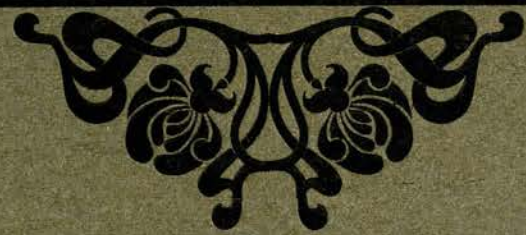
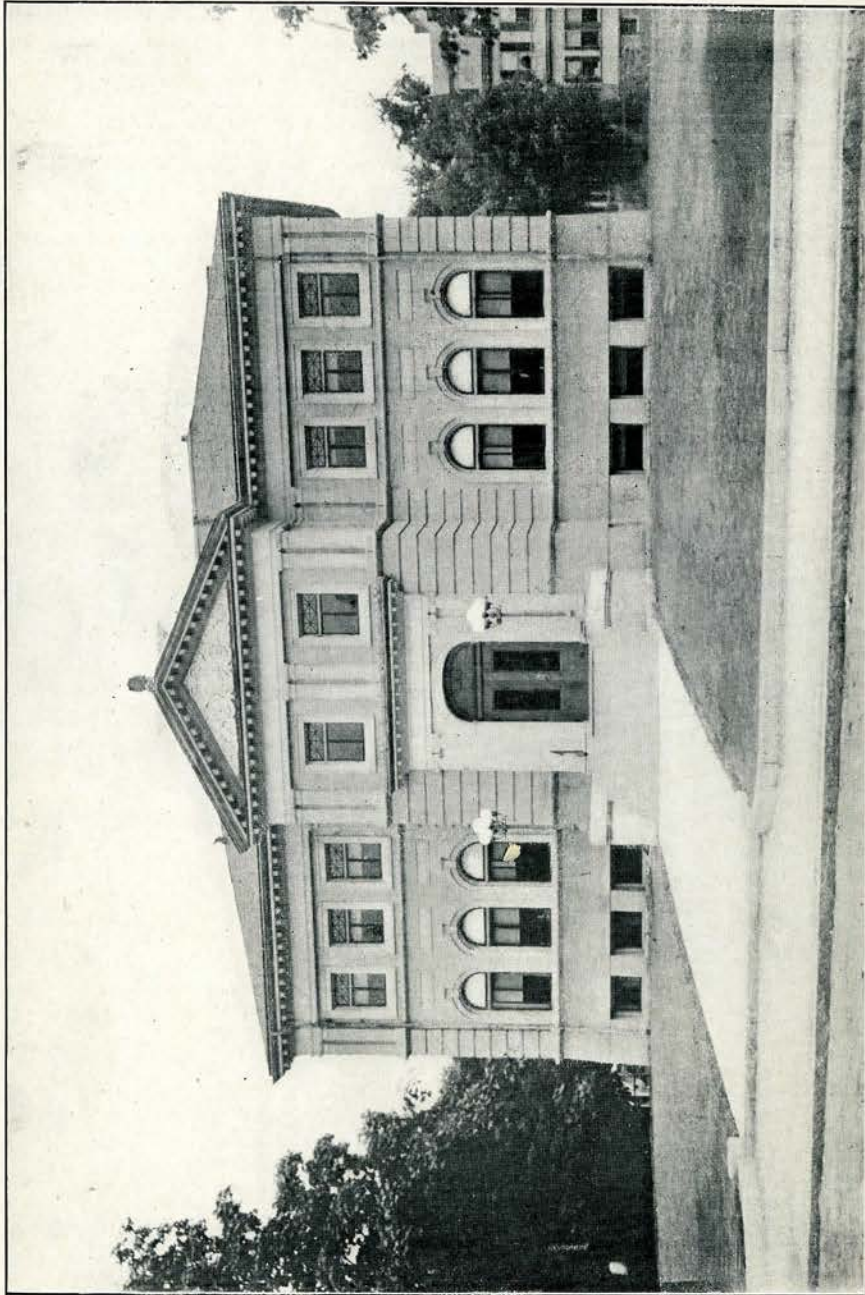


Melrose  
Public Library

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Melrose, Massachusetts



MELROSE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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THE  
MELROSE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY.



MELROSE, MASS.

1904

THE A. W. DUNTON PRINTING COMPANY,  
MELROSE, MASS

THIS LITTLE BROCHURE HAS  
BEEN PREPARED BY THE  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AS A SOUVENIR OF THE

MELROSE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mayor SIDNEY H. BUTTRICK, Chairman  
JOHN LARRABEE  
CHARLES C. BARRY  
MOSES S. PAGE  
ELBRIDGE H. GOSS, Secretary

## THE MELROSE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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**T**HE inception and early history of the Melrose Public Library cannot be better told than by the following extract from the first annual report of the Trustees of that institution :

As the formation of a Public Library is an event of great importance, we desire to place upon record the few facts connected with its early history. Several years ago some of the leading men of the town issued a call for a meeting, to be held in the Selectmen's room, Lyceum Hall, for the purpose of establishing a Public Library. A subscription paper was circulated, and received some names, but no further action was ever taken. The next public announcement appears in the warrant for the last annual town meeting, and the credit for bringing forward the plan, which has been adopted, belongs to David Fairbanks, Esq. We are glad also to acknowledge that his action in this matter did not stop here, as he seconded the same by a liberal donation of books, the number of which appears in our annexed list. While the credit of this action belongs to the gentleman named, the action of the Franklin Fraternity taken almost simultaneously, deserves equal commendation. Upon two occasions the project of a Public Library has been pressed upon the attention of this Association; the last occasion being only one month before this town meeting at which the vote was taken. At their next regular meeting, held only two weeks before the Town Meeting, the project was again brought forward, and amid much enthusiasm a committee was appointed, and money subscribed, to form the nucleus of a Library, and when of reasonable size present the same to the town. Between this meeting and the meeting in April, the warrant appeared with its announcement, and the action of the town was taken. As soon as this action was known, the plans of the "Fraternity" were altered in accordance with the situation, and nearly two hundred dollars were placed in the hands of the committee as their donation. The selection was limited to American authors, and one hundred and twenty-five volumes, comprising the works of Irving, Hawthorne, Motley, Bancroft, Lossing, Parton, Mitchell, Taylor, etc., were presented to the town as the basis of a Public Library.

The action of the Town referred to took place March 27, 1871, at a meeting held in Concert Hall, when the following vote was passed:

That the money now in the Treasury, refunded to the town by the County Treasurer, pursuant to Chapter 250 of the Acts of the Legislature in 1869, and all that shall hereafter accrue to the town under said act, be appropriated for a "Public Library and Reading Room." That a committee of three be chosen at this meeting, who shall be called "The Trustees of the Melrose Public Library;" that they be invested with full power to provide and fit up a suitable place therefor, prepare rules and regulations, purchase books, solicit donations, and have the general management thereof, during the year, to the next annual meeting, then to make a full report of their doings.

Frederic Kidder, Elbridge H. Goss and Charles C. Barry were elected Trustees, and they organized as follows: Mr. Kidder, Chairman, Mr. Goss, Treasurer, and Mr. Barry, Secretary. The money then in the Treasury was known as the "dog tax," and the amount on hand at that time with which to buy books and found the Library was \$624.85. With this amount, with donations, and with the gift of the Franklin Fraternity, the Trustees were enabled to report at the end of the year, a Library containing 1,504 volumes; of which 839 were purchased and 665 donated. A copy of the Holy Bible, printed in 1826, was volume number one in our Library; when the present system of classifying the books was adopted in 1897, it became number 601.1.

A room in Waverley Block, Essex Street, was at this time being used temporarily by the Selectmen, Daniel Russell, James C. Currier and John H. Clark. By the courtesy and considerateness of this Board, the room was divided by a partition, and the rear half assigned for the Library's use. Here, in these narrow quarters commenced the career of the Melrose Public Library. The Trustees, aided by a number of volunteers, covered the books—a system since discarded—and prepared them for circulation. They also served as Librarians until the following March, during which time several of the young men from the High School assisted in the delivery of books. During the next year, March, 1872 to March, 1873, C. Edward Prior acted as Librarian, being assisted meantime

by Frank M. Edwards, George A. Wilde, Frank D. Wilde and George T. Gately. In March, 1873, Miss Carrie M. Worthen was chosen Librarian, who has filled that position ever since with ability and constant fidelity. For a number of years Miss Rosa M. Gibbons was the assistant Librarian; she is now connected with the Malden Public Library. The present assistant is Miss Mary Ella Dix.

During the first year seven hundred and eleven persons availed themselves of the Library privileges. From that day to this the Town and City has regularly appropriated the "dog tax," together with an additional appropriation beginning with one of \$650 in 1872, and gradually increasing it until it became \$3,000 in 1900; in 1902 it was reduced to \$2,500, but increased to \$3,000, in 1903 and 1904. The Library remained in its first quarters until the Town Hall was built in 1874, when it occupied the northeast corner room, where it remained until April 1, 1895. It then removed to its late quarters in the Young Men's Christian Association Building, which were taken upon a five years' lease.

Although the original vote passed in 1871, was to establish a "Public Library and Reading Room," this important adjunct was not opened until fourteen years later, December 16, 1885. This was then established in the middle room of the Town Hall, on the east side, just across the aisle from the Library room; since which time it has become a very important and necessary addition to our Library facilities.

In 1873, two additional members were added to the Trustees, Miss Addie A. Nichols and Miss Hannah Lynde. These five Trustees were regularly elected until the year 1884, when the Chairman, Mr. Kidder, being in ill health, resigned, and Mr. Goss was elected Chairman. Thomas B. Peck was elected to fill the vacancy. Miss Nichols, resigning, Miss Phebe Norris, now Mrs. Benneson took her place, but resigned shortly after to make her residence in the west, and Mrs. Ruby F. Farwell was elected to fill the vacancy. In 1877, Mr. Peck and Miss Lynde resigned, and Charles A. Patch and Miss Mary L. Charles were elected to fill the vacancies. In 1891 the Board was increased to six members, and George E. Munroe was added.

The system of election was changed in 1893 so that the office of two members should expire each year, and two be elected annually for three years. No change took place in the *personnel* of the board until the city was incorporated when Neil A. Divver and the late Mrs. Maria L. Chapin were appointed by Mayor Gould, in place of George E. Munroe, and Miss Mary L. Charles. When the Chairman, Mr. Goss, was elected an alderman for 1901, it became necessary for him to resign after a service of thirty years, as the charter forbade an alderman to hold two offices, and Edward M. Munyan was appointed to fill the vacancy. In February, 1901, Mrs. Farwell resigned, and Miss Mary L. Charles was appointed to fill her place. In July, 1903, Charles A. Patch resigned, and Elbridge H. Goss was appointed to fill the vacancy. The Board of Trustees as now constituted, 1904, with terms of office, is as follows:

Neil A. Divver, Auditor,	Term expires in 1907
Mrs. Anna T. Bush, Secretary,	" " " 1907
Charles C. Barry, Chairman,	" " " 1906
Edward M. Munyan, Treasurer,	" " " 1906
Elbridge H. Goss,	" " " 1905
Miss Mary L. Charles	" " " 1905

Mr. Barry has served as Secretary during sixteen years in the history of the Library, Mrs. Farwell two years, Miss Charles five years, and Mr. Munroe served seven years until 1900, when Mrs. Maria L. Chapin was elected to that position which she held until her death, April 9, 1904. Mr. Goss served as Treasurer from its establishment in 1871, until elected Chairman in 1884, when Mr. Patch was elected in his place, and he served until 1903, when Mr. Munyan was elected in his place.

The Library has received several valuable donations besides the 125 volumes given as a nucleus, by the Franklin Fraternity, and nearly one thousand Congressional volumes which cover the War and Reconstruction periods of our country's history, by Hon. Daniel W. Gooch. For lack of room these books were stored for many years in the attic of the City Hall. They are now installed in a room in the basement of the Library, which is known as the Gooch Library. Many other citizens

have given one or more volumes at different times. Among other gifts are these:

An engraving: "The Senate of the United States of the time of Henry Clay," by Mrs. Charlotte Cochran.

A handsome marble Howard clock, which bears this inscription: "Presented to the Melrose Public Library, by the children of the Mother Goose Club, January 20, 1886," from the proceeds of an entertainment given by this Club, under the direction of Mrs. Georgianna N. Bordman.

A bust of Hon. Samuel E. Sewall, by Mrs. Mary A. Livermore.

An oil painting by Pearson, of the "Lynde Farm House," corner of Main Street and Goodyear Avenue, by George Emerson.

The "Old Corn" or "Samp Mill" found in the cellar of the above house, afterwards bought and presented by Homer S. Littlefield, now in the Historical and Art Room, with framed history.

Two very large photographs of the "Roman Forum" and the "Colisseum," by Mr. and Mrs. Edward K. Bordman.

An old fashioned chair from the old "Ezra Vinton House" at the Highlands, by Miss Sarah A. Chever.

A replica of Anne Whitney's bust of Mrs. Mary Ashton Livermore, by her husband, the late Rev. Daniel P. Livermore.

A portrait of the late Hon. Daniel W. Gooch, by Mrs. Gooch and son, William W. Gooch.

Also the following loans, by the Franklin Fraternity:  
Bust of Franklin.

Engraving: "Franklin before the Lords in Council, Whitehall Chapel, London, 1774."

Oil painting: "Spot Pond with its Islands," as it existed before being taken by the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Commission.

Engravings: "Fac-simile of Original Declaration of Independence" and "Magna Charta," by Hon. Andrew Carnegie.



OLD CORN OR SAMP MILL.

The Library has also received several bequests: The first is known as the "Horatio Nelson Perkins Fund," which was given by the executors of Mr. Perkins' will, in accordance with a pencilled memorandum found among his papers, which read as follows:

\$500 — to the Melrose Public Library, etc., in trust, and the annual income of the same is to be expended for the purchase of books forever.

This was in 1883. The present amount of this fund is \$627.59. In 1888, another gift of \$100 known as the "William Emerson Barrett Fund," is devoted to books bearing upon building, furnishing and decorating homes. Present amount, \$80.95. In 1895, William Bailey left in his will a bequest to the Library which has amounted to \$2,500; this is known as the "William Bailey Fund," and only its income can be expended for books. Present amount, \$2,914.08.

The number of volumes in the Library January 1, 1904, was 15,009, besides the thousand or more Congressional volumes of the Gooch Library, not yet catalogued, and 2,000 pamphlets. The number of cards issued to persons using the Library, 8,291. Largest number of books taken out in one month, 6,137; total for the year 1903, 62,029. The number of persons using the reading room in 1903 was 28,365; largest number for one month, 2,976.

CLASSIFICATION OF CIRCULATION FOR 1903.

	Circulation.	Per Cent.
Fiction and Juvenile,	48,350	77.95
History and Travels,	3,115	5.02
Science and Art,	2,217	3.57
Biography,	1,470	2.37
Literature and Essays,	1,270	2.05
Religion,	1,132	1.83
Poetry and Drama,	702	1.13
Magazines,	3,773	6.08
	<u>62,029</u>	<u>100.00</u>

The following table gives, for the different years since the Library was established, the annual appropriation, the number of volumes purchased annually, the number donated and the annual circulation:

Year.	Appropriation.	Dog Tax.	Volumes Purchased.	Volumes Donated.	Circulation.
1871.....	—	*\$937.16	839	665	†3,189
1872.....	\$650.00	308.02	431	41	13,240
1873.....	550.00	—	238	17	14,004
1874.....	800.00	324.87	270	94	17,650
1875.....	500.00	367.08	187	53	22,592
1876.....	450.00	460.80	351	72	23,703
1877.....	400.00	448.75	390	24	27,152
1878.....	400.00	437.47	295	3	†25,458
1879.....	200.00	419.24	176	5	30,940
1880.....	500.00	392.16	357	17	29,764
1881.....	500.00	401.58	297	10	28,983
1882.....	500.00	393.98	314	6	28,074
1883.....	800.00	451.98	342	33	28,258
1884.....	500.00	509.83	396	25	29,447
1885.....	750.00	573.85	583	71	30,663
1886.....	750.00	698.40	404	36	28,952
1887.....	750.00	774.90	375	27	31,336
1888.....	750.00	961.78	406	9	32,986
1889.....	750.00	1,090.96	369	10	33,052
1890.....	750.00	1,194.91	510	14	30,534
1891.....	1,000.00	1,079.65	408	47	31,425
1892.....	1,000.00	1,037.22	539	16	34,093
1893.....	1,200.00	1,046.22	459	5	32,157
1894.....	1,000.00	1,076.49	411	12	41,298
1895.....	3,500.00	1,052.24	480	13	36,276
1896.....	2,500.00	1,066.09	493	19	44,062
1897.....	2,600.00	1,039.68	301	22	38,674
1898.....	2,600.00	1,031.23	467	20	55,838
1899.....	2,800.00	958.93	381	24	61,945
1900.....	2,800.00	1,016.51	487	27	60,001
1901.....	3,000.00	1,033.60	644	18	60,814
1902.....	2,500.00	1,133.95	435	23	62,148
1903.....	3,000.00	1,169.47	467	32	62,029

\*Three years.

†Two months.

‡Ten months.

The new rooms in the Young Men's Christian Association were furnished and opened during the year 1895; this with the annual rent, \$1,200 per annum, accounts for the large increase in appropriation. When the first five years expired, April 1,

1901, the rent was reduced from \$1,200 to \$1,000 per annum. A new lease was taken with a clause inserted giving the Trustees the right to terminate it upon giving a six months' notice. This was done because of the fact that the Library



HON. ANDREW CARNEGIE.

was fast outgrowing its present accommodations, and because of the hope that by some action of the City, or of some one of our citizens, steps might be taken to provide a Library building. Melrose had been waiting long for some one of its wealthy

citizens, to whom appeal after appeal had been made, to give it a Library building; or, to have the City itself take action in the matter; but it waited in vain. When the Hon. Andrew Carnegie began to distribute his immense wealth by donating Library buildings to different cities and towns throughout the Union, and to found educational institutions at home and abroad, it occurred to a number of our citizens, realizing that the future might not be any more favorable than the past, in fulfilment of its wishes, that possibly Mr. Carnegie might be induced to consider our own City with favor; and he was written to upon the subject by different ones, appealing to his generosity in as strong terms as possible. Not in vain. Among these writers was Mayor John Larrabee; and, after a considerable correspondence, he had the very great satisfaction of announcing in his second inaugural address, delivered January 6, 1902, a gift from Mr. Carnegie in the following letter:

*Mayor Larrabee, Melrose, Mass.*

DEAR SIR: Responding to your letter: If the City of Melrose will pledge itself by Resolution of Councils to support Free Library at cost of not less than Twenty-five hundred dollars a year, and provide a suitable site, Mr. Carnegie will be glad to furnish Twenty-five thousand dollars for a Free Library Building.

Respectfully yours,

Dec. 31, 1901.

JAS. BERTRAM, Private Secretary.

At a meeting of the Board of Aldermen held the same day, William A. Carrie, Oliver B. Munroe, Aaron Hill, Jr., Albert B. Franklin and Edward S. Page were appointed a committee "to suitably acknowledge the generous gift of Andrew Carnegie, Esq., and make such recommendations as may seem best;" and at a meeting of the Board, January 20, the following resolutions were submitted by that committee and passed unanimously:

Whereas, The City of Melrose, through His Honor the Mayor has been tendered the sum of \$25,000 by Andrew Carnegie, Esq., of New York, for a free library building, upon condition that the City of Melrose, through its board of aldermen, agrees to appropriate the sum of \$2,500 annually in support of the same and provide a suitable building site:



Resolved, That the Board of Aldermen of the city of Melrose hereby accepts the generous offer of Mr. Carnegie and agrees to the conditions named therein.

Resolved, That His Honor the Mayor be requested to convey to Mr. Carnegie the hearty thanks and appreciation of the citizens of Melrose for his large-hearted liberality in providing means to build a suitable building for free library purposes.

At a meeting of the Board of Aldermen, February 11, it was voted to erect the new Library building on the old "High School Lot," so called, situated on the corner of West Emerson Street and Lake Avenue. This was the spot selected by the Committee who built the High School building in 1870, as being centrally located, and as accommodating the scholars from all parts of the town



OLD HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

better than any other site then available. That was central then, and is so now; being within a very few rods of the residential centre of Melrose. It is situated on a handsome, quiet street, surrounded by beautiful residences, halfway between steam and electric railroads, away from the din and turmoil of traffic and travel. It contains 30,375 square feet.

At this same meeting the Mayor was authorized to transmit to Mr. Carnegie a certified copy of the deed of this land now adopted as the site for the Melrose Public Library.

At the next meeting of the Board, February 17, the Mayor vetoed the above action, on the ground that it was a question which ought not to be settled until after a public hearing had been held; and his veto was sustained, six aldermen voting for and twelve against, not two-thirds as required to pass over a veto. In accordance with this action it was voted to hold a public hearing on the evening of March 18. This was accordingly held in the City Hall, John G. Robinson presiding. The subject of site was very thoroughly discussed by the following

gentlemen: those in favor of the High School lot being, George R. Jones, Charles H. Adams, Royal P. Barry, Charles C. Barry, Elbridge H. Goss and Daniel J. Lucey; those against, Edwin S. Small and John J. McCullough. The sentiment of the large audience present was largely in favor of the above site and it was so expressed by vote.

At the following meeting of the Board of Aldermen, March 27, the question was finally settled in favor of the Emerson Street lot by a vote of twenty to one.

Notwithstanding the fact that the city charter is very explicit, denying the right of the Board of Aldermen to act on any committee wherein the expenditure of money for the city is concerned, the question had arisen in the Board as to who should build the new Public Library; should it be by a committee appointed from the Board of Aldermen, or by the Mayor, with an advisory committee selected from the citizens outside the Board. Some thought one way, some another; this arose from a misunderstanding as to just how the money was to be paid by Mr. Carnegie; whether as a whole to the City, or in part, to a committee, as the work progressed. Correspondence between the Mayor and Mr. Carnegie developed the fact that all money would be sent direct to the City.

Meanwhile the opinion of the City Solicitor had been requested on the subject by the Board. This was submitted at the meeting held April 28, and was very explicit; showing conclusively that no committee of the Board of Aldermen could serve on said committee. The following vote was then passed unanimously:

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, April 28, 1902.

Be it ordered, that a public library building be erected on the old High School lot, so called, on Emerson Street, that the Mayor be authorized to contract for the same at a cost not to exceed Twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) dollars, and that the City Treasurer be and hereby is authorized to pay all sums of money which may be presented or paid to the city, either directly or to its Mayor, Treasurer, or other public officer, by Andrew Carnegie, or any other person or persons,

for the purpose of constructing said public library building, to be paid out on account of the contract to build it, by the City Treasurer from time to time as received and requested.

JOHN G. ROBINSON,  
President of the Board of Aldermen.

April 28, 1902. In Board of Aldermen. Order ordained.

W. DEHAVEN JONES, Clerk.

April 30, 1902. Approved. JOHN LARRABEE, Mayor.

The Mayor at once took action in the matter by appointing an advisory committee of ten to act in conjunction with himself in the erection of the new building. In his letter of notification under date of May 5, he says:

I am authorized, by vote of the Board of Aldermen, to enter into a contract for the erection of a public library building.

You are respectfully and cordially invited to serve on an advisory committee to assist me in the selection of a plan for the building, the awarding of the contract, etc.

The gentlemen selected by the Mayor were as follows: Chester Shepard, ward one; Clinton White and Stephen F. Keyes, ward two; Elbridge H. Goss, ward three; Charles C. Barry and Charles H. Adams, ward four; Levi S. Gould and Edwin S. Small, ward five; Peter J. Lynch, ward six; William E. C. Goudey, ward seven.

The first meeting of this Committee took place June 16, 1902, when it was organized as follows: His Honor, John Larrabee, Mayor, Chairman; Elbridge H. Goss, Secretary.

The Mayor had full power given him by vote of the Board of Aldermen, to make a contract and build the new Library Building; but he preferred to call in the aid of an Advisory Committee, as above, in the selection of a design for the same.

Realizing that a larger sum than \$25,000 would be needed with which to build such a Library Building as the City of Melrose ought to have, a sub-committee was appointed at one of the first meetings of the Advisory Committee, to solicit additional funds for that purpose. This committee consisted of the Mayor, and Messrs. Shepard, Barry, Adams and Goss. Mr.

Shepard, a very valuable member of this Advisory Committee, died July 15, 1902. The remaining members of the sub-committee succeeded in obtaining pledges to the amount of \$3,600. With this additional sum raised, making a total of \$28,600, it was voted to proceed at once to erect the building.

Invitations were sent to a large number of architects to submit plans and specifications for a Library building to be placed on the lot corner of West Emerson Street and Lake Avenue. Sixteen architects responded and their plans and sketches were duly hung upon the walls of the Mayor's Room for inspection and decision.

After various meetings of the committee, consultations with, and explanations by, all of the architects who submitted plans, and after due deliberation, it was decided, at a meeting of the committee held December 2, 1902, to adopt the plans and specifications of Penn Varney, Esq., of Lynn, Massachusetts.

The Mayor at once advertised for bids, and the contract for the building was duly awarded to our fellow-citizen George M. Tufts, January 2, 1903 for the sum of \$27,110, he sub-letting the mason work to Mr. Alexander.

John Larrabee, having served two years as Mayor, was succeeded January 1, 1903, by Sidney H. Buttrick. He continued the Advisory Committee, and appointed the following members to aid him in the completion of the building: John Larrabee, Moses S. Page, Charles C. Barry, Elbridge H. Goss. The new committee organized with the Mayor as chairman, Mr. Goss as secretary. As soon as the weather permitted the building was commenced. On February 11, the architect, Mr. Varney, met the contractor, Mr. Tufts, the Mayor, Superintendent of Public Works, Mr. Hunter, and the rest of the committee, and located the building. It is situated in the centre of the lot, the front being fifty feet from West Emerson Street.

## CORNER STONE EXERCISES.

The work on the new building proceeded rapidly, and when the foundation was ready, the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies on Patriots' Day, Monday, April 20, 1903, at 9 o'clock A. M., the 19th being Sunday.

A general notice was given in our local papers, and the following invitation was sent to the city officials and the clergy of the City:



You are respectfully invited to be present at the  
Laying of the Corner Stone of the  
Melrose Public Library,  
Patriots' Day, Monday, April 20, 1903,  
at 9 A. M.

SIDNEY H. BUTTRICK, Mayor.

A large number of citizens were assembled, including representatives of all our municipal departments, the clergy, and others. The ceremony was in charge of Mayor Buttrick, who announced as first in order, the singing of Keller's American Hymn by the school children, under the direction of Musical Director Alvin C. Saunders, assisted by the City Band, Albert A. Quimby, leader.

The Mayor then made the following address:

"On the nineteenth of April, 1775, more than a century and a quarter ago, the corner stone of our glorious Republic was laid in this good County of Middlesex and cemented with the blood of patriots on the fields of Lexington and Concord. Today we meet under more peaceful auspices for the purpose of laying the corner stone of a building to be devoted to the diffusion of knowledge, in order that we and the generations who shall come after us, may appreciate to the fullest extent the priceless liberty we enjoy under our free and wise institutions.

Our fathers fought to achieve freedom under the law, and we shall be the true children of the fathers, if we obey the law and keep in line with the noblest moral and spiritual thought of the age, making of it the standard of man's progress in Divine wisdom, the steady promoter of all human welfare and happiness.

We cannot evade the debt we owe our ancestors, we are what we are by what they have been. Every nation owes its birth to the valor of its warriors, and its preservation to the wisdom and intelligence of the people. It is not demanded of us in the present day, as it was of the men of the Revolution, to deny ourselves the necessities of life, and to endure all manner of suffering and privation in behalf of our country.

Our great Republic, whose people in the days of its beginning, were trained in the schools of self denial and poverty, long inured to work and war, now find themselves possessed of vast resources, their fortunes are waiting for golden opportunities to advance the welfare of the people, and such buildings as this, devoted to learning, museums and galleries of art, the endowment of colleges and other kindred helps to the advancement of a people, are being erected and endowed all over this fair land, through the munificence and generosity of public-spirited men of wealth.

We have here today a more enlightened, free, self-governed humanity, than anywhere else on the face of the globe, and the benefits that we receive, we hardly realize because they are as great and as familiar as the air we breathe, and the bright sunlight which sheds its rays to warm and revivify the earth. Through the public library, popular education has been introduced by which the elements of useful knowledge are available to every one;—grateful should we be, that we live in an age and a community that provides us with this great blessing, and may the education which we receive from our public schools and their ally the Public Library, make us better men and women—better citizens—improve our homes—and extend our influence for doing good to our fellow men.

Let the lesson this day teaches, bring steadfast opposition to what ever crushes the rights, hinders the development, or denies the humanity of man, and let us ever strive for those ennobling qualities which will make us true to ourselves, our country and our God."

The "Star Spangled Banner" was then sung by the children, after which Charles C. Barry, Chairman of the Trustees of the Public Library was introduced, and spoke as follows:

"The laying of this corner stone marks the beginning of a new era in the history of the Melrose Public Library. Your trustees have waited for thirty-two years for the dawn of this day. In 1871, the dogs and the Franklin Fraternity furnished all the money required to found this institution. In 1885, the petitions of fourteen years were answered in the establishment of a reading room.

In 1903, by the gifts of many of our citizens, supplementary to the generous gift of Andrew Carnegie, and without a dollar of money appropriated from the public treasury, this stone is set to mark the erection of a convenient and attractive home for our Public Library.

The only conditions attached to these gifts will commend themselves to all citizens:

1. That this building shall be exclusively and inclusively a free Public Library.
2. That it shall be known, not as the Carnegie Library, but as the Melrose Public Library.
3. That it shall be liberally supported and maintained both by public appropriations and by private gifts.

No other conditions attach to any gifts either in the hands of the building committee or of your trustees. I had the honor to suggest to one of our citizens that I would be glad to have his contribution used in the carrying out of a plan long in my mind. I have always thought it is well to impress upon the youth of our city the lessons of devotion and self sacrifice for love of country, and I have thought that as they enter in and pass out of our Public Library, it will instill into their minds lessons of patriotism if they see on the right and on the left tablets commemorating the patriotism of those citizens of Melrose, who obeyed the behests of duty in the war for the Union in 1861-1865. It is quite probable that this suggestion may be carried out.

Your trustees in this long waiting time have also had other hopes and plans. You will find in this building a separate room or section for the children, and alcoves for books of special interest to them. A room for books of reference with conveniences for consultation. The historical and art room will give the first opportunity in Melrose for

the slow gathering of priceless treasures, demanding proper safeguards and worthy of public inspection; pictures and works of art, relics of the Revolutionary and Civil wars, and the treasures which we all realize are liable to destruction in our homes and belong to the public, these will find place, through the generous thoughtfulness of our citizens, in this building.

The founder of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, who died in Genoa in 1829, was a foreigner, who had never seen this country, but who left his entire fortune of over \$500,000 to found at Washington an establishment 'for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.' It seems to be dawning upon many minds in this latter day that the building and endowment of public libraries is a wiser use of wealth than is likely to be made by the average legatee.

Take this thought home with you and put your good resolutions into cash contributions, *now*, before another coal strike depletes your reserves. In this building, you will find, in addition to the changes of which I have spoken, the adoption of the system of free access to the shelves. We are sure from the experience of other libraries that this will be more appreciated by our citizens than any other change.

May I offer one suggestion to all who wish for the improvement of the library in everything that is worthy. We realize that our range of selection of books is necessarily limited, and we ask you who are students along many lines of special reading and instruction, to remember that we count upon your co-operation by timely suggestions to your trustees, that we may have the benefit of your wide reading and study. While, as you know we have a very limited appropriation, we are always willing to purchase, so far as we can do so with propriety, to meet the needs and demands of the public.

This Library is for all classes and conditions of men, women and children. It recognizes the varying views of all, and respects the differing opinions of this community. We therefore feel that we have the right to ask that you treat your own child in her new home with christian kindness and consideration."

Mr. Barry was followed by Ex-Mayor Larrabee, who had thus far done so much for the success of the new Library Building, who spoke as follows:

"For many years Melrose has desired a Public Library building. Through the liberality of Hon. Andrew Carnegie aided by the contributions of our own citizens, our hopes and desires are to be realized. The plans for this building were selected with care and we believe it

will more than fulfill your expectations. The cost will be about \$30,000 not including inside furnishings or furniture, nor the grading of the grounds, granite curbing, shrubbery, etc.

It is the intention and desire of His Honor the Mayor and the committee in charge, to place within the building memorial tablets to the soldiers of Melrose, who rendered service in the Civil war, and a room has been set apart for a historical, memorial and art room. No appropriation has been or will be asked from the city other than so much as may be required for the necessary furniture. We are depending on the voluntary contributions of the people to complete this building.

The contributions to the present time from citizens of Melrose amount to \$5,052 which added to the Carnegie gift makes a total of \$30,052. It is desired to raise an amount sufficient to complete the building and its surroundings; we therefore invite and solicit from each and every citizen a contribution. All persons contributing \$2 or more will receive a souvenir plate with a picture of the Library Building thereon, which will serve to remind you of your gift, and we hope such a plate will find its way into every home in the city.<sup>1</sup>

We can only promise that your gifts will be wisely expended, and we trust that when we assemble for the dedicatory exercises to be able to present the building to the city complete in every particular.

His Honor the Mayor and any of the committee will be pleased to receive contributions at any time. We hope for a liberal response, sufficient to complete the work we have undertaken."

The band played several selections, and the corner stone was then duly laid by the three gentlemen above named. Previously, however, Mayor Buttrick stated as a peculiar and pleasing coincidence that these three officials were school boys together, himself and Ex-Mayor Larrabee in the same class and also were all members of the Franklin Fraternity, thus brought after the lapse of years so happily together.

After the stone had been duly cemented into its abiding place, the gathering united in singing "America," and prayer

<sup>1</sup>This is a beautiful plate by Wedgwood, England, containing a view of the Library Building, the residences of Dr. Charles C. Odlin, Edward F. Holden, Reuben H. Fitch, and the City Seal, surrounded by a handsome wreath of roses. The inscription on back of plate is "Melrose Public Library, Melrose, Massachusetts. Founded A. D. 1871. Building erected A. D. 1903." This was designed, ordered and distributed to the donors of the citizens' fund by John Larrabee.

and benediction were pronounced by Rev. C. H. Stackpole of the First M. E. church.

The metal box enclosed in the corner stone contained the following articles:

*History of Melrose*, by Elbridge H. Goss.

*Annual Report of Town of Melrose for 1899.*

*Annual Reports of City of Melrose for 1900 and 1901.*

*Auditor's Financial Report for 1902.*

*Treasurer's Report, County of Middlesex, for 1902.*

*Manual of General Court of Massachusetts for 1903.*

*List of Poll Tax Payers for 1902.*

Inaugural Addresses of Mayors Levi S. Gould, 1900; John Larrabee, 1901 and 1902, and Sidney H. Buttrick, 1903.

*Catalogue of Melrose Public Library.*

*Melrose Journal*, April 18, 1903.

*Melrose Reporter*, April 18, 1903.

*Melrose Free Press*, April 18, 1903.

*Melrose Enterprise*, April

18, 1903.

Boston Papers: *Herald*, *Globe*, *Post* and *Advertiser*, April 20, 1903.

Cards of invitation to the ceremony of Laying of the Corner Stone, April 20, 1903.

This is a large and handsome stone 28 x 29 inches in size, and bears this inscription:

A. D. 1903.



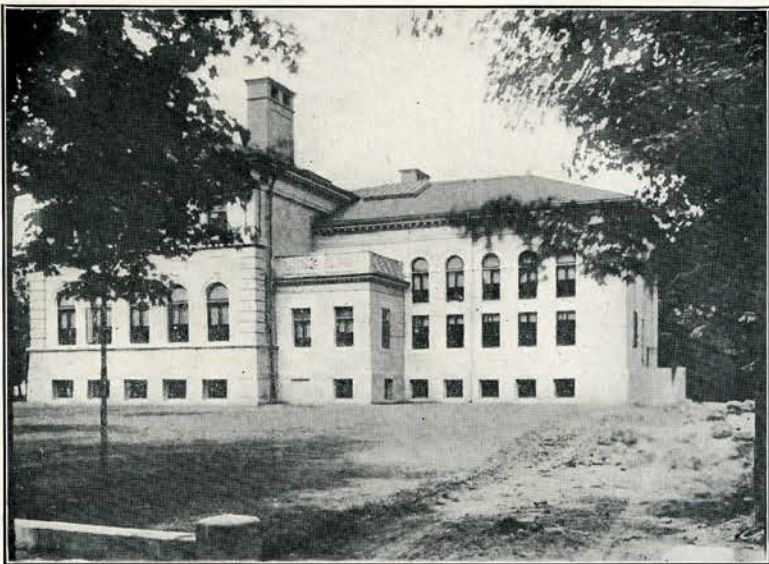
CORNER STONE.

After this event, the building proceeded rapidly and was virtually finished in 1903, but the making of the steel stacks for the books, in the fire-proof stack room, the new furniture, and the memorial tablets delayed the dedication until Friday, April 15, 1904. The following detailed description of the building was written by George H. Dearborn, editor of the *Free Press* in its issue of the same date:

## NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Today as we go to press, the new public library, which has been in process of erection for several months, is being dedicated. Our city is honored with the presence of the chief magistrate of the state at this ceremony; most appropriately the address of dedication is given by our honored townswoman, Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, and Sam Walter Foss, the poet librarian of Somerville, is to be the poet of the day. Music, too, will aid in the service, as the ode, written by Dr. J. S. Clark, is sung by the Arion quartette.

The building will be open for inspection this evening until 10 o'clock and soon our citizens will have the opportunity to examine its beauties and enjoy its privileges daily, but anticipating this personal



THE LIBRARY FROM LAKE AVENUE.

examination, we will try and place before our readers all over Melrose a description of this new structure for which we are indebted to the generosity of Andrew Carnegie and also for the generous gifts of our own citizens to perfect this original design.

The picture on frontispice with Lake Avenue picture will give the general exterior view of this brick and stone building. The foundation is of selected Milford granite and the bricks are of selected Roman shape, of a limestone color, with the stone trims of selected Indiana limestone. The roof is covered with slate and the gutters and conductors are of copper.

The finish and interior floors of first story are of selected quartered oak and the second story and basement are of ash stained to imitate oak. The principal entrance is from Emerson street up a broad flight of stone steps flanked on either side by ornamental iron columns, upon which are placed large globes for electric lights. Passing through the large doors one enters a small hall from which stairs descend to the basement on either side. Then through two other doors we enter a stair case hall of generous dimensions from which two flights of stairs of ornamental design with iron balustrade ascend to second floor. Thus access can be had to the rooms on the upper story without entering the main room which is shut off from this hall by double



CORNER OF CHILDREN'S READING ROOM.

plated glass doors. These doors will also prevent draughts of air coming from outside into the lower rooms.

The delivery hall occupies the centre of the main building and the delivery desk is at the northern end and facing the entrance. On either side arched ornamental pilasters of classical design form the opening into the main reading room on the east and the children's and periodical reading room on the west. Both these rooms are finished with fireplaces and large mirrors and appropriately furnished. All the furnishings which are in antique oak are from the Library Bureau, Boston. The walls of the delivery hall are a dark green, those of the reading room light green, and of the children's room buff. The ceiling on

both floors are of light and cheerful tints. A feature of this plan of open archways, connecting these several rooms, is the fact that from the librarian's desk every room on first story is visible, thus reducing supervision to a minimum.

In the rear of the delivery desk and in the projection connecting the stack room with the main building on the one side is the librarian's private office, and on the other, the catalogue room and offices for the clerks, together with the metal book lift which extends from unpacking room in basement, up through this catalogue room to the reference



STACK ROOM, FROM DELIVERY HALL.

room on second floor. A large light area in this projection makes the centre of the building as light as the outside rooms, a very important consideration in a building to be used for library purposes.

The stack room in the rear is filled with steel racks with centre and side passages, wherein is room for over 15,000 books which is at present what the library contains, but there is other space which can be utilized in the future. These sections are to be divided into the various departments of literature which the library provides for, such as fiction, art, science, history, etc. The walls of the stack room are tinted a light brown. Iron stairways lead from this stack room in the rear to the basement which is also reached by the stairways from the front entrance. This basement will be used for the storage of

books, magazines, etc., and it is expected the front section on the east will be arranged for a magazine and newspaper department. The large section on the west is occupied by the boiler room, the boiler of ample dimensions being furnished by the Cleghorn Company and the system of distributing the heat above is said to be perfect in its results. The toilet rooms are also located in the front of the basement.

Returning to the first floor and ascending the broad stairs which unite in a large landing half-way up, the effect of the large hall which we face and the rooms opening out of it is very striking. The walls of this entrance hall, along the stairways, and of the hall above are tinted a deep crimson which form a strong background for the pictures and busts which will be placed there and in the two alcoves at the north end. Already the fine picture of Hon. D. W. Gooch is placed upon the wall of the landing, as will be the busts of Mrs. Mary A. Livermore and Hon. Samuel E. Sewall in the hall upon which this opens.

On the east, the room designed for the art room extends along Lake avenue; it is tinted a light red, and while already there are many art treasures to be placed there, still there will be room for more of the generous gifts of Melrose citizens. Opening from the hall on the west is the reference room where the walls are of gold color and where electric reading lamps are arranged upon the tables, and into this room the book lift also opens. Facing upon Emerson street is the trustees' room well fitted up with individual closets, a large oaken table and chairs and a shade of delicate blue upon the walls. In fact, the color scheme is carried out with much artistic effect and with the general opening of one room into the other, the general blending of the colors seem to combine in such a manner as to give delight to the eye. The decorator was Joshua Sears of Boston.

The electrical apparatus has been placed by David R. Craig of Boston. The effects promise to be very brilliant in every sense of the word. The halls are fitted with large white globes, while around the ceiling of the upper rooms are pendant lights; the work is of heavy cast brass wrought into a design of old brass and black. The reference and trustees' rooms are fitted with brass chandeliers of like design.

The tablets which are designed as memorials of our brave soldier boys in the Civil War have not yet arrived and special services will attend their placing. George M. Tufts & Co. of Melrose have been the contractors and had general charge of the construction.

Great praise should be awarded in the first place to Ex-Mayor John Larrabee, one of whose last acts while in public office was to secure from Andrew Carnegie the gift of \$25,000, and who since that time

has been indefatigable in his efforts to secure other sums that the fittings up of this building might be of the best. He has been instant in season and out of season, and to his zealous efforts have been due much that has added to the beauty and usefulness of the original design. Closely associated with him have been Mayor S. H. Buttrick, a strong and ready helper, trustees of the public library, Charles C. Barry and Elbridge H. Goss and Moses S. Page, and to all these are our citizens greatly indebted for this new public institution which today takes its place among the attractions of Melrose. When the grounds are graded and beautified about the building it will stand forth more ornamental than at present.

During the past few days, the books, furniture and other belongings have been transferred to their new quarters, and busy hands have been fitting them into their new adjustment, so that today the surroundings seem familiar to the patrons of the library. George Watson of the Malden book bindery has attended to the rebinding of many of the books.

Miss Carrie M. Worthen who has been such a faithful and efficient librarian for so many years, is to be congratulated, as also her corps of young assistants, that after many days they find themselves in such a new and convenient library home, the ideal one to which Miss Worthen has so often looked forward.

As the building progressed, it was found that with more money, some improvements for the better could be made; and Mr. Larrabee as a committee of one, continued to solicit subscriptions; and in sums varying from \$2.00 to \$100.00, succeeded in adding \$3,559.75 to the \$3,600.00 raised before contract was made; and this with the gift of \$500.00 from John W. Farwell, Esq., makes a total of \$7,159.75 from our citizens; and this added to the gift of Hon. Andrew Carnegie, makes a total of \$32,159.75.

Meanwhile the Board of Alderman made an appropriation of \$4,500.00 for the steel stacks, furniture and interior fittings, electric lights, etc., and an additional appropriation of \$1,500.00 for the proper grading of the grounds, sitting of curbstones, trees and shrubbery. This makes a total of \$38,000.00 as the cost of the library. Add the assessed value of the land, 30,375 feet, \$15,000.00, and the estimated value of the books, and it makes a grand total of \$68,000.00 as the value of our new Melrose Public Library.

## DEDICATORY EXERCISES.

When the building was finished, the new library furniture, interior furnishings, electric lights, steel stacks, etc. installed, and everything ready for the dedication services except the bronze tablets which were not ready to be placed upon the walls until later, the following ticket of admission, together with the order of exercises, was sent to each of the City officials, the clergy of the City, each person who contributed to the cost of the building, and to a few other invited guests; among them, His Excellency, Governor John L. Bates, Honorable Charles L. Dean, Mayor of Malden, Caleb B. Tillinghast, State Librarian, and Deloraine P. Corey, Historian of Malden.

Admit the Bearer  
Dedication  
Melrose Public Library Building  
Friday, April 15, 1904  
3 P. M.

The City Seal was stamped in gilt in the centre of the ticket. There was a very large gathering present, every available space being occupied. The exercises were of a most interesting character, and listened to with earnest attention. The order of exercises was neatly printed on a four paged circular. The addresses and poems follow:

### INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS BY HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, SIDNEY H. BUTTRICK.

Nearly one year ago, on the nineteenth of April, 1903, was laid the cornerstone of this beautiful building; today we are assembled to complete the work so auspiciously begun, by dedicating it to the use and purposes for which it was planned and erected. For two years the Building Committee have labored faithfully and without ceasing, and for all their anxiety, the many trials which have naturally arisen, the hours of thought given to its consideration, surely there can be no



better recompense than having completed their work, to find that success has crowned their efforts, that it is universally praised, that those who have contributed of their means to assist the committee in the carrying out of their plans, that the people who are to support it in the future, are satisfied with the grand result. It has been in the minds of your committee from the first that this building which is to be open to all, and which in the natural condition of things will be visited and used so generally by our people and more particularly the youth, that some memorial should be placed here to show our appreciation of the services of those who served their country in her hour of need. And there are in preparation two bronze tablets with the following inscription :

" This tablet is placed here by the people of Melrose in grateful memory of the valor and patriotism of those citizens who served on land and on sea to the credit of the Town of Melrose in the war for the preservation of the Union, 1861-1865," and containing their names, which will be placed on the walls of this building where they will be a constant reminder of loyalty and patriotism, and an incentive to higher motives, that we may show in our lives and actions that the sacrifices made by those men were not in vain.

The Building Committee through the Honorable John Larrabee, who, while Mayor of the City in 1902, solicited and received the gift of Honorable Andrew Carnegie which made it possible for us to plan and build this structure, and who by his active and persistent efforts has succeeded in raising by public subscription, an amount sufficient to complete it in accordance with the original plan of the Building Committee, will now make the report for the Committee.

#### REPORT OF BUILDING COMMITTEE AND DELIVERY OF THE KEYS BY HONORABLE JOHN LARRABEE.

*Mr. Mayor, His Excellency the Governor, Invited Guests and Fellow Citizens :*

Through the generosity of Hon. Andrew Carnegie, the City of Melrose was assured of a gift of \$25,000 toward a free library building, provided the city government would by vote pledge the city to support a free library at a cost not less than \$2,500 a year, and provide a suitable site.

The gift was accepted by a unanimous vote, the pledge given as required, the site determined upon by the city government, and the Mayor was authorized to contract for a public library building to be erected on the "Old High School Lot," so called, on Emerson street, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.

The Mayor appointed an advisory committee of ten citizens, from different sections of the city, to assist him in selecting plans and awarding the contract.

After months spent in carefully considering the matter, plans being submitted in competition by fifteen architects, the committee decided to adopt the plans submitted by Mr. Penn Varney, of Lynn, as combining the essential requirements of a public library building well adapted to the present and future needs of the city. It was considered unwise to insist upon the limit placed upon the amount to be expended, which would necessitate the omission of many important details, and it was therefore decided to solicit funds from the people. Within forty-eight hours sufficient pledges were obtained to warrant the Mayor in asking authority to expend not exceeding \$30,000, subsequently increased to \$33,000, as the subscriptions increased and the necessity and wisdom of further additions and improvements became apparent.

On January 2, 1903, the Mayor, in behalf of the city, entered into a contract with our fellow townsman, Mr. George M. Tufts, for the erection of this building for the sum of \$27,110. Subsequent contracts for electric and gas fixtures, for decorating and for memorial tablets, together with necessary changes and improvements, have brought the entire cost to nearly \$32,000.

The work of construction has been faithfully carried on under the supervision of His Honor Mayor Buttrick, who selected as an Advisory or Building Committee the following gentlemen: Charles C. Barry, Moses S. Page, Elbridge H. Goss and John Larrabee.

Both architect and builder deserve the highest praise. They have fulfilled their contracts in the best possible manner, without friction, and to the entire satisfaction of the Mayor and the Advisory Committee.

During the progress of the work the committee has continued soliciting contributions from the people, which at present amount to \$7,159.75.

The financial value of the property to the city when complete is estimated as follows :

Lot of land, 30,375 feet, estimated value,	\$15,000 00
Cost of building, \$32,000, including furniture and interior fittings, \$4,500, the grading of the grounds, \$1,500, (appropriated but not expended) shrubs, plants, etc., \$300,	38,300 00
Total,	\$53,300 00
Including the value of the library itself, estimated by the Library Trustees as	15,000 00
	<u>\$68,300 00</u>

And now, Mr. Mayor, in behalf of *all* who have contributed to the building fund, and of the committee I have the honor to represent, I present to you, representing the City of Melrose, the Keys of the Melrose Public Library Building. May it long continue to serve the purposes for which it was designed, and be a lasting benefit to this and future generations.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE BUILDING BY HIS HONOR  
THE MAYOR, SIDNEY H. BUTTRICK.

In behalf of our city I accept the keys of this building—this beautiful building which is not only a monument to the cause of education but to generosity and nobleness of purpose, that sentiment which awakens in the human breast the latent powers of love. “As one lamp lights another nor grows less, so nobleness enkindleth nobleness.”

This is a day we may well be proud of; it marks as with a white stone an epoch in our history. For more than thirty years, ever since we founded our public library, it has been in the minds of the people that we should have a suitable building for library purposes, and now we have attained unto what we have hoped for. We appreciate the labors and the generous spirit of those whose efforts have made it possible for this building to be erected. It not only beautifies and adorns our city, but provides the opportunity of an education to all.

It now gives me pleasure to place the keys in the hands of the trustees of the library, to hold in trust for the city this beautiful building which we dedicate today, with confidence in their ability and fidelity to carry on this glorious work.

ADDRESS BY CHARLES C. BARRY, ESQ., CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES.

*Mr. Mayor:*

In behalf of the Trustees of the Public Library I accept these keys, and assume the care and custody of this building and its contents, in turn relying upon our efficient Librarian, Miss Worthen, whose industry during 30 years of service is only exceeded by her patience and geniality.

It shall be our endeavor to make this Library the People's University. Here may the opportunities neglected in school or college days be utilized for the purpose of acquiring a wider knowledge and a broader education. Here may the work of the public schools be supplemented in all its grades. Here may the minds of the children be instructed in nature study, and as their willing feet run to and fro, may eyes and ears be trained, and may their activities be utilized for their highest good.

You have spoken of the founding of this Library. I read again, with interest, last evening, an article read first at a public meeting of the Franklin Fraternity, held in old Concert Hall, February 16, 1870, appealing for the establishment of a Public Library in Melrose. Here is a paragraph:

“The existence of the thrifty circulating libraries shows that there is a craving in the popular mind for reading matter, and the enlarging sales of books and magazines renders this fact still more impressive. If we allow this craving to be satisfied with the surface writings of the day, it will soon outgrow its desire for the thoughtful application for books of sterling worth; and this may be prevented in a certain measure by the formation of a Public Library. It cannot be expected that a good library will be purchased as soon as the people are ready to consider the subject, but a beginning may be made, and it will be better to make it now than to wait for a future time. As a society, the Franklin Fraternity always consider themselves ready to put their hands to any such work as this, and though I do not speak by direct authority, I know that we should deem it a privilege to assist any such effort by a good round sum at the outset, and from year to year by the gift of good books.”

This resulted in quick action at a regular meeting and a subscription paper was speedily signed, the committee purchasing as a nucleus of the coming library, 125 volumes of the best of American literature.

Independently of this movement, David Fairbanks, Esq., applied, at the March meeting for the devotion of the accumulation of the “Dog Tax” to the beginnings of a Public Library. This motion prevailed and three trustees were chosen to serve the town: Frederic Kidder Elbridge H. Goss and Charles C. Barry.

Mr. Kidder became the chairman of the board. A man of sterling worth; quaint and strong. He was enthusiastic and helpful, and for many years served this community.

As for Elbridge H. Goss, Esq., my associate for 34 years, with the exception of one year or so when he served on the Board of Aldermen, it would be difficult, adequately, to treat of his worth to this institution,

or of his indefatigable labors in its behalf. He has been our chairman during the greater part of this long period. It is largely through his splendid enthusiasm, and his sturdy faithfulness, that it has rounded out its years of usefulness so creditably to the community and to the commonwealth.

The changes in the *personnel* of the board brought into its circle many of our representative women. Their work has made the library cosmopolitan in its character, and has served to shape its growth to meet the varying needs of this community.

You know we have been a "Travelling Library." From the Waverly Block near the Melrose Station to the City Hall. From the City Hall to the Y. M. C. A. building. From the Y. M. C. A. building to this: HOME, SWEET HOME!

It is said that three removes are as good as a fire! and I am quite sure of it now that our books are out in the sunshine of this well lighted stack room. They certainly show that they have done good, honest, faithful service, and that the life of a book, like the life of a man, has its well recognized limits, and finishes its days on earth and deserves to be burned to ashes and replaced by another.

There are certain well marked features of this library which distinguish it from others, and which are more clearly outlined now that we are establishing ourselves in the new home. In our well lighted basement, besides our work rooms, unpacking rooms, etc., you will find, on the Lake Avenue side, the Daniel W. Gooch Library. This was the gift of Mr. Gooch's Congressional Library, and covers the formative period of our government down to the present time, and is especially rich in the rarer volumes of historic interest and the war period. It has been stored in the roof of the City Hall until last month, and is now at the service of our students. On this floor we have three marked changes:

(1) The Main Reading Room separated from the Children's Room, with encyclopedias and books of reference, magazines and papers handy. This will be appreciated by those who have been crowded out, and who were unwilling to fight for their rights or to struggle for supremacy.

(2) The Children's Room, separated from that of the adults; with nature study case, bulletin boards, portfolios, different sized tables, etc.; combining the latest and most complete equipment known, to those who have made library equipment a life study, a separate card catalogue case is here in use.

(3) The Delivery Desk with card catalogue cases for ready reference.

A new feature in this library will be the free access of the people to the stack room and their own selection of books. Our neighbors in Somerville bring good reports of the practical working of this change of method, and we ask the co-operation of all in our endeavors to make this change both helpful and practical.

The new steel stacks, with adjustable shelves, the fire proof stack room with fire door, the abundance of sunlight and pure air will be appreciated by those who have been deprived of both. Even the books look pale and worn now that you see them by daylight.

Our second story of rooms is also a new departure. On the west side the space is divided into two rooms. First a Reference Room with tables, lights, shelving, speaking tube and book lift. This is more especially for the studious who wish to be comparatively undisturbed in their researches, and who wish to spend an evening with their books about them. Adjoining is the Trustee Room, also open for use as a Reference Reading Room when not in use by the board at its stated meetings. This room is likely to be the home of the first noteworthy gift offered to us since opening the doors of this building.

Last week a communication was received from the Woman's Club of Melrose, asking us to accept the gift of a series of cabinets to be placed in this or some other room, as may be arranged, and to be entitled the "Mary A. Livermore Library of Sacred Art." We know that the work will be a labor of love, and we also know that it will be carried to completion with credit alike to the donors and to the city.

On the east side of this story is the Historic and Art Room. Here we have the nucleus of a collection of pictures, engravings, objects of historic interest, souvenirs, etc., which will now be added to with renewed interest and zeal. It is our expectation to hold here from time to time exhibitions of the drawings made in our public schools: loan collections of pictures, photographs, etc., to stimulate interest in all these matters.

The upper hall serves also as an Art Gallery, and contains at present the busts of Mary A. Livermore, Samuel E. Sewall and Horace Mann; the portrait of Hon. Daniel W. Gooch; the famous photographs of the Roman Forum and the Coliseum, presented some years ago by Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Bordman, and our local papers, complete files of which are now preserved.

There has been some fear that we were fairly well equipped in our library both as to books and as to funds. May I say that these fears are groundless; that we are not well equipped either with books or with funds, and that we need both in judicious abundance. May I suggest for your thoughtful consideration our present need of a fund

of \$10,000, the income to be devoted to the purchase of books of the Colonial and Revolutionary period; and our need of another fund of \$10,000, the income to be devoted to the purchase of the best ten thousand books in general literature, bound in more durable and expensive bindings than obtains at present.

With the Boston Public Library and its resources so near at hand, we do not aim to purchase everything that is a book, but we do aim to have a choice and well selected library, and to this end we ask the co-operation of all our citizens here present, and the advice and assistance of our neighbors and friends of other communities.

We acknowledge with grateful appreciation the courteous consideration given on request, by the Board of Aldermen, and we ask the co-operation of its Committee on the Public Library, in our continued efforts to expend the public monies with care and discretion for the education of all the people.

#### ODE.

Written by JULIUS S. CLARK, M. D.

Sung by the ARION QUARTETTE.

When first the morning stars sang forth  
The birth of universal dawn,  
How darkness fateful fled the night  
At heed of God's supreme command:  
LET THERE BE LIGHT!

When Eden's twain the world possessed,  
Save knowledge's tree of good and ill,  
To further yet their gifts bedight,  
With guiltless fault their souls went out  
For light, more light!

With rapturous joy the angels sang,  
As rose the star o'er Bethlehem's plain,  
Hail to the Christ of blissful might!  
Who to the world a message brings,  
Of love and light.

As thus ordained 'twill ever be,  
Since God so filled the soul of man,  
Through darkest wilds, o'er error's blight,  
Shall pulpit, desk and printed page  
Give out the light.

In introducing Governor Bates, Mayor Buttrick said:

From the Constitution of Massachusetts, adopted in 1780, we read, "Wisdom and knowledge as well as virtue diffused generally among the body of the people being necessary for the preservation of their rights and liberties, it shall be the duty of Legislatures and Magistrates to cherish the interest of Literature, and to encourage private societies and public institutions for its promotion."

We are honored today by the presence of the Chief Magistrate of our glorious Commonwealth, who being sworn to sustain the Constitution, has consented to leave the busy cares of State, and show his interest and love for those things that advance the interests of the people, by joining with us on this occasion and giving us the sanction and approval of the State.

#### ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR JOHN L. BATES.

*Fellow Citizens:*

This is a significant occasion. This building is a monument that tells of unselfish men, men whose horizon is broader than their family, their neighborhood, their city, their country; men who are not satisfied to die when death comes, but who intend to leave a beneficial influence that shall live after them; men who are determined that the good that they do shall not be "interred with their bones." I congratulate Melrose that it has such men among its friends, both within and without its borders.

This building also tells of the aspirations and hopes of a people who are not content with their past acquisitions of knowledge. It is but one of more than 250 similar buildings to be found within this Commonwealth, and within these buildings there are gathered nearly 10,000,000 volumes, and from them there are taken every year an average of six volumes for every man, woman and child within the state. Canon Farrar in his observations on a trip to our country said: "that the libraries of America should make our people a nation of scholars." If that be true of America, it should be particularly true of Massachusetts. It is but a few years since when there were more free public libraries within this state than there were in all the rest of the states of the nation combined. That would not be true today, for the rest of the states have patterned after us, and the public library has become a recognized necessity of every large, progressive community. We have now the use of a free public library for every one of the 353 cities and towns within the Commonwealth.

The erection of this structure speaks further of the enriching of this community, for from these silent shelves will be heard ten thousand voices. Here a hundred languages will be spoken, yet there will be no babel nor confusion of tongues. There will be no rivalries or jealousies. Here will the poets of every age sing their songs, preachers preach, mathematicians calculate, statesmen proclaim their policies of government, philosophers their theories of life, scientists tell of their discoveries and historians reveal the story of men from the beginnings of time. Here will be gathered all that is worthy of preservation and discovery in arts, in science and in religion. Here will be told the stories of love and hate, of passion, of patriotism, of failure and of success. Here one will be introduced to the stars of the heavens and learn to follow the chariots of the sun; and from here will go forth the influences that shall broaden men and make them more effective toilers, artisans, preachers, lawyers, doctors, citizens. Here Rome and Greece and all the past shall live again.

Accept then my congratulations upon the construction of this great Council Chamber, where all the wise of every age may be consulted on the great and little things of life that most concern us, and where the total acquisitions of human experience and knowledge will be opened to the humblest citizen.

#### POEM.

Written and read by SAM WALTER FOSS.

Swing wide your gates from day to day,  
 And cry to whom it may concern  
 That Wisdom here is given away,—  
 Come hither without price and learn.  
 Here may be quaffed the long-pressed wine  
 Of the ripe grapes of Learning's vine,  
 And here is bread from that eternal wheat  
 That ripened in the field of thought, and he who will may eat.

Here find distilled since thought began,  
 And given away as soon as sought,  
 The essence of the thought of man,  
 The vintage of the juice of thought.  
 Here to the poorest child belong  
 Old Plato's thought and Homèr's song;  
 And here for all great Newton's cosmic scheme,  
 And Chaucer's morning tales and Dante's star-wide dream.

Here is the rapture of all seers,  
 Here all the beauty that endures,  
 Here all the visions of all years,—  
 Reach forth your hand and they are yours.  
 Here take, without a price or fee,  
 The soul of Shakespeare given free;  
 Here by the laureled sons of fame be taught,  
 And hold familiar parle with all the lords of thought.

The cunning wizards of the mind  
 Here all their guarded secrets tell,  
 The necromancers of mankind  
 Are ranged in aisles of miracle.  
 Here stand, that all who will may see,  
 The vials of the alchemy  
 Of man's best dreams exhaled through ages long,  
 The music of the eternal mind distilled in deathless song.

'Tis fitting in these days of noise,  
 Here in these thunder years of steam,  
 The soul should keep its equipoise  
 And think its thought and dream its dream.  
 We scar the placid vales with mills,  
 We scoop the seas and shear the hills;  
 'Tis well that to these temples of the mind  
 The jangled soul can flee and leave the noise behind.

Strong Mother of our modern days,  
 We love the fierceness of thy strife,  
 We gladly throng thy thunderous ways  
 Thrilled with their din, and call it life.  
 And nursed and cradled on the breast  
 Of this strong mother of unrest,  
 We love the tumult of the seething years  
 And all its iron noise is music in our ears.

Still let the noiseful din outspread,  
 (These iron foot-falls of our fate)  
 The years march on with thunderous tread,  
 But still they march toward something great.  
 We love the noise, the heat, the stress,  
 This life of strain and eagerness;  
 Strong with the milk that nursed us from the breast  
 Of our stern Mother Age, the Mother of Unrest.

But build these temples of the mind,  
 Amid the noises let them stand,  
 That in their silence we may find  
 A refuge in a roaring land.  
 Here where our noiseful deeds are wrought  
 Build quiet shrines for noiseless thought.  
 And in the tumult of our clamorous zest  
 Build temples sacred to the mind where tired souls may rest.



HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR JOHN L. BATES.

DEDICATORY ADDRESS BY MRS. MARY A. LIVERMORE.

What is the genesis of the free Public Library? When did the movement begin? What is the story of its evolution?

Long before the inhabitants of the rest of the world had emerged from the rudest barbarism, mighty empires were flourishing on the



MRS. MARY A. LIVERMORE.

Asiatic continent, for that was the original seat of human society. Men had lived on the earth unknown ages, before they knew enough, or cared enough to make a record of what they thought, felt, suffered, enjoyed or accomplished for their own improvement, or the benefit of posterity. When they began to do this, history began, and recorded history is comparatively a thing of yesterday. It is the narrative of modern men.

Truthful history does not take us back farther than ancient Egypt. The ancient Egyptians have been objects of interest to the whole civilized world in all ages, for Egypt was the world's university, the early home of civilization, of science and religion. Here Moses, Pythagoras, Herodotus and Plato, with other philosophers, lawgivers and scientists, went to school. Many things that our boastful twentieth century claims as its own invention or discovery were known and in use in Egypt four and five thousand years ago. Their fondness for recording all the events and transactions of their daily lives was remarkable and helpful to posterity. No other human records, whether of India or China, go back so far.

Because the Egyptians were fond of recording everything, not only in pictures, but in three different kinds of writing; because they were also fond of building temples and tombs of imperishable granite, on the walls of which they painted pictures representing their daily lives; and because in that rainless climate and dry air, these paintings are preserved to the present time in their original freshness, while the sand of the desert which has blown in has buried temples and monuments and saved them from destruction, we have wonderfully preserved, over an interval of forty-five centuries, the habits, occupations, mode of life, opinions and religious faith of that ancient time.

And yet, notwithstanding the ancient Egyptians wrote on everything, and concerning everything, so that hieroglyphics are found on all things, from their colossal statues to the smallest amulet and gem, the art was practised only by the priests. The pictures painted on the interior of temples and tombs plainly show this. No books are to be seen in the furniture of their houses; no woman is depicted in the act of reading; the papyrus scroll and pencil never appear in their sketches except in connection with some official act.

The library at Thebes was very celebrated. Its blue ceiling was flecked with stars, and allegorical pictures of a religious character, and portraits of sacred animals were painted on the walls. Above the door was inscribed, "The Balsam of the Soul." But this magnificent building contained merely a collection of prayer-books and ancient hymns, with astronomical almanacs, some works on religious philosophy, medicine, music and geometry, and the historical archives, which were probably little else than a register of the names of kings, with the dates of certain inventions, and a scanty outline of events. Even these books, so few in number, were not open to all members of the learned class, much less to the people. They were the manuals of the various departments or professions, and only they could use them.

The truth is that the libraries of the past, almost down to the

18th century, were not intended for the circulation of literature, or for the diffusion of knowledge, but only to preserve books and documents from destruction. Wherever writing in any form was known, whether in a palace, or at the court of a king, or at educational centres, where students gathered for fellowship or instruction, these libraries sprang up naturally. Their antiquity is so remote as to preclude investigation. Inscribed bricks have been found in rows and tiers of shelves, buried under the sands of the Assyrian desert, in such a fashion as to compel belief that they were a part of what was once a very extensive library. Many of them were confessedly copies or compilations of similar books, preserved in other libraries, that had existed centuries before, but had met with destruction from the savage hordes that peopled the world, when its main business was war and rapine.

Notwithstanding Mahometan Caliphs had forbidden, under severe penalties, the destruction of Jewish and Christian books, the famous library at Alexandria was destroyed in the year 390, by a rabble of turbulent bigots. They saw in that vast collection of ancient science and literature, only a perpetual insult and menace to their own religion. Other similar deeds of vandalism were perpetrated. And we read of a wholesale burning of books by "the Latin stormers of Constantinople," of "the annihilation of one hundred thousand volumes by the crusaders at Tripoli," "the bonfire of eighty thousand Arabic manuscripts, in the square of Granada, in Spain," down to "the irreparable cremation of Aztec writings by the bigoted early bishops of Mexico."

During the phenomenal years that we call the "dark ages," the world seemed to retrograde, and to unlearn much of civilization, that it had painfully acquired after the advent of Christianity. The flickering flame of learning would have gone out altogether, had it not been kept alive by noble souls who fostered it. However dissolute may be the age, and however debased its ideals, there are always the typical "five thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal," and who carry in their hearts the prophecy of a better day, and prepare for its coming. So was it then. Valuable books and manuscripts were carefully secreted in monasteries and universities, and patient copyists toiled day and night making transcripts of literary treasures, of which they had only temporary possession. In this way, during those seemingly hopeless centuries, large libraries of many thousand volumes were preserved and handed down to the later and happier eras, that came in with Luther's reformation.

Our Puritan forefathers were intent on continuing the English civilization which they had left in England, on broader and more

liberal lines than the mother country had done, and so gave very early attention to matters of education. Occasional mention of a public library is found in the Boston town records, and other documents of the 17th century. The library was founded upon a legacy of books and money from the estate of an eccentric merchant tailor, Capt. Robert Keayne. It was in charge of the selectmen, and when the "new Market House" was built in 1658, a room therein was assigned it. Purchases of books were made in London for "the use of the library," from time to time, and in 1695, a town meeting instructed the selectmen, "to recover wherever found, and to care for all books and other property belonging to the library." The collection was burned with the Market House in 1747.

A century passed. And then Benjamin Franklin came to the front with a demand for the establishment of a "public library, for the diffusion of knowledge." He argued that a good library, "whose books should be in circulation, would make men more capable of self-direction, and fit them better for civil and political independence." He immediately proceeded to execute his plan, and in 1732, the "Philadelphia Library Company" was established, which Franklin hailed, as "mother of all the subscription libraries of North America."

Another century passed. And in 1839, Hon. Horace Mann, then secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, reported that there were from ten to fifteen town libraries in Massachusetts, containing in the aggregate between three thousand and four thousand volumes, to which all the citizens of the towns had free access; but that the number of volumes in all the public libraries, of all kinds, in the state, was about three hundred thousand, but that not more than one hundred thousand persons or one-seventh of the population were allowed to use them. Since then there has been a marvelous quickening of interest in the free public library, which has been felt in the remotest part of the state. It has stimulated gifts of books, library buildings, donations of money, articles of furniture, statuary and painting, that in the aggregate have amounted to many millions of dollars.

One of the city librarians tells us that "the American people have trebled and quadrupled their consumption of newspapers and periodicals in the last twenty years, that libraries have doubled, and the books on their shelves have quadrupled in the same time; that altogether the libraries of the century lend a hundred million novels a year, with twenty-five million books of other kinds, and that things to read and readers to enjoy them, increase in ways we scarcely notice, and with results we can scarcely estimate. The library movement has

kept pace with the enthusiastic movement for better schools, and enlarged educational opportunities for the whole community. Each has stimulated and helped the other.

The number of books in the free public libraries of Massachusetts, according to the latest census, is three million, seven hundred and fifty thousand, which is about one and a half volumes to each inhabitant. The circulation for house use in twelve months is seven million six hundred and sixty-six thousand, or a little over three volumes to each person. In 1897 there were thirty-four free libraries in the country that contained one hundred thousand volumes and upward. The Congressional Library at Washington with eight hundred and forty thousand books, Harvard University Library, with five hundred and ten thousand, and the Boston Public Library, with seven hundred and thirty thousand. The Boston Public Library opened in 1854 with sixteen thousand volumes, only one thousand more than the Melrose Library contains today. It has made a gain of over seven hundred thousand books in forty-three years.

We have nothing as yet in America, that approximates the ideal library and reading-room of the British museum, where two million volumes are housed, which is the largest collection of books in all England. The reading room is unequalled in the world. It is an immense circular room, lighted perfectly by a great dome, that sheds a soft light through the noiseless apartment. Every reader or copyist has a desk with writing materials, a commodious leather padded chair and a footstool. He has a shelf for his reference books, and an adjustable rest for the books too heavy to hold. The attendants are shod with silence, and chary of speech, and, laden with books and manuscripts move quickly about, rendering prompt and intelligent service to the crowd of readers and writers bending over the desks. Nowhere else in the world is there a reading-room with so perfect an equipment; nowhere such a world of books and manuscripts in every language, and of every age, with a constituency that is universal and cosmopolitan.

The question is often asked, "What is the good of a free public library? Who is the better for it? What advantages does it confer?" If it lacked every other phase of usefulness it can be urged that it supplies the public with recreative reading. We spend public money very freely, to furnish the people with attractive landscapes, drives, lakes, gardens, fountains and statuary, with free concerts, and exhibitions of fire works. Why not elevate the methods of recreation, and add intellectual pleasure to the enjoyment now furnished to the eye and ear? To the masses of the people, hard-worked, living humdrum



lives in cramped and unbeautiful quarters, as well as to those lapped in luxury, half dead with *ennui*, and longing for something to kill time, the novel comes as an open door into an ideal life. In the enjoyment of the scenes depicted by the creative novelist, one may forget the hardships and griefs, and even the weariness of real life.

There are those among even the most intelligent librarians, who would rule out of a library most of the "current fiction" of the day, retaining only the few works of the great novelists of the world, whose names can be counted on the fingers of both hands. They argue that the library is to be the most effective force in popular education in the future; the great intellectual training school of citizens for their important work in the republic; the armory where can be found the weapons forged by the great thinkers, who are to solve the industrial, economic and social problems of the time. All this is true. But a free public library is not an arrangement for a few, but for the whole community—not alone for the educated and illumined minority but for the masses on whom the burdens of life press heavily. For them, let there be novels that are harmless and bright, and which afford light amusement; stories that are distinctly pleasant reading, and are pervaded by an atmosphere of refinement and honor.

Even workers in literature crave such mental relaxation as novels like these can give. Mrs. Browning, "the Shakespeare of women," confessed herself a wholesale consumer of light fiction, who went to sleep at night with three novels under her pillow. The records show that the year preceding the ushering in of the twentieth century—the year 1899—there were 2,257 writers of fiction. Of course they did not produce masterpieces. Nor was their work wholly bad, or even worthless, but of all orders and degrees, none of which was likely to last long. While the obvious purpose of a novel is to entertain and amuse, it is yet the form in which are preserved the customs, sentiments and ideas of an epoch. More is known today of the history and traditions of Scotland, of its social usages and of its heroism and loyalty from the novels of Sir Walter Scott, than from all the prosaic histories of Scottish localities. The same is true of Dickens' novels. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* entered the anti-slavery field like an "army with banners," and produced a most extraordinary effect. When President Lincoln first met Mrs. Stowe he said to her, "And is this the little woman who made the great war?" The remark indicated the incalculable influence that the novel may exert upon human life. The same is true of Bellamy's *Looking Backward*. It was not a great novel, but a most entertaining story, read with immense pleasure by

the million on two continents, and it was very stimulative of thought. It was the prophecy of an ideal industrial commonwealth, which the people largely accepted.

The truth is, the influence of light reading elevates and refines the community, especially if it be of a high character. And who can doubt that the men and women of today, who are most conversant with libraries, and have a wide outlook on the world, and a large fund of general information, make the best citizens, and are most to be depended upon in the administration of affairs! "History is past politics and the politics of today is present history."

The trades, industries and arts of the present time are specialized, and each has its own literature, which is always found on the shelves of a good public library. Other things being equal, the person whose practical knowledge of his work is supplemented by theoretical acquaintance through its best books, will easily outstrip the mere perfunctory worker. And the community whose artisans add to their shop knowledge of their trade the latest reading on the subject, will flourish at the expense of rival towns, where the standard of equipment will be lower.

It is not possible to predict the future of the public library. Its present marvellous development, which has been attained within the last half century, leads us to expect still greater gains in the near future. Its use will never again be limited to the safe keeping of books and documents. It will never degenerate into a mere museum for the storage of rare old volumes, illuminated missals, famous manuscripts and other literary curios. The library will in the future reach every class in the community, and adjust itself to the needs of all, striving to attain to the highest educational ideals. It is even now doing this. The New York State Library sends travelling libraries to the clubs of the "Farmers' Wives Reading Course," composed of practical works on home economics, biography, travel, fiction and poetry. During the past two years, Cornell University has sustained in its State Extension Department one reading course for farmers, and another for farmers wives. One course meets the needs of the wife in the home, and the other is adapted to the husband in the field. Books are also provided for the common interests of the home and farm, and for the children.

One librarian informs us that almost every library in the land is today a "Kindness-to-Animals Society" in itself, through the books of nature stories on its shelves. This is the result of the nature studies in the schools, and tends inevitably to habits of gentleness and kindness to animals among the children. Another librarian calls

attention to the fact that in all libraries near centres of foreign population, the children of foreign parents, still speaking the mother tongue in their homes, are eager for books of American history and biography. They want to know the real, true things concerning the new country that is to be their home, and are thus unconsciously becoming Americanized. These are but prophecies of the larger educational work of the free public library, in the great future now looming up before us — suggestions of the hundred-handed agency with which, some day, it will distribute literature and diffuse knowledge. Should they not stimulate us to a wise use of the promising library of which we are already the happy possessors?

After the close of the exercises, the building was thrown open to the general public for inspection. Everybody expressed themselves as very much pleased with the building and its arrangements, thinking it well adapted for the purposes for which it has been erected.

And now the Melrose Public Library, which, during its thirty-four years of history has had many abiding places, thanks to the generous gift of Hon. Andrew Carnegie, and the contributions of many of our citizens, occupies a handsome, commodious, and permanent home.

## DEDICATION OF THE SOLDIERS' TABLETS.

The contract for the making of the Soldiers' Tablets, referred to in Mayor Buttrick's address at the dedication of the library building, April 15, 1904, was awarded to Mr. George P. Tilton, of Newburyport, Mass., for the sum of \$400, who completed the work in a very satisfactory manner. They were finished and placed in position in season for dedicatory exercises on Memorial Day, May 30, which took place under the auspices of the Mayor and the Library Advisory Committee, aided by the U. S. Grant Post 4, G. A. R., which was invited to unite with them in the dedication exercises.

At half past eight, on the morning of Memorial Day, a marching column was formed at the City Hall, on Main street, consisting of the following organizations:

Platoon of police under command of Officer Osborne E. Drown. Bellevue Drum Corps, Captain Martin, leader. Signal Corps of the 2d Brigade, M. V. M., Lieut. Walter C. Stevens commanding, acting as escort. U. S. Grant Post 4, G. A. R., Commander, A. A. Carleton; Adjutant, Charles A. Patch; Past Commander, Horatio S. Libby; Richard D. Kilgore, Frank T. Palmer, Edwin C. Gould, Gilbert N. Harris and Frank E. Orcutt, commanding platoons. William Francis Barry Camp 79, Sons of Veterans, Commander, Frank A. Howe. Boys' Brigade, eight companies, with Fife and Drum Corps, Col. A. G. Cullis, commanding. Veterans in carriages, the oldest one being Joseph S. Eastman, eighty-five. Woman's Relief Corps, in barges.

Arriving at the library where a large number of citizens had already assembled, the exercises took place as follows:

His Honor Mayor Sidney H. Buttrick, in a short address appropriate to the occasion, introduced Commander A. A. Carleton, who after a few words by way of introduction, proceeded to dedicate the tablets by the use of the Grand Army

ritual, which was very appropriate for the purpose. He was assisted by the following comrades, each having a part in the service, and rendering the same in a very pleasing manner: Officer of the Guard, Richard D. Kilgore; Officer of the Day, Horatio S. Libby, and Chaplain John E. Marshall, who offered the dedicatory prayer.

At the close of these exercises, Mayor Buttrick introduced Elbridge H. Goss, who delivered the following address:

"The first gun that spat its iron insult at Fort Sumter, smote every loyal American full in the face."

When the telegraph announced the attack on Sumter, April 12, 1861, a wave of mighty indignation swept over our land from ocean to ocean. By this infamous act every loyal heart was insulted; and, at the reception of the news, every such heart was thrilled and stirred to its inmost recesses.

By this attack upon the heroic band of patriots under Major Anderson, all hope of a settlement of the then existing troubles was extinguished. The mighty energy of the North was aroused.

"Like some old organ peal,  
Solemn and grand,  
The anthem of Freedom  
Sweeps through the land,"

One purpose seemed to spring into existence instantly, and animate every heart—a determination to maintain our nation intact at any and all sacrifices. It was well said: "Heart throbbed to heart, lip spoke to lip, with a oneness of feeling that seemed like a Divine inspiration."

And when, three days later, President Lincoln issued his call for convening an extra session of congress, and calling upon the states for 75,000 troops with which to defend the capital and public property, the response was truly wonderful and glorious.

"The plough, the loom, the counting house, the bar, the pulpit, all the vocations of ordinary life were abandoned; men of all conditions and circumstances flew to arms in response to the call of the nation's Chief Magistrate."

Thanks to the foresight, thoughtfulness and energy of our great war governor, John A. Andrew, Massachusetts was ready to send forward troops at once. The third, fourth, fifth, sixth and eighth regiments were ready. Six days after the call, Gov. Andrew was enabled to say:

"The whole number of regiments demanded from Massachusetts were already either in Washington, or in Fortress Monroe, or on their way to the defense of the capital."

The immortal sixth left Boston on the 17th, and two days later—on the ever memorable 19th of April—the telegraph flashed the news over the land that it was fighting its way through the streets of Baltimore; that four men had been killed and many more wounded. Still deeper was the shock! More intense the feeling! Massachusetts men the first martyrs in this terrible Civil War. Massachusetts blood the first to flow, and on this anniversary of Lexington and Concord's opening scene in days of yore! The excitement increased; business was neglected; our country's wrongs and our country's danger, was the most important and all absorbing topic of conversation. And Edward Everett, speaking at Roxbury, a few days later, said:

"Wide as the summons has gone forth, it has been obeyed with an alacrity and unanimity that knew no parallel in our history; and the volunteers of Massachusetts have been first in the field."

At this time Melrose was a small town of 2,500 inhabitants, but like all the cities and towns of the loyal North, she realized the excitement, and felt the danger as thoroughly as any of them—she was patriotic to the core. Melrose had no military organizations; there was no immediate stir in our streets, no sound of fife and drum, no hurry and bustle consequent of the gathering of military companies, as was the case in many other municipalities; but its citizens were aroused, and five of our patriotic young men at once buckled on the armor and hurried to the scene of conflict. These were: George W. Batchelder, Gordon McKay, Thomas Smith and William Wyman, who went into Co. B, Captain John W. Locke of Wakefield, of the fifth regiment, Col. Samuel C. Lawrence of Medford, and Seth Morrison, Co. F, of the fourth regiment.

I cannot forbear quoting here the eloquent words of Gov. Andrew at this time:

"But how shall I record the great and sublime uprising of the people, devoting themselves, their lives, their all? No creative art has ever woven into song a story more tender in its pathos, or more stirring to the martial blood, than the scenes just enacted, passing before our eyes in the villages and towns of our dear old Commonwealth. Henceforth be silent, ye cavillers at New England thrift, economy and peaceful toil! Henceforth let no one dare accuse our Northern sky, our icy winters, or our granite hills! 'Oh, what a glorious morning!' was the exulting cry of Samuel Adams, as he, excluded from royal grace, heard the sharp musketry, which, on the dawn of the 19th of April, 1775, announced the beginning of the war of Independence. The yeomanry who in 1775, on Lexington Common, and on the banks of Concord river, first made the day immortal in our annals, have found

their lineal representatives in the historic regiment, which on the 19th of April, 1861, in the streets of Baltimore, baptized our flag anew in heroic blood, when Massachusetts marched once more 'in the sacred cause of liberty and the rights of mankind.'"

Mr. Mayor, members of the library advisory committee, and the committee of the U. S. Grant Post 4, you have asked me to tell you something about these tablets and of the names thereon; citizens who saw service for Melrose in the Civil War. Of course I cannot here give you information concerning each and every one, but only of a portion of them. Neither can it be as full as existing facts may warrant, and might be given; but must necessarily be in a very condensed form.

On the 3d of May, President Lincoln issued his proclamation for three years' troops. May 6, a town meeting was held in "Concert Hall." Stirring and patriotic speeches were made, and at once fourteen of our young men, the best and bravest, enlisted for the Thirteenth Massachusetts Regiment. Among them were the two boy patriots killed at Antietam, William Francis Barry and John Parker Shelton. Also our honored townsman, Rear Admiral N. Mayo Dyer, and others, some of whom will be mentioned later.

On a Sunday evening just before the regiment left for Washington, these Melrose boys met in the Baptist church, and the pastor, Rev. James Cooper, presented to each one a Testament, accompanied by an address and prayer. On the fly-leaf of each, was written, besides the name, the words: "God and our Country."

I have been tempted to follow the history of the annals of the war, year after year, giving details, but must desist. As Melrose raised no whole company for any regiment, our men, as they enlisted, selected the regiment or battery in which they preferred to serve; consequently they were much scattered, and entered many different organizations before the war was ended. Suffice it to say, that call after call was made for more troops, by the president, town meeting after town meeting held, war subscriptions made, quota after quota filled, until it was found that Melrose had furnished 455 men for the war. Does not this show that the little Town of Melrose was patriotic? Listen:

PROVOST-MARSHAL'S OFFICE,  
6TH DISTRICT MASS.,  
LAWRENCE, December 31, 1864.

This is to certify that, as appears by the records of this office, the surplus of the Town of Melrose, over all calls is seventy-four (74) men.

H. G. HERRICK,  
Captain and Provost-Marshal, 6th Dist. Mass.

Previous to the erection of the unique soldiers' monument on the soldiers' lot in Wyoming cemetery, in 1902, it had often been said that Melrose had done nothing to commemorate the patriotism and sacrifice of those "Boys in Blue" who enlisted in her various quotas, giving their services and their lives, in many instances, for the preservation of the Union; forgetting, or not knowing, that in 1868, three years after the close of the war, a volume of over 300 pages had been privately printed, entitled: "The Melrose Memorial: The Annals of Melrose in the great Rebellion of 1861-65;" a copy of which had been paid for by the town, and given to each one whose names are contained on these tablets, or their representative; each handsomely embossed with their names and with this inscription: "Presented to— (name of soldier or sailor)— by the Town of Melrose, in recognition of his services during the great rebellion of 1861-5." This volume gave a detailed history of the patriotic action of the town all through the war, names of the enlisted, its various meetings for the raising of volunteers, money, charities, etc. It contained many biographical sketches of those who laid down their lives, or suffered in rebel prisons.

The names, 204 of them, appear upon these handsome bronze tablets—one on either side of the hallway,—which bears this inscription:

"This Tablet is placed here by the People of Melrose, in grateful memory of the valor and patriotism of those citizens who served on land and on sea to the credit of the Town of Melrose, in the War for the Preservation of the Union, 1861-1865."

Then follow the names arranged alphabetically,—102 on each of them.

Of the names thus appearing about one-third of them—seventy—are still living; but only the following, about one-third of that seventy, are now residents of this city; the rest have gone away from us, and become denizens of other boroughs:

John H. L. Anderson	William H. Martin
David A. Barrett	Frank M. McLaughlin
Charles Boardman	Thomas J. Munn
Frederic U. Corson	Moses S. Page
Nehemiah M. Dyer	Daniel S. Pratt
Joseph S. Emerson	Horace Prescott
George P. Fuller	William H. Richardson
George W. Grover	Charles E. Skinner
Charles S. Jones	Samuel Sprague
Amos W. Lynde	Thomas B. Stantial
Sherman Lynde	Benjamin F. York
James Marshall	Josiah R. York

THIS TABLET IS PLACED HERE BY THE PEOPLE OF MELROSE  
 IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THE VALOR AND PATRIOTISM  
 OF THOSE CITIZENS WHO SERVED ON LAND AND ON SEA  
 TO THE CREDIT OF THE TOWN OF MELROSE  
 IN THE WAR FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE UNION

1861 - 1865

JOHN HILL ANDERSON	WILLIAM HEARL	JOSEPH W. HAYNES
LEONARD ANDERSON	WILLIAM HEASTMAN	JOHN HEATON
EDWIN A. ANDREWS	GEORGE W. ELLIOT	HENRY H. HOLLIS
JOHN M. BARNARD JR.	JACOB W. ELLIOT	AVERY B. HOWARD
CHARLES BARRETT	JAMES W. EMMERSON	JAMES B. HOWARD
DAVID BARRETT	JAMES W. EMMERSON	FRANCIS E. HOWE
ELLIOT F. BARRON	JOSEPH S. EMMERSON	PEGGIE KAYDE
HENRY BARRON	THOMAS C. EVANS	SAMUEL MCARDLE, JR.
ROYAL P. BARRY	CHARLES D. FARGO	ALONZO D. TRENON
WILLIAM F. BARRY	MICHAEL FARRELL	DAVID A. TREGON
GEORGE W. BATELDER	EDWARD A. FISHER	JACOB E. MACKSON
NELSON W. BICKFORD	JAMES A. FOSS	WILLIAM H. JACKSON
CHARLES BOARDMAN	GEORGE F. FULLER	WILLIAM F. JACKSON
HENRY A. BODWELL	HENRY F. FULLER	CHARLES E. JONES
ARCHIBALD BUGLE	WILLIAM F. FULLER	HENRY H. JONES
NATHAN H. BRAND	RICHARD GALLAGHER	J. WESLEY JONES
JONAS C. BROWN	MARTIN GREENE	ROLAND E. JUDKINS
THOMAS O. BRYAN	ANDREW J. GROVER	EDWARD W. KENDALL
ADEBERT ABUFFUM	GEORGE W. GROVER JR.	THEOPHILUS KILEY
OLIVER R. BURNHAM	JOHN T. GROVER	GEORGE L. KING
GEORGE P. BURNHAM	WILLIAM W. GROVER	FREDERICK W. KRANTZ
PASCHAL E. BURNHAM	GEORGE HAMMOND	WILLIAM F. KRANTZ
JOHN W. BUTTRICK	ANDREW W. HARE	SAMUEL LEEDS
JOHN L. CHAMBERS	ABNER B. HART	RICHARD LEVER
	FRANKLIN HARVEY	

FIRST TABLET - 102 NAMES.

THIS TABLET IS PLACED HERE BY THE PEOPLE OF MELROSE  
 IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THE VALOR AND PATRIOTISM  
 OF THOSE CITIZENS WHO SERVED ON LAND AND ON SEA  
 TO THE CREDIT OF THE TOWN OF MELROSE  
 IN THE WAR FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE UNION

1861 - 1866

WILLIAM E. LEICHTON	PHILIP L. CHAMAR	QUINN	THOMAS H. STEVENS
CLESHING LITTLEFIELD	GEORGE MITCHELL	GEORGE ENRICHARDSON	JOHN E. STILFEN
DAVID S. LYALL	CHARLES H. HARRISON	JOHN F. RICHARDSON	HENRY STONE
HENRY B. LYMAN	SETH MORRISON	WILLIAM H. RICHARDSON	STEPHEN SUINEL
AMOS W. LYMAN	GEORGE J. MORSE	CHARLES H. ROBERTS	THOMAS T. SWEETSEI
BENJAMIN LYMAN	SIDNEY B. MORSE	STEPHEN F. ROWELL	GEORGE A. YAMNICK
CHARLES BLANDE	THOMAS J. MUNK	AUGUSTUS SASSARO	JOHN THOMPSON
GEORGE W. LYMAN	GEORGE C. MUSHOLS JR.	LEONARD C. SEAVEY	BENJAMIN TOWER
SHERMAN LYMAN	SMITH L. MUSHOLS JR.	MARTIN SHANNON	WILLIAM TUCKER
JAMES MADY	GEORGE O. NOYES	ALBERT F. SHELTON	WILLIAM T. VAYLET
JOHN S. MADY	LOUIS S. PAGE	CHARLES W. SHELTON	CHARLES H. UPHAM
WILLIAM B. MAGEE	FRANCIS PEABODY	JOHN F. SHELTON	HENRY V. UPHAM
JAMES MARSHALL	TORREY PEABODY	TROAS SHELTON	EDWIN A. VINTON
SAMUEL MARSHALL	TORREY PEABODY JR.	JOSEPH E. SIMONDS	JOHN F. WADY
CHARLES H. MARTIN	LEWIS E. PERKINS	JOSEPH V. SIMONDS	CHARLES A. WELLS
GEORGE T. MARTIN	JOHN PERKINS JR.	CHARLES E. SKINNER	CHARLES L. WHITE
JEREMIAH MARTIN JR.	JACOB E. PIKE	HENRY W. STOKOME	EDWARD H. WHITNEY
WILLIAM B. MARTIN	JAMES L. PILLING	EDWARD A. SMALL	BENJAMIN F. WILDE
DANIEL V. MCALLISTER	DANIEL S. PRATT	THOMAS SMITH	GEORGE V. WYMAN
GEORGE H. MCALLISTER	HENRY V. PRATT	WAYLAND R. SMITH	WESTON WYMAN
ANGUS McDONALD	CHARLES PRENTICE	HENRY H. SPAULDING	WILLIAM WYMAN
CURDON MCKAY	FORACE PRESCOTT	SAMUEL SPRAGUE JR.	BENJAMIN E. YORK
FRANK L. MCGAUGHAN	ALBERT C. PRINCE	THOMAS B. STANTIAL	JUSTIAH E. YORK
GEORGE W. MCGAUGHAN	JOHN E. QUINN	THADDEUS S. STEBBINS	WILLIAM E. YORK
HIRSH MCGAUGHAN JR.	JOHN H. QUINN	CHARLES H. STEVENS	

SECOND TABLET - 102 NAMES.

Of these 204 men, 23 were killed in battle, died in rebel prisons, or died previous to 1868, from disease contracted in the army. The first to give up his life was Henry F. Fuller, who died in October, 1861. Henry W. Upham was our youngest hero, being, when he enlisted, a school boy only thirteen years and six months of age.

Those killed in battle were as follows:

At Antietam, John Parker Shelton and William Francis Barry; both mere boys when enlisting, about 18 years old. Barry was the younger brother of the late Royal P. Barry and Charles C. Barry, the chairman of our board of trustees; and in his honor the Sons of Veterans camp was named. He said just before enlisting: "I don't wish to leave home, but rather stay,—but just such young men as I am are called for; I am well and strong, and it is my duty to go;" and Charles W. Shelton with him in the battle, writing two days after, said: "He was Willie Barry on the battlefield. The coolest, bravest, noblest of the many patriots who that day gave themselves a sacrifice to Liberty and Country!"

And of young Parker Shelton, it was said in a letter to me in 1867, written by Ambrose Dawes, one of our boys, and who stood by his side when he fell: "No better man, no more generous spirit fell in the war. He gave his life freely in the cause of duty. Why regret that he died such a glorious death? Rather envy him that he died for his country in the cause for which Reno, and Mansfield, and Wadsworth, and Reynolds, and last, but not least, the martyred Lincoln, laid down their lives."

George James Morse, first enlisted in the Thirteenth, then became 2d lieutenant in the 2d U. S. colored troops, and then 1st lieutenant in the Fifty-ninth Massachusetts Regiment, was killed at Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864. When re-enlisting, he said: "I enlisted at first because I felt it my duty; the same cause still exists, and the same necessity for action; and if my life is spared, and I am needed, five years from this time will find me in the field, for while this war lasts, that must be my home." And to his mother just before leaving home the last time: "If I am worthy to go and wear a soldier's uniform, I am worthy to fill a soldier's grave." His younger brother Sidney, who enlisted at the same time as did George, April 19th, in the 4th Battalion Rifles, afterwards recruited to the Thirteenth Regiment, said: "I have neither houses nor land to give, but I am willing to give my life to my country!"

And then there was Martin Greene, killed at Cedar Mountain, August 9, 1862; Richard Lever, Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864, and Augustus Green, Bethesda Church, June 3, 1864.

Of those who suffered, and those who died in rebel prisons: Albert

W. Crockett died in Andersonville, the very name of which causes an old soldier to shudder, August 1, 1864; and George E. Richardson, in Salisbury Prison, November 3, 1864. Those who suffered imprisonment in these vile pens, but lived through it and returned, were Henry H. Jones, brother of the late Nathaniel P. Jones, who survived the horrors and torments of "Belle Isle," dying recently, August 24, 1903. He was taken prisoner at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863, released in 1864, and rejoined his regiment in the May following. Archibald Bogle, at first lieutenant in the 17th Regiment, then major in 35th U. S. Colored Troops; wounded and taken prisoner at the "Battle of Olustee," Florida, February 20, 1864. Taken to Andersonville, thence to Millen, Savannah, Charleston and Columbia; finally paroled March 1, 1865. He received the rank of brevet-colonel, March 13, 1865.

George W. Batchelder, already mentioned, three months in "Belle Isle" and "Libby," was one of the five in the first Bull Run, and who re-enlisted in the 22d Regiment, afterwards transferred to the 32d Regiment, and discharged at the close of the war as 1st lieutenant.

Edmund W. Davis, taken prisoner at "Gaines' Mills," June 27, 1862, first carried to "Libby," thence to "Belle Isle." After his exchange, he was discharged, and died at Melrose, July 22, 1864. Other sufferers and survivors were William H. Eastman, brother of our M. Frank Eastman; John L. Chambers, Frederick W. Krantz, John E. Quinn, who was in both "Andersonville" and "Belle Isle;" Henry Stone, who was in "Libby Prison," George W. Elliott and Benjamin F. York.

Besides these at one time we had 25 men prisoners in rebel hands. Among them was the father of His Honor, Mayor Sidney H. Buttrick, whose little daughter unveiled one of the tablets. They belonged to the 42d Regiment, were in the "Battle of Galveston" January 1, 1863, and taken prisoners. They were not subjected to the starvation tactics of "Andersonville" and other like prisons, but were more humanely treated, and after about two months exchanged.

Davis, above referred to, was one of five brothers who served in the war: Edward W., Loammi G., John E., James L. and Charles L. Two other families furnished four each: that of Martin, George T., William H., Charles H. and Jeremiah, Jr., and that of York, Benjamin F., Josiah R., William B., and Arthur, Jr. Several families furnished three each: Shelton, Macey, Emerson, father and two sons; Peabody, father and two sons, Wyman and McLaughlin, one of whom is our chief-of-police, and the following two each: Anderson, Barry, Barron, Crockett, Dawes, Fuller, Grover, Howard, Ireson, Lynde, Morse, McAllister, Nichols and Quinn.

Of the others who gave up their lives during the war, and the years immediately following, I must make brief mention, but cannot and shall not attempt to follow the many of those whose names are on these tablets, who have passed on during these subsequent years.

George T. Martin, lieutenant, first in the 38th Regiment, then in the 4th Heavy Artillery, died at the Massachusetts General Hospital, March 13, 1865. William H. Macey at Alexandria, Va., August 30, 1862. Thomas H. Stevens, at Boston, March 26, 1863. Jonas G. Brown, at Baton Rouge, La., June 18, 1863. Benjamin Lynde, at Baton Rouge, La., August 18, 1863. Nathan H. Brand, Washington, D. C., March 6, 1864. James R. Howard, at Melrose, August 16, 1864. Francis Peabody, Newburne, N. C., October 3, 1864. Benjamin F. Wilde, accidentally shot in the fall of 1864.

Truly may it be said with Edward Everett, standing on the blood-stained field of Gettysburg, at the consecration of its national cemetery:

"From the dawn of history to the present time, men have paid the homage of their gratitude and admiration to the memory of those who nobly sacrificed their lives that their fellowmen may live in safety and in honor."

And again:

"The muffled drum's sad roll has beat  
The soldier's last tattoo;  
No more on life's parade shall meet  
That brave and fallen few.

On Fame's eternal camping ground  
Their silent tents are spread,  
And glory guards the solemn round  
The bivouac of the dead."

And yet again:

"High on the world's heroic list,  
Shall every name be seen,—  
And time among the cherished dead  
Shall keep their memories green.

The patriot's heart shall warmer glow,  
When standing by their grave;  
And dearer still shall be the flag  
They welcomed death to save."

Much might be said concerning the money that was raised at different times outside of that raised by the town; articles of raiment, food and medicine sent to the front. In 1862, \$340 was contributed by nine donors, and in 1864 a war fund of \$5650 was raised at one time, by 217

contributors, in sums ranging from \$2.00 to \$250, which sum was given by our greatly respected and valuable citizen, Wingate P. Sargent.

As to the Drafts: Who of us living in Melrose during the war, did not await with fear and trembling the turn of the draft wheels? Melrose had two drafts. The first time forty-nine men were drawn; the second twenty-four. Notwithstanding the dread, fear and gloom hanging over the families having men therein liable to be conscripted, there were those who took the matter in anything but a serious manner, as is witnessed by this account taken from the Boston Journal, dated July 14, 1863:

#### MELROSE CELEBRATING THE DRAFT.

The drafted men of this quiet village had a jolly time of it last evening. A party of them arrayed in fantastic uniforms, and with strange weapons, with an American flag, a drum, horns, tin pans and other musical instruments, made a tour of the town, calling on all their fortunate compatriots, and somewhat in this way: The procession halts in front of a residence where the lights are low, and a passer-by would know that somebody there had been drafted. The commander shouts in a stentorian voice. "Conscript so-and-so, you're wanted! Ten days is played out; five minutes is the word. Conscript, come forth!"

A provost guard forthwith wait upon the honored personage, and he is placed, with cheers and congratulations, in the procession, which, amid the clamour of unheard of music, moves on to the residence of the next fortunate man. There was no escaping this conscription. Every man had to take his place, and everybody seemed to enjoy the fun. At a late hour the melancholy horns were moaning in the suburbs; and there was a general impression with the citizens, as they retired to rest, that it was rather a jolly thing, than otherwise, to be drafted.

Not so was it with all of those who were drawn, as I happen to know from personal experience, being one of the unfortunates.

I would like to speak of other matters somewhat at length, of the heroism displayed by some of those still with us; of Admiral Dyer, whose whole career was full of daring deeds and heroic service; of Samuel Sprague, whose grandson unveiled one of the tablets, who walks our streets so stately and well, with his iron leg won at Antietam; of the terrible days of suffering that covered our whole community during the two or three days immediately following Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863, when a fearful uncertainty resultant from rebel invasion with

its doubt and gloom prevailed; when business was suspended, schools dismissed, when teachers, scholars and others, gathered and prepared and sent lint and other articles to the battlefield hospitals — but time and patience forbid.

I hold in my hand a silk flag with which one of these tablets was covered. It has a most interesting, yes, a unique history. The late Major W. Irving Ellis, who served at different times during the war, on the staffs of Generals Couch, Devens, Edwards, Fessenden and Eustis, was, at the time of the Shenandoah Valley campaign, on General Sheridan's staff as post-commissary of subsistence, with headquarters at Winchester. It was here that the major found one who became his wife, then Miss Harriet H. Griffith, a daughter of a staunch, loyal Quaker family. She was one of the agents of the Sanitary Committee at Winchester.

During the war, this town of Winchester was the scene of many changes; I think it unparalleled, for it was in the toils first of the Union, then of the Confederate 76 times. This small flag was made of ribbons, bought in small quantities, in three different towns, Winchester, Emmetsburg and Martinsville, as Winchester itself could not furnish a sufficient quantity, and also to avoid suspicion. It was made and flung to the breeze whenever the Union forces were in possession of Winchester, and secreted whenever the rebels marched in. Many a hunt has been made for that flag. Sometimes it was hidden in the middle of a feather-bed, sometimes in other out of the way places. Once it was placed between the plate and board of a large looking-glass, the rebels, in their search, taking hold of, and searching behind it. It was first used when General Banks and his army entered Winchester. It is now a precious and treasured relic of those stormy and soul-harrowing times. The family own also two other interesting relics of the war: the sword of General Jubal A. Early, and an autograph letter of General Sheridan, commending Major Ellis for his services. Now, members of U. S. Grant Post 4, Grand Army of the Republic, no one realizes better than I, that what I have said about the valor, patriotism, heroism and self-sacrifice of those whose names appear upon these tablets, belongs any more to them than to the rest of you whose names are not there, and to the members of all the other many posts scattered throughout the land, and the thousands upon thousands of those who have "crossed the river" since the war ended. You all, as did they, took your lives in your hands, and went forth to do and if necessary die for your country. Scattered as you were, enlisting from different states, you fought on many bloody battle-fields and skirmished on many outposts, bivouacked

unsheltered, in all parts of the fighting territory. All honor be given to the heroes now living, and to those who have joined "the great majority," who fought and suffered for the preservation of the Union.

This is Memorial Day; a day filled with sacred memories. The various posts have gathered their flowers, and will proceed to perform the tender and annually recurring duty of decorating the graves of these soldier heroes. And as was said by our Dr. Sims in a recent sermon:

"These things built into crosses, woven into wreaths, arranged in sprays, and laid upon the soldiers' graves, declare as no voice of orator could — the people of the United States are loyal to the Union, and cherish affectionately the memory of the men who died in its defence."

And I do not know who expressed the following sentiments, but whoever it was, I think they will be endorsed by all of us:

"Natural and noble and beautiful is the instinct that inspires our hands to build monuments to our illustrious dead. We carve their names upon memorial stone, exquisitely the sculptor moulds their forms in bronze or marble, but they carve their names upon history; they impress civilization with their likeness, and whiter than marble, more lasting than bronze, is the monument which their honesty builds in our purposes and nobler lives."

And now having taken part in the dedication of these beautiful tablets, you, Soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Sons of Veterans, the Ladies of the Relief Corps, together with the Boys' Brigade, under the escort of the Signal Corps of the 2d Brigade, M. V. M., Lieutenant Walter C. Stevens, commanding, are to march to yonder "City of the Dead," and there decorate the graves of 148 veterans, comrades-in-arms, among them those of whom you have been hearing; not forgetting the graves of four Revolutionary soldiers, and of four soldiers of the War of 1812, and also of the nurse, Miss Kimball. In this way you perform a sacred duty. In this way you keep their memories green. Every year the number of graves increases. Every year the ranks of the veterans grow thinner. And, when all of you have made your last march, and shall have joined the throng that have gone before, that have entered the "upper rest," then it may be hoped that the Sons of Veterans may take your places, and keep up the sacred custom.



## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

We, the undersigned, do promise to pay to the City of Melrose, the sums set against our several names, for the purpose of aiding in the erection of a library building, for which the Hon. Andrew Carnegie has agreed to contribute the sum of \$25,000.

Nathaniel P. Jones, \$1,500.00	Mary C. Houghton, \$1,000.00
Daniel Russell, \$1,000.00	John W. Farwell, \$500.00

The balance was raised in sums ranging from \$100.00 down to \$2.00.

Moses S. Page	James G. Bowden
Decius Beebe	Edward M. Munyan
William H. Flanders	Charles F. Hill
Mrs. J. Merrill Currier	George E. Munroe
Royal P. Barry	Alfred Hocking
Frank R. Upham	Mrs. Mary A. Livermore
Abbie S. Copeland	Dennis W. Fitzpatrick
Charles C. Barry	Elbridge H. Goss
Seth E. Benson	George Emerson
Sidney H. Buttrick	John G. Robinson
George Hart	Charles H. Adams
William A. Jepson	William A. Carrie
Charles C. Odlin, M. D.	N. Mayo Dyer
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Mrs. Alonzo V. Lynde	William A. Goodno
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Clinton White	George E. Gilchrist
Heman J. Pettengill	D. Webster Dow
L. Henry Kunhardt	Frank H. Torrey
Frank L. Washburn	Fred E. Ellis
Ernest S. Jack, M. D.	Arthur H. Folger

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John O. Norris	Andrew J. Burnett
J. Augustus Barrett	Edward L. Coy
C. W. H. Frederick	Mrs. E. L. Coy
Thomas W. Ripley	William A. Morse
W. Dabney Hunter	Frank D. Thatcher
William C. Whiting	William E. Waterhouse
Samuel G. Potter	Mrs. Edward K. Bordman
Fred Clement	George H. Guest
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William A. Dole	William J. Carney
Charles E. French	Patrick J. Sullivan
Joseph Edwards	George B. Robbins
Edward S. Page	John Buffum
Ashton L. Carr	Joseph A. Stutsman
Oliver B. Munroe	J. Ralph Wellman
Eben M. Taylor	Frank M. Hoyt
Thomas C. Fielding	J. Henry Buffum
Frederick H. Page	Dr. William H. Stowe
William S. Briry	Maurice G. Cochrane
George C. Sargent	Charles H. Austin
Roscoe D. Perley, M. D.	William H. Wells
Augustus L. Holmes	Fred W. Thomas
Fred E. Everett	Mrs. Fred W. Thomas
William H. Bacon	Mrs. George T. Brown
William F. Simpson	Samuel F. Dix
John E. Lowden	Henry A. Bush
Fred H. Nickerson	Walter H. Rich

