

Highland Park News-Letter

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1905

The Corner Stone

The Corner Stone of the new, substantial and elegant Carnegie building for the Public Library was laid last Saturday afternoon, November 11th, 1905, at 3 o'clock, p. m. The weather was beautiful, all that could be expected, at this season of the year. The exercises, very simple as they were planned to be, were in charge of President Lewis B. Hibbard. Prayer was offered by Rev. A. A. Planstiehl of the First Presbyterian church. Prof. John T. Ray of Chicago, first Superintendent of our city school in 1887 when the Library was organized, and who, with banker Hipwell, pushed the effort for a public library through to success, delivered the chief address of the occasion. It was largely reminiscent, of the struggles for a free library, of the opposition of some, the indifference of more and the enthusiasm and loyalty of a goodly number who finally, with the efficient cooperation of the late Col. William A. James, mayor of the city at that time, secured its successful establishment. His contrasts between those days and the present, between the 433 volumes of the first year and the 4,500 now on our shelves, between the first library room in one corner of an old store building and the new magnificent building, so spacious, elegant and complete in every detail, whose corner stone is laid today, were all highly enjoyed, especially by those who were Prof. Ray's contemporaries and associates in former days.

William O. Hipwell, cashier for many years of the Union National Bank of Chicago, until its amalgamation with a sister institution, and a coadjutor with Prof. Ray in establishing the library, who was on the first board of library directors and has continued there until now; who succeeded Prof. Ray in the Presidency, which office he held for sixteen consecutive years, and has, as President Hibbard said in introducing him, "done more for the public library than any other man in our city"—was introduced and laid the corner stone. He prepared the formal act of laying the stone by one of the most appropriate, and well delivered addresses we have heard for a long time. His reminiscences fitted in admirably with those of Prof. Ray, supplementing and completing them indeed.

The President cited a few instances during recent years, of corner stone laying, to show that this is the special season of the year for such services; read the contents of the corner stone casket; told the audience that following the example of Natronidus, the last King of Babylon, who dug down 27 feet for the old corner stone of a temple he was rebuilding, and found it was laid 3,200 years before; said our descendants would dig for the foundation of this, Carnegie building, remove the corner stone, open the copper casket and read its contents in the year 5,105, A. D.

Rev. John J. Morrissey of St. Mary's church pronounced the benediction, and so closed a very pleasant and appropriate service.

NOTES

It would have pleased Mr. Carnegie had he been present to hear the many appreciative and great

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allusions to his wise and well directed generosity in his gift of \$10,000 for this new building, and many said they wished he could see the fine structure which his donation has secured for our people.

The contractor's foreman, Mr. Sleeman, had prepared a large platform for the Board and its guests, and the audience found seats and standing room on the lumber piles, cut stone blocks, about the grounds and overflowed upon the adjoining lot, and Photographer Brand got a snap-shot just at the right moment.

D. C. Purdy and Sons, built the copper casket and furnished the trowel with which the stone was laid.

There was, and is still, manifested a strong desire on the part of the people to have the Board go on and finish the building throughout, according to the architect's plans, which, owing largely to the enhanced price of labor and material, will approximate \$17,000, instead of \$14,000 as first planned. To Mr. Carnegie's gift of \$10,000 will be added a little over \$4,000 from the sale of the old property, leaving a balance of about \$3,000 to be provided for. The Board acted wisely, we think, in deciding to carry out the contractor's plans, as the building is to be a monument to Mr. Carnegie's broad-gauged, far-reaching and well planned philanthropic purpose, and an ornament to our city for many decades, instead of erecting an inferior and unsatisfactory structure. The Board can make a loan or issue bonds if necessary, for the completion of the building. When Mr. Carnegie made his gift the city appropriated \$1,000 annually for the support of the Public Library, it is now \$1,200 and in a year or two will be \$1,500, according to the two mill tax law of the State. Hence all can see that the library board must build for the future, and not merely for the next five or ten years. And in the new building, with more frequent service, the cost of administration will be materially increased. The Board therefore look for a generous and hearty support in their endeavors wisely to serve the public in our new Public Library building.

Contents of the Casket.

The following is a list of the articles in the sealed copper casket deposited in the corner stone of the new Library building Saturday last.

Ordinances of the city of Highland Park; Year books of the Northwestern Military Academy; an account of the work of the Woman's Club in securing the gift of \$10,000 from Mr. Carnegie; a record of the City Council's proceedings in 1887, establishing the Public Library of Highland Park; Year books of the Deerfield High School, including present faculty; the Highland Park Club, the Ossoli, the Woman's, the Exmoor clubs and the First Presbyterian church; Records of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, of this city; Documents of the Grammar school; Proceedings at the Prof. Elisha Gray Banquet, November 15th, 1878; one Savings magazine with cut of new State Bank building; Finding list of Highland Park and some other North Shore public libraries; sundry township and city election returns, official report of city census; lists of city officers; financial reports of local banks; list of Highland Park college students, manuscript notes of our churches; electric and gas, street railway, and telegraph companies, copies of the Highland Park News Letter, including Highwood edition, selections from Chicago dailies; Waukegan Gazette and Sun; and the pamphlet abstract of the Daily News Almanac; with a lot of illustrated postal cards, photographs of public buildings, donated by Albert Larson and Orson C. Brand, including the old St. Mary's church, the first and only original Highland Park letter carriers.

Hiawatha on Speculation

"Shall I plunge?" said Hiawatha,
"Shall I seek to get a corner
On the fat but shifty wheat crop?
Not for me, my little dearies!
Am making just a living,
Just a fairly decent living,
But I never have to worry
Over my obligations
Larger than my bill for laundry,
Board, hotel and tailor statements.
Should I seek to get rich quickly,
Should I seek to bull the market
Or to be a bear on Wall street,
I should land, beyond all question,
With my features on the pavement—
On the hard, unyielding pavement.
Not for me the frenzied finance
Spoken of by Tommie Lawson,
Acted out by Cassie Chadwick
And by other smooth performers.

"Well indeed do I remember
What took place one balmy springtime
In the land of the Highrollers,
Swiftest natives in the country.
You have heard of the Ojivays
And their fondness for excitement;
You have read about the Blackfeet
And the way they split the kindling;
But compared with the Highrollers
These two tribes were Epworth Leaguers
In the land of the Highrollers.
Dwelt a most magnetic party,
Known as Lay-for-Easy-money.
You would know him, should you see him,
By the way his hands kept writhing,
By the way he hooked his fingers
Every time he saw a ten-spot
In the possession of a neighbor,
Wise old Lay-for-Easy-Money
Organized a get-rich system
In the land of the Highrollers,
Went to work, with an assistant,
Coaxed his trusting fellow townsmen
To supply him with the needful
For some clever operations,
Buying maize from all the country.
With the maize crop almost cornered
Lay-for-Easy-Money stumbled,
Stubbed his toe and lit, my dearies,
With his nose upon the asphalt—
On the hard, unyielding asphalt.
And his friends and fellow workers,
When they saw their wealth departing,
Went and bought a quart of war paint,
Smeared it o'er their angry phizzes.
Looked for Lay-for-Easy-Money,
Found him hiding near his wigwam,
Handed him a bunch of war clubs,
Hatchets, knives and other hardware,
Made him totally unfitted
For the irksome task of breathing,
And departed with his body
To the shining big sea water,
Where they left him in his glory."

—[Milwaukee Sentinel.]

Lady Holland was once escorted to dinner by Mr. Babbage, the inventor of the calculating machine. Something was said about "squaring words." "What does that mean?" asked Lady Holland. "I will tell you," answered Mr. Babbage; "you take a word, for example, like horse, that contains six letters—" "Six!" exclaimed Lady Holland, involuntarily. "Don't you mean five?" "No, no," Mr. Babbage rejoined, "there are six letters in horse." "Surely not," persisted Lady Holland, and spelled the word. "Ah," remarked the great man, "I never could count. That is why I invented the calculating machine."