

**ADDRESSES AT THE DEDICATION  
OF HUBBARD HALL: THE LIBRARY  
OF BOWDOIN COLLEGE. JUNE  
24, 1903, PP. 5-44**

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Addresses at the Dedication of Hubbard Hall: The Library of Bowdoin College. June 24, 1903,  
pp. 5-44 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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ADDRESSES

AT THE DEDICATION OF

HUBBARD HALL

THE LIBRARY OF

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

JUNE 24, 1903



BRUNSWICK, MAINE  
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THIS HALL  
DEDICATED TO TRUTH AND TO  
BOOKS AS THE DEPOSITARIES  
AND TEACHERS OF TRUTH  
IS A GIFT TO  
BOWDOIN COLLEGE  
FROM  
THOMAS H. HUBBARD  
(CLASS OF 1857)  
AND HIS WIFE  
SIBYL F. HUBBARD  

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ERECTED A.D. MCMII.







## ADDRESS OF PRESENTATION

BY

GEN. HUBBARD.

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*Mr. Chief Justice, Mr. President, Alumni and Friends  
of the College:*

AN impression has gone out that this building is to be presented to-day to Bowdoin College. The impression is a mistaken one. The College is to be the custodian, but the building is given to its permanent occupant and future owner. The gift is to the Library of Bowdoin College.

Throughout its infancy and its youth that needy and deserving person has been a tenant at will, or by sufferance. Now, entering upon its early manhood, it is to become a freeholder. The periods of life that it has passed are measured by its occupancy of dwellings suited to its years.

Its nursery was the upper story of the old wooden chapel. Although that building disappeared many years ago, its picture may be seen in the historical sketch of the College. It stood a few rods south-east of the Thorndike Oak and seems to have been about one-third the size of Massachusetts Hall, now the smallest survivor of the older College buildings. Even for the little child the nursery was too small. Professor

Little, our College historian and present librarian, writes that the "insufficient accommodation cramped, if it did not check, the normal growth of the collection."

Here the library remained until it entered the abode of its youth, in Bannister Hall, at the rear of King Chapel. The corner-stone of that chapel was laid in July, 1845, and the building was dedicated in June, 1855. It must have been near the latter date when the library, emancipated from its nursery, closed its protracted infancy of half a century. In its new home the youth was held in strict surveillance. It was allowed to receive visitors only one hour each day and only one book with each visitor was permitted to leave the room. For eighty years from its birth, the annual appropriation for its support averaged less than two hundred dollars.

Reared and housed in chapels, its temperament was chastened by the accession, in 1850, of the books of the College Theological Society, numbering several hundred volumes. But a change was wrought, in 1880, by the absorption of the Athenæan and Peucinian Society libraries. These contained more than five thousand volumes each and are described by Professor Little as "remarkably complete and valuable collections of the general literature and current periodicals of the forty years preceding." From that time onward the character and conduct of the library became more liberal. Its numbers have increased to more than seventy thousand volumes. It receives its guests at all desirable hours. It has become a laboratory for literary

work. It has outgrown Bannister Hall and has appropriated, in succession, the north wing and the south wing of the chapel. If its encroachments should continue, it seems probable that the library would soon take possession of the nave and crowd the sacred service from the chapel door. But now its youth of fifty years is ended. Its manhood has begun. We give it a habitation of its own and restore King Chapel to its proper uses.

The dwelling that the library now enters has been prepared by men well qualified for their work. The committee in charge of construction has included President Hyde, Professor Robinson and Professor Little. The architect is Mr. Henry Vaughan, whose skill is already here attested by the Searles Science Building. The builders are L. D. Willcutt & Son and their excellent superintendent, Mr. Ewell. How well all have discharged their trust the completed structure proves.

The gift of its new dwelling, bestowed to-day, is cause for congratulation and for some words of caution to the library. If we may apostrophize it as the recipient of the gift, what words can we find better than those that state, in outline, the purposes of the building?

We give you, we would say, an imperishable repository for your treasures. It needs to be such, for books have always had, and will always have, their enemies. More than twenty centuries ago a Chinese Emperor, when Chinese literature was already centuries old, issued an edict for its destruction and for the extermi-