

At some distance above this band of shields, and fronting the four door ways, are four Eagles, sculptured in basso relievo, encircled with wreaths which are grasped in their talons; from these wreaths festooned draperies are suspended, which form a continuous line of decorations all around the shaft.

The hypotrachelion of the column is fluted. The pedestal of the statue rises above the capital some height, (and is an elongation of the shaft of the column,) terminated above the cornice, by steppings reduced from a diameter of 14 feet to a plinth of four feet, on which the statue stands; this statue is 14 feet high. The attitude given this figure represents the great man (to whom the monument is dedicated,) in the act of resigning his commission, and the authority with which he had been invested by his country, again into the hands of the people, having accomplished the great object of his appointment, the freedom and independence of the union.

This heroic act, which has elevated the character of Washington above all praise, took place in this state, and constitutes a fine subject for the sculptor and the historian. Where could it be more appropriately exhibited for public admiration and example, than here, on the monument dedicated to his memory.

The drapery of this figure combines classical elegance, with a strict regard to truth. The real costume worn by the General at the period alluded to, is preserved, and yet no sacrifice has been made of good taste—the military cloak, which covers the figure, gives all the effect and dignity which the Grecian robe and Roman tunic gave to the statues of antiquity.

The ascent to the top of the monument is by a rise of 200 marble steps, winding round a solid pillar constituting the core of the column. The visitor in ascending this height is disposed to proceed with great caution, even with a lantern, as more than midnight darkness lies before him; yet he may proceed with perfect confidence, for a solid wall runs up on each side of him. (It is intended to light up this stair-way with gas, which will render the ascent more easy.) But whatever degree of fatigue is experienced by the visitor, he will be fully repaid on reaching this giddy height, by a survey of one of the most delightful prospects to be found in any part of the world, (taken as a whole,) either for variety or beauty. To the south, east and west, the city is overlooked, ornamented with numerous handsome buildings, public and private, magnificent domes and splendid spires, glittering in the sun beams; a beautiful basin and harbor, locked in by highlands on every side, crowded with a forest of masts, and enlivened with the hum of an active commerce.

Beyond this busy scene, Fort M. Henry arrests the attention, with its "starspangled banner" waving in the breeze. A spot celebrated in the events of the last war for the gallant defence which it made against the inroads of the in-