

HANOVER GAZETTE

Reading Room

VOL. XIX, NO 12

HANOVER, N. H., THURSDAY, AUG. 31, 1905.

PRICE 3 CENTS

OLD JOE BRYANT.

A Character of Early Days.

How long is it, patient reader of the GAZETTE, since you have recalled Joe Bryant? "Old Joe," as he was called, one of the old dog Tray kind of men, "ever patient, ever kind," subject to the pranks and jokes of his fellow men. He lived at various places between the village and the Falls, now Wilder. One time, when residing at the Falls, on this side of the river, he was engaged in making a whistle, one of those kinds which in our boy-hood days was made from a clear piece of poplar, the bark loosened by moistening it in the saliva of the mouth, and then removed by continued hammering with the pocket jackknife. While making one of these home productions, a student from the college appeared, and with expressions of much pleasure at old Joe's dexterity and handiwork, immediately contracted for two hundred of them for the use of the college boys. Old Joe labored industriously until his contract was completed, the duct task being to keep them moist until all were finished, and with his job lot of wind shriekers he sought the contractor at a staid room in the buildings, but no one was to be found of the name given, and in vain he watched for some individual whom he could recognize as the person. Of course, it being a joke, the student was never found, and Old Joe's handiwork became a drug upon the

PROFESSOR FOSTER'S ADDRESS

At Dedication of Etna Free Town Library

The following excellent address was delivered at the dedicatory exercises of the Etna free library last week, held in connection with the Old Home Week observance. The address merited a place in last week's paper, and would have been published had space and time permitted. We published a synopsis of the day's proceedings and are glad to give this week not only Professor Foster's address, but some of the other remarks of the day:

John Adams once gave Thomas Jefferson a receipt for making a New England of Virginia. The receipt contained four ingredients: the town meeting, the minister, the free school, and the training day.

The first three still remain characteristic features of New England life. The fourth, the training day, still humorously remembered by the oldest inhabitants, has disappeared. It has been replaced by the state militia and by out-door sports.

In the last half century we have been introducing into the New England receipt a new ingredient, the Free Public Library. In 1833

selfishly for this building. And true to the deepest and most abiding emotions of a religious people we call upon the minister to give thanks for our inheritance to Him in whose name we dedicate this place, and to pray that it may lead men into light and truth.

But we are as hard-headed and practical as we are religious. We therefore ask ourselves on such an occasion as this, What is the real purpose of a public library? Why has it not been more used?

How can it make itself more effective in the community? What place can the library play in re-developing in a country town some of those sturdy virtues which have made New England famous? From a little circle of thirty New England towns founded around Boston in the early seventeenth century, the historian Valfrey estimated that in 1858 one-

third of the population of the United States was descended. In those towns, and in such other New England towns as Hanover, there were bred men and women of a homely, sturdy fiber, who knew their duties, saw how to do

on the whole slowly improving. There are marked ups and downs as we plot the curves of the world's progress, and the upward movement in morals has to be marked by centuries rather than by decades; but if we follow the lines through long stretches of time we find the general direction is up and not down.

So democracy has its ups and downs, and it has not proved itself the only form of government for all time and all people. But it has shown, and never more clearly than in New England, that self-government is more wholesome than anarchy or tyranny. Democracy has already made distinct contribution to civilization and government; and self-governing republics still have lessons to teach as well as lessons to learn.

Our ancestors were good, but they were by no means perfect. It was a sound and judicious English historian, the late Mr Lecky, who pointed out to Americans that they were in danger of exaggerating the virtues of the Revolutionary fathers and of estimating the present generation of men too cheaply. The Revolutionary army had its scandals.

Washington had to complain bitterly of speculation and disloyalty in the army which won American independence.

One who looks through the old records of church and civil courts

OLD HOME WEEK ODE

The following ode, written by Dorrance B. Currier, was sung at the recent Old Home Day observance in Hanover:

Let all invoke this dear old tune to dedicate this home,

To thought and act, in future life, wherever we may roam.

With care we'll fill this room with books, so pure, so good and true

They'll guide us on our way in life as nothing else can do.

Let wealth and pomp, vainglory too, allure us as they can,

We yet will know 'tis naught but show; 'tis thought that makes the man.

Our thoughts, here guided by the wise who lived in ages past,

Shall ever be a shining light to guide us home at last.

Our thanks to town, committee-men, and all who near us dwell;

All see your work, it long will last, for you have builded well.

Now let us all our time employ, improve our life each day,

Remember, if we wish to read, we'll surely find a way.

The ode sung at

The ode sung at the Etna Library dedication, from the *Hanover Gazette* Thurs Sept 7, 1905

Front Page of the weekly *Hanover Gazette*

reporting the dedication of the Etna Library at the Old Home Day observance in August, 1905

"To these free public libraries we must look to do much that is needed to make our experiment in democracy successful. The library must do its part in making school-children more intelligent, the voter more judicious, the social life of farm and village more decent, the intellectual life of the average man and woman more vigorous and wholesome."

-excerpt from Professor H. Foster's speech, reproduced by the *Hanover Gazette*, above Professor Foster was the founder of Dartmouth's History Department

On November 2 the *Gazette* reported: "The library is nearly completed now, and a very pretty building it is."