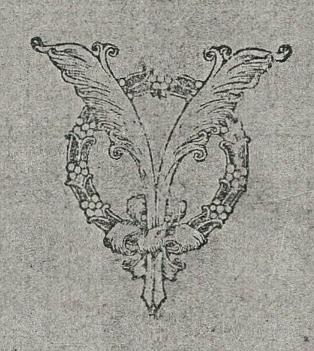


Queen's Ferry War Memorial.



SOUVENIR BOOKLET:

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Queen's Ferry War Memorial Institute.



OPENING CEREMONY

Wednesday, Dec. 29th, 1920,

at 3 p.m.

H. N. Gladstone, Esq., will preside,

Supported by the following:

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(who will speak on Village Institutes and Libraries),

Mrs. H. N. Gladstone,

C. B. Toller, Esq., and Mrs. Toller,

J. Bairstow, Esq.,

Rev. J. J. J. Robinson, &c.



There will be
A MUSICAL PROGRAMME
and REFRESHMENTS will be provided at a
Moderate Charge.

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War Memorial Institute.



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Vice-Presidents:

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Looking Before and After.



HE War has destroyed many old landmarks and uprooted many a tradition. Locally, it has given us an Institute, where we had a Liberal Club, and the story and significance of the conversion deserve some mention in our "Institute Souvenir."

It was in 1909, under the stress of the great emotions and memorable political struggles of the day that a number of stalwart Liberals conceived the idea of a Liberal Club as the home of local Liberalism. We well remember the ardour, the eager political enthusiasm of those days, the high hopes with which we pursued our quest, and the lofty sentiments we invoked to fortify a courage that sometimes wavered.

Mr. W. G. C. Gladstone, the "Young Squire," was approached for a site. He was then on the threshold of a career marked at its very beginning by the same high purpose and generous political enthusiasm that distinguished his famous grandfather. His local sympathies were no less generous, for an excellent site in a central position was treely given, and the Trustees proceeded to build with money advanced by the Bank on their own personal security.

As a business enterprise, the Club was a success from the very first, and at the outbreak

of war the heavy liabilities incurred by its promoters had been so far reduced that a few more years would, in the ordinary course, have seen their entire disappearance.

But in other respects the Club had failed to sustain the high hopes of its Founders. What little political value it had in its early days was lost when ability to pay became the sole test of membership; beginning as a school, it had become a shelter.

With the war, our young men went, and the Club doors were closed; with the return of peace, came the question of re-opening. The prospects were good, but the Trustees were influenced by two considerations. To carry it on as a Liberal Club when it gave no service to Liberalism was an imposture and a betrayal of trust; at the same time, our young people, especially the men happily returned from the war, had a just grievance that the Club doors were closed and no provision was being made for their social needs. Impelled by the force and justice of these considerations, the Trustees decided to waive all their rights and interest in the property, and, with the consent of Mr. H. N. Gladstone, as representing the Hawarden Estate, to offer the Club premises to the inhabitants of Queen's Ferry for the dual purpose of a Village Institute and a War Memorial to our fallen dead. The offer was accepted by a specially convened meeting, and a Committee was appointed to raise the funds necessary to pay off the remaining liabilities of the old Club and to equip it for its new purposes. In a short time £400 was raised, largely through the Splendid efforts of the lady members of the Committee, thereby enabling us to achieve our first aim—an Institute free from debt.

But much more is required. If the Institute is to be of any real value, it must touch every phase of our village life; it should, ideally, be the corporate expression of all its social and intellectual activities—drawing-room, gymnasium, sports pavilion, reading-room and lecture-hall, all in one. Possibly, we shall never reach such altitudes of idealised service, but

A man's reach should exceed his grasp, Or what's a heaven for.

It is a hopeful augury, however, that the newly-elected Council have already given hostages to the future by committing themselves to a scheme of extension with a view to the establishment of a Library and the provision of improved accommodation for social gatherings, and meetings of an educational nature. In this and other ways, such as the fostering and encouragement of wholesome out-door games, it is hoped to make the Institute of real service to Queen's Ferry; and as our debt to the dead can best be repaid by service to the living, we shall at the same time have a local War Memorial that shall be a living and fructifying witness to the sad but glorious record of our gallant men.

R. T. EVANS, Chairman.

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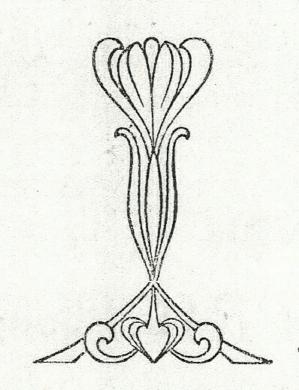
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