

THE HUMBOLDT MONUMENT.

We are indebted for the accompanying engraving, and the substance of this sketch, to the *People's Monthly*, a new periodical published in Pittsburgh, Pa., by McKnight, Lowry & Co. It is a popular illustrated publication, the aim of which is to supply good, healthy reading to the working classes in and around that great manufacturing center. In these times, when so much moral poison is issued, in an enticing form and displayed in gaudy colors, from all our news stands, a paper like this, unexceptionable in manner and matter, yet still attractive enough to draw many away from that which can only injure, is worthy of commendation, and we take this occasion to say a hearty word of good cheer to its publishers.

The engraving is that of the beautiful and elaborate monument erected in the North Park, Allegheny, opposite Pittsburgh, to the memory of the great philosopher, *savant*, and statesman, Alexander von Humboldt. The history of the memorial is this: A number of liberal minded German citizens, animated by a praiseworthy motive, conceived the project of erecting a monument which should be at once an ornament to the North Park, and a suitable recognition of the life and services of the eminent philosopher. Once started, the idea was never permitted to slumber. The determined resolution, which enters so largely into the German

composition, was manifested in the matter from the moment the scheme was first conceived. A series of concerts and *tableaux*, projected and conducted by the Turner of Pittsburgh, yielded sufficient funds to encourage the originators of the monumental project in the prosecution of their self imposed task. The citizens of Pittsburgh generally responded promptly to the call for subsequent subscriptions. Several large subscriptions were made by citizens residing in the immediate vicinity of the monument. Thus the success of the scheme was assured.

A committee on erection was appointed in due season, composed of the following named gentlemen: Chairmen, Charles Meyran, Joseph Abel, Joseph G. Siebeneck, Major T. Brent Swearingen, Major Gustave Schleiter, Wilson King; Treasurer, Aug. Hartje. The committee at once solicited designs and proposals. Among those submitted, the design furnished by Edward Morganroth, of Pittsburgh, elicited the warmest approval from the members of the committee. Those familiar with the attractions of North Park will agree that a happier selection could not have been made.

The corner stone was laid Sept. 14, 1869, (the centennial birth day of Baron von Humboldt); the attending ceremonies, which were conducted by the Masonic fraternity, being unusually imposing and impressive, the various civil and military associations vying with each other in the desire to honor

the memory of the author of "Cosmos." Subsequently, the President of the United States, in company with a number of distinguished men, attended the festival which succeeded the unveiling and presentation of the monument to the Park Commission.

The structure is composed of a massive pedestal, placed in the centre of a circular basin. The pedestal is of the composite order, the corners being richly ornamented with dolphins, while the base is relieved by animals' heads in life size. Four richly designed pedestals, each surmounted by a large and small basin, are placed opposite the corners of the main pedestal. The single word "Humboldt" stands out in bold relief upon the southeast side of the pedestal. In line with it, on the south side, are the figures "1769," while the north side bears the date "1869." A massive bronze bust, designed by Prof. Gustave Blaeser, of Berlin, and cast at Hanover, surmounts the pedestal. The execution displayed in the modeling of the bust is the admiration of all who are in any manner conversant with art. The sculptor has reproduced, with consummate skill, the expression of the original. Good will and kindness beam from every lineament of the majestic countenance. The entire composition, which is constructed of sandstone, is so simple that its details may be taken in at a glance. It is the chief attraction of North Park. The total cost was \$10,000.



THE HUMBOLDT MONUMENT AT ALLEGHENY CITY PA.