

portico, one is Persico's Discovery of America; it represents Columbus and an Indian girl; the armour was copied from a suit worn by Columbus, and preserved in Genoa. The other group is Greenough's Settlement of America—a pioneer in desperate conflict with a savage. On either side of the doorway are marble figures of War—Mars in Roman mail, with shield and spear; and Peace—Ceres, with olive branch and fruits. Over the door is a composition of Peace and Fame placing a wreath of laurel upon the brow of Washington.

The fortunes of the American Indians furnish a theme which we find constantly recurring throughout the decorations of the Capitol. The marbles and bronzes of the Rotunda portico are suggestive of the first contact of the white race and the red; the marble group in the tympanum of

Britisher when pointing out the fine canvases of Trumbull depicting historic events in the great War of Independence—pictures which only wound the susceptibilities of the ungenerous.

To tell of the magnificent marble corridors and stairways, the pilasters, columns, and capitals, the splendid halls, the paintings, sculpture, and frescoing, the tessellated floors, and the vistas through the windows of the Capitol, would be to write the history of the Great Republic. For in the building and decoration of the Capitol is symbolised the whole history of the American people. It is eminently the People's Palace, for here throughout the year are to be found happy pilgrims—all sorts and conditions of men, women, and children gathered from every State in the Union—wandering reverently at their own sweet will through its inspiring halls.



THE CAPITOL, WASHINGTON.

the Senate portico is significant of what the coming of the new race was to mean for the old. The subject is American Development and the Decadence of the Indian Race. In the centre stands America, in the effulgence of the rising sun, bestowing honour instead of gifts upon General Washington; on the right are Commerce, Education, Mechanics, and Agriculture; on the left the Pioneer, the Hunter, a dejected Chieftain, and an Indian mother, with her babe, mourning beside a grave.

After passing up flights of magnificent marble steps we found ourselves in the Rotunda, and it was here that we were gratified to find that Uncle Sam is not a defunct type. Our guide, a typical American of the old school, was all our fancy painted him—slight, spare, quizzical, full of courtesy and humour, most careful of the feelings of a

We spent some time in the Hall of Representatives and the Senate Chamber. The former is a legislative chamber unsurpassed in the world.

The Speaker's desk, of white marble, occupies an elevated position in the centre of the south side, and the desks of the representatives are arranged in concentric semi-circles, with radiating aisles. A silver plate on each mahogany desk (in House and Senate) has engraved on it the occupant's name. In front of the Speaker's desk are the desks and tables of the clerks and official reporters. The Speaker's mace is set on its pedestal of Vermont marble at the right of the desk.

The mace is a bundle of ebony rods, bound together with ligaments of silver, and having on top a silver globe surmounted by a silver eagle. It resembles the fasces borne by the lictors before the

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