

**A STATEMENT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
RESULTING IN THE PURCHASE OF
THE NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC
LIBRARY BUILDING, WITH A SKETCH
OF THE HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY**

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A statement of the proceedings resulting in the purchase of the Newburyport public library building, with a sketch of the history of the library by Various

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VARIOUS

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Newburyport Public Library Building.

WITH A SKETCH OF

THE HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY.

PREPARED BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTORS, FOR
PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION.

*"Books are a part of man's prerogative:
In formal ink, they thought and voices hold,
That we to them our solitude may give,
And make time present travel that of old.
Our life, fame pleceeth longer at the end
And books it farther backward doth extend."*

NEWBURYPORT:

WM. H. HUSE & CO., PRINTERS, 42 STATE STREET.

1866.

B8469.3.8

1867. 22





INTRODUCTORY.

It was intended, when the building designed for the use of the Newburyport Public Library was completed, that a formal dedication of it should take place. That purpose, however, was frustrated through the pressing professional engagements of the distinguished gentleman who was to have delivered the address. The delay occasioned thereby was so prolonged, that it was finally deemed advisable to dispense altogether with the dedication. The following pages have, in consequence, been prepared by order of the Directors of the Library, for the purpose of giving publicity and permanency to a statement of the prominent facts in relation to the purchase of the building, and its preparation for its present use. This is considered due to those by whose public spirit and generosity the work was undertaken and successfully completed.

The accomplishment of an enterprise of great public usefulness, through the agency of private contributions, is deemed worthy of record to the lasting honor of those engaged in it. Great pains have been taken, therefore, to include the names of all who have rendered assist-

ance in the undertaking in the following pages. If, however, any such individuals have failed to receive an appropriate acknowledgment for their share in the work, no one will regret the omission more deeply than the writer. While desiring in the following pages to avoid the appearance of invidiousness, where all have contributed so freely, it is nevertheless felt that some special mention of the important services rendered by EDWARD S. MOSELEY, Esq., is justly due. At great personal sacrifice, he undertook the collection of the funds, and also supervised their expenditure. One of the first to discern the wants of the Library, Mr. MOSELEY has been foremost and indefatigable in his efforts to secure for it its present tasteful and commodious quarters.

H. A. T.

NEWBURYPORT, Nov. 1, 1866.



THE NEWBURYPORT
PUBLIC-LIBRARY BUILDING.

Soon after the Newburyport Public Library went into operation, it was found (so great was the demand for its books, and so apparent the prospect of its future increase) that the room it then occupied would prove entirely inadequate for its purposes, and that larger and better accommodations would shortly be needed. The subject, therefore, began at that time to interest some of the more zealous friends of the Library; and inquiries were instituted relative to the best means for obtaining a building that should be suited to its growing wants. An appeal to the city authorities to supply the requisite funds was considered impolitic, inasmuch as it was felt that the ordinary demands upon the city treasury were already onerous. The general desire, therefore, seemed to be, that some feasible mode of raising the money, without resort to public taxation, should be adopted.

As no organized body existed for the purpose, it was necessarily incumbent upon individual effort to

commence the undertaking. Consequently, EDWARD S. MOSELEY, Esq., in the spring of 1858, with a view of stimulating others to similar action, pledged a donation, on the condition that a sum sufficient to accomplish the object should be obtained in the same way. But the offer not being made sufficiently public, or for some other reason, the necessary responses were not received; and thus no definite result was attained. Various other propositions were considered; but, as none of them gave promise of ultimate success, they were not adopted. In the mean time, each successive Annual Report of the Directors of the Public Library continued to set forth its pressing need of better accommodations.

Thus things remained until the close of the lecture-season of 1859-60, when it was proposed to use the Lyceum as an agency, and by that means to secure a sufficient amount to serve as a nucleus; to which might be added whatever sums should in the future be obtained, and finally devote the whole amount towards providing a building for the Library. Accordingly, at the Annual Meeting of the Newburyport Lyceum, held on the 10th of February, 1860, the following resolution, offered by GEORGE J. L. COLBY, Esq., was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That the officers of the Lyceum invite persons, who, from being natives or residents of Old Newbury, or from some other cause, are interested in the welfare of this community, to deliver lectures gratuitously; the pro-

ceeds of the sale of tickets to be devoted to the erection of a building, to be owned by the city, for the better accommodation of the Public Library."

A course of lectures was instituted the next season, in conformity with the resolution; which resulted in placing five hundred and seventy-six dollars and eighty-five cents to the credit of a Library-building Fund. The following are the names of the lecturers whose services were gratuitous:—

*C. C. FELTON, *President of Harvard University.*

REV. J. C. FLETCHER, *Newburyport.*

HON. C. CUSHING, *Newburyport.*

*RT. REV. T. M. CLARK, *Bishop of Rhode Island.*

*ARTHUR GILMAN, *Esq., Boston.*

REV. ORVILLE DEWEY, *D.D.*

DR. GEORGE B. LORING, *Salem.*

*DANIEL N. HASKELL, *Esq., Boston.*

HON. STEPHEN H. PHILLIPS, *Salem.*

REV. A. H. QUINT, *New Bedford.*

†REV. E. A. WASHBURN, *D.D., Rector Calvary Church, N. Y.*

†C. W. TUTTLE, *Esq., Boston.*

†REV. T. B. FOX, *Boston.*

REV. A. P. PEABODY, *D.D., Professor Harvard University.*

*REV. R. W. CLARK, *D.D., Albany, N. Y.*

*REV. BENJ. HALE, *D.D., President of Hobart College, N. Y.*

REV. R. C. WATERSTON, *Boston.*

* Those marked thus * are natives of "Old Newbury." Those marked † have been residents of Newburyport.