

gramme prepared for the final ceremony gave promise of a display more extensive and more impressive.

It is not too much to say that the monument thus finally exposed gives to the harbor what it has heretofore lacked in a single dominant feature. The aim of the sculptor was to devise a statue which should bear the same relation to the expanse of water from which it rises that a figure or a group of more usual dimensions bears to a paved plaza. To say that this is an illegitimate or inartistic aim seems to us merely absurd, but it is evident that such a problem, by reason of the lack of examples for comparison, is one of extreme artistic difficulty. The sculptor has in this case been forced to do his work as architects do theirs—without being able to see how his work looks until it is irrevocably executed. Meanwhile he has been deprived of the assistance architects derive from a wealth of precedents more or less exactly in point, from which they can estimate the effect of details at a given distance or a given elevation. To an artist compelled thus to work in the dark many shortcomings may be forgiven, and critics will doubtless be able to discover many shortcomings in M. BARTHOLDI'S statue. But it is not likely to be discovered that these shortcomings are so serious as to deprive the colossal work as it is seen on the sail from the sea to the city of the promise of appearing as a commanding and inspiring figure, large enough in idea to be worthy of execution on a scale so grandiose, and of its position at the gateway of the Western world. As we have said of the procession, it may be said of the statue, that it cannot be impressive as a symbol unless it is first of all impressive as a statue. The sculptural success of M. BARTHOLDI'S work being so real and high as it is, and the addition in it of an ornament to the harbor being so unquestionable, the felicity of its position, and of its significance, and of the circumstances under which it was acquired, becomes all the easier of appreciation. It will stand as a perpetual reminder of the realization in America of political ideas of which the origin may fairly be claimed for France, but of which the realization in France itself seems more precarious and less complete. On our shores, and under the tendency of a race less theoretic, less excitable, and less impatient than the French people, the germinal idea has been realized in what all Americans believe to be, with all its imperfections, the most successful and the most hopeful of all the social systems that have grown up in the history of mankind.

THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE.

It is really a public misfortune, almost a national misfortune, that the weather should have interfered to prevent the ceremonies with which the statue of Liberty was presented and accepted from being brilliantly successful. A pageant such as was projected, and, so far as the weather would permit, executed, has an influence upon all those who witness it. Not one of the hundreds of thousands who saw the funeral procession of Gen. GRANT last year could have failed to be impressed by it and to have become a better American by reason of having seen it. If yesterday had been such a day as we often have in late October not one of the hundreds of thousands who assembled to witness the unveiling of the statue, or the ceremonies connected with the unveiling, could have failed to acquire some sense of the real significance of the occasion, even if he had been attracted to it by a curiosity chiefly idle. Unhappily the unpropitious weather robbed the pageant of much of its effect. To be effective as a symbol a pageant must first of all be effective as a spectacle. It is impossible that a procession with its finery bedraggled should have the same effect upon the bystanders huddled under umbrellas and subject to the manifold discomforts of a rainy day as the same procession with its arms and trophies glittering in the sunlight and with the spectators in the holiday mood that holiday weather brings. Nor could the unveiling of the statue be a successful spectacle when the statue was draped in a drizzling mist that made it invisible from the Battery, and when it refused to be "unveiled" even when the bunting that covered the face had been withdrawn.

The failure of the spectacle to make its due impression is the more to be regretted because the conditions of the celebration were otherwise so favorable. The nature of the ceremony made a naval parade not only admissible but necessary, and the facilities our beautiful Bay confers upon us for naval parades are such as no other great city enjoys. Even the Venetians, the most famous of all pageant makers, in the procession of the Bucentoro had no advantages over us for this purpose, except in the architectural setting of their display. Even in this respect the recent and huge structures at the lower end of Manhattan Island, at a distance from which the details are lost and the outlines and masses are alone visible, make New-York a fit background for the most sumptuous aquatic spectacle. The parade in honor and welcome of the arrival of the statue showed what capabilities the harbor had for such a purpose, and the pro-