of the heroic and grinning hero of the symbolic Victory.

The interior of the tomb is in the form of a cross. The exact ground dimensions, the four corners being piers of masonry, measured at the top by a wire whose sag is 50 feet above the floor level. On these piers rest an ornate circular ceiling of cast iron, 10 feet from wall and culminating in a pointed dome 100 feet above the floor of the crypt below. The panels of the dome are to be decorated with high relief sculptures representing scenes connected with the life of General Grant.

Directly under the apex of the dome is a large hall below the main floor of the tomb is the crypt, which contains the ashes of the hero. The body of the sarcophagus is a hollowed sandstone.

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