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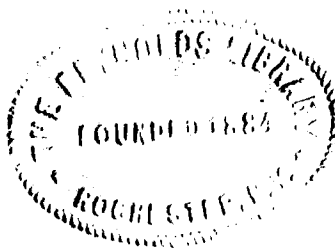
CELEBRATION OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION
OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER · EXERCISES
HELD IN CONVENTION HALL OCTOBER
NINETEEN · NINETEEN HUNDRED NINE

1834—1909



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**CELEBRATION OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION
OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER · NEW YORK**



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IN THE YEAR NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINE

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CELEBRATION OF SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER
EXERCISES HELD IN CONVENTION HALL OCTOBER
NINETEEN · NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINE

ROCHESTER'S celebration of her diamond jubilee in the fall of 1909 marked the year as one of special importance in the history of the city. Incorporated on April 28, 1834, the city of flowers, of homes, of beautiful parks, well kept streets, churches, schools and varied industrial establishments, looked back with pride over 75 years of wonderfully consistent growth and progress, and it was fitting that the rounding out of the three-quarter milestone toward a century of corporate existence should be marked by the holding of a jubilee, not only that the achievements of the past might be appropriately emphasized but to lend, as well, inspiration to her citizens to continue in the future to expand and achieve.

October 19 was the date chosen for the celebration, this time fitting in with the holding of the second annual Industrial Exhibition conducted by the Chamber of Commerce. Rochester's new Convention Hall had been remodeled and enlarged to meet the demands of an increasing number of enthusiastic exhibitors, great preparations had been made to entertain the throngs of visitors which it was expected the exposition would attract, and which it did attract; Rochester's business streets were a blaze of light by night and a brilliant scene of waving flags and bunting by day; great festoons of myriad electric lights had been suspended in the air at the intersections of the principal downtown streets and these, when lighted, produced a gorgeous scene of brilliancy and color. In fact, the city of flowers truly was en fete. It was under these conditions and amid these environments

that the celebration was held with all her citizens enthusiastically ready and willing to make the occasion memorable.

The formal exercises were held in Convention Hall, with its flowers and lights and the artistically arrayed offerings of the city's varied and complex industries. Thousands were present at these exercises as celebrants and interested spectators, while the municipal, civic, industrial, educational and religious life of the city were represented on the rostrum where the Hon. Hiram H. Edgerton, Mayor of Rochester, presided. An invocation was given by Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, bishop of the Catholic diocese of Rochester; Dr. Rush Rhees, President of the University of Rochester, was the orator of the day; Mr. Henry Herbert Knibbs, for a number of years a resident of Rochester, read a poem he had composed for the occasion.

Mayor Edgerton opened the exercises with an address of a congratulatory nature, reviewing briefly the marvelous growth of the city, both in population and wealth. He then introduced Mr. Knibbs and at the conclusion of that gentleman's reading of "The Song of Rochester Day," presented Dr. Rush Rhees to the audience.

An industrial parade had been planned to precede the exercises in Convention Hall, but this spectacle, on account of a steady downpour of rain, was postponed until the following day, when it far surpassed in the number and beauty of floats, anything heretofore seen in Rochester. Thousands of citizens and more thousands of visitors densely packed the streets traversed by this historical and industrial pageant, while thousands filled the windows of stores and business blocks and even stood on roofs of buildings. The parade was composed of three divisions. Hon. William H. Vicinus was chief marshal and his adjutant was Dr. Charles S. Moon. The first division was commanded by Colonel George F. Roth, the second by Mr. Charles S. Rauber and the third by Thomas F. Brown. At the reviewing stand in front of the County Court House on Main street, west, the parade was reviewed by Mayor Hiram H. Edgerton, Hon. Charles E. Ogden, secretary to the Mayor, President Edward G. Miner,

of the Chamber of Commerce, Roland B. Woodward, general secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Hon. Eugene J. Dwyer, president of the Common Council, Sydney R. Clarke, of the committee of arrangements, prominent citizens and city and county officials.

MAYOR EDGERTON'S ADDRESS

In opening the formal exercises at Convention Hall, Mayor Hiram H. Edgerton said:

"To-day Rochester is celebrating its seventy-five years of history as an incorporated city. It is a proud and happy record. Our location is one of the most beautiful in this great Empire State, and we have grown and prospered as the commercial and industrial center of a broad and thrifty surrounding country. Our population has increased from twelve thousand to more than two hundred thousand, and our area from four thousand four hundred acres to more than thirteen thousand acres.

"When we were incorporated we had sixty-six miles of streets; now we have three hundred and thirty-six miles. Then we had seven miles of cobblestone pavements; now we have one hundred and seventy miles of well paved streets. Then we had four miles of sewers; now we have two hundred and fifty-three miles. Then we had thirty whale-oil lamps on our streets; now we have three thousand, six hundred electric lights, and one hundred and twenty gas lamps to guide us by night, to say nothing of the wonderful illuminations which make the city brilliant during this exposition. Then we had eight acres of parks; now we have one thousand four hundred acres of parks.

"In 1834 our property valuation was two and one-half millions; now it is more than one hundred and fifty million. Nor have we neglected the spiritual side of life, for while we then had fourteen churches, we now have one hundred and thirty-one. Our schools and educational facilities have increased in like proportion.

“These figures, which are given in round numbers, illustrate how great have been our growth and expansion. They also warn us of the responsibility which is ours. May we receive a great inspiration from this hour for truer manhood, for higher citizenship, for more sincere brotherhood. And while we look with pride upon the achievements of the past, may we accept the tasks of the present with such a broad and unselfish patriotism as will make the future equally secure and glorious.”

DR. RUSH RHEES' ADDRESS

Address delivered by Dr. Rush Rhees, President of the University of Rochester, at the celebration of Rochester's Diamond Jubilee, in Convention Hall, October 19, 1909.

OUR HERITAGE AND OUR TASK

“It is fitting that we should meet in holiday gladness to celebrate this day. Last April—the 28th day thereof, to be exact—our city entered upon its seventy-sixth year. The attainment of such an age marks for a city simply one of the early stages of its vigorous young life. But to its citizens it gives good occasion for affectionate congratulation and for earnest hopefulness.

“A city is not primarily that which the casual visitor sees. He notes busy streets, paved and kept clean at large expense, lined by closely built business houses, or comfortable homes. He sees electric cars going to all points of compass; police guarding the property and persons of citizens; firemen waiting attentive to save the city from loss or destruction. He sees the streets brilliantly illuminated by night and wires of telephones spreading like spiders' webs in every direction. While below the surface inquiry may discover another network of sewers, water mains, gas pipes and wire conduits. Physically these are the city. But they are not so in any abiding and vital sense.

“The city is, first of all, its people. Therefore our celebration to-day bears our thought back over all the years that

are gone since first the white man claimed for his own use the powers running lavishly to waste in the falls of the Genesee. No city bears more indelibly the stamp set upon it by early settlers than does our fair Rochester. I shall not detain you by a rehearsal of our history. But I deem it worth while to remark upon some of the elements which have contributed to make our people what they are.

“We owe our name to a family resident in Westmoreland county, Virginia, for three generations prior to the purchase by Nathaniel Rochester of the land on which our city’s first buildings were erected. It was a family bred in the traditions and manners and ideals of the Old Dominion; devoted, as well, to the cause of liberty in which the great Virginian, Washington, was the triumphant leader. With Colonel Rochester two other southern families, his neighbors in Hagarstown, Maryland, were associated in the original purchase of the site of our city. But we know little of the active relations which the Carrolls and Fitzhughs sustained to the life of the young community. Colonel Rochester, on the other hand, settled here with his family in 1818 and lived amongst our people until his death in 1831. His name is dwelt upon not simply because he gave it to our city, but because we count some traits in our heritage to be most easily traceable to him and to his influence.

“While the earliest proprietors of the land where now we live came from the South, the majority of the early settlers were from the East, and in significant proportion from New England. I need only mention from among our earliest settlers the names of Scrantom, Peck and Riley, from Connecticut, and Reynolds from Vermont. Your memories will run much farther than my knowledge. Our people owe their present traits in very large measure to this extensive immigration from New England.

“From early days the Germans have contributed largely to our life, their arrival in Western New York antedating, in fact, the purchase of the hundred-acre tract by Colonel Rochester and his associates.

“As the years have passed there have come to us men and

women of sterling worth from other regions and more distant lands. And these all blending with the life they found here have helped to make the city whose vigorous young life we celebrate to-day.

"I have called attention to these origins of our people, because a city is not merely a multitude of people by chance placed for a time in close neighborhood to each other. A city has a character, often best expressed in its traditions; and that character is to it what the banks of a stream are to the waters which they confine. Rochester to-day is what it is because a group of vigorous, patriotic, courageous men and women chose to come here, now nearly a century ago, from Maryland and New England.

"It may be fanciful, but it is an opinion I have cherished ever since a good Providence made me one of you, that the character of our city retains a distinct flavor of the life which is found to the south of Mason and Dixon's line. The native born citizen may not have remarked it. But to one at all familiar with the social atmosphere of New England, of our newer West, of busy Eastern New York, and of the warm, hospitable Southland, there is a breath of the South wind unmistakable in our Rochester life. I know not how justly to describe it. But a stranger finds here readily a warmth of neighborly friendliness, quite in contrast with the cool reserve of sturdy New England, and yet wholly free from boisterousness and effusiveness. It has the quality of the southern plantation, cordial and genial, and kindly and quiet—a choice atmosphere for the making of homes and of friendships. The manners as well as the deeper character of the old time seem to have lingered here beyond the term set to them by the bustling modernism of many cities. The ruffled shirts which became the courtly manners and stately bearing of the men who built the fine old mansions of the Third ward and of old East avenue seem to belong to that southern life, represented quietly and unobtrusively by Colonel Rochester. As a new born yet ardent lover of our city, I rejoice in the evidences I find that our character as a city justifies in some intimate and vital manner our bearing of the name of

the family of our foremost early citizen and landed proprietor.

“It is, of course, futile to attempt to trace to specific early influences all the traits in so complex a life as that of a city. The story of Colonel Rochester’s early life and Revolutionary record in the South proves conclusively that no part of the country could contribute to us greater courage or enterprise or more sturdy manhood. Yet the fact that the chief strain in the emigration that had made the Rochester of 1834 came from New England justifies us in recognizing certain characteristic New England traits among our people. And first may be naturally mentioned that aptitude for business which has exploited and utilized the marvelous power borne hither by our river, and which from the early days when the Genesee Valley was the foremost flour center of the country has made Rochester’s name a familiar one the country over and the world around. I shall attempt no catalogue of Rochester enterprises historic or contemporary. The latter are exhibited for us here to-day. But we may trace a Yankee strain in those conservatively aggressive elements of our life which have made for our commercial and industrial prominence.

“The Yankee influence has been equally evident in other traits of our life. That Boston and Rochester were among the very prominent homes of the Abolition movement shows a definite kinship. Susan B. Anthony and Julia Ward Howe were not kindred souls by chance. And if Rochester has been, as is sometimes charged, unduly hospitable to all vagaries of the human imagination—from Millerism, and spirit rappings, to whatever last enthusiasm may have laid hold upon our citizens—this shows a trait of character not alien to many of our New England cousins.

“These and other strains have blended to give our city its character. One occasionally hears Rochester called provincial, a great overgrown village. Now there is a provincialism which is a reproach. When any community is so complacent regarding itself that it has lost ambition and the thought of something greater that it is yet to be, such provincialism is a disgrace and marks that town’s near and inevitable decline. When any community is so self-content that it can see no

greatness in its neighbors, and can feel no stirring of determination to keep pace with them in all that is worthy of a city's life, such provincialism is a disgrace. But when a vigorous, alert people holds affectionately to a worthy past and its traditions, eager to keep its own character and be worthy of its past,—if that be called provincialism it is a mark of strength and not of weakness. When a vigorous and alert people is frankly uninterested in the importation into its life of so-called metropolitan or cosmopolitan social customs, or moral standards, preferring to develop for itself customs suited to its own developing life, dominated by standards which are high,—if that be provincialism it is a mark of strength and not of weakness. Of such strong provincialism Rochester has many traits, and we do well to cherish them. Let us grant that the danger of blind complacency lurks nearby such provincialism. So long as our thoughts and interests are perpetually carried beyond our own borders, we have the lamp to light us past such danger. And from early days our thoughts have been carried far beyond our borders by our ever widening commerce. This brings to our consideration the second thing which constitutes a city what it is, namely, its commerce and its industries.

“In mediaeval times the gathering of large populations to a center was a necessary measure of defense. The industrial and commercial importance of such centers of population followed as a consequence of the city's new needs. In our country and our modern life the attraction which draws the people into large centers of life is not military but economic. Therefore to-day a city is to be known by its commerce and industries only less clearly than by its people and their character, for such commerce and industries have in no small measure determined the type of men who have made the city their home and have given to its character.

“Of few cities is this so true as of Rochester. Colonel Rochester and his associates were laughed at for their purchase of the swamp at the falls of the Genesee. Men of other though less far sighted judgment had sought to start a town below the lower falls and elsewhere in the region.

And the fact is significant that the city which now is third in importance in the Empire State was much later in its beginnings than very many of the sturdy towns of Western New York. It was the water power of the Genesee which drew hither first that strange outlaw, Ebenezer Allen, that he might build here a mill to grind his distant neighbors' grain and saw their logs for them. The same magnet of abundant power attracted Rochester and Fitzhugh and Carroll. The fact that here was energy sufficient for all the mills that might be needed to grind all the wheat that might be grown in the surpassingly fertile valley of our river, predestined this site for the growth of the Flour City.

"But as the years have passed new resources have been developed. There is no one industry which characterizes us. When the development of western farms shifted the wheat center from the Valley of the Genesee, the old mills suffered, but the city did not decline. Manifold industries claimed the aid of the river, while a new resource was discovered in the fertile soil; and Rochester changed the spelling of its nickname and became the city of flowers; for the wide world over trees and plants and shrubs were bought from the nurseries and seed farms of Rochester.

"Our people have proved as fertile in resource as the surrounding acres in productivity; for decade after decade new industries have arisen, owing their origin to widely varying circumstances, but similar in their world-wide usefulness and in the profitableness of their development and pursuit. This exposition within the bounds of which we are now gathered, is not the indication of our complacency and pride. It is rather our stock-taking as a community that we may know what are the commerce and industry that in large measure make us what we are.

"But such development as we have considered makes our city, like other cities, a powerful magnet drawing to itself ever increasing numbers of people as well as ever increasing stores of wealth—and of poverty. It has become commonplace of late to remark upon the movement of people from the country to the towns, upon the depopulation of our farm-

ing districts and the consequent disturbance of the wholesome equilibrium of our life as a nation. I can think of no problem more momentous or urgent than this problem, nor of any which should engage more earnestly our attention and study. It is not our problem at this time, however, except indirectly. With us, as with other cities, it is true that the city is its people, for its people make its industries and commerce. And with us, as with other cities, it is true that the recruiting ground for strong manhood to build up our people is the country. In men, no city is self supporting. It leans on its farming neighborhood for men, even as it does for food supplies. What a city's plight will be if that source of supply grows weak and poor is readily perceived.

“But what can the city do to keep its own supply of manhood strong? The answer to that question leads us to the consideration of a third trait by which a city is known. That is by its regard for the spiritual side of the life of its people.

“It is matter for cheer that among the first questions which families ask concerning a city is: Are its churches strong and are its schools good? Inauspicious for the city's future character as was the first settler by our falls, Ebenezer Allen was happily displaced by another sort of settler—by a people that feared God and regarded man. From its very early days Rochester has been a city of churches, and throughout its history its people have been readily responsive to the claims of religion. This is not the place to trace a history of the religious life of Rochester from before the days when the Reverend Comfort Williams was settled as the first pastor of what we still call by common consent The First Church. Nor is this the place to analyze that aspect of our character which has made it hospitable to so many vagaries of religion. It is pertinent to our purpose, however, to remark that our people as a whole are devoted to their churches and attentive to what they sincerely believe to be the claims of God upon their life. Herein lies an unquestionable resource for the character of our city; one which has moulded that character significantly hitherto, and one which is to influence it mightily in coming days. In the measure in which large

centers of population unquestionably give occasion and stimulus to lawlessness and vice, in that measure do we recognize the value for us of the influences which give the strength of a divine imperative to the voices which call us all 'to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.'

"Rochester has always shown deep and lasting interest in education, an interest which has spread and is spreading its influence far beyond the Genesee Valley and Western New York. That our city is the home of two seminaries for the training of ministers of religion is something that not every casual visitor would observe, something that probably not a few of our citizens overlook. But it is impossible that two such institutions can exist here with us, and we be as if they were not. Moreover, when we take the trouble to inquire into the sacrifices of time and thought and money by which devoted citizens of Rochester have proved their solicitude for those two seminaries, we become conscious that so earnest a devotion has had no small bearing on the shaping of our character as a city, unconscious of that influence as we may be.

"I will confess to having felt some interested surprise when not many years ago I discovered that that in Rochester which loyal and earnest citizens of Buffalo most covet is our college. For sixty years the University of Rochester has been lifting aloft among our people the standard of sound learning and of efficient social service. Of the great leaders of that ministry you know too well to need that I should praise them—Anderson and Kendrick and Dewey and Richardson and Quinby and Ward and Mixer and Webster and Hill—to name none of the equally illustrious who after long years among you are still serving as of old in the high cause of sound learning as a preparation for true citizenship. I may be permitted to call to your attention the fact that from the beginning in 1850 a steadily increasing stream of Rochester youth have found in our local university their intellectual training for life; and, what is not less significant, that from the beginning in 1850 a steadily increasing stream

of bright youth from other parts, having come hither for education, have become enamored of Rochester's charms and have settled here, to become some of our most loyal and useful citizens. I may be permitted to call attention to these facts, in order to impress upon you the truth that our local college aims to be for Rochester all that a college can be for a community, to be the University of Rochester in reality and not simply a worthy institution in Rochester. It would be the city's servant in all that contributes to advancement of learning and of character, the increase of human powers, the growth of civic as well as national patriotism and courage, as well as the assistance which scientific experts living at your doors may be able to give in the solution of perplexing technical problems.

"Our Mechanics Institute serves the community, and as well a wide outlying constituency, in a unique way which appeals to every one who stops to consider the importance of intelligence for the artisan, and of wholesome home life for all classes of citizens, and the institute is constantly seeking to increase the range and efficiency of that service. While the Rochester Business Institute and other private schools seek to aid youth to prepare themselves for effective office helpers.

"Add to these, that which distances them all in extent of undertaking and in range of annual expenditure—the city schools—besides the manifold private undertakings to train our children from infancy up through the years of youth, and the showing for our city's regard for education is noteworthy. That, however, we are as alive to the importance and the possibilities of adequate education as the importance of the matter demands we could hardly claim for ourselves. Our apathy as a municipality to the need for adequate public library facilities, is enough to curb any inclination to pride in this regard. The fact that the Reynolds Library and the libraries of the university and the theological seminary serve the public to the full extent of their power, does not absolve the city from its responsibility.

"Another spiritual aspect of a community's life is its re-

gard for beauty. That is not always a late development, as any one can judge who visits some of the oldest settlements in New England and observes the broad commons, the noble trees, the stately mansions which prove how earnestly the men of old time sought to make their new homes beautiful. It must be confessed, however, that most American cities, being aggregations of people bound together for commercial reasons, have allowed considerations of civic beauty to pass out of mind even while their own houses and gardens have received full attention and care for beauty if not for luxury. It is only in this 20th century that Boston is recovering the banks of the Charles river as a place of beauty for the enjoyment of the whole people. Chicago is also seeking to regain its lake front at fabulous expense, after allowing it to pass into the hands of useful but not beauty loving corporations. We, too, are at length aroused. Some parts of our noble Pinnacle have been rescued forever from the fate of becoming mere sand pits, and lavish private liberality has secured for us lands adjoining those hills, as well as the lovely Eastman-Durand Park by the lake. When, however, we consider our river banks and our city buildings, we must acknowledge that we have not done as well in regard for civic beauty as our children would fain have had us do. Every plaint of that sort, however, must be coupled with our pride in streets of unsurpassed charm, like East avenue, Portsmouth terrace, Oxford street, Livingston park, and other lovely parts of our beautiful city. If in some respects our city has been woefully careless of its heritage of beauty, in others it has proved that the wilderness can blossom like the rose.

“To-day we are turning our faces backward and recalling to memory the years that have gone. Our seventy-five years of youth have brought much growth and therewith many problems that our fathers knew not. Exulting in the goodly accomplishments gained hitherto, in the advantages those attainments give for new progress, and in the still greater possibilities the coming years offer to lure us to larger and fuller ambitions, let us pause to consider the comment which our past would offer on our present and its prospects.

“The first comment a consideration of that past forces on our thought is this: That bigness is not greatness. It is possible to watch too eagerly the successive census reports; to be too satisfied with the number of thousands added to our population in the last five years; to be eager simply to say that so many new industries have sought a home here, so many new streets have been paved, so many hundreds of thousands have been added to our bank deposits, so many new pupils registered in our schools and colleges. Hitherto Rochester has escaped the contagion of love of bigness for bigness’ sake. But during the last decade our population has increased twenty-five per cent. Life has been moving with us somewhat bewilderingly. We need to pause on a day like this and consider that such growth involves a burden of responsibility. These new thousands must be made to be Rochesterians—sharing our character, stirred by our ideals, respectful at least of our traditions and our heritage. I say this because I know you all believe those traditions and that heritage to be a worthy foundation on which to build a still greater—which is something quite other than simply a bigger—Rochester.

“The second comment the past offers us to-day upon our present strikes at the root of that problem of greatness rather than bigness. One of our chief glories hitherto has been that Rochester has been a city of homes. We drive visiting strangers through our streets that they may see our thousands upon thousands of homes, and that they may remark the scarcity among us of the tenement and the apartment house. But you all know that within ten years conditions have changed seriously in our fair city. It is to-day extremely difficult for the thousands who come to swell our pride in growing numbers, to find fit places to set up their homes. The cost of houses and of rental has increased enormously. And this is precisely the condition which begets the slum. Broad lands, however, are all about us. The trolley lines have run ahead of population to the outskirts of the city. What is needed is farsighted regard for the preservation of our city’s character as a city of homes. For the city, as for

the man, life does not consist in abundance of possessions. The past calls out to us to keep Rochester as a city of Homes. This amazing exhibition of Rochester industry and enterprise accentuates the challenge. New business ventures need new men who must have homes. If we are to grow really great, we must provide places where our people can live in decent comfort within their means. It would be a crime for Rochester with her goodly past to allow herself to become a city of slums.

“One only shall I choose from the varied other messages of our past to our present, as we look forward to the fourth quarter of our first century. And that is this: Let us cherish still our spiritual civic ideals. It is not an idle challenge nor a dreamer’s call. It is urged upon us by the very astonishing recent growth of our commerce and industry. It needs but a small knowledge of other communities or of our own human nature to perceive that each step we take in deeper absorption in our new and fascinating enterprises as men of business, brings to us new temptations to forget that we are citizens of a city. Cities like children generally go to the bad if left to grow up without the controlling guidance of worthy purposes and high ambitions. Rochester has been called a city notably lacking in civic spirit and ambition. Forces are working among us to correct that reputation. This exhibition is one manifestation of those forces. Our celebration today is a strong stimulus to those forces. What do we wish our city to become? Do we hope for more than bigness, for more than increasing bank deposits, for more than swelling tax levies? If so, we must give heed to civic interests which may take some time from our counting rooms. We must recognize that municipal politics cannot forever be considered solely from the point of view of what seems to be present business advantage. We must sedulously keep our human interests alert, that the spirit of neighborliness do not die out as the strangers flock in amongst us. Our past has been a worthy past. It appeals to the present in behalf of the future,—that that future may not be left to thoughtless chance, but may be worked for with wise and courageous

purpose. Such wisdom and courage will not shut the eye to difficulties to be surmounted, or to evils to be overcome. But resolutely seeking a City—clean and wholesome in politics, in business, and in social life; a city intelligent; a city of friendliness and a city of fair and worthy exterior,—seeking carefully these things, such wisdom and courage will welcome every call to set ease or indolent complacency aside, and to give thought and time and whatever else may be needful, to make our city as fair and as lovable in the eyes of our children's children as it is to-day in the eyes of the descendants of our grandfathers.

“To you, Sir, as official representative of the city on this day of celebration, the seventy-five years that are gone present their legacy. And from you this day the generation now active receives that legacy as a priceless treasure and an inspiring challenge.”

THE SONG OF ROCHESTER DAY

(Poem written by Henry Herbert Knibbs and read by him at the celebration of Rochester's Diamond Jubilee in Convention Hall, Rochester, October 19, 1909.)

The marshes held me captive for long years,
Until there came,
Leading a band of bronzed pioneers,
Nathaniel Rochester. What hopes, what fears,
Lived in that name!

Great was his faith. His were prophetic eyes
Which saw, o'er trail and farm of primal days,
Stone upon stone to spire and dome arise,
He set his name upon my destinies,
And shaped my ways.

And so I grew, while ax and hammer rung,
Building an arch
To span the flood below that leapt and flung,
Roaring to speed the mills—the mills that sung
My onward march.

For leagues and leagues the echo of that song,
Loosed from its thrall,
Sped the dim forests' narrow trails along,
Calling men to me. Men, serene and strong,
Came at my call.

These were my early sons who labored well,
And won me from the forest. They abide
Within my open annals—aye, they dwell
Forever with me, for my fair streets tell
Of them, my pride.

And in my inmost shrine of shrines I keep
A daughter's name. Ah, woman's firmest friend,
Sleep well—my daughters, watching o'er thy sleep,
Bear gratitude eternal, for they reap
The soul's true freedom thou didst e'er defend.

Ye know the soul whose midnight labors found
New stars that swept the vast of heaven's dome.
Ye know the soul who made my gates renowned
As a sure refuge for the slave, and crowned
My name with world-wide honor as his home.

I hold naught but a mother-city's claim
In these my sons who to the world belong.
My heart sings but one tribute to their fame,
While the high chorus of the world's acclaim
O'erwhelms my song.

For great men's names no local confines know,
But reach the farthest shore that harbors men,
And breathe a power to turn the tyrant's blow,
Inspire the serf, and lift the hour of woe
To hope again.

Crowning my past, my present efforts build
A greater name.
What hope so vast that may not be fulfilled,
When those who guard my destinies have willed
A wider fame!

What halls may not be mine, where tomes shall hold
The wisdom of the ages, tier on tier;
What galleries of treasures manifold,
(Statue and canvas, marble, bronze and gold),
May not be mine, that I may cry, "Behold!
These are the temples of the sons I rear!"

The strips of steel that wed me to the sea
Pledge me to future wealth and prosperous days.
The world-ports feel the growing strength of me,
Outflowing from the breadth and length of me,
Through the full pulse of freighted water-ways.

"City of Flowers,"—so men speak to me;—
Broad are my wooded parks, and fair my vales,
Through which, in splendid native symmetry,
Sweep pleasant roads, past verdant hills and dales.

Pure are my fountains; many are my spires;
Fragrant my borders, rich with fruitful bowers;
Fulfilled is the great vision of the sires
Who saw my promise in the cabin fires
Of lonely hours.

On my success a greater fortune waits;
A dawning glory in my sky appears,
For, 'round the ensign of my wide estates,
My sons stand at the Future's open gates,
The pioneers!

The following account of the industrial parade appeared in the columns of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle of October 20, 1909. The other daily newspapers, The Rochester Herald, The Evening Times, The Post Express, and The Union and Advertiser gave equally as full and interesting descriptions of the event.

"Floats as dainty as a lady's bower and floats typical of the practical side of industry there were, and they covered so wide a range, embodied so much of beauty and originality, and made such varying impressions that the spectators were lost in bewilderment.

"A close estimate could be made of the amount of money represented in the various entries. In the opinion of an official who viewed the display—an opinion shared by those who overheard the estimate—\$25,000 was spent at the demand of civic pride and commercial acuteness. It was money well spent, in the general opinion, for it was an impressive way of illustrating to the country that Rochester has grown and is advancing rapidly, and is doing so mainly from the impulse furnished by its far-sighted business men.

"In the van of the column was one of the bobtailed horse cars of 1888, and following closely was one of the latest types of street railway passenger cars. Both cars had as passengers a number of young women wearing yellow chrysanthemums.

"The first float was a representation of a French camp on Irondequoit bay with Seneca Indians and Dutch captives. Costumes of the period lent a strong historical flavor to the scene.

"The Continentals, a company of boys from the public schools, followed Colonel Samuel P. Moulthrop in a riding costume of 1910 and a flowered silk waistcoat worn by Nathaniel Rochester in 1788, led the command on a big charger.

"The first public school built in Rochester in 1813 was represented in the next entry. A yoke of oxen hauled the float, and two boys in the dress of the early part of the last century were introduced in the feature. There was a packet boat, the Lion of the West, with women passengers in hats that were not unlike the peach-basket creations of the present day, and there was a stage coach loaded with fares, the women here also in their head-dress especially taking the spectators back a century to the time when the transportation facilities were not only meagre, but decidedly poor.

"East High School pupils giving the old yell in vogue before West High came into existence, a float entered by No. 7 Playground, an entry from the elementary schools, Mechanics Institute and the Art Students' League followed in that order.

"The students from the Mechanics Institute appearing in the float from that school gave a special yell for General Secretary Roland B. Woodward, who was in the reviewing stand. Mr. Woodward was formerly head of the mechanic arts department of Mechanics Institute.

"Park Commissioners Frank G. Newell and William S. Riley were at the head of the Park Band, and a company of park employees followed in their white suits. Then came six floats from the Park Board, which included caged animals and birds from the Seneca Park Zoo. One float was decorated beautifully with fall flowers from Highland Park; and a band of Seneca Indians was introduced as a hint of the changes that have been wrought since the various tribes roamed over the land that is now embraced in the park system. The spectators gave the warwhoop, the

Indians yelled and indulged in a war dance, each wearing tribal costume and having his face painted in approved fashion. Included in the park sections were carriages containing Superintendent C. C. Laney and commissioners and delegations from the engineering and botanical departments.

"A cleverly constructed float from the Bureau of Buildings depicted the first building erected in Rochester. Logs, of course, formed the material entering into the original building and logs were cleverly counterfeited by the creator of the float.

"Wendel Bayer and James Malcolm, former chiefs of the Fire Department, headed the section devoted to a representation of the old fire-fighting apparatus. There were ladder trucks very light in construction, as was necessitated by the man power employed in trundling them to fires, and the buckets of the olden days were to be seen dangling from the truck frame. The village department was organized in 1818. One of the entries in this section was the engine used fifty years ago, now owned and used by the village of Wayland. It looked to be about as effective as one of the small power sprayers used by orchardists.

"Old fellows along the line of march looked fondly upon the hose cart "Spider" used from 1865 to 1885. Delegations from the Exempt Firemen's Association and from the Protectives were seen in this section. "Empire" hook and ladder truck, in use forty years ago, a carriage used by the Protectives over thirty years ago and Active Hose 2 wagon, the first of its kind used in this state, were other pieces of apparatus which were a part of the display. J. C. Kalbfleisch did a great deal of work in getting the apparatus and men together for the occasion. Among the veteran volunteer fighters in the section was Samuel B. Williams.

"It is a far cry from the antiquated hand apparatus of 1818 to the powerful equipment of the present Fire Department, and the spectators almost pinched themselves when the old order of things had its inning, and the wonderful discipline, extent and other features of the present day system was enrolled before them. A piece of the most modern apparatus from each of the divisions of the Fire Department was introduced, machines, horses and men being in every way a twentieth century product. Chief Charles Little and Assistant Chief Frank A. Jaynes rode in the department automobile.

"The volunteer firemen of Sea Breeze turned out under Chief Frank X. Harter.

"The section devoted to firemen and their implements was of great interest throughout. The entries from the Rochester Waterworks and Street Departments were the last in the civic part of the pageant."