



AR53680090

AA;4433;W86;W89 The new city hall in

CITY HALL MEMORIAL

Columbia University
in the City of New York

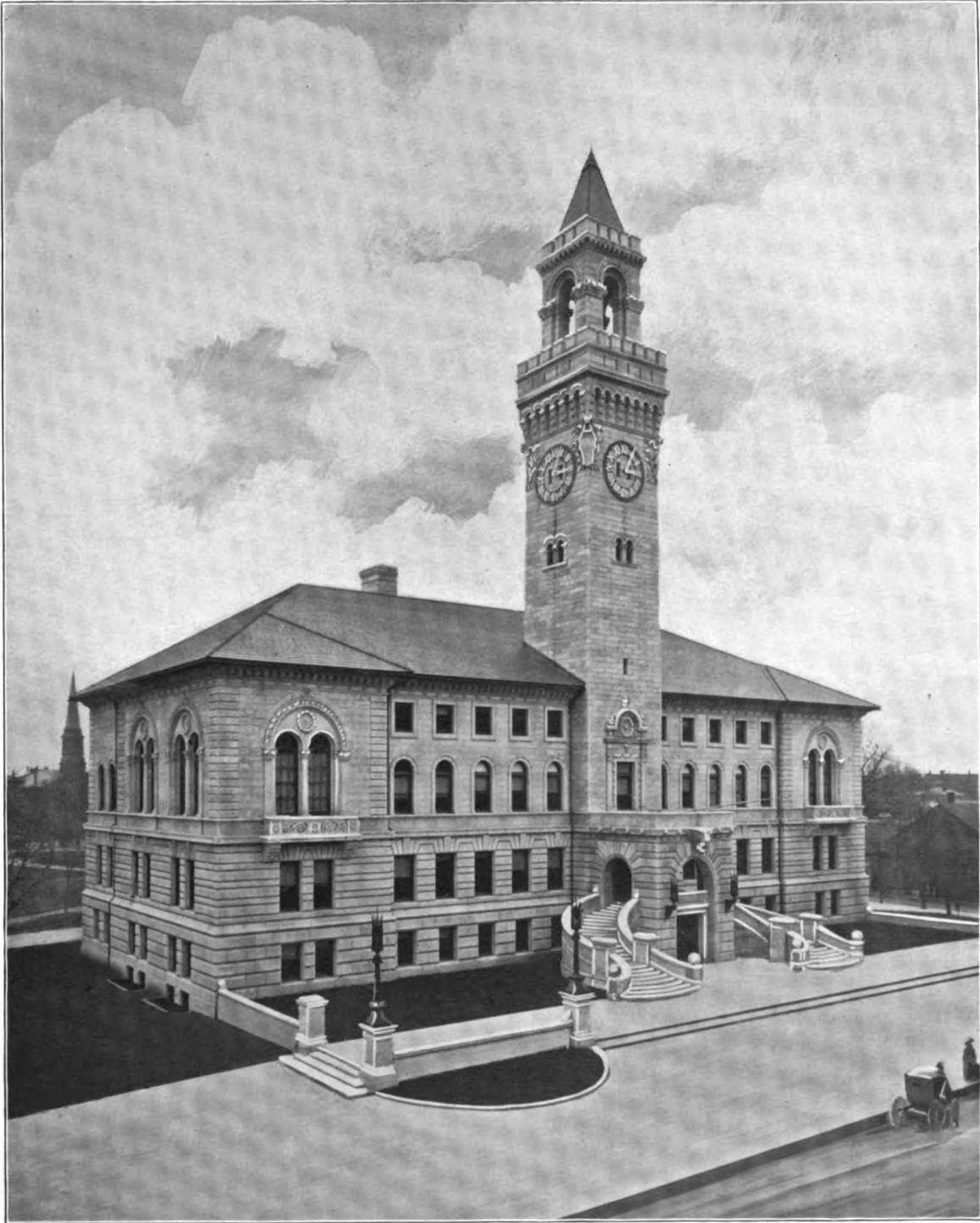
THE LIBRARIES



Bequest of
Frederic Bancroft
1860-1945

AVERY LIBRARY

Bernard H. Abraham
wrestler man



NEW CITY HALL—MAIN STREET FRONT.

THE
NEW CITY HALL

IN
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

A Testimonial
TO THE
CITY HALL COMMISSION
FROM THE
CITY COUNCIL



WORCESTER, MDCCCXCIX

*Library
of Congress*

*Green
AA
4433
W86
W89*

B. N. Mahabon

ONE HUNDRED COPIES PRINTED.

No. 89.

COOTE

EDITED BY
FRANKLIN P. RICE.

PRESS OF F. S. BLANCHARD AND COMPANY.

PREFATORY NOTE.

ON the ninth of January, 1899, a communication was transmitted from the City Hall Commissioners to the City Council stating that the Commission had completed its duties, and asking to be relieved from further service. This communication was referred to a joint special committee consisting of Aldermen GEORGE F. WALL and THOMAS J. BARRETT, and Councilmen ALBERT H. INMAN, JOHN E. LANCASTER and JAMES F. TIMON.

The members of this committee, after due deliberation, feeling that so notable a local event as the successful carrying out of a municipal enterprise of magnitude in the erection of the new City Hall merited more than passing notice, and some expression of appreciation of the public-spirited and unremunerated labors of the City Hall Commissioners, whose services were so freely and so faithfully given in the furtherance of a great public work, were unanimously of the opinion that such acknowledgment should take the form of a lasting memorial in print, and Alderman BARRETT and Councilman LANCASTER were chosen a sub-committee to take the matter in charge, and carry this purpose into effect. In accordance with their instruc-

000758 Nov. 20, 1909 67

tions they have caused the materials for this volume to be collected and arranged for publication, and it is now offered as a testimonial of gratitude to the City Hall Commissioners by the City Council of Worcester, acting in behalf of the citizens generally.

In consequence of the death, on the eighth of August, of Alderman WALL, the Committee in charge of this publication was reorganized by the appointment of Alderman CHARLES A. VAUGHAN to fill the vacancy, and the choice of Alderman BARRETT as chairman.

The printing of this volume was authorized by an order of the City Council approved by the Mayor, September eighteenth, 1899.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Biographies and Portraits of the City Hall Commissioners,	11
Biographies and Portraits of the Mayors, ex-officio Commissioners during the progress of the building, .	19
List of Members of the City Councils from 1894 to 1898,	27

TESTIMONIAL.

Introduction,	37
Historical Sketch of the old Town and City Hall, .	39
The New City Hall:—	
Preliminary Steps. Offers of Hon. Stephen Salisbury, and delay incident to the consideration of the different sites,	51
Decision and Final Action,	59
Architects' Competition and Award of Premiums, .	60
Appointment of City Hall Commission, .	61
Award of Building Contract,	61
Laying of Corner-stone—Ceremonies and Addresses, .	63
Completion of Building and Dedication, Addresses, etc.,	109
Architectural Description of the Building, with Tablets and other matter,	139
Index,	145

ILLUSTRATIONS.

	Opposite Page
New City Hall, from Main Street,	1
Portrait of Commissioner William H. Sawyer,	13
Portrait of Commissioner Harrison S. Prentice,	15
Portrait of Commissioner Andrew Athy,	17
Portrait of Mayor Henry A. Marsh,	19
Portrait of Mayor A. B. R. Sprague,	21
Portrait of Mayor Rufus B. Dodge, Jr.,	25
The Old City Hall,	41
Medal found in Corner-stone of Old City Hall,	43
New City Hall, from the Common,	109
Aldermen's Chamber,	113
Chamber of the Common Council,	117
Main Staircase,	121
Bronze Tablets,	139
Floor-plans,	141, 143

PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES
OF THE
CITY HALL COMMISSIONERS.



WILLIAM H. SAWYER.

WILLIAM

William Henry Story, a
distinguished agricultural
schoolmaster in New Jersey,
was placed on our farm
training which developed
On receiving his diploma in
bookbinding and bookbinding
products for bookbinding
came to Worcester in 1830
to be a teacher for two
at the common law school
could be cut. His name
could not be continued
years later, engaged in
establishing in 1837 a
in 1839 another at Bay
proved very fortunate
handsome fortune. He
1838 and 1839 and a
from 1840 to 1845, while
new City Hall was part



WILLIAM HENRY SAWYER.

William Henry Sawyer was born in Bath, New Hampshire, August eighth, 1843. He was educated in the district schools and at Newbury Seminary in Vermont. His early life was passed on the farm, and he received that rugged training which developed self-reliance and physical power. On reaching his majority, he engaged with his brother in lumbering, and built a saw-mill from which to turn out products for quick shipment to the cities. Mr. Sawyer came to Worcester in 1870 to engage in the retail lumber trade, and a year later established a yard on Lincoln Street at the location now occupied by his present extensive establishment. His naturally enterprising nature, however, could not be confined within narrow limits, and he, a few years later, engaged extensively in wholesale business, establishing in 1877 a yard at Tonawanda, New York, and in 1880 another at Bay City, Michigan. These adventures proved very fortunate, and Mr. Sawyer accumulated a handsome fortune. He was an Alderman of Worcester in 1888 and 1889, and a member of the Parks Commission from 1890 to 1895, which office he resigned. When the new City Hall was projected, he was appropriately made

Chairman of the Commission to direct its construction, a duty which he cheerfully assumed and faithfully and ably discharged.

Mr. Sawyer is a Vice-president of The Worcester Society of Antiquity, and is a member of several other societies and organizations. He was one of the founders of the Hancock Club, is a Director of the First National Bank, of the Worcester Board of Trade and of the City Missionary Society. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Congregational Church.

It is no disparagement of the valuable services rendered by his colleagues of the City Hall Commission to state that Mr. Sawyer's long experience and familiarity with building materials and construction, his excellent judgment and practical methods, particularly fitted him for the position of Chairman of the Commission, and that upon him devolved a large share of responsibility in the erection of the new City Hall.



HARRISON S. PRENTICE.

HARRISON SOUTHWICK PRENTICE.

Harrison Southwick Prentice, son of Henry and Tabitha Leland (Southwick) Prentice, was born in Worcester August tenth, 1836. He was educated in the public schools, and at the age of eighteen engaged in the provision business. He soon became interested in buying and selling real estate, and has been connected with extensive operations in this line. He has erected several of the largest and finest business blocks in the city, on Front, Pleasant, Main and other streets, the latest being the Bellmar on Main Street.

Although at different times solicited to hold public office, Mr. Prentice has uniformly declined, the single exception being his election as a member of the Commission to supervise the erection of the new City Hall, in which service he honorably and faithfully participated, and with his colleagues creditably discharged.



ANDREW ATHY.

ANDREW ABBY.

Andrew Abby was born in Leary, Georgia, Indian land, on the first day of January, 1821, and died on the 14th day of May, 1898. His family was one of great antiquity in his native land. He came to Boston with his father in 1832, and attended school in that city. Soon after he went to Westborough and made his way to Worcester from that town by Barnard, who was a resident of this city from that time until his death.

He learned the trade of shoemaker and was employed for many years in the factory of his uncle Joseph H. Walker, much of the time as foreman. In 1855 he engaged in the land and building business at No. 16 Green Street, which he successfully carried on for years in partnership with his son, to the death of the latter. In 1875 Mr. Abby was elected a member of the City Council of the City of Worcester, and served in that body almost continuously for twenty-three years. He represented his ward in the Legislature in 1874 and 1875. He was six years in the Board of Aldermen from 1877 to 1883. In December, 1885, he was the Democratic and Unionist candidate for Mayor. He was Chairman of the Democratic City Committee in



ANDREW ATHY.

Andrew Athy was born in County Galway, Ireland, on the first day of January, 1832, and died on the fifteenth day of May, 1898. His family was one of great antiquity in his native land. He came to Boston with his father in 1848, and attended school in that city. Soon after, he went to Westborough and made his way to Worcester from that town in 1850, and was a resident of this city from that time until his death.

He learned the trade of a bootmaker, and was employed for many years in the factory of Honorable Joseph H. Walker, much of the time as foreman. In 1875 he engaged in the undertaking business at No. 16 Green Street, which he successfully followed, of late years in partnership with his son, to the end of his life. In 1865 Mr. Athy was elected a member of the City Council of the City of Worcester, and served in that body almost continuously for twenty-three years. He represented his ward in the Legislature in 1874 and 1875. He was six years in the Board of Aldermen from 1881 to 1887. In December, 1886, he was the Democratic and unsuccessful candidate for Mayor. He was Chairman of the Democratic City Committee in

1891, 1892 and 1893, and a delegate to the National Convention of 1896. He was prominently mentioned for the place of Postmaster during President Cleveland's term.

He was elected one of the three members of the Commission to supervise the erection of the new City Hall, and although in failing health, attended every session, and faithfully discharged the arduous duties of his position until the work was completed. The last time he left his home was to attend a meeting of the Commissioners on the occasion of the delivery of the keys by the contractors.

He was a man of fine literary taste, a lover of Shakespeare, and an authority on matters relating to the drama. He possessed three virtues in an eminent degree—honesty, courage and generosity.



HENRY A. MARSH.

HENRY ALLAN

Henry Allan was born in
Ohio and is a member of the
Bar. He was born in the year
1850, and has since that time
resided in the City of New
York, where he has been
employed as a clerk in the
office of the Honorable
the Reverend Edward
Clark in the City of New
York. He has been in the
City of New York for
thirty years, and he is
now in the City of New
York.

Mr. Allan has by
the peculiarity of office and
interest. He has been
employed since 1879. He
was born in the City of New
York, and is a member of the
City of New York and other
places. He was born in the
City of New York, and is a
member of the City of New
York, and is a Vice president
of the City of New York.
He was for several years



HENRY ALEXANDER MARSH.

Henry Alexander Marsh, Mayor of Worcester in 1893, 1894 and 1895, and President of the Central National Bank, was born in Southborough, Massachusetts, September seventh, 1836. In 1849 he removed with his parents to Worcester, where he continued his education in the public schools, and was also for some time under the private instruction of the Reverend Edward Everett Hale. In 1853 he became a clerk in the Central Bank, and through successive promotions attained the cashiership, which office he held nearly thirty years, until he was chosen President of the Bank in 1892.

Mr. Marsh has, by reason of his peculiar fitness, been prominently identified with Worcester and other financial interests. He has been a Trustee-at-large of the City Hospital since 1889. He was for thirteen years a Commissioner of the City sinking funds, and a Commissioner of the Jaques fund and other funds of the City Hospital for five years. He was one of the committee to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of Harvard College in 1875 and 1877, and is a Vice-president of the People's Savings Bank. He was for several years Chairman of the Worcester Clear-

ing House Association. He has served as treasurer of several public relief funds, and as executor of many large estates. Mr. Marsh was for six years a Director of the Free Public Library, and is a member of the American Antiquarian Society, the St. Wulstan Society, and other literary and social bodies. He was a member of the Common Council in 1867 and 1868, and of the Board of Aldermen in 1878, 1879, 1880 and 1881, being President the last-named year. In his second election to the office of Mayor he received 12,420 votes, there being no other candidate. He has always been a Republican in politics.

It was upon the recommendation of Mayor Marsh and during his administration that the first steps were taken towards the erection of the new City Hall.



AUGUSTUS B. R. SPRAGUE.



AUGUSTUS B. R. SPRAGUE.

Augustus Brown Reed Sprague was born in Ware, Massachusetts, March seventh, 1827. His ancestors on both sides were of Puritan stock; his maternal grandmother, Alice Alden, being in the sixth generation in direct line from John Alden, who came over in the Mayflower. The subject of this sketch received his education in public and private schools. In 1842 he came to Worcester and entered the employ of H. B. Claffin, afterwards the famous New York merchant. He afterwards engaged in mercantile business for himself and as a partner with his father in the firm of Lee Sprague & Co.

He reached his majority and cast his first vote in 1848. He joined the militia at the age of seventeen, beginning a military career that made him of service to his country in her greatest need, responding at the first call for troops in April, 1861. He served as Captain of the Worcester City Guards, Company A, Third Battalion Rifles, M. V. M. In September, 1861, he was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel of the Twenty-fifth Mass. Volunteers and served until November, 1862, in its battles and skirmishes, and was officially reported for "bravery and efficiency" in the

engagements at Roanoke Island and New Berne. In November, 1862, he was promoted to be Colonel of the Fifty-first Mass. Regiment, and after the expiration of his term of service became Lieutenant-Colonel and later Colonel of the Second Mass. Heavy Artillery. He was mustered out in September, 1865, and was breveted Brigadier General of Volunteers, to date from March thirteenth, 1865, "for gallant and meritorious services during the war." In January, 1867, General Sprague was appointed City Marshal of Worcester. In June of that year he resigned, having been appointed Collector of Internal Revenue of the Eighth Mass. District, remaining in that office five years. He was appointed Sheriff of the County in July, 1871, and was afterwards elected for six successive terms of three years each.

General Sprague has served in both branches of the City Council. In December, 1895, he was elected Mayor of Worcester and re-elected the following year, serving from January, 1896, to January, 1898. A Republican in politics he was elected by citizens of both parties. The new City Hall was erected, and many other important public works were either begun or finished during his administration. A member ex-officio of the City Hall Commission, he served as Chairman pro tem. during the summer of 1896, while Mr. Sawyer was absent in Europe, and conducted the ceremonies at the laying of the corner-stone.

General Sprague is prominently connected with the

Grand Army of the Republic and with the military order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. He is Vice-president of the Mechanics Savings Bank, and has been a director in the Worcester Electric Light Company from its organization. For several years he has been treasurer of the Putnam & Sprague Co., a long established furniture house.



RUFUS B. DODGE, JR.

KU

James H. ...
1872, was ...
in the ...
University ...
Scientific ...
schools at ...
early ...
and ...
electrical ...
was ...
Secretary ...
and was ...
through ...
success ...
1892, and was ...
He has ...
designated ...
Republican ...
duties of the office ...
speaker, and on ...
formation of the new C



RUFUS B. DODGE, JR.

Rufus B. Dodge, Jr., Mayor of Worcester in 1898 and 1899, was born in Charlton, Mass., November twenty-fourth, 1861. He is descended in direct line from Richard Dodge, who came to America from England and settled in Salem in 1638. Rufus B., Jr., was educated in the public schools of Charlton and at Nichols Academy, Dudley, and early exhibited indications of those qualities which have since distinguished him. At the age of twenty he was elected to the School Committee of his native town. He was graduated *cum laude* from the Boston University Law School in 1885, taking a three years' course in two years; and was admitted to the bar in 1885, and has since that time practiced his profession in Worcester with marked success. He served as an alderman in 1893, 1894 and 1895, and was President of the Board the last named year. He has the distinction of being the youngest man ever chosen alderman in this city. He was elected Mayor as a Republican in December, 1897, and has discharged the duties of the office with ability and dignity. He is a ready speaker, and on various public occasions—notably at the dedication of the new City Hall—has represented the city

with great credit. He possesses the inherited characteristic of independence of mind and action, as proved by his course in relation to certain public matters during his administration.

MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

1894-1898.

1894.



MAYOR.

HENRY A. MARSH.

ALDERMEN.

WARD 1. WARREN C. JEWETT.	WARD 5. FRANCIS W. GROUT.
2. MOSES D. GILMAN.	6. GEORGE W. COOMBS.
3. A. FRANK GATES.	7. RUFUS B. DODGE, JR.
4. ABRAM A. RHEUTAN.	8. HOMER R. KING.

COUNCILMEN.

WARD 1. Frank A. Atherton, George M. Rice, 2d, Alonzo A. White.	WARD 5. Nicholas J. Mooney, Eugene L. Belisle, Edward F. Murray.
WARD 2. Alvah W. Bigelow, John F. Lundberg, Josiah B. Shattuck.	WARD 6. George S. Dixon, Theodore P. Brown, Austin W. Ward.
WARD 3. William W. Sanderson, John F. Jandron, John J. Flaherty.	WARD 7. John F. Adams, Daniel W. Darling, George S. Hatch.
WARD 4. David F. O'Connell, Frank J. Houston, Daniel F. Fitzgerald.	WARD 8. William H. Burns, Frank B. Hall, Arthur P. Rugg.

1895.

MAYOR.

HENRY A. MARSH.

ALDERMEN.

WARD 1. ALONZO A. WHITE.	WARD 5. HENRY BRANNON.
2. MOSES D. GILMAN.	6. GEORGE W. COOMBS.
3. DAN. A. HARRINGTON.	7. RUFUS B. DODGE, Jr.
4. ABRAM A. RHEUTAN.	8. HOMER R. KING.

COUNCILMEN.

WARD 1.
David Boyden,
George M. Rice, 2d,
Frank E. Williamson.

WARD 2.
Charles H. Ellsworth,
Sanford C. Kendall,
Josiah B. Shattuck.

WARD 3.
John J. Flaherty,
John F. Jandron,
William W. Sanderson.

WARD 4.
John H. Connelly,
Daniel F. Fitzgerald,
David F. O'Connell.

WARD 5.
Eugene L. Belisle,
Nicholas J. Mooney,
Edward F. Murray.

WARD 6.
Edward J. Russell,
Austin W. Ward,
Edward M. Woodward.

WARD 7.
Daniel W. Darling,
Newton Darling,
George S. Hatch.

WARD 8.
Frank B. Hall,
Charles H. Hildreth, 2d,
Arthur P. Rugg.

1896.



MAYOR.

AUGUSTUS B. R. SPRAGUE.

ALDERMEN.

HENRY BRANNON,	DANIEL A. HARRINGTON,
DANIEL W. DARLING,	HOMER R. KING,
ENOCH EARLE,	DAVID F. O'CONNELL,
DANIEL F. FITZGERALD,	ALONZO A. WHITE.
MOSES D. GILMAN,	

COUNCILMEN.

WARD 1.

Albert H. Inman,
Jesse P. Taber,
Frank E. Williamson.

WARD 2.

Charles H. Ellsworth,
Sanford C. Kendall,
Andrew P. Lundborg.

WARD 3.

John A. Kennedy,
John H. Meagher,
William H. Toner.

WARD 4.

John H. Connelly,
Philip J. O'Connell,
John R. O'Leary.

WARD 5.

Eugene L. Belisle,
James F. Carberry,
Nicholas J. Mooney.

WARD 6.

John R. Back,
Albert H. Chaffee,
Edward M. Woodward.

WARD 7.

George S. Hatch,
Fred D. Johnson,
Albert Man Powell.

WARD 8.

Frank B. Hall,
Charles H. Hildreth, 2d,
Charles M. Rogers.

1897.



MAYOR.

AUGUSTUS B. R. SPRAGUE.

ALDERMEN.

ENOCH EARLE,	DAVID F. O'CONNELL,
CHARLES H. HILDRETH, 2d,	BURTON W. POTTER,
NAPOLEON P. HUOT,	ALBERT M. THOMPSON,
WILLIAM A. LYTLE,	EDWARD M. WOODWARD.
JAMES H. MELLEN,	

COUNCILMEN.

WARD 1.	WARD 5.
Albert H. Inman,	Eugene L. Belisle,
Frederick W. White,	Henry Coley,
Frank E. Williamson.	John Rivard.
WARD 2.	WARD 6.
Andrew P. Lundborg,	James Hunt,
George C. Hunt,	John R. Back,
Sanford C. Kendall.	Frank M. Heath.
WARD 3.	WARD 7.
John H. Connelly,	George S. Hatch.
James H. Madden,	Fred D. Johnson,
John H. Méagher.	Albert Man Powell.
WARD 4.	WARD 8.
Bernard H. McMahon,	Louis J. Kendall,
Philip J. O'Connell,	Frank B. Hall,
John R. O'Leary.	George F. Wall.

1898.



MAYOR.

RUFUS B. DODGE, JR.

ALDERMEN.

THOMAS J. BARRETT,	DAVID F. O'CONNELL,
HENRY BRANNON,	BURTON W. POTTER,
CHARLES H. HILDRETH, 2d,	EDWARD J. RUSSELL,
NAPOLEON P. HUOT,	ALBERT M. THOMPSON.
JAMES H. MELLEN,	

COUNCILMEN.

WARD 1.	WARD 5.
Frank E. Williamson,	John Rivard,
Albert H. Inman,	James F. Ryan,
Frederick W. White.	James F. Timon.
WARD 2.	WARD 6.
George C. Hunt,	John R. Back,
Sanford C. Kendall,	Frank M. Heath,
John F. Lundberg.	James Hunt.
WARD 3.	WARD 7.
John H. Meagher,	Albert Man Powell,
John H. Connelly,	Fred D. Johnson,
John F. Shea.	Wesley Merritt.
WARD 4.	WARD 8.
Philip J. O'Connell,	Frank B. Hall,
John R. O'Leary,	George F. Wall,
Bernard H. McMahan.	Louis J. Kendall.

TESTIMONIAL
TO THE
CITY HALL COMMISSION.

INTRODUCTION.

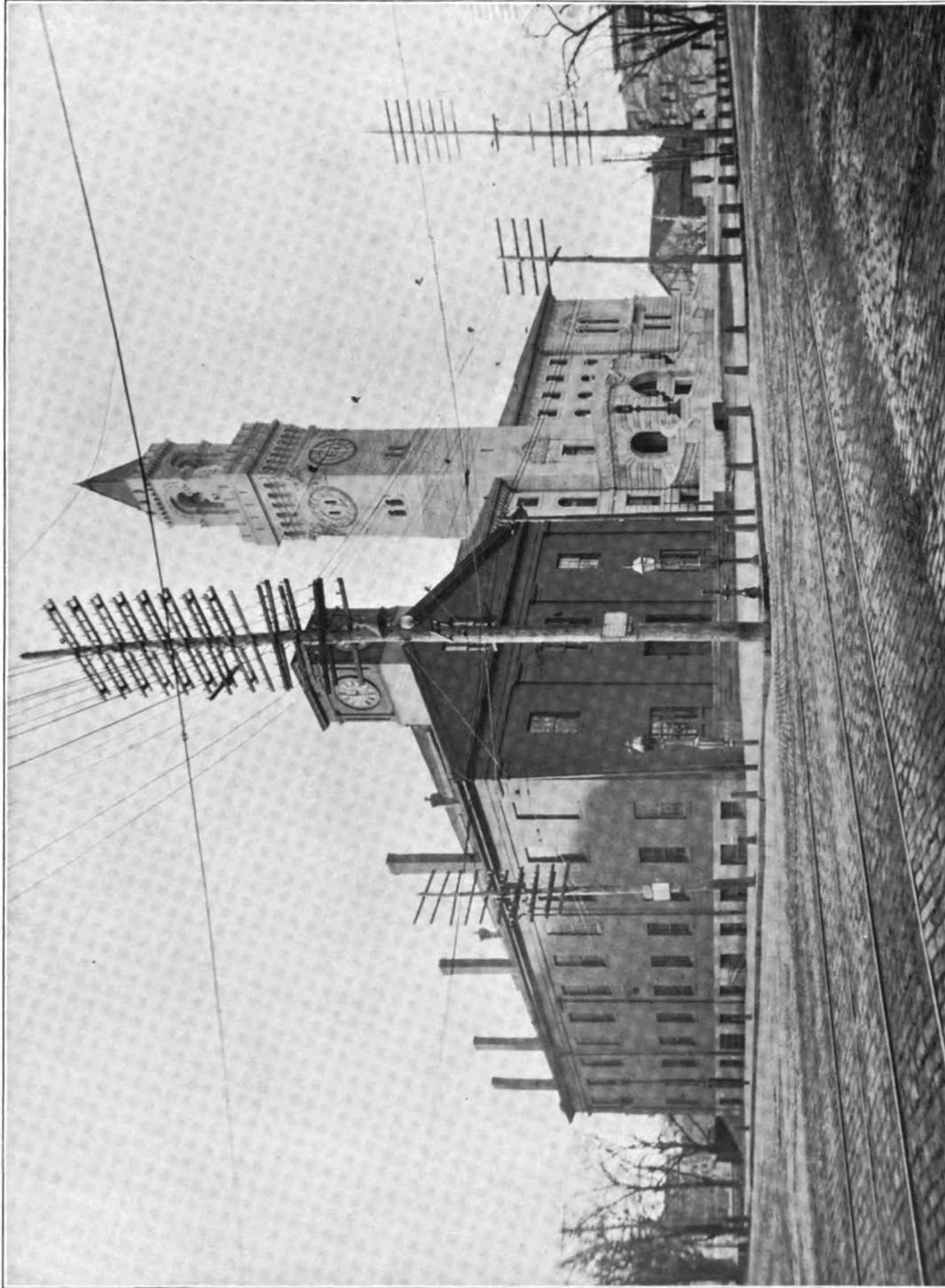
FOR more than thirty years the quarters occupied by the various Departments and the City Council, in the transaction of the municipal business of Worcester, remained essentially the same in extent and accommodations, the old City Hall building in the meantime having undergone but one adaptation worthy of mention, which allowed some rearrangement of the public offices at the time of the removal of the Police Department and the Central District Court to Waldo Street. But the space which was ample for the conduct of the affairs of a city with a population of thirty-five thousand in 1867, was obviously inadequate after it had assumed double those proportions and more in later years, and for a long period the city officials were seriously hampered in the discharge of their duties through lack of room and the consequent inability to avail themselves of modern improvements and to adopt modern methods in their work. The safety of the public records was imperiled, and for a long time the pressing need of proper depositories for them was apparent. Other reasons of weight multiplied and presented themselves to the attention of the citizens in a sufficient body to alone justify definite action.

The question of building a new City Hall was long a rising one in the public mind, but the consideration of the matter was held in abeyance in consequence of other important problems facing the people, and the large expenditures necessarily applied to other works. The first decided move towards the realization of an adequate municipal building was made in 1894 in the formal recommendations of Mayor Marsh. Then followed the successive steps which resulted in the erection of the commodious and beautiful edifice which now graces Worcester's Common.

The history in detail of an enterprise of so much importance and general interest is worthy of record in form, that it may readily be perused or consulted in the future. This history is given in the following pages in the account of the progress of the undertaking through its various stages from its inception to its completion, the architectural description of the building, and other illustrative matter. An historical sketch of the old Town and City Hall is appropriately prefixed, exhibiting in some degree the conditions under which the public business was carried on during a series of years through its later occupancy.

Two facts are especially noteworthy in connection with the erection of the new City Hall: it was completed and furnished for a sum considerably less than the amount appropriated; and very little, if any, adverse criticism of the completed building has been expressed. This result may largely be ascribed to the good judgment and careful supervision of the City Hall Commissioners.

THE OLD TOWN AND CITY HALL.



THE OLD CITY HALL
AS IT APPEARED JUST BEFORE ITS DEMOLITION.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY C. F. DARLING.

THE RELATIVE POSITIONS OF THE OLD AND NEW BUILDINGS ARE SHOWN.

THE OLD TOWN AND CITY HALL.

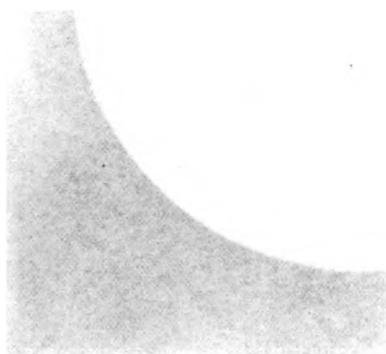
PREVIOUS to the year 1825 Worcester was without a municipal building, the town and other public gatherings up to that time being held in the meeting-house of the First Parish, which was known to later generations as the "Old South Church." In 1824 the present and prospective exigencies, and an increasing disinclination on the part of members of the Parish to allow further use of the Church building, forced the Town to take action towards the erection of a structure suitable for public purposes. At the annual meeting held on the first of March, Samuel Harrington, Samuel T. Read, Rejoice Newton, John W. Lincoln, John Davis, Frederick W. Paine and Enoch Flagg were chosen a committee to take the subject of building a Town Hall into consideration and make report at an adjourned meeting. On the third of May this committee presented a report recommending the erection of a building for the uses of the Town, with two full stories and a basement, the first story to be used as a Town Hall, the second story to be divided into smaller halls, one of which was to be devoted to the purposes of the Agricultural Society, on condition that said society

should re-convey a piece of land at the southwest corner of the burial-ground on the Common which had been deeded to it by the Town in 1823. It was stated in the report that the basement could be rented for not less than fifty dollars per annum; and the whole cost of the edifice, if built of brick and stone, was estimated at \$7,000. This report was accepted, and it was voted "to build a Town House;" and Frederick W. Paine, Otis Corbett, Abijah Bigelow, Ephraim Mower, Samuel Ward, Lewis Bigelow, Samuel Allen, Jr., Benjamin Chapin, Nathan Heard, Jr., Enoch Flagg, together with the Selectmen, Abraham Lincoln, William Chamberlain, John Gleason, Jr., Edward D. Bangs and Joel Gleason, were chosen a committee "to locate the Town House; and determine the way and manner the funds shall be raised to build said Town House, also of what materials it shall be erected."

It appears that three sites were considered—one, offered as a gift by Doctor William Paine, on Main Street, near Thomas Street; another, the lot already deeded to the Agricultural Society; and the one where the Hall was built at the northwest corner of the Common. On this site was a small building used as a store, the land being held by lease from the Town. This building and all the rights appertaining thereto under the lease were purchased for \$780; and it was voted to erect on the spot a Town House sixty-four feet long by fifty-four feet wide, with basement of stone and two full stories of brick, the expense of which was not to exceed \$7,000. Frederick



SILVER DISC
FOUND IN CORNER STONE OF THE OLD CITY HALL.



William Paine, John W. Lincoln, William Eaton, Otis Corbett and Enoch Flagg were chosen the Building Committee, and they were authorized to borrow the necessary money.

The corner-stone was laid on the second of August, 1824, with Masonic ceremonies, under the direction of Morning Star Lodge, Captain Lewis Bigelow, W. M., assisted by craftsmen of other lodges in neighboring towns. A procession was formed at one P. M. in front of the then Masonic Hall, which stood where the Burnside Building now is on Main Street, and moved thence to the hotel of Cyrus Stockwell on the site of the present Bay State House, where the citizens generally united with them. The large procession moved, under the direction of Colonel Samuel Ward as Chief Marshal, to the foundation of the Town House. Here, after religious services conducted by the Reverend Doctor Jonathan Going of the First Baptist Church, the corner-stone was laid with Masonic ceremonies by Captain Lewis Bigelow, master-builder, and Colonel Peter Kendall, brick-mason, principal architect. An appropriate historical address by the Honorable Samuel M. Burnside followed.

The completed building was dedicated just nine months from the time of laying the corner-stone, on the second of May, 1825, on which occasion the religious services were conducted by the Reverend Doctor Aaron Bancroft of the First Unitarian Church, and an historical address was delivered by the Honorable John Davis.

The total cost of the structure was \$9,017.90, which was in excess of the original intention. The arrangement included a large Town Hall on the first floor, with rooms for the Town Clerk, Selectmen, etc.; and the upper story was divided into two smaller halls, one for the Agricultural Society, the other for a Masonic lodge-room. The basement was in part rented for a provision store, and for other purposes. Worcester then had a population of 3,500.

The first change of importance in the building, to adapt it to the growing wants of the Town, was made in 1841, when a plan was carried into effect by which the building was extended fifty feet at the east end, making it 114 feet long. An expenditure of \$7,500 was authorized, and the work was conducted under the supervision of John W. Lincoln, Isaac Davis, Thomas Chamberlain, Henry W. Miller and William A. Wheeler. The upper story was then converted into one large hall one hundred by fifty-one feet, and eighteen feet high, with three rows of raised seats all around sufficient to accommodate an audience of 300 to 400, the large area in the centre to be supplied with seats as occasion might require. There was a gallery at both the east and west ends, the speakers' platform being on the north side. This was known as the "Upper Town Hall," while the two smaller halls into which the lower story was then divided were called the "East" and "West" halls.

Another change was made in 1848, when the East hall became the Police Court room, and the West hall was

divided into rooms for the City Council and offices for the Clerk, Treasurer, etc. Over \$1,200 was expended at that time. The Police office and lock-up were then located in the east end of the basement. These improvements were made under the direction of James S. Woodworth, builder, who was also a member of the first Board of Aldermen.

In 1852 the speakers' platform in the upper hall or "City Hall" was changed from the north side to the east end, the gallery at that end being taken down. Retiring rooms were constructed at each side of the platform, and a narrow flight of stairs built at the northeast corner, to give access to the hall without going through the audience-room.

In 1857 the south flight of stairs to the upper or "City Hall," from the front entrance, was removed to enlarge the quarters of the City Clerk, whose office was then removed to the location where it remained until the demolition of the building, a period of over forty years, windows at this time being substituted for the two doors on each side of the main entrance. A change was also made in the north flight of stairs by which an office was built for the City Messenger, and a room was partitioned off for the Superintendent of Schools over the City Clerk's office, these quarters afterwards being occupied by the Mayor.

In 1866 the large City Hall was divided, and the Council chambers used after that time constructed at the west end, while the east half was devoted to the uses of the

Police (later the Municipal and Central District) Court. The whole of the first story was given over to the offices of the various City Departments. The cost of these extensive improvements was \$27,232.20. The only external change after this was the adding of the clock-tower in 1888. The expense of the several alterations, added to the first cost of the building, amounted to nearly \$60,000. The City Hall was, until the completion of Mechanics Hall in 1857, the largest audience-room in Worcester, and it was much in demand for concerts, lectures and other public assemblies. Various political parties at different times held conventions and meetings within its walls. The Free-soil party was born here in 1848, and from this building went out the famous resolution offered by the Reverend George Allen, which became the watchword of the exciting campaign of that year. It was in the City Hall, on the eleventh of March, 1854, that Eli Thayer announced his "Plan of Freedom," which, applied in his Kansas emigration movement, thwarted the purpose of the Southern leaders after they had accomplished the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. Among the distinguished names associated with this hall may be mentioned Daniel Webster, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas H. Benton, Louis Kossuth, Father Mathew, John B. Gough, Jenny Lind and William M. Thackeray, and there are many others of equal or less note. Not the least honorable use of the hall was that for the transaction of the municipal business during the closing years of the Town organization, where gathered the substantial citizens

of that time, including several of more than local distinction, impelled by earnest desire for the common welfare. With the coming of the City Government and its more direct methods, the general Town meeting was abolished; and after the opening of more elegant and commodious places for public gatherings, the old hall gradually fell into disuse, until in 1866 it was finally closed. The room and its many interesting associations exist now only as memories in the minds of our older citizens.

The last public gathering held in the building was on the afternoon of Wednesday, May fourth, 1898, when the surviving voters of 1848 assembled to say farewell to the old City Hall. Ex-Mayor Stoddard presided over the meeting in the Common Council chamber, and addresses were made by Mayor Dodge, Honorable Alfred S. Roe, Ex-Mayor Sprague, Samuel Hathaway, Dexter Rice, Alzirus Brown, Frederick G. Stiles and others. The demolition of the building took place during the interval between the above date and the first of July.

THE NEW CITY HALL.

The Editor desires to acknowledge his indebtedness to Mr. Osgood Plummer for the use of his historical collection of newspaper cuttings and other materials relating to the discussion of a site for the new City Hall, and the construction of the building. Mr. Plummer, with commendable foresight, carefully preserved all references in print and other matter illustrative of the undertaking, and arranged them chronologically in a volume, the contents of which it would be impossible to duplicate at the present time.

THE NEW CITY HALL.

PRELIMINARY STEPS.

IN the second Inaugural Address of Mayor Henry A. Marsh, January first, 1894, direct reference to the matter of building a new City Hall was made in the following words:

“It must be evident to all that steps must be taken at an early day towards the erection of a municipal building suitable to the needs of this growing city. The accommodations in the present hall are conspicuously inadequate for the work of many of the departments. It is now impossible from lack of room to make suitable provision for the safety of valuable records and securities, whose loss would be irreparable.

“I earnestly commend this subject to your attention, and while reluctant to urge upon you the creation of a city debt therefor, yet it may be in the line of true economy, in this time of unemployed labor and low-priced materials, to begin a work which cannot be much longer delayed.”

These suggestions of the Mayor were followed by an immediate response in expressions of opinion by prominent citizens and in newspaper editorials, which clearly indicated

a strong sentiment in favor of prompt action in the desired undertaking, and on the fifteenth of January, the Mayor brought the subject to the attention of the City Council officially, in a formal recommendation to take the preliminary steps towards the erection of a suitable municipal building. This communication was referred to the Finance Committee, and, soon after, an order was introduced authorizing the Mayor to petition the Legislature for authority to borrow a sum specified to build a new City Hall, but this order, through failure of the two branches of the City Council to concur in the amount, was, on the fifth of February, laid on the table. In the meantime the subject had been quite fully discussed in the press, and by the citizens at large. Some opposition based on economic reasons was manifested, but the weight of opinion clearly sustained the Mayor in his position, and this was evidenced by a petition bearing the signatures of 789 taxpayers, including many prominent business and professional men and large property owners, which was presented to the City Council on the fifth of March, earnestly requesting that body to "take immediate steps toward procuring from the Legislature such authority as may be necessary to borrow a sufficient sum to provide this city with a municipal building worthy of the second city of the Commonwealth." This petition was accompanied by a communication from the Mayor urging favorable action thereon.

After a public hearing of the petitioners and remonstrants on the nineteenth of March, the City Council passed the

desired order, which authorized the Mayor to petition the General Court for permission to borrow \$300,000 with which to construct a new City Hall, and as the result of his efforts under the authority of this vote, an Act in conformity with the purpose received the signature of the Governor on the twenty-third of April. By the provisions of this Act the debt was to be made payable within a period not exceeding thirty years, and was to bear interest at a rate not exceeding four per cent. per annum.

At the time of this action, and previously, while there were some dissentients, it was generally understood that the new City Hall was to be built on the Common, and measures to that end were about to be taken by the Mayor and City Council, when, on the twenty-eighth day of May, a communication was received from the Honorable Stephen Salisbury offering as a gift 24,450 square feet of land fronting on Lincoln Square, with Prescott Street on the east and Salisbury Street on the west, as a site for the new building, and a further gift of \$100,000 to be added to the amount to be appropriated by the City.

Immediately a strong feeling of rivalry developed between the advocates of the Common as a site for the City Hall and those of the Lincoln Square location, which continued to increase until the question reached a final solution nearly two years later. The subject was fully discussed in the public prints during the summer of 1894, no action in the meantime being taken by the City authorities. The merits and demerits of the two sites were set forth at length,

the argument of those opposed to the use of the Common being that it should not be encroached upon, nor its area as a public park contracted; and that the placing of the edifice at Lincoln Square would counterbalance in fair measure the locating of the Post Office at Franklin Square. Not all of those opposed to the use of the Common were in favor of accepting Mr. Salisbury's offer or of placing the building in the north section of the city.

Those in favor of the Common contended that the natural advantages of this site were superior to those of any other which could reasonably be considered; that the right to use the Common had been acquired by the special act of 1885, preliminary to the removal of the Old South Church; and that the objections to the Lincoln Square site were insuperable in that it was too far north of the centre of business and population, and that the lot itself was not suitable for a structure of the size and character needed by the city. To obviate the latter objection Mr. Salisbury made on the tenth of September an alternative proposition to give the lot on the opposite side of Salisbury Street, bounded north by Institute Road and south by Highland Street, containing 65,000 square feet of land, if it should be thought more desirable than the one first offered. To both these offers the City Council returned thanks in appreciation of Mr. Salisbury's munificence; but no action as to their acceptance or rejection was taken at that time.

As the popular excitement and interest increased, various expedients were from time to time offered to operate in

bringing about a decision, the two factions apparently being so evenly balanced in numbers and influence that the City Council manifested a decided disinclination to act. Some of the members were in favor of submitting the matter to a popular vote, but this idea was abandoned, the City Solicitor, to whom the question was referred, declaring it impracticable under the statute. It was then strongly asserted that it was the plain duty of the City Council to take the responsibility. Finally, in response to a petition from the opponents of the Common, a public hearing before the City Council was appointed to be held in Horticultural Hall on the evening of November fifth.

This hearing was attended by a large and able representation of advocates of the two sites, and a concourse of interested citizens that filled the hall to its utmost capacity. The arguments of the contending factions were well presented, and the advantages and disadvantages of the opposite locations thoroughly discussed ; but it would appear, in looking back at this time, that the hearing was devoid of effect in hastening the desired result.

On the twelfth of November the Kinnicutt estate, so called, on Chestnut Street, now occupied by the Union Church, containing 32,090 square feet, was offered as a site for the City Hall for the sum of \$60,000. Several other sites were also mentioned, including Salem Square, Park Street, and opposite the head of Front Street, on Main Street, but these were not seriously considered.

During the next three or four months the matter was discussed in all its bearings in the newspapers and by the people generally. No subject had ever so stirred the public mind in Worcester. The lawful right to erect a building on the Common was denied and asserted with equal positiveness and confidence by eminent members of the legal profession and other prominent citizens; and other points of law, propriety and sentiment were introduced to complicate the situation.

In his Inaugural Address at the beginning of the year 1895, Mayor Marsh again strongly impressed upon the City Council the necessity of some action, declaring that the responsibility in the selection of a site rested with that body, and recommending that immediate steps be taken to settle the question of location and to secure plans and appropriate money for the building under the authority of the special act of the Legislature of the year before.

But the Council still hesitated, and doubts in regard to the City's rights in the Common influenced a vote early in the year to petition the General Court for leave to make use of part of that ground as a site for a City Hall, the feeling being that with this reiterated authority the opposition to the central location would subside, and the city authorities would be doubly fortified in their action. This step, as regarded in the light of later events, was plainly a supererogatory one, not in itself leading to any satisfactory result; yet the report of the Legislative committee, giving the petitioners leave to withdraw, and the confirmatory vote thereon, were regarded

as a decision adverse to the use of the Common, and so strong a moral effect was produced that some of the most active advocates of that site abandoned the idea for the moment and openly admitted their defeat. Under the temporary influence of this feeling the tide of sentiment seemed to be setting towards the Lincoln Square location.

But this conviction, which under the circumstances was likely to become general, was not absolutely unanimous, and the prompt action of one citizen resulted in turning the scale in the other direction, and finally in locating the new City Hall on the Common.

In response to about twenty invitations given through the telephone, eight persons met at the Board of Trade rooms on the evening of Saturday, March twenty-third, 1895, and the action taken by this small gathering proved more practical and effective than all the arguments and printers' ink which had previously been used.* It was decided at this meeting

*As a matter of history it should be stated that Osgood Plummer was the prime mover in this action, and that to his determined energy the final outcome in the City Hall location is to be ascribed. He called the meeting and directed its course. The names of seven of those who attended are here given; that of the eighth cannot be recalled: Osgood Plummer, Andrew H. Hammond, Henry H. Merriam, Ellery B. Crane, L. V. K. Van De Mark, Willard F. Pond, S. S. Russell. A committee with power to act was chosen, consisting of Messrs. Plummer, Hammond and Crane, and at the suggestion of Mr. Plummer, Mr. Pond was added to assist in the canvass. Messrs. Plummer and Pond were the working members; they raised the necessary funds by subscription, employed canvassers, and directed the canvass in detail.

to draw up and circulate a petition among the voters and taxpayers of Worcester, asking the City Council to decline the offers of Mr. Salisbury, and a Committee was appointed to canvass the city for signatures.

The efforts of this Committee were at first made light of by both the morning papers, and by the opponents of the Common site, but after two or three days of active labor, the large number of signers to the copies of the petition circulated showed that the power evoked was not to be despised.

A counter petition was speedily prepared and numerous copies were presented by representatives of the element that opposed the use of the Common. Both sides were thoroughly in earnest, and prosecuted the work with zeal and vigor, and it is safe to say that a more thorough canvass for signers to a petition was never before made in Worcester.

As a result there were obtained in favor of the north end location 9,695 names, and in opposition to it 9,440 names—a total of 19,135. As the whole number of voters at the last computation previous to this canvass was only 17,141, these figures show the thoroughness of the work.

A newspaper controversy filling many columns was carried on in the local journals during and following the canvass for signers to the petitions, several manifestoes being issued by the Committee appointed at the meeting of March twenty-third. The action of this Committee apparently had its effect in causing a rejection of the Lin-

coln Square location by the lower branch of the City Council at a meeting held April twenty-second, but no definite action towards the direct solution of the difficulty was taken until June third. At that time an order was introduced in the Board of Aldermen authorizing the Mayor to advertise for and obtain competitive plans for a new City Hall to be located on the Common, and appropriating \$5,000 as compensation to those furnishing designs. This money was to be distributed among the unsuccessful competitors as follows: For the second best plan \$2,000, for the third \$1,500, for the fourth \$1,000, and for the fifth \$500; the architect whose design was accepted to be fully compensated for his services at the usual percentage on the cost of construction.

It was provided that the design for the building should be selected and the awards of prizes made by the Mayor, the Superintendent of Public Buildings, and an expert and disinterested architect appointed by the Mayor. This order passed both branches of the City Council by a decisive majority, and for the first time since the beginning of the controversy it was felt that a practical move had been made. Although opposition was afterwards manifested in attempts to secure an injunction in the Supreme Court, and to have a part of the Act of 1885 repealed by the Legislature, this resistance failed to be effective in stopping or further delaying the progress of the undertaking.

In the meantime active measures were taken to carry into effect the provisions of the order of June third. On

the eighteenth of June, upon the recommendation of the local architects, Mayor Marsh appointed the well-known Richard M. Hunt of New York as advisory architect; and on the same day the City Council appropriated \$50,000 towards the cost of the new City Hall. On consultation with Mr. Hunt it was decided to limit the competition to Worcester architects and to four others, two in Boston and two in New York. Of the invited architects, Messrs. McKim, Mead & White of New York declined to compete, and those who presented designs were:

Peabody & Stearns, and Hartwell, Richardson & Driver of Boston; Carrere & Hastings of New York; Clellan Waldo Fisher, Fuller & Delano, E. Boyden & Son, Barker & Nourse, George H. Clemence and A. P. Cutting of Worcester—nine in all.

Richard M. Hunt died at his summer residence in Newport on the thirty-first of July, and on the twenty-third of August the Mayor appointed his son, Richard H. Hunt, to succeed him as consulting architect. The plans received were submitted to Mr. Hunt early in September, and on his recommendation Peabody & Stearns of Boston were selected as the architects of the new City Hall, and the prizes were awarded as follows: \$2,000 to Hartwell, Richardson & Driver of Boston; \$1,500 to Carrere & Hastings of New York; \$1,000 to A. P. Cutting, and \$500 to Clellan Waldo Fisher, both of Worcester.

On the eleventh of November an order providing for the election of three citizens to serve as a Commission to

erect the New City Hall, said order also providing that the person holding the office of Mayor while the building was in progress should be ex-officio a member of said Commission, was passed by the City Council, and was approved by the Mayor November thirteenth; and on the twenty-fifth of November that body in joint session elected William H. Sawyer, Harrison S. Prentice and Andrew Athy as the Commissioners. Mr. Sawyer was designated Chairman of the Commission by the Mayor.

On the third of January, 1896, Honorable A. B. R. Sprague was inaugurated Mayor of Worcester. Early in the year the City Hall Commission, after a careful consideration of the plans, and of the necessities in the case, presented a communication to the City Council, stating that the appropriation of \$300,000 would be wholly inadequate to build a City Hall of the material—pink granite—selected, and finish the same in a manner that would be acceptable and creditable to the City; and that \$575,000 would be required to properly carry out the undertaking. Accordingly, on the twenty-first of April, 1896, the required appropriation was voted. On the twenty-third of April the contract to erect the building was awarded to Norcross Brothers for the sum of \$470,761, the structure to be completed in twenty months from that date. Ground was broken early in May, and the work proceeded rapidly through the summer months. Early in September preparations for laying the corner-stone were completed, and the tenth of that month was appointed as the day, and arrange-

ments were made for a military and civic parade, and Masonic and other ceremonies appropriate.

The weather on Thursday, the tenth of September, proving too inclement for outdoor exercises, the ceremonies were postponed to Saturday, the twelfth, when they were successfully carried out in accordance with the programme, which is given in the following pages.

LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE.

COMMITTEE.

MAYOR A. B. R. SPRAGUE, CHAIRMAN PRO TEM. OF THE
CITY HALL COMMISSION.

ALDERMEN.

ALONZO A. WHITE,
HENRY BRANNON,
DANIEL W. DARLING,
DAVID F. O'CONNELL.

COUNCILMEN.

EDWARD M. WOODWARD,
JOHN H. CONNELLY,
SANFORD C. KENDALL,
ALBERT H. INMAN,
FRANK B. HALL.

CITY OF WORCESTER, MASS.
OFFICE OF THE CITY HALL COMMISSION.

August 8, 1896.

EDWIN B. HOLMES,

Most Worshipful Grand Master:

In behalf of the City Hall Commission, I have the honor to request that the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will lay the corner-stone of the City Hall, in the afternoon of the tenth day of September next.

I am respectfully and fraternally yours,

A. B. R. SPRAGUE,

Chairman Pro Tem. City Hall Commission.



CITY OF WORCESTER, MASS.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, Aug. 31, 1896.

DEAR SIR:

In behalf of the City Government and the City Hall Commissioners, I have the honor to request that you will be present at the ceremony of the laying of the corner-stone of the City Hall, on the afternoon of Thursday, September tenth.

Kindly signify your intention upon the enclosed postal card, on or before Saturday, September fifth, and if you accept, please report at the City Hall at two and one-half o'clock in the afternoon.

Very truly yours,

A. B. R. SPRAGUE,

Mayor.

ORDER OF EXERCISES
FOR THE
LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE
OF THE
CITY HALL
IN THE
CITY OF WORCESTER, MASS.,
BY
M. W. EDWIN B. HOLMES, GRAND MASTER,

ASSISTED BY

HON. A. B. R. SPRAGUE, MAYOR,

SEPTEMBER 12, 1896.

1. AMERICAN HYMN, *Keller*
CONSOLIDATED BANDS.
2. ANNOUNCEMENT BY CITY HALL COMMISSION.
3. RESPONSE BY PRESIDENT WHITE OF BOARD OF ALDERMEN.
4. PRAYER BY REV. CALVIN STEBBINS.
5. ADDRESS BY HIS HONOR THE MAYOR.
6. WELCOME TO THE M. W. GRAND LODGE BY THE MAYOR, AND
REQUEST TO PROCEED WITH THE CORNER-STONE CEREMONIES.
7. RESPONSE BY THE GRAND MASTER.

8. READING OF SELECTIONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES BY W. AND
REV. CHARLES A. SKINNER, GRAND CHAPLAIN.
9. PRAYER BY THE GRAND CHAPLAIN.
10. HYMN. SUNG BY WORCESTER MASONIC QUARTETTE.
11. READING OF LIST OF CONTENTS OF THE BOX BY THE GRAND
TREASURER, R. W. HENRY G. FAY.
12. APPLICATION OF THE JEWELS TO THE CORNER-STONE.
13. LIBATION OF CORN BY THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, R. W.
HENRY A. BELCHER.
14. LIBATION OF WINE BY THE SENIOR GRAND WARDEN, R. W.
EDWARD P. CHAPIN.
15. LIBATION OF OIL BY THE JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN, R. W.
HENRY J. MILLS.
16. INVOCATION BY THE GRAND CHAPLAIN.
17. PRESENTATION OF WORKING TOOLS TO ARCHITECT, MR. ROB-
ERT S. PEABODY.
18. ADDRESS BY THE GRAND MASTER.
19. PROCLAMATION BY THE GRAND MARSHAL, W. HENRY K. DUN-
TON.
20. HYMN.
21. BENEDICTION BY THE GRAND CHAPLAIN.
22. STAR SPANGLED BANNER, *Francis Scott Key*
CONSOLIDATED BANDS.
23. NATIONAL SALUTE, BATTERY B, MASS. V. M.

GRAND MILITARY AND CIVIC PARADE.

ORDER OF PROCESSION.

Platoon of police, commanded by Sergt. Johnson.
 Gen. Josiah Pickett, Chief Marshal.
 Maj. Edward T. Raymond, Chief of Staff.
 Capt. Charles H. Pinkham, Adjutant General.
 Dr. J. Marcus Rice, Surgeon ; Dr. Charles H. Davis, Dr. Henry
 S. Knight, Dr. John A. Carroll, and Dr. Joseph H. Kelley,
 Assistant Surgeons ; Capt. Charles S. Chapin, Quarter-
 master ; George W. Mirick, Assistant Quartermaster ;
 Capt. D. A. Matthews, Provost Marshal ; Capt.
 J. B. Knox, Signal Officer.
 Aids. Col. T. S. Johnson, Col. E. J. Russell, Col. J. M. Dren-
 nan, Maj. L. G. White, Capt. Levi Lincoln, Capt. George
 M. Woodward, Capt. James W. Clark, W. W. Macomber,
 G. N. Jeppson, Capt. B. W. Potter, Lieut. W. B.
 Harding, Lieut. H. A. Johnson, George Hogg,
 Richard H. Mooney, Horace F. Ball, Ed-
 ward M. Dodge, Color-bearer.
 HONORARY STAFF. Col. John M. Studley, Hon. Stephen Salis-
 bury, W. A. Lytle, M. B. Lamb, Capt. J. S. Baldwin, E. B.
 Crane, Julius C. Zaeder, W. H. Bliss, John B. Watson,
 John N. Morse, William J. Hogg, H. F. A. Lange,
 Willard F. Pond, John F. Jandron,
 Benjamin C. Jaques.

FIRST DIVISION.

Col. Fred W. Wellington, Marshal ; Lieut. Col. E. R. Shumway,
 Adjutant General and Chief of Staff ; Aids, Capt. Luke R.
 Landry, representing the Quartermaster's Department of
 the State ; Lieut. E. B. Fish, Lieut. Frank L. Allen,
 Lieut. Matthew E. Hines, Col. H. E. Smith,
 Lieut. Robert R. Simmonds.

Battery B Band, Emery D. Ingraham, Leader.
 Battalion of infantry, in command of Maj. Harry B. Fairbanks.
 Company A, Worcester City Guards, Edwin G. Barrett,
 Captain; M. H. Tisdell, 1st Lieutenant;
 Frederick H. Lucke, 2nd Lieutenant.
 Company H, Wellington Rifles, W. E. Hassam, Captain; W. S.
 Prior, 1st Lieutenant.
 Company C, Worcester Light Infantry, Phineas L. Rider, Cap-
 tain; William F. Gilman, 1st Lieutenant.
 Company G, Emmet Guards, Jeremiah Moynihan, Captain; Jere-
 miah F. Hurley, 2nd Lieutenant.
 First Battalion Light Artillery, Battery B, Joseph Brusio, Jr.,
 Captain; Herbert W. Haynes, Senior 1st Lieutenant;
 William T. Gould, Junior 1st Lieutenant; W. B.
 Walworth, 2nd Lieutenant.
 George H. Ward Post 10, Grand Army of the Republic, A. S.
 Roe, Commander; Daniel E. Burbank, Senior Vice-Com-
 mander; R. B. Edwards, Junior Vice-Commander;
 Lewis C. Lawrence, Adjutant.—150 men.
 Camp A. A. Goodell, No. 2, Sons of Veterans, C. F. Lamberton,
 Captain; W. E. Rice, 1st Lieutenant; H. K. Hobbs,
 2nd Lieutenant.—40 men.
 Willie Grout Camp, Sons of Veterans, Edwin A. Gleason, Cap-
 tain; C. W. Brown, 1st Lieutenant; George A.
 Cheever, 2nd Lieutenant.—45 men.

SECOND DIVISION.

General Charles W. Wood, Marshal; C. B. Perry, Chief of Staff;
 Charles H. Wood, Thomas Walters, Jr., John F. Lundberg,
 Fred D. Johnson, C. W. Walls, Dr. W. T. Souther, W.
 E. Higgins, Benjamin W. Knight, Dr. George M.
 Foskett, E. C. Johnson, Wm. L. Riedl, J. F.
 Healy, John Davis, John J. Newhall, Aids.
 Sixth Regiment Band, 24 pieces; Joseph Reno, Leader; Frank
 Danielson, Drum Major.

Worcester Continentals, 40 men ; Col. W. A. Gile commanding, and Staff ; Col. F. A. Arnold of the United Train of Artillery, Providence ; George H. Harlow, Adjutant ; W. B. Sprout, Captain.

1st Company, Staff and Officers, Lieut. Col. Nathan Taylor commanding.

2nd Company, Capt. G. W. Darling commanding, Lieut. W. I. Allen.

Grand Canton Worcester, P. M. I. O. O. F., 60 men ; Capt. G. W. Dickinson commanding ; 1st Company, Capt. H. M. Wood ; 2d Company, Capt. O. T. Stacy and Lieut. F. W. Grout.

Wachusett and Mt. Vernon Encampments, I. O. O. F., 60 men ; Forbes B. Fay, Chief Captain ; Capts. F. W. Blenus and Fred A. Meyers commanding Wachusett, Capts. E. C. Morse, F. I. Barrett and George F. Oakley commanding Mt. Vernon.

Carriages Containing Grand Encampment Officers.

First, W. H. Gates, C. B. Caswell, Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Encampment.

Second, F. W. Duncan, D. D. G. M., of North Brookfield ; Theo. H. Day, G. M. G. E. ; J. H. Hartwell, D. G. P. ; E. K. Wheelock, P. C. P.

Third, Julian F. Bigelow, R. P. of M., Wachusett ; C. C. Fuller, G. S. W. ; Sumner P. Lawrence, G. P., of Fitchburg ; C. B. Dunkerton, P. G. R.

Johnson's Drum Corps, 12 men ; A. H. Johnson, Leader.

Quinsigamond, Worcester, Ridgely, Central, and Anchoria Lodges, I. O. O. F., 120 men ; C. A. Phelps, Chief Marshal ; W. F. Whitney, A. E. Ruhmpohl, P. M. Pfaffmann, W. H. Whitney, C. M. Fogarty, Aids.

Carriages Containing D. D. J. T. Cooper, D. D. John A. Loud.

Shrewsbury Brass Band, 27 pieces ; H. C. Reed, Leader ; A. W. Paige, Drum Major.

Central Commandery, L. L. O. U. A. M., 50 men ; Capt. W. Taft commanding ; Lieuts. John Blair and Walter S. Emerson.

Worcester Commandery, L. L. O. U. A. M., Capt. C. H. Claffin commanding; Lieuts. J. W. Horton and J. A. Forsythe.

Worcester, Commonwealth, Central, Bancroft and Devens Councils, O. U. A. M., 140 men; M. Bonner Flinn commanding; W. H. Dewing, F. H. Stevens, T. W. Sutton, C. P. Johnson, A. B. Ingerson, H. T. Simonds, Aids.

Carriages Containing Prominent Officers.

First, Col. Walter D. Ross, Past Councilor; E. F. Fletcher, P. C.; Rev. C. H. Covell and Col. J. P. White.

Second, Capt. A. E. DeRoche, Mrs. DeRoche, little Miss Zephyr DeRoche and P. C. Albert Oakes.

Third, State Council Secretary C. C. Littlefield of Boston, K. M. Beers, and Senior Ex-Councilor Daniel Parlin of Devens Council.

Bunker Hill and Industry Councils, Junior O. U. A. M., 60 men; A. E. Saunders commanding; C. W. Sutcliffe and W. E. Remington, Aids.

Worcester Military Fife and Drum Corps, 14 men; W. S. Moran, Leader; E. A. Bourke, Drum Major.

Bay State Division, U. R. K. P., 60 men; Capt. S. L. Barnes commanding; Lieuts. W. J. Vance and J. G. Spring.

Damascus, Freedom, and Regulus Lodges, K. of P., 60 men; D. W. Carr commanding; C. K. Hardy, W. D. Powers, Aids.

Carriages.

First, Col. E. Allen of Spencer, Adj. W. G. Keith of Brookfield, Q. M. T. W. Livermore, Sergeant Major G. W. W. Moss and H. E. Peters of Spencer.

Second, C. F. Pinkham of Spencer, Lieut. L. M. White of Spencer, Lieut. J. H. Conant of East Brookfield, C. C. Abner Pond of Spencer.

Quinsigamond, Massasoit and Iroquois Tribes, I. O. R. M., 100 men; W. H. Andrews commanding; E. H. Smith, L. Lovely, Aids.

First Regiment Fife, Drum and Bugle Corps, 20 pieces; J. F. Clarke, Leader and Drum Major.

York Commandery, U. R. S. K. S. of St. G., 30 men; Capt.

General J. W. Davies commanding. Capt. J. B. Wolfenden commanding; Lieuts. J. P. Ellis and Robert Taylor.
 Prince Consort Lodge, S. of St. G., 40 men; Mark Froom commanding; Ashton Whittaker, Aids.
 Loyal Bay State Lodge, I. O. O. F. M. U., 50 men; William Greanes commanding.
 Loyal Harmony Lodge, I. O. O. F. M. U.; William Sutcliffe commanding; John Hinsley, Aid.
 Bay State, U. S. Grant, and Cavalry Commanderies, 200 men; J. H. Pierce commanding; L. E. H. Pinkham and H. E. Partridge, Lieutenants.
 Clan Scott, O. of S. C.; Robert McFarland commanding; Chief E. H. McLeod and Robert Cowan, Aids.
 King David Lodge, F. and A. M.; P. Sethridge commanding.

THIRD DIVISION.

Lieut. James Early, Marshal, and Staff; Capt. William Hickey, Chief of Staff; Capt. Edward F. Dolan, Dr. George McAleer, Patrick J. Quinn, Thomas Kenney, J. Frank Quinn, James F. Ready, Aids; Charles M. Callahan, Color-bearer.
 Worcester City Band, 25 pieces; James E. Halpin, Leader.
 Catholic Total Abstinence Societies; Edward F. Dolan, Marshal.
 Father Mathew Pioneer Corps, 14 men; Lieut. Fredk. J. Connelly in command.
 Knights of Father Mathew, 32 men; Capt. Archibald C. McCurdy in command; Lieut. M. J. Kane.
 Father Mathew Total Abstinence and Mutual Benevolence Society, 50 men; Pres. David Coggin in command; A. John Clarke, Aid.
 St. Anne's Total Abstinence Society, 150 men; Pres. Michael W. Donahue in command; J. F. Doherty and B. F. McLaughlin, Color-bearers.
 Harris Drum Corps, 12 pieces; A. H. Harris, Leader; Henry Camp, Drum Major.
 Catholic Young Men's Lyceum, 58 men; Pres. Andrew J. McCarron in command; Thomas E. Dowd, John B. Keon, Thomas O'Reilly, Aids; G. Henry Dolan and John McDermott, Color-bearers.

- Sixth Regiment Drum Corps of Fitchburg, 17 men; Charles A. Lemay, Leader.
- Ancient Order of Hibernians; Capt. John J. Rogers, Marshal. Company A, Hibernian Rifles, 32 men; 1st Lieut. Frank A. Reynolds in command; John J. Minns, 2d Lieutenant.
- A. O. H. banner borne in a carriage by John McNamara, Jeremiah Toomey, Thomas J. McDonough and Michael J. Mullaney.
- Division 1, A. O. H., 125 men; Philip Kelley, Marshal; Ulric Clifford, Aid.
- Division 3, A. O. H., 100 men; Nicholas H. O'Connor, Marshal; Patrick Kenney, Aid.
- Division 24, A. O. H., 125 men; Timothy Warren, Marshal; Daniel Foley and James Tucker, Aids.
- Fitchburg Military Band, 24 pieces; G. A. Patz, Leader; Thomas E. Kielty, Drum Major.
- Foresters of America, Edward J. Quinn, Marshal; John J. Holland, Guide.
- Worcester Conclave, Knights of Sherwood Forest, No. 91, 50 men; Martin Tracy, Commander; P. J. Judge, Vice-commander; Thomas D. Elliott, 1st Lieutenant; Owen Fearon, Color-bearer.
- Court City of Worcester, F. of A., 100 men; Chief Ranger George J. Donnelly in command.
- Court Damascus, F. of A., 80 men; Chief Ranger John F. Hanaver in command.
- Court Quinsigamond, F. of A., Chief Ranger James Eaton in command; Patrick Quinn, Color-bearer.
- Court Thomas E. Cunningham, F. of A., 200 men; Chief Ranger Patrick C. Moore in command.
- Commonwealth Drum Corps, 14 pieces; Fred L. Margerum, Leader; J. B. Hoppin, Drum Major.
- Court Harmony, F. of A., 30 men; Chief Ranger C. H. Carr in command.
- Court Heart of the Commonwealth, F. of A., 100 men; Chief Ranger Eugene Sullivan in command.
- Court Frederic T. Greenhalge, F. of A., 200 men; Chief Ranger Charles R. Hartigan in command.

FOURTH DIVISION.

- John B. Simard, Marshal, and Staff; Joseph Lavigne, Chief of Staff;
C. Schwartz, Adjutant General; Dr. F. B. Fontaine, Surgeon;
Otto Karle, Color-bearer; L. H. Lamotte, R. Carvey, Edward
Chaquette, Aids; Color-bearers—Alphonse Morrelle,
American flag; Joseph Brouillard, French flag; August Euddrol,
Swedish flag; Charles W. Wunderlich, German flag.
- Martel's Brigade Band, 126 pieces; John H. Martel, Leader.
Garde Lafayette, 25 men; Capt. P. R. Pierre Goodney in command;
C. Lamotte, 1st lieutenant; Joseph Luby, 2nd lieutenant.
- St. Jean Baptiste Society, 150 men; Pres. A. T. Lamoureux in command;
Louis F. Dumouchel, Joseph A. Marchesseault, Joseph Lapiere,
Charles Gamblin, Assistants; Frank Raynoux, Color-bearer.
- St. Jean Baptiste Band of Webster, 24 pieces; Hector Boulay,
Leader; George F. Morway, Major.
- L'Union St. Joseph, 105 men; George Charron in command.
Court Louis J. Papineau, F. of A., 100 men; August Nault in
command; P. L. Vouteur, J. P. Pion, Aids.
- German Liederkrantz Band of Webster, 22 pieces; John Warake,
Leader; Henry Nopper, Major.
- Gesang Verein Frohsinn Society, Turnverein and Einigkeit Lodge,
E. of H., 125 men; Presidents William G. Lichtenfels, Henry
Gruber and Anton Ramisch in command; John Schunke,
Aid; Ernest Dobszensky, Henry Schuermann,
Color-bearers.
- Svea Gille Association, 65 men; Gust. C. H. Stenman, Marshal;
Axel Hanson, A. E. Romberg, Aids; Adolf Henrickson,
August Thyberg, Color-bearers.
- Brage Singing Society, 24 men; H. E. Franzen, Marshal; B. A.
Wenden, John Gran, Color-bearers.
- Viking Council, O. M. B., C. P. Hook in command; Carl Olson,
Carl Ekoslf, Aids; L. P. Aquist, Raymond Smith,
Magnus Magnuson, Color-bearers.
- Independent Drum Corps, 3 pieces; Fred Ostberg, Leader.
Worcester Veteran Firemen's Association, 50 men; John G. Brewer,

Marshal; Jacob Eidt, C. W. Swan, Aids; Peter Perry,
Color-bearer.

Carriages Containing Moses Simard, Zephirin Granger, Alfred
Roy and Louis Dubreuil of Court Papineau; M. A. De-
Lorme, Narcisse Boulay, Joseph Marchesseault and Ed-
ward Charette of St. Jean Baptiste Society; Adolph
Lacroix, Eli L. Belisle, Clovis Caron and David
Arseneault of L'Union St. Joseph.

FIFTH DIVISION.

Gen. R. H. Chamberlain, Marshal; W. A. Lytle, George L.
Allen, George N. Morse, Jr., Aids.

Worcester Brass Band, 24 pieces, L. D. Waters, Leader.

Worcester County Commandery of Knights Templar, 140 men

A. Frank Gates, Eminent Commander; R. James Tat-
man, Generalissimo; W. A. Farnsworth, Adjutant

General; Edward J. Sartelle, Prelate;

Edwin A. Hill, Treasurer; W.

S. Dadmun, Secretary.

First Division, Arthur H. Burton in command.

Second Division, Charles F. Mann in command.

1st Company, Fred H. Clarke, Captain.

2d Company, H. H. Fairbanks, Captain.

3d Company, David H. Hayter, Captain.

Color Company: Waldo E. Sessions, Captain; E. P. Pevey, Stan-
dard-bearer; Adams F. Brown, Color-bearer;

W. W. Johnson, Warden.

5th Company, E. S. Clark, Captain.

6th Company, George E. Boyden, Captain.

7th Company, Theodore N. Gates, Captain.

8th Company, Moses Gross, Captain.

Quinsigamond Lodge, 32 men; Brigham M. Scott, Worshipful
Master; W. A. Pickett, Marshal; G. W. Batchelder,

Standard-bearer.

Athelstan Lodge, 70 men; John P. Wheeler, Worshipful Master;
John Fuller, Marshal.

Montacute Lodge, 60 men; R. W. Clifford, Worshipful Master;

- F. M. Clark, Marshal; Lyman S. White, Standard-bearer.
 Morning Star Lodge, 74 men; William H. Needham, Worshipful
 Master; Fred W. Leavitt, Marshal; Robert A.
 Mason, Standard-bearer.
 Members of the Grand Lodge in Carriages.
 M. W. Edwin Holmes, Grand Master.
 R. W. Henry A. Belcher, Deputy Grand Master.
 R. W. W. H. Soule, Senior Grand Warden.
 R. W. Henry J. Mills, Junior Grand Warden.
 R. W. G. Lothrop Thorndike, Past Deputy Grand Master.
 R. W. Frederick D. Ely, Past Deputy Grand Marshal.
 R. W. Henry Goddard, Past Grand Warden.
 R. W. Andrew C. Stone, Past Grand Warden.
 R. W. Charles H. Norris, Past Grand Warden.
 R. W. George W. Bishop, Past Grand Warden.
 R. W. Ivory H. Pope, Past Grand Warden.
 R. W. Charles I. Litchfield, Past Grand Warden.
 R. W. Irving B. Sayles, Past Grand Warden.
 R. W. Charles S. Robertson, Past Grand Warden.
 R. W. J. Albert Blake, Past Grand Warden.
 R. W. Charles M. Avery, Acting Treasurer.
 R. W. Sereno D. Nickerson, Recording Grand Secretary.
 R. W. Henry S. Rowe, D. D. G. M., District No. 2.
 R. W. Charles C. Henry, D. D. G. M., District No. 21.
 R. W. George H. Coolidge, D. D. G. M., District No. 18.
 R. W. David M. Earle, Past D. D. G. M.
 R. W. Dr. Charles A. Peabody, Past D. D. G. M.
 R. W. Theodore C. Bates, Trustee of Charity Fund.
 W. Rev. Charles A. Skinner, Grand Chaplain.
 W. Henry K. Dunton, Grand Marshal.
 W. Chauncey E. Peck, Grand Lecturer.
 W. E. Bentley Young, Senior Grand Deacon.
 W. Clarence O. Walker, Junior Grand Deacon.
 W. Albert L. Harwood, Senior Grand Steward.
 W. George M. Rice, Junior Grand Steward.
 W. William B. Lawrence, Grand Sword-bearer.
 W. Isaac A. S. Steele, Grand Pursuivant; Bro. John H. Chester,
 Grand Tyler.

The column was reviewed by Mayor Sprague and a reviewing party consisting of the members of the City Government and distinguished guests.

When the review of the great procession was over, and while the rear division was marching to Lincoln Square and back, the guests on the reviewing-stand, headed by the Mayor and ex-Mayors and escorted by the ushers, were conducted to the seats reserved for them on the north-west corner of the new building. When the members of the Grand Lodge alighted from their carriages, and under escort of members of Worcester County Commandery, Knights Templars, they were welcomed by Mayor Sprague, who occupied a raised platform over the west foundation, which extended to the corner-stone, suspended in the air over its final resting-place.

The following ex-Mayors occupied seats with the members of the City Council and heads of departments: Charles B. Pratt, Elijah B. Stoddard, Charles G. Reed and Henry A. Marsh.

The architects, Messrs. Peabody & Stearns; the builders, Norcross Brothers (one section being reserved for the employees of the latter), and many prominent citizens, invited guests and ladies were seated on the platform.

The ushers were Charles T. Tatman (chief), W. H. Cunningham, H. B. Waterman, J. P. Morrissey, A. F. Templeton, H. Y. Simpson, J. F. Timon, W. C. Mellish, W. I. McLaughlin, H. A. Smith, E. W. Smith, E. W. Earle, C. E. McGillicuddy, C. B. Snyder.

LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE.

The exercises at the corner-stone began, according to the programme, with the playing of Kellar's American Hymn by the consolidated bands under the leadership of E. D. Ingraham of Battery B Band, stationed at the south end of the main floor of the building.

Mayor Sprague then stepped forward and said :

GENTLEMEN OF THE CITY COUNCIL: In the absence of the Chairman of the City Hall Commissioners, who are charged with the erection of the building, I have the honor to announce that the corner-stone of the City Hall is ready to be laid.

Alderman Alonzo A. White, President of the Board of Aldermen, then arose and said.

MR. MAYOR, in accordance with an order adopted by the City Council, you are respectfully requested to assume the entire direction of the exercises and ceremonies incident to the laying of the corner-stone of the new City Hall.

Rev. Calvin Stebbins, pastor of the Church of the Unity, offered the following prayer, amid the silence of the vast multitude :—

PRAYER.

BY THE REV. CALVIN STEBBINS.

O God of our life! whose infinite majesty looketh on us from the heavens and the earth, and whose grace, love and truth shine on us from the face of Jesus of Nazareth, we invoke Thy presence in this hour of our public rejoicing, and ask Thy blessing upon these services.

Our forms and ceremonies, our martial music and our booming cannon would to-day, we know, be empty, indeed, as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal if not charged with a sense of civic duty and public honor. Our work and our works, though they be wonders of architecture, would be as dust and ashes if not pervaded by a hope which reaches up to Thee and raises us above things material and temporal to principles which are spiritual and eternal.

The corner-stone we lay to-day, we lay on firm foundations. May it be as the symbol of the invisible foundation in eternal verities on which we should lay the corner-stone of private and civic character. Beautiful as the material is, we thank Thee that we can use it and rise above it into the region of the spirit.

O God! as the granite takes the shape of beauty and utility under the hand of the artist and the artisan, so may that temple not made with hands within us, rise in amplitude and magnificence and become the abode of Thyself.

Thy Spirit! almighty God! we feel as it pulses through this vast universe; Thy guidance we trace in the long history of our race as it has marched across the

centuries; Thy leading hand we see in the triumphal story of the rise and progress of our republic, and surely our goodly city has not been without Thee.

For her prosperity in material things, for her growth in population, and for the opportunities she offers to all of every race, condition and religion to lay deep and strong the foundations on which to build a manly and womanly character, we thank Thee.

May Thy blessing, O God! be upon our broad and beautiful land with its precious trust from Thee, of freedom for all; upon our good old Commonwealth, so strong to protect, so generous to help, so motherly in her care of the poor and unfortunate, and upon this the City of our nativity or adoption; may she ever be a city which hath foundations whose Builder and Maker is God. Bless, we beseech of Thee, all those who hold high trusts from the people in the Nation, the Commonwealth, the City.

Bless, we pray Thee, the church of the living God, under whatever banner its disciples may be marching. Again, almighty God, we ask Thy blessing on the services and purpose of this hour; may the corner-stone we lay and the building we rear never be polluted by the leprous presence of that foulest crime against the citizen—political corruption. May these walls never be blistered by the money power in politics, or by the hot passions of men who put the interests of party, or clique, or individual before the interest of the whole city. Here, rather, in time to come may the commonweal be ably discussed and triumphantly vindicated.

And to Thee, who art above all and through all and in all, God blessed forever, we would give praise and glory now and always. *Amen.*

ADDRESS OF MAYOR SPRAGUE.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CITY COUNCIL, LADIES, AND FELLOW
CITIZENS :

We are met to lay the corner-stone of Worcester's City Hall, which upon its completion will be the great central building of the people, devoted to the transaction of the public business, the home of its City Council, and the headquarters of its executive and departmental work; in short, the official habitation of those servants whom the people shall choose from time to time to do their will. It is fitting that such an occasion should be observed with something of public ceremony, because it marks one of the eras in that local history which touches more nearly than all others the families and individual men and women who constitute the municipality.

We lay the corner-stone of this structure in historic ground. In the articles of agreement at the settlement of the tract or township of Worcester, subscribed in 1669, it was provided that there should be "a place reserved in common near the centre of the Town, about twenty acres, for a training-ground, and to set a school-house upon." The ground appropriated for the above-named purposes in 1684 comprised the present Common, which, however, has been from time to time considerably reduced from its original dimensions. At times there have stood upon the Common two school-houses, the Town-pound, the hearse-house, the gun-house, the First Parish meeting-house, with its accompanying horse-sheds and burial-ground, and, in time, the Town Hall.

Here, in 1719, the first meeting-house was erected. The Town was incorporated in May, 1722, and the first Town meeting was held in the meeting-house in September of the same year. This house was replaced in 1763 by the one removed in 1887, known as the "Old South meeting-house." All of us, except the children, can well remember this quaint and chaste specimen of New England church-building, with its slim, tall spire rising toward the sky, and its gilded weathercock from its high perch challenging the admiration of the Worcester boy.

Inasmuch as in the early days the Parish and the Town were one, and the Parish-house was in use as the Town-house as well, it will be observed that all the purposes which I have enumerated for which the Common has been used, except a small portion of the Town Hall and ground rented for a time for a printing-office and a market, were purely public purposes, pertaining to the whole municipality. It was the Town's hearse, the Town's guns, the Town's school, the Town's house of worship which were established hereon.

In now establishing hereon a second time the City Hall, all other purposes being abandoned, we but rededicate the people's Common to the use of all the people. The meeting-house removed in 1887 occupied land which is entirely covered by the site on which we are to erect this building. The old building and its site are both of great historical interest, and we may well recall some of those events which make them so. In the days of colonial agitation, preceding the Revolution, as well as during that eventful struggle, and the early days of the infant republic, the meetings of the Town were held in the meeting-house. Here were formed the resolutions and enunciated

the declarations of the patriots of those stirring times. Sturdy patriots they were, impatient and intolerant of all opinion which had not the clear, unmistakable ring; and so it was here, on August fourteenth, 1774, they, in public meeting, forced the Tory Town Clerk to obliterate the obnoxious protest he had entered on the Town records by dipping his fingers in the ink and smearing the page.

On the nineteenth of April, 1775, a messenger from the east dashed into town, shouting the cry, "To arms!" the cry of Concord and Lexington, and his horse fell exhausted near this spot. Here Captain Timothy Bigelow, afterwards the distinguished Colonel of the Fifteenth Massachusetts Regiment of the Continental army, paraded his company of minute-men, and after a fervent prayer by the Rev. Thaddeus Maccarty, marched for Cambridge, followed by the company commanded by Captain Benjamin Flagg, so that one hundred and ten men left this spot that day for the seat of war.

Ten days after the Declaration of American Independence was passed by the Continental Congress, the messenger, carrying a copy of it to the government at Boston, passed through Worcester, and the precious document was first publicly read in Massachusetts from the west porch of the meeting-house by Isaiah Thomas. Here, too, on October twenty-third, 1789, was the artillery salute of eleven guns, given by Major Treadwell's Worcester artillery, which heralded the passage through Worcester of the President, General George Washington.

In 1740 Whitefield, drawing to himself people from far and near, preached to thousands assembled upon these grounds; and here, in later days, great outdoor meetings have been stirred by the eloquence of John Quincy

Adams, of Louis Kossuth, and other distinguished men. From the earliest days of the municipality, this Common has been a military parade and training-field, and never was it distinguished so highly by scenes of patriotism as when, from 1861 to 1865, it witnessed the departure of Worcester regiments for the War of the Rebellion. Here the authorities of State and City, determined fathers and brothers, tearful mothers, wives and sisters, and crowds of fellow citizens, to whose cause they were devoting their lives, and who showered upon them cheers and blessings, witnessed the departure of the volunteers.

And here it was, too, that having passed through the storm of war, the returned survivors of the struggle found a welcome home.

Hallowed, indeed, is this ground, with its patriotic history; and, as the City of Worcester lays the corner-stone of this building, let it be considered that it erects it not only for the growing future, but as a worthy monument of the past. Let it be beautiful and strong, worthy to stand on the same ground-site on which the marble and the granite already stand, to commemorate the soldiers of 1775, who fought to give birth to an independent republic, and the soldiers of 1861, who fought to redeem it and reestablish it for all time.

Previously to 1825 Town-meetings were held in the Old South meeting-house; but on May seventeenth, 1824, the Town voted to build upon the northwest corner of the Common a Town Hall, 64 feet long by 54 feet wide. The corner-stone was laid August second, 1824, with Masonic ceremonies, by Morning Star Lodge, and it was finished and dedicated May second, 1825, and has since been the municipal building.

Built at a time when the population of Worcester was less than four thousand, it has been several times remodeled and enlarged, but has for many years been inadequate to the needs of the City, which has so abundantly prospered and strengthened as to reach a population of over one hundred thousand souls.

The old hall, now to be supplanted, has associations of patriotism and eloquence which the people of Worcester will not forget. It has resounded to the eloquent and wise utterances of Daniel Webster, of Henry Clay, of Abraham Lincoln, of Charles Sumner, of Benton and Burlingame, Wilson and Allen, and many others; and here stood Father Mathew, with his pledge of total abstinence.

It was the scene, too, all through the stirring days of the anti-slavery agitation, of conferences and spirited public meetings, and may fairly be called a cradle of liberty of the African race.

Here, then, within a radius of a hundred feet, in church and hall, for one hundred and seventy-two years, has the business of this municipality been conducted, and for one hundred and twenty-eight years the Town-meetings were held—those schools of liberty and self-government where the humblest citizen as well as the most learned and influential, exercised the right to raise his voice in advocacy of any measure he deemed for the public good.

Before the separation of Town and Parish, the management of both and the support of both were the care of the Town-meeting, and the church being democratic as well as the Town, they were the purest democracies the world ever saw. They were the creation of those men and women who left the old world and sought this

inhospitable coast, determined to establish their right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences.

They were men and women of prayer and faith and courage, and in the growth and development of the institutions they founded, they so constructed the civil system of their communities that from it was born a great, free republic—our republic!

Here the oppressed of every land and every clime are welcome if, in good faith, they bow obedient to our laws, and are loyal to the country and its flag. There is no weakness under its folds to indicate that the rule of law may be transformed into the lawlessness of license. Our flag summons us to the constant and earnest resolution that, whoever raises the red flag of anarchy, whether wickedly or misguidedly, shall be ground to powder between the upper and the nether millstones of true liberty and law.

No great standing army eats out the substance of the people, but we have an army of observation engaged in the peaceful pursuits of life, artisans of the rank and file, who, when the country calls, respond with a personal interest such as belongs to no other people under the blue dome of the sky.

In the old world, kingdoms and empires have fallen when political virtue was supplanted by fraud and corruption and a disregard of the immutable laws of God.

By their rise and fall, we may learn that to perpetuate this republic, which is founded upon the fundamental principles of equity and law, the right of every man, however humble his calling, must be recognized and secured. If eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, it is also the price

of an honest administration of municipal as well as of national government.

Our fair City of a hundred thousand people, whose future none can predict, has outgrown the building in which its public business has been transacted for nearly half a century, and the walls of a new one are rising, which promise to be worthy of our beloved home. Constructed by our townsmen, of granite quarried within our county, it is, indeed, a home production.

As we lay the corner-stone, let us devoutly pray that public extravagance, official corruption, or whatsoever worketh an abomination or maketh a lie, or even questionable measures, shall never find a shelter within these walls. Inspired by all that is true and honest and of good report, may the servants of the people who gather here to conduct the business of this municipality go in and out with the approval of their own consciences and of their fellow citizens, because faithful and intelligent service has been rendered the City, and because the public interest has not been sacrificed to private ends.

On the conclusion of his address, Mayor Sprague turned to Grand Master Holmes, and said:

MOST WORSHIPFUL EDWIN B. HOLMES, GRAND MASTER :

We are assembled in the presence of the honorable City Council, the City Hall Commissioners, heads of departments, Commissioners' Boards and Trustees, ex-Mayors, past members of the City Government, honored citizens, military and civic bodies of our city, and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to lay the

corner-stone of a building to be erected for the use of our municipal government.

It gives me great pleasure, in behalf of the authorities and the people of Worcester, to bid you and the distinguished gentlemen who compose your suite a cordial welcome to the Heart of the Commonwealth.

I invite you to now proceed with the laying of the corner-stone with the ceremonies and according to the usages of your ancient order.

RESPONSE OF THE MOST WORTHY GRAND
MASTER.

From time immemorial it has been the custom of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, when requested so to do, to lay, with ancient forms, the corner-stones of buildings erected for the worship of God, for charitable or educational objects, and for the purposes of the administration of justice and free government. This corner-stone we may therefore lay in accordance with our law; and thus testifying our appreciation of the duties and privileges of liberty regulated by law and our respect for duly constituted authority, we shall proceed in accordance with ancient usage. As the first duty of Masons in any undertaking is to invoke the blessing of the Great Architect upon their work, we will unite with our Grand Chaplain in reading a lesson from the Holy Scriptures, and in an address to the throne of grace.

The ceremony then proceeded in accordance with the Masonic ritual, the members of the Grand Lodge reciting the responses, standing with uncovered heads.

Grand Chaplain (Rev. Charles A. Skinner of North Cambridge)—Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord, my God, Thou art very great; Thou art clothed with honor and majesty. Ps. 104: 1.

Brethren—Thou, O Lord, shalt endure forever; and Thy remembrance unto all generations. Ps. 102: 12.

Grand Chaplain—Thou shalt arise and have mercy upon Zion; for the time to favor her, yea, the time set is come. Ps. 102: 13.

Brethren—For Thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favor the dust thereof. Ps. 102 : 14.

Grand Chaplain—Where wast thou when I laid the foundation of the earth? Declare if thou hast understanding. Job 38 : 4.

Brethren—Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? Or who hath stretched the line upon it? Job 38 : 5.

Grand Chaplain—Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened or who laid the corner-stone thereof? Job 38 : 6.

Brethren—When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Job 38 : 7.

Grand Chaplain—Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste? Thus saith the Lord of hosts. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified saith the Lord. Haggai 1 : 4, 7, 8.

Brethren—Ye also as lively stones are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable unto God. I Peter 2 : 5.

Grand Chaplain—Therefore thus saith the Lord, Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line and righteousness to the plummet. Isa. 28 : 16, 17.

Brethren—Open to me the gates of righteousness. I will go into them and I will praise the Lord. Ps. 118-19. Honor and majesty are before Him, strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Ps. 96 : 6.

Grand Chaplain—Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. Ps. 127 : 1.

Brethren—One generation shall praise Thy works to another and shall declare Thy mighty acts. They shall abundantly utter the memory of Thy great goodness and shall sing of Thy righteousness. Ps. 145 : 4, 7.

Grand Chaplain—Oh, come let us worship and bow down ;
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. Ps. 95:6.

Brethren—For He is our God, and we are the people of His
pasture and the sheep of His hand. Ps. 95:7.

Grand Chaplain—Sing unto the Lord, bless His name ; shew
forth His salvation from day to day. Ps. 96:2.

Brethren—All Thy works shall praise Thee, O Lord, and
Thy saints shall bless Thee. Ps. 145:10. Yea, they shall
sing in the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the
Lord. Ps. 138:5.

The Grand Chaplain then offered prayer, in which he
asked for the divine blessing on Worcester, her people, her
schools, her colleges, her institutions of industry and cul-
ture, and on all associated with her government. The
prayer was followed by the traditional Masonic response,
“So mote it be,” from the members of the Grand Lodge.

The Worcester Masonic Quartette (Messrs. B. A. Bar-
ber, W. F. Little, T. B. Hamilton and D. E. Spencer)
then sang the following hymn to the air of Coronation :

Great Architect of earth and heaven,
By time nor space confined,
Enlarge our love to comprehend
Our brethren, all mankind.

Where'er we are, whate'er we do,
Thy presence let us own ;
Thine eye, all seeing, marks our deeds,
To Thee all thoughts are known.

While nature's works and science's laws
We labor to reveal,
Oh, be our duty done to Thee
With fervency and zeal.

With Faith our guide, and humble Hope,
 Warm Charity and Love,
 May all at last be raised to share
 Thy perfect light above.

Following this, the Grand Master called on the Acting Grand Treasurer, Charles M. Avery of Malden, to read the list of papers, documents and articles contained in the box deposited in the corner-stone.

CONTENTS OF THE BOX WHICH WAS PLACED IN THE
 CORNER-STONE.

Worcester City Documents, 1849-1856 inclusive, and 1890-1896 inclusive.

History of Worcester (Lincoln & Hersey).

Reminiscences of Worcester (Wall).

Dictionary of Worcester (Rice).

Massachusetts Year Book (Roe).

Manual of the General Court for 1896.

Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Naming of Worcester.

Eastern Worcester—Its First Settlers (Wall).

North Worcester—Its First Settlers (Wall).

Boston Tea Party (Wall).

Address before the Worcester Agricultural Society October 12, 1820 (Hon. Lewis Bigelow).

Transactions of Worcester Agricultural Society, 1895.

Report of Worcester Protective Department.

History of the First Universalist Church (Seagrave).

Souvenir of Worcester.

Annual Catalogue of Worcester Academy, 1896.

Annual Catalogue of State Normal School, Worcester, 1896.

Report of Parks Commission, 1895.

Epitaphs from Gravestones in Cemetery on Worcester Common (Barton).

Clark University Summer School, 1895.

- Report of Worcester County Mechanics Association, 1896.
 List of Premiums at the Bay State Fair, 1896.
 Worcester Masonic Charity and Educational Association
 Manual.
 Population, Valuation, Taxes and Appropriations of the City of
 Worcester from 1850-1889.
 History of St. John's Catholic Church golden jubilee.
 Worcester Directory, 1896.
 Chief Marshal's order for Corner-stone parade.
 History of Odd Fellows' Home.
 Presentation of Dodge Park to the City of Worcester.
 Treasurer's Report of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute,
 1896.
 Silver and copper coins of 1896 mintage, presented by the
 Quinsigamond National Bank, Worcester.
 Sterling silver heart, presented by the French Canadian
 societies of Worcester.
 And abstracts from the official records as follows:
 Offer of Stephen Salisbury relative to a new City Hall, and
 the vote of thanks of the City Council for the same.
 Orders relative to the election of a City Hall Commission.
 Appropriation of funds for building a City Hall.
 Copy of contracts for building City Hall.
Worcester Evening Gazette.
Worcester Daily Spy.
 Copy of industrial edition of the *Spy*.
Worcester Daily Telegram.
Worcester Evening Post.
Arbetarens Van.
Worcester Veckoblad.
Skandinavia.
The Messenger.
L'Opinion Publique.
Greater Worcester.
Le Reveille.
New York Herald, April 16, 1865, with account of Lincoln's
 death.
 Gilman's Register.

The Bible, Harrington's Illustrated Worcester, Catalogue of the Polytechnic Institute, Catalogue of the Holy Cross College, Edward Winslow Lincoln's "Doings of the Worcester County Horticultural Society," and a copy of the address delivered at the dedication of the Town Hall on the 2nd of May, 1825, by Honorable John Davis.

Then came the solemn ceremony of laying the stone, which all this time had been suspended from a derrick above its allotted position. The Grand Master taking the trowel, the Deputy Grand Master the square, Senior Grand Warden the level, and the Junior Grand Warden the plumb, they assumed their proper positions around the stone—the Grand Master at the east, the Deputy on his right, the Senior Grand Warden at the west, and the Junior Grand Warden at the south. The Grand Master then spread the cement, and invited His Honor the Mayor to assist him. The Grand Master directed the Grand Marshal to order the craftsmen to lower the stone. This was done by three motions—first by lowering a few inches and stopping when the public grand honor is given, the trumpet sounding once; second, again lowering a few inches and giving two grand honors, the trumpet sounding twice; third, letting the stone down to its place and giving all the grand honors, the trumpet sounding thrice. The grand honors were given by the Masonic officials placing their right hands on their left breasts, and bowing profoundly. As the stone rested on its solid bed, an enthusiastic cheer burst from the vast multitude of spectators. The craftsmen who lowered the stone were

Supt. S. F. French, Robert Cheyne, John Shepley and Benjamin Robinson.

Mr. French communicated his orders by electric bell to Engineer Peter Maloney down in the basement. N. P. Pilet of Battery B Band was the trumpeter at the stone. Then came the application of the jewels to the corner-stone, with the following rituals:

Grand Master—R. W. Brother Deputy Grand Master, what is the proper jewel of your office?

Deputy Grand Master—The square.

Grand Master—What does it teach?

Deputy Grand Master—To square our actions by the square of virtue, and by it we prove our work.

Grand Master—Apply your jewel to this corner-stone, and make report.

Deputy Grand Master—The stone is square; the craftsmen have done their duty.

Grand Master—R. W. Brother Senior Grand Warden, what is the proper jewel of your office?

Senior Grand Warden—The level.

Grand Master—What does it teach?

Senior Grand Warden—The equality of all men, and by it we prove our work.

Grand Master—Apply your jewel to this corner-stone, and make report.

Senior Grand Warden—The stone is level; the craftsmen have done their duty.

Grand Master—R. W. Brother Junior Grand Warden, what is the proper jewel of your office?

Junior Grand Warden—The plumb.

Grand Master—What does it teach?

Junior Grand Warden—To walk uprightly before God and man, and by it we prove our work.

Grand Master—Apply your jewel to this corner-stone, and make report.

Junior Grand Warden—The stone is plumb; the craftsmen have done their duty.

Grand Master—Having full confidence in your skill in the royal art, it remains with me to finish the work.

The Grand Master, striking the stone three times with the gavel, said :

Well made—well proved—truly laid—true and trusty; and may this undertaking be conducted and completed by the craftsmen according to the grand plan in peace, harmony and brotherly love.

The Deputy Grand Master received from the Grand Marshal the vessel of corn, and pouring the corn upon the stone said :

May the blessing of the Supreme Grand Architect rest upon the people of these United States, and may the corn of nourishment abound in our land.

The quartette sang :

When once of old in Israel
Our early brethren wrought with toil,
Jehovah's blessing on them fell
In showers of corn and wine and oil.

The Grand Marshal presented the cup of wine to the Senior Grand Warden, who poured the wine upon the stone, saying :

May the Grand Architect of the universe watch over and preserve the workmen upon this building, and bless them and our land with the wine of refreshment and concord.

The quartette sang :

When there a shrine to Him alone
 They built with worship, sin to foil,
 On threshold and on corner-stone
 They poured out corn and wine and oil.

The Grand Marshal presented the cup of oil to the Junior Grand Warden, who poured the oil upon the stone, saying :

May the Supreme Ruler of the world bless our land with union, harmony and love ; preserve the people in peace, and vouchsafe to them the enjoyment of every good and perfect gift.

The quartette sang :

And we have come, fraternal bands,
 With joy and pride and prosperous spoil
 To honor Him by votive hands
 With streams of corn and wine and oil.

The Grand Chaplain then pronounced the following invocation :

May corn, wine and oil and all the necessaries of life abound among men throughout the world ; may the blessing of almighty God be upon this undertaking, and may the structure here to be erected rise in beauty and strength, and be preserved to the latest ages a monument of the liberality, the patriotism and the loyalty of the people for whose service it is to be erected.

Grand Marshal Dunton then escorted the architects of the building, Messrs. Robert S. Peabody and John G. Stearns of Boston, to the platform.

Grand Marshal to the Grand Master — I present to you the architects of this building. They are ready with the craftsmen for the work, and ask the tools for their task.

The Grand Master presented the square, level, plumb and plans to the architects, and said :

To you, Messrs. Architects, are confided the implements of operative masonry with the fullest confidence that by your skill and taste an edifice will here arise which shall render new service and honor to this busy city. May it be blessed with wisdom in the plan, strength in the execution, beauty in the adornment; and may the Son of Righteousness enlighten those who build, the government and the people for whose use this structure shall be erected.

Grand Master Holmes then delivered the following address :

ADDRESS BY THE GRAND MASTER.

MR. MAYOR, BRETHREN AND FELLOW CITIZENS :

We have gathered in the "Heart of the Commonwealth" for an important and interesting service.

The City of Worcester, through the Chairman of its Building Committee, invites the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts to lay with customary forms and ancient ritual the corner-stone of a new edifice to be here erected. The invitation was cheerfully and gratefully accepted, and the duty has been properly discharged.

This building, to be called the "City Hall," will be the seat of the executive and legislative branches of the City Government. Within its walls will preside the authority to govern and the wisdom to advise in producing the best results of a free government. This will be the public hearthstone of Worcester. Here all citizens have common rights; here, without distinction of race, color or religion, they have equal protection; here, as the supreme seat of the aggregate civil authority under the law, all classes may find their friend, their guardian and their protector. This is the high altar of civil power, the holy place, whence proceeds the paternal authority by which this City is to be governed, blessed and prospered.

In the construction of this edifice the best wishes of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts will continually abide with the City and its government, with the builders and the workmen, through whose united efforts the grand plans and specifications of this building will be executed. May there be manifest wisdom in its plan, strength in its con-

struction, and beauty in its completion, symbolizing the wisdom, strength and beauty of those successive governments of civil administration which shall assemble within its walls.

In participating in the services of this day, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts would express its interest in all that concerns the commonweal. Its public efforts are aimed at the public good; its sincere desire is the peace and prosperity of all communities in our Commonwealth; its constant hope the manifestation of the best citizenship and the political, social and religious progress of our fellow citizens. It bows its head in sorrow when discord breeds destruction in the mercantile or religious world; it deeply shares the common joy when peace rules among men, when labor reaps a plenteous harvest, and when charity rules supreme in the hearts of men. Free Masonry is opposed to wrong wherever the latter sits enthroned or grasps for power. Free Masonry is on the side of right, however deeply it may be trampled in the dust, and seeks for every man, for every home, for every land, the same freedom, equality and blessing it asks for itself. The time-honored and venerable motto of an early day is worthy to be a firm and lofty landmark in our own: "In necessary things, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

Thus Free Masonry stands on the side of law, order, liberty and righteousness. By this public exercise the order proclaims its belief in the supremacy of duly enacted law; the value of social order; the benign blessing of personal liberty, and the abiding glory of that righteousness which exalteth a citizen as it doth a nation.

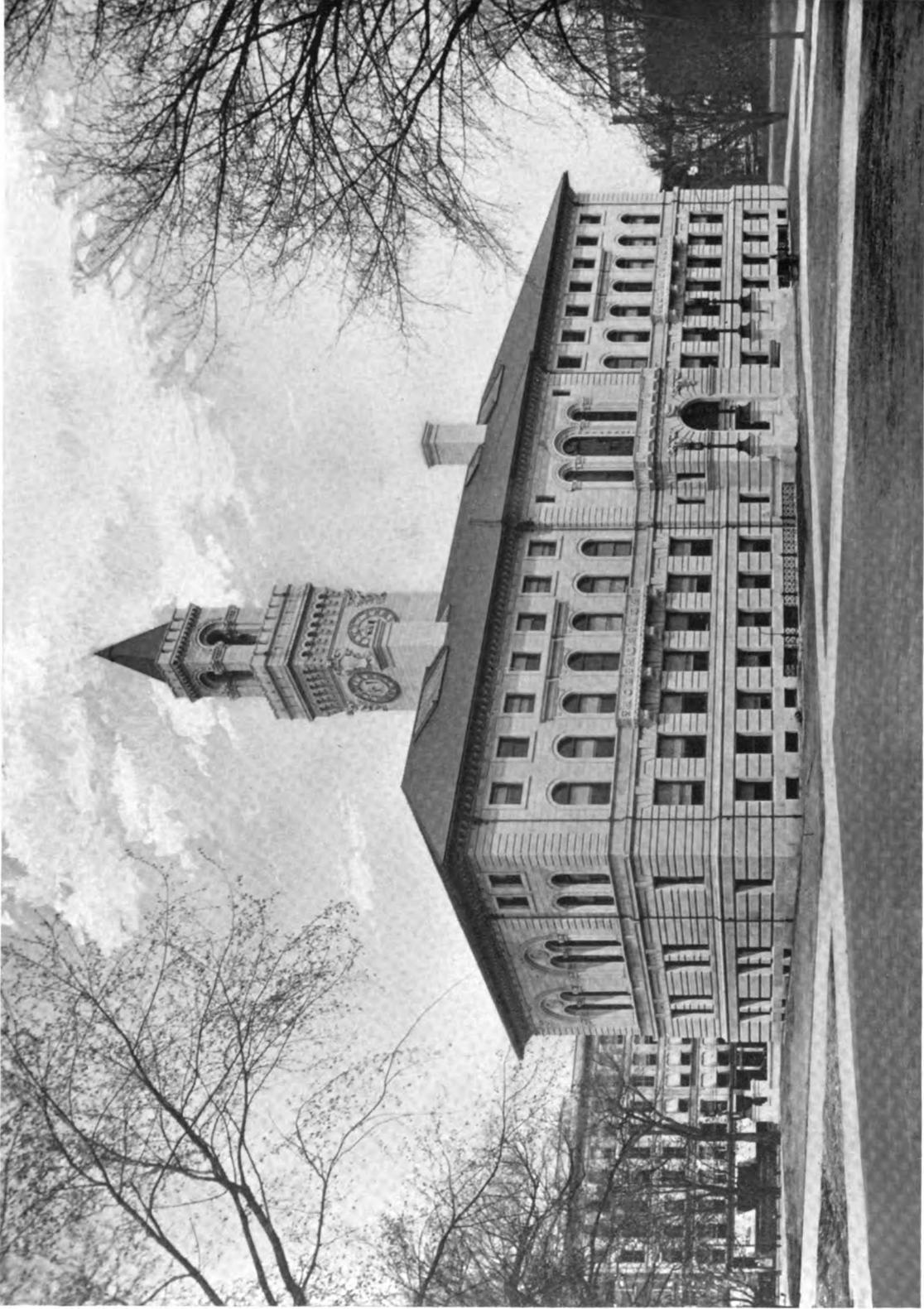
PERMANENT MEMBERS PRESENT.

- R. W. Charles C. Dame, Past Grand Master.
- R. W. Frederick D. Ely, Past Deputy Grand Master.
- R. W. S. Lothrop Thorndike, Past Deputy Grand Master.
- R. W. Henry Goddard, Past Grand Warden.
- R. W. Andrew C. Stone, Past Grand Warden.
- R. W. Charles H. Norris, Past Grand Warden.
- R. W. Charles I. Litchfield, Past Grand Warden.
- R. W. George W. Bishop, Past Grand Warden.
- R. W. Ivory H. Pope, Past Grand Warden.
- R. W. Charles H. Reed, Past Grand Warden.
- P. W. Irving B. Sayles, Past Grand Warden.
- P. W. Henry G. Fay, Past Grand Warden.
- P. W. J. Albert Blake, Past Grand Warden.
- P. W. Charles S. Robertson, Past Grand Warden.
- W. David M. Earle, Past D. D. G. M., Dist. No. 18.
- W. Charles A. Peabody, Past D. D. G. M., Dist. No. 18.

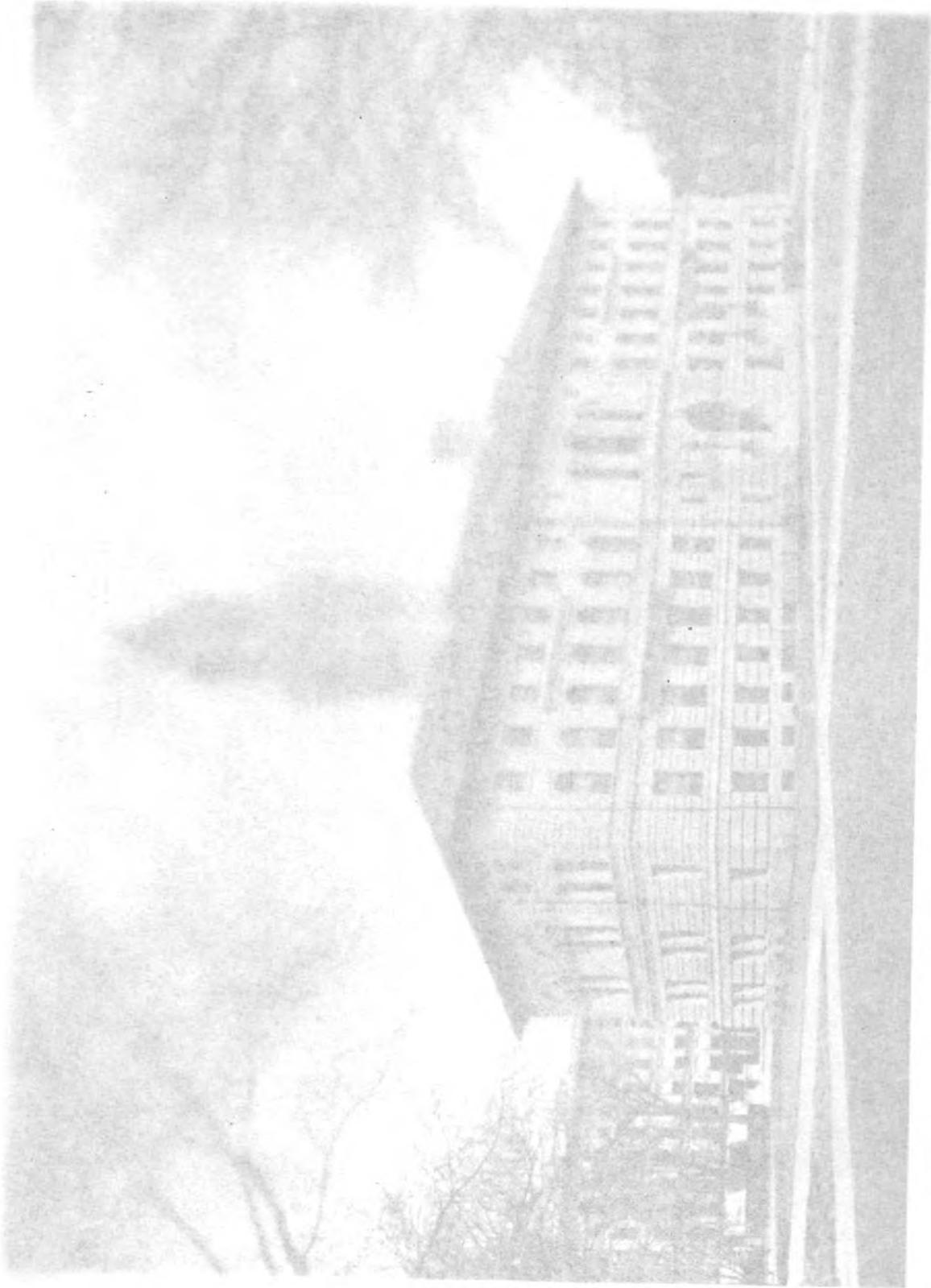
INSCRIPTION

On the trowel used in laying the corner-stone of the new
City Hall. The trowel is of solid silver with ebony handle:

PRESENTED
TO THE
CITY OF WORCESTER
BY THE
CITY HALL COMMISSIONERS.
USED AT THE
LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE
OF THE
CITY HALL,
SEPTEMBER 12TH, 1896.
WILLIAM H. SAWYER,
HARRISON S. PRENTICE,
ANDREW ATHY,
A. B. R. SPRAGUE.



NEW CITY HALL — EAST FRONT.



DEDICATION OF THE NEW CITY HALL.

APRIL 28, 1898.

COMMITTEE.

MAYOR.

RUFUS B. DODGE, JR.

ALDERMEN.

DAVID F. O'CONNELL,
HENRY BRANNON.

COUNCILMEN.

FRANK B. HALL,
PHILIP J. O'CONNELL,
FRANK E. WILLIAMSON,
GEORGE F. WALL.

PROGRAMME.

MUSIC. BATTERY B BAND.

PRAYER. REV. ARCHIBALD McCULLAGH, D. D.

DELIVERY OF KEYS TO THE CITY. WILLIAM H. SAWYER.
(Chairman of the City Hall Commission.)

ACCEPTANCE OF KEYS. RUFUS B. DODGE, JR., MAYOR.

MUSIC. BATTERY B BAND.

ADDRESS. BURTON W. POTTER, ESQ.

MUSIC. BATTERY B BAND.



*The [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]*

*[unclear]
[unclear]*

Prof. [unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]



The City of Worcester

respectfully requests the honor of your presence

on Thursday the 28th day of April 1898.

at the dedication of the

New City Hall.

Exercises at two o'clock P.M.

Rufus B. Dodge, Jr.
Mayor.

Committee of Arrangements.

Henry Brannon.

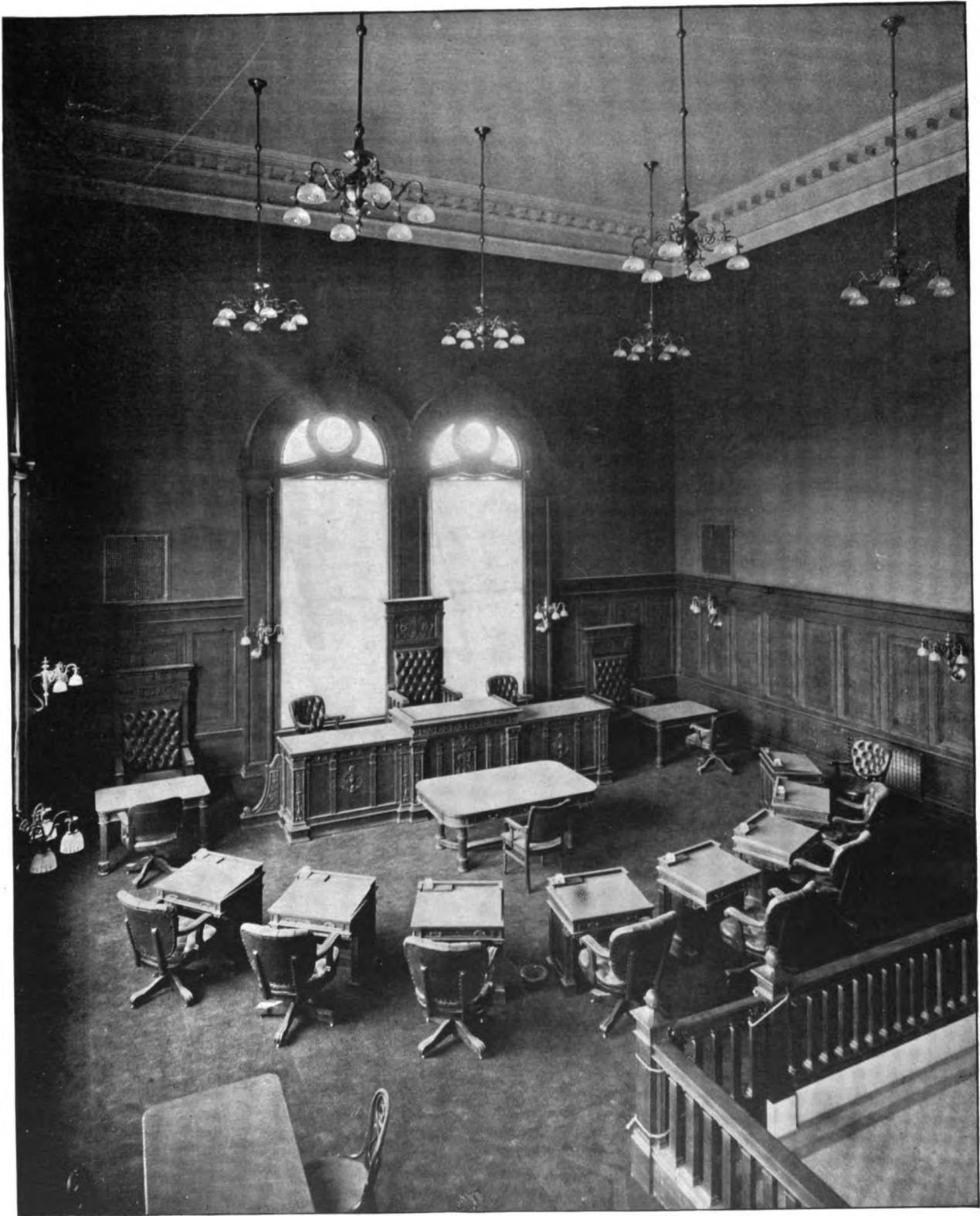
Frank E. Williamson.

George F. Wall.

David F. O'Connell.

Frank B. Hall.

Philip J. O'Connell.



ALDERMEN'S CHAMBER.

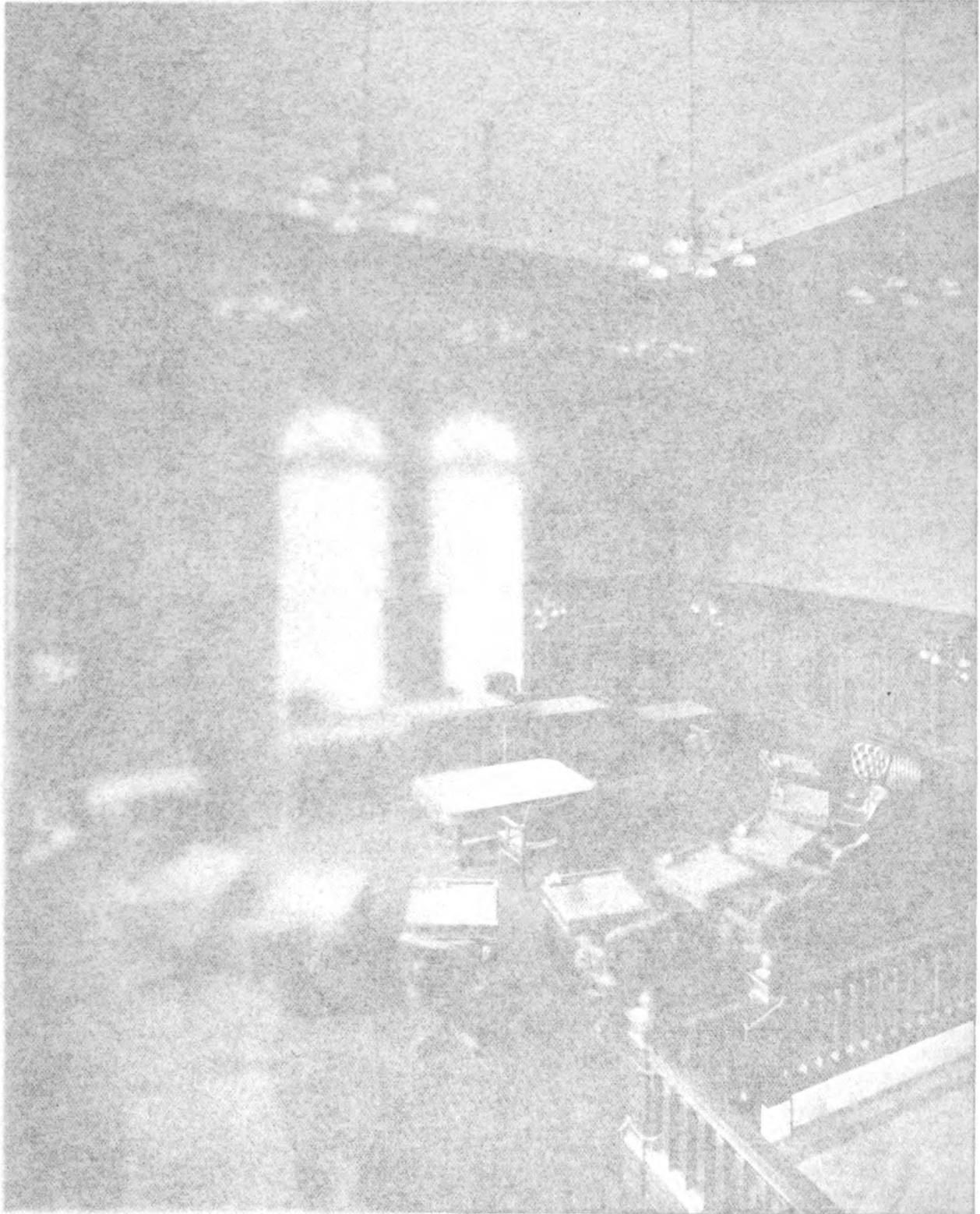


Figure 10

DEDICATION OF THE BUILDING.

The exercises were in keeping with the dignity and importance of the occasion. The music was of a patriotic nature, which told the glory of the country of which the City is a part, and the eloquent utterances of the speakers, while recounting the brilliancy of the City's past, urged devotion, steadfastness, and loyalty to the future. Hearts were moved anew to love for country, and consecrated to better living for the City's advancement.

Hundreds were in waiting when the doors were thrown open at one o'clock, and from that time until the exercises had begun a steady stream poured in through the great doors. No attempt was made to take invitations, but all who came were admitted and seated as far as possible. A large corps of ushers, under the direction of Charles M. Thayer, Esq., looked after the seating of the specially invited guests. The corridors and stairways on the first, second and third floors were filled, within hearing distance, with chairs, all of which were filled only too soon. Many ladies were among the throng, adding a tinge of beauty and sentiment to the scene.

The voters of 1848 met early at the Quinsigamond National Bank, where they were addressed briefly by

Senator George F. Hoar, and informally received by him. Shortly after two o'clock they were formed in line and marched to the hall under the guidance of General Sprague. Special seats were reserved for them on the north staircase and in the corridor above. As the gray-haired citizens, many bent with years, took their seats, a thrill ran through the great throng. The number present was remarkable when the inclemency of the weather is considered. Among those present were :

Edwin Ames, Charles Ballard, Chas. H. Ballard, Amasa Ballou, Wm. I. Baker, Levi Barker, Wm. S. Barton, Wm. H. Brown, Alzirus Brown, Richard Barker, N. P. Blodgett, A. T. Burgess, Silas Batcheller, Cyrus G. Barnard, David J. Baker, Henry H. Chamberlin, Charles S. Childs, Wm. L. Clark, Anson Clifford, Loring Coes, Albert Curtis, John A. Dana, Benj. J. Dodge, H. W. Eddy, Henry C. Fish, Charles H. Fitch, James A. Fuller, Joseph E. Fales, P. B. Gilbert, Henry Goddard, O. B. Hadwen, Elon G. Higgins, Hannibal H. Houghton, Leonard Harrington, C. G. Harrington, Parker Holden, Wm. E. Hall, Wm. Heald, George G. Hildreth, Samuel Hathaway, H. L. Jenks, Alden B. Knight, Franklin H. Knight, Mason H. Morse, Milton M. Morse, Samuel Maynard, Hosea McFarland, Henry P. Nichols, Abraham H. Newton, John C. Otis, Charles B. Pratt, Samuel A. Pratt, George W. Prouty, Addison Palmer, Willard F. Pond, George Park, T. W. Rogers, Dexter Rice, James S. Rand, E. Beaman Rice, George F. Rice, E. B. Stoddard, A. B. R. Sprague, William A. Smith, John A. Smith, F. A. Stratton, Daniel Stratton, Charles Sibley, Stephen Sawyer, Geo. Sessions, Benjamin F. Scribner, Charles S. Staples, Frederick G. Stiles, Ezra Sawyer, S. N. Story, P. D. Towne, Albert Tyler, Caleb A. Wall, A. J. Warfield, Alonzo Whitcomb, Jonas White, Wm. H. Walker, George R. Wesson, W. A. Williams, R. G. White.

In the vast assemblage occupying every portion of the building were nearly all of Worcester's prominent and professional men. Hardly a member of the Board of Aldermen, Common Council or School Committee was missing. The representation of local pastors and many retired ones was large, from both the Protestant and Catholic churches. Among others present were :

Honorable Stephen Salisbury, General Josiah Pickett and M. V. B. Jefferson of the License Commission, Secretary James Draper, and Commissioner Wm. Hart of the Parks Commission, President J. F. Lehy of Holy Cross College, Librarian S. S. Green, Principal D. W. Abercrombie of Worcester Academy, Judge Francis A. Gaskill, State Senator Alfred S. Roe, Ex-Alderman D. W. Darling, D. A. Harrington, Enoch Earle, W. A. Lytle, Honorable John R. Thayer, State Senator Ellery B. Crane, Clerk of Courts T. S. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools Clarence F. Carroll, and many others.

During the half hour preceding the opening of the exercises, during which time the larger part of the guests were seated, Battery B Band, stationed under the staircase in the basement, furnished a concert programme. A large force of patrolmen, under the personal supervision of Chief of Police J. M. Drennan, Capt. D. A. Matthews and Lieut. Johnson, assisted the ushers in their work.

Shortly before 2.15 the music ceased, and for a moment there was a lull. A moment later the band struck up "Hail to the Chief," and a buzz of expectation ran through the great throng. Presently Charles M. Thayer appeared escorting Mayor Dodge, with Chairman Sawyer

and Commissioner Prentice of the City Hall Commission,* President Burton W. Potter of the Board of Aldermen, the orator of the day, and Rev. Archibald McCullagh, D. D., chaplain of the occasion. After them came the Mayor's guests. A burst of applause greeted the party as they took their seats on the speaker's platform, which was on the landing of the main staircase. The guests took the seats on the staircase at the right.

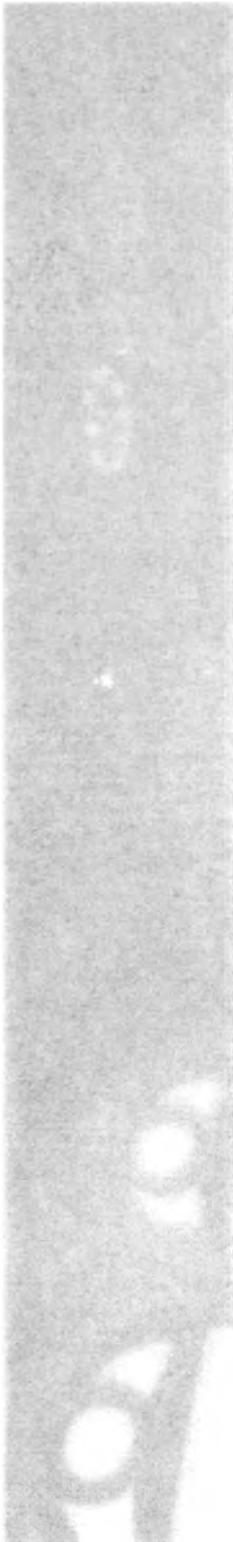
Also occupying seats on the speaker's platform were: Ex-Mayors Edward L. Davis, Charles B. Pratt, E. B. Stoddard, Charles G. Reed, F. A. Harrington, Henry A. Marsh, Augustus B. R. Sprague, and United States Senator George F. Hoar.

The music had hardly ceased when Chairman Sawyer called the assemblage to order.

*Andrew Athy, the third member of the City Hall Commission, was unable to be present, owing to serious illness which resulted in his death a few weeks later.



COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBER.



CHAIRMAN SAWYER'S REMARKS.

MR. MAYOR, GENTLEMEN OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT, FELLOW
CITIZENS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

The occasion which calls us together is an exceptional and interesting one in the history of our City. Although the growth of Worcester has been steady and rapid for many years, there has been no change in the size and character of its public buildings to correspond with this growth. But recently a new departure has taken place in this particular. Our steadily increasing volume of business demanded a new Post Office, which has just been completed. On our chief business thoroughfares stately and handsome structures have been reared for business, banking and insurance purposes.

We meet to-day to hand over to the City a new Hall to be dedicated to its uses. The building has been planned and built not only to meet present needs, but to provide for its probable growth and demands of a century to come. If, however, this City should expand in less time beyond our expectations and require a still larger building, we hope that those who may then gather to dedicate it may feel as much interest and pride in it as we feel in this Hall to-day. But it belongs to the orator of the day to speak in fitting terms of the significance of this occasion, which marks a new era in the history of our City.

Mr. Sawyer then called upon Rev. Dr. McCullagh to invoke the divine blessing.

PRAYER.

BY THE REVEREND ARCHIBALD McCULLAGH, D. D.

Holy and almighty God, although we cannot see Thee with the bodily eye, nor hear Thee with the physical ear, nor touch Thee with the hand of sense, Thou art not far from any one of us. In Thee we live and move, and have our being. We adore Thee for what Thou art in Thyself, ineffable in majesty, immaculate in holiness, infinite in mercy, and unchangeable in love. We praise Thee that Thou hast made us in Thine own image, with minds capable of appreciating Thy wisdom, power and glory, as revealed in the splendors and wonders of material creation and in Thy Holy Word, and also with hearts that can reciprocate Thy love. We thank Thee for the existence of Christian civilization in the world, and for its progress through the ages in overthrowing tyranny, banishing slavery, and developing among the peoples of the earth a growing consciousness of the universal brotherhood of man. We bless Thee for the land we fondly call our own, for the vastness of her acreage, for the treasures of her hills, for the productiveness of her plains, for her civil and religious institutions, which contemplate the largest liberty, the highest well-being, and the truest happiness of man. We thank Thee for the occasion which calls us together at this time. We pray for Thy blessing to rest upon this city, recognized among the favored cities of the land for its manufacturing skill, industrial enterprise, educational advantages and religious privileges. By Thy grace we dedicate this symmetrical, stately and massive hall to the purposes for which it has been built. We dedicate it to

the highest interests of our municipal government and the public weal. Bless those who have rendered valuable, efficient and faithful service in planning and supervising its erection with a singleness of eye to the public good. Grant that the business which may be transacted within its walls through coming generations as long as it shall stand, may be done in that spirit of righteousness which is well pleasing to Thee and which exalts a people.

Bless the chief magistrate of this city, all who occupy positions of official authority and responsibility, and all the people within its boundaries. May all realize that the truest wealth, most enduring prosperity, and highest honor of a city lie in character moulded by the truths revealed through conscience and the glorious Gospel of our blessed Lord.

O Thou supreme Ruler of the destiny of nations, our God and our fathers' God, we commend to Thy special favor our beloved country in this hour of her conflict with a foreign nation. Thou knowest that our object as a people in this war is not for terrestrial acquisition, military glory, or national aggrandizement, but to rescue men, women and children from famine, disease and death due to misrule, and to advance the cause of humane rulership and Christian civilization. Give wisdom to our President. Counsel all his advisers. Grant, we beseech Thee, swift and signal victory to our naval forces, that the desolations, disorders and sufferings incident to prolonged warfare may be averted. Shield our brave men who may guard our coast or meet the enemy on foreign soil from wounds and death at the hands of the enemy, and from diseases incident to unfavorable climatic conditions and exposure.

All these things we humbly ask in the name of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit we give praise. *Amen.*

CHAIRMAN SAWYER'S ADDRESS.

For many years there existed a feeling among our citizens that the needs, growth and best interests of our City demanded a new City Hall building. While this feeling has been in the air for almost a decade, as there were differences of opinion as to a suitable site, it did not crystallize and take definite form until a little less than three years ago. On June third, 1895, an order was passed by which the Mayor was authorized to advertise for and obtain competitive plans and specifications for a new City Hall building, the cost of which should not exceed \$300,000, and that the sum of \$5,000 should be paid as a compensation to competitors furnishing said plans. On November thirteenth, 1895, a Commission was created, consisting of three Commissioners, who were clothed with the power to proceed with the erection of said building, in substantial compliance with the plans which had been submitted by Messrs. Peabody & Stearns of Boston. Your Commissioners, after carefully considering the work assigned them, became satisfied that it would be unwise to limit their expenditure to \$300,000. A granite structure of such grace and proportions as would make it an architectural ornament to our City, one constructed and equipped according to the most approved scientific methods, and that would meet the needs of the future, would require more than double that amount. Your Commissioners revised the architectural plans originally submitted and asked for an appropriation of \$650,000. They are pleased to say that their judgment was approved, and the full amount asked for was granted without a



GRAND STAIRCASE AND CORRIDOR.

100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200

dissenting voice. Then an opportunity was offered to builders to compete for its erection. All bids were to be sent to the Chairman by April twentieth, 1896. When they were opened by the Commissioners, they found that the bid of Norcross Brothers was \$58,968 lower than the next lowest bid, and \$143,000 lower than the highest bid. The contract for the building was awarded to Norcross Brothers April twenty-third, 1896. The contract called for the completion of the building January first, 1898. All the other contracts were made to be completed at the same time. But owing to contingencies and unavoidable delays, a little longer time than was anticipated has been required for its completion.

Your Commissioners realized the importance of the work committed to them, and appreciated the confidence reposed in them, consequently they have given almost daily personal attention to this work. They have devoted the best part of their time for a period of two years to its supervision. They have used their best judgment to secure the best quality of material and finest workmanship, at the lowest price, both in the structure itself and in the heating, ventilation, ornamentation and furnishing. Their contracts have been made directly with manufacturers, thus obtaining everything at first cost.

Your Commissioners have consulted the heads of the various departments as to what arrangements would best subserve the convenience and efficiency of their respective departments, and as far as practicable have utilized their knowledge and experience. If the Commissioners have failed to give satisfaction on every point to all parties, their failure has not been intentional, but due to the necessities of the case. All those who have had any

experience in erecting large buildings know that it is impossible to have in a great building of this kind every minute arrangement to suit everyone. Some little things must be sacrificed for the largest convenience and the greatest advantage of the whole.

It is not necessary for your Commissioners to speak in terms of commendation and praise of the builders, whose name is a synonym for skillful workmanship, fidelity in the fulfillment of contract obligations, and business honor. They have won for themselves an enviable fame throughout the land. But in addition to the accustomed skill and fidelity with which they do their work, they took a personal pride in the erection of this building, which is to serve and adorn their own City. Your Commissioners desire to express their thanks to their efficient superintendent, Mr. S. F. French, for his uniform courtesy and unflinching kindness. He has the rare faculty of directing his workmen so that his plans are executed with system and dispatch, and apparently without giving any orders.

It is peculiarly gratifying to be able to say that no one was killed or seriously injured in the work upon this building.

Your Commissioners have worked together without friction, or differences of opinion, and in perfect harmony.

Much has been said in recent times of municipal misrule and wasteful extravagance in the erection of public buildings, for which, too often, there have been good grounds. The experience of many cities has been that when their buildings have been completed, the cost has far exceeded the original estimates and expectations, and they have been loaded with heavy deficits. Your Commissioners felicitate themselves in presenting an exception.

They take honest and, they think, legitimate pride in finishing this massive and majestic structure, complete in all its appointments, rich in its ornamentation and elegant in its furnishing, with every necessity supplied, from the clock in its tower to the broom and dust-brush, for \$23,031.23 less than the amount appropriated. (Applause.)

Mr. Mayor, this Commission, which to-day ends its work and passes into history, was created under the administration of the Honorable Henry A. Marsh. But its work has been done largely during the administration of your immediate predecessor, General Augustus B. R. Sprague, who, with characteristic courtesy, was ever ready to lay his experience, counsel and time at the service of the Commissioners. We now, Mr. Mayor, place in your hands the keys of this Hall where the official business of the City is to be transacted, with which act our responsibility ends.

Your Commissioners, who have watched every stage of the work from the breaking of the first sod to the completion of the structure, in surrendering their trust, as citizens, express the hope that all the public business, legislative, executive and clerical, transacted here, may be transacted in that spirit which will always reflect honor upon this City, of whose growth, energy, enterprise and fair fame all are justly proud.

RESPONSE OF MAYOR DODGE.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE CITY HALL COMMISSION :

In accepting this token of delivery, signifying the transfer from your Commission to the City of Worcester of the building erected under your direction, in pursuance to authority delegated by the municipality, it is my privilege to thank you, in behalf of the people, for services rendered in such an able, conscientious and generous manner, and to voice the feelings of this community by expressing universal satisfaction in the results of your work.

In committing this charge to you, and in approving your acts as your duty ends, the people have given a treasure equal to any that citizens as such can give and receive—confidence in worth and honor.

A task unsought, but a labor cheerfully assumed at the public call, the end sees that high esteem which prompted the confidence, more abundant even now than then.

The thanks and praise of your fellows are the only reward received for the faithful labor so freely given.

Yet, after all, this itself is a rich recompense when viewed from manhood's level—as high above the worth of gold as is the noble charity that makes a self-denying giver above the miser's avarice.

The people now, with one accord, without reserve, and with no halting commendation, approve your course with such a genuine spirit as leaves you yet their debtors.

The history of Worcester, as Town and City, is replete with incidents showing a community wise, conservative but progressive in business and public affairs, loyal to the

traditions of its founders, patriotic toward national government, and beneficent in voluntary public benefits. Like other New England towns, it was founded amid hardship and privation.

To us can come no more inspiring thoughts than those aroused by contemplation of the works wrought by the pioneers.

Surrounded by menaces threatening their families as well as their community, they met all situations as firm as the hills upon whose summits, or in whose valleys, were built homes of virtue and devout religion.

Winthrop wrote that "the best part is always the least, and of that best part the wiser part is always the lesser."

Hooker answered: "In matters which concern the common good, a general council, chosen by all, to transact business which concerns all, I conceive most suitable to rule and most safe for relief of the whole."

Thus early did Hooker block out the keystone destined to hold the arch of American free self-government in the temple of her civil liberty.

There never was a time, from the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth soil to the Declaration of Independence, when fibre was not being united into the structure of a republic by a race guided of destiny, in giving to the world what the world most needed.

The great hereafter was first in our fathers' lives, but in its shadow, where their souls constantly dwelt, they did not forget the great present, lapsing into history, to ultimately teach coming generations its momentous import.

Their church, their school, and their town-meeting were the three great lights of their lives.

By the first they saw immortality; the second lit the way to future greatness of their race upon this continent, while the third searched out a government of absolute equality.

The town house was the forum where the people's rights were championed by voice and vote.

From that palladium, reflected by the rays of the dawning light of equal rights, arose a splendor beyond the prestige of castle or palace, more potent than the power of kings and princes, rendering every citizen a sovereign and no man a serf.

Plain, direct and effective were the civil functions of colonial government.

No circuitous path led from the people to the power, save where monarchy reached its hand across the sea; and when that was shaken from the land, there stood the transcendent form of civil liberty, more perfect in all her lines than ever yet was seen.

Our towns have grown to cities, yet have we preserved the substance of the lessons learned from these masters of their creed.

Even to this day we recognize that every modification of the original town government tending toward centralization, is not for improvement in system, but to meet changed conditions of the times.

Fitting it is that the place where the people, through their chosen representatives, transact the public business, should be among the best within our city.

Sacred to us is the place where history was made by a sturdy people, who, like the rugged oak, withstood the storms with strength bred of adversity.

Here, where our history began, will it continue through the years to come; to what end no mind can foresee.

Our fondest hope can give no more glory to the future than crowns the past. But, full of confidence in the human race, let us dedicate this spot where our fathers met to weave a portion of the faultless fabric of self-government, designed by the noblest aims of man, to its preservation, with a fidelity of heart no less patriotic and no less self-denying than marked their noble lives.

We receive from you a structure representing to us what the Town House of 1825 did to the citizens of that time.

As in days before that time the place of worship was the place of civil rule, let something of the sanctity surrounding public deliberations then invest us still, maintaining free the spotless name of Worcester's corporate life.

You have builded well what well does represent our City's strength and progress.

Useful first, then beautiful and grand, may this substantial building endure long after the memories of this day have passed.

But so long as it recalls with interest the history of its existence, so long will largest honor be coupled with your names.

Outlasting the granite of these walls, may our City live in honor and success, reflecting still the virtues of a race noble, strong and free.

ABSTRACT OF THE
ADDRESS OF BURTON W. POTTER, ESQ.

We have met to-day not to recount the hardships and the heroic achievements of the early settlers of Worcester, though we are not unmindful of our indebtedness to them. We have assembled to dedicate a new City Hall to be used for municipal purposes in our thriving and growing City. Surely it will not be out of place in these dedicatory exercises to review briefly the history and progress of our municipal government. Inasmuch as we are soon to celebrate the semi-centennial anniversary of the City's birth, when eloquent and accomplished orators will recount the story of humanity's growth in this vicinity during the past half century, I will not attempt to deal with the general life of our people, but will confine my remarks to things appertaining to municipal affairs. The time at my command is too limited to permit me to give in detail the history of our City Government. I can only call attention to such things as stand out as landmarks in our local affairs. During the first twenty years of Worcester's existence as a City, its population did not increase very rapidly, and its local government did not differ essentially from the local government of large towns. It had a Mayor and a City Council, but everything was done under the direction of Committees. There was no separation between the legislative and the executive departments of the government, and no public improvement was planned on a large scale. The gold fields of California and the unoccupied agricultural regions of the West attracted a large and steady emigration from the East,

and Worcester, like other eastern cities, was not overcrowded with population. But after a while there began to be a massing population in the large towns, and the nineteenth century is closing upon a race that desires for the most part to live in cities; and the enlargement of municipal life is one of the most marked characteristics of this age. Not alone in the new world and Australasia are cities springing up as if by magic and doubling their population in a decade, but in the old world the growth of new cities and the modernization of old ones are the phenomena of this century. Sydney and Melbourne, Boston and Chicago are easily matched by Liverpool and Copenhagen, Hamburg and Budapest. London, Paris and Berlin still maintain their primacy among all the great cities, while old cities like Athens, Rome and Amsterdam have doubled their population within a generation.

This increase of urban citizenship has increased the people's interest in local self-government, and the functions of municipal government have been multiplied and enlarged in a marvelous manner. Worcester, like other cities, has caught the spirit of the age, and for the past thirty years her population has grown at the rate of 2,000 a year, and more and more attention is being given each year to the management of its municipal affairs. Worcester now has a population of over a hundred thousand souls, and is probably growing to-day as fast as at any period of its history. Situated in the midst of a rich agricultural region, at the centre of Massachusetts and New England, with unsurpassed railroad and educational facilities, there is no reason why it should not continue to grow until it rivals such great inland cities as Manchester and Birmingham in England. And its future growth will

depend more upon the character of its municipal government than upon state or national legislation, or on the size of our regular army, or the number of our battle-ships. Of course, an industrious and intelligent people may make great progress in business and commercial life in spite of poor civic government; but if they can be aided and directed by wise and capable officials, who plan all public improvements in the way best adapted to promote the development and expansion of the municipality, and who see that the improvements are made with honesty, economy and dispatch, then their progress is likely to advance with increased rapidity. A wise, self-contained and self-governed people will always enact laws and adopt customs adapted to their needs and typical of their state of morality and civilization. They always have a government as good as they deserve; and, therefore, the historian can trace their progress in the annals which record the growth and improvement of their local government.

Then by the application of this test let us see how Worcester stands before the world.

* * * * *

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

There is also another function of municipal government which has been exercised in a manner to make an impress upon our minds to-day, and which constitutes an object lesson for us all.

A city can be beautiful by the erection of artistic public buildings. Fine architecture in public or private buildings is the artistic expression of the fitness of things. It is the art of teaching by example. Every stately and well-

constructed building is an object lesson which instructs and pleases the lover of the beautiful every time he passes by it, and thereby he is constantly being educated by a process all the more effective because it works by absorption rather than by direct impartation. The great majority of people have not the means, if they had the taste, to erect buildings stately and beautiful from an architectural point of view; and therefore the corporate wealth of a municipality should be used on every appropriate occasion to make its public buildings models of architectural beauty as well as of utility. Utility, of course, should be the first consideration in every structure, public or private, but when we remember that it costs little if any more to put materials together in an artistic than in an inartistic manner, we see the wisdom of doing it the better way. When a public library is nobly housed in a building which unconsciously, and as a part of the heritage of childhood, makes the children who frequent it familiar with the work of great builders and artisans, the library itself is more valuable and useful than it would be if meanly housed in an inferior building. And children can be taught better in beautiful and well-kept school-houses than in ugly and ill-constructed ones.

Worcester has many artistic and impressive structures of a semi-public nature, but it never has done much in its corporate capacity to improve the architecture of the City until recently. The Classical High School was built in 1871, and the English High School in 1892. These are substantial and good looking buildings, well adapted to school purposes, and are ornaments to the City. Several of the grammar schools are well-planned and beautiful structures. The new Fire Department headquarters now

in process of erection is a roomy and well-planned building, and is a great improvement over anything Worcester has had in this line in the past. The Public Library and the City Hospital are good buildings, well adapted to the purposes for which they were erected, and tasteful from an architectural standpoint. But the crowning glory of our municipal buildings is this grand and beautiful new City Hall, which for simplicity in design, combined with impressiveness in architectural effect, will bear comparison with the best handiwork of architects and builders anywhere. It is nobly planned and honestly constructed, and expresses the wealth, the dignity and the intelligence of this community. It stands four square, and the east front looks as well as the west front. It is the symbol of the growing development of our municipal life. While we are dedicating it to public uses, let us dedicate ourselves to the duties of good citizenship. May the noble science of government never degenerate here into the ignoble art of electioneering. May we realize that the true greatness of Worcester is not evidenced now, and never will be evidenced, by the number and length of its streets, its magnificent buildings, its extensive factories, or its great population, but it is found now, and ever will be found, if found at all, in the minds and hearts of the people.

* * * * *

Our City has never been besieged and no great battles have ever taken place upon its soil, but yet its history is filled with stirring events and with heroic achievements. And to-day, is not every soul impressed with the sweet memories and the hallowed associations that cluster around this sacred place? On this spot in the Old South Church

a devout and patriotic people worshiped God after the manner of their fathers for 170 years. Here the lone messenger from Lexington announced the opening of the Revolutionary War and called the people to arms. Here the immortal Declaration of Independence was first read to the people of Worcester by Isaiah Thomas. Near by the artillery thundered a welcome to General Washington upon his visit to the town after his inauguration as President of the United States, and likewise to General Lafayette in 1824 when he passed through the city on his visit to the country he had helped to liberate a half century before. Within sight stands the modest monument which commemorates the services of the brave Timothy Bigelow in the Revolutionary struggle, and also the more imposing monument which records the names and heroic actions of the sons of Worcester who died in the service of the republic in the late Civil War, and which speaks in silent but impressive eloquence of the glory, the romance and the sacrifices of brave and patriotic warriors. Near by stands the old City Hall, which is soon to be abandoned and demolished. It is not a pretentious edifice, and makes no claim to architectural beauty, but it has been the governmental home of a free people for three-quarters of a century. Within its walls have been enacted the ordinances and decrees which have marked and guided the steps of our municipality since its erection. It has been the rostrum and the arena for great political debates and battles. It has witnessed the first meetings and conventions of earnest and true-hearted men, impressed with the wickedness of human slavery, and imbued with the belief that its extension into the territory of the United States would tarnish the fame and honor of the republic.

It has resounded with the fervid and lofty eloquence of many of the great men of the nineteenth century. It has echoed with the strains of sweet music and the soul-stirring songs of Jenny Lind. It has listened to such noted representatives of literature, temperance and religion as Thackeray, Higginson, Father Mathew, Theodore Parker and John B. Gough. It has heard the florid and passionate eloquence of Louis Kossuth, Rufus Choate and John A. Andrew. It has heard the masterly and persuasive oratory of Webster, Everett, Winthrop, Sumner, Wilson, Banks, Benton and Abraham Lincoln. It has heard Frederick Douglass, John Brown, Garrison, Phillips, Hale and the Fosters plead the cause of the slave. And it has often heard our local orators argue causes of interest to Worcester, and some of these, like Davis, Lincoln, Allen, Bullock, Devens and Hoar, are worthy of mention in connection with the great orators and statesmen of the world.

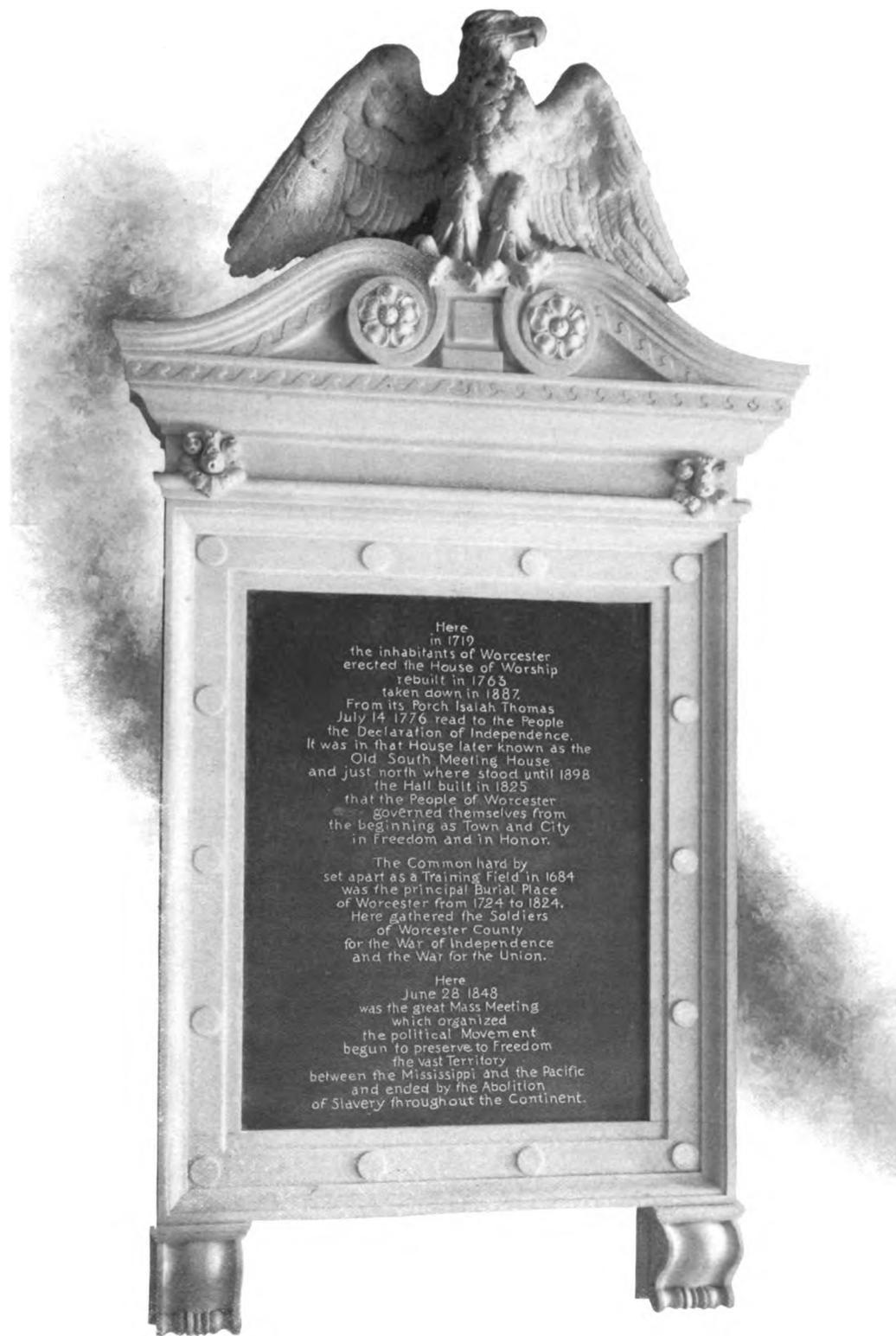
As we bid it farewell, let us do so with reverence and respect, and with the feeling that it is going the way of all the earth. A great king who had been presented with a gold ring once asked the wisest of his counselors to cause to be engraved thereon the statement of the most obvious and universal truth in nature. The counselor in a few days returned the ring to the king with this inscription on it: "This, too, shall pass away." So this magnificent and massive hall, the land whereon it stands, and we, too, shall pass away.

"Art is long and time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums are beating
Funeral marches to the grave."

Nevertheless, if we are faithful and equal to our opportunities, we can leave footprints and influences of an ennobling nature that will help the onward march of mankind in after years, as we have been helped by the noble lives and good deeds of our ancestors, who handed down to us the blessed heritage of liberty and good government. God be praised for their unfaltering courage, their holy living, and their exalted characters. To-day I seem to see their venerated forms pass before us in a procession wherein march those whose hands grew callous with the hard work of the first settlement and their hearts brave in Indian warfare; those who afterward toiled in field, office and shop, in building up the industries of this great City; those who in professional life promoted the cause of education, religion, medicine and jurisprudence; those who, endowed with fine instincts and tastes, advanced the art of music, painting, architecture, invention, and science in all its forms; those who aided the progress of civilization by writing, by eloquence and by public service in the halls of legislation; those who sought liberty in union and the country's honor by service in warfare; and those who bore the children, rocked the cradles, and made homes pure and happy. This is a long procession of men and women who did what they could for Worcester and for the uplifting of humanity everywhere, and their brows are radiant with the stars of glory. I love to think of them as now living in the realms of paradise, where

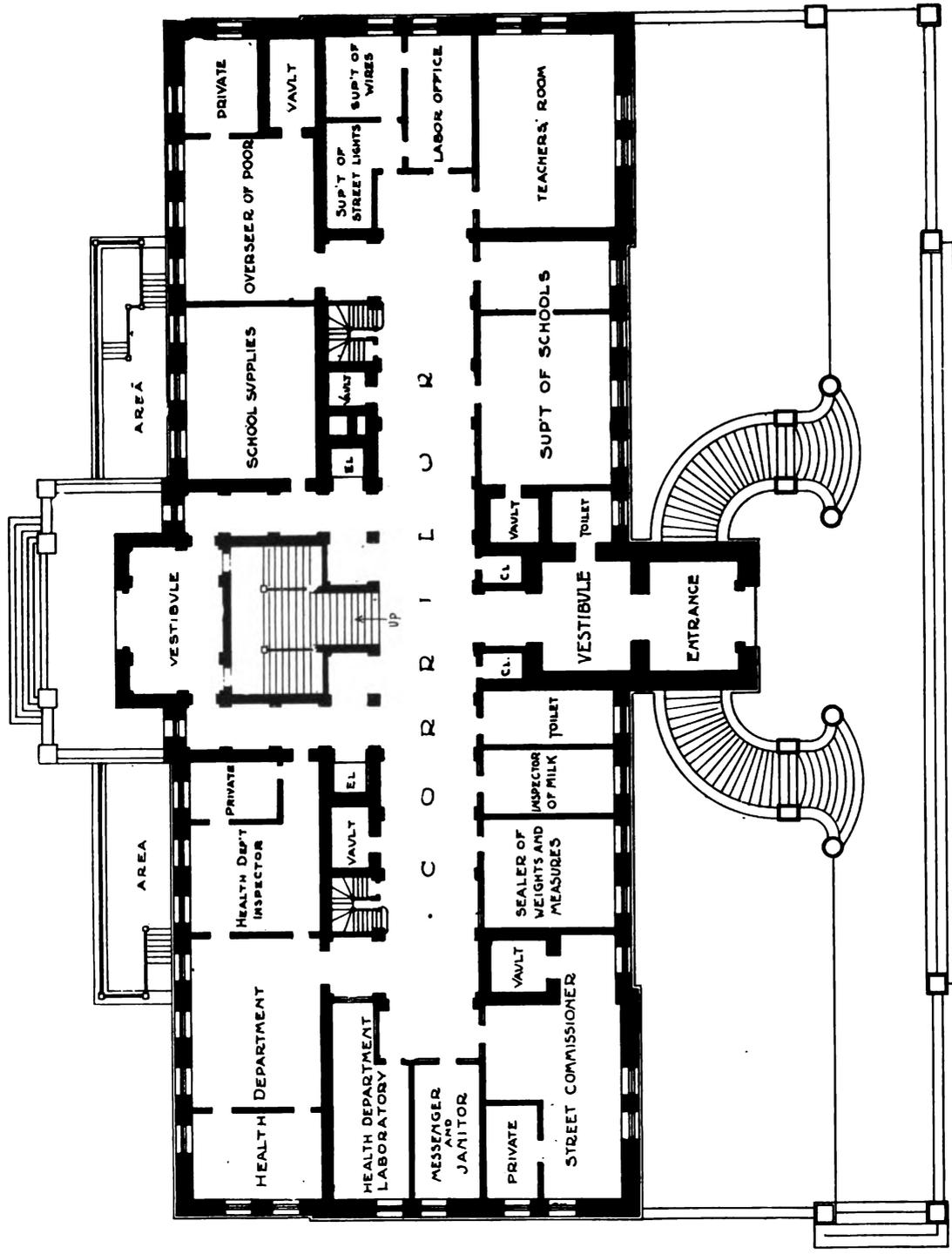
“The great intelligences fair
That range above our mortal state,
In circle round the blessed gate,
Received and gave them a welcome there.”

As we think of all they did for us and the world, may their noble example inspire us with the firm determination to leave this City a cleaner and better place to live in than we found it, with better ordinances, better schools, better homes, better highways, better manners and customs, and better morals and religion. To strive for this consummation is surely our duty, and in such work we will find joy and "the peace that passeth understanding," and causes "death itself to be swallowed up in victory."





DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING.



BASEMENT PLAN:

20 FEET

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING.

BY CLELLAN WALDO FISHER, F. A. I. A.

From an architectural standpoint Worcester's new City Hall deserves more than ordinary notice. It is the finest public building in the City, as indeed it should be, and as an example of modern civic architecture, it is of unusual merit, and reflects great credit upon the architects, Messrs. Peabody & Stearns.

The site of the building upon the Common allows a fair view of it from all sides, and while the general effect would have gained in dignity by locating the structure at least double its present distance from Main street, the building and its approaches are so generally satisfactory and upon a scale so generous, in comparison with many works of like character, that only words of praise should be spoken.

The floor plans and exterior views of the building, to be found elsewhere in this volume, so well illustrate the structure in its detail of arrangement and exterior design, that only a brief generalization seems called for here.

The plan, as followed upon the several floors, is simple, architecturally effective and very economical of space; and

all parts of the building are well and thoroughly lighted. The working offices have been found generally convenient, and such parts of the interior as call for architectural emphasis, have been treated with taste and skill. The grand staircase, with its colonnaded gallery, is particularly effective; and the Mayor's suite and the Council chambers are elegant in their proportions, detailed treatment and appointments. Except, perhaps, for a rather apparent lack of harmony in the design of some of the more pretentious furnishings with that of the structure itself, the interior treatment deserves almost unqualified commendation.

The use of marble mosaic for the public floors, marble wainscotings in the halls and corridors, and marble, mahogany, and oak for the interior finish throughout gives the interior a rich and substantial appearance.

In exterior design the building is particularly pleasing. In style it is an adaptation of early Renaissance as found in many of the municipal palaces of Italy. In the description accompanying the architect's competitive designs, it was argued that these municipal palaces of Italy "have the sentimental recommendation that they were truly popular buildings built by the people for their own rulers." For other practical and economical reasons they appealed to the architects as the type of building best suited to modern needs in the Town or City Hall.

Working in this spirit the architects have given Worcester a building which is entirely modern in its construc-

which consists of
being easily a
change from the
one input
every point
entirely
input
curved

For pro
the per n pe
inherent as is a
the interior
the interior

tion and adaptation to utilitarian demands, and which breathes the artistic spirit of the most beautiful palaces of Florence and Siena.

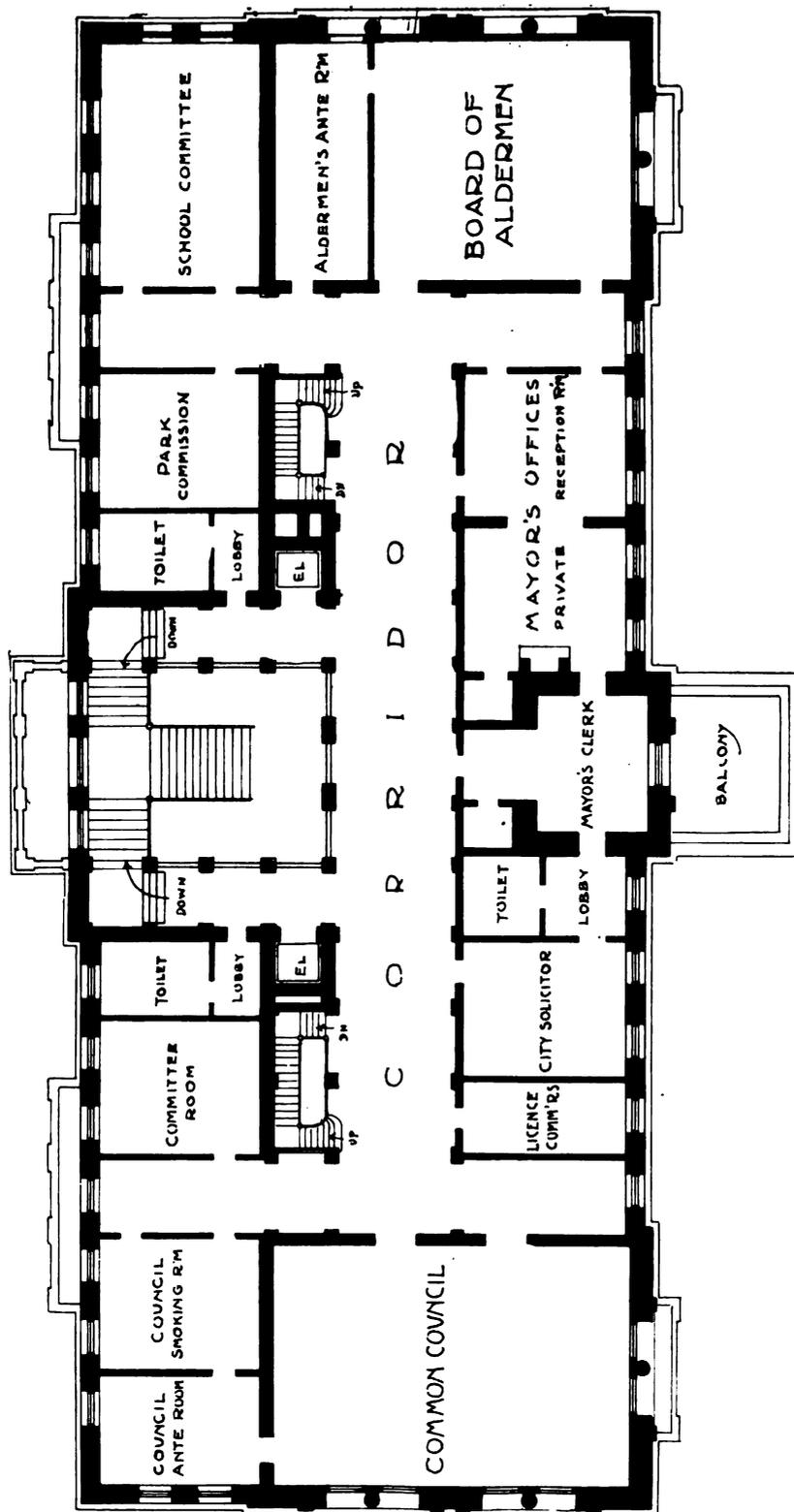
The material used for the exterior, the beautiful Milford pink granite, effectively lends itself to the general design and the wealth of carved detail with exceptional happiness of result. The main roof and that of the tower are covered with red slate, which gives a warmth of color to the otherwise somewhat cold exterior.

The building, as will be seen from the accompanying views, consists of three stories and a basement, the latter being entirely above ground; and while there is an entrance into the basement at grade, from Main street, the importance of the first floor, as the location of the more principal working offices, is emphasized by an entrance porch, which is the grand entrance of the building, and is reached from the ground by two beautiful curved flights of steps.

The principal divisions and apartments of the interior are given prominence in the exterior of the building, and indicate, as is always a commendable feature of design, the interior uses of the various parts of the structure. The two Council chambers, the Mayor's office between them, and by its central and prominent position signifying the Mayor's position as the City's chief executive, and the grand hall and staircase occupying the centre of the east façade,—all have detailed emphasis, and are marked by a wealth of carving which is distributed most effect-

ively, and which gives to the exterior a particular richness without in any way destroying the simplicity of the general design. This detail treatment is somewhat eclectic and historical in its suggestions rather than strikingly original architecturally. The main cornice is moulded on one at the Palazzo del Diavolo in Siena; the large windows giving exterior expression to the Council chambers, on those of the Palazzo Tava at Bologna; the second story tower window marking the Mayor's office, on a doorway at Trevi; the tower itself has a strong resemblance to those of Siena and Florence; while the finer details of mouldings and carved ornaments are carried out in the more modern spirit of the Renaissance.

It is so rarely, though less so than formerly, that the designing of municipal buildings is entrusted to architects of high standing, and the result so often is that those buildings in a community which should express all that is best in construction and artistic design, fall far short of that standard, that consequently it is a matter of much pride and satisfaction that Worcester can boast of a City Hall which is in every way worthy of its civic importance, and which is sure to bring to the city many words of congratulation from those who regard good architecture as the most effective channel through which the people of every position in life are brought to appreciate the beautiful and are most directly affected by its uplifting influence.



:SECOND FLOOR PLAN:

20 FEET

THE NEW CITY HALL.

A FEW PERTINENT FACTS REGARDING THE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR.

The building is 219 feet long and 85 feet wide. From the grade-line to the top of the cornice it is 65 feet in height, and the graceful Florentine tower rises 205 feet above the street. The construction is fire-proof throughout, and the red tile hip-roof rests upon a framework of steel.

There are sixty rooms in the building used for the thirty-five offices for the various departments, etc. The interior finish of the offices is in quartered oak with furniture to match, with the exception of the Mayor's apartments, which are finished in mahogany. The floors of the corridors are paved in mosaic. The floor space of the Aldermanic chamber is 30x40 feet and the Council 50x24. Both have galleries.

On either side of the main entrance is a bronze tablet placed within the doorways. The inscription upon the one on the left was composed by Senator Hoar.

Among the firms who have contributed to the furnishing and equipment of the building are the following:

Counters, tables, wardrobes, cupboards, and special order desks:
Grand Rapids School Furniture Company, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Working desks (flat and roll-top): Derby Desk Company.

Interior vault work: St Louis Art Metal Company, and Office
Specialty Company, Rochester, N. Y.

Exterior vault work, doors: Morse Safe Company.

Chairs: Shattuck & Morgan Chair Company, Bedford, Ohio.

Vienna chairs, imported.

Mayor's furniture and Council and Aldermanic chairs: Clifford &
Johnson.

Carpets, equally divided: W. J. Hogg and M. J. Whittall.

Curtains and fixtures: E. G. Higgins & Co. and P. Marr.

Electric and gas fixtures: Mitchell Vance Company, New York.

Heating and ventilating, gas piping: Washburn & Garfield.

Plumbing: I. N. Tucker.

Electric work: Plummer, Ham & Richardson.

Granolithic sidewalks: G. W. Carr, Worcester.

Drawing-tables: Morse Machine Company, Rochester, N. Y.

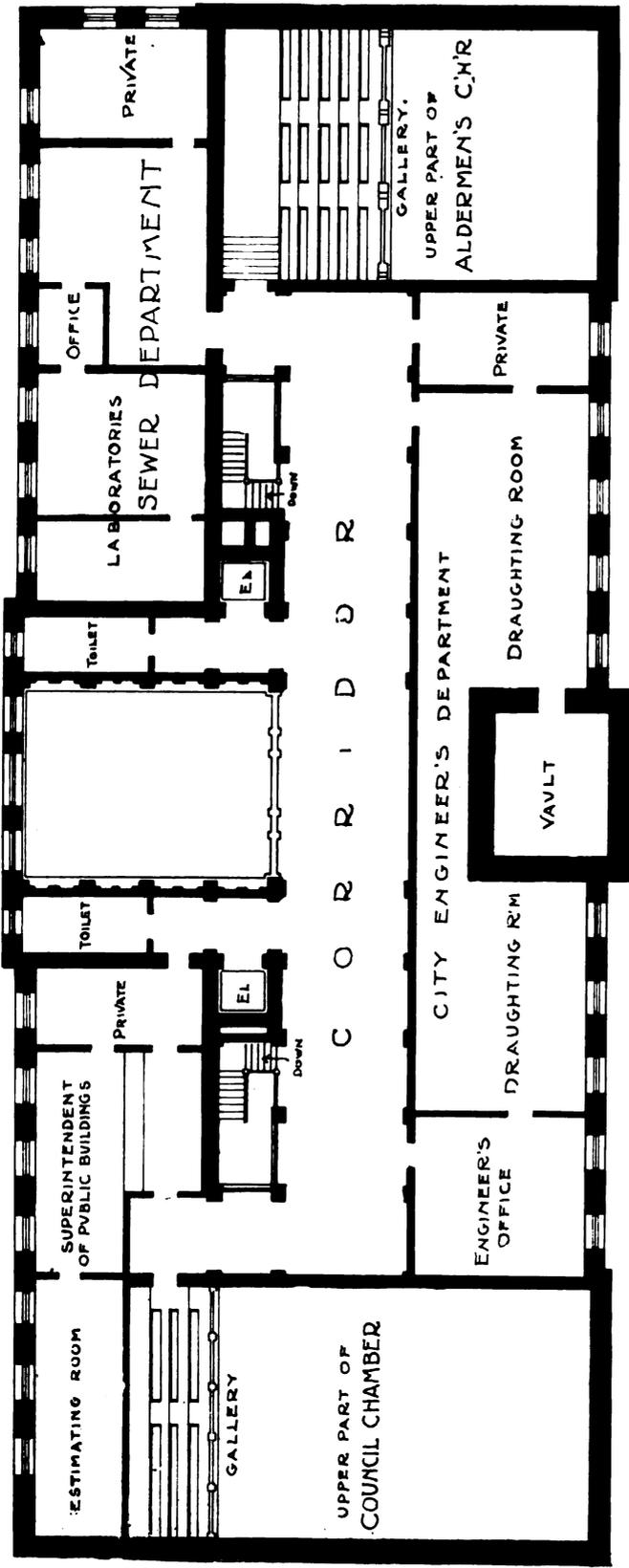
Umbrella-stands and cabinets for laboratories: Henry Brannon.

Clocks: Howard Company, Boston.

Lettering on offices: Stenberg & Company.

Elevators: Elektron Elevator Company, Springfield.

3



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

20 FEET

INDEX.

- Allen, Charles, 88.
Allen, Rev. George, 46.
Architects' competition, 60.
Athy, Andrew, portrait and sketch, 17; Elected City Hall Commissioner, 61; Illness, 116.
Benton, Thomas H., 46, 88.
Bigelow, Timothy, 86.
Box in corner-stone, 95.
Burlingame, Anson, 88.
City Council, members from 1894 to 1898, 29-33.
City Hall, Old, see Town and City Hall.
City Hall, New, see New City Hall.
Clay, Henry, 88.
Commission, City Hall, authorized and elected, 60, 61.
Contract for building awarded, 61.
Corner-stone, Committee, 65; Invitations, 66, 67; Order of exercises, 69; Military and civic parade, 71; Ushers, 80; Exercises, 81; Prayer, 82; Masonic ceremonies, 92.
Davis, John, 43.
Declaration of Independence, 86.
Dedication of New City Hall, Committee, 111; Programme, 112; Exercises, 113.
Description of the Building, 139.
Dodge, Rufus B., Jr., portrait and sketch, 25; Response, 124.
Gough, John B., 46.
Grand Lodge, A. F. and A. M., permanent members, 106.
Hoar, George F., composes inscriptions for tablet, 147.
Holmes, M. W., Grand Master, Response, 92; Address, 102.
Hunt, Richard H., succeeds, 60.
Hunt, Richard M., appointed consulting architect, 60; Death, 60.
Inscription on trowel, 107.
Introduction, 37.
Invitations, 66, 67, and opposite 114.
Kansas emigration movement, 46.
Kossuth, Louis, 46.
Lincoln, Abraham, 46, 88.
Lind, Jenny, 46.
Marsh, Henry A., portrait and sketch, 19; Other references, 51, 56.
Masonic ritual, 92.
Mathew, Father, 46, 88.
McCullagh, Rev. Archibald, prayer, 118.
Military parade, 71.
New City Hall, preliminary steps, 51; Recommendations of Mayor Marsh,

- 51, 56; Act authorizing loan, 53; Offers of Hon. Stephen Salisbury, 53, 54; Declined, 58; Public hearings, 52, 55; Petition to Legislature, 56, 57; Meeting opposed to Lincoln square, 57; Petitions circulated, 58; Premiums to architects, 59, 60; Contract awarded, 61; Corner-stone laid, 81; Dedication, 113.
- Norcross Brothers, builders, 61.
- Old South Church, 41.
- Old Town and City Hall, see Town and City Hall.
- Petitions, 58.
- Plummer, Osgood, 50; Calls meeting, 57.
- Potter, Burton W., address, 128.
- Premiums to architects, 59, 60.
- Prentice, Harrison S., portrait and sketch, 15; Elected to City Hall Commission, 61.
- Publication Committee, 7, 8.
- Sawyer, William H., portrait and sketch, 13; Elected to City Hall Commission and appointed Chairman, 61; Remarks and dedication, 117; Address, 120.
- Sprague, A. B. R., portrait and sketch, 21; Elected Mayor, 61; Chairman pro tem. of City Hall Commission, 65; Address at corner-stone laying, 84.
- Stebbins, Rev. Calvin, prayer, 82.
- Sumner, Charles, 88.
- Tablets, 146.
- Thackeray, William M., 46.
- Thayer, Eli, 46.
- Thomas, Isaiah, 86.
- Town and City Hall, old historical sketch, 41-47; View of, faces 41; Cost, 46; Last meeting in, 47.
- Trowel used at corner-stone laying, 107.
- Voters of 1848, 47, 114.
- War of the Rebellion, 87.
- Webster, Daniel, 46, 88.
- Whitefield, 86.
- Wilson, Henry, 88.

63/822



