

REPORT
OF THE
SOLDIERS' MONUMENT
COMMITTEE,
OF THE
CITY OF FITCHBURG.



FITCHBURG:
PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF HENRY F. PIPER,
1874.

REPORT.

To the Honorable City Council :

It will be remembered that the Soldiers' Monument Committee made a partial report on the occasion of the dedication of the monument on the 24th day of June last.

The duties of the committee are now completed, or nearly so, and it is proper that a further or entire report be presented at this time.

It is thought by the committee, that such report, covering a period of nearly nine years, giving the action of the town and city relative to the Soldiers' Monument, and following the construction of the same, and its surroundings to completion and dedication, would be of no inconsiderable value historically, and worthy a place in the records of the city, available to all, and would respectfully recommend that the same be printed in City Document No. 2.

The dedication services, which were so highly interesting to us, and all who participated in them, will thus be preserved, in a permanent and substantial form, where easy reference may be had for facts or circumstances connected therewith, not only by the present, but by future generations.

With this view, convenience requires, that this report commence, where it might perhaps more properly end, viz: with the dedication services.

In the spring of 1874, the Soldiers' Monument Committee reported to the city council, the near completion of the monument, and recommended an appropriation of Two Thousand Dollars for the purpose of dedication.

The City Council appointed a committee to confer with the Soldiers' Monument Committee, consisting of aldermen Snow and

Currier, the President of the Common Council, Colburn, and councilmen Brown, Upton and Patch.

This committee reported favorably to the making of the appropriation, and it was subsequently made, and the Mayor drew his order in favor of the Monument Committee for Two Thousand Dollars, a programme was at once arranged for the dedication of the monument, and the 17th of June, 1874, was the day fixed for the services.

Circumstances however intervened, rendering it impossible to satisfactorily execute the ceremonies of the occasion upon that much desired day—the anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill—and Wednesday, the 24th day of June, was fixed upon. Maj. General Nathaniel P. Banks was selected to deliver an address, and General John W. Kimball appointed Chief Marshal, and authorized to select the Marshals and Aids, all of whom, as will be seen by the list below, had seen service in the War of the Rebellion.

MARSHALS.

T. S. Foster, Col. 21st Regt. M. V.; Edwin Upton, Col. 25th Regt. M. V.; C. H. Foss, Capt. 25th Regt. M. V., and senior past Post Commander of Post 19; T. L. Barker, Col. 36th Regt. M. V.; George Jewett, Maj. 51st Regt. M. V.; E. A. Brown, Maj. 53d Regt. M. V.; Levi Lawrence, Capt. 57th Regt. M. V.; E. T. Hayward, Capt. 4th Regt. Heavy Artillery, M. V.

AIDS.

George Lawrence, Lieut. 1st Regt. M. V.; Charles C. Walker, Private, 2d Regt. M. V.; Edwin Newton, Private, 10th Regt. M. V.; Albert H. Andrews, Maj. 19th U. S. Infantry; R. O. Houghton, Capt. 26th Regt. M. V.

BUGLER.

Ed. R. Campbell, Private, 1st Vt. Artillery.

The day was all that could be desired, with the exception of a strong breeze, rendering it difficult to hear the speakers, at any great distance from the stand.

PROCESSION.

The procession was composed of ten divisions, and each division was formed under the direction of the Marshal especially assigned to its command, as follows:

ESCORT.

FIRST DIVISION:

Detachment of Police, Capt. Asahel Wheeler, commanding.
Fitchburg Cornet Band,
10th Regt. Mass. Vol. Militia, Col. James May, commanding.
Section A of 5th Battery, Light Artillery M. V. M., Lieut. J. L. Baird.

SECOND DIVISION:

Capt. R. O. Houghton, Aid.
Composed exclusively of carriages, containing
The Committee of Arrangements.
Soldiers' Monument Committee.
Orator of the Day.
Officiating Clergyman.
Author of the Poem.
His Honor, Mayor Norcross.
Aldermen and Common Council.
Invited Guests.
Disabled Soldiers.

THIRD DIVISION:

Col. T. S. Foster, Marshal.
Veteran Soldiers of Co. D 2d, Co. B 15th, Co. D 21st, Co. F 25th,
Co. A 36th, Cos. A and B 53d, Co. F 57th, Co. H 4th Heavy
Artillery M. V. and veteran soldiers of all other companies or
regiments, whether from this city or not.

FOURTH DIVISION:

Capt. C. H. Foss, Marshal.
The Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic under escort of Post
19 in numerical order.
Post 19, Fitchburg, 70 men, E. B. Macy, commanding.
48, Ayer, 22 men, C. D. Spaulding, commanding.
50, Townsend, 20 men, J. M. Campbell, commanding.
53, Leominster, 44 men, J. B. Stratton, commanding, with
Leominster Band.

REPORT OF SOLDIERS' MONUMENT COMMITTEE.

Post 54, Berlin, 20 men, W. T. Babcock, commanding.
 59, Sterling, 20 men, C. A. Tenney, commanding.
 64, Clinton, 25 men, with Clinton Band.
 69, Westminster, 25 men, E. P. Banks, commanding,
 109, East Templeton, 30 men, B. F. French, commanding,
 with East Templeton Band.
 116, Gardner, 45 men, J. M. Osborne, commanding.
 123, Athol, 60 men, H. M. Burleigh, commanding, with
 Mechanics Band of Orange.

FIFTH DIVISION:

Col. Edwin Upton, Marshal.

The Public Schools in order of grade, the highest on the right as
 designated by Superintendent Hubbard.

SIXTH DIVISION:

Major George Jewett, Marshal.

Masonic and Odd Fellows Societies, according to date of charter,
 the oldest on the right.

Edmands' Band, of Boston.

Jerusalem Commandery, Knights Templar, A. L. Fessenden, E. C.

Aurora Lodge, F. & A. M., Alfred A. Marshall, Master.

Charles W. Moore Lodge F. & A. M., Joel Joel, Master.

King David Encampment I. O. O. F., 50 men, J. H. Parker, commander.
 Nashua Band.

Monadnock Encampment, of Keene, N. H., 25 men.

SEVENTH DIVISION:

Major E. A. Brown, Marshal.

Catholic Benevolent Society, William Murnane, Marshal.

EIGHTH DIVISION:

Capt. Levi Lawrence, Marshal.

Townsend Cornet Band.

Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Temperance Cadets.

NINTH DIVISION:

Capt. E. T. Hayward, Marshal.

Fitchburg Fire Department, in order as designated by Chief Engi-
 neer George H. Manchester.

TENTH DIVISION:

Edwin Newton, Aid.

Citizens in carriages.

The column moved at eleven o'clock, precisely, through Main, Grove, Prichard, High, Pleasant, Crescent, Blossom, Green, Pratt, Summer and Main streets, to Monument square, and was massed within the enclosure, with the exception of the carriages, the Battery and Fire Apparatus.

AT THE MONUMENT GROUNDS.

At Monument square the order of exercises as previously arranged was carried out. Hon. Alvah Crocker, chairman of the Soldiers' Monument Committee, presided at the Monument. The exercises opened with the Hymn, "Great Jehovah, turn Thine eye," sung by the Choral Union.

Rev. Dr. S. B. Grant then invoked divine blessing, and was followed by Hon. Alvah Crocker, who said:

Friends, fellow-citizens, noble veterans whom God in His mercy has still spared. Ye who stood by our proud flag in many a hard fought battle for our nation's life, scorning doubt, aye scorning treason, in behalf of the monument committee, I give you all their hearty Fitchburg welcome.

When on the 14th day of April, 1861, the lightning wire flashed the fall of Sumter, that Lexington and Bunker Hill to the war of the Rebellion—when we learned that by the work of traitors, our Star Spangled banner was trailing in the dust, what a thrill of patriotism fired every heart; who, who, I say within hearing of my voice can, or ever will forget that otherwise peaceful Sunday, then the harbingers of battle and blood but instituted by God for Communion and Love. The old Lexington and Bunker Hill was again upon us, with all their fearful realities to be enacted over again. My friends, I do not claim that Fitchburg in character, tone and spirit, is above our sister towns and municipalities; but I do claim with a population of 8,000 souls including 2,000 able-bodied men furnishing eight companies, and a balance in isolated individual cases sufficient to make a regiment of 1,000 men, that there was the same spirit as

in the Revolutionary war when she furnished the germ (in her letters to Boston) of the immortal Declaration of Independence, that Bancroft alludes to and can be read by any one, as when her old iron cannon on the 19th of April, 1775, boomed the call to her minute men, the same spirit as when Capt. Bridge with fifty men, before the metal was cold was on his way or "line of march" to Concord and Lexington, and was at Pitcairn's heels before he got into Boston. It is due to history to say that our sister towns of Leominster, Lancaster, Groton and Pepperell were not a whit behind us in the battle fought from Bunker Hill to Bennington (more properly Hoosac) and Stillwater, which settled practically our war of Independence.

The men from these towns were among the thickest in the fight—Fitchburg alone with only 169 male citizens, sixteen years old and upwards, furnishing one-fourth of her population or, as in the war of the Rebellion about a moiety of all her able bodied men during the war of Independence. The little blood she then had she scattered upon every battle field of the Revolution. Would that we had their shaft like this now to be unveiled,—would that such men as our Gibson, who after firing his last round of ball and powder at Bunker Hill fought in the ditch with the butt of musket till he fell, could be engraved in eternal bronze and granite.

Unwilling further to trespass on your time, again in behalf of my committee, I give to you all their hearty welcome, and quoting from one of its last reports to the town, I add this dirge like requiem, with your permission to the day's report:

O give to History's fame the brave; the brave who are no more,

Our Fitchburg dead; in honored rest, they sleep on hill and shore,
From where the Mississippi now, in freedom proudly rolls

To waves that sigh on Georgia's isles, a death hymn for their souls,
Down in the sultry swamps and plains, where fever's subtle breath,

Has drained the life blood from their hearts, and laid them low in death,
As proud a memory yours, Oh ye, who murmured no complaint,

Who saw hope's vision day by day, grow indistinct and faint,
Who far from home and loving friends, from all you held, most dear,

Have died—Oh noble Fitchburg dead, ye have a record here.

Let Fitchburg, on a spotless shield, inscribe her honored dead,

Oh keep their memory fresh and green, while turf blooms o'er their head;
Our coming sons, who are yet unborn, shall read with glowing pride,

Of those who bore the conquering arm, with brothers fought and died,
Who foremost in the gallant van, laid life and honor down,

Oh deck with fadeless green their names, who've won a martyr's crown.

The report of the Soldiers' Monument Committee was then made :

Mr. Mayor, and Gentlemen of the City Council :

The Soldiers' Monument Committee, by their action, decided that the chairman, Hon. Alvah Crocker, should make this report ; but circumstances render another course necessary. By the partiality of the committee this duty has been committed to my hands. It is not necessary nor desirable that here on this long looked for occasion, the causes which led to the formation of this committee be discussed, or to tell how patriotic our forefathers were. Fitchburg has always from her earliest existence been loyal and true to the country.

It may seem late (and perhaps this feeling has been participated in by many of our citizens, and especially the near and dear ones, who mourn and have mourned for a decade of years the loss of sons, brothers and husbands), that unpardonable delay has prevailed in rearing to the memories of departed heroes some substantial tribute. None can regret this seeming delay in doing justice to the memories of the noble fallen, more than the Soldiers' Monument Committee, but they feel that the sadness and grief of those, who by ties of consanguinity with those fallen ones, who feel peculiarly stricken by the casualties of the late war of the rebellion—that the criticisms of an always zealous public will in a great degree be assuaged, soothed and modified by beholding the beautiful structure which will soon be presented to you.

April 9, 1866, the town voted to “appoint a committee of five (5) by the chair, to report the names of seven to constitute a committee on the subject of erecting a monument as a sacred memorial to our citizens who fell in their country's service during the late rebellion.” This committee was L. H. Bradford, E. Torrey, William H. Vose, Amasa Norcross and George F. Fay, who presented the names of Alvah Crocker, George E. Towne, Eugene T. Miles, L. H. Bradford, Alpheus P. Kimball, Stephen Shepley and

Henry A. Willis, and these gentlemen were constituted the Soldiers' Monument Committee.

April 8, 1867, Mr. Geo. E. Towne made a verbal report for the committee chosen at the annual meeting, April 9, 1866, on the subject of a soldiers' monument or memorial hall, and it was voted that further time be given to consider the matter, and that the committee proceed to investigate in favor of a memorial hall. It was also voted to add to the committee, Gen. John W. Kimball, Col. Theodore S. Foster and Walter A. Eames. April 13, 1868, Stephen Shepley, for the committee, made an able, eloquent and feeling report upon the subject of rearing some memorial to those "who went out from us and came not back again," which report will be found in the proper place in the records of the town. Several prominent and patriotic citizens spoke upon the subject; after which it was voted that the Soldiers' Monument Committee be authorized to purchase the two lots of land situated upon Main street, owned by William W. Comee and Isaac Hartwell, and erect thereon a Soldiers' Monument at an expense not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, whenever twenty thousand dollars of the same shall have been raised by private subscription. April 28, 1868, it was voted that the Soldiers' Monument Committee be instructed to purchase the estates of William W. Comee and Isaac Hartwell, on Main street, with such water rights as pertained to the same for the sum of forty thousand dollars—to rent the buildings and estates, and sell the buildings at any time, when the execution of the plans of the committee for the construction of the monument required it. Also, to sell to the county of Worcester, any or all water rights which might be secured to the town by the purchase of the estates of Messrs. Comee and Hartwell. Also voted that the committee on the erection of a Soldiers' Monument, be authorized to erect a monument upon the Comee and Hartwell lot, first submitting to the town for its approval, definite plans and estimates for the same.

The purchase of these two estates was made, as shown by deeds to be found in their proper place with the papers of the city, of this character, and the committee collected the rents and took a general charge of the property.

It is hardly necessary to say to you, gentlemen, who are and have been so conversant with all the transactions pertaining to the securing of a site for a soldiers' monument, that this enclosure, which we now occupy, is the result of the purchase from Messrs. Comee and Hartwell.

February 27, 1869, the town authorized Ebenezer Torrey to make such conveyance of right of foot passway over Monument Square to the county of Worcester, as shall be mutually agreed upon by a committee of the town and the county commissioners, provided such conveyance shall not in any wise prejudice the design and interest of the town of Fitchburg, in erecting upon the same a soldiers' monument. A committee to confer with the county commissioners, consisting of Alvah Crocker, C. H. B. Snow, George E. Towne, L. H. Bradford and A. P. Kimball, was chosen for this purpose.

April 12, 1869, Alvah Crocker, chairman of the committee, made a report, on file in the archives of the then town, now city, in relation to a soldiers' monument. That report was accepted, and it was voted that a sum not exceeding \$40,000 be appropriated, with the understanding that \$10,000 shall be raised by taxation the present year. It was also voted that the Monument Committee have charge of the disbursement of the money appropriated. At an adjourned meeting, held May 3, 1869, the vote of the town appropriating \$40,000 was rescinded, and it was voted to appoint a committee of nine, whose duty it shall be to prepare and present plans and specifications together with the estimated cost of a Memorial hall, and report at a future meeting. The following named gentlemen were made such committee: Frederick F. Woodward, Alvin A. Simonds, David H. Merriam, Gardner S. Burbank, Jabez Fisher, George Robbins, Edwin P. Monroe, Hale W. Page and Edwin Upton.

It will be seen that the then existing Soldiers' Monument Committee was not, by this action of the town, discharged or relieved of the trusts confided to them by the former action of the town, but it seemed to this committee that while a special

committee had been appointed to investigate and report upon a Memorial hall, action relative to a monument should be suspended, especially as the appropriation had been withdrawn.

September 4, 1869, it was voted to authorize and instruct Ebenezer Torrey, town treasurer, to give a deed of right of foot-way over the Comee and Hartwell estates to the county of Worcester, said land to be kept free from the obstruction of any building or other structure, excepting a Soldiers' Monument, with the exception of a fence with suitable openings for foot passengers and such seats and fountains as the town may desire to erect, provided the court-house (which the county of Worcester had decided to build) be erected, fronting upon Main street, said right to continue as long as said court-house shall remain standing, as aforesaid. By this action of the town it would seem that no plan for the erection of a Memorial hall, which could be proposed by the committee appointed for that purpose, could be entertained. The right of passway was duly conveyed to the county of Worcester, and the court-house has been built in accordance therewith.

Ere long, without doubt, Old Worcester will cheerfully transfer to her maiden sister, Lincoln, all the rights and privileges she has received at the hands of our enterprising community.

April 11, 1870, David H. Merriam made a verbal report for the committee appointed May 3, 1869, to investigate in the direction of a Memorial hall, which report was accepted and the committee discharged. This action of the town left the Soldiers' Monument Committee at liberty to prosecute further the plans for the erection of a monument and authority was given by the town, May 2, 1871, "to grade, fence and otherwise improve the lot in front of the court-house." The grading is substantially done and the fence erected as you see.

October 2, 1871, Alvah Crocker read a report from the Soldiers' Monument Committee, which was accepted by the town, and the design then presented was also adopted; and the committee instructed to proceed forthwith to carry out the designs and plans submitted, at a cost not exceeding \$25,000. No further action was

taken by the town of Fitchburg, relative to the erection of the monument, or the completion of its surroundings, but on the 6th day of January, 1873, she calmly, quietly, peacefully, surrendered and committed to the hands of the city government, all the municipal rights she had so fully exercised, and so fondly cherished. During this long interval, from October 2, 1871, to January 6, 1873, your committee were diligent. On the 15th day of November, 1871, a contract was made with Messrs. Samuel A. Wheeler & Son, for the construction of the foundation to receive the granite superstructure and the bronze statues. April 1, 1872, a contract was entered into, by your committee, with Martin Milmore, of Boston, who had furnished the designs accepted by the town, October 2, 1871, for the execution of the bronze work, including the statues and tablets. On the 8th of the same month (April, 1872), a contract was made with Messrs. Runels & Davis, of Lowell, Mass., to erect the superstructure out of Concord granite. In this connection, it is proper to refer to a matter that has subjected the Soldiers' Monument Committee to considerable unjust, though well intended criticism. But one sentiment pervaded the committee—an unity prevailed—every member strenuously advocated the using for the foundation and superstructure, granite from our own Rollstone, which to-day looks down upon us, seeming to say, "I have stood here for untold ages—have witnessed the birth and observed the eventful course of many of the brave ones in whose memory the structure you now dedicate, was erected; in youth, they gambled and played in my bosom—in the meridian of their manhood, they looked up to me approvingly, and with an occasional visit to my summit, seemed to thank me for the opportunity I had afforded them for the enjoyment of so much of the beauties of nature. How willingly, cheerfully, gladly, would I have contributed the atom necessary for this structure. But, interlocked within my bosom, are imperfections placed there by Nature's God, why so, I know not, but feel reconciled to say, "whatever is, is right." Most cheerfully do I recognize that none but the clearest granite, the purest marble,

and most elaborate bronze is fit to enter this structure, reared to the memories of my fondly loved lost ones."

In the present stage of development of the quarries of Rollstone, iron pyrites frequently presents itself, which is an insuperable objection to its use in structures of this character; and the committee were unable to find any parties among our own artisans who were willing to assume the responsibility of constructing the superstructure of Rollstone granite, free from iron stains.

They had proposals for furnishing the granite at the committee's risk as to iron; also for the cutting of the same; also one proposition for the entire work by a citizen of Fitchburg, out of what is known as Fitzwilliam stone; but by no proposition which could be obtained from any of our citizens engaged in this branch of our industries, could we build this granite superstructure above the foundation for the reception of the bronze statues for less than \$17,000.

The various proposals and letters pertaining thereto will be found in an envelope herewith submitted. As will be seen by the exhibit of cost of construction, as well as by the contract with Messrs. Runels & Davis of Lowell, the work has been done for \$9,000; and the committee feel that they should be entirely exonerated from any charge of want of regard for our own Rollstone granite, or for the interests of home artisans.

On the 28th of January, 1873, it was ordered by the city council, that the committee on the subject of a Soldiers' Monument heretofore acting in behalf of the town, be continued as a committee of the city council until the business for which they were appointed be fully completed.

The contract of Messrs. S. A. Wheeler & Son was completed most satisfactorily, in the the last part of May, 1873, and Messrs. Runels & Davis with equal fidelity executed the conditions of their contract. Messrs. David Damon & Co. of Fitchburg, executed the work of the granite base for the fence and the steps at the openings, with great credit to themselves and to the satisfaction of the committee. The iron fence surrounding the enclosure was erected

by J. L. Roberts of Boston and needs no encomiums as to its general appearance or its substantiality.

Although the contract for the bronze statues was made with Mr. Milmore, it is but justice to say that they were made by the Ames Manufacturing Company, under the immediate supervision of Mr. M. H. Mossman whose long experience in this class of work has given him an enviable reputation throughout America.

The tablets are from the well-known firm of Samuel Hooper & Co., whose favorable reputation for this class of work has long been established. These tablets are four in number. The inscription on one, not only being a tribute from a grateful public to the memory of those who fell on the battle field, but equally recognizes the sacrificing service of thousands now in our midst, who went forth as gallantly, who fought as bravely for the "just cause," as did the fallen ones. The other three are inscribed with names of 135 of the citizens of Fitchburg, who perished in the War of the Rebellion; and this vast concourse of citizens assembled here to-day, to witness and partake in the exercises of this occasion, testifies how truly they appreciate sacrifices "even unto death," made in behalf of human liberty, and the maintenance of that emblem which protects the rights and liberties of our citizens everywhere in the world, on the land and on the sea, so many of which are waving over us here, to-day.

June 2, 1873, the committee held a meeting and deposited within the die of the monument, a box, the contents of which were formally consigned to posterity.

This box contained the history of Fitchburg to 1836, by Rufus C. Torrey; Fitchburg in the War of the Rebellion, by Henry A. Willis, Esq.; Fitchburg City Directory, by Levi G. Corbin; Copies of the deeds of the Monument Lot to the Town, from William W. Comee and Isaac Hartwell; The action of the Town and Soldiers' Monument Committee relative to a Soldiers' Monument; Past and present organization of Post No. 19, Grand Army of the Republic—Copy of By-laws and a list of all its members, also badges of the Order; Organization of the Fitch-

burg Fusiliers in 1816, and the present organization, together with the organization at the commencement of the Rebellion; First and present organization of the Washington Guards, also organization at the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion.

Organization of Co. B, 15th Mass. Vols.; Co. D, 21st Mass. Vols.; Co. F, 25th Mass. Vols.; Co. A, 36th Mass. Vols.; Co. A, 53d Mass. Vols.; Co. B, 53d Mass. Vols.; Co. F, 57th Mass. Vols.; Co. H, 4th Heavy Artillery.

Copy of contract with S. A. Wheeler & Son for the granite foundation; Copy of contract with Runels & Davis of Lowell for granite superstructure; Contract with Martin Milmore of Boston for Bronze Statues and Tablets.

Copies of the reports of the Selectmen, Fire and Police departments, Overseers of the Poor, Board of Auditors, Water Commissioners and School Committee for the last ten months of the Town Government; Copy of the City Charter and rules and orders of the City Government; Names of members of the present City Government and organization of the same; Copy of the inaugural address of Mayor Amasa Norcross; Organizations of the Fitchburg Public Library, and all the Churches, Masonic, Odd Fellows, Temperance and Benevolent societies in the city.

Copies of the Daily and Weekly Sentinel, May 31, 1873; Copy of the Fitchburg Reveille, (Weekly) of May 29, 1873; Copies of the Boston Globe of May 31, and the New York Herald of June 1, 1873.

Names of the Soldiers' Monument Committee and their organization; Report of the Worcester North Agricultural Society for 1872; A small cannon ball fired at the Battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777; Specimens of fractional currency and coin now in circulation—Postal card—Government envelope, etc.

Portions of the flags of the 15th and 53d Regiments of Mass. Volunteers; a belt plate exhumed by the Union troops while throwing up earth works at Yorktown, Va., in 1862, presumed to be a relic of the War of the Revolution.

Two hundred and twenty-three business cards of various individ-

uals, firms and companies of the city, and the following paper from the committee:

After the close of the War of the Rebellion, which took place virtually, in April, 1865, having continued for more than four years, the people of Fitchburg began agitating the question of the erection of some suitable Monument, Memorial Hall, or other structure, dedicated to the memory of those who had gone out from among them, and sacrificed their lives, that their survivors and posterity might enjoy the blessings of Republican Liberty.

April 9th, 1866, a committee, constituted as follows: Alvah Crocker, George E. Towne, Eugene T. Miles, Lewis H. Bradford, Alpheus P. Kimball, Stephen Shepley, and Henry A. Willis, was appointed by the town, to consider and report to the town, at some subsequent meeting. This committee was organized, by the choice of Hon. Alvah Crocker, as chairman, and Lewis H. Bradford, as secretary.

This committee reported April 8, 1867, and asked for further time for consideration.

The town voted to grant further time, and instructed the committee to investigate more particularly in reference to a Memorial Hall.

The town, at a meeting, held April 8, 1867, increased the committee, by the addition of the following named gentlemen: Col. John W. Kimball, Capt. Theodore S. Foster, and Walter A. Eames. April 13, 1868, Stephen Shepley reported at length, adversely to a Memorial Hall.

During all this time, the *location* of whatever structure might be built, necessarily had to be considered, but the town voted, April 28, 1868, to purchase the property of William W. Comee and Isaac Hartwell, lying contiguous—bounded by Main, Hartwell, Elm, and Church streets, for the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars, (\$40,000,) and instructed the committee to build a Monument, first submitting plans to the town for approval.

This property was purchased, as the copies of the deeds

herewith show, and the price paid, was Forty Thousand Dollars, (\$40,000).

The committee were not unmindful of the duties imposed, or the trust confided to them, and submitted to the town, in meeting assembled October 2, 1871, a plan in elevation and design, executed by Martin Milmore, of Boston, Mass. It is worthy of remark here, that the Milmore design, presented by the committee, was accepted by a unanimous vote, and with the same unanimity, the committee were instructed to build and construct the Soldiers' Monument, in accordance with the designs and plans which had been submitted, at an expense not exceeding Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars, (\$25,000).

A sub-committee of the Soldiers' Monument Committee was at once made, viz: Henry A. Willis, Alpheus P. Kimball, John W. Kimball, and Eugene T. Miles, for the purpose of executing the decrees of the town.

At a meeting of the town, May 2, 1871, the Building Committee were authorized to curb, fence and grade the lot, all of which has been done, except partial grading, which will be done, upon completion of the monument.

On the 15th day of November, 1871, a contract was made with Messrs. Samuel A. Wheeler & Son, for building the foundation.

On the 1st day of April, 1872, a contract was entered into, by the committee with Martin Milmore, of Boston, who had furnished the designs accepted by the town, October 2, 1871, for the execution of the bronze work, consisting of the statuary and the tablets.

On the 8th day of April, 1872, Messrs. Runels and Davis of Lowell, Mass., entered into contract with the committee, for the building of the granite superstructure, using therefor, what is now designated "Concord Granite." At this time of writing, the foundation is completed, the granite superstructure approaching completion—nearly ready for the reception of the tablets and statues.

The citizens of Fitchburg, having accepted a City Charter; (approved by the Governor William B. Washburn, March 8th,

1872,) April 8th, 1872, held their first election, for City Officers, on the first Tuesday of December, 1872.

The City Council, by vote passed January 28th, 1873, continued the Soldiers' Monument Committee, and authorized them to proceed to the completion of the Monument and its surroundings.

The committee have therefore acted under the authority and sanction of the City Government, up to the present time.

In the lapse of time, hundreds of years hence perhaps—the statues may fall, the granite crumble and these papers come to light—long, long after the human hands which constructed this work, and penned these papers, shall have mouldered into dust—their names forgotten, sunk into oblivion—posterity will seek for relics. And when that time comes, it is the hope of the Soldiers' Monument Committee, that the names of our fallen brothers, may be preserved and handed down to further generations—that the memories of those brave men, who placed their lives as a sacrifice, upon the altar of our Country, may be cherished in the bosom of every true lover of the principles for which they so freely gave up their lives—be as green and fresh as the face of Nature *is*, on this beautiful morning of June 2nd, 1873, when these papers are consigned to posterity by the Soldiers' Monument Committee.

This paper was signed by nearly all the members of the committee, one or two being absent from the city, their names were not available.

At this time your committee looked forward hopefully for an early dedication of this structure; but, unfortunately, an accident occurred in making the cast of the central or prominent figure, "America," thereby occasioning a necessary delay of four months.

This delay would carry the dedication far into winter and it was decided to postpone the dedication until June, 1874. The 17th day was selected, it being the 99th anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill, when the first substantial blow was struck for American Liberty, but circumstances intervened which rendered a

further postponement imperative and this day, June 24, 1874, a day ever hereafter to be looked back upon, as the most glorious day in Fitchburg's history—made so by the services to-day, enacted upon this sacred spot, was decided upon.

Mr. Mayor, and Gentlemen of the City Council :

Your committee's plans are to proceed to the complete grading of these grounds, the construction of necessary walks, and the laying out and ornamenting this beautiful park with flowers and shrubbery under the direction of an experienced landscape gardener, as rapidly as possible and they will recommend the erection of suitable drinking fountains so soon as proper drainage or sewerage is secured, making the erection of such fountains practicable.

In this connection it should be mentioned that through the efforts and influence of our fellow citizen, Hon. Alvah Crocker, chairman of this committee and member of our National Congress, four pieces of brass ordnance with sixteen projectiles were secured to us from the National Government, and the order for the same, upon the New York agency from the chief of ordnance at Washington is now in the hands of the committee, who will seasonably cause these emblems of war to be located in appropriate positions.

The expenditures which have been made upon this work, you are entitled to have, but only an approximation can be made at this time. Substantially they are as follows:

Cost of lot, \$40,000; granite base for fence, \$3,600; iron fence, \$3,000; foundation for monument, \$2,000; granite superstructure, \$9,000; bronze statues and tablets, \$15,400; which with the grading and miscellaneous expenditures will make the total cost at least \$75,000.

Something has been received for the rents and from the sale of buildings standing upon the lot when purchased, reducing thereby the actual cost to something less than the amount named above.

That your committee have not neglected or underrated the sacredness of the trust confided to them, is shown by the records of their secretary. More than eighty formal meetings have been held, with many informal ones, and the uniform and punctual attendance of the same, the almost entire unanimity which has prevailed upon all points coming before them, test their fidelity to the duties entrusted to them.

Some further appropriations from the city government may be necessary to carry out the plans of the committee for the completion of the surroundings of the beautiful structure we meet to-day to dedicate; and a small annual appropriation will be necessary for the care of the same.

God forbid, that it shall ever be witnessed by the present or any succeeding generation, that sufficient appropriation for the preservation of these structures and the care of the prospective surroundings, be withheld.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen of the City Council:

Trusting implicitly in your patriotism, in your sympathy with the bereaved ones, who to-day mourn the loss of dear ones, who fell in the bloody conflict to sustain our liberties, in your true love of country, in your integrity as municipal officers,— nothing now remains but to commit to your care and keeping, and through you to the people of our young city, this beautiful structure,— the Soldiers' Monument, together with so much of its surroundings as are completed.

In the interests of those for whom they were erected, care for them kindly, with fidelity and tenderly:

“For these are deeds which should not pass away,
And names that must not wither.”

The Monument was here unveiled, salutes fired, and the various bands enlivened the occasion with patriotic music.

Hon. Amasa Norcross, Mayor, in accepting the Monument from the committee, in behalf of the city, eloquently said :

Mr. Chairman :

In behalf of the city I extend to you its congratulations upon the happy result of the labors of your committee. The memorial now passing from your supervision to the custody of the city realizes happily the expectations of the public, and has merit in design and execution rarely excelled.

I accept it in behalf of the people of this city, with an undoubting trust that so long as the principles of a free government shall be preferred to the demands of despotic power; so long as liberty shall attract and slavery repel; so long as loyalty shall be loved and honored and treason be hated and despised; it, and the names of the heroic dead it bears, shall be held in affectionate veneration.

It is not alone the tribute of a common gratitude that we pay to the martyrs in a sacred cause, but honor to the living heroes who have survived the perils of war, who pledged their lives and their all to the cause of their country and who stand here, to-day, to witness with us the honors paid to the memory of their fallen comrades.

It is also but fitting that we transmit by enduring memorial to those who shall follow us some intimation of our estimate of the services of our contemporaries, the honored survivors and the heroic dead, who upheld the cause of country, of liberty and of mankind.

Gentlemen of the Committee :

The ceremonies of this occasion have reference to our local relations to the great struggle, to the War with the Rebellion. The Monument I now accept in behalf of the city, commemorates our dead; it is the expression of our people. Fitchburg receives this memorial at your hands, and by the force of a thousand tender memories, by the grand traditions of the past, by every consideration

of patriotism, it shall be held sacred, and sacredly guarded, so long as the love of country shall survive and the Republic endure.

Herbert Ingalls, Esq., kindly contributed a poem, which was read by Mr. E. A. Hubbard, superintendent of schools.

Souls of dead soldiers, pardon us, we pray,
And, living soldiers, pardon, if we lay
A leaf of grateful verse upon your shrine to-day !

His spirit should be soldierly and high,
Who utters here the tribute of a sigh
To those who fought so well, and dared so well to die.

His hands the toilsome earth-work should have built ;
He should have stood where loyal blood was spilt,
To grasp the rifle-stock, or hold the sword's firm hilt.

He should have watched to note the signal-light,
And sat beside the camp-fire blazing bright,
Or heard the alarum pierce the silence of the night.

He should have known the thankless, dull campaign,
The heat, the frost, the sullen winter rain,
And on the hospital's low, feverous couch have lain.

And they whose steps were never led by drum,
With reverence and humility should come
To speak of those whose lips are eloquently dumb !

As one who, in a woodland walk, has found
A feather of a bird upon the ground,
And, listening, hopes to hear the lofty song resound.

Thus, thoughtful, silent, would we come to-day,
And choosing still to listen, if we may
Hear voices from the lives of patriots, passed away.

The Nation recounts the defenders,
Who carried her musket and blade ;
To heroes her homage she renders,
To them is this monument made ;
But in vain were the sculptor's creation,
The tablet, the stone, were in vain,
If we hold not, in fresh consecration,
The faith which they fought to maintain.

When the call to the onset was sounding,
And battle-flags stretched to the breeze,
When hearts were impulsively bounding,
Who answered, more quickly than these?
They stayed not to question or palter;
The high path of duty they trod,
And offered their lives at the altar
Of liberty, union, and God.

For Freedom, though tortured, yet trusting,
Confiding, imploring, had knelt,
While she saw her disciples adjusting
The knapsack, and weapon, and belt.
She looked to the south—there was drifting
The cloud of sedition and woe;
She looked to the north—and, uplifting
Her face, bade her champions go.

Thank God for our heroes; a nation
Forgetful of them shall expire
When the night of her own desolation
Is lurid with anarchy's fire.
Thank God for our heroes! their labors
On battle-field, rampart and sea,
By the soul in their guns and their sabres,
Preserved us one people and free.

But long was the struggle! how dreary?
And slow moved the pitiless years,
When hearts were o'erburdened and weary,
And hearth-stones were darkened with tears!
When the angel of strife spread the pallor
Of death on the land and the wave,
When brave men fell down and their valor
Was lost in the gloom of the grave!

Yet Freedom returns, the immortal!
Secure and triumphant she comes!
She stands at the Future's bright portal!
The sound of the trumpets and drums
Is hushed, and her hands are extending
The chaplets her martyrs shall wear!
The world, until time has its ending,
Shall never weave garlands more fair!

May this monument stand for a token
Of peace that was won by the sword,
Of millions of manacles broken,
Of Union redeemed and restored!
Though the form of the soldier may perish
And low in the dust may go down,
The people his record shall cherish
And lift him to fadeless renown.

Major General Nathaniel P. Banks was introduced by the president and spoke as follows:

Mr. President, Veteran Soldiers, Comrades of the Grand Army and Fellow Citizens:

It would be an inexorable if not impossible event, that a drama so vast, so immense in proportions, be ended without an appropriate recognition of the gallant men who fought its battles, and in the end sacrificed their lives.

It was an event full of grand incidents where thousands of scarred veterans marched to the National Capitol and were received by the chief executive of this great nation; it was also a noticeable incident, when the national congress declared its appreciation of the importance of the services of the men who fought the country's battles, and took into consideration the methods best calculated to retain the results of the struggle in which they engaged. States and cities have, from time to time, made formal efforts to perpetuate their memories and names; but, great, potential, vast as have been all these efforts, it is altogether impossible for them to fully and completely make that recognition that those who have gone to their graves have a right to demand.

This can only be performed at the homes, the hearth-stones, and the graves of the soldiers, and, Mr. President and fellow citizens, it is to your high honor that you have thought this day to discharge, in the most solemn and artistic manner possible, your duty in this respect; that this statue, in the presence of the shouts of the people, the strains of music, and the pealing of the artillery, a statue unequalled, so far as I have seen, in any similar city or town in this country,—should be your tribute, showing your appreciation of the services of those who are dead, and of the living whom you desire to honor.

To no heart does this demonstration appeal more earnestly and feelingly than to my own, for the dead you mourn, and the living you honor, have been my comrades in battle, my associates in camp and field, and I know personally of their high merit, so worthy of your honor.

At the beginning of the war, there was an important affair at Ball's Bluff, and I was there with your own 15th regiment.

In the campaign of 1862, I met others of your soldiers in the field and camps of Virginia, and still dearer in the acknowledgment of my respect and love are your sons and brothers whom I was with in the sanguinary and glorious fields with the Army of the Southwest. It was from Fitchburg that the 53d regiment started off, and its men were without superiors, they were without blemish, and without fault. Among those I passed one of the most eventful years of my life, and I am proud to assure you that none were better, braver, or more worthy of honor. The campaign of 1863, through which your 53d regiment passed, was one of the most eventful of the war. It is yet too early to write the history of the war. Its events are not yet fully known, but when its history is fully made up, it will be found that the campaign of Vicksburg and the other memorable locations in 1863 contributed as much, if not more than any other to the final victory of our national arms.

When the soldiers from this county, with others, went to the mouth of the Mississippi, all was dark and gloomy, and there was everywhere a foreboding of disastrous results; but on that bright spring morning, so much like this, the soldiers of Fitchburg and of Worcester County were promised that their object should be attained; that they should pass up the great river and open it by the autumn. In a very few months, I might say in a few weeks, that result was accomplished. Those months were stormy, sanguinary and terrible to be recorded in the life of any man.

It is not for me to refer to them, but I can with propriety refer to the results of that campaign. The rebel forces on the eastern bank of the river at and about New Orleans, received their support from the other bank. Those fertile states were their granary, and from them came reinforcements, and it was by the co-operation of those states with the Confederate government that they were enabled to maintain their power so long and so triumphantly as they did.

The first object of our government was to effect a separation of these forces. This was the part assigned to us; and when your 53d regiment and others passed from New Orleans to the free states of the West and to their homes, they had by the very act of opening that river, opened the door of peace which was soon to follow. There were to be sure other battles to follow,—Gettysburg, Richmond, The Wilderness, the achievements of Meade and Grant, the March of Sherman to the Sea,—all these were necessary to complete the record, but

the separation of the two sections of the country by the opening of the Mississippi to our arms, was the initial victory which made subsequent victories possible and valuable. In this arduous work, these men passed through a career of great honor to themselves, and of almost incalculable honor to their country, and it is fitting that this statue of honor should be erected to perpetuate their sacrifices and their victories.

Fellow Citizens, the sacrifices of that war are compensated; we have vindicated the integrity and the honor of the Republic. Before that time, in all other civilized countries, we were looked upon with suspicion and contempt, because, claiming to be free, we still recognized and sheltered human slavery. But the difficulties under which our fathers acted in organizing our forms of government, made it almost impossible for them to find a way to wipe out the stain upon the integrity of the Republic. The people of the North were industrious and prosperous in arts and peace, and they had no desire to make this bloody record. When the controversy arose all the great men, the statesmen of the North, sought to avert the struggle, if it could be averted with honor to the country. This state of feeling was so marked and well established that it came to be assumed that the North would never take up the issue; until, through the carrying out of the Divine purposes, the South was led to aggression after aggression, not only for the maintenance of their institution, but for its extension, perpetuation and national recognition, and it was not till after long endurance, when, not of their own will nor to their own satisfaction, the North took up the contest; not till the South had gone so far with its aggressions that the people could submit no longer.

We sometimes thought that these concessions were wrong in principle and in policy, but we cannot think so in the light of the present. It was not till after long suffering that the whole people of the North were ready to resist. Had it not been for the long, timid patience, we could never had a union of sentiment at the North which would have made the present result possible. So, "As not a sparrow falls to the ground without the Father's notice," and as every trivial event has its important place in God's designs, so each concession of the North to the South must be accredited to our strength and justified in our victory. We did all we could for peace, and in war we did all that was necessary to secure the object we had in view.

Fellow Citizens, there is something yet due to the noble men who achieved this victory, something that is not yet done, that cannot be done by the rearing of monuments, however generous. We owe it to the history of our country, and to the life and perpetuation of civil liberty in the world, now and for all time, that we should make and perfect a careful and just analysis of the American volunteer soldier, in his origin, education, campaign and surroundings. This work is not yet done. I know not who is to do it. I had marked out for myself, on this occasion, to sketch some of the elements which enter into the American volunteer soldier, but the difficulty of speaking under these circumstances, and of hearing as well, forbid that I should venture on so vast and grand a theme, but I hope that you will do it for yourselves; I hope that men of the sacred profession, men given to philosophy, history, and poetry, may do it, and that we may have this chapter of that glorious soldier record perpetuated.

I venture, however, to say this much on this subject. The American soldier is a part of our life. It was not his profession, his ambition, his aspiration for power, his hatred of men, nor his desire to acquire that which belonged to others; that led him to enter into the strife, but it was simply his duty, just the same duty which required and enabled him to perform his work in the shop or on the farm. No one of these duties constitutes the life of an American citizen, but they are the same as those which require him to study public affairs, to exercise his choice in the selection of public officers, and, too, from time to time, as he is called, to try his hand at governing his peers as he may be called upon. In entering the war and doing all that completed its record, he was performing a duty, simple, intact, perfect, complete, whole, just as he did in giving his ballot in his own village; in no other part of the globe, among no other people or nation can such an idea of duty be found as the American soldier was called upon to put into practice, nor was such duty ever before performed on so grand a theater, and when its philosophy is found and its history is known, all doubt of the perfection of our popular liberty will vanish, and there will be no further question as its perpetuity.

It is our popular liberty which makes the performance of this duty imperative. Where it is done, the profession of the soldier, and a standing army will be needless. It belongs to the philosophy of our government that no standing army should exist, that

no men who get their living by war should be required, but every man should feel that military duty is a sacrifice which he must accept; our schools should give a military training to our youth; they should study military history and the practice of arms when they are within the reach of instructions just the same as they study geography, or philosophy, or arithmetic. No greater mistake ever mislead a body of young men than to resist military study as that body of young students recently did in a neighboring state. Young men should learn to defend themselves and their country, and the only way is to learn how to do it in times of peace.

Mr. President, there are still other' and higher duties for us to perform. Mr. Burke once said that "a Republican government is a magazine of all other forms of government," so we should consider what other advantage the American Republic had in this struggle for its life; that to which we turn as the very key to our success. It was in our system of municipal governments into which our people were originally divided, and which we see in its perfection to-day. The system of town governments, sometimes creeping up by prosperity into the organization of cities; these held the entire force and power of the American people in their hands.

So firm was the idea that there was to be no war, that men would not allow its possibility to be hinted. When early in 1861, I parted from friends in Boston, to go West, they said they believed that trouble was coming but they did not like to hear the mention of it. When the war came there never was a people so utterly and entirely unprepared for it as were the people of the Free States. Just before it came I read in a public print, "Who talks of war? Who will protect the South from its slaves?" but, you know that the war came, you know who took care of the slaves,—you know that for a time it was the slaves who took care of the people. So strong was the idea that there was to be no outbreak that even that illustrious son of our own state who has recently passed to his long account, spoke of "the respectable men who were willing to appear like soldiers," as though a non-professional soldier was impossible. The southern leaders had made their arrangements. When the first shot was fired at Sumter, our navies were all in distant seas, beyond the reach of the executive in the emergency. What hope was there? What possibility of honor or success in such a struggle? In the streets of the city of Boston, I was stopped by men who said the idea of coercion was impossible, for the Constitution forbade it.

This was the idea of many patriotic men, who afterwards learned their duty on the field of battle, constitution or no constitution. [Applause.]

But there was a power which on the first reverberation of the guns at Sumter, sprang to the rescue and was on the way. The volunteer soldiers of Massachusetts were ready. It seemed as though they had slept with arms in their hands, and uniforms at the foot of their beds; for they were ready when they rose. These men who ignored military service were the only men who were ready. In 1859, there were only 7,000 of them gathered at Concord, and what could these do? What other power had we? What small portion could we give of the 75,000 men that President Lincoln called for? What else had we to call on? The engine of war, just as it is an engine of peace, which was necessary to fill our army, was found in the municipal organizations of the country. The cities and towns were ready to do their work. Had it not been for the town organizations in the North, in the free states, it would have been impossible for us to have carried on the struggle for five long years. They were like so many committees, doing all that was to be done, calling for reinforcements, and through these organizations the North was always ready to reinforce with money or men, to the end.

Shall we not then maintain in peace these two organizations, the citizen soldiery and the town governments? These are, in my opinion, the two safe-guards of our country. Let no man speak of a citizen soldiery as unnecessary in a free country. If it has errors, if it breeds dissipation, if it becomes corrupt, if it leads to violence purge it, but preserve it. And also preserve, as the core of life, as the apple of the eye, the organizations. Speak no word to weaken or discredit them, for through these two agencies liberty will be preserved.

If time served, I would like to call to mind a few other things we should remember. As we stand under the shadow of this monument, we assume grave responsibilities to others. The men whose names it bears, died by command of the people, and in dying, they gave in turn their command to the people,—to preserve that for which they died. One thing we should remember, is, to be sincere in all our acts. We can perform no unjust act but it will return in evil upon ourselves, and we must preserve our integrity in the government, for corruption will sap its foundations. Ineffably base be that people, that, after three generations have vindicated its right

to liberty, will through neglect, violence or corruption, allow it to waste or be destroyed!

Fellow-citizens, there is no fear of the result of the contest. No matter what crimes may be perpetrated, or to what extent virtue seems to be sapped. Now and forever the great heart of this people is as pure and as virtuous as ever. Under the shelter of the war, unprincipled men have entered places of trust, to corrupt ends, and their practices were disgraceful, but these are properly worms, vices that last only as long as the traces of war; they do not adhere, and will not continue. After they are gone, virtue will remain. As proof of this, you need only to look at your soldiers. One in ten of your whole population, enrolled himself in the service, giving his strength, and one in ten of these gave his life.

This is what your volunteer soldiers have done, and not since Adam left the garden of Eden, has there been a more incorruptible body of men than these soldiers. I do not deny that some bad men went out, but taking the million of volunteers who fought your battles, they were an absolutely incorruptible body of men. Fellow soldiers, you know this is true! How have they benefitted themselves? They represent the whole body of the people, and were a good representation of the character, integrity, and purposes of the whole people, and here one in ten goes through five years of trouble, war and all without personal advantage, except in the preservation of the life of the country. These who represented the mass of the people have been incorruptible, and masses whom they represent are as pure.

Thus we may dismiss all fears, which like clouds sometimes gather and hover over us, but are dispelled by the sun. So will the corrupt elements of injustice and wrong disappear from the ranks of the people, and we shall stand as pure and as perfect as any of the generations that have gone before us.

We do well to forecast the future, to respect and love our government, the only Republic which respects the people in its government, which is destined with its principles in the near future, to cover every acre of territory and shelter every man in Europe. The day is not far distant when our form of government will be for them. All depends upon our success; we can say we have done our duty. Those who come after us we should not distrust or doubt; they will welcome and remember the friends of the Republic and its defenders; they will be remembered and cherished in all times, and in all parts of the world.

At the close of the oration, General Kimball stepped to the front of the platform and called for three army cheers for General Banks, which were heartily given. General Banks stepped forward, bowed and said:

Comrades, from my heart I thank you for your kind remembrance.

RESPONSES TO INVITATIONS.

The following responses were received from prominent persons to whom invitations had been extended:

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 14, 1874.

L. H. Bradford, Esq.,—My Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your invitation, asking me to be present at the dedication of the soldiers' monument, in the city of Fitchburg, on June 24th.

While it would give me great pleasure to be with you on that day, and unite in testifying my sincere appreciation of the services of the noble men, to whose memory the monument is to be dedicated, I regret that my duties here will not permit me to do so.

Returning you my grateful thanks for your kind invitation, I am very truly yours,

HENRY L. PIERCE.

BOSTON, June 18, 1874.

My Dear Mr. Bradford: Hearty thanks to the gentlemen of the committee of which you are the secretary, for the kind invitation to be present at the dedication of the soldiers' monument.

Such a remembrance, after twelve years' absence, is very pleasant, and though I cannot well be with you on the great occasion, I can and do appreciate your favor.

The dedication will be of great interest, not to your own city alone, but to the surrounding towns. How vividly it will recall the great conflict, which seems as we look back upon it, more like a terrible dream than like reality. All honor to the brave and noble men who suffered and died for the freedom and peace we now enjoy.

Your own personal kindness, my dear sir, in helping home the sick ones is not forgotten. Such memories not only live, but keep their fragrance.

You will doubtless have an imposing procession and an impressive service. While it commemorates loyalty and heroism in time of war, may it stimulate to new efforts in behalf of universal peace.

Yours truly,

W. P. TILDEN.

WASHINGTON, June 12, 1874.

My Dear Sir: Public duties compel me to decline your invitation to be present at the dedication of the monument erected by the city of Fitchburg, to the memory of its citizens who fell in the war for the preservation of the Union and the recognition of the equal rights of men.

We cannot pay sufficient honor to the memory of those who fell, nor show sufficient gratitude to those who live.

We are too near the events to appreciate their magnitude. Time will reveal in their true proportions the character of the contest and the value of the service rendered to the country and to mankind, by the men who participated in it.

I am, very truly, your most obedient servant,

GEORGE S. BOUTWELL.

To Lewis H. Bradford, Esq., Fitchburg, Mass.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 12, 1874.

Lewis H. Bradford, Esq., Fitchburg, Mass.—Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your courteous invitation for the 24th inst. I regret that it will not be in my power to join you in the services of that day. I shall not be able to leave here till the 24th or later.

I think we cannot do too much in memory of our fallen—or their suffering survivors. Very respectfully and truly yours, &c., &c.,

JOHN M. S. WILLIAMS.

WASHINGTON, June 15, 1874.

Dear Sir: I have received your kind invitation to be present at the dedication of the soldiers' monument, in Fitchburg, and regret extremely that my engagements will not allow me to be present on so interesting an occasion.

Very respectfully,

E. R. HOAR.

WORCESTER, June 13, 1874.

Dear Sir: I sincerely regret that a previous engagement at Cambridge, on the 24th inst., will deprive me of the pleasure of joining with you in the dedication of the monument on that day. Your obedient servant,

CHARLES DEVENS, JR.

L. H. Bradford, Esq., Sec'y.

AUBURN, June 17, 1874.

L. H. Bradford, Esq., Sec'y, &c.—My Dear Sir: I thank your committee on invitation for their courtesy in requesting me to be present on the 24th inst., at the dedication of the soldiers' monument. It would give me great pleasure to accept your invitation, but circumstances will compel me to decline it. May the blessing of Him who carried us so triumphantly through the terrible war, be upon you—and may the memory of the brave men who fell in it, be kept green in the hearts of a loyal people till the monument of granite shall have crumbled into dust.

With my cordial regards to the gentlemen—and to you as secretary of the committee—

I am yours truly,

E. DAVIS.

L. H. Bradford, Esq., Sec'y.—Dear Sir : The members of the St. Jean Baptiste Society having taken into consideration at their last meeting, the invitation extended to them, by the committee of the dedication of the soldiers' monument, are very sorry not to be able to concur in the celebration of that memorial day. For they have accepted long before, an invitation from a sister society in Montreal, to unite with all the French societies in the United States, in celebrating on the same day, in their mother country, their national holiday. Therefore, they beg to be excused, and hope that the day will be one of pleasure for everybody, one of success for the committee, and one of triumph and honor for the city of Fitchburg, which the citizens will never forget.

Respectfully yours,

J. E. GENDRON, Cor. Sec'y.

LANCASTER, June 19, 1874.

Gentlemen : Please accept many thanks for the invitation to the Dedication of the soldiers' monument at Fitchburg. It is very pleasant "not" to be "forgotten" at such a time. None can cherish tenderer memories or more grateful regard for the fallen than I do. And it would give me great pleasure "to be with you" then as I was "through the war."

But a special re-union of my college class on the 24th—many of whom I have not met for more than 35 years—will make it impossible. I shall be with you in spirit. Yours very sincerely,

ALFRED EMERSON.

FITCHBURG, June 22, 1874.

To L. H. Bradford—Kind Sir: We, the St. Bernard Total Abstinence Society, do hereby thank you for your kindness in extending to us an invitation to take part in the dedication of the soldiers' monument, in this city, on the 24th inst. Gladly would we assist in the celebration, were it in our power to do so, but we must decline your proffered honor under the plea of being a new organization and not being able to procure regalia, etc., suitable for the occasion. Hoping that you will accept this short apology, I remain, sir,

Yours most respectfully,

I. F. COLEMAN, Rec. Sec'y.

BOSTON, June 19, 1874.

Sir : His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, directs me to express his regret that duties in this vicinity on the 24th instant, will prevent him from attending at the dedication of the soldiers' monument at Fitchburg.

Very respectfully yours,

SIDNEY ANDREWS, Priv. Sec'y.

Mr. L. H. Bradford, Sec'y of Committee.

WORCESTER, June 22, 1874.

L. H. Bradford, Esq.,—Dear Sir : I regret extremely that business engagements render it impossible for me to accept the courteous invitation which I have had the honor to receive, to be present at the dedication of the soldiers' monument, in the city of Fitchburg.

Very respectfully,

EDWARD L. DAVIS.

SENATE CHAMBER, Boston, June 22, '74.

My Dear Sir :—I regret exceedingly that an engagement to speak at Dartmouth college, on the 24th inst., will prevent my accepting your polite invitation to attend the dedication of the soldiers' monument at Fitchburg. I trust your exercises will be highly successful and satisfactory.

Yours truly, GEORGE B. LORING.

For reasons, not necessary to state here, some considerable time elapsed before the grading of Monument Square commenced, but your committee are pleased to say that the grading of the lot has been done, a beautiful walk, with paved gutters completed, the steps at the Elm street entrance permanently placed, water and drain pipes introduced, and the lot seeded with lawn grasses.

With trifling expense and care for a year or two, it will become a beautiful and attractive lawn. Then cultivated taste may cut and plant flower-beds here and there, and adorn with shrubs and roses, erect drinking-fountains, and otherwise ornament and beautify this hallowed spot.

The four pieces (twelve pound) ordnance have not yet been placed, the Committee have not been able to come to a satisfactory conclusion as to how and where they should be placed. The size of the guns, precludes their being placed on or near the base of the Monument. It is believed by your committee, that it would be highly appropriate to have the pieces mounted regulation style, and placed in the four corners of the square, diagonally to and equi-distant from the outside lines, from fifteen to twenty feet.

The net cost of the monument and ground is, without an interest account, as follows:

Expended by the Soldiers' Monument Committee through	
Mr. L. H. Bradford, treasurer,	\$8,162 46
Expended by the Town prior to 1873,	45,700 79
Expended by the City since 1873,	22,772 36
	<hr/>
	\$76,635 61
Less for rents received, buildings, etc., sold,	9,936 38
	<hr/>
	\$66,699 23

For the details of the receipts and expenditures of the committee, reference may be had to the report of Mr. L. H. Bradford, the treasurer.

To the books of the town for expenditures to 1873, and to the City Treasurer's report for subsequent expenditures.

There are no outstanding bills known to the committee, except that of Mr. H. M. Francis. This bill has been before the committee, for a long time, and is now in the hands of a sub-committee, fully authorized to settle the same, if in their judgment it is a just claim.

Certain portions of Mr. Francis' bill are undisputed by the committee, and whatever is paid upon it, must be added to the sum above given as the cost of the monument.

As the duties of the committee draw to a close, they cannot forbear to express the hope, that the spirit of patriotism, which animated and inspired us of the present time, to rear this structure and dedicate this spot to the memories of the fallen, as well as to commemorate the valiant services of the living soldiers, may animate the bosom of posterity, as they contemplate and enjoy the blessings secured to them by the sacrifices of the present generation; and especially will they from their intimate connection with this work, from its inception to its completion, ever cherish a lively interest in all that pertains to its preservation and perpetuity.

ALVAH CROCKER,	}	<i>Soldiers' Monument Committee.</i>
EUGENE T. MILES,		
L. H. BRADFORD,		
ALPHEUS P. KIMBALL,		
STEPHEN SHEPLEY,		
HENRY A. WILLIS,		
JOHN W. KIMBALL,		
WALTER A. EAMES.		