THE BANQUET.

The New Library Building Now Ready for Occupancy.

A SUCCESSFUL EVENT.

Everyone in Attendance Enjoyed Themselves—The Program a Fine One.

Many said "it couldn't possibly be finished and ready for dedication in time for the great and royal Banquet." "That it would be impossible for anyone to bring out order from chaos in so short a time as there was from the time the invitations were issued to the date of the Banquet." All were happily and agreeably disappointed, for when Wednesday evening of last week arrived Miss Mattie Baldwin was on hand and with her many willing lady assistants the work of preparation went rapidly forward and in a manner that made the faltering ones stare, and by Friday evening, Dec 1, the new hall was all ready to receive its guests. Everything was a new dress, even the hall itself had an air of newness that in good time will wear away, but the same old hearty, homelike, social friendship was bestowed upon the guests up in their arrival by the reception committee as would have been dispensed by the committee in the old hall, so that soon all were passing away the time in friendly chatting.

The hall is complete in its appointments for the entertaining of its guests at any kind of an entertainment that they may wish to give. A large stage built solidly and satisfactory for producing plays of a much higher grade than we have been used to witnessing is one of the main features, while the audience room is sufficiently large to meet all requirements. High ceiling, large windows, plenty of light from four large Rochester lamps makes it most agreeably illuminated and a desirable place for dramatic entertainments, social parties, dances and the like. A large and roomy library room for the books of the Society, which now number nearly 2,000 volumes, is one of the very desirable points of the new home. Coat and hat to some, kitchen and other necessary and useful rooms are all that the society could wish. The outside appearance is imposing, grand and beautiful and shows that the architects, Mr. C. L. Cowles of Saginaw, is a master hand in his profession. The architecture was composed of the E. E. It's of our village and among those present from abroad that we noticed were the Misses Short, Mrs. G. A. Patterson, Miss Ella Drake, Miss Mamie Mallory, Mr. G. A. Watkins, of Detroit, the architect, Mr. C. L. Cowles, of Saginaw and a host of others. The supper was all that ours heart could wish and completed the following

MENU.

"We will not speak of years to-night
For what have years to bring
But larger thoughts and wiser deeds
And sweeter songs to sing."

OYSTERS

SOUP

FISH

And such a dainty and generous supper presided over by "dignified and handsome matrons, and the guests wants amply and promptly supplied by a troop of pretty waiter girls, all florine talent, handsome, dressed to match the tables that they served. It took nearly two hours for the menu to be satisfactorily discussed by about 250 ladies and gentlemen. The following program was then enjoyed

PROGRAM

"Speech is the golden harvest, light follows the flowering of thought."

TOAST MISTRESS ..... M. BALDWIN

OUR DEBTS ..... MISS A. NIXON.

"The ghost of many a veteran still
Shall hover around her slumbers."

OUR LIBRARY ..... MRS. LANGLEY.

"All mankind has thought, gained or been,
Is lying as by magic in the pages of books."

A SILENT TOAST TO THE SILENT DEAD.

"We shall be good comrades again somewhere, sometime."

OUR LADIES ..... MR. H. A. POPPLETON.

"And when a lady's in the case,
You know, all other things give place."

MUSIC ..... MRS. T. EDES.

"God sent his singers upon earth
With songs of gladness and of mirth."

CLOSE ..... HON. H. McCURDY.

"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other."

When the Toast Mistress, Miss M. Baldwin, called the happy crowd to order by several raps upon the table with a silver spoon, and when order was had the speaking began. The speaking by the ladies was excellent. Miss Langley had her say in answer to the toast "Our Library" in a highly spoken speech and was heartily applauded. Mrs. Nixon in the line of "Our Debts" gave a clear and concise statement of the financial condition and while no one but the ladies of the L. L. A would have undertaken the job; in the face of so great a burden and at a time when the financial situation of the country never was worse, still the brave managers have the building now and a prophecy that in about five years the debt will be wiped out and the building and everlasting monument to them. Look over the financial exhibit and if anyone feels like contributing any sum of money to aid the ladies, the list is at this office and they will be pleased to have you help wash the slate.

The response of our fellow townsman, Mr. A. Poppleton to the toast, "Our Ladies" was cleverly handled, delivered like a veteran orator and surprised many hearers and in fact his warmest friends and admirers were gratified and surprised at the easy, natural manner in which he responded. He received a hearty round of applause from his enthusiastic audience, and was followed in song by Mrs T Eades, who in response to a prolonged encore sang a little love song which did capture the genial audience, after which the response of Hon. Hugh McCurdy to "Clubs" closed the Banquet given by the Ladies' library Association. The responses were all taken by our stenographer and are complete.

We are all proud of the Ladies' Library Hall and let us each and everyone in the future years do everything to help them raise the debt that rests upon them. Turn out to their soehls, attend their plays. You who love the social party take part in them and our word for it in so short a time that we all will be joyfully surprised the great debt will have melted away.

Another thing if you do not feel disposed to assist in any way by attending the meetings or gatherings to be held in the hall in the future, give the ladies a good word of encouragement and cheer, 'twon't cost you a penny and this support will always be appreciated. Long live the L. L. A and the New Hall.

THE FEAST OF REASON AND FLOW OF SOUL

Miss M. Baldwin said:

"Speech is the golden harvest that follows the flowering of thought."

My friends, it is my pleasing duty to welcome you to this our new home. Ever since we sold our old hall some two years ago, we have felt that we were wanderers on the face of the earth and when we were wont to meet together would whisper, like the patriots of old "will we do it, dare we do it?"

Failing in our first attempt to raise money by means of our hundred dollar bonds, we were obliged to give up our hopes of a large hall and ask for plans for a smaller building. When we received the bids on these plans, the lowest bid was nearly double the amount of money we had secured. At once we interviewed our monied men, but by a very strange coincidence each one had just loaned his last the day before. Finally the desired combination was formed, women with money and faith. I will not weary you with the story of our trials, they are well known to the general public and are shared by only a few of our own members. Suffice it to say every check has been promptly honored at our bank. Trusting that there are some persons present who are interested in our financial affairs I give as the first toast of the evening, "Our Debts" by Mrs. Nixon.

OUR DEBTS

"The ghost of many a veteran still
Shall hover around her slumbers."

Architect	$ .....
Stone	.....
Foundation	.....
Material and labor	.....
Piping building for gas	.....
Furnaces	.....
Furnishings	.....
Cash paid on hand	.....
Total indebtedness	$ .....

Miss Baldwin continued:

This is a mere statement of dollars and cents, but we have other debts, debts that money will not pay. Debts to our architect, Mr. C. Cowles, who was liberal with us because he loved his boyhood's home in our contractor, Mr. J. R. Logan for his patience with our ignorance and many questions. Why, my friends, we owe a debt of gratitude to everyone. The bricks that cover our building are not common bricks made of clay. Our building is covered with the kindness, the liberality and good will of our people. Even the seating is being contributed through your efforts, placing us under or rather placing under us increased evidences of your generosity. Then indeed, shall we rest upon your favors and be walled around by you.

A little more out for us but for the cause we represent.

I give as our next sentiment, "Our Library," Mrs. T. Langley.

OUR LIBRARY.

"All that mankind has thought, gained or been,
Is lying as by magic in the pages of books."

I think of the magic of the sentiment and then extend your pity to the respondent. The vastness of the theme to be discussed—not I hope, exhausted—in my limited time. The hand may lose its cunning, the eye its light, the brain its power, but the thoughts, the achievement, the very being of the good, the wise and gifted of the passing ages, are recorded in books and become the property of the student for all time. The sentiment needs no addition, I will speak only to the toast. Any plan that will bring such riches to the attention and within the reach of the young is surely worthy of commendation and must exert a great and beneficial influence on any community. To be able to find the works of the best authors, the compilations of the most careful and thorough scholars, the condensations of cyclopedia and technical knowledge, standard and general literature, the last new book, is surely a convenience to be prized, and its value cannot be estimated.

Such are some of the many advantages offered the people of our village by the organization known as "Our Library Association." This was organized first, Nov. 1st, 1850. Its first charter membered with 39 volumes as the first purchase. This nucleus was formed from a dissolving society, who generously devoted the funds left in the treasury to this object. Of the first charter members, but two now remain, M. Baldwin and Miss Jennie Keyes, both still active, energetic workers in the good cause. The library was kept for some years in the homes of the members, and their services, thus generously rendered, have been fruitful in much good. In August, 1874, the society reorganized under the State law.

About 1875, the struggling band, with many misgivings, ventured on the purchase of the old M. E. church, thus giving a "local habitation" as well as a name to their tenderly nursed child. Many and pleasant are the associations that cluster around the old Library Hall. The impression made on the past and passing generations will remain and continue in ever widening circles through future.

Our shelves now contain 1740 volumes comprising works on Science, Literature, Religion, History, Biography, Travels, Poetry, Religious and Historic Fiction, Standard Fiction and a large miscellany.

Let me call your attention to the fact that "Our Library" offers to its subscribers a much greater number of volumes than our village contains of people, Detroit public library and I think most places reverse this proportion. We have about 75 subscribing members. Of 2000 scores of authorized stock 60 have been issued. So you see there still a chance for ambitious people to win a place in our grand society.

In 1891 the lot on which the present building stands was brought, in trust for the public, we expecting that a town hall would be built upon it. This was not realized and the lot remained on our hands. Meantime, our old hall was sold to the township and it was finally decided to build here and ofe long we hope to again gather our volumes in our new Library Hall.

The ladies of the Library Association acknowledge with gratitude their obligations to a generous public for the co operation and patronage that has made their present measure of success possible and we hope to deserve and receive the same in the future. In no other way can we keep pace with the march of progress and present needs.

A word as to our Library society while individual women may be timid or irresolute, when banded together in a good cause they become independent, perhaps sometimes aggressive. We are working for the good of others not our own, and when doing our best, which may not always be the best, (since perfection belongs not to mortals) you will exercise charity for our mistakes, give us counsel and kindly criticism, but not over whelm us with reproaches. We hope, with the help of our friends to increase the size and scope of our library and in time and new features that will increase its usefulness and power of doing good. We bespeak your sympathy and cooperation to make it the best of its kind, so that all may proudly, claim it as "Our Library."

Miss Baldwin continued:

Of the 19 members who first organized this society, six are gone. Our first president, Mrs Griffin, Emma Partridge, Isabelle Lyon, Kate Thorn, Tom Trowbridge, Hastings, Edna Reynolds. Of the latter members, one by one has silently stepped from earth away, till we did over 20 vacant places. Among these were many to whose efforts we owe much of our present prosperity. To Mrs. L. T. Fox man who was one of our most untiring workers, to Mrs. Mary Trowbridge, who had been for 15 years our president, Palace and forbearing we long looked before for counsel, and I feel that she could be with us to night to see the achievements of our longed cherished purpose.

The last words of the late Mary Stone to her lifelong friend, Mrs. Livermore were

"We shall be good comrades again somewhere, sometime."

So may we be good comrades again somewhere, sometime. I give to you "A Silent Toast to the Silent Dead." (At this point Miss Minnie Hunt favored the large audience with a very express to sad song, and sang it, too, in per usual sweet voice. Miss Hunt has the promise of being a fine soloist singer and we with many others hope to hear her often from this house for many years to come in a more merry mood.)

The times have somewhat changed since in days of old, the warrior bold was wont to plead to his lady fair and the poet sang "My only books were woman's looks and folly all she taught me." But the woman has changed more than the man, for there still exists in every manly heart that same spirit of chivalry that stirred the warriors grim, and breathe it from the songs of the troubadour

It is this faith that emboldens me to give the sentiment "Our Ladies" and to call on Mr. H. A. Poppleton.

OUR LADIES

Ladies of the Library Association. In responding to the toast "Our Ladies," my response will be to you and to your Association in full accordance. My convictions of duty to you and to your cause, lead me to accept that task. It I should try to enumerate the many obligations which we feel justly yours, I should take more time than is proper here and now; but while my judgment is clear that it is my duty to undertake this responsibility, in part, I feel that I shall not be equal to the occasion, to speak those words of commendation which are justly yours. For years we have seen you toil patiently, joyfully together for a worthy cause, no grave deflections have hindered your growth in numbers; we have seen you increase from the beginning making your good work, for which you have so patiently labored, a possibility.

For you and for all, we extend our hearty, sincere good will, we greet you to night with a sense of respect for the work you have here performed, we commend you too, for your many years of labor for this, your Library Hall. Our tokens of esteem are yours, we appreciate and we shall remember in the passing years, this bright example which you have here placed before us. This structure is the splendid fruits for which you have toiled these many years, to which your work, your influence and energy have contributed so much; we gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness for what you have here performed. Neither shall we forget to night, those noble ladies who were once among you, but have now gone before, striving as they did, that your object might be attained.

We admire you ladies, for your achievements. We rejoice too, for your many accomplishments, and we pray you, for your great ability and tireless energy, which have combined so much to make your services so beneficial to our village and vicinity. Our respect and gratitude are yours. We shall cherish this souvenir, your Library Hall, which you leave to future generations, a worthy expression of your most worthy cause.

Miss Baldwin continued:

When we left our old hall we left not only the place but many pleasant memories. The stranger saw only bare walls, but we saw, high up among the cobwebs, some scene of a little play, some part of a minstrel show, heard some pleasing speech or our pulses kept time to the dancers' merry feet. But oftenest of all we heard the echo of home old, old song borne back to us by those invisible chords that run through all space. Our walls are bare and it is to be our pleasing duty in the years to come to people every nook and corner with some pleasing remembrance, and what we wish to shut out from here the work-a-day world, and dedicate it to improvement, culture and good fellowship and what more potent charm to banish care than music, and who so able to make responsive echoes, in both hall and heart as one we all delight to hear—Mrs. T. Edes.

Miss Baldwin then said:

Long years ago—more years than we care to number, there came to this town a stranger youth. Befriended and adopted by one whose good deeds keep his memory ever green among us, they called him to their home, and under broader paths opened up before him, till now he comes back to us, one whom no town or state even, can claim, for wherever the hand of brother grasps the hand of brother, under the mystic tie of Masonry, where ever men meet upon the level and part upon the square, his name has become a household word. Sir Hugh McCurdy is too well known to you to need an introduction. He will respond to the toast, "Clubs."

CLUBS

Mistress Toastmaster, Ladies and Friends:

It gives me a peculiar satisfaction to be called upon to respond to the toast "Clubs" at this time. [illegible] I am reminded of the fact that I am the only man present who has ever been a member of a club in this village