

THE GEN. SHERMAN MONUMENT.

The Design of Carl R. Smith of Chicago Accepted.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—It is about time that the Government provided the permanent art commission that has been proposed to pass upon statuary and pictures to adorn the National Capitol. A committee of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee has just selected to occupy a very prominent site in the city a model for a statue of Gen. W. T. Sherman that was considered by a special art committee to be unworthy of place in a competition, and the same committee has rejected three other models that were of four designated by the Art Committee as those out of which the selection ought to be made.

The Art Committee in January last, consisting of Messrs. St. Gaudens, Warner, Post, and Price, looked at twenty-six models of a statue of Gen. Sherman, and selected the models of Messrs. Bartlett, Rhind, Niehaus, and Partridge as those best answering the historical and art requirements. The committee of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, consisting of Gen. G. M. Dodge, Gen. J. N. Noble, Gen. D. B. Mendenhall, Col. Cornelius Cadle, Col. J. F. Howe, and Col. Augustus Jacobson, excluded the model of Partridge, and in its place put the model of Carl R. Smith of Chicago. A few days ago the elaborated models of Bartlett, Niehaus, Rhind, and Smith were exposed to view, and to-day the decision to select the model of Smith was rendered, after the members of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee and Secretary Lamont and Gen. Miles, representing the Government, had inspected the models.

Just why the model regarded by the Art Committee as least worthy, and which had been rejected by them as not entitled to be included in any competition, should be selected, has not yet been made known. The Smith statue is described by critical persons as commonplace, as a jumble of things stuck together, as lacking dignity and impressiveness, and as not likely to be selected upon any artistic ground. But the artists in the final competition have been under the impression that Smith's model had been selected before the final competition was ordered, and that they were predestined to be beaten from the beginning. All of them considered the preparation of the enlarged models as a work of supererogation.

It has already been mentioned in the newspapers that Mr. Smith was the designer of a monument for a member of the family of Gen. Dodge, but the artists who entered the competition are unwilling to believe that that is to be regarded as a reason why a model declared by Messrs. St. Gaudens, Warner, Post, and Price to be unworthy to be allowed in the competition, should be selected for completion and erection in a most conspicuous place on Pennsylvania Avenue. Yet if the decision made to-day be carried out, there will be set up in front of the Treasury a commonplace figure of Sherman, seated on a mooney horse, with a wide-spreading switch tail, looking over some mock heroic and absurd figures grouped about the pedestal, against which are stuck some irrelevant objects, neither adding beauty nor impressiveness to the whole.

It is asserted by competent judges that there were not less than ten models in the first competition better entitled to be accepted than the model of Carl R. Smith, that has been picked out for completion, and to be a perpetual challenge of the judgment of the soldier judges who have decided to give it to posterity.