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The New Court House Dedicated.

Last Monday will go down as another important day in the history of Anderson County. Seventy years have elapsed since the first Court House was erected in this County, and since then only one change was made in the original building until it was torn down a year ago to make room for the handsome and modern building that has just been completed and turned over to the County officials. This new temple of justice stands on the site of the old one, but, of course, covers more ground. It is a building that attracts the admiration of every visitor to Anderson, and one that every citizen of the County can point to with pride.

The building committee, consisting of Supervisor Snelgrove, J. D. Maxwell, J. F. Clardy, J. H. Jones and W. D. Garrison, have discharged their duty most faithfully, and the taxpayers of Anderson County may rest assured that they have a Court House that could not again be erected for the same sum of money that this one cost.

Last Monday was set apart for the formal dedication of this new temple of justice. An interesting program had been arranged for the occasion, and throughout the exercises were most impressive and interesting.

At 10 o'clock a. m. the Court officials with the members of the bar and representatives of the local press, formed a procession at the Hotel Calhoun and marched to the Court House. The spacious Court room was crowded to its utmost capacity, a great many ladies honoring the occasion with their presence.

The Anderson Orchestra was present, and after rendering a charming selection of music, J. L. Tribble, Esq., Chairman of the committee of arrangements, called the assembly to order, and Rev. J. N. H. Sumner offered a most fervent prayer.

After another selection of music, Mr. Tribble spoke as follows:

My it please your Honor: The Committee have deemed it proper before holding Court to have the new Court House formally dedicated, and for this purpose a program has been arranged, and the honor of introducing these services has been placed upon me. With your Honor's permission, by way of introduction, let me say that beauty, whether in nature or in art, always attracts. It has the power of thrilling or inspiring. I ever stand in awe and admiration before a building and gaze upward at its lofty spires and glittering domes but a feeling comes over me of man's innate desire to ascend. I am a great believer in the laws of development—evolution—the ascent, and not descent, of man's intellect. I have never been disturbed with the scientific idea that man came from a lower order of animal life. If he did, his place in the world shows that he is the ascendant and not descendant animal. Whatever his origin, he struggles upward and upward toward a higher goal of civilization.

It only excites our wonder and curiosity when we read that men were once content to live caves and rock-clefts but their only place of habitation. From there we emerged into the light of heaven and a purer atmosphere. As man's mind began to expand and demand more and more comforts for his body. The tents and booths of Nimrod, the mighty hunter before the Lord, became inadequate, and he builded a city. After 40 years wandering in the wilderness, the Children of Israel sat down to the business of life. Houses took the place of tents, the tabernacle became insignificant, and in its place the magnificent temple towered above the walls of Jerusalem, reflecting the wisdom of Solomon and the glory of Israel. As out of the shimmering, the scintillating idea of the past, the world evolved that now drives the commerce of the world, so here by line from the rude huts of the past, was evolved the idea of architectural design that fills the land with comfortable dwellings, palatial residences, and inspiring churches and schools.

Wherever Christian civilization has gone she has carried architectural design as her handmaid, building Churches, Colleges, hospitals, homes of refuge and temples of justice. The culture and refinement of a nation finds its highest expression in the beauty and taste of architectural design and ornamentation.

Athena centered hers in the Acropolis, the Roman's was centered in the Coliseum; the Anglo-Saxon in grand halls and splendid cathedrals, where the light streams through painted windows, and through long drawn aisles and jetted vaults the pealing anthems wells the note of praise.

It was MacCauley, I believe, in speaking of the English said, that it was not easy to explain why the nation which was so far behind its neighbors in science should in art have been so far behind them all, but such was the fact.

Not until after the great fire in London did the English nation seem to take interest in architectural beauty. It took that great fire to bring to light the genius of Christopher Wren. The long since moulded into dust, while the St. Paul of London stands, Christopher Wren will live in the lines of that noble structure.

It has been the boast of this grand old County for years that she has outstripped her neighbors, and some even dared to claim for her the name "Banner County," and I never could explain why a people who claimed so much for themselves, were content to suffer so long the old building—a fit abode for vermin—to occupy the most conspicuous place in their chief city. But the laws of evolution are inexorable. The fulness of time came, and our past chagrin at the appearance of the old, gives away before our joy and admiration of this beautiful temple of justice, which stands "a thing of beauty and a joy forever." There are buildings more elaborate in design and ornamentation, more artistic in finish, but many of them represent a useless expenditure of money without utility of purpose.

I congratulate the people of Anderson in that they had a Board of County Commissioners worthy of such a building. I congratulate the Commissioners themselves, in that they displayed sound practical judgment by placing the construction in the hands of a special committee who have discharged their duty so faithfully and economically. They deserve the tablet placed on the front with their names engraved thereon. That was no part of the expense of the building, but a donation by the contractors.

My judgment for it, you have a building of which you may all be justly proud. It is modern (and has no more sage) in its taste and attractive in design, beautiful for symmetry, built out of first-class material from the first brick to the final one that crowns the tower. It is of that style of architecture—some what of the composite order—Americanized. That is, it has all that is necessary to make it pleasing to the eye, useful in ornamentation, essentially comfortable, and it is a credit to this grand old County and City. I am proud of it, and I pity the man who cannot share this

pride with me. He must be unregenerate. I am sure this audience feels a deep appreciation of this noble workmanship, and with grateful hearts we have met this morning to formally dedicate it to the gratification of the public mind. I am sure that in this service we have with us one so well qualified by many varied gifts to perform this service. There is no one, to my knowledge, in the State better qualified by education and by natural ability, to perform this service than the Judge of the first Circuit, Hon. W. C. Benet, Presiding Judge. He needs no introduction in Anderson.

Mr. Tribble was followed by J. E. Breazeale, Esq., who, in delivering the keys of the new Court House, in behalf of the Building Committee, to the Presiding Judge, spoke as follows:

May it please your Honor: In behalf of the County Board of Commissioners of Anderson County I desire to turn over to you the keys to this building, to perform this service that is the duty of the law. We will be the custodian thereof.

The County Board of Commissioners congratulate themselves that they have been enabled to construct a building adequate to the demands of the business of the county and which affords reasonable protection to all the records which will be contained within its walls, as well as one which will assure some accommodations to those having business in court.

It has long been felt that the old building which occupied this site was not only inadequate for the transaction of the business of our courts and of the different county officers and for the protection of the records of the county, but was not in keeping with the prosperity and dignity of the best county in the State. The Grand Jurors of the county have, almost every year, for more than ten years, made recommendations looking to the erection of a new court house and jail, and the County Board of Commissioners have several times asked the General Assembly of the State for some legislation enabling them to provide the means for the building of a new court house and jail.

Two or three efforts were made to secure such legislation, but not until the session of the Legislature in 1896 was such legislation enacted. An Act was then passed levying a tax of one mill upon the dollar each year for six years, the funds raised thereby to be used for the erection of a court house and jail, in favor thereof. This Act was defeated by a vote at an election held at the regular election in 1896.

At the session of the General Assembly of 1897, a similar Act was passed with the difference that the Act of 1896 gave the discretion to the County Board of Commissioners to build the court house on this site or to exchange it for a more suitable one, while the Act of 1897 limited the amount to be raised to \$35,000. The vote on the last Act was in favor of the court house and jail, thus showing a preference of the voters of the county for the present location.

By virtue of the said Act the building committee of the County Board of Commissioners, elected by said Board and consisting of W. P. Snelgrove, County Supervisor as chairman, J. D. Maxwell, J. F. Clardy, W. D. Garrison and J. H. Jones went to work to secure the erection of the court house and jail as contemplated by said Act.

Plans were invited and the plans submitted by Frank P. Milburn of Charlotte, N. C., were selected, and after duly advertising for bids for the construction of said buildings as per the plans and specifications, Messrs. R. P. Williams & Co. of Augusta, Ga., were awarded the contracts.

Mr. Milburn has not only demonstrated his competency as an architect, and shown himself master of every detail connected with the building, but in superintending the erection of the building has shown as much interest in having the work properly done as the building committee themselves, and has been at all times ready and willing to render any help to the committee during the progress of the work.

The committee also desire to say in behalf of the contractors that they have done all in their power to comply with the terms of their contract, and have done the work well.

The committee were limited under the Act to the expenditure of \$35,000 for the court house and jail, the amount to be raised by a tax of one mill on the dollar each year until the amount was raised, and in order to borrow the amount in advance of the collection of the tax upon a pledge of the tax to secure the payment, at a rate of interest not to exceed seven per cent. per annum.

One year's tax amounting to about \$7,000 has been collected, and the committee have borrowed from the Sinking Fund Commission of the State \$28,000 under a special Act of the General Assembly at five per cent. interest.

Notwithstanding the predictions of many that the amount of money authorized to be used for that purpose, the committee are glad to report that they have been built for a sum within the limit.

Not only have they accomplished this, but they believe they have the best court house in the State for the amount of money expended, the court house alone costing about \$28,000. In addition to this the committee, through the action of the County Board of Commissioners, were enabled to borrow from the Sinking Fund Commission at the low rate of five per cent. per annum, whereby they were enabled to save to the county \$2,500 in interest alone, being the amount less the county will have to pay in interest than they would have had to pay had they borrowed the fund amount at first at 7 per cent.

The committee desire to express their thanks to the bank officials of both banks in this city for advancing to them the necessary money to carry out the work until they could effect a satisfactory loan.

The work has required, not only considerable labor on the part of the committee, but considerable study of plans, materials and various matters connected with the construction of the buildings. It has required their time and their best judgment. How far they have met the demands made upon them, they leave to the county whom they have attempted to serve with the best of their ability to say.

They believe that they have erected a Court House, of which the people will be proud, one that is not only ornamental but sufficiently commodious for the county, and one that has all needed conveniences except a sewer in connection

with the water works, which they hope can soon be added.

The County Board of Commissioners in turning over the building for the use for which it was erected, express the hope that it may ever be in fact as well as in name, a temple of justice; that none but able, learned and conscientious Judges may ever sit on the bench now so well adorned by yourself; that the advocate who shall plead the cause of their clients here may be actuated by the highest motive of securing none but just and right decrees and verdicts, and that none may ever attempt by their eloquence to "make the wrong appear the better reason; to perplex and dash matured counsel;" that the witnesses who shall give testimony on the stand may always testify to the truth, and that the jurors shall be well contented by a sense of right with a desire to enforce the law and to punish the wrong, and may all who have business within these walls know that here law is enforced, that those who are in the right always prevail and that evil doers are always condemned.

May the different county officers who shall occupy the various court offices be competent and honest and reflect honor upon themselves and the county.

With these expressions for the future I take pleasure, Sir, in turning over to your Honor the keys of this building.

In accepting the keys, Judge Benet delivered the following address:

My Learned Brother: As a member of the Judiciary of South Carolina, I accept from you the keys of this new Court House, and I place them in the hands of the Clerk of the Court with the hope, and the assurance, that in him and his successors in office will be found a careful and watchful custodian.

In due course of official duty it was my good fortune this year to be assigned to hold the Summer Term of the Court in the Eighth Circuit, and I am truly glad to find that it has fallen to my lot to preside on this auspicious occasion, and to aid in the dedication of this new temple of justice.

I congratulate the town of Anderson on having in the middle of its handsome public square this noble temple of justice. Such a structure is a daily object lesson to a citizen.

I congratulate the County of Anderson on possessing a Court House worthy of the County. It is a long and sojourner's home for her great prosperity, intelligence and political power.

I congratulate the County Supervisor and the County Board of Commissioners on the successful completion of their enlightened efforts to provide for their county a Court House not only adequate to the growing needs of this flourishing County, but in keeping with the spirit of the cultivated people of this town, whose hotels and stores and banks and public buildings and private residences are fast re-forming the town of Anderson into a beautiful city of the State.

The utilitarian spirit with mistaken views of economy might have contented itself with erecting a bare brick barn, its four square walls devoid of beauty and its various rooms undorned and unlovely, yet affording ample room and space for the transaction of all the work proper to a Court House, and for the preservation of public records. Such Court House buildings are not far to seek in this State, things of ugliness, and eye-sores forever.

It seems sometimes to be forgotten that utility is not the end and the end-all of utility, but that there is room also for beauty. He who makes the cotton boll, in his wisdom makes also the cotton-bloom, and cotton fields bloom bonnily before cotton bales are marketed. We it was, therefore, to be in the County Board of Commissioners to determine that the new Court House should not simply be commodious and convenient and suited to the uses for which it was intended; but that it should also be pleasant to the eye, an ornament to the town, "a thing of beauty" and "a joy forever."

Here now it stands, a stately structure, beautiful exceedingly, with graceful turret and lofty tower, quaint gables and antique porch, a building to be proud of and to be a credit to its architect and builder; to the brain which conceived and the hand which constructed it.

But while we stand and look and admire, memory cannot refrain from looking backward and thinking of the old building. A beautiful thing this new structure is, yet it is a thing of the past. Unwillingly it must have been in its youth, unrightly it became in its age. The outside view revealed no line of beauty; the inside view was destitute of grace. Small, mean and equal, its day was done; it was time that it should be demolished. Yet its demolition was not without regret. I see before me within the bar of this spacious and beautiful Court Room gray-haired counselors who must think of that old Court Room with sadness and regret.

Many of the old associations cluster about that building whose place knows it no more forever. Shabby were its precincts and dusty were its pulpits, but they cannot forget that it was the scene of their professional triumphs, the arena of many a hard-fought contest.

And then the dingy old Court Room is thronged with the shadowy ghosts of the departed, dimly seen in the mists of the past. And as figure after figure appears within that old bar, they seem to hear once more the sound of voices that have long been still. Again man and let no guilty one escape.

The welfare of every country, and its progress, depends in a large measure upon the due and strict observance of the laws of the land. An important branch of the law is the criminal law. The general nature of crimes and their punishment forms in every country the Code of Criminal Law. Says Mr. Blackstone, more usually denominated in England the doctrine of the Pleas of the Crown; so called, because the King, Pleas of the Crown, by the person injured by every infraction of the public rights and duties of the community, and therefore in all cases the proper prosecutor for every public offense. In this country, where we live under a republican form of government, we have no King and hence the State, who is the mother of us all, takes the place of the King, and she becomes the prosecutor in every case.

The importance of a full knowledge of this branch of the law is of the utmost importance to every one, for, as said Mr. Michael Foster, "no rank or elevation if it be no upright heart, no prudence or circumspection of conduct should tempt a man to conclude that he may not at some time or other be deeply interested in these researches."

The first violation of the law that we have any record of in the Bible is the forbidden fruit by Mother Eve in the Garden of Eden, and the grave consequences of that broken law are with us to-day and will be so long as time lasts. The next violation of the law was the case of Cain, in the murder of his brother Abel, and from that day to this, in every land country, homicides have been committed, trials have been had and convictions and punishment have followed.

The journey of the Children of Israel from the land of Egypt to the land of Canaan, while encompassed at the time by the Law of Moses by the great Law Giver of the universe for the guidance and observation of the people, which laws have been handed down to us, which laws are of force to-day in this Christian land. "Thou shalt not kill." "Thou shalt not steal." "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." At every term of Court here indictments are handed out for a violation of these very laws, engraved as they have been on the tablets of the protection of society and for the good of the State.

It was after the Children of Israel had taken possession of the land of Canaan that the Law of Moses was given to them, to either one of which the slave might flee and be tried. To-day we have in this place a city of refuge, where all who are accused of a crime, and who all meet, the rich and poor, the old and young, the

liberal and an honorable profession, and he who would be a worthy member of it should be a man of learning and a man of honor. Influential and important in all ages and under all forms of government, the legal profession has more influence and attains more power and importance under a Democratic form of government such as ours. Necessarily from our ranks are chosen all the members of the judiciary. Our profession has furnished a majority of the Presidents of this country, a very large number of the Senators and members of Congress and State Legislatures; and a large proportion of the leaders of public opinion have been members of the Bar.

How important, therefore, it is that the standard of our profession should be kept high as to learning, high as to honor and integrity and high as to courtesy. It rests largely with the Bar of a County whether the County Court House be a blessing or a burden. A Court House should represent law and order. It should be a place for the punishment of law-breakers and for the peaceful settlement of disputes between man and man. The Court should be the refuge of the oppressed, the shield and buckler of the innocent, the champion of the poor and him who hath no helper, the defender of the widow and the guardian of the fatherless. It should be in truth and in fact a Temple of Justice. It will be so if the members of the Bar are men of honor and integrity, as they should be, in whose hands are placed in large measure the most important interests of their fellow-citizens, affecting their life, liberty and property. With such a Bar a Court House is a center of beneficent influence making itself felt to the utmost borders of the County—a centre of light and learning, culture and courtesy, honor and integrity.

Much depends also upon the purity of the jury-box and the impartiality of the jury. We have recently had charges made against the system of trial by jury, and propositions made to amend it or abolish it. In spite of all that I have heard and read on this subject and after many years of observation and experience I have not found it to be so. I say that trial by jury in South Carolina is by no means a failure, but that on the contrary the vast majority of cases succeed in reaching the right verdict. Cases occur, no doubt, in which there seems to be a miscarriage of justice. But such cases are of rare occurrence.

To secure good juries, let the jury commissioners exercise the discretion the law allows them and place on the jury list only men of good character and intelligence, discarding the vicious and incompetent and ignorant. Then, with only good men's names in the jury-box, no bad jurors will be drawn out.

I trust that it is not improper that I should refer to the presence of ladies in the Court Room at the opening ceremony. To me it is very gratifying, and eminently right that they should be here. The Court Room is a public place; trials must be had in public, according to the mandate of our Constitution. And woman has an equal right with man to come to the Court Room and attend trials of cases. Besides her presence there, as everywhere else, has a very beneficial effect, compelling even the rudest men to a gentler course of conduct, softening the asperities of the Bar, and causing all to observe a higher standard of dignity and decorum and courtesy. I trust that woman's presence here to-day is a happy augury of the future of this Court—that woman's refining and elevating and softening influence will frequently be exerted in this beautiful Court Room.

It is meet and right to mark the opening of this Court with simple but becoming ceremony. It was meet and right to invoke the blessing of the Almighty, the Judge of all the earth. It is meet and right that music be inspiring and heard on this joyous occasion. It is meet and right that in looking forward to the future of Anderson County, with which future history this Court House will be closely associated, we should also look back and forget not the memories and examples of our fathers. In it not also meet and right, while we are gathered here this morning, to remember two young members of this Bar, whose accustomed seats are vacant, because they have, at their country's call, left their homes and families, and are at the Camp of Chickamauga, awaiting orders to move to the seat of war? May the gallant Watkins and Grant return to their homes in honor and in safety, to resume their places at the Bar, worthy successors of those Anderson lawyers of former days, who added the honors of the soldier to the reputation of the lawyer—some of whom I see before me now.

It is meet and right to gather together, as we have done this morning, to dedicate this new Court House to the highest and noblest purposes for which it is intended. Long may it stand the pride and ornament of this town and County, the embodiment of justice, law and order, amid a happy, prosperous and law-abiding people.

In a short but eloquent and impressive speech G. E. Prince, Esq., presented the Criminal Code to Solicitor Ascal, who responded as follows:

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I express but a faint impression of my feelings on this occasion when I say that it gives me pleasure and satisfaction to take part in these dedicatory ceremonies, setting apart this Temple of Justice to the purposes for which it was built. May justice ever, and always, be meted out with an even hand.

I have pleasure in the Criminal Code which has been handed me by my distinguished friend and brother in the law, and shall endeavor, as I have always tried to do, to do no innocent man and let no guilty one escape.

The welfare of every country, and its progress, depends in a large measure upon the due and strict observance of the laws of the land. An important branch of the law is the criminal law. The general nature of crimes and their punishment forms in every country the Code of Criminal Law. Says Mr. Blackstone, more usually denominated in England the doctrine of the Pleas of the Crown; so called, because the King, Pleas of the Crown, by the person injured by every infraction of the public rights and duties of the community, and therefore in all cases the proper prosecutor for every public offense. In this country, where we live under a republican form of government, we have no King and hence the State, who is the mother of us all, takes the place of the King, and she becomes the prosecutor in every case.

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great and small, upon one common platform. In taking cognizance of all unlawful acts the law has a double view, says Mr. Blackstone, not only to redress the party injured, but also to secure to the public the benefit of society, by preventing or punishing every breach and violation of these laws; and the object of punishing offenders is to deter others by dread of his example from offending in like way.

Time does not permit me, in this presence, to follow the history of the criminal law from those early days down to the present time, suffice it to say that within the pages of this Criminal Code will be found many of the definitions of crimes that are forbidden by the laws of this State, which the society of our day has thought, in its wisdom, right and proper to enact.

It comes, therefore, to-day as a humble representative of the majesty of the law and also as a representative of the peace and good order of this enlightened community, and with pleasure assist in placing the cap-stone of this beautiful arch in its proper place. May he who sits on yonder Bench always hold the scales of justice with an even hand. May he who occupies this chair as the prosecuting attorney discharge his every duty with fidelity, and may the jury who sit there always "well and truly try, and a true verdict render according to the law and evidence." When this is done then will this be in fact, as it is now in name, a Temple of Justice.

Next was the presentation of the Bible to the Clerk of Court, which was done by J. K. Hood, Esq., most eloquently. In behalf of the Clerk of Court, E. F. Cochran responded in a few appropriate remarks.

The presentation of the ball's staves to the Sheriff was made by E. M. Rucker, Jr., Esq., and was responded to by Col. R. W. Simpson in behalf of the Sheriff. The remarks of both these gentlemen were appropriate and interesting.

Architect Milburn was called upon by Chairman Tribble, and he responded in a few remarks.

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. W. P. Capers and the interesting exercises came to a close. The orchestra interspersed the exercises with some very delightful music.

OUR SOLDIER BOYS.

Happenings of Interest to Home Folks Concerning Anderson Volunteers.

CAMP GEO. H. THOMAS, CHICKAMAUGA, GA., June 22, 1898. There is a dearth of news this week in camp.

Some new uniforms came in to-day and also some rubber blankets, which will probably be distributed to-day or to-morrow.

Our wagoner, Mr. John Robbins, has taken charge of his department as easily and naturally as if he had been a wagoner for Uncle Sam all his life. John is very popular with the boys, and is even more popular, if such a thing could be possible, when any of the men want to go to town and can get an opportunity to ride in the big covered wagon.

On Sunday last the members of Company C enjoyed a picnic spread, given by Quartermaster Johnson.

Our Regiment now has a quintette, composed of Messrs. Reid Miller, tenor; Chas. Gentry, soprano; Chalmers Hughes, baritone; George Baker and Joe Trowbridge, bass. They have a selection of about eight pretty pieces, and are learning new ones every day. One of the pieces they sing is "Bobby Boker," the latest war song. They have been invited to sing this song at a musicale to be given in Chattanooga on the first of July. "Bobby Boker" was written in honor of Gen. Gordon, and is very popular with the soldiers. This quintette is known as Col. Tillman's and he is very proud of them, and frequently takes them on pleasure trips through the surrounding country.

The members of Company C are taking a great deal of interest in Y. M. C. A. work, and they are always to be found in the lead in any work that will raise camp life to a higher moral plane.

Capt. Watkins has fully recovered from his recent spell of sickness and was out drilling the Company yesterday.

Mr. Victor Cheshire has given up the position of mail carrier so as to participate in the drills.

A shower bath has been arranged back of the camp for the soldiers, and a crowd can always be found there enjoying it.

Mr. R. M. Baker, of Anderson, was in camp Sunday visiting his brother, Corporal Baker.

Messrs. Carroll Brown and Will Stringer, of Belton, visited the boys in camp Tuesday.

Mr. Ira Giles has been on the sick list for a few days past, but is now convalescent.

It seems to be the impression now that the 1st Regiment S. C. V. will not move for a month or more, as they lack a great deal of being fully equipped, and there is so much delay in getting the equipments here.

JAS. P. KILLEBREW.