

“Marble and Granite at the World’s Fair”

(the World’s Columbian Exposition)

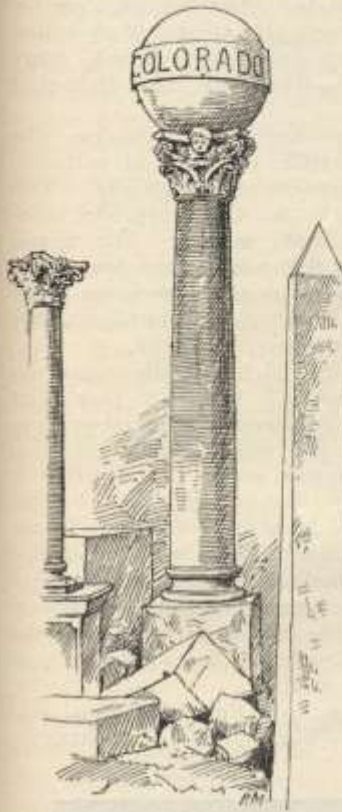
In *The Monumental News*, Vol. 5, No. 11
November 1893, pp. 493

This article, which begins on the next page,
is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/>

Peggy B. Perazzo
Email: pbperazzo@comcast.net
December 2013

Marble and Granite at the World's Fair.



The great World's Columbian Exposition is now a thing of the past. Its realities are fast fading into memories; and the busy sight-seers and exhibitors are now taking an inventory, as it were, of the results. They are thinking of the "have beens" and also of the "might have beens." In the domain of monumental work the manufacturers are asking themselves more seriously than ever before whether the display at the Fair was really worthy of the

trade, or, to speak more accurately, whether it represented the trade at large at its best.

So far as the quantity and variety of the finished work at the Fair were concerned, it must be confessed that they did not come up to expectations of those who are familiar with the monumental business of the country. Only two American granite quarrying centres were represented by finished granite monumental work, and the only State that made an exhibit of finished marble work was Vermont.

The exhibits of Quincy and Barre in the Manufactures Building were creditable to those centres, but while the displays deservedly attracted a great deal of attention they cannot be said to have adequately demonstrated the possibilities of either Quincy or Barre. The important element of competition—the very thing that the Fair was intended to bring out in the strongest possible manner—was lacking, that is, exhibits which might have appeared superior when compared with a large number of similar displays, were left comparatively alone, without even a foil to set them off. The more praise then to Quincy and Barre when it is considered that Maine, New Hampshire, and other well-known granite producing states had no representation

whatever in the line of finished monumental work. The famous quarries of Rhode Island, whose product has a national reputation, were not represented by any finished work, except that Westerly had a vase in the Woman's building. One of the Rhode Island quarries made an exceptionally attractive exhibit at the Centennial, and all doubtless would have been represented at the World's Fair, had it not been for the disastrous labor troubles of last year. There was not a single piece of granite statuary on exhibition.

If the showing in finished granite was meager, that in marble was more so. The exhibit of the Vermont Marble Company was excellent, but it was alone. The two marble producing states of the South, Georgia and Tennessee, were unrepresented. Foreign marbles were not wanting, and this made the showing worse for these states, because the public has not forgotten what a howl of indignation went up from men of the South when it was discovered that foreign marbles were being purchased for the new Congressional Library at Washington. The very men who were strong enough then to move heaven and earth and the national congress in behalf of their quarries could not muster up courage sufficient to make a display of their finished work at the Fair. To sum up the situation, it can not be said that the monumental industry of the United States made the best of the exceptional opportunity afforded it by the World's Columbian Exposition.

The real wealth of the country was to be seen in the Mines and Mining building. The product of the western states especially was surprising. Their beautiful samples of marble, granite and sandstone attracted universal attention. The onyx display was particularly fine. In this friendly competition the west had decidedly the best of it. Of the foreign marble exhibits, the most interesting was that of New South Wales, which also exhibited a valuable collection of granite and stone for building and decorative purposes. Canada and the provinces were also well represented.

The display of Mexican onyx attracted great attention. It was the finest exhibit of onyx ever made. The stone comes from Lower California, 200 miles south of San Diego, and is the first shipment from a quarry discovered in 1891.

In several of the state and foreign government buildings, interesting exhibits were to be seen. Italy made an especially attractive display of commercial statuary in marble, and Sweden's display of granites demonstrated the variety of her quarry products. A representative of that country is said to have disposed of considerable monumental work.

Some of the subjects mentioned in the above article include:

The World's Columbian Exposition; Barre, Vermont granite; Vermont Marble Company; Quincy, Massachusetts granite; Westerly, Rhode Island granite; Georgia; Tennessee; New South Wales granite and building and decorative stone; Canada; Mexican onyx; Italy; and the granite display by Sweden.