

MEMPHIS SUNDAY APPEAL

Sunday, January 7, 1872

THE NEW SCHOOL

Opening of the Beautiful School Building on Market Street, by the Mayor, General Council and School Board.

Description of the Building.  
Speeches, Etc.

The new school building on Market Street was formally opened yesterday in a manner that was worthy of the building and of the city. At the conclusion of the meeting of the general council, the Mayor announced that an invitation had been sent by the board of Education through him, to both branches of the city legislature, to attend the opening of the school building on Market Street. Both boards went over in a body, headed by the Mayor and city attorney. The members of the school board were waiting to receive them and conduct them to the exhibition room on the third floor.

## Business

Immediately on the arrival of the guests Dr. Maury, president of the school board, was moved to the chair. Mayor Johnson was invited to take a seat on his right. Dr. Maury said the object of the gathering was to receive the magnificent structure which had been reared for the noble purposes of instruction by the skillful hands of the architects and artificers who had made it worthy of the great service it was to perform. It was thrown open for public inspection to let the people and the people's officers see to what purpose their money had been expended.

Thomas R. Smith said that the completion of that building upon which indeed the citizens of Memphis might be congratulated, was an earnest of a bright and prosperous future for the cause of education in Memphis. He said that education was better than railroad building, plowing or blacksmithing. The men who build schoolhouses give to every boy a chance of success in the race of life. It places in that respect, the child of the poor on an equal footing with the offspring of the rich. No country can prosper and no liberty be preserved save through the intelligence of the people.

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Mayor Johnson being loudly called on for a speech stood up and said that speech-making was not exactly his style, but if he were able to make one he would certainly do so upon the occasion of the opening of the first public school building worthy of the name in the city. If he had any particular ambition, it was to see school buildings erected in the city, and to see the common-school system flourish. Flattered as I have been, continued the Mayor, by the suffrages of the people of the city, I would gladly exchange the fresh honors that have been heaped upon me for the satisfaction of being once more back in the school board. He felt proud of having been one of the members of that board who labored to disconnect the school system of Memphis from the state, and to-day we see the result in this building. In a few years I trust there will be many others here of the same character. For many years public instruction was not appreciated in Memphis. We begin now to realize the fact that we have the only public building worthy of the great object of education in the South. He said that while traveling through the North the blush of shame was often brought to his cheek, when he compared the system and means in every city there with the system and means we had here in Memphis. He had just returned from a thorough inspection of the house, and he could conscientiously pronounce it complete in every particular--it was a perfect school building.

Mr. Bruce, who has been a school visitor all his life, made a speech, which was greeted with cheers.

Mr. William R. Moore was loudly called on for a speech. He reluctantly rose and said he felt his heart deeply stirred by emotions of pleasure at witnessing the great interest taken by the best citizens in the opening of this the first splendid school building erected in Memphis. (Cries of "Peabody.") "I mean," continued Mr. Moore "the first in point of completeness and elegance. Every tax-payer and every citizen might well be congratulated on what has been done for the cause of education by the school board during the past year. Education has been defined to the development of the faculties or the germs of power in man and the training of them into harmonious relations with and proper obedience to the laws of reason and morality, and embraces in a general sense the universal means by

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which Providence is quietly guiding the human race to its final destiny; or, it includes the countless natural and social circumstances under the direct tuition of which individuals pass from the cradle to the grave. We are met to-day to celebrate the opening of this elegant new building, erected through the public influence for the purpose of promoting this great cause of education. It is peculiarly fit and proper that we rejoice together upon this auspicious event. The circumstances which call us together are indeed encouraging. The election through which we have just passed has proved a severe blow to the schisms and plottings of men who sought office only for individual aggrandizement. (The rest of this paragraph torn out.)

Mr. Moore then concluded with some felicitous remarks, which provoked the laughter of the crowd.

Mr. Holbrook of the school board, gave a history of what was done in the way of educational progress for some years past.

The meeting then adjourned to a side-board, which was fixed up in the room, and enjoyed sandwiches, champagne and cigars, and more speeches.

## Present

Among the gentlemen present our learned reporter noticed the Mayor, Sheriff Wright, Mr. Keating of the Appeal, Dr. Maury of the school board, General Robertson of Virginia, Mr. Kortrecht, Mr. M. Gavin, Mr. Slaughter, superintendent of public schools, Mr. McManus, Mr. Sweeney, ex-Aldermen Moffet, Mr. Steffey, Mr. Barbour, Mr. J. M. Cannon, Mr. Holbrook, Dr. Mitchell, Mr. Johnson of the school board, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Wiggins, Mr. Mansford, Mr. Pettigrew, Mr. Dent, Dr. Fenner, Mr. Mackall, Mr. Twohig, Mr. Randall, Mr. Foley, Mr. Heath, the architects--Messrs Baldwin & Jones--Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Parker, Mr. Jno. Walsh, Mr. Goodman, Judge W. R. Smith, Dr. Thornton, Mr. Fred Brennan, Dr. Smelzer, Mr. John Hollywood and others whose names escaped the memory of the reporter.

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Full justice was done to the lunch, and then the visitors spread themselves over the building and expressed themselves well pleased with what they saw. We reserve a full description of it for Monday's Appeal.