

simplicity of the White House; but, wherever we go, an imposing shaft of white marble is seen towering against the sky, its tremendous height—upwards of 500 feet—confronts one at every turn, and has place in a thousand vistas.

It is the Washington National Monument. "We love it," says our patriotic guide; "it was placed and built so that from avenues and parks, from the Capitol, the White House, the hills of the Soldiers' Home, the heights of Arlington, from far down the Potomac on the way to Mount Vernon, go where you will, an ever-prominent feature of the landscape is the Monument. Seen at different times of the day, it has a new character for each new hour; its appearance changes with the varying lights, and with alternations of clear sky and cloud. We love it dearly and are very proud of it." Indeed, no one can be

many days in Washington and fail to revere this marvellous marble shaft.

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

The monument is an obelisk, and springs up in the centre of a spacious park. It is the highest work of masonry in the world. Its height from floor of entrance to tip is 555 ft. 5½ in. The walls are 15 ft. in thickness at the entrance, and taper

to 18 in. at the top of the shaft. The facing is of pure white marble from Maryland, the interior backing is of gneiss and New England granite, the foundation is of rock and cement. A stairway of 900 steps leads to the top, but an elevator carried us safely without exertion, and as the interior was lighted with electricity we caught

glimpses of the memorial stones which are set on the inner face of the monument; 179 stones were contributed as tributes to Washington, and many of them are notable for their beauty, elaborate carving, or origin. Forty States are represented and sixteen cities, and numbers of political organisations and societies have left records of their patriotism. There are stones from Braddock's Field, the battlefield of Long Island, Otter's Summit (Virginia's loftiest peak), the ruins of



THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT.

ancient Carthage, the Temple of Æsculapius, Isle of Paros, Vesuvius, the Alexandrian Library in Egypt, the Tomb of Napoleon at St. Helena; Greece sends a block of marble from the Parthenon, Turkey a beautiful carved marble, Switzerland a stone from the Chapel of William Tell, "built at the spot where he escaped from Gesler." Other foreign countries represented are

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