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REPORT

OF THE

STATE DELEGATES

TO THE

INDEPENDENCE MONUMENT CONVENTION.

READ MARCH 8, 1853, AND ORDERED TO BE PRINTED.

TRENTON:
PRINTED AT THE TRUE AMERICAN OFFICE.
1853.

REPORT.

To his Excellency, George F. Fort—

The undersigned, delegates appointed by the legislature, to represent the state of New Jersey in a convention of the original thirteen states, held in the Hall of Independence, in the city of Philadelphia, on the fourth day of July last, beg leave respectfully to report:

That they attended said convention upon the day, and at the place designated. Nine of the thirteen states were fully represented. The object of the convocation of said convention is appropriately expressed in the following resolution adopted by the select and common councils of the city of Philadeldhia:

"*Resolved*, That it is expedient to have erected in the grove belonging to the hall in which the national Independence was declared, one or more monuments, commemorative respectively of the states and of the men, parties to that glorious event."

The proceedings of the convention were most interesting and were continued until the night of the sixth of July, when that body adjourned *sine die*, after having adopted a report and resolutions assenting to the proposition embraced in the foregoing, but as they are contained in the history of the proceedings of the convention we omit all but the last, which is as follows:

"*Resolved*, That the officers of the convention be requested to transmit to the legislatures of the original thirteen states, and to the governors of those states, printed copies of the proceedings of this convention; and that the delegates from each state be requested to take charge of the application to their

respective states for aid and co-operation in the erection of the proposed monument, and to promote the same by their personal exertions."

That report will accompany our own—and being voluminous and minute will relieve us from the necessity of making many suggestions which otherwise we should have been induced to offer. But one sentiment pervaded the convention in respect of the feasibility and success of the project. So far as we could ascertain, it was to all a matter of surprise that this noble enterprise had been so long neglected. Our own state was among the first to take up arms for the attainment of that glorious result which renders the erection of this monument necessary, and we doubt not she will now be the *first* to bring her tribute to that altar consecrated to patriotism by gratitude, devotion and justice.

We cannot feel our duties adequately performed without making an expression of our warmest acknowledgments to Charles A. Poulson, Esq., chairman, and the members of the committees of the select and common councils of Philadelphia, for the very kind and hospitable manner in which we were received and entertained by them. It is not too much to say, that the important duties of reception could not have been entrusted to better hands, and we are not without the desire, and hope, that knowing their patriotism and disinterestedness, they may find a portion of their noble generosity reciprocated in the favorable action of our legislature, in behalf of that enterprise to which these gentlemen have given their entire and efficient support.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM C. ALEXANDER,
E. R. V. WRIGHT.

TRENTON, January, 1853.

Report of the Committee to whom was referred so much of the Governor's message as relates to the Block of Stone to be furnished by the State of New Jersey to the National Monument, now being erected to the memory of Washington, at the city of Washington.

The Committee to whom was referred so much of the Governor's message as relates to the block of stone to be furnished by New Jersey to the National Monument, now being erected to the memory of Washington, at the city of Washington, beg leave to report—

That your committee have duly and faithfully considered the subject committed to their charge. They have viewed and examined the block of stone procured by his Excellency Governor Haines, pursuant to a resolution of the legislature, of February 23, 1850. The block, as we are informed by his Excellency, is four feet in length by two feet in width, of the finest light brown free stone, taken from the quarry at Little Falls, from whence the stone with which that magnificent structure, Trinity Church, was erected, in the city of New York, and was obtained through the liberality of Mr. William H. Harris. The committee cannot withhold their entire satisfaction and approbation of the block of stone procured.

The design, we are informed by his Excellency, was furnished by Mr. John G. Hall, of Newark, and executed in

bas relief, under the direction of Mr. Amos Wilcox, and consists simply of the arms of New Jersey beneath a semicircle of laurels upon a band; on the two upper corners are shields resting on military trophies, on which are inscribed the words, "Trenton, December 26, 1776," and "Monmouth, June, 1778," commemorative of *two* of the principal battles in the state, in which Washington was personally present.—Beneath is the name of the state in large capitals, above 1776, the year of its accession to the Union.

Your committee highly approve of the general design, as far as it goes. But your committee deeply regret that *two other* important battles, in one of which Washington was *personally present*, and in which his heroic bravery and military skill were so eminently distinguished, were not noticed in the design referred to; we mean "Princeton" and "Springfield." In no instance, perhaps, during our Revolutionary struggle was the life of our immortal hero so eminently perilled as in the battle of Princeton. It is but justice to his Excellency to state, that he informed us that he desired that the names of Princeton and Springfield should be inserted, but that the designer assured him that it could not be done without marring the symmetry of the design.

Your committee, however, have learned from Mr. Wilcox that the names of these memorable battles, *Princeton* and *Springfield*, together with their dates, can be added at the two lower corners, upon shields corresponding to the names Trenton and Monmouth, with their dates, upon shields in the two upper corners, without in the slightest degree marring the symmetry of the whole design. Your committee would therefore recommend the appointment of a committee of the Senate, with instructions to call to their assistance Mr. Wilcox, and have the battles of Princeton

and Springfield added to the design (if practicable) on the said block of stone, in the manner suggested.

February 5, 1851.

JNO. MANNERS,
W. C. ALEXANDER,
E. Y. ROGERS.