

HENRY WATKINS ALLEN.

Preparations for Transferring the Remains of Louisiana's War Governor to the State Capitol Grounds.

The commission raised by the Legislature to superintend the removal of the remains and monument of Henry Watkins Allen from the Lafayette Cemetery, on Washington Avenue, to the Capitol Grounds in Baton Rouge, awarded the contract for the work to Messrs. Hannan & Voss, of Baton Rouge.

Mr. Hannan came to this city Saturday to make arrangements for executing his contract. Yesterday he had an interview with Capt. W. I. Hodgson, Secretary of the Allen Monumental Association, by whom he was authorized to proceed with the undertaking. Mr. Hannan said he had completed nearly all the necessary preliminaries, and would take down the monument immediately. He expects to have it in Baton Rouge by the end of the week. It will be set up in the northwestern portion of the State House grounds, and will be formally received by the Governor with imposing ceremonies on July 4.

The removal of the monument is not regarded by Mr. Hannan, who is an expert in such matters, as a very difficult undertaking. There is one stone, the square base of the shaft, which weighs upward of eight tons, but this can be transported on a street freight car to Louisiana Avenue, and there placed on a car of the Mississippi Valley Railroad. It will be necessary to box the various pieces of stone to preserve them from injury.

The remains of Gov. Allen before being placed in the monument, were inclosed in a zinc case. After being taken from its present site the box will be placed in a mahogany case, with Allen's name on it, and the date of his birth and death—which will be lodged temporarily in Capt. Hodgson's tomb in the same cemetery. When the Allen Monumental Association go to Baton Rouge, on July 4, they will take the case with them on the train, and in due form transfer the remains to the custody of the State.

The Allen Monumental Association held a meeting last Wednesday. Its officers are, President, J. M. Sandidge; Recording Secretary, W. I. Hodgson; Corresponding Secretary, Horace Carpenter; Treasurer, John H. Pike; Executive Committee, A. H. Isaacson, A. W. Bosworth and R. T. Buckner.

The meeting requested Col. Sandidge to deliver an address at Baton Rouge, presenting the remains and monument to the State on behalf of the association.

A special invitation was issued to the Misses Parkinson, of this city, sisters of Mr. F. B. Parkinson, to accompany as guests the officers of the association to Baton Rouge on July 4. These ladies for many years have voluntarily given their care to the Allen Monument, and annually decked it with flowers.

It was determined at the meeting to dedicate the lot of ground occupied by the monument as a public place in memory of Allen.

The association has directed that the following inscription be placed on the vacant or blank side of the cube at the base of the monument:

"This monument, protecting the honored remains of Henry Watkins Allen, is presented to the State of Louisiana for perpetual care in the Capitol Grounds by the Henry Watkins Allen Monumental Association, who originally erected it in the city of New Orleans.

"BATON ROUGE, La., July 5, 1891.—Accepted and re-enacted as per act of the Legislature No. 47, approved July 5, 1891, by Sam'l D. McEvers, Governor."

On another side is the following inscription, constituting extracts from a letter of Gov. Allen to Mr. R. C. Cummins, of this city:

"When it shall please God to consign this mutilated body to its last resting place—be it among strangers in Mexico, or friends in Louisiana—I will want no better epitaph inscribed on my tomb than the sentiment contained in the closing part of your letter:

"Your friends are proud to know that Louisiana had a Governor who had an opportunity of securing a million of dollars in gold, and yet preferred being honest in a foreign land without a cent."

"My conscience tells me that I did my duty—that I protected the people and remained faithful to the high trust confided to me. I have always believed and now I know that the good people of Louisiana have not forgotten—no, never will forget, him who was ever true to them."

On the third side are the words:
"Henry Watkins Allen; born in Prince Edward county, Va., April 29, 1820; died in the city of Mexico, April 22, 1866."

The names of the patriotic citizens by whom the monument was erected are inscribed on the fourth side of the cube. They were: John M. Sandidge, W. I. Hodgson, Horace Carpenter, Wm. S. Pike, Wm. C. Black, J. H. Wingfield, A. H. Isaacson, J. S. Copes, Harry T. Hays and A. W. Roberts. Of these, Messrs. Pike, Black, Wingfield, Copes, Hays and Roberts are dead.