

Governor Phillip's Statue.

About seven years ago the idea of erecting a statue in memory of Governor Phillip, whose connection with the early history of the colony is so well known, was mooted, and the conception of the erection of the statue must be placed to the credit of Sir Henry Parke. The idea was approved, and the commission was entrusted to the well known Sydney sculptor, Signor Simonetti, who has worked unceasingly at its composition since 1889. The statue forms part of an expensive work. The sculptor despatched the central figure (the Governor's statue) to Florence last year, and from his design it was cast in bronze and has now been returned to the colony in its new and permanent form. Signor Simonetti is at present in Florence in connection with the various allegorical figures, typifying commerce, mining, &c., which are to be grouped at the base of the colossal statue. When considering the question of the site of this important historical work, it was thought that the Centennial Park was not so suitable as the more frequented portion of the city in which the work in all its artistic excellence could be brought daily within the observation of the inhabitants of the metropolis. A more appropriate position has therefore been selected in the Inner Domain, and the monument is likely to prove one of the first prominent objects of the city that visitors entering Sydney Heads will observe. The site fixed upon is marked by a small fig-tree on the highest portion of the upper land of the Inner Domain, on the site of the old Garden Palace, and to some extent this site has been chosen to perpetuate the memory of the Garden Palace. The following details in connection with the statue and the supplementary work of the complete design have been kindly supplied by the Colonial Architect:—The





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Complete design with pedestal fountains and allegorical representations to be erected in the Inner Domain, Sydney.

foundations will require to be of solid concrete, with a subway to give access to the water supply, drains, &c. Upon this foundation is the superstructure, including the fountain, pedestal, statue, &c., which will reach to a height of about 48ft., and have a diameter, in the shape of a St. Andrew's Cross, of about 45ft. The central statue is of heroic size, and is understood to represent a good likeness of Governor Phillip taken from the best available records. The four supporting recumbent figures, in bronze, to correspond with that of the main statue, are likewise of heroic size, and are allegorical representations of Commerce, Agricultural, Manufacturing Industries, and Maritime Enterprise respectively. These figures are supported on marble sables, these again having bronze panels in relief representing native aboriginal subjects in conventional form on their outer bases. The space between the four supporting figures of the main pedestal are filled in with handsome prows and accompanying dolphins of classic design, arranged for the water display into the large shells and basins which form the base of the whole design. All the sculptured work is in bronze, the superstructure of grey Bardiglio marble, and the base of trachyte. The whole design, it will be seen, is of colossal dimensions, and some of the blocks of marble already awaiting erection weigh no less than eight tons each. It is confidently anticipated that the general appearance of the whole design, both as regards the pure classical character of its sculpture and the monumental character of its materials, will make it a notable monument. The water display is so extensive as to require on special occasions from 18,000gal. to 20,000gal. of water per hour, but for daily use, of course, a much more moderate amount. The total cost will be about £13,000. Signor Simonetti's contract was for £11,500. The cost of the foundation, water pipes, &c., will be about £1500.