

Long Delayed Gift Finished at Last

AMERICANS living in Paris will learn with feelings of relief that Paul Bartlett's statue of General Lafayette, known as the gift of the school children of the United States to France, has at last been finished, and there is every indication that before many more months the bronze will have been cast and set up on the pedestal where, since 1893, a weather-beaten, crumbling plaster cast has represented it. President Fallieres has seen the work and complimented the sculptor.

When the plaster model was set up it was believed that it would be replaced by the bronze monument in a year or more at the latest, but time passed and apparently the statue was as far away as ever. The makeshift of plaster became broken and shabby until at last Americans in Paris considered it little short of a national disgrace.

But the end is apparently near and the American colony rejoices. The movement to erect the statue took definite shape eight years ago when a committee was formed in Chicago to collect money. Robert J. Thompson, the secretary, was the most active worker in the cause and associated with him were such men as Archbishop Ireland, Ferdinand W. Peck, Thomas Hastings and Melville E. Stone. The presentation was planned to add interest in this country to the universal exhibition in Paris in 1900, and subscriptions came in fast.

School children throughout the United States raised \$60,000. Congress appropriated \$5,000 for an issue of Lafayette dollars to swell the fund. The Daughters of the Revolution gave \$10,000, and other contributions made up a total of about \$100,000.

The French people approved of the idea with enthusiasm on the hands across the sea principle, and when Mr. Thompson went abroad to make the arrangements President Loubet entertained him and gave him the presidential box at the opera. The site assigned for the statue is one of the best in Paris. It is the Square de Neuveau Louvre, commanding a view of the great thoroughfare which runs through the Tuilleries Gardens.

To make a bronze statue requires time. The committee had planned for an unveiling on Independence day in 1900, so a plaster cast was made to rest upon the pedestal, which later was to uphold the bronze monument. The unveiling was a great event. The American flag was hung out everywhere by the grateful French, and Archbishop Ireland journeyed all the way



PAUL BARTLETT'S STATUE OF LAFAYETTE TO BE ERECTED IN PARIS—THE GIFT OF THE SCHOOL CHILDREN OF THE UNITED STATES.

from St. Paul to deliver the dedicatory address in French and to read a letter of congratulation which President McKinley had written. Ambassador Porter presided at the ex-

ercises, and the commander-in-chief of the French army, Paul Deschanel, president of the Chamber of Deputies, and Armand Fallieres, later president Loubet made a

speech and the French senate and chamber passed resolutions of gratitude for "the gift of a monument that will perpetuate memories equally dear to both countries." Soon afterward the committee on the statue, consisting of George Post, John Lefarge and J. Q. A. Ward, chose a sculptor, who had lived in Paris for many years, to make the statue. Then came a long period of inaction.

Americans who tried to learn why the statue was not finished did not get much satisfaction and the plaster cast on the pedestal in the Square du Nouveau Louvre began to show the effects of the weather. A hoof fell off the plaster horse and a boot dropped from the plaster hero.

Bartlett did some artistic patching and covered the whole with bronze paint. But the paint peeled off in spots and Americans and even polite Parisians could not help noticing that the horse's neck was strangely shaped and that his tail did not fit him. Americans grumbled and grew angry. They considered that the presence of such a monument was a national disgrace, and the Parisians smiled at it. Bartlett did appeal to and about the only satisfaction the questioners got was this explanation:

"I do not consider seven years an inordinately long time to take in making an equestrian statue. Other sculptors have taken longer. Saint-Gaudens took fourteen years to make a statue for Boston and the sculptor of Joan of Arc worked for twelve years on it.

"I know people are asking why I cannot find inspiration. I have found inspiration. I mean to take my time because the work is important.

"The statue will be cast in bronze in America. I am taking for my model a horse of the late General McClellan. It is a very big horse and I shall represent Lafayette as a very young man. He was only 17 when he went to America.

"I do not think the committee's complaint of my delay. Archbishop Ireland has written asking me to make haste, but I believe I am making haste. Suppose I took fourteen years, what would people say?"

Bartlett made these remarks more than a year ago, but now the end is in sight and before long the plaster statue which has caused Americans in Paris annoyance will have disappeared. But in the face of the delay will there be another celebration when the bronze statue is in place? There is no way of answering that question at this time.

King Chulalongkorn on His Travels

His majesty, Prahat Somdet Phra Paramend Maha Chulalongkorn, King of Siam, of the golden throne and lord of the white elephant, is traveling incognito in Europe with her majesty, Queen Sawapa Pongsi, and there is reason to believe that in a month or two America will see the oriental potentate and the one of his many wives who is recognized as queen. Very little has been written about the latest trip of the couple because, unlike European royalities, there is not an incognito assumed only to allow them to mingle with the world. The king and queen have kept in seclusion during their travels in northern Italy and Switzerland, but it is doubtful if they will be as successful in avoiding notice if they come to the United States.

King Chulalongkorn is an autocrat, but he is a man of learning who has profited by a European education. He is one of the most enlightened Asiatic rulers, speaks and writes both English and French and has as his advisor Prof. Henry Edward Strobel, who left the chair of international law at Harvard university last winter to take the post. The king is said to be the most up-to-date and liberal monarch in Asia. His second son has studied tactics in the German army and another son spent considerable time with the Russians.

One of Eighty-Four. King Chulalongkorn is one of old King Phra's eight-four children. The old king had the idea that the integrity of his kingdom depended upon keeping out Europeans, but in spite of that fact he recognized the advantages of western education and in 1862, against his own feelings and on the grounds of expediency, he decided to engage an English tutor for his family.

So he wrote to an English governess, Mrs. Leonowen, and asked her to come and teach the king's children. She came, and the young prince, who later became king, was her favorite pupil. He learned English and French quickly and made rapid progress in the six years she spent with him, but at the end of that time she rebelled at the old king's temper and gave up her job in 1868, a few months before the old king died.

When Chulalongkorn ascended the golden throne he was only 15, and he ruled under a regency until 1873, when, according to Siamese law, he was recognized and assumed authority. At that time the work of ruling was divided between two kings. Chulalongkorn had two-thirds of the power and the second king, who was maintained mostly for show, did the rest of the work. Chulalongkorn did not like that arrangement and he and the second king had a row. The second king fled to the British consulate for protection and that was the end of his power. When the second king died in 1877 Chulalongkorn assumed the office of subordinate ruler and he will never have any more difficulties on that score.

His Rule is Liberal. The kingdom is now hereditary and the king is an absolute monarch, but he has a cabinet council of six royal princes and thirteen ministers of state. As soon as Chulalongkorn gained this absolute power he began to introduce western ideas into his kingdom.

First he issued a decree making the crown prince heir to the throne. Then he introduced railways and built a navy. He saw his neighbor on the west, England, fall before the British, and took steps to save his own kingdom by playing one power against another. In that way he stopped encroachments and the integrity of his domain was guaranteed. His navy

has more than twenty vessels and for his own use is a royal yacht of 3,000 tons register, which carries rapid fire guns.

During his reign, which has been peaceful and prosperous, he has instituted many reforms. He has abolished slavery, done away with burdensome internal taxes, opened up canals for irrigation and transportation, established telegraphic communication with China and postal facilities, erected lighthouses and buoys, chartered navigable streams, improved the judicial system, proclaimed religious liberty, built hospitals and an art museum and re-

organized the army.

The king is a hard worker, as a sketch of a day's routine will show. He gets up at 5 and breakfast is served by members of the harem in the gardens. Twelve women kneel before him and present silver trays bearing food, from which he makes his choice.

After breakfast about 200 priests are admitted. They depend upon charity for their food and present big bowls, into which the royal breakfast party drops the food that they have not selected for their own use. Then the king and his family

adjourn to the temple, where he acts as priest, lights the altar candles and reads from the holy books.

This takes about an hour and from then until luncheon the king spends in his library, where he has a big collection of foreign books and newspapers. He goes to his bath at 3 o'clock, where his wives shampoo and perfume him. Then he talks to his wives and plays with his children until he matters of state.

Twice a week, according to Oriental custom, he sits outside his palace gate to receive petitions and complaints from his subjects. Twice a week he presides over the San Luang, a secret society like the Inquisition of Spain, and by its order people who are suspected of treason are imprisoned and tortured to extract confession.

Something of a Feller. No sovereign receives more homage from his people, and he possesses a list of titles that is imposing. He is Supreme Arbitrer of the Ebb and Flow of the Tide, Brother of the Moon, Half Brother of the Sun and Grandson of the Golden Umbrella.

His subjects prostrate themselves as he passes and his favorite wives and his brothers kneel before him.

Finances do not worry him. His income is about \$10,000,000 a year and his gorgeous palace contains much treasure. The palace is divided into outer and inner parts and no European male has ever penetrated the latter.

The Siamese hold the inner palace so sacred that it is had form even to allude to it. The palace, which is the official residence, is built in Italian style, but the roofs are Siamese. The European furniture is of immense value and the adornments of the royal chambers were ordered in London and cost \$500,000.

The king is an enthusiastic Buddhist and encourages the display of pomp and grandeur in buildings, which best takes form in the completion of the temple begun by his ancestors. The wonders of these create a great impression upon Occidental visitors and stories are told of gilded halls, gigantic precious stones and floors inlaid with silver and gold. In the midst of these temples rises the famous statue of Buddha covered with emeralds.

Of wives the king has many, but he can elevate only two of them to royal dignity. The custom still exists in Siam that on state occasions the princes and nobles present their prettiest daughters to the king. His supreme wife, Sawapa Pongsi, is his half-sister, both having the same father. She is 43, but looks younger. Her features are of Japanese type and in her own country she wears knickerbockers. No European queen is so rich in jewelry as she.

Love of Jewels. The king, too, loves jewels and buys about \$500,000 worth a year. The throne of state is decorated with many of them and its magnificence is second only to the peacock throne of Persia. It is composed largely of gold and is studded with precious stones. The king's mantle of state is declared to be the most valuable mantle in the world. It has been handed down from king to king, each adding precious stones, until now it is almost solidly encrusted with gems.

to look up relics of the past, going in a cab by mile after mile of modern buildings, and traveling over the site of the metropolis which flourished here long before Christ was born. The only object of note still left is Pompey's pillar, and that is new in comparison with the earliest history of old Egypt. It was put up only 1,800 years ago, and long after Alexandria had become one of the greatest cities of the world. The monument has been said to stand over the grave of Pompey, but it was really erected by an Egyptian prefect as a landmark for sailors, a burning fire upon its top being visible for miles about this part of the Mediterranean sea. The pillar consists of a massive column of polished granite as big around as the boiler of a railroad locomotive and as high as a ten-story flat. It consists of one solid block of stone, standing straight up on a pedestal. It was dug out of the quarries of Assouan far up the Nile valley and was brought down the river on rafts and lifted in some way or other to its present position. An evidence of its modern origin is a hole to be seen in the excavations which the antiquarians are making about the pedestal. During the last few months they have been digging in the earth far below its foundation and have taken out several massive stone sphinxes, the heads of some of which are still wrapped in cloth in order to pre-

vent them from injury until they can be taken to the museums of this city and Cairo.

They date back to the old Alexandria and were chiseled out several hundred years before Joseph and Mary took the little baby Jesus on an ass across the desert into the valley of the Nile. He might not be killed by Herod the king.

It was 333 years before Christ was born that this city was founded by Alexander the Great, and I venture that it then had more people than it has today. It was not only a great commercial port, but was a center of learning, religion and art. It is said to have had the grandest library of antiquity. Its manuscripts numbered 900,000 and artists and students came here from everywhere to study. At the time of the Caesars it was as big as Boston, and when it was taken by the Arabs, along with the city, it was the greatest library of antiquity. Its manuscripts numbered 900,000 and artists and students came here from everywhere to study. At the time of the Caesars it was as big as Boston, and when it was taken by the Arabs, along with the city, it was the greatest library of antiquity.

A. D. it had 4,500 palaces, 400 public baths, 40 places of amusement and 12,000 gardens. When Alexander the Great founded it he brought in a colony of Jews, and at the time the Mohammedans came the Jewish quarter had 40,000 people.

Scrapped Her Bones with Oyster Shells. It was at Alexandria that St. Mark first preached Christianity to the Egyptians, and later on the city became one of the Christian centers of the world. It was there that Hypatia lived, and it was there that the Christian monks led by Peter the Reader tore her from her chariot as she was about to enter a heathen temple to worship and massacred her. They scraped her flesh from her bones with oyster shells, and then tore her limb from limb.

It was here in Alexandria that Cleopatra corrupted Caesar and later on brought Marc Antony to a suicidal grave. There are carvings of Cleopatra still to be seen on some of the Egyptian temples far up the Nile, and I have a photograph of one which is still in good preservation in the Temple of Denderah. Its features are Greek rather than Egyptian and she was a Greek by her ancestry rather than a Simon-pure daughter of the Nile. She was not noted for her beauty, but she had such a wonderful charm of manner, sweetness of voice and brilliancy of intellect that she was able to flirt with and captivate the greatest men of her time.

Came to Caesar in a Bed Tuck. Cleopatra's first Roman love was Julius Caesar, who had come to Alexandria to settle the claims of herself and brother to the throne of Egypt. Her father, who was one of the Ptolemies, had left his throne at his death to herself and younger brother and according to custom the two were to marry and reign together. One of the brother's guardians, however, had dethroned Cleopatra; he had banished her and she was not in Egypt when Caesar came. It is not known whether it was in Caesar's request or not, but the story goes that she made her way back secretly to Alexandria and was carried inside a bed tuck on the back of a servant to Caesar's apartment and thus presented to the mighty Roman. She so delighted him that he put her back upon the throne, and when he left for Rome some time later he took her along and kept her there for a year or so. When Caesar was murdered Cleopatra, who had returned to Egypt, was a conquest of Marc Antony and she remained his sweetest heart from that time up to the day when he committed suicide upon the report that she had killed herself. This was after Antony had been conquered by Octavius, his brother-in-law, and it is said that Cleopatra tried to capture the heart of Octavius before she committed suicide by putting the poisonous asp to her breast.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

FOURTEEN MILES OF ROSES. Every Peace and Building on Tom Lawson's Farm Covered with Rambler Blossoms.

The greatest rose show in the world has been that at Dreamwood, Thomas W. Lawson's farm, near Scituate, Mass., where fourteen miles of crimson rambler have been in bloom. Practically every building and fence on the place is overgrown with the flaming blossoms, and it is quite probable that no such scene of floral gorgeousness was ever seen anywhere before.

The rose bushes number 6,500 and originally were placed sixteen feet apart. It was Mr. Lawson's idea, when he was planning this vast estate, to have at every other fencepost along the fourteen miles of fence that enclose the grounds a crimson rambler planted. This was done nearly five years ago, but the bushes were stolen almost as fast as they were set out. Mr. Lawson, however, with his usual determination, replaced the stolen ones and kept replacing them until the thieving stopped. Now the bushes are so large that it would be impossible to steal them.

King of Siam Landing at Dover on His Way to Visit King Edward.



KING OF SIAM LANDING AT DOVER ON HIS WAY TO VISIT KING EDWARD.

Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Page Three.)

There are many Italian shops here in Alexandria and there are hundreds of Italians doing business in Cairo. They also furnish some of the best mechanics. Many of them are masons and the greater part of the Assouan dam and other works of a similar nature have been constructed by them.

There are also Germans, Austrians and Russians, together with a few Americans and Belgians. The Germans are largely in evidence as clerks and they carry on mercantile businesses in many of the cities. The British community amounts to about 20,000, but a large number of these are soldiers or civil officials, and among them are something like 4,000 Maltese and 800 British East Indians. Practically the whole government is administered by the British, although many of the subordinate officers are native Egyptians. There are some French among the officials who have held over from the time when France was powerful in Egypt; a few have come to manage sugar and cotton mills owned by Frenchmen, and others are shop keepers in Alexandria and Cairo.

Alexandria, the Ancient. Returning to Alexandria, sitting here in this day hotel, surrounded by all the luxuries of Paris or New York, I find it hard to realize that I am in one of the very oldest cities of history. I started out today

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