

THE PRIDE OF PELHAM.

Beautiful Library Building Dedicated by Its Citizens,

Dedicatory Oration Delivered by the Rev. Augustus Berry.

The town of Pelham, N. H., although perhaps less fortunate than some of her neighboring towns in this commonwealth in being a few months late in completing its public library building to have the dedicatory exercises at a more favorable season of the year, nevertheless carried out the programme as arranged Wednesday with as much interest and enthusiasm as though it had been mid-summer.

The townspeople made it a holiday, and a large number of invited guests accepted the hospitality of the town, including a large representation of Grand Army men, many of whom enlisted from the town, but have since taken up a residence elsewhere. Charles W. Philbrick, S. L. Smiley, C. W. Brigham and F. H. Butler being present from this city, the first named having enlisted from the town.

THE LIBRARY BUILDING.

The library building is located in one of the most conspicuous situations in the town, near the church. It is a modest, but conspicuous building, of tasteful design. It is of brick with the front entrance in the centre, and reached by neat steps of cut granite. On entering the vestibule directly to the right, is the room for the use of the town officers, connected with which is an apartment in which the safe containing the town records, which are now required by law to be kept in fire proof repositories.

Passing through the vestibule the delivery room is reached. On the left is the memorial room, which is a thing of beauty. It runs the entire depth of the building, and is lighted on three sides. The walls and ceilings are tastefully frescoed, the floor, as are all the floors in the building are of hard wood. But the standing wood-work is a decided novelty, for this latitude it is of Southern hazel, highly finished, presenting a dark, rich appearance, that is very attractive.

An important and appropriate feature of the room is the collection of marble tablets on the walls, containing in gilt the names of all residents of the town who have served in the wars from Queen Anne's time until the late rebellion.

The following interesting inscription taken from a leaf of the old town record is produced in fac simile.

In the year 1755 Begune the Bloodey war between England and France and the whole country of Canada was surrendered to his majesty's Troops in the year 1760. the account of the number of men that was lost be Longing to Pelham was A. S. Broad, Jonathan Wright, Edward Wyman, Ezra Littelhall, Lut Thomas Gage, John Weber.

Another conspicuous feature of the memorial room is an elegant floor clock, seven feet tall, the gift of Mrs. Eli J. Whittemore in memory of her father, David Hamblett. The book stock room is provided with the latest system of shelves, capable of holding all the books the library will receive for many years. The building is heated with two furnaces, has a roomy, high-posted, cement-bottom cellar, and a capacious attic.

There is a fine lawn in front and a concrete walk which adds to the metropolitan appearance of the building and environment.

At 11 o'clock the members of Grand Army invited veterans assembled in the memorial room of the library building, and as spectators as the room would admit. Exercises opened with the singing of a, by a choir, under the direction of D. Greeley. George S. Butler, moderator, then introduced C. W. chairman of the building committee, formally delivered the deeds of

R. HOBBS'S ADDRESS.

Fellow citizens, members of the Grand Army, ladies and gentlemen: We are assembled here today to celebrate an important event in the history of our town, the dedication of the beautiful building which is to be one of the most valuable and instructive features of our town in the future. We have assembled here 100 years from the incorporation of the town to dedicate this building for the use of the young people to commemorate the memories of those who have offered up their lives and services for the protection of the rights and interests of this country. It has been, ever since the first opening of the public library, the hope and the wish of the friends of that library, which includes every member of that corporation, that at some day it might have a proper and suitable home—something that should be a home and be an influence in our community. This has been effected, and today we are here to dedicate a library building which, I presume, may not be any more than equalled in any town of our size and population in the state.

This building is erected not only by the town of Pelham, but by the friends of the town, the sons and daughters who have gone out of the town to reside elsewhere, and the descendants of those who have been honored residents of our town.

Your committee, after studying the different plans submitted, selected the one presented by Messrs. Stickney & Austin of Lowell as the most desirable, and which we believe will meet the approval of all. You have here the memorial room, the book-stack room, the room for the town officers and the delivery room, and all has been completed except some of the furniture for this memorial room which is soon to be put in position. It has been completed without exceeding the appropriation and the gifts of the old residents and the descendants of the town. This committee, whatever may have been their faults, have had in their minds only the best interests of the town in the construction of this building. It has been their intention to finish this building without incurring a single dollar of outside debt and get a return for every dollar they invested here.

And, now, Mr. Chairman, I will present to you the keys of the building and the deed of the lot of land on which it stands.

The keys were received by C. W. Seavey, chairman of the selectmen, with the following remarks:

MR. SEAVEY'S REMARKS.

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Citizens: In behalf of the town it gives me great pleasure to receive the keys of this beautiful library. I think I voice the sentiments of all when I say we are proud of our library. It fills a long felt want.

When we think of the advantages this library will bring to the rising generation, I think we have a right to be proud of our library. In connection with our library we have this beautiful memorial room with tablets containing the names of the soldiers that have gone forth to fight the battles of their country. We all have a pride here. The names of the soldiers will always be kept sacred in the hearts of the people. Many of our soldiers have answered the last great roll-call but we are fortunate in having with us today many of those who have survived.

We bid you all welcome here today, and we wish to thank the donors for their very

generous aid in building our library. We are indebted, very largely indebted to their contributions for the many attractions which our library contains today. We wish to express to you our thanks and we wish to invite you here always. Our doors are always open to you, not as strangers but as stockholders who have an equal right with us. Today the selectmen of the town assume the responsibility of this building. These keys which I hold will pass to the hands of our successors who, we trust, will so regard the interests of the library that when we have passed on, our library will remain down to the twentieth century in as good or better condition than today.

The dedicatory prayer was then offered by Rev. Augustus Berry and the exercises closed with the doxology sung by the choir.

The Grand Army veterans left the building first and formed in two ranks through which the company passed on its way to the church adjoining where the exercises of the day were continued.

At the church the exercises opened by the choir singing "Gloria." Brief religious services were then conducted by Rev. Augustus Berry.

Mr. Butler spoke as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen—It gives me great pleasure to greet so many who are interested in the library and memorial building erected by the town of Pelham and the generous donors who have gone from Pelham and contributed toward it, and in their behalf I bid you a most cordial welcome to these dedication exercises.

At the annual meeting of the voters of the town of Pelham held upon the second Tuesday of March, 1895, an article was inserted in the town warrant as follows: "To see if the town would vote to build an addition to the town house for library and other purposes and to raise and appropriate money therefor." This was the first attempt on the part of the town to have a suitable room for their library. This idea of having the town house enlarged for library purposes was voted down by a large majority, but it set the townspeople to thinking that something must be done for a suitable building for a library and immediately after this annual meeting a petition was circulated that a special town meeting be called to see if the town would vote to build a library and memorial building for the use of the town. Agreeable to this petition a special town meeting was called by the selectmen April 9th, 1895, and at this meeting more than two-thirds of the voters in town voted to build this building which we are dedicating today. We have a room in this building designated as the memorial room. This room contains marble tablets upon which are the names of all the soldiers that went from Pelham in all the wars. We have invited all of these veterans that are living to be present at these exercises today, many of them are with us and although they have grown older and gray hairs have come upon them they have in their hearts the same love for their country that they had in the days of '61 and we feel that we cannot honor them too much for what they did for us in those days that tried men's souls. We have invited a man to deliver the oration today who needs no introduction to them or the people of Pelham. He has served the people of Pelham in their joys and comforted them in their sorrows for a period of 35 years. He knows all of us. He knows these gray haired veterans; how they left their homes and all that was dear to them and went to their country's call when some of their number which went forth with them so bravely were brought back here cold and lifeless to be buried on native soil, has spoken words of consolation to the sorrowing ones that were left. We have selected him as the man most fitted to deliver the dedicatory address and it gives me pleasure to introduce to you Rev. Augustus Berry.

Mr. Berry spoke as follows:

REV. MR. BERRY'S ADDRESS.

Intellectual culture and the spirit of patriotism are essential elements in the life of a people. The building we now dedicate is to be the abiding place, the home of these two ideas. The temple where these ideas are to be enthroned and the people are to revere them. In these services we wish to obtain true conceptions of the nature of intellectual culture. We hope to be convicted of our privilege, duty and responsibility, and at the same time have some glorious conceptions of life, and also to kindle aspirations that will always burn. This building is to have a vital connection with the life of this people. In it these ideas are to have local habitation and a prominence they have hitherto not possessed.