



Sturgis Library

Published in the Barnstable Patriot newspaper
July 30, 1867

It is already known to most of our readers that a great want of our community is about to be supplied by the establishment of a Public Library in our village, for the benefit of the whole town. This very desirable object has been accomplished through the forethought and liberality of the late Hon. William Sturgis of Boston, who after a successful career as a merchant, desirous of testifying his attachment to his birthplace and early home, set apart a portion of his abundant means, to establish a Library, deeming that this he could confer the greatest benefit upon the people of Barnstable, as he founded an institution, the influence of which should be felt more and more in succeeding years. In accomplishing this object, the old home of his childhood was repurchased, and thoroughly rebuilt, to serve the double purpose of Library room and dwelling house for the Librarian. The building as now finished, is very neat and commodious, and the Library room, comprising the Westerly half of the main building, in beauty and architecture and neatness of finish, will compare favorably with any similar room we have seen.

The Trustees of the Library, Hon. Samuel Hooper, Lemuel Shaw, and E. W. Hooper Esqrs., have spent much time and labor in carrying out the designs of Mr. Sturgis, and merit the warmest gratitude of our people for their efforts in their behalf.

The Library, as will be seen by a notice in our columns, is to be opened for the delivery of books, on Friday next. As we glanced at the shelves we could not but be struck with the wisdom and judgment of the selection of the books they contain. This is but the commencement of a permanent work; the 1300 volumes now ready for distribution will receive additions from time to time -- and we doubt not that round this nucleus will be gathered a large and valuable Library, which shall be a great instrument of good in coming years.