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# BENEFACTORS OF PORTLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

## MOVEMENT FOR MAKING THE INSTITUTION FREE.

That Portland has a free library in a splendid building, with over 20,000 volumes and an ample endowment, is due to the loyalty and untiring generosity of its citizens, and to the liberal benefactions of many of the city's pioneers who have passed away. That the institution by throwing open its doors to the public last Monday began a period of higher usefulness to the community whose intellectual life for 25 years has centered in it, is due to the earnest and unselfish labors of a large body of citizens loyal to the free-library movement. Starting from a small association, with rented rooms, through

for the purpose of obtaining the signatures of those who were willing to aid the enterprise. The first to subscribe was Mr. W. S. Ladd, the pioneer banker, who stipulated that the library should always be kept out of politics. So successful was Mr. Wakefield that within a few days \$200 had been secured and a call issued for a meeting of the subscribers, which was held in the United States District Courtroom on the 12th day of January, 1884.

### Prominent Benefactors of Portland Library.



broken for the library building. This building, in the Renaissance style of architecture, is 140 feet long and 70 wide, with granite basement, and the two upper stories of gray sandstone. The vestibules and corridors are paved with marble, and the staircases, wainscoting and baseboards are of the same material.

The erection of the building was made possible by the liberal bequest of Miss Ella M. Smith, who died October 1, 1889, and who made the Library Association the residuary legatee in her will, stipulating that the proceeds were to be used "to aid in the erection of and maintaining a building for the use of said association, or to furnish it with works of art." Miss Smith lived quietly and unobtrusively, in



the energy and devotion of its founders, the library spirit was kept alive, was carefully fostered, until it owned its own site, erected a beautiful building, and finally, as the culmination of the whole movement, shared its advantages unselfishly with the mass of the citizens. Although not free until this year, the institution has never been coldly exclusive. Students have found a welcome and cozy corner in which to study. Visitors have been free to enjoy the beauties of the building and to browse among the books. The hungry seeker for knowledge has found kind helpers among the librarians and trustees. And now as the student, the busy worker, and the man of affairs jostle together among the book shelves, a deep and sincere feeling of thanksgiving should arise in their breasts, that there were those whose generosity made such a splendid institution possible.

Foremost among the many benefactors of the library are those who have passed away: Judge Matthew P. Deady, the first president, whose earnest labors kept the library alive during the most critical period of its history, and who raised by his solicitation a large part of its endowment; William S. Ladd, who for 24 years gave the library a home, and whose gifts were always liberal; Henry Failing, one of its staunch friends, faithful officers and generous benefactors; Ella M. Smith, whose bequest of real estate, valued at \$127,500, made the erection of the present library possible; John Wilson, whose gift of his fine collection of 8000 volumes to be held in trust for the use of the public, paved the way toward making the library free. These are among the many to whom the citizens of Portland and the future users of the library owe a debt of gratitude.

**Founding of the Library.**  
Early in the year 1884, says D. P. Leach in his historical sketch of the institution, Mr. L. H. Wakefield, impressed with the need of a reading-room and library in Portland, began the canvass of the city

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on condition that the citizens subscribe \$2000 in cash for the library's benefit. Judge Deady personally solicited donations, and secured \$225, which was set aside for a home fund. These rooms were occupied by the association free of rent until June, 1885, a period of 24 years, when the library was installed in its new building. As the rooms had a rental value of from \$1500 to \$1500 per year, it is easily seen that the gift was of a most substantial character, amounting to at least \$38,000. Mr. Ladd was always a staunch friend of the library and quick to respond whenever help was needed.

**Work of Judge Deady.**  
Recognizing the necessity of a permanent income for the purchase of books and periodicals, says Mr. Leach, President Deady early submitted a plan by which 40 or more perpetual memberships be sold at \$250 apiece. All the principal sums derived from the sale of said memberships to be invested under the direction of the association and kept as a perpetual and irreducible fund, the interest of which shall be applied from time to time to procure reading matter for the use and benefit of the association."

Judge Deady took it upon himself to personally dispose of these memberships and in the end procured the signature of 101 subscribers, bringing to the treasury \$25,250, the annual income of which is at present \$1885. In this connection it is becoming to call attention to the vast amount of labor entailed in securing these names, and which was undertaken in addition to his official duties as United States District Judge. Those conversant with the circumstances are of the opinion that none other could have accomplished what Matthew P. Deady, with his impressive personality and his unflinching enthusiasm, did in the library's cause.

Judge Deady, in one of his annual reports, pays this tribute to W. S. Ladd: "By the favor of our good friend, W. S. Ladd, we have occupied these rooms for 23 years free of charge. I hope the next annual report (1901) of your president will be read in the new building, and that we will be no longer dependent upon the bounty of another for shelter. Permit me in your name, as well as the public, to thank Mr. Ladd for his long-continued generosity to this good work, which represents not less than \$20,000 in cost, and without which it would probably long since have languished and died."

Anticipating the sale of the Ella M. Smith bequest, the original plans were changed and the building, instead of costing \$75,000, as projected, was erected at an expense of about \$100,000. The depreciation in values following the panic of 1893 made the sale of the property difficult and undesirable, and the library debt, with accrued interest, amounted at one time to \$143,000. The donation of \$70,000 in 1888 reduced this to about \$73,000, \$22,500 of it bearing interest, and in 1900 the daughters of the late Henry Failing very generously contributed the sum of \$25,000, the amount due on the note to the savings bank.

The movement that resulted in making the library free is the result of several streams of independent action. Prominent among these is the work of the Portland Woman's Club in promoting library legislation, and finally securing the passage of the recent bill granting to city councils the power to levy a one-fifth mill tax for the support of libraries, under which the present library is working. A second stream of influence was that of the St. Andrew's Society, whose patriotic members and officers secured the Carnegie

|                                                                                                        |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1884-Subscription of citizens.....                                                                     | \$2,500   |
| 1885-Subscription of citizens (for furnishing new rooms).....                                          | 650       |
| 1873-Subscription of citizens.....                                                                     | \$215     |
| 1883-Stephen G. Skidmore (for home chronology).....                                                    | 5,000     |
| 1885-For purchase of the half-block from Lloyd Brooke.....                                             | 2,000     |
| C. H. Lewis.....                                                                                       | 2,000     |
| H. W. Corbett.....                                                                                     | 2,000     |
| Henry Failing.....                                                                                     | 2,000     |
| Donna M. Corbett.....                                                                                  | 2,000     |
| M. W. Beebe.....                                                                                       | 2,000     |
| Lloyd Brooke.....                                                                                      | 2,000     |
| Burrell bequest, for etching.....                                                                      | 1,000     |
| 1886-S. G. Reed, for home fund.....                                                                    | 1,000     |
| 1886-M. W. Beebe bequest.....                                                                          | 6,250     |
| 1888-Ella M. Smith bequest (real estate inventoried in 1890 at).....                                   | 127,500   |
| 1890-For a maintenance fund.....                                                                       | 10,000    |
| S. Kearney.....                                                                                        | 10,000    |
| Henry Failing.....                                                                                     | 10,000    |
| S. G. Reed.....                                                                                        | 10,000    |
| H. W. Corbett.....                                                                                     | 5,000     |
| H. J. Corbett.....                                                                                     | 5,000     |
| C. H. Lewis.....                                                                                       | 5,000     |
| Mrs. L. W. Shilton.....                                                                                | 5,000     |
| 1898-For the reduction of the debt-Estate of C. H. Lewis.....                                          | 10,000    |
| Estate W. S. Ladd.....                                                                                 | 20,000    |
| H. W. Corbett.....                                                                                     | 20,000    |
| Henry Failing.....                                                                                     | 20,000    |
| 1898-Mrs. E. S. Kearney.....                                                                           | 70,000    |
| 1898-Tyler Woodward.....                                                                               | 100       |
| 1898-Henry Failing bequest.....                                                                        | 10,000    |
| 1900-John Wilson bequest of 8000 volumes and manuscripts, valued at.....                               | 30,711    |
| 1900-John Wilson bequest (contribution to expense fund to maintain John Wilson library).....           | 2,500     |
| 1900-Henrietta E. Failing, Mary Furbush Failing, Emily Failing Cabell (for reduction of the debt)..... | 20,000    |
| Total.....                                                                                             | \$335,475 |

# Saint Patrick

By Edwin Markham  
Author of THE MAN WITH THE HOE etc.



Wandered from the Antrim hills,  
Wandered from Kallala's rills,  
Folk of Fochlad called to him  
From their forest deep and dim;  
And in vision little hands  
Beckoned from the Irish lands,  
Where the Western billows spoke  
With the Druid groves of oak.  
Evermore their cry did seem  
Calling, calling, through his dream,  
"Hasten with the flower of truth;  
Walk among us, holy youth!"

When he spread his dauntless sail  
To the gladness of the gale,  
Glowing demons, mile on mile,  
Stood in circle around the Isle,  
Laughing out their crackling rage,  
At the young, unfeared sage.  
There with lifted cross he came  
Breathing low the Sacred Name;  
And the demons, form by form,  
Fled in fury down the storm.

Over the Isle his spirit went  
Like fire across the firmament,  
Kings at Tara caught the word,  
Churl and kern and chieftain heard.  
Low, the Druid's mystic rod  
Fell down withered before God!

With the frost he kindled fire;  
Drove the snakes from brake and briar,  
Hurling out the writhing brood  
With the lightning of his rod.  
Once he stooped, and with his hand  
Traced a cross upon the sand;  
Then a wonder—from the ground  
Sprang a stream with silver sound!  
And a blind man kneeling there  
Laved his eyelids, whispering prayer.  
Then across re-lighted eyes  
Rushed the splendor of the skies—  
Poured the purple of the hills—  
Glanced the gold of daffodils—  
Shined the roads that have no ends—  
Smiled the faces of old friends.

And when Patrick fell on sleep,  
Twelve the days were, still and deep—  
Twelve the days, with never a night,  
Never a cloud across the light.  
Angels chanted out the hours  
Leaning from their sky-hung towers;  
Like a garden blown to bloom  
Was the sweetness around his tomb.

Fable, legend, all are true:  
More than these did Patrick do!  
For he cleared the serpent den,  
Hiding in the hearts of men;  
Letting Love's bright fountain spring  
Into sweetest murmuring  
Yes, the wise, heroic breed  
Bring us miracle indeed.

On the dark he left God's smile,  
Lighting up Ierne's Isle;  
And forever lives his name  
As the rose upon her fame.