

MONUMENTS AT ALBANY

SOME ARE ABOVE THE COMMON
IN THE RURAL CEMETERY.

Palmer's Marble Angel Seated at the Sepulchre—The Weather Is Slowly Disintegrating the Stone—Proposals to Place It Under Cover—The Column to a Brave Colonel of 1813—Lofly Shaft to Gen. Phil Schuyler—President Arthur's Tomb.

ALBANY, Jan. 6.—Art critics are much concerned over the future of Palmer's masterpiece, "The Angel at the Sepulchre," which is one of the finest pieces of monumental art in Northern New-York. It is on the burial plot of Gen. Robert Lenox Banks, in the Albany Rural Cemetery, and is of



The Angel of the Sepulchre, Albany.

large proportions, being 7 feet in height. The figure is deceptive, appearing larger at a distance than when close to it. Chiseled out of one piece of stone, it stands a monument to the sublime creation of a master mind. What the critics fear is that, being of marble and exposed to the severe changes of this climate, scaling of the stone must set in and degeneration certainly take place. Already a part of one of the toes has disappeared, and this fact has caused the lovers of art to renew their entreaties that this fine work of art be placed under cover and preserved.

As to the expression of the face of the model critics differ. Some think it too stern and not angelic enough, others that it is that of an assurance of the Christian hope of immortality. Palmer's angel is represented as a man. Because the sculptor deviated from the usual custom of representing the angel as a woman he has been frequently taken to task. His critics included clergymen as well as laymen. But he has proved his right conception of "The Angel at the Sepulchre" by the Scriptures. The heroic form is seated upon the stone which he has rolled away from the mouth of the tomb. The face is of wondrous beauty, and, while strongly human, is still etherealized. The position is more careless than studied. The drapery has perhaps caused more favorable comment from the general public than any other detail.

Mr. Erastus Dow Palmer, the sculptor, whose genius, more than that of any other man, has made the Rural Cemetery famous and beautiful, has nothing on his plot in this city of the dead. Charles Calverley, another sculptor of note, has but a simple monument, containing a bronze medallion of his wife, on the lot which he owns. The grave of Erastus Corning, the first President of the New-York Central Railroad, is marked by a tall shaft. A granite sarcophagus indicates the resting place of one of the most noted practitioners of conservative surgery of modern times, Dr. John Swinburne, who was Health Officer of the Port of New-York in 1864. During the Franco-Prussian war Dr. Swinburne had charge of the American ambulance service in Paris and was made a Knight of the Legion of Honor by the French Government and also received the Red Cross of Geneva.

The monument erected by the State to Col. John Mills, who was killed at Sackett's Harbor in May, 1813, is among the most artistic. Col. Mills's remains were brought to Albany in 1844 and deposited in the Capitol Park. By act of Legislature they were, in 1883, removed to the Rural Cemetery. The monument was designed by Capitol Commissioner Perry, is in the form of a



Angel by President Arthur's Tomb, Albany.

round column, and is surmounted by an eagle. The grave of the late George Dawson, the politician and editor, is marked by a simple stone bearing the initials, "G. D." There is a tall marble shaft to the memory of Rufus W. Peckham, Judge of the Court of Appeals, and his wife, who, with 224 others, went down in the Ville du Havre at sea Nov. 22, 1873.

Gen. Philip Schuyler's grave has over it a Doric column 36 feet in height. He was born in 1733 and died in 1804. He was prominent in Colonial history. William L. Marcy, soldier, editor, lawyer, politician, and statesman, rests in the Rural Cemetery, his grave being denoted by a large granite urn.

The plot of the politician, statesman, and editor, Thurlow Weed, contains a tall shaft of polished granite fashioned after an Egyptian monolith. These are but a few of the more notable beauties of sculpture in Albany's pretty city of the dead.

The monument which marks the grave of the twenty-first President of the United States, Chester A. Arthur, is most beautiful. It was designed by Ephraim Keyser of New-York, now Professor of Sculpture in Baltimore, and was set up in 1889. It consists of an angel of heroic size in bronze, placing a palm leaf upon a sarcophagus, which is of granite. The figure is that of a woman, and may be remembered by New-York visitors of art galleries since it was shown by the American Art Association at 6 East Twenty-third Street some years ago. It is the masterpiece of this sculptor.