

A PATCHWORK STATUE.

Head of Seward on the Body of Lincoln in Madison Square.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

In the official pamphlet "Works of Art Belonging to the City of New York, 1904," which is for free distribution at the office of the Municipal Art Commission, City Hall, there is this record: "Madison Square Statue, Seward, William H. Randolph Rogers, inv. et mod. Romae, MDCCCLXXX. Inscription: William H. Seward, Governor, U. S. Senator, Secretary of State of U. S."

In its way it is a most extraordinary imposition, for while the head of the statue is Mr. Seward's, the body is Abraham Lincoln's, and the whole statue, it seems to me, should be removed, as being in its absurd make-up only an imposition.

The record goes to show that while, about 1870, a fund was raised by many patriotic citizens for the purpose of erecting a Seward statue, the committee having the matter of its erection in charge asked the sculptor to lower his price. This proposition the sculptor very properly declined to accede to, but did, with much disregard for his own fame and the true fellow craft spirit, offer to make a patchwork of the statue at a lower figure by attaching to the head of Seward a statue of Lincoln—minus the head, of course—which had been left on his hands by a defaulting Western city.

A distinguished sculptor told me that the author of a life of W. H. Seward had told him that he deemed this composite statuesque fraud a disgrace to the sculptor and to the committee with whom he had conspired to produce this imposition, and he thought that the city authorities should have the monstrosity removed and a proper fitting statue of our honored Secretary of State erected in its place.

I trust that this matter will be examined into by our Municipal Art Commission, as well as by our Sculptors' Society.

JOSIAH C. PUMPELLY.

Cathedral Heights, April 10, 1906.

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