

RANEY LIBRARY FORMALLY OPENED

Mr. R. B. Raney's Munificent Gift to Raleigh Accessible to the People.

SERVICE IN MUSIC HALL

Dedicatory Prayer by Rev. A. A. Marshall, D. D.

MUSIC BY SPECIAL CHOIR

Building and Library Formally Presented to the City by Rev. M. M. Marshall, D. D., Rector of Christ Church, in Name of Mr. Raney and Trustees in Eloquent and Comprehensive Address—Accepted by R. T. Gray, Esq., on Behalf of People.

The beautiful and superbly-equipped Raney library building, erected and presented to the people of Raleigh, at a cost of more than forty thousand dollars, by Mr. R. B. Raney, as a memorial to his deceased wife, Olivia Cowper Raney, is now open to the public, having been formally opened, dedicated and presented to the city with beautiful and especially appropriate ceremony last night.

The exercises were held in the well-appointed and beautifully-decorated Music Hall of the library building, in the presence of a large and representative audience, the large attendance, despite the very inclement weather, being an earnest of the deep and very general interest in and appreciation for Mr. Raney's munificent gift.

On the stage were a number of the State officers, Mayor Powell, members of the Board of Aldermen and other city officials; also officers and trustees of the Raney Library. President Battle, of the Board of Trustees, was master of ceremonies.

The program of the evening was opened with an appropriate hymn of praise and thanksgiving by the choir. Then Dr. A. A. Marshall, pastor of the First Episcopal Church, offered an excellent prayer, eloquent and appropriate dedicatory prayer. Following this prayer there was an able and eloquent address by Rev. M. M. Marshall, D. D., rector of Christ Episcopal Church, in which he formally presented the beautiful building and splendid library to the city.

Robert T. Gray, Esq., in an admirable response, accepted the magnificent gift on behalf of the people of Raleigh.

Miss Alice Jones delighted the audience with an exquisitely-rendered solo. Then J. H. Battle, president of the Board of Trustees and master of ceremonies, made several announcements regarding the library and its accessibility to the people, and thereafter the doxology was sung by the congregation, and Rev. Eugene Bond, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, concluded the exercises with a fervent benediction.

The dedicatory prayer offered by Dr. A. A. Marshall during the exercises in Music Hall was as follows: "O God! Thou infinite God and Father of us all; Thou who art the Creator of all things, and to whom all men are responsible, we come into Thy presence to thank Thee for all blessings, and especially to thank Thee for the occasion that brings us together this evening; for we realize no matter through what channels gifts and favors may reach us, that Thou art the ultimate source from which they come; so that while we express our thanks to the philanthropist who has bestowed upon this city so magnificent a gift, we also thank Thee as the source from whom all benevolence and philanthropy spring. Give upon this people, we pray, that high appreciation and that so excellent a gift should receive, not only in words, but may it be manifest in the diligent and proper use of this memorial library. May it inspire our people to the highest degree of literary and scholastic excellence, and may they desire knowledge, and not only that knowledge that comes from the reading and studying of books, but that highest knowledge of Thee and Thy works, which is to be found in Thy great revelations, the Bible and the book of nature."

"May this building prove more than a rendezvous where friend may meet his living friend; may it prove a trysting place where more successfully than in spiritualistic seances, we may meet the heroic and noble dead of all ages and of all climes. Here may the people come to reason with Socrates and Plato; to philosophize with Kant and Fichte; and Mill; to sing with Shakespeare and Milton; and Bryant; to dream with Dickens and Scott and Hawthorne, and to worship God with Chalmers and Edwards and Spurgeon."

"May this building hold a high place in the esteem and respect of all men, since it is to be the receptacle of the creations and productions of the World's honored dead; and if their spirits do not hover above their works, we know that in these books are manifested their highest and best thoughts; furnishing to all ages pictures of their inner lives and memorials of their own excellencies. May the sanctity of this building be always regarded, since it is to be a perpetual monument to the name and virtues of an excellent Christian woman, whose spirit must behold the bestowal of this splendid philanthropy. As the white cross of Parian marble, set in banks of fadeless lilies in yonder city of the dead, receives the sacred respect of all men, and perpetuates in striking symbols the purity of her life and her loyalty to the church and to Christ, so may this building, as another monument to her memory have the respect of all men and serve to perpetuate the active virtues of charity and good deeds for which she was equally esteemed. As yonder marble shaft in the quiet cemetery is secure from violation or injury or sacrilege at the hands of men in accordance with a law inherent in our very being, so may this sacred monument be secure from wilful profanation, and may it be protected from the violence of wind and storm, and secured from the lambent tongues of fire. Upon the river of this splendid gift, we ask the richest blessings of Heaven. Give to this city, O God! health and long life and happiness and salvation. May his business interests prosper, and may he enjoy that highest wealth of a good and clear conscience, and the benediction of Heaven. May his deeds of kindness and philanthropy inspire others to like unselfish benefactions, and may we all learn the joy of being like God, as we do good unto others. And now upon the river and upon the whole people we ask our Father's blessing, and ask it in Jesus' name. Amen."

Rev. M. M. Marshall's Address: "The very able address by Rev. M. M. Marshall, D. D., in presenting the building and library to the city, was as follows: Mr. President and Fellow Trustees, Brethren and Fellow Pastors, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen of the Board of Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen: "True merit," it has been well said, "was ever modest known;" but when a fellow citizen—one of our very own and "so the manner born"—generously conceives and entirely with his own means and unaided efforts, successfully completes and starts on its beneficent mission so noble a work of philanthropy as that represented by this beautiful memorial building in which we are assembled, I submit that the occasion suggests, and simple justice demands, that there should be a plain statement of certain facts that require to be spoken at this occasion, tending to the well-known modesty of him who has so generously projected and executed it.

"My friends, this occasion is absolutely unique. Raleigh has never known anything like it. It is without a precedent in the State or in the South; and I believe you will presently agree with me when I say it is without a parallel in the country. I have not forgotten that this is pre-eminently the day of large gifts and endowments for the public good. I rejoice to believe that there are more millions of money invested today in libraries, universities, colleges, schools, homes, hospitals, asylums, infirmaries, orphanages and charitable institutions than at any other period in our history. It is one of the encouraging signs of the times."

"I have not forgotten that there have been such men in our country as Amos Abbott Lawrence and Stephen Gray and George Peabody and Corcoran and many other like-minded, but less well known. They were public benefactors. All honor to their memory. Nor have I forgotten that there are living today such men as Rockefeller and Carnegie, and certain of our own State and city, of less means, whose gifts for the public good we have good reason to be proud of, and grateful for."

"God forbid that I should utter a syllable in disparagement of such benefactions; but as a matter of fact we know that in the case of these multi-millionaires, while their gifts and endowments were absolutely large, they were relatively small. They were but small fractions of what remained to the donors. Whether or not any of these colossal figures was the product of oppressive trusts and combines or accumulated by

questionable business methods or whether they were honestly and industriously acquired, the gifts and benefactions which some of them were to be effective only at the death of their possessors—they were migrations to suggest or inquire. Of these things I know nothing. But what I do know is that a citizen of Raleigh has put into the Olivia Raney Library not merely a certain portion, however large, of his private fortune, but over these \$40,000 and more came to him by inheritance, but that every one represents the legitimate fruit of his untiring industry and energy, his unswerving steadfastness and honesty, and his general high character and business qualifications; and that this most extraordinary and munificent provision for the public good was not the result of any favor was on the confines of that land where a man can carry nothing away with him when he dieth; but it is made now while in the prime of life, with its season for its greatest and most earnest prayer—of many long years of continued usefulness and happiness before him."

"It may be true that under certain circumstances this nobly working is not secure; but how is it possible on an occasion like this, for him who speaks as the representative of your Trustees to withhold emphatic expressions of his grateful appreciation of this so unwaited public spirit and self-sacrificing generosity?"

"It was pre-eminently proper, I think, that the exercises this evening should have begun with prayer to the Father, and with praise and thanksgiving for the good examples of His servants who have done good in their generation—for the inspiration of this noble and estimable noble spirit and memory of the lovely life and character of that one of His servants and saints whose name it bears. As her old friend and pastor who knew her well and loved her, and who of her beautiful and blameless life, I shall claim the sacred privilege of paying a brief but necessarily inadequate tribute to her hallowed memory."

"When I was in the city more than twenty-six years ago, I entered upon my duties as rector of Christ Church in this city. I found among my parishioners in the cultured household of Mr. and Mrs. Elizabeth Cowper, the daughter of Olivia Blount, who, though but thirteen years of age, already abundantly manifested those singularly lovable characteristics which she was ever afterwards so justly distinguished. Her's was not only that sweet innocence and trustfulness of childhood which are always so attractive, but combined with a keen sense of duty, was an ever afterwards equalled, there was an ever joyous, sparkling vivacity which shone as a sunbeam in the household and lighted up all in the circle of her friends upon whom it fell. And underneath this winning exterior there was a thoughtfulness and strength of character beyond her years. An adept in every one of the sweet amenities of life, she was intolerant of any insincerity and affectation."

"But what I most distinctly recall in this favored child so richly endowed by nature and God's grace was her tender sympathy for all sorrow and suffering and her kindly willingness to minister in every way in her power to their alleviation. Her tender heart and high sense of duty were the well-spring from which she drew so liberally the thoughtful kindness so delicately done as to be unobserved and unknown to the world. And these noble traits, which made her so discerning and fond friends in every number of her successful career, seemed only to develop and strengthen."

"Among the many events associated with this beautiful life, so nobly and unselfishly lived, so richly endowed, so kindly, with loving memories, I distinctly recall three which stand out with special prominence—for they are epochs of far-reaching influence and meaning."

"The first of these was on Whit Sunday, May 20, 1877 (the festival of all others, most in accord in its teachings with that sacred ordinance, when Olivia first appeared before me, in the First Church to receive at the hands of the late Bishop Lyman the adorable rite of confirmation. The bright promise of the May morning, the peculiar aptness of the young girl, her willingness to minister in every way in her power to their alleviation, her tender heart and high sense of duty were the well-spring from which she drew so liberally the thoughtful kindness so delicately done as to be unobserved and unknown to the world. And these noble traits, which made her so discerning and fond friends in every number of her successful career, seemed only to develop and strengthen."

"The Olivia Raney Library as it stands represents, as it already has included an actual outlay of something over \$40,000. (To be exact, \$41,000). This includes the value of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an acre site on which it stands, and which for convenience of location could not be better, being as it is in the center of the city, so near the Capitol square and at the starting point and intersection of our street car lines."

"Beside the complete furnishing and equipment of the building it includes also the cost of 5,000 new volumes whose subject matter is embraced under the general topics of religion, philosophy, sociology, philology, natural science, useful arts, fine arts, fiction, history and general literature, and also subscriptions to a number of valuable periodicals, both foreign and domestic. These books carefully selected after consultation with the authorities of some of the best known libraries in the country, have been classified and arranged by an accomplished and expert librarian at the cost of a long journey and several months of diligent labor, supplemented by local assistance, and according to a system which for convenience and perfection has been selected at least a revelation. The library has been duly chartered, exempted from taxation, and is entirely free from debt."

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"On its letter headings are the words 'free and available to all,' and so it is meant to make it. It belongs to the public and its trustees as such, are only the servants of the public. The public have access to its privileges of their own right and not by anybody's permission. The poorest child in the community may here participate in all the privileges and advantages of the richest in having access to the latest works on all subjects—for this culture and betterment or even for his diversion. One only condition is imposed on all alike, and that is that they shall conform to the simple rules common to all libraries and necessary for the preservation of the books and the comfort and quiet of those who use them."

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"To this is to be added the necessary variable income derived from the use of this hall, which, while primarily designed, by means of lectures, addresses, etc., to further the educational and literary work of the library, may also, when not thus occupied, very properly be used for public entertainments of proper character and for innocent amusements. There is also a desirable room near those occupied by the librarian and at present vacant which ought to bring in a small rental."

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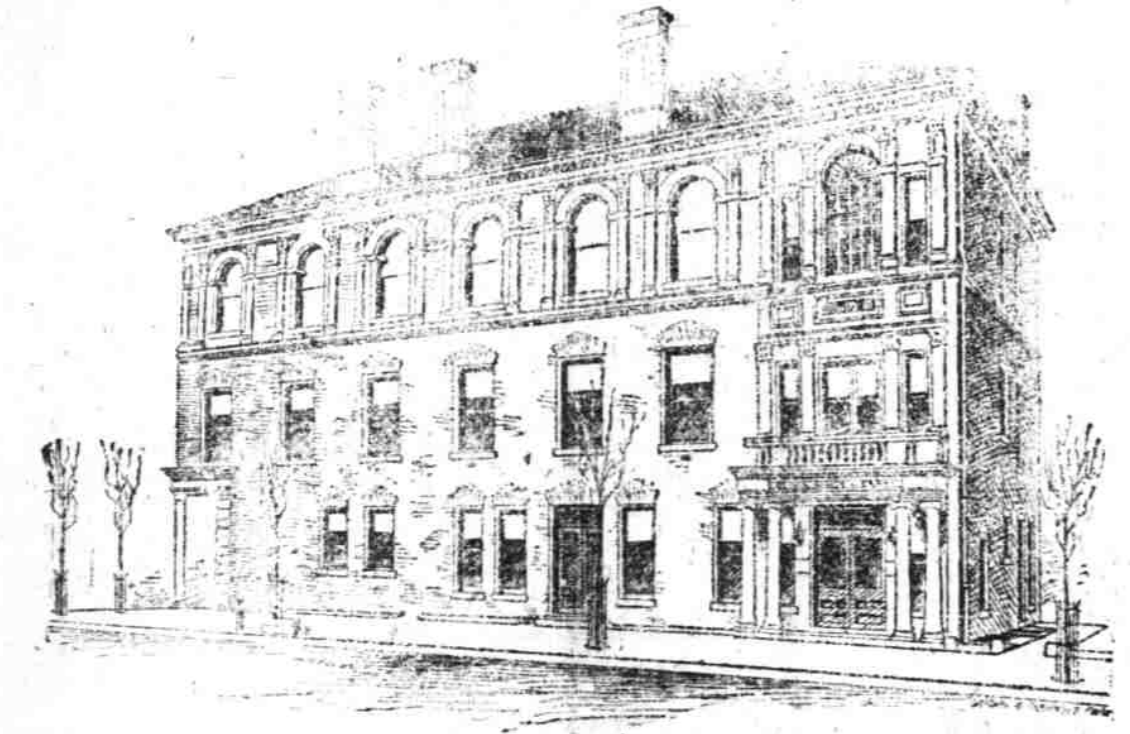
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"Then why should we not still further aid this good work by voluntary contributions of valuable books? Not such as are obsolete as to their subject matter or worthless as to the condition from wear and tear, but works of standard authority or of acknowledged interest and value, and in good condition. I apprehend that in most private libraries there are duplicate copies of good books of special value there, and yet such as might do good service here. But above all, I venture to think may we promote the good work of the library—just being inaugurated—by doing all we can to induce the public and especially the young to participate in its privileges and partake of its benefits."

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OLIVIA RANEY LIBRARY BUILDING

er utterance words of assured comfort and consolation to the bereaved of the blessed 'good byie die in the Lord'; and never have I seen a congregation of sorrowing friends more deeply moved—for representatives of every class in the community felt that they had sustained a personal loss. And as with the dying of the day we tenderly laid to rest this precious body in our beautiful Oakwood with the plaintive notes of that sweet hymn 'Abide with me; fast falls the even tide; the Darkness deepens; Lord with me Abide.' still lingering in the air, I never more fully realized the appropriateness of that prayer in which we had just thanked God 'for the good examples of all those His servants, who, having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labors.'"

"No life can be pure in its purpose and strong in its spirit, but purer and stronger thereby. The Spirits of just men made perfect on high. The army of martyrs who stand by the Throne. And gaze into the face that makes glorious their own. Know this surely at last."

"And we know it here and now also, for these blessed ones, who are good of such lives do continue in the world and will, even after the death of their mortal bodies, be needed no more tangible evidence than that afforded by this occasion and the beautiful building in which we are now assembled."

"It is well to erect modest monuments over 'spots that hold beloved dust' in our memories. It is well also to have monuments of our loved ones gone before, in our churches, thus beautifying and adorning God's House and associating their memories with the services of Prayer and Praise in which they participated; but better than either I think it is, to perpetuate their good deeds and memories by gifts for the erection and equipping of buildings and institutions for benevolent and educational purposes that shall continue to benefit and elevate coming generations; for as no less authority than Daniel Webster once declared: 'If we work upon marble, it will perish; if upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon our immortal minds; if we imbue them with principles, wit the best love of God and love of our fellow man, we engrave on those tablets something that will brighten through all eternity.'"

"As Senator Hoar in his speech at the recent Centennial celebration of the foundation of Washington pointed out the symbolic significance of the three great architectural monuments that the country has seen erected by the nation—the Capitol, the Washington monument and the Congressional Library—so in our smaller sphere, at the beginning of this second century of the foundation of Raleigh, I think, we may point with pardonable pride to our State Capitol as symbolizing the Commonwealth's loyalty to constitutional liberty as represented by the United States Constitution, to our handsome Confederate monument as a token of our loyalty to the memory of our fallen heroes who laid down their lives in defense of those principles for which Washington so successfully fought; and to this library as a memorial of the highest type of our cultured citizen's wisdom, which, in its simplicity and elegance and graceful proportions and unpretentious appearance may not unfitly symbolize the admirably adjusted and well rounded life and character of her whose name it bears. And the near proximity to each other of these noble landmarks is suggestive for all that noble band of women of our country whose devotedly they have labored for our Confederate monument, and whose hearts were more than ever warmly united in their common cause."

"But I must pass on to certain details and business affairs about which as representing the trustees it has been made my duty to give you some information."

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kin, 'in the abyss of penury; don't endure it.' Books that we own after a while become actual companions. 'He that loveth a book,' says Isaac Barrow, 'will never want a faithful friend, a wholesome counsellor, a cheerful companion or effectual comforter.' By study, by reading, by thinking, one may innocently divert and pleasantly entertain himself as in all weathers so in all fortune."

"One other suggestion, my friends, and I am done. Our chairman, Mr. Battle, will write you at the close of these exercises to go on a tour of inspection of your property. As you go from room to room and from place to place, I believe you will be struck with the conveniency and comfort of its general arrangement and with the completeness and elegance of its every detail. But as you stand in the library proper, immediately beneath this hall, and look upon the portrait of that noble Christian woman whose blessed memory and name are indelibly linked with this work, as it hangs there as it were in silent benediction, I believe you will agree with me in the reflection that there seems to be one thing and only one thing wanting. There should be hanging there also a companion portrait, executed by some competent artist in durable oil and

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

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"To this is to be added the necessary variable income derived from the use of this hall, which, while primarily designed, by means of lectures, addresses, etc., to further the educational and literary work of the library, may also, when not thus occupied, very properly be used for public entertainments of proper character and for innocent amusements. There is also a desirable room near those occupied by the librarian and at present vacant which ought to bring in a small rental."

"Perhaps it is safe to count on \$35 a month additional as the average rent to be derived from these sources—the library hall, this now vacant room and the trustees' room, when not in use by them."

"This amount added to the \$65 already assured would make \$100 as the sum total of our monthly income, and would leave \$100 a month yet to be provided for. The bare statement of these facts, I believe to be all that is necessary to insure the making of such provision."

"Then why should we not still further aid this good work by voluntary contributions of valuable books? Not such as are obsolete as to their subject matter or worthless as to the condition from wear and tear, but works of standard authority or of acknowledged interest and value, and in good condition. I apprehend that in most private libraries there are duplicate copies of good books of special value there, and yet such as might do good service here. But above all, I venture to think may we promote the good work of the library—just being inaugurated—by doing all we can to induce the public and especially the young to participate in its privileges and partake of its benefits."

"Next to the free public school as a factor in the education and cultivation of the young, stands the free public library, whose highest and best influences may be summed up in the single word—culture."

"Many of our young men who are sent to take our places in the world and who are temporarily sojourning in our midst are removed from home restraints and privileges and joys of the home circle. The public library with its free reading room may be made a powerful agent for counteracting the attractions of questionable resorts and associates, and the young men may be led by its influence and example to find in reading and in intellectual pursuits and literary culture far higher and only wholesome enjoyment."

"There is nothing," says a late authority now living, "there is nothing except human love from which you can derive greater happiness than the love of reading. Books prove companions in sorrow and solitude. They assuage the pangs of physical pain. They enable you to commune with all the master minds of by-gone ages. The light of intellect flashes across the printed page. The recorded thoughts of literature live on forever. Books are the legacies of genius. We are all heirs to the magic realm of fancy, the republic of letters, the glorious domain of immortal thought. The pyramids of Nubia and Egypt, the palaces and sculptured slabs of Nineveh, the cyclopean walls of Italy and Greece, the temples of India—none have escaped the ravage of time. The beautiful statues of antiquity—the Venus of Melos, the sculptures of the Parthenon—will sooner or later vanish from the face of the earth. But the poetry of Homer, Dante and Shakespeare, the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle, the wisdom of Solomon and Socrates, the eloquence of Demosthenes and Cicero will last as long as Earth itself. The material creations of art crumble to dust; soul-stirring thoughts, the creations of intellect alone survive. (Continued from Second Page.) 'To be without books,' exclaims Rus-

kin, 'in the abyss of penury; don't endure it.' Books that we own after a while become actual companions. 'He that loveth a book,' says Isaac Barrow, 'will never want a faithful friend, a wholesome counsellor, a cheerful companion or effectual comforter.' By study, by reading, by thinking, one may innocently divert and pleasantly entertain himself as in all weathers so in all fortune."

"One other suggestion, my friends, and I am done. Our chairman, Mr. Battle, will write you at the close of these exercises to go on a tour of inspection of your property. As you go from room to room and from place to place, I believe you will be struck with the conveniency and comfort of its general arrangement and with the completeness and elegance of its every detail. But as you stand in the library proper, immediately beneath this hall, and look upon the portrait of that noble Christian woman whose blessed memory and name are indelibly linked with this work, as it hangs there as it were in silent benediction, I believe you will agree with me in the reflection that there seems to be one thing and only one thing wanting. There should be hanging there also a companion portrait, executed by some competent artist in durable oil and

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

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