

**PROCEEDINGS AT THE DEDICATION  
OF THE HAVERHILL PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
NOVEMBER 11TH, 1875, AND REPORT  
OF THE TRUSTEES TO THE CITY OF  
HAVERHILL, JANUARY 1, 1876**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649196470

Proceedings at the dedication of the Haverhill Public Library, November 11th, 1875, and report of the trustees to the city of Haverhill, January 1, 1876 by Various

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JANUARY 1, 1876.

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C. C. MORSE & SON,  
BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, 67 MERRIMACK STREET,  
1876.

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1876 June 29

leg  
of the Trustees.

OFFICERS OF THE HAVERHILL PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FOR THE YEAR 1876.

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*Trustees.*

JOSEPH K. JENNESS, Mayor of the City,  
Chairman, *ex officio.*  
E. J. M. HALE,  
JAMES H. CARLETON,  
JAMES R. NICHOLS,  
R. STUART CHASE,  
JOHN L. HOBSON, *Sec'y.*  
JAMES E. GALE, *Treas.*

*Librarian.*

EDWARD CAPEN.

*Principal Assistant.*

GRACE A. BORGES DE FREITAS HENRIQUES.

*Assistants.*

SARA H. WHITTIER, ANNA M. BARTLETT,  
M. ANNA COGSWELL, EVA H. COLBY,  
LENA FLINT.

*Janitor.*

LEVERETT MESSER.

## DEDICATORY EXERCISES.

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The ceremonies of the dedication of the Haverhill Public Library were held in the Library Building, which was promptly filled by a large and intelligent audience at the time designated, November 11th, 1876, at 2 o'clock, P. M., in response to public notice, the corridors being occupied by the City Governments of the years 1873, 1874 and 1875, the Board of Trustees and invited guests, including members of the Press representing the Post, Advertiser, Journal and Herald of Boston, and the Gazette, Banner, Publisher and Bulletin of this city. James F. West, Esq., officiating as Marshal, with a corps of able assistants.

His Honor, Alpheus Currier, Mayor of the city presided, and near him were seated His Excellency Gov. Gaston, Surgeon-General Dale, Rev. R. H. Seeley, D. D., Col. Leverett Saltonstall, Gen. W. F. Bartlett, Judge Charles Bradley of Rhode Island, Prof. James Thayer of Harvard College, Maj. Ben. Perley Poore and other distinguished gentlemen.

*The Mayor, Alpheus Currier, delivered the introductory address as follows:*

GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The time having arrived when the last formal step is to be taken for opening the portals of this public institution to the use and improvement of the whole people, under the rules and regulations which are designed to secure an equal and proper enjoyment of its privileges, with every advantage for a general diffusion

of intelligence, it is a common pleasure with all of us to meet the united interests which are to-day gathered to participate in these ceremonies, together with the invited guests whose association with a common cause makes it a pleasure for them to be present with us.

The history of the enterprise is to be furnished by the founder, whose munificent gift supplied the basis for all that has since been done, and whose subsequent acts have shown that his heart and hand are still with the people in shaping and perfecting what was so nobly begun, and is destined to become of unmeasured benefit to the present and to generations to come.

It is only necessary for me to say, for myself and in behalf of the Board of Trustees, whose supervision of the work has contributed to a great success in all the appointments which pertain to this edifice and the gathering of a library of unusual excellence and great value, that our satisfaction in view of the consummation of this work, which opens to all the city a storehouse of knowledge, is cordially joined with that of such as are to share its benefits, and that we here heartily unite with every act of your rejoicing.

As much as this it is proper to say in connection with these ceremonials, and these words are only intended to become, in form, an opening of the door for such a following as will be in harmony with the spirit and importance of the occasion, believing that united with the inspiration of song will be found words of eloquence and wisdom eminently fitted to grace the occasion.

*Following the introductory remarks the Dedicatory Prayer was offered by Rev. R. H. Seeley, D. D.*

The following poem, written for the occasion by John G. Whittier, Haverhill's favorite son, was then sung by the quartette of the South Congregational Church of Boston, Rev. Dr. Hale's, consisting of Mrs. Julia Houston West, of this



city. Mrs. J. F. Winch, and Messrs. W. J., and J. F. Winch of Boston.

Music arranged by B. J. Lang of Boston. Piano accompaniment by Miss Helen B. Cummings of this city :

" LET THERE BE LIGHT ! " God spake of old,  
And over chaos dark and cold,  
And, through the dead and formless frame  
Of nature, life and order came.

Faint was the light at first that shone  
On giant fern and mastodon,  
On half-formed plant and beast of prey  
And man as rude and wild as they.

Age after age, like waves, o'er-ran  
The earth, uplifting brute and man ;  
And mind, at length, in symbols dark  
Its meanings traced on stone and bark.

On leaf of palm, on sedge-wrought roll,  
On plastic clay and leathern scroll,  
Man wrote his thoughts ; the ages passed,  
And lo ! the Press was found at last !

Then dead souls woke ; the thoughts of men  
Whose bones were dust revived again ;  
The cloister's silence found a tongue,  
Old prophets spake, old poets sung.

And here, to-day, the dead look down,  
The kings of mind again we crown ;  
We hear the sage's word ; we trace  
The foot-prints of our human race.

Here Greek and Roman find themselves  
Alive along these crowded shelves ;  
And Shakespeare treads again his stage,  
And Chaucer paints anew his age.

As if some Pantheon's marbles broke  
Their stony trance, and lived and spoke,  
Life thrills along the alcoved hall,  
The lords of thought await our call !

*Historical sketch of the Library by Hon. E. J. M. Hale.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: Assembled here upon this interesting occasion to devote this building, by some simple ceremony to the objects for which it is designed, it may be deemed proper for me to give a brief history of its inception, progress, and completion. For many years I was impressed with the importance of having a free public library established in this my native town, where my life, — boyhood and manhood, — has been passed. For this sole purpose as early as March, 1866, I purchased the land upon which this building is erected, and January 29, 1873, I submitted a proposition to the City Government of Haverhill, which embracing a part of the history of this institution, I will read:

*To His Honor the Mayor and City Council of the City of Haverhill.*

GENTLEMEN:—The subscriber is desirous of having a Public Library established in the city of Haverhill, with its proper appurtenances, and accordingly he makes to you the following propositions, viz: That His Honor the Mayor and City Council of the City of Haverhill select and appoint, each for the term of his natural life, six gentlemen, who, with the acting Mayor of said city for the time being as chairman, *ex officio*, shall constitute a Board of Trustees to receive all conveyances of real estate, money, donations, and funds that may be delivered to them, or into their keeping or control in trust, to devote the same to the use and purpose of such proposed library; and that whenever a vacancy occurs in said Board by reason of the decease or resignation of any appointed member thereof, such vacancy shall be forthwith filled by a gentleman or gentlemen selected and appointed by the remaining members of said Board.

And I further propose that within the term of six months from the date hereof, for the uses and purposes of such library, to convey by proper deed to said Trustees so appointed and constituted, my lot of land situate in said Haverhill, at the junction of Summer and Stage streets, bounded northerly by Summer street, easterly by Stage street, southerly by land of Lyman Worthen, and westerly by land formerly of Phineas E. Davis and land of Moses D.

George. To be held by them as a site for a library building and for the above named purposes forever.

And I further propose to pay to such Trustees within said term of six months, and for the uses and purposes aforesaid, the sum of thirty thousand dollars in money.

But my said conveyance and payment of money are to be made on the condition that within said term of six months, a further sum of thirty thousand dollars in money be raised and paid to said Trustees, for the uses and purposes aforesaid, by the friends of such Public Library.

And it is further to be understood that the City Government accepting these donations for the above purposes shall assume and bear the current expenses of said library, grounds and appurtenances after the library building shall have been completed and furnished.

And I desire that your Honors may give the subject above suggested your early consideration.

Dated the 29th day of January, A. D. 1873.

E. J. M. HALE.

The City Council passed an order on the evening of the date of the above proposition, January 29, A. D. 1873, viz: That a committee of twelve persons be appointed to solicit subscriptions in aid of the prospective Public Library.

August 1st, A. D. 1873. In Common Council. Ordered, that the City Council proceed to the election of six trustees of the Public Library, and E. J. M. Hale, James H. Carleton, James E. Gale, James R. Nichols, R. S. Chase, and John L. Hobson were chosen.

City of Haverhill, in Board of Aldermen, Nov. 17, 1873. Ordered that the proposition of Hon. E. J. M. Hale, concerning the establishment of a Public Library in Haverhill, dated and submitted January, 29th, A. D. 1873, be hereby accepted on the part of the City of Haverhill, according to the terms of said proposition, and on the conditions therein named.

Passed.

D. B. TENNEY, Clerk.

Common Council, Nov. 19, 1873.

Concurred.

J. K. JENNESS, Clerk.