

**RE-DEDICATION OF THE
OLD STATE HOUSE,
BOSTON, JULY 11TH, 1882**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649373000

Re-dedication of the Old State House, Boston, July 11th, 1882 by Various

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Boston:
PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.
1882.

THE

RE-DEDICATION OF THE OLD STATE HOUSE.

The five-years' lease of the Old State House expired July 1, 1881. In anticipation of that event it was suggested that the historic interest of the building was so great that it might be desirable to retain the control of, at least, the upper part floor of the building for public uses, and to restore the whole edifice to the appearance it wore a century ago. The City Council, after considerable discussion, voted to appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars for repairs on the building, putting the charge, as usual, in the hands of the Committee on Public Buildings, of which Alderman William Woolley was chairman in 1881 and 1882.

The work proved greater than was anticipated; but on June 29, 1882, the committee was able to announce the substantial completion of their labors (see City Doc. 100), and to invite the City Council to attend at the formal transfer of the building to His Honor the Mayor, on Tuesday, July 11. Accordingly, on the forenoon of that day, the following proceedings took place, which are now published by order of the City Council.

The ceremonies were held in the East Hall, occupied in colonial times by the Governor and Council, afterwards by

the State Senate, and from 1830 to 1840 by the Board of Aldermen. Portraits of the old governors, Winthrop, Endicott, Bellingham, and Burnet, were kindly loaned for the occasion, by direction of Hon. Robert R. Bishop, President of the Senate. The Massachusetts Historical Society loaned portraits of Governors Belcher, Joseph Dudley, and Hutchinson. The Public Library contributed a caricature of Governor Gage, and engravings of Governors Pownall and Andros also hung upon the walls.

In the West Hall, formerly occupied by the House of Representatives, and later by the Common Council, were the superb portraits of Samuel Adams and John Hancock, owned by the city, and Stuart's portrait of Josiah Quincy, Jr., the patriot. Other interesting pictures and engravings adorned the various rooms. The orator of the day delivered his address from the Speaker's desk used in the old House of Representatives, and now owned by the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Owing to the unavoidable absence of Alderman Woolley, chairman of the committee, the assemblage was called to order by Alderman HERSEY, who spoke as follows:—

Mr. Mayor, Gentlemen of the City Council, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

You are assembled here to-day to receive the report of the committee to whom was assigned the duty of renovating and restoring the Old State House. The work is completed, of which you have

the evidence before you, and I am happy to say it has been done within the estimates and appropriation.

The work of restoration has not been accomplished except by much expenditure of time and thought in delving among old documents for evidences of what the building was in its early days; and it presents to-day, both as its to exterior and interior, substantially the same appearance that it did in those early days of its history when the noble men, whose portraits look down upon us here, walked these streets, and to the gathered citizens within these historic walls spoke the patriotic words of counsel that incited them to deeds of noble daring in defence of national liberty, and made this country a free republic.

It would seem proper that in dedicating this building to purposes akin to those for which it was originally designed, we should seek the Divine favor. I therefore will request the Rev. Dr. Rufus Ellis, pastor of the First Church, to ask a blessing. It would seem appropriate and fitting that he, the pastor of the church which in its early days was located in this immediate vicinity, should thus officiate. You will please give your attention while the Rev. Dr. ELLIS asks a blessing.

PRAYER BY RUFUS ELLIS, D.D.

O God of our fathers, our dwelling-place in all generations, we thank Thee for our goodly heritage. Not without Thee would we come together. Obedient to Thy voice do we remember the days of old. It is our desire and prayer that by these renewals and restorations we may so strengthen the things that remain, and so bind together our best and most precious hopes, and our dearest memories, that we shall grow thereby in all sweet humanities, and our city be, indeed, as a city set upon a hill whose light cannot be hid, whose light shall shine in praise and works that are just and merciful.

We pray Thee that this ancient house may be forever a common possession, a common joy, and a common pride of all those whose homes and places of daily toil are centred about it, and may it be a memorial to them that they are citizens of no mean city. So may the Lord keep the city; so may its walls be salvation and its gates praise; and so for the abundance of righteousness and love within its borders may all the walls that are builded by human hands be consecrated, and may this be to us at last, in the brighter and better and holier days, that city of our God, of which it is written, I saw no temple therein: and for the light that shines upon all and

upon the house may there be nothing uncommon or unclean.

We pray this prayer unto Thee in His name who bids us render unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's and unto God the things which are God's, and, in the words which He hath taught us, may we with one heart and one voice say unto Thee: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Alderman HERSEY. — Ladies and gentlemen, perhaps to one member of the city government more than all others is due the credit of whatever success has attended the restoration of this building. I allude to that member whose duty and pleasure it will be to address you on this occasion. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you WILLIAM H. WHITMORE, member of the Common Council from Ward 12.

