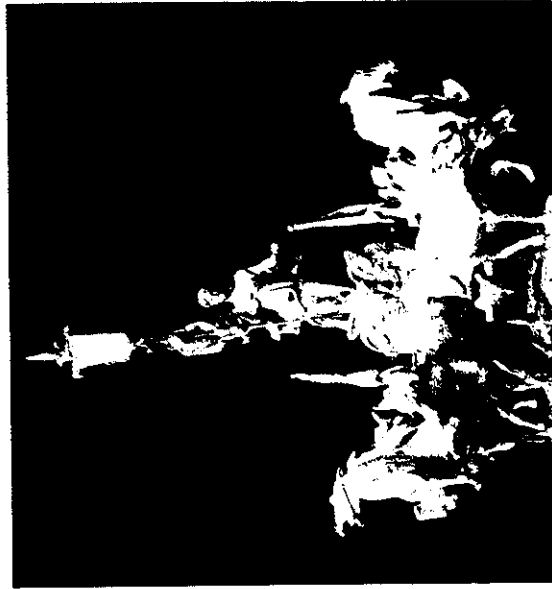




THE IMPOSING ROTUNDA AND GRAND STAIRCASE.



"THE VICTORY OF THE PEOPLE."

A piece of statuary bearing a name which, in the light of after events, is somewhat ironical.

A RECORD IN "GRAFT"—PENNSYLVANIA'S WONDERFUL CAPITOL.

heads from sub-contractors and filled out "false" bills, which were doubled or trebled and duly presented for payment. They used birch for mahogany, and putty for hand-carvings; they laid parquet floors on top of cement, and heavy carpets on top of all, and charged on the three accounts at fabulous rates. The Commission was able to close the eyes and seal the mouths of the men elected to the highest place of trust, and all the time on countless pretexts it kept on drawing State money for any amount that it chose to ask.

It would take too much of our space to give many details of this "caraval of graft." Bronze work was bought "per pound," and furniture "per foot." Thus the chandeliers in the Senate chamber, some of them 2 tons in weight, were charged at about 5 dollars per pound, though they were mostly loaded with iron worth 4 cents per pound. The total bill for the chandeliers and other bronzes was about 2,050,000 dollars, though evidence has shown that they were not worth more than 500,000 dollars. The ceiling decoration of the Treasurer's office really cost 300 dollars, but was charged at 5,400 dollars. A mural over one fireplace cost the State 6,800 dollars. Leather chairs of very ordinary style were charged at 18 dollars a foot, or about £18 each. The bill for furnishing the Senate Library is a curiosity in itself. The metallic furniture alone cost £11,000, the chandeliers £870, the designed woodwork £4,100, two sofas £880, three tables £1470, and so on through the list. The total cost for this one room is 105,000 dollars—over £20,000 sterling. When we read that the cup-rack in the Senatorial barber's shop is put down at 3,256 dollars, and a boot black stand with two plain mahogany chairs cost 1650 dollars, we are inclined to think that the thieves must have been blessed with a sense of humor in addition to their singular ingenuity. It is still impossible to say whether the total expenditure has been as high as twelve million dollars, but the estimate of a graft is of about £15,000,000 on a building that was originally supposed to cost about £120,000, is enough to satisfy even the exacting fancy of the most accomplished American "hoodler." The moral is too obvious to need drawing; but it is certainly regrettable that a city with such noble traditions as Philadelphia must still, in the words of a distinguished American, "stand as a colossal type of corrupt administration, not only for the United States, but for the whole world."



George Falsley, photo. THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PROPHET.

Rua, who is seated in the chair, leaning on his walking stick, is a strange mixture of Dowdism, Mormonism, and the Old Testament teachings, and exerts a remarkable influence over the hundred or so of followers who live under his rule in the wild Eruwera Mountains. The men wear long hair, and the small community is governed by very strict rules. Rua, like the Irishman in the story, is "again the Government," and this photograph depicts his meeting in the Bay of Plenty with the Prime Minister, who reminded the amiable Rua that "two suns cannot shine in the sky at once." Rua didn't say much either way, and soon made a diplomatic retreat to his temple-crowned Kainga, and whether he will be content to crouch with less brilliancy remains to be seen.



R. G. Palmer, photo. IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN COOK.

Ship Cove, Queen Charlotte Sound, taken from the spot where the artist of Cook's expedition made a sketch. It has been decided to erect a monument at this spot to perpetuate the memory of the great navigator, who refitted his ship here.