



# THE STATUE OF MRS. JOHN ELDER

GOVAN

A RECORD OF THE MOVEMENT FOR  
AND THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE

TOGETHER WITH

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE ELDER FREE LIBRARY, THE ELDER  
COTTAGE HOSPITAL, AND THE COTTAGE NURSES' TRAINING HOME

AND

AN OBITUARY NOTICE OF MRS. ELDER

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Printed for private circulation by  
JOHN COSSAR, Govan

1912

## PREFATORY NOTE.

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*These pages have been compiled to preserve an account of the proceedings connected with the erection and unveiling of the STATUE OF MRS. JOHN ELDER in the Elder Park, Govan. The opportunity has been embraced to incorporate some notice of the ELDER FREE LIBRARY, the ELDER COTTAGE HOSPITAL, and of another institution in Govan which, though not founded by, received large support and encouragement from Mrs. Elder, the COTTAGE NURSES' TRAINING HOME. The biographical article which appeared in the "Glasgow Herald" after Mrs. Elder's death, has also, by kind permission of the proprietors of that journal, been reproduced.*

*This record may thus be regarded as the complement of that which I had on a former occasion the privilege of preparing at the request of Mrs. Elder to commemorate the proceedings at the opening of the Elder Park and the unveiling of the Statue of John Elder.*

*The two volumes thus contain a description of Mrs. Elder's larger public benefactions to the people of Govan. That the catalogue of her good deeds is far from being thereby exhausted is well known to all who are acquainted with that great industrial community in which, during her long life, she took such a deep and constant interest.*

*My thanks are due to the speakers for kindly revising the proofs of their speeches, and to Mrs. Elder's cousin, Mr. John Francis Ure, Barrister-at-Law, London, Mr. J. A. Houston, Town Clerk of Govan, and other friends, for assistance rendered in ensuring accuracy and completeness.*

ARCHIBALD CRAIG.

Glasgow, June, 1912.

## CONTENTS.

### THE STATUE OF MRS. ELDER.

	PAGE
Origin and Progress of Movement, .. .. .	1
List of Committee, .. .. .	2
Selection of Sculptor, .. .. .	4
Unveiling by Her Grace The Duchess of Montrose, .. .. .	5
Speeches at Unveiling, .. .. .	9
Banquet in Town Hall, .. .. .	18

### THE ELDER FREE LIBRARY.

Deed of Declaration of Trust, .. .. .	30
Description of Building, .. .. .	31
Laying of Memorial Stone, .. .. .	34
Banquet in Reading Room, .. .. .	36
Ceremony of Opening by Andrew Carnegie, Esq., LL.D., .. .. .	39
Speeches at Opening, .. .. .	41
Address presented to Mrs. Elder, .. .. .	44
Banquet in Town Hall, .. .. .	50
Notes on the Library (by the Librarian), .. .. .	50

### THE ELDER COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

Gift of Hospital, .. .. .	52
Description of Building, .. .. .	53
Medical, Surgical and Electrical Departments, .. .. .	54
Trustees and Staff, .. .. .	57

### THE COTTAGE NURSES TRAINING HOME, .. .. . 58

### OBITUARY NOTICE OF MRS. ELDER, .. .. . 62

### INDEX, .. .. . 65

## ILLUSTRATIONS.

### THE CEREMONY OF UNVEILING THE STATUE BY HER GRACE THE

DUCHESS OF MONTROSE, .. .. . Frontispiece

THE STATUE, .. .. . 12

THE ELDER FREE LIBRARY, .. .. . 31



# THE STATUE OF MRS. JOHN ELDER.

On Saturday, 13th October, 1906, Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose unveiled, in the Elder Park, Govan, in the presence of a large and representative gathering, a statue of Mrs. John Elder, LL.D.

The movement, of which this ceremony was the completion, was begun during Mrs. Elder's lifetime, with the object of making public recognition of the many benefits she had conferred upon the people of Govan.

The thought which prompted the community to do so was a source of great delight to Mrs. Elder ; and while she was averse to anything on so large a scale as was ultimately decided upon, the Committee had the gratification of obtaining her approval to that decision. It was hoped that, notwithstanding her failing health, Mrs. Elder would be spared to see the completed result ; but, amid universal regret, she passed away on 18th November, 1905, and what was intended to form, in the first instance, a personal tribute to the living became a memorial of honour and regard for the departed.

## Origin and Progress of the Movement.

The subject was first brought forward at a meeting, convened by advertisement by Dr. James Wilson, and held in the Lesser Town Hall, Govan, on 29th January, 1902. At that meeting, the Provost of Govan (John Marr, Esq.), took the chair, and the proposal to recognise publicly Mrs. Elder's services was very warmly received. On the motion of Mr. Robert Duncan, seconded by ex-Provost George Ferguson, it was unanimously resolved to form an

Executive Committee, the first names upon which should be those of the Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of the Burgh, to make arrangements for a public meeting in the Town Hall. It was also agreed that Mr. Alexander Macdonald, Town Clerk of Govan, should act as secretary, and Mr. John Rankin, Treasurer of the Burgh, as treasurer of the movement. It was further resolved, on the motion of Mr. John Collie, seconded by Mr. Peter Ross, that at that public meeting a large Committee should be formed from employers and employed in Govan and the Clyde district, and from the general public, to collect subscriptions and carry out the object in view, and that the secretary should prepare lists for submission to the meeting.

In pursuance of these resolutions a well-attended public meeting was held in the Town Hall, on 24th February, 1902, at which Provost Marr presided. On the motion of Dr. James Wilson, seconded by Councillor William Dickson, the following were appointed the Committee, with power to add to their number :—

Provost John Marr (*Convener*).  
 Bailie R. A. Wightman.  
 Bailie Thomas A. Fortune.  
 Bailie John Bogle.  
 Bailie George Harley.  
 Bailie David Fulton.  
 Bailie R. H. B. Thomson.  
 Councillor Andrew Williamson.  
 Councillor John Anthony.  
 Councillor Richard Neilson.  
 Councillor Alexander Morrison.  
 Councillor James Tait.  
 Councillor Archibald Hutcheson.  
 Councillor Joseph Buchanan.  
 Councillor James Dempster.  
 Councillor David P. M'Kechnie.  
 Councillor John T. Buchanan.  
 Councillor William Dickson.  
 Councillor Peter Macfarlane.

Ex-Bailie Porter.  
 Ex-Commissioner Fingland.  
 Ex-Commissioner M'Donald.  
 Ex-Commissioner M'Callum.  
 Ex-Commissioner John Ure Primrose.  
 Ex-Commissioner Martin.  
 Ex-Commissioner Matthews.  
 Ex-Commissioner Wilson.  
 D. D. Baird.  
 L. H. S. White.  
 James Thornton.  
 William Barr.  
 E. M'Harg.  
 David Johnstone.  
 William O'Brien.  
 Archibald Craig, LL.B.  
 James A. Houston.  
 Matthew Paterson.  
 Peter Ross.

Councillor John F. M'Fadyen.  
 R. Hunter Craig, M.P.  
 John Wilson, ex-M.P.  
 Ex-Provost Kirkwood.  
 Ex-Provost Ferguson.  
 Ex-Provost MacLean.  
 The Rev. R. S. Kirkpatrick, B.D.  
 The Rev. David Orr, B.D.  
 The Rev. J. T. Graham.  
 The Rev. T. Robert Howie, D.D.  
 The Rev. Robert Anderson.  
 The Rev. Jervis Coats, D.D.  
 The Rev. John S. Hastie.  
 The Very Rev. Canon M'Brearty.  
 The Rev. E. De Backer.  
 Robert Duncan.  
 John Stephen.  
 Francis Elgar, LL.D.  
 George Strachan.  
 Alexander Gracie.  
 A. W. Sampson.  
 W. A. Mackie.  
 J. W. Shepherd.  
 Hugh Dunsmuir.  
 E. Sharer.  
 Robert M'Master.  
 John M'Neil.  
 Sinclair Cooper.  
 Reuben Marriott.  
 James G. Rose.  
 John James Burnet, A.R.S.A.  
 Dr. James Barras.  
 Dr. William Ross.  
 Dr. James Wilson.  
 Dr. John Haddow.  
 Dr. Macintosh Gilmour.  
 Dr. J. A. Tolmie.  
 Dr. T. M'K. Wotherspoon.  
 Ex-Bailie M'Leish.  
 Matthew Simpson.  
 William Gibson.  
 John Rankin (*Treasurer*).  
 James M. Malloch.  
 Captain Whitecross.  
 F. G. Holmes.  
 J. C. Bowes.  
 George Dunne.  
 George Maclachlan.  
 Thomas Dykes.  
 James Stewart.  
 William Hood.  
 Lawrence Maxton.  
 John Smeaton.  
 John M'Feat.  
 William Kerr.  
 William Miller.  
 Hamilton Marr.  
 Andrew Brown.  
 James Henderson.  
 J. J. Campbell.  
 Alexander Macdonald (*Secretary*).  
 John Hill.  
 Alexander Harper.  
 John Clarke.  
 Alexander Sibbald.  
 Robert Adam.  
 Dr. David Newman.  
 Archibald M'Neil.  
 Duncan M'Gillivray.  
 William Martin.  
 A. Calderhead.  
 John A. M'Intosh.  
 Joseph Scott.  
 Charles Roy.  
 Benjamin Hutchison.  
 William Scott.  
 E. Ribchester.  
 Thomas O'Connor



Ex-Bailie Campbell.  
 Ex-Bailie Frew.  
 Ex-Bailie Lymburn.  
 Ex-Bailie Conlon.  
 Ex-Bailie Smith.  
 Ex-Bailie Armstrong.  
 Ex-Bailie Jack.

Chairmen, Secretaries, and Treasurers  
 of Ward Committees.  
 Officials of Societies, and Branches of  
 Govan District Trades and Labour  
 Council.  
 Head Foremen in all yards.

At the same meeting a Committee of ladies was, on the motion of Councillor J. T. Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Peter Macfarlane, appointed to assist in the work of collecting subscriptions.

The next meeting was held on 4th March, 1902, when it was definitely decided that the object for which subscriptions should be asked should be a statue of Mrs. Elder in bronze, to be erected in Govan, at an estimated cost of £2,000.

### Selection of Sculptor.

At a meeting of Committee, held on 22nd January, 1903, Provost Marr announced that the sum aimed at had been subscribed. After full consideration the meeting adopted a motion by Ex-Provost Kirkwood, seconded by Mr. Robert Duncan, that the commission for the statue be placed with Mr A. McFarlane Shannan, A.R.S.A., Glasgow; and, on the motion of Mr. Archibald Craig, seconded by Ex-Provost Ferguson, the following were appointed a Sub-Committee, with full powers, to see the work carried out, viz. :—Provost Marr, Convener; Ex-Provosts Ferguson and Kirkwood; Bailies Harley, Thomson and M'Keehnie; Ex-Bailies Wightman and Bogle; John Stephen; Robert Duncan; D. D. Baird; Andrew Williamson; James Wilson, M.B.; The Rev. David Orr, B.D.; John James Burnet, A.R.S.A.; and Archibald Craig, LL.B. To this Sub-Committee the name of Provost John Anthony was added on his succeeding Mr. Marr in the civic chair. It was also arranged at a later stage that Mr. Shannan should execute busts in marble of Mr. and Mrs. John Elder, to be placed in the Elder Free Library.

## The Unveiling, 13th October, 1906.

In due time the statue was completed, and in the year 1906 it was set up in the Elder Park—the splendid recreation ground presented by Mrs. Elder to the community of Govan twenty-one years before. The Park, which already contained the statue of her husband, John Elder, erected by public subscription in 1888, and the Elder Free Library, given by her in 1903, was universally felt to be the most appropriate place for the memorial of herself, and the site selected by the Committee with like general consent was the centre of the flower garden.

In preparation for the final ceremony, the Committee approached a lady distinguished for her zeal and enterprise in all good causes, the Duchess of Montrose, who by a happy coincidence had been closely associated with Mrs. Elder in the works of her later years; and Her Grace having willingly consented to unveil the statue, Saturday, the 13th October, 1906, was fixed as the date, and arrangements were made for fittingly celebrating the occasion. The following programme was arranged:—

1. The Duchess of Montrose, and others invited, will be received by the Provost, Magistrates and Town Councillors of Govan in the Town Hall, Govan Road, at Half-past Two o'clock P.M.

2. At 2-35 P.M., Carriages will proceed to the Park.

3. When all have taken their seats, on the motion of Ex-Provost Marr, Convener of the Memorial Committee, Provost Anthony will take the chair, and call upon the Rev. Roger S. Kirkpatrick to offer up prayer.

4. The Chairman will call upon Ex-Provost Marr, who will make a statement relative to the Memorial to Mrs John Elder, LL.D., and will thereafter request Her Grace The Duchess of Montrose to unveil the Statue and hand over the same to the care of the Town Council of Govan.

5. Mrs Anthony will present a bouquet to Her Grace.

6. Provost Anthony will return thanks on behalf of the Burgh of Govan for the Statue, and will also move a vote of thanks to the Duchess.

7. Vote of thanks to chair by Mr Ure.

8. The National Anthem will be played by the Band.

9. Carriages will then leave the Park, and proceed to the Town Hall, where cake and wine will be served.

TOWN HALL,  
GOVAN, 13th *October*, 1906.

On arriving at the Town Hall, Her Grace was received by the Provost, Magistrates and Town Councillors of Govan in the Council Chamber, which was tastefully decorated with plants and flowers. Among those present at the reception were Provost Anthony and Mrs. Anthony; the Lady Helen Graham; Mr. John Francis Ure, Barrister, London; Mrs. Ure and Miss Ure; Sir John Ure Primrose, Bart., LL.D., and Lady Primrose; Sir William R. Copland and Lady Copland; Sir James Bell, Bart.; Sir David Richmond and Lady Richmond; Lord Provost Bilsland and Mrs. Bilsland; Mr. Robert Duncan, M.P., and Mrs. Duncan; Ex-Provost Marr and Mrs. Marr; Ex-Provost Kirkwood (Deacon-Convener) and Mrs. Kirkwood; Ex-Bailie Williamson and Mrs. Williamson; the Rev. Roger S. Kirkpatrick, B.D., and Miss Kirkpatrick; Bailie Joseph Buchanan; Bailie Dempster; Bailie Dr. M'Fadyen and Mrs. M'Fadyen; Bailie Russell and Mrs. Russell; Bailie Neilson and Mrs. Neilson; Bailie Macfarlane and Mrs. Macfarlane; Treasurer M'Kechnie and Mrs. M'Kechnie; Dean of Guild Fulton and Mrs. Fulton; Ex-Bailie Fortune and Mrs. Harriet Fortune; Ex-Bailie R. H. B. Thomson and Mrs. Thomson; Ex-Bailie Wightman and Mrs. Wightman; Ex-Bailie Harley and Mrs. Harley; Councillor J. T. Buchanan and Mrs. Buchanan; Councillor R. R. Crichton and Mrs. Crichton; Councillor Tait; Councillor Kemp and Mrs. Kemp; Councillor Munro and Mrs. Munro; Councillor Dickson and Mrs. Dickson; Mrs. Miller; Mr. Archibald Craig, LL.B., and Miss Craig; Mr. Alexander Gilroy, Broughty Ferry; Mr. J. A. Houston, Town Clerk, and Mrs. Houston; Mr. A. McFarlane Shannan, A.R.S.A., and Mrs. Shannan; Mrs. Peat; Mr. James D. Peat and Miss Peat; Dr. John Macintyre and Mrs. Macintyre; Dr. Marion Gilchrist;

Miss Janet A. Galloway ; the Rev. David Orr, B.D., and Mrs. Orr ; Mr. John James Burnet, A.R.S.A. ; the Very Rev. Canon M'Brearty ; Mr. Charles Gibson representing Mr. Alexander Elder ; Dr. and Mrs. J. Gibson Graham ; Mr. W. Weir Grieve, Sheriff Clerk of Lanarkshire ; Councillor James Henderson ; Captain Colin M'Phail, Boys' Brigade ; Mr. David Purves and Misses Mary Currie and Elizabeth Cruickshank ; Mr. John Rankin, Burgh Treasurer ; Mr. Thomas Dykes, Burgh Fiscal ; Mr. F. G. Holmes, Burgh Surveyor, and Mrs. Holmes ; Mr. George Dunne, Burgh Sanitary Inspector, and Mrs. Dunne ; Dr. James Barras, Medical Officer, and Mrs. Barras ; and Captain James S. Whitecross, Chief Constable.

The reception over, the party drove to the Elder Park where large crowds had gathered in the vicinity of the statue. A general air of expectancy was abroad and excellent order was maintained. For the specially invited guests an enclosure had been railed off around the statue, and here those with cards of admission were accommodated. The party more intimately concerned with the day's proceedings were seated on a raised platform, in the background of which was the statue enveloped in its rough canvas covering held together by a bright purple satin riband. The arrival of the first of the guests from the Town Hall put the vast concourse of people on the *qui vive* for the Duchess of Montrose, and they had not long to wait. Her carriage, which was driven by the Burgh coachman, was attended by Mr. Alexander Thomson, Council officer, and contained, along with Her Grace, the Lady Helen Graham and Provost and Mrs. Anthony. It was accompanied by a mounted escort from the Govan Police Force. Her Grace was greeted very cordially. Forming an avenue to the platform was a guard of honour composed of 100 men of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (Clyde Division)—of which Her Grace's son, the Marquess of Graham, is officer commanding—under Lieutenants Macbrayne and Kirkwood and Midshipman Hedderwick. There was also present the Bugle Band of the

Division. Her Grace was received with the grand salute, and, upon taking her place on the platform, to the right of Provost Anthony, she bowed her acknowledgments of the hearty cheers which welcomed her from all sides. Quiet having been restored, the open air programme was proceeded with. A sharp wind blew across the Park, and it was generally thought that the programme would have to be curtailed. Fortunately, however, this was not so, and the attention which the many thousands of people assembled paid to the proceedings proved that they were in the fullest sympathy with the movement.

On the motion of Ex-Provost Marr, Provost Anthony took the chair, and called upon the Rev. Roger S. Kirkpatrick, B.D., Minister of the Parish of Govan, who offered the following prayers :—

## I.

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Thy most gracious favour, and further us with Thy continual help ; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy Holy Name, and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

## II.

Almighty God, who givest liberally and upbraidest not, and before Whom the alms of Thy servants go up for a memorial, we render thanks to Thee for all those whose hearts Thou hast enlarged to provide for the welfare of many. Especially at this time we render thanks to Thee for her, whose name we here set in honoured remembrance. We thank Thee for her stewardship of the means and opportunities which were hers ; for her gifts in the service of Religion ; for her zeal in the advancement of knowledge and teaching ; for her care for the health and solace of those that toil ; for her bounty towards the poor and the sick ; for her promotion of the ministries of healing ; and for all her benefactions bestowed upon this town. Keep, O Lord, these things in the remembrance of the hearts of this people. Incline them ever to use these benefits aright. Enable them to follow the ensample of beneficence, and to abound in all good works. And grant that, while we record their achievements, who have been instruments of blessing in their times, we may give the glory unto Thee, O Father, Who art the Giver of all gifts, and Who ever livest and reignest with Thy Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

Amen.

## III.

Our Father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation ; but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Provost Anthony then called upon Ex-Provost Marr, as Convener of the Statue Committee, to make a statement.

Ex-Provost Marr, who was very cordially received, said—Provost Anthony, Your Grace, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in complying with the request that I should make a brief statement regarding the inception and progress of the movement which culminates in to-day's proceedings.

Here, in this beautiful and most spacious park, within a few hundred yards of the Elder Cottage Hospital, so richly endowed, which, since its erection about four years ago, has proved a boon and a blessing to thousands of suffering ones in our community, and within sight of the Elder Library, erected within the Park, also richly endowed, the gifts of Mrs. Elder, it is not necessary that I should say that Mrs. Elder needed no other memorials than these to keep her memory green and fragrant for all time in the hearts of the people of Govan.

These memorials—to use the words of Dr. Carnegie at the opening of the Elder Library—are not dead monuments ; they are living monuments, with a living soul within them, which, long after the generations which knew and loved Mrs. Elder shall have passed away, will remain and be as fountains of healing waters for the improvement and enjoyment of the people from generation to generation. (Cheers).

Ladies and gentlemen, since this movement was started—nay, since the statue we are met to unveil was cast by the founder—Mrs. Elder has passed to her reward, and we can almost hear the Master's " Well done, good and faithful servant " . . . " Inasmuch

as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto Me ; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” It was felt, however, by every class in the community that we owed it to ourselves, that we should, by raising some permanent memorial to Mrs. Elder, give tangible expression of our high appreciation, of our admiration, and of our love and regard for the munificent donor, who has showered such splendid gifts upon us ; and that we also owed it to the generations who are to succeed us in Govan, and who, equally with us, will be the beneficiaries of these imperishable gifts, that we should hand down to them a representation of the lineaments and of the personal appearance of Mrs. Elder as she lived and moved amongst us. (Applause).

The only dubiety in the mind of anyone in regard to the matter was in respect to the time when steps should be taken to have this done. It was known that for several years Mrs. Elder had been in very feeble health, and, if such a movement were started during her lifetime, and the completion of the work delayed through any cause whatever, there was some anxiety as to how it might affect her. In January, 1902, however, the matter was brought to an issue by a requisition, numerously signed, being placed in my hands by the late Dr. James Wilson, requesting me, as Provost of the Burgh, to call a public meeting of the inhabitants to consider the propriety of taking steps to erect a public memorial to Mrs. Elder. In compliance with the prayer of the requisition, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall on the evening of 29th January, 1902. It was then unanimously resolved that the necessary steps should be immediately taken to erect a memorial of Mrs. Elder, and a general and representative committee was afterwards appointed, consisting of the Provost, Magistrates and Town Councillors, with representatives from the various public works in the Burgh and of the general public. From that committee an executive committee was appointed, with full powers to carry out to its completion the proposal contained in the resolution.

The work of collecting subscriptions was at first considerably delayed on account of the disastrous accident that occurred in the Ibrox Park in the summer of the same year. It was felt by the Memorial Committee that it would be injudicious to proceed with the canvass for the Elder Memorial subscriptions while the canvass for the Ibrox disaster fund was being prosecuted. As soon, however, as the time seemed opportune, the active appeal for subscriptions commenced, and was vigorously carried out. The result was of a most gratifying and satisfactory description. In fact, the success was almost phenomenal. Of this you will be best able to judge when I inform you that within little more than two months after the commencement of the active canvass the success of the movement was assured. On the 29th day of January, 1903, exactly one year from the date of the public meeting at which it was resolved to erect the memorial to Mrs. Elder, the committee were in a position to publish in the daily newspapers a list of subscriptions to the fund, amounting to £1,953, and within a fortnight thereafter a second list was published, bringing up the fund to considerably over £2,000. (Cheers).

The Committee could now proceed with the erection of the statue. The commission to execute the work was placed in the hands of the eminent Scottish sculptor, Mr. A. M'Farlane Shannan, A.R.S.A. (Applause). Of the wisdom of the Committee's selection of an artist, and of the manner in which he fulfilled the commission entrusted to him, you will shortly, by the kindness of Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose, be in a position to judge. I need only mention here that the statue is executed in bronze, and stands on a pedestal of dark gray Scottish granite, the total height being 11 feet 8 inches. The statue represents Mrs. Elder sitting in meditative mood vested in her doctor's robes. In the selection of a site the Committee and members of the Town Council thought that no more appropriate place could be chosen than the centre of the flower-garden in the Elder Park. I have now only to say that if anything



could add to the gratification and pleasure that the Committee feel in the completion of their work, it is that for to-day's unveiling ceremony they have been so fortunate as to secure the services of Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose—(cheers)—who, on account of her own beneficent life and work, not only here in Govan and Glasgow, but throughout the West of Scotland, occupies such a warm place in the hearts of the entire community. (Loud applause). That the Duchess of Montrose should discharge this duty is also rendered more appropriate when we remember that Her Grace was closely associated with Mrs. Elder's work and life during Mrs. Elder's later years. Ladies and gentlemen, in the name of the Memorial Committee, I shall now request Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose to unveil this statue, and hand it over to the custody and care of the Provost, Magistrates and Town Councillors of the Burgh of Govan. (Cheers).

The Duchess of Montrose then, amidst loud and prolonged cheering, unveiled the statue.

The statue represents Mrs. Elder in her academic robes, seated in easy and graceful attitude, and with that air of high and thoughtful purpose which distinguished her. It was cast from the plaster models of Mr. Shannan, by the *cire perdue* process, in the finest statuary bronze, at the works of Messrs J. W. Singer & Sons, Frome, Somerset.

The pedestal or base is supported by a deep Portland cement concrete foundation, and is of Scotch granite in large blocks cut and built to the sculptor's drawings and patterns by Messrs D. H. and J. Newall of Dalbeattie. On the front are carved in large letters, amid branches of laurel, the words "MRS. JOHN ELDER, LL.D.," and on the back in similar style are the words "ERECTED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION, 1906."

After a suitable pause, Her Grace said:—

Provost Anthony, Ladies and Gentlemen, I consider it a great honour to be permitted to take a part in this interesting ceremony





to-day. I wish Mrs. Elder had lived to see this beautiful statue unveiled, so that this practical token of the appreciation in which she has always been held by the inhabitants of Govan, and by many others, might this day have been demonstrated to her.

One can truly say that Mrs. Elder spent her life in good works, as the aim of her life was to do all she could for the social and moral welfare of the people here. She resided in Glasgow, but her heart was always in Govan. She lived to perpetuate by her thoughtful generosity the name which her husband did so much to make renowned and beloved. She has shown her genuine interest in the toiling masses by her noble gifts, and they are indeed a long list to enumerate. Her sympathies were large and varied, they were not merely philanthropic, and she was zealous for all that tended towards educational and intellectual advancement, as shown by many of her public gifts. (Applause).

Thus, in 1873, she supplemented, by a sum of £5,000 the endowment of the Chair of Civil Engineering in Glasgow University, and, ten years later, she gave £12,500 for the endowment of the Chair of Naval Architecture. Quite recently before her death she gave £5,000 to the Building Fund of the Technical College, and another £5,000 to found a Lectureship on Astronomy at that College. (Cheers). But of all her gifts for the advancement of education, the most important and far-reaching in its results was the gift, in 1884, of Queen Margaret College—now the Women's Department of the University of Glasgow. Scottish women will always feel grateful to Mrs. Elder for this—the only College for women in Scotland—which places within their reach the advantages of higher and professional education, and opens to them a wider sphere of usefulness in the world. (Applause).

I cannot refrain when speaking of Queen Margaret College from alluding to one who has been a life-long friend of Mrs. Elder's, and who, unfortunately, is not well enough to be with us to-day. I

allude to Mrs. Campbell of Tulliehewan—a lady, herself endowed with exceptional abilities, who, I believe, was largely instrumental in starting Queen Margaret College, and ably assisted Mrs. Elder's efforts in that direction. Without doubt, Scottish women owe a large debt of gratitude to Mrs. Campbell's energy, as well as to Mrs. Elder's generosity, for the educational advantages Queen Margaret College now confers upon them.

But to return to Mrs. Elder, I think *the* gift that will make her memory linger longest in the hearts of the toiling masses in Govan is the gift of this beautiful Elder Park !

Here, in the summer evenings, within sight of flowers and green trees, and with the rest afforded by comfortable seats, weary workers can forget for a while their daily toil, whilst the children have a happy playground here, far removed from the crowded streets.

We recognise in this gift Mrs. Elder's wise philanthropy, as she realised the vast importance of providing this breathing space in a crowded industrial district, which, had it not been for her generosity, would have become a mass of dwellings and, before many years had passed, would have been lost for ever for the purposes to which it is now devoted—for the healthy recreation and enjoyment of thousands of the working classes, both young and old. It has cheered the hearts and brightened the lives of many weary workers in this great industrial centre. (Loud eheers).

In 1903, a spacious free library, which, with its endowment, cost over £27,000, was another of Mrs. Elder's gifts to the Burgh, and as a proof of her thoughtfulness for the working classes, and of her freedom from any narrow conventional restraint, she stipulated, in presenting the library to the Town Council, that it should always be open for some hours every Sunday afternoon, so that the working people of the neighbourhood, whose week-days are filled with a round of toil, might participate in its privileges on Sundays.

It was during the last eight years of her life that I had the privilege of knowing Mrs. Elder, and I was much struck by the deep, kind and earnest interest she always took in all that concerned Govan. It was at that time that she gave very generous help in starting the Training Home for Cottage Nurses, an institution which enables the poorest women here to have the blessing of careful nursing in their own homes when they are ill. Mrs. Elder at the same time also built and endowed the Elder Cottage Hospital, which is doing very valuable work for the sick poor in Govan. (Applause).

Her last benefaction is one for the relief and benefit of poor widows. (Cheers).

Thus Mrs. Elder has striven in her life, and by her public gifts, to raise, to elevate, and to beautify the lives of the great mass of the people. On her devolved the weight of great and responsible duties, and these she undertook, filled with the earnest hope of carrying them through to the best of her abilities.

It is but fitting that a statue should be erected to one who has done so much to benefit the community. All have gladly joined in subscribing to it, actuated by a sincere desire to do honour to the memory of one whom they so warmly respected and admired.

Mrs. Elder's statue will form a handsome addition to her Park, marking for all time the gratitude of the people of Govan for her noble gifts, and preserving to future generations the name of one who endeared herself to the working-classes by her constant efforts for their welfare. (Cheers).

This statue is not only a beautiful work of art, it is more than that—it is an incentive to all to live to benefit others. For her endeavour was to use the great wealth and opportunities that had been given her for the good of her fellow-creatures. She was one of those who realise the great responsibilities of wealth, and who look upon it in the right way—as a trust given to them to minister to the needs of others—and her earnest wish was to prove worthy

of this trust. Hers was a great life of service, which was absolutely in keeping with its tenour from the first. She never failed to prove her continual interest in the well-being of those who toil. (Applause).

Her name is not written merely on the stone of the Elder Free Library, but it will be for ever engraved on the hearts of the many who experienced her generosity, and she will be remembered with gratitude by thousands in years to come, for her gift to the widowed poor, her provision for the suffering and sick, and her benefactions to the work-people of Govan.

I have only one word more to say, that is—in your name, and in the name of the subscribers, to ask Provost Anthony and the Magistrates and Councillors of Govan to take over and accept at your hands this beautiful statue by Mr. Shannan, and to take such charge of it that it may be a lasting memorial to all future generations of one who was held in the highest estimation by the people of Govan. (Loud cheers).

At the conclusion of her speech Her Grace was presented, by Mrs. Anthony, wife of the Provost, with a magnificent bouquet of Elder Park flowers.

Provost Anthony said—Your Grace, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have to-day to discharge one of the most pleasant duties which can fall to any occupant of the civic chair.

You have heard of the noble work which the late Mrs Elder performed, not only for Govan, but for many other parts of the British Empire, but in all the gifts which characterised her whole life, she had always an especially warm feeling for the people of Govan, and I can assure Your Grace that this statue, which you have unveiled to-day, will be much revered by the people of this community. (Applause.) All around here we have evidence of Mrs Elder's thoughtfulness and kindness to the population of Govan. You have heard of the Elder Park, the Elder Cottage Hospital, the Elder Free Library, the Training Home for Cottage Nurses, and

many other gifts. We in Govan know that the name of Mrs Elder will never die—neither in this generation, nor in those to come. (Applause). This Park remains for all time the property of the people, this statue remains for all time the monument of the people; and at the other end of the park we have the statue of John Elder, one who was well-known and esteemed throughout the length and breadth of this country. (Cheers).

Men and women of Govan, I know that you appreciate to the full all the efforts which Mrs Elder made on your behalf, and although this statue may not have a monetary value of an extreme figure, still it is an evidence that the whole community of Govan have contributed their pennies, their threepenny-pieces, and their six-pences, to show their high appreciation of one whom we all miss, the late Mrs Elder. (Hear, hear).

I can assure Your Grace that it will be the care of the Provost, Magistrates and Town Council, to preserve this statue, so that those who come after us will take the charge from our hands, and pass it on to future generations. (Applause).

I am sure, also, that the people of Govan are extremely honoured at your being here this afternoon. (Cheers). It is my pleasing duty to move that we express to Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose our appreciation of her presence amongst us, and our heartiest thanks for the great kindness she has performed to the people of Govan, as well as our appreciation of those gifts to which she has made reference in her speech. (Loud cheers).

The proposal was very heartily responded to, and Her Grace bowed her acknowledgments.

Mr John Francis Ure said—Your Grace, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have very much pleasure in moving a vote of thanks to Provost Anthony for the very able way in which he has presided over the unveiling of this beautiful statue to-day. (Applause). It is indeed a noble tribute of the people of Govan to the memory of the late Mrs



Elder. It has been my privilege to know many of your predecessors, and I can award no higher praise than to say that you have fulfilled the duties of your office as capably as any of those predecessors. (Cheers). I have very much pleasure in moving a vote of thanks to Provost Anthony for his conduct in the chair. (Cheers).

Provost Anthony having briefly acknowledged the vote of thanks, the band played the National Anthem, and the proceedings in the Park were brought to a close.

### Banquet in Town Hall.

The platform party afterwards drove to the Town Hall, where cake and wine, with tea and other refreshments, were served to about 400 guests. Provost Anthony presided.

The hall was tastefully decorated, and organ selections were played while the guests were assembling by Mr. Herbert G. Cross. Grace was said by the Rev. Roger S. Kirkpatrick.

Mr. J. A. Houston, Town Clerk, intimated the receipt of apologies for absence from His Grace the Duke of Montrose, K.T. ; the Marquess and Marchioness of Graham ; the Marquess and the Marchioness of Ailsa ; the Marquess and the Marchioness of Linlithgow ; the Earl and Countess of Home ; Lord and Lady Kelvin ; Lord and Lady Newlands ; Sir Hugh and Lady Alice Shaw-Stewart ; Sir Thomas and Lady Glen Coats ; Sir John and Lady Stirling-Maxwell ; the Sheriff of the County and Mrs. Guthrie ; the Very Reverend Principal Story, D.D., LL.D. ; and Mr. Alexander Elder.

Mr Alexander Elder wrote as follows :—

“ FERNHOLM,

“ HESKETH PARK,

“ SOUTHPORT, 4th October, 1907.

“ TO THE TOWN CLERK, GOVAN,

“ DEAR SIR,

“ Would you kindly convey to the Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of the Burgh of Govan and the Memorial Committee of the Mrs. John Elder Memorial

my high and grateful appreciation of the honour they are showing to the memory of my sister-in-law, the widow of my late brother, John Elder. I know the warm interest they took in the welfare of Govan, and feel pleased it was so highly appreciated. You are aware all my early days belonged to the Clyde, and especially to Govan, and although the last forty years have associated me more closely with Liverpool, I am glad to say that I have never forgotten my old home, and most of my vessels have been built on the Clyde. Please understand, therefore, it is with sincere regret I find myself unable to accept the invitation to be present, and how proud I would be to join with you in the testimonial which I feel certain is most sincere from all the inhabitants of Govan.

“ I have been very unwell for many months, and lately have not improved in my health, and in fact I am under the doctor’s guidance and forbidden to attempt a journey to Glasgow

“ Mrs. Elder would also have been pleased to be present, but will not leave me in my illness. Will you, therefore, kindly convey our united thanks for the invitation, and also our regret.

“ Believe me,

“ DEAR SIR,

“ Yours sincerely,

“ ALEXANDER ELDER.”

The loyal toasts having been duly honoured,

Provost Anthony then proposed the toast of “ Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose,” and said—Your Grace, I need hardly say how pleased we are in Govan to welcome you within the municipal boundaries, and more especially upon the occasion of this special visit. (Applause). We do feel honoured indeed that you have found time to come to this busy town to show your appreciation of the efforts of her whom to-day we are met to honour. Ladies and gentlemen, we know something of the life of the lady who has so kindly come amongst us to-day. (Cheers). She is interested in many works for the betterment of the people of this country. She is President of the Glasgow Needlework Guild ; she is also President of the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Friendly Society ;—(cheers)—she is the President of the Cottage Nurses’ Training Home ; and, to add to that already large list, she is also President of the Elder Hospital in Govan. (Loud

cheers). Now, I do not think that you require from me, or any other, many words for this toast to be accepted in the way it should be by a Govan audience. If Her Grace continues—as I hope she will be long spared to continue—to visit this community, and take an interest in the affairs of our people in the future as she has done for the past eight years, she will be showing an example to others who are similarly placed in this world, which they might follow with great advantage to themselves and the people amongst whom they live. (Applause). I hope that Her Grace will continue to come into our midst, and that she will take the same interest in the associations which I have enumerated—and very possibly in every new association which meets with her approval—and that she will not be backward in giving that assistance which she has done in past years in Govan. (Cheers). As Her Grace has come at no small inconvenience to honour us with her presence in the Elder Park, I would ask you to be upstanding, and drink with enthusiasm the toast which I now give—“Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose.” (Loud cheers).

Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose, who was received with an outburst of cheering, said—Provost Anthony, Ladies and Gentlemen, there are moments in one’s life when one wishes that one had the gift of eloquence, to be able adequately to thank you all for your kind and hearty votes of thanks to-day. I wish I had that gift, so as adequately to express my thanks to you, but I must tell you, as an excuse, that when I came here to-day, I fully hoped my son, Lord Graham—(cheers)—would have been here. I know he would like me to say on his behalf how very sorry he was to be deprived of the pleasure of meeting you all here to-day, and had he come, he would have returned thanks on my behalf. I have heard that even great speakers are glad of a little preparation before they make a speech, but for the few words of thanks I am saying I have not had that advantage to-day. The gift of speech which comes so naturally to men—(laughter)—does not always come quite so easily to women—(laughter)—excepting when they are at home—(renewed laughter). I therefore

trust you will not expect me to make a speech at this moment, but I would like to be able to say how very much I appreciate your kindness, and what a great pleasure, besides a privilege, I think it is to have been present to-day on this very interesting occasion. No one admires the late Mrs Elder's life more than I do—and, I am sure, than you all do—for it was a life filled with good deeds and generous feelings towards those who have not much in this world, and therefore to be allowed to take part in these proceedings, and pay this last tribute to her memory, I really appreciate and think a great honour. (Applause). One word more I would like to say, and that is that I am no stranger to Govan. (Cheers). I am often here. I am very much interested in the Elder Cottage Hospital, and also in the Training Home for Cottage Nurses, as Provost Anthony has informed you, and Provost Anthony need have no fear that I shall not often come to Govan again. (Cheers). I thank you all exceedingly for your very kind vote of thanks, which, I can assure you, I appreciate very much indeed. (Loud cheers).

Mr John Francis Ure, in proposing "The Memorial Statue Committee," said—Mr Provost, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in proposing the toast of "The Memorial Committee." I wish that this duty had fallen into hands more capable than mine, but still, in view of the fact that I am one of the few surviving relations of Mrs Elder, I feel I ought to make a special effort to undertake this toast. Ex-Provost Marr told us this afternoon many particulars of the movement which this Memorial Committee was appointed to carry out, many particulars of the hard work, and the intricate details that required to be attended to before the matter could be brought to the satisfactory conclusion that we have seen to-day. I am sure our hearty thanks are due to every member of that Committee for the very able work which has been done, and for the very gratifying conclusion that we have arrived at to-day. (Cheers). It would be invidious on my part, perhaps, to make any distinctions in allotting praise to any members of this Committee, but I think I may be

pardoned for making special mention of the name of Ex-Provost Marr, who has done yeoman service in carrying out this great work. And perhaps I ought to mention the late Mr Macdonald—so long the Town Clerk of Govan—who also did so much valuable work in this connection. (Cheers).

When I saw that statue unveiled this afternoon, I came to the conclusion that it was the work of a great artist. (Hear, hear). I, and many of us who knew Mrs Elder so well, could not but see that it was not only a work of great beauty, but that it was a most faithful likeness. (Cheers). We cannot bestow too much praise upon that able artist, Mr Shannan, for this great work which he has given us. (Cheers). Then, too, nothing could be better than the site in which it was decided to place the statue. I may tell you that Mrs Elder herself expressed the greatest satisfaction that that particular site had been chosen. I think it is so appropriate that it should be placed in the flower garden, somewhat sheltered from the rest of the Park. (Hear, hear). That statue represents Mrs Elder presiding, as it were, over that beautiful park which she gave to the people, gazing towards the great Fairfield works, where John Elder worked, than whom no greater marine engineer ever lived, and her brother, John Francis Urc, all of whom have left a name and fame which extends far beyond the corners of this burgh. (Cheers). The significance of this statue lies in the fact that it is the gift of all classes of the people of Govan, a respectful mark of their appreciation of the benefits she conferred upon them. (Applause). The statue is a fitting and beautiful tribute of the people in return for the ever constant regard Mrs. Elder had for their welfare and happiness. It will rest among you as a lasting and faithful representation of that good lady, whose thoughts were ever with you, and whose last years were largely—I may almost say entirely—devoted to well-planned schemes for the amelioration of the lives of the people of Govan. (Loud cheers).

This statue will serve to bring still closer to you, and will for ever preserve, the memory of the bountiful lady who gave so freely

of her wealth to those who, she felt, were most in need of her help and encouragement. It is true, no statue was needed to keep her memory green, yet it will testify your appreciation of the benefits she conferred upon this burgh, and preserve her personality among you for all time. (Applause). Mr Provost, I have much pleasure in moving the toast of "The Memorial Committee." (Cheers).

Ex-Provost Marr, in reply, said—Mr Provost, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to thank Mr Ure for the very kind terms in which he was pleased to refer to the Memorial Committee. I can assure you that it was a work of love to me, and everyone of us esteemed it a great privilege and a great joy to be permitted to take what part we could in such a noble work. (Applause). I would like also to say that the Committee were often—very often—indebted to Mr Ure himself for kind assistance. He, as you know, came into close contact with Mrs Elder, and it was sometimes very helpful just to know what Mrs Elder's wishes in regard to this matter and that matter were. I have also to thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for the very kind manner in which you responded to the toast, and I would like to take this opportunity of acknowledging the Memorial Committee's great indebtedness to all those who assisted them so nobly in the work in which they were engaged. I would refer specially to the lady collectors who so generously gave us their ready and cordial assistance. (Cheers). I could have wished that everyone who assisted us in that way could have been here with us, but there were so many that this hall could not have contained them. I also wish to acknowledge my indebtedness, and that of the Committee, to the general public and the subscribers, who responded so promptly and so generously to the appeal for subscriptions when it was made. I can assure you that it was a cause of some anxiety to us when the movement was set on foot, lest it should hang fire in any way, because, as you know, Mrs Elder was then living, and it would have been painful to her had there been any delay. However, your prompt and generous response set that matter right almost immediately. (Applause). I again thank you, ladies

and gentlemen, for the vote of thanks to the Memorial Committee. (Cheers).

Ex-Bailie Williamson said—I have a duty at this time to perform, and that is to propose a vote of thanks to Mr Shannan, the sculptor. I think the Committee has been very fortunate in securing the services of Mr Shannan, who has made this statue a perfect work of art. The Committee did not extol the many virtues of Mrs Elder upon the pedestal of the statue, but Mr Shannan, by the expression of the countenance, and the outstretched hand, showed how very generous this noble lady was. Mr Shannan, from the beginning, has tried to make this the work of his life, and I am sure he has been highly successful. (Cheers). He has satisfied the desires of the Committee, and I am sure the people of Govan will now be satisfied also. (Cheers). I ask one and all to give Mr. Shannan a hearty vote of thanks. (Cheers).

Mr. Shannan, in reply, said—Ladies and Gentlemen, I am deeply indebted to you for the heartiness with which you have responded to the toast, and I feel embarrassed by the kind way you have drunk my health. It has given me a great deal of pleasure to know that my art has been pleasing to you. I can assure you, had it not been for the many friends of Mrs. Elder, and the gracious lady herself, and the assistance she gave, it never could have been accomplished. The Committee were ever ready at any time to give me a helping hand, and no sculptor ever had a better chance than I had ; it seems to me that kindness and love and friendship were at the root of it all. (Applause). I trust that the statue, as time rolls on, will continue to give pleasure and happiness. (Cheers).

Provost Anthony said—To-day we have with us, I am pleased to say, the Lord Provost of Glasgow. He has seen pretty well through the Burgh of Govan to-day, and I should like just to know what he thinks of Govan, as Govan. (Laughter). It is not often that we have the Lord Provost at a function—it is not often we have

a function in Govan. (Laughter). But we have him here as a guest, and I should like him now to tell us what he thinks of the Provost, Magistrates and Town Council of Govan. (Cheers).

Lord Provost Bilisland said—Provost Anthony, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Provost has just told you that I am here to-day as a guest, and I rejoice to think, from your expressions, a welcome guest. (Cheers.)

Modest man, he has asked me to say what I think of Govan. Well, to be perfectly straightforward—and I think straightforwardness is a virtue in any public man—(hear, hear)—I cannot tell you where Glasgow ends and where Govan begins. (Laughter.) I do not think I can give a higher compliment than that. (Laughter and cheers.) It is a very great pleasure to be here this afternoon. We, like you, are deeply grateful to the memory of the late Mrs Elder. In very many directions in Glasgow, as well as Govan, and, in fact, all over the West of Scotland, she has left a memory that shall always be revered, and she has set a-going organisations and benefactions that will live for many days to come, so that future generations, as well as the present, will get the advantage of her kind heart and generous impulses. (Cheers.) I rejoice with you in the most appropriate proceedings of to-day, and congratulate Mr Shannan on his great artistic triumph in that splendid statue that has been unveiled to-day. (Cheers.)

My pleasing duty is to propose “The Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Govan,” which I do most heartily. I do not suppose that anyone thinks that I came here to-day at all in the spirit of Duncan Gray. (Laughter.) I am afraid, if I had, I would be bound to say that “Meg was deaf as Ailsa Craig.” (Laughter.) But I think it is the duty of Glasgow and of Govan to cultivate—as I know they do—the most friendly relations. (Hear, hear.) I know your feeling, through the Provost and other members of the Corporation, towards us, and I can reciprocate, on behalf of my colleagues, most



cordially that feeling. We live in a time when the spirit of the *entente cordiale* is the prevailing spirit, and I am sure that is the spirit that prevails between Glasgow and Govan, and between Govan and Glasgow. (Cheers.) I have the very greatest pleasure in submitting for your acceptance this toast of "The Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Govan," with every expression of good feeling towards them, and cordial wishes for their continued prosperity. (Cheers.) I have the pleasure of coupling this toast with the name of my esteemed friend, Bailie Buchanan. (Cheers.)

Provost Anthony—I will ask my colleague, Bailie Buchanan, to tell the Lord Provost where Glasgow ends and Govan begins. (Laughter.)

Bailie Joseph Buchanan said—Ladies and Gentlemen, I have to thank you very much for the cordial manner in which you have just responded to this toast. I have also to thank Lord Provost Bilsland for the very friendly terms in which he has proposed that toast, and I can assure him that the sentiments to which he has just given expression regarding Govan are fully reciprocated, not only by the citizens of Govan, but also by every member of the Town Council. (Applause.) Ladies and gentlemen, I can assure you that we, as a Town Council, are doing everything that we possibly can for the better government of the town. We are endeavouring to keep pace with the growth of the town. Govan has grown, as I daresay most of you know, with great rapidity—it almost reads like a page of romance. In 1864, when Govan was first incorporated as a burgh, its population was 10,000; to-day it has a population of over 91,000, with an assessable rental of £417,000. Our assets to-day equal £584,000, and our gross liabilities £432,000, leaving a balance to the good of £151,000. (Cheers.) Now, ladies and gentlemen, I think that that shows not only a sound financial position, but is eloquent testimony to the carefulness with which the affairs of the town are managed. If there are any ladies or gentlemen here who have a

few superfluous thousands to spare, and are looking for a good investment, my advice to them would be to call upon our Burgh Treasurer, Mr. Rankin, and leave them there, because I do not believe that it would be possible to have a better or a sounder investment.

Now, although our financial position is so sound, it does not follow that we, as a Council, have by any means been parcimonious. During recent years we have carried out a great many very important schemes of public utility. We have built and equipped a large electricity station at a cost of £109,000; we have built public baths at £25,000; and we have also built this magnificent suite of halls at a cost of £67,000—halls which we hope will be for many years to come not only a centre of attraction, but a home for the social life of Govan. I think, ladies and gentlemen, that we can claim, and claim justly, not only by these schemes which we have carried out, but also by the important work which we have accomplished, and the reforms which we have effected in every department of the burgh, that we have shown ourselves alive to the growing wants and to the growing requirements of the burgh; and as long as we continue to do that, then I think the citizens of Govan can look forward to the future without apprehension, knowing that their interests are secure. Ladies and gentlemen, allow me again to thank you for the cordiality with which you have responded to the toast. (Cheers).

Provost Anthony—We are delighted to have with us our respected Member of Parliament—(cheers)—and I will ask Mr Duncan to propose the last toast.

Mr Robert Duncan, M.P., said:—Ladies and Gentlemen, it would probably be wise policy—it would certainly not be folly—situated as I now am—and only a very far-sighted policy is a wise policy—to say something good about the Provost. I am seated among Provosts and Ex-Provosts, Lord Provosts and Ex-Lord Provosts, and therefore I must speak well, I suppose, of Provosts. I

believe they deserve well of us. Those that we have in the West of Scotland deserve well of the people, and it is worth remembering that the Provost is really a man in authority. I, as a Member of Parliament, speak only as a kind of representative of the voice of the people, of the desire of the people, but a Provost is really a man put in authority, and he has a certain responsibility that goes with authority. Well, we in Govan know that we cannot get on without a certain amount of authority. (Hear, hear).

Perhaps you say, "Oh, here is a man who is an employer." I remember that responsibility, and I think, on an occasion such as this—when there has been unveiled that memorial to Mrs Elder which will go down in the remembrance of generations to come, and when we recall the name which she revered, that of John Elder, a true working and thinking man of Govan—it is not inappropriate to say something on a subject which concerns working men at this particular time. He is a very foolish employer who would wish to secure a victory over those who work under him, and I think it would be even more foolish of workmen to try to secure a victory over their employers, because they all know in their hearts that the work cannot be carried on without some authority. I think they will recognise, that as absolute and ideal justice is not to be had in this world, a little of what they may think injustice might be endured for keeping up discipline and authority. We cannot have a good winter before us in Govan unless both employers and employees show something of the spirit of John Elder and of Mrs Elder, and have that harmony, that *entente cordiale* we hear so much about at the present time. (Hear, hear.) Well, ladies and gentlemen, some of you may ask, "Why are Anthony and Duncan sitting in Harmony Row just now?" I will tell you why—because we are united on that great subject, the prosperity and harmony of Govan. (Cheers.) Provost Anthony, if I read your character aright—and we have come into contact several times—(laughter)—I certainly have recognised an honesty of conviction, a sincerity of principle, in you, which, I

think, speak well for the future of Govan. [(Cheers.) Ladies and gentlemen, whether you drink this toast in the liquor that comes from St. Anthony's well, or in the wine of France, I ask you, for the *entente cordiale*, to drink to the health of Provost Anthony. (Cheers.)

Provost Anthony, in reply, said—Mr Duncan, Ladies and Gentlemen, in a word allow me to thank you for the enthusiastic manner in which you received the sentiment uttered by my friend, Mr Duncan. Although we have little differences now and again, Mr Duncan knows that I hold him in the highest esteem, and I am pleased to know that he reciprocates that feeling. That is what always should be. Men differ to agree, and we agree to differ. I thank you very heartily for drinking the toast so enthusiastically. (Applause).

At intervals during the course of the proceedings the audience were entertained with songs by Miss Margot Beatson and Mr Thomas A. Greenlees.

## THE ELDER FREE LIBRARY.

The foregoing pages contain repeated reference to the gift of a Public Library by Mrs. Elder to the Burgh of Govan, and it will be appropriate to add here some notice of the Library.

By her Deed of Gift of the Elder Park, executed in the year 1885, Mrs. Elder, while stipulating that the Park should be occupied and possessed "as a public park principally for the use and enjoyment of the inhabitants of the Burgh of Govan in the way of healthful recreation by music and amusements and for no other uses or purposes whatever"—provided that, notwithstanding, it should be competent to the Burgh authorities to erect upon the East side of the Park a public reading room or museum and hall for the use of the inhabitants of Govan. It is evident, therefore, that from the beginning she had in view the possibility that the Park might become a source of instruction and elevation to mind as well as of health and recreation to body. Gratified as she always was with the constantly growing usefulness of the Park to the community, she resolved in the course of years to exercise at her own cost the power reserved in the original Deed of Gift of erecting a Public Free Library in the Park.

In fulfilment of this resolution she, in the year 1901, handed over to the Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of the Burgh of Govan the sum of £27,000 in trust for the purpose of building, furnishing and endowing a Free Public Library in the Park. The Deed of Declaration of Trust was executed on 21st, 23rd and 28th October, 1901, and constituted the then Provost, Magistrates and Councillors and their successors in office Trustees for the adminis-





tration of the fund. Of the £27,000, the Trustees were directed to expend a sum not exceeding £9,000 in the erection of suitable buildings and in furnishing them, and a sum not exceeding £1,000 in providing a sufficient stock of books; and they were directed to hold the balance as an endowment fund. Amongst the conditions contained in the Deed is one to the following effect:—"The " said Library shall never be incorporated with any other institution " or library, whether or not such institution or library be founded " in terms of the 'Public Libraries Consolidation (Scotland) Act, " 1887,' or any Acts extending or amending the same; And it is " hereby expressly stipulated that it shall remain open to the public " on Sundays as well as on week days: and I declare the foregoing " to be the fundamental conditions of this deed: and if at any " future time the said conditions or any of them should be violated " then the gift hereby made shall be forfeited, and it shall be in " my power or in the power of those who shall be entitled to the " residue of my means and estate to demand restoration thereof."

### The Building.

Mrs. Elder appointed Mr. John James Burnet, A.R.S.A., architect for the building, and on his suggestion fixed the site which it now occupies at the South-East corner of the Park, opposite the intersection of Elder Park Street with Langlands Road, where, with sufficient ground to form a fore-court or front garden, it may be entered from either street without necessarily giving access to the Park itself.

Of a simple rectangular plan, and quiet and dignified in design, it is essentially a park building and thoroughly characteristic of its purpose. The plain surfaces of its walls offer opportunities of decoration by planting, and the ground immediately surrounding it, and on either side of the accesses to the Park, is laid out in keeping with its design. The semi-circular colonnade, at one end of which



is the main entrance to the building, forms the central feature of the street front. It is surmounted by a dome and flag staff, and bears in the centre of its parapet the Arms of the Burgh of Govan with the motto "*Nihil sine labore.*" The Park front, without projection or central feature of any kind, is only relieved by the large bay windows and ornamental gables of the reading rooms at each end.

Internally, a broad central corridor flanked with marble piers gives access at one end to the News room, which is about fifty-three feet long by about twenty-three feet wide, and is capable of seating over sixty readers, and at the other end to the general Reading room, measuring thirty-four feet by twenty-three feet, and a Reading room for ladies, twenty-three feet by eighteen-and-a-half feet, together capable of seating sixty-eight readers. A handsomely furnished Committee room occupies the centre of the street front, and a private room for the librarian adjoins it. Immediately behind the Committee room, rising from the main corridor, an easy stair gives access to the Children's library and reading room, and the basement affords all necessary lavatory, storage and packing accommodation. The book store, which measures forty-five feet by twenty-two feet three inches, is meantime shelved for 19,000 volumes, but has ultimate capacity for double that number. It occupies the whole of the centre of the Park front, and as it is divided from the corridor, news-room and reading room only by marble columns, those in charge can, in the ordinary course of their work, have a complete oversight not only of the entrance to the building, but also of its main departments. The building is amply lighted and aired by large windows. It is heated in winter by a system of hot-water radiators, and is lighted throughout by electricity. The internal finishing is simple and substantial, regard being paid to durability of material and facilities for cleanliness. The entrance and central corridors are lined and floored with Italian and Norwegian marbles, and the reading-room and news-room, where readers may sit or stand,

are floored with wood and panelled with that material to a height of twelve feet.

Entirely of hewn stone, the building, though simple in its lines, is here and there richly and effectively carved, and while possessing the scale and dignity of a public building, has that ease and elegance which should characterise garden buildings whose principal charm lies in the contrast of their severe lines with the freer and fuller forms of surrounding nature.

A memorial tablet of silver bronze in the corridor bears the following inscription :—

THIS BUILDING  
WITH THE NECESSARY ENDOWMENT  
THE GENEROUS GIFT TO THE BURGH OF GOVAN  
OF  
MRS. ISABELLA URE OR ELDER, LL.D.  
CLAREMONT TERRACE, GLASGOW,  
WIDOW OF JOHN ELDER ESQ.  
ENGINEER AND SHIPBUILDER IN GOVAN  
THE MEMORIAL STONE OF WHICH WAS LAID  
BY  
ANDREW WILLIAMSON ESQ. J.P.  
CONVENER OF PARKS COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL  
OF THE BURGH OF GOVAN  
ON  
4TH OCTOBER 1902  
WAS OPENED  
BY  
ANDREW CARNEGIE ESQ. LL.D. OF SKIBO  
ON  
5TH SEPTEMBER 1903  
JOHN MARR ESQ. J.P. PROVOST OF GOVAN CHAIRMAN.

*Architect*—JOHN JAMES BURNET A.R.S.A. GLASGOW.

*Clerk of Works*—ANDREW BROWN, GOVAN.

In the same corridor are placed busts in marble of Mr. and Mrs. Elder executed by Mr. A. McFarlane Shannan, A.R.S.A.

### Laying of Memorial Stone.

The Memorial Stone was, as stated in the inscription, laid on Saturday, 4th October, 1902, by Ex-Bailie Andrew Williamson, Convener of the Parks Committee, in presence of a large and distinguished company.

In doing so, Ex-Bailie Williamson said that Mrs. Elder had been so much impressed that a free library in Govan would be attended with great advantage to its inhabitants, particularly the working class, that with her usual generosity and largeness of heart she had handed over to the Town Council the sum of £27,000 to build, furnish and endow the Library for the use and enjoyment of the people under certain conditions. The Library was not to be incorporated with any other institution or library, and Mrs. Elder stipulated that it should remain open on Sundays.

Provost Marr said he could hardly find words to give adequate expression to the feelings of pleasure and satisfaction which he felt in occupying the chair on that most interesting and important occasion. I look, he continued, upon the erection of this Library as marking an important era in the progress of our town, which hitherto has been destitute of the enormous advantage of possessing an institution such as this, calculated as it is to promote the intellectual and moral improvement of the 85,000 people in the midst of whom it is placed. It is remarkable that Scotland should have made the progress that she undoubtedly has made in learning and science and art considering how little was done by the Government to further the cause of education from the time of Knox until the passing of the Education Act of 1872. Since then of course much has been done by Parliament in the way of promoting education, and under the Board schools, which have been established all over the country, great strides have been made in providing for elementary

education, and to some extent, but unfortunately not to the full extent, for secondary education. I look back with great pleasure to the time I spent as a member of the Govan School Board in helping to forward the development of the Act of 1872, but confessedly we are still far behind continental nations in the means of providing adequate instruction for the people in the various arts, professions and sciences, excellence in which now constitutes the vitality of a nation. Little or nothing appears to have been done by the Government in the matter of establishing libraries until the year 1850, when with great exertion a statute was carried through Parliament applicable to England enabling Town Councils of boroughs having a population of not less than 10,000 to ascertain the opinion of the ratepayers as to adopting the provisions of the Act, while in 1867 an Act was passed to the same effect for Scotland. Both these Acts and others which succeeded them have been subsequently consolidated, and great facilities are given for the formation of libraries, but it is surprising to find the difficulties which were thrown in the way of putting these Acts into force in both countries. It is no wonder, therefore, that in point of general knowledge as well as in special departments of science and arts the people of this country should be so far behind those of other European nations, and that Govan from its institution as a burgh in 1864 should have remained practically without a library, or for that matter almost without an ordinary bookseller's shop. It is safe to say, at least so far as Scotland is concerned, that the people are more indebted to private donors than to the Government in the matter of libraries. In proof of this, referring to Glasgow alone, I need only mention the Stirling, Mitchell and Baillie Libraries, not forgetting, so far as Govan is concerned, the Thom Library. Then, again, we have the magnificent donations of Mr. Carnegie for the establishment of libraries in the three kingdoms; and now we are met to carry out so far the munificent gift of Mrs. Elder, not being in point of the excellence of its object the least of the many benefits which she has conferred upon the Burgh

of Govan, and in recognition of which I think it will not be out of place for me to advert to the movement which is now taking place for the purpose of having a statue of the generous donor erected in the near neighbourhood of this Library, and to express the hope that not only the inhabitants of Govan themselves but others resident in the adjoining districts will contribute liberally to the subscriptions now in course of being made for the speedy fulfilment of that object.

### Banquet in Reading Room.

At a cake and wine banquet, which was subsequently given in that part of the building which now forms the general reading room, Ex-Bailie Williamson proposed the health of Mrs. Elder, and said—Anything that I may say about Mrs. Elder will fall short of anything that should be said. Her great aim and object is to benefit her fellow creatures. Her gifts and her graces are numerous. She gave the Chair of Naval Architecture and Engineering which has benefited many. We have also the Queen Margaret College for the better education of women. We have our Elder Park, a boon and a blessing to the people of Govan, particularly the young, the feeble and the old. With her usual care and wisdom she has protected them by the Deed of Gift of the Park, in which it is stated that no thoroughfare shall be allowed there. We have our Cottage Nurses Training Home, which is doing a great work in our midst. We have the Cottage Hospital in this locality, which will soon be ready, and will be duly taken advantage of and appreciated by those it is intended for. We have gifts to the Parish Church, the Elder Park Parish Church, and many others. There is scarcely an institution or association in the burgh that has not been benefited by her liberal hand. And last, though not least, we have this noble institution where those that are inclined can spend a comfortable hour in reading or consulting the best of authors. To use her own words, “it will be filled with good books,” and while we here now

thank Mrs. Elder for her generous gift, I have no doubt that the young and rising generation will bless her name in giving the facilities she has given for improving themselves. She has not hid her talents in the earth, neither rolled them in a napkin, but has traded with them for the good of mankind. And when the time comes to give an account of her stewardship she will hear the Good Master say : " Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

The toast having been enthusiastically received, Mr. John Francis Ure, who was cordially welcomed, said that it gave him great pleasure to reply to the toast of Mrs. Elder's health. He begged to thank Mr. Williamson for the very kind way in which he had proposed the toast, and those present for the enthusiastic manner in which they had received it. He had been requested by Mrs. Elder to express the great regret she felt at having been prevented by illness from being present that day and taking part in the ceremony of laying the memorial stone. Mrs. Elder herself had not been able to undertake the duty, but she felt that no one more fitted for the task could have been selected than Mr. Williamson, for she was well aware with what great ability and assiduity he had carried out his duties as Convener of the Public Parks Committee. He thought there could be but one opinion as regards the building for which Mr. Burnet was responsible. Not only was it a fine and imposing structure, but it was clear from the general proportions that it was exactly adapted to the purposes it was intended by the donor to fulfil. They must congratulate Mr. Burnet upon his work, which, he thought, they might well say had exceeded their expectations, high though they were, in cleverness of design and dignity of structure. He begged to thank Provost Marr and Mr. Williamson for the many kind things they had said that day regarding Mrs. Elder and her gift of this public library. On her behalf he thanked them most sincerely, and assured them that he

would later in the day convey personally to her those expressions of thanks and goodwill. It would be a source of much gratification to Mrs. Elder to hear how successful had been the day's ceremony, and to know how sincerely her gift of this library was appreciated by the people of the Burgh of Govan.

The next toast, that of "The Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of the Burgh of Govan," was, in the absence of Mr. R. Hunter Craig, M.P., proposed by Mr. Archibald Craig.

Mr. Craig said that reference had often been made to the extraordinary growth of Govan, and he would not dwell on that topic further than to remind them that when a former minister of Govan, Dr. Leishman, wrote the account of the parish for the New Statistical Account of Scotland, the only industries mentioned by him were the salmon fishery, hand-loom weaving, the silk factory, and a dye-work. The population of the burgh at its formation in 1864 was, he believed, some 9,000, and to-day they had heard from the Provost it had reached the enormous figure of 85,000. The Town Councillors of Govan were peculiarly qualified to manage the affairs of such a community, being in the closest touch with its wants and requirements, and combining in a happy degree the energy and zeal due to periodical infusions of new blood, with the wisdom and experience of the older members like Provost Marr and Bailie Williamson. To no better body, he felt sure, could Mrs. Elder have entrusted the care of the great and beneficent institution which formed the subject of that day's celebrations. In connection with the toast, he begged leave also to make mention of the body of able officials by whom the Council was served, and he felt sure it was a source of gratification to everyone to see in their midst their old and accomplished friend the Town Clerk, with eye undimmed and natural force unabated. It was probably not known to everyone that Mr. Macdonald had made not unsuccessful excursions into the realm of literature, and among the "good books" which Bailie Williamson said were

alone to be introduced into the Elder Library, he felt sure an honoured place would be found for the works, grave and gay, of Alexander Macdonald, Town Clerk of Govan. The burgh was fortunate in having at its head a Provost so enlightened and so well versed in all its affairs as Provost Marr, with whose name he begged to couple the toast.

Provost Marr suitably replied.

Other toasts were "The Architect and Contractors," proposed by Bailie R. H. B. Thomson, and acknowledged by Mr. Burnet; and "The Chairman," proposed by Mr. Robert Duncan.

At the conclusion of the proceedings Provost Marr handed to Mr. Ure a beautiful bouquet of flowers to be conveyed to Mrs. Elder.

### Opening Ceremony.

Great preparations were made by the Town Council for the opening ceremony, which was fixed for 5th September, 1903, and for which the presence had been secured of Andrew Carnegie, Esq., LL.D., of New York and Skibo, the famous donor of public libraries. Mr. Carnegie was received at the Town Hall by Provost Marr and the Magistrates and Town Councillors of the Burgh, after which the carriages containing Mr. Carnegie and the platform party took up a position in front of the Council Chambers while a procession of friendly and trade societies filed past in the following order:— Detachment of mounted police; Chief Marshal, Mr. J. Macgregor Malloch, and assistants; Boys' Brigade; United Boilermakers (seven branches); Govan Weavers' Society; Ancient Order of Foresters; Caledonian Order United Oddfellows; Irish National Foresters; Independent Order of Oddfellows (Manchester Unity); John Elder Lodge Oddfellows; Fairfield Apprentice Shipwrights; Ancient Order Free Gardeners; Loyal Order Ancient Shepherds; Independent Order Rechabites; Associated Blacksmiths; Elder Model Yacht Club; Independent Order of Good Templars; Sail-



makers ; Grain Weighers ; Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners ; Shipwrights (West and East branches) ; Amalgamated Society of Engineers ; Associated Carpenters and Joiners ; Coppersmiths ; Operative Masons ; and United Coppersmiths. The Burgh was *en fête* for the occasion, and in many places flags and bunting were displayed.

At the Library a large assembly of ladies and gentlemen awaited the arrival of Dr. Carnegie and the municipal party, including the following :—Mrs. Marr ; Mr. John Francis Ure and Miss Ure, London ; Bailie D. M. Stevenson of Glasgow ; Councillor Murray, Glasgow ; Provost M'Millan, Kinning Park ; Mr. James Nicol, City Chamberlain, Glasgow ; Ex-Provost and Mrs. Kirkwood ; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Duncan of Whitefield ; Rev. Dr. John Smith, chairman, Govan Parish School Board ; Sheriff Fyfe ; Mr. W. Weir Grieve, Sheriff Clerk of Lanarkshire ; Dr. John Macintyre ; Dr. Donald J. M'Intosh, Western Infirmary ; Captain White ; Dr. Robert Gourlay, Bank of Scotland ; the Rev. Roger S. Kirkpatrick, B.D. ; the Rev. Robert Howie, D.D. ; the Rev. David Orr, B.D. ; the Rev. John King, M.A. ; Parish Councillors Hood and Henderson ; Mr. Archibald Craig, LL.B. ; County Councillors Campbell, Maxton, Stewart, Dykes and Kerr ; Ex-Provost Neil MacLean ; Ex-Councillors Hutcheson, Wilson, Smith, Armstrong, Alexander Campbell, Fingland, Porter, Martin, M'Callum, and Macdonald ; Dr. W. G. Barras ; Dr. Alexander Campbell ; Dr. Haddow ; Dr. Hunter ; Dr. Wilson ; Dr. Ross ; Messrs J. A. Houston, W. T. McLellan, George S. McLellan, James Chrystal (of Messrs J. & B. Stevenson), Hugh Duns-muir (of Messrs Dunsmuir & Jackson), James Rose, Sinclair Couper (of Messrs Lindsay Burnet & Co.), Hamilton Marr, Alex. W. Sampson and George Strachan (of Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., Ltd.), James Reid, Chairman, and J. W. Shepherd (of the London and Glasgow Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., Ltd.), Edmund Sharer (of Messrs William Beardmore, Ltd.), Alexander McGrigor, David D. Baird, M. P. Fraser, John James

Burnet, A.R.S.A., R. A. Ogg, S. G. G. Copestake, John Young (Manager, Glasgow Corporation Tramways). P. Macgregor Chalmers, David Wilson (General Manager, Clydesdale Bank), Alexander Harper (of Govan Parish School Board), F. T. Barrett (Librarian-in-Chief, Mitchell Library, Glasgow), James Drysdale, William Galloway (District Secretary, Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners), and many representatives from trade and friendly societies.

Provost Marr, who was received with much applause, said :— Ladies and Gentlemen, in the course of my life and on many important occasions, I have had to make a public appearance, but the present is not only the most interesting but the most pleasant and most unique of these occasions. I think you will understand what I mean when I tell you that we are met to witness the opening of this building by the greatest benefactor of our race—(applause)—so far as the diffusion of inspiring and elevating knowledge, and the bringing of sweetness and light into the homes and pursuits of common life are concerned—(applause)—acting on behalf of a lady who is also distinguished by her munificence in the same noble line of conduct as that which has marked the career of Dr. Carnegie. (Loud applause).

It would be superfluous in me to advert to the numerous gifts and benefactions that he has made. I will content myself with conveying to him the cordial thanks of the Town Council and the people of Govan for his very great kindness and consideration in coming from such a distance to open the beautiful library which has been gifted by Mrs. Elder to the people of Govan—(applause)—under a Deed of Gift conveying to the Town Council £27,000, sufficient not only to erect this building, but to fill it with books, and to maintain it for all time. (Hear, hear).

I may, however, be permitted to say that this is not the only instance in which Mrs. Elder has displayed the strong philanthropic

feelings which fill her heart. Most of you, I have no doubt, are aware that several years ago she instituted the Queen Margaret College for the higher education of women, the John Elder chair of naval architecture, including marine engineering, and contributed to the endowment of the chair of civil engineering and mechanics, all in the University of Glasgow, besides presenting to the people of Govan the magnificent park in which the present library is situated, and the Elder Cottage Hospital, involving altogether, I believe, an expenditure of over £200,000, irrespective of the money involved in other numerous acts of charity and benevolence. Within the building now to be opened, when its shelves are filled with first-class literature, this community will be provided with a priceless treasure, of which it is sincerely to be hoped they will avail themselves, and acquire the knowledge which will now be placed within the easy reach of them all. I need not enlarge upon the great benefits which will necessarily result from their becoming familiar with the mighty thoughts and deeds of the intellectual giants of the past and present, from which they will get inspiration, guidance, and aid in every sphere of life they occupy.

To the generous donor they can hardly express their gratitude for her magnificent gift, nor to Dr. Carnegie for having so courteously consented to perform the interesting ceremony of opening the library. My only regret is that in Govan we are not in a position—even though we have now a population of some 90,000, and are the fifth largest town, or city, in Scotland—merely from the fact that we are not what is called a Royal or Parliamentary Burgh, to make Dr. Carnegie a burghess. (Applause.) However, we have at the present time a Provisional Order in the House of Commons in which there is a clause to give effect to that, and let us hope that when Dr. Carnegie next makes his appearance amongst us we will be able to offer him for his acceptance the dignity of being enrolled as our youngest burghess. (Applause.) Meantime, I beg that he will accept the will for the deed.

Ladies and gentlemen, I should say at this point that after the library is opened, and Dr. Carnegie has visited the place, he will then come back and address you. I have now the pleasure of asking Mr. Williamson, Convener of the Parks and Library Committee, to hand the key of the library to Dr. Carnegie in order that he may perform the ceremony of opening the building. (Loud applause).

Ex-Bailie Williamson said—Dr. Carnegie, I have very much pleasure in giving you a hearty welcome to this, the shipbuilding burgh. In doing so, we are carrying out the desire of Mrs. Elder, our worthy donor, who some time ago asked you to open this building. I am sorry she is not able to be present with us to-day, as it was her desire to be. Govan, as you know, has a large working-class population, and has risen by leaps and bounds from 9,058 in 1864, when it was made a Burgh, to over 90,000 at the present time. (Applause). While the Town Council have done a great deal to keep the Burgh up to date, so far as watching, lighting, sanitation, and other matters under the Police Act are concerned, they have not been able to provide for this large community the accommodation which is necessary either in libraries or recreation rooms to counteract the influence of the public houses, or induce our young men to leave the street corners, where, I am sorry to say, too many waste their time. We have young people from every village, town and city of this great Empire to provide for. The Town Council feel their responsibility, but, as a working-class community, we have to be careful not to overtax the ratepayer. But Govan has its bright side. We have been blessed with good ladies who do not spare their means in the interest of the people, and give with a liberal hand. (Applause). We have a noble example in the building before us. Mrs. Elder has not only given a sufficient sum to build and furnish it, but also to endow it, so that the people can enjoy the generous gift in all time coming without being taxed. I have now much pleasure, Dr. Carnegie, in presenting you with this key, designed and given by Mr. Burnet, the architect of the building, and I ask you,

in the name of Mrs. Elder, to open the library for the use and enjoyment of the people of Govan. (Applause).

Dr. Carnegie, at this point, adjourned to the library. There he opened the door with the key, which was designed by Mr. John James Burnet, the architect of the building, and was made by Messrs R. and W. Sorley, gold and silversmiths, Glasgow. On one side the key bore the Govan Coat of Arms, and on the other a shield with the inscription—"Elder Library, Govan, opened by Andrew Carnegie, Esq., LL.D., 5th September, 1903." The key was enclosed in an artistic case. Once inside, no time was lost in going to the public counter, where Mr. R. Robertson, the librarian, had taken up his position. Dr. Carnegie made formal application for the first book, that on the "Elder Park," by Mr. Archibald Craig. This, and a copy of the "Memoir of John Elder," by the late Professor Rankine, and of the volume on the "Parish of Govan," by the late Mr. Andrew Wallace, Inspector, Govan Combination Parish Council, were presented, and Dr. Carnegie and those accompanying him proceeded to inspect the buildings.

Thereafter Dr. Carnegie returned to the platform, when Provost Marr called upon the Town Clerk.

Mr. Alexander Macdonald, Town Clerk of Govan, thereupon read the following Address, which was artistically engrossed upon vellum and richly illuminated:—

TO MRS. JOHN ELDER, LL.D.

Claremont Terrace, Glasgow.

*Madam,—We, the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of the Burgh of Govan, venture upon the auspicious opening of the beautiful Library, which you have so generously gifted to the Burgh, to renew the warm feelings of gratitude and admiration for the invariable kind-*

*ness and consideration shown by you toward the people of Govan, which we endeavoured to express in the Address which we had the honour to present to you on 27th June, 1885, on the occasion of your magnificent gift of the Elder Park.*

*With feelings not less, but if possible more keen and heartfelt, we now beg to offer you, on our own behalf and on that of the inhabitants, our and their warmest thanks for the inestimable boon which you have now conferred, by the presentation of the Elder Library, which, as well for its architectural beauty as for the valuable books which will shortly fill its shelves, will for years to come be a striking monument of your great philanthropic spirit and regard for a place so intimately associated with the memory of your celebrated husband, and of your own benevolent deeds.*

*It offers us additional gratification to feel that your great material gifts to this community will not alone remain to keep your and your husband's memory green in the minds of future generations, for in the Park itself the present generation, as a token of their love and esteem for the name of Elder, have already erected a noble monument to your late husband, and have also completed arrangements for the erection, as we confidently hope, of an equally noble statue of yourself, which we sincerely hope you will be spared in health and strength to see erected.*

*We feel that we cannot conclude this Address without briefly adverting to some of the other benevolent acts which have so remarkably characterised your long and well-spent life, such as the institution of the Queen Margaret College for the higher education of women, the "John Elder" Chair of Naval Architecture, including Marine Engineering, your contribution to the endowment of the Regius Chair of Civil Engineering and Mechanics, all in the University of Glasgow, and the Elder Cottage Hospital in Govan.*

*We are fully aware that it would be vain to attempt to reckon up your acts of private benevolence and charity, which have filled many*

*a heart with joy and thankfulness, for in this respect at least it can be truly said of you, that you are of those who*

*“ Do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame.”*

*That you may be long spared to see the fruits of your great benevolence, is the earnest wish not only of the people of Govan, but of every one to whom your generous acts have become known, and with this hope*

*We remain, yours faithfully,*

JOHN MARR, Provost.

GEORGE HARLEY, Magistrate.	THOS. A. FORTUNE, Councillor.
R. H. B. THOMSON, „	JOHN BOGLE, „
DAVID FULTON, „	ALEXR. MORRISON, „
JOSEPH BUCHANAN, „	RICHARD NEILSON, „
JAMES DEMPSTER, „	JOHN F. M'FADYEN, „
DAVID P. M'KECHNIE, „	WILL. DICKSON, „
ANDREW WILLIAMSON, Councillor	PETER MACFARLANE, „
RICHARD RUSSELL, „	JOHN T. BUCHANAN, „
JOHN ANTHONY, „	JAMES TAIT, „
R. A. WIGHTMAN, „	JOHN MILLER, „

(L.S.)

A. MACDONALD, Town Clerk.

GOVAN, 5th Sept., 1903.

The Address was enclosed in a handsome gold casket, specially designed by Mr. Robert Scott, silversmith, Glasgow. Surmounted by a fine representation of the Govan Coat of Arms, the four panels of the casket represented the Elder Library (front), Elder Cottage Hospital (end), John Elder Statue (end), and Govan Town Hall (back).

Provost Marr said—Ladies and Gentlemen, at one time we were in hopes that Mrs. Elder would have been able to have been with us to-day, and I am sure it would have been a joy to everyone had

she been present. (Applause). I am glad, however, that she is represented here to-day by her relative, Mr. John Francis Ure, to whom, in her name, I have the greatest pleasure of handing this beautiful casket with the address. I hope, sir, continued the Provost, addressing Mr. Ure, that you will accept this in her name as an expression of the regard we entertain for her, and be assured that we appreciate the important and munificent gifts that the people of Govan have received at her hands. (Loud applause).

Mr. John Francis Ure replied as follows :—

Provost Marr, Dr. Carnegie, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mrs. Elder has conferred on me the high privilege of responding, on her behalf, to the address we have just heard read by the Town Clerk, from the Provost, Magistrates and Town Council of the Burgh of Govan. I wish, sir, that duty had fallen into abler hands than mine, for I am fully conscious how great is the responsibility, and how inadequate are my powers to meet it. Would it had been possible for Mrs. Elder to have been present herself on this occasion—(applause)—but the state of her health is such that her doctors strictly forbade it. She has asked me, therefore, to express to you her most sincere regrets at being unable to take part in to-day's ceremonies, and to receive the address in person.

On her behalf I beg to thank you for the very kind expressions that have been used. In her enforced absence, it is a source of the greatest comfort and satisfaction to her to know how gratefully received have been her varied gifts to the people of the Burgh of Govan. (Applause). Mrs. Elder's one aim has been to further the welfare and happiness of the Govan people—(loud applause)—and in so doing she hopes ever to preserve the memory of her late husband, Mr. John Elder ; of his father, Mr. David Elder ; and of her brother, Mr. John Francis Ure ; all of whom were so long connected with this district. (Applause). By her gift of the Elder Park, she had in mind the physical health and the physical development of the



people, by her gift of the Cottage Hospital their restoration from temporary sickness to health, by the gift of the Free Library the development of their higher nature by the cultivation of the mind. (Applause). Her other gifts, though devoted to less general objects, I venture to think will no less prove of permanent benefit to the community. Mrs. Elder has lived to see the people of Govan in the full enjoyment of all, save the last, of these gifts. She believes that these gifts are fully carrying out the work for good which she contemplated. That has been for her a complete and sufficient return. (Loud applause). It is none the less gratifying to her to receive so highly appreciative an address, and I beg to thank you most sincerely for the very kind way in which reference is made to her past gifts, and especially for the cordial terms in which you refer to the latest presentation, the Elder Free Library, which Dr. Carnegie has so kindly opened this afternoon. I cannot close my remarks without referring in terms of high appreciation and thanks to the very successful movement, lately set on foot, to erect a statue in this Park to Mrs. Elder. (Applause). The work is in most excellent hands, those of Mr. Shannan, and I trust that the state of Mrs. Elder's health will soon permit of the work being brought to a satisfactory completion. (Applause). Govan has responded nobly, and with no uncertain note has expressed its thanks, in a most substantial way, for Mrs. Elder's interest in its welfare. I shall not fail to convey to Mrs. Elder this evening the very kind expressions that have been used with reference to her, and once more, on her behalf, I sincerely thank you and the people of Govan for this beautiful address. (Loud and prolonged cheering).

Provost Marr—Ladies and gentlemen, I have now the very great pleasure of asking Dr. Carnegie to address you.

Dr. Carnegie, who was received with loud and prolonged cheering, then delivered an address, in which he said—I have opened many libraries and performed many functions, but I come to-day to a

function, the conditions surrounding which exalt it above others. It is the tribute of a loving wife to one who was one of your chief captains of industry during his life. (Applause). He built the monster ships which make a pathway of the waters, which bring nations and people together, carrying civilisation in their train. We only hate those we do not know—that is a maxim peculiarly true in this regard. The travelled man sees good people in all nations; no nation has all the virtues, and none are without many. We find the philanthropist in all lands, we find the minister, we find the preacher and the teacher, and we find sacred books in all lands ethically similar to our own, all advocating adherence to the virtues, and denouncing the vices of human nature. (Hear, hear). And these busy workmen that I saw to-day, as they stood clanking their rivets up, we must view them in another light than mere toilers—they too are helping in the great work of civilisation—capitalist and workmen engaged in the great work of drawing the world into one common brotherhood. Mrs. Elder, in her life and loneliness, consecrates herself to the performance of good deeds for the benefit of the people, raises tributes to the memory of the man she loved, and I doubt not she was, as all good wives are, the chief inspirer of his deeds. I believe the Elder Library to be one of the most fitting memorials ever erected by a loving wife to her beloved husband. Do we die at death? No. Is Mr. Elder dead, and when Mrs. Elder passes from our sight—which God grant may be long hence—will she die? These works that she has builded in her lifetime will live to tell for generation and generation, that in her life, and in her husband's life, they acted generously and well, and performed their duties, and that at death they only began to live. These things are not dead. This is a living monument with a living soul in it. (Applause). No man, no woman, need die at death. If one live his life well, he in the highest sense will only begin to live in the spirit, and he will do more good perhaps from what he has planted—which may yield more precious fruits—than all that he

would have been able to accomplish had his life far exceeded the three-score years and ten. Ladies and gentlemen, men and women of Govan, I now pronounce this monument with a living soul in it open to all the people in Govan, without money and without price. (Loud cheers).

Provost Marr asked for "a right royal cheer for our great Scotsman, Dr. Carnegie," and "a loving cheer for Mrs Elder," and these having been given with great enthusiasm, the proceedings at the Library terminated.

### **Banquet in Town Hall.**

A cake and wine banquet afterwards took place in the Town Hall, at which Provost Marr presided, and the croupiers were Bailies R. H. B. Thomson, Fulton, Joseph Buchanan, Dempster, and M'Kechnie. The toasts were "The King," proposed by Provost Marr; "Mrs. Elder," proposed by Provost Marr, and replied to by Mr. John Francis Ure; "Dr. Carnegie," proposed by Bailie Harley, and replied to by Dr. Carnegie; "The Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of the Burgh of Govan," proposed by Bailie D. M. Stevenson of Glasgow, and replied to by Bailie R. H. B. Thomson; "The Convener of Parks and Library Committee" by Bailie Fulton, and replied to by Ex-Bailie Williamson, who, before sitting down, proposed the health of "The Architect," to which Mr. Burnet replied. Mr. Williamson afterwards proposed a vote of thanks to the Friendly Societies and other organisations which had helped in the proceedings of the day.

The toast list concluded with the health of "The Chairman," proposed by Mr. William Galloway, and replied to by Provost Marr.

### **Notes on the Library.**

(BY THE LIBRARIAN).

The Library was, as above stated, opened for public use in September, 1903, the preliminary work of selecting, classifying and cataloguing the books having been

started in May, 1903, when Mr. Robert Robertson, who had received his professional training under Mr. F. T. Barrett in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, was appointed Librarian. It is a Reference Library only, no books being lent out for home reading. It is open every week-day from 9-30 a.m. till 10 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 p.m. till 8 p.m. The Children's Library is open on week-days from 4-30 p.m. till 8 p.m., Saturdays from 1-30 p.m. till 8 p.m. The staff consists of a Librarian, two lady assistants and two boys. The annual income is about £700. In 1903 the number of volumes in the Library was about 4,000 in all classes of literature, a special collection being made of books on Engineering, Shipbuilding, Naval Architecture, and technical books generally. About £90 per annum is spent on books. A list of those proposed to be added is laid before the Library Committee each month for approval. The Library now contains (1912) over 6,000 volumes. The number of volumes issued to readers per annum is close on 60,000. During the winter evenings the rooms are used to their utmost capacity. A large percentage of the readers are students from the University and secondary schools. The Engineering, Literary, History, Philosophy, and British and European History sections are especially well used. The Library has a complete author-subject-and-title dictionary catalogue on cards as well as lists of books on special subjects. Readers obtain books by filling up printed application forms. The whole Library is closely classified according to the Dewey system of classification, which brings all books on the same subject together.

The News and Magazine Room contains about 130 periodicals, over £60 per annum being spent to furnish it with a selection of the best monthly and weekly magazines and reviews, including a number of technical periodicals relative to the trades pursued in Govan. Newspapers are taken from all parts of Scotland and some of the principal towns in England and Ireland. The News and Magazine Room is the most popular part of the Library, as many as 1300 visitors sometimes using it in one day. The estimated number of visitors to this Room in 1911 was 281,000.

The Children's Reading Room contains over 600 volumes of carefully selected juvenile literature, and is very well attended. Almost every evening during the winter the room is too small to contain all who want admission. The children are well behaved, and thoroughly enjoy the privilege of reading fairy tales, stories of adventure, travels, etc. The daily average number of books issued is 200.

On Sundays the Library has a fair attendance of visitors, mostly young men and women. Taking an average, the number of visitors using the Reference Library on Sundays is about one-half the number of those using it on week-days, and the proportion in the case of the News and Magazine Room is about one-fifth.

## THE ELDER COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

During the closing years of her life, Mrs. Elder was enabled to carry out another of her long cherished objects, namely, the provision of a Cottage Hospital for the people of Govan. Her original idea was that it should be a Maternity Hospital, with an entirely female staff; and as such she had the building planned and equipped. After its completion, however, Mrs. Elder came to the conclusion that still greater service would be rendered to the community by converting it to a General Hospital. This was accordingly done, and she had the satisfaction of seeing it in full use for two years before she died, the whole expense of the establishment being borne by her. The visitors' book contains the record of a visit which she was enabled to pay to it on 12th October, 1905, only a few weeks before her end, when she was received by the Duchess of Montrose and other friends whom she had associated with her in the management. By her Will she gave directions that the Hospital and everything connected therewith, together with investments to the value of £50,000, to form an endowment fund, should be handed over to the Executive Committee of the Cottage Nurses Training Home, Govan—an institution in which she was deeply interested, and of which a short notice is given below. That Committee was to be incorporated as a special body of Trustees for managing the Hospital and the endowment fund, and while its funds were kept entirely separate, the Hospital was to be used and worked in connection with the Nurses Training Home. Only medical and surgical cases are treated; the Hospital is not available for accidents or infectious cases. As the Hospital formed one of the largest and last of Mrs. Elder's public benefactions, some notice of it and of the Cottage Nurses' Training Home will fittingly conclude this volume.

### Description of Building.

The Hospital is situated at the corner of Langlands Road and Drumoyne Drive, in close proximity to the Elder Park, and was erected from plans by Mr. John James Burnet, A.R.S.A., with Dr. Donald J. Mackintosh, Superintendent of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, as hospital expert. It consists of two flats with attic and basement. The main building in Drumoyne Drive has a frontage of 96 feet 3 inches, and is set well back from the street. There are two flanking wings with piended roofs, and the eaves are treated with a heavy wooden cornice and blocks. The style of architecture is an early phase of English Renaissance. The main entrance takes the form of a large open porch with circled roof, supported by columns and carved trusses. The vestibule opens on a spacious hall, from which an 8-feet wide corridor, running right and left, gives access on the left to the main staircase and patients' elevator, the apartments of the matron and resident medical officer, an electric room and a waiting room; and on the right to the nurses' dining room, the kitchen department, and the janitor's room. Through an arch a view of the staircase is obtained from the hall. On the first floor upstairs is the operating theatre; the main corridor repeats itself, and at each end gives access to a large ward 36 feet long by 21 feet 6 inches broad. These wards were respectively named by Mrs. Elder the "Florence Nightingale" and "Sophia Jex Blake" wards. To the front, entering off the corridor, are three small wards 16 feet long by 13 feet broad, together with the physician's and the surgeon's private rooms, and to the back are ward kitchen, bathrooms, lavatories and sanitary annexe, with sink room, etc. There are in all 25 beds in the Hospital for medical and surgical cases. On the attic floor, on one side of the staircase, is an isolation ward, with lavatory. Here any suspicious case may be kept until the diagnosis is complete. On the other side of the staircase accommodation is provided for the nursing staff, consisting of nine bedrooms and a sitting room. On the opposite side of the corridor is the bathroom

and boxroom accommodation. In the basement are situated the laundry, wash-house, store for patients' clothes, furnace room and disinfecting chamber. Throughout the building the inside fittings are exceedingly simple, projections and corners being as far as possible avoided in order to lessen the accumulation of dust. The floors are rounded up with a wooden cove and facing, and the walls are treated with a dado of adamant plaster. The premises are lighted throughout by electricity, and in the wards connections are laid on by which the light is brought by standard lamps to all the beds where necessary for the better examination of the patients.

As precautions in case of fire, a fire escape is provided, fire alarms are placed on the top landing and on the ground floor, and there are fire extinguishers on each floor. The Hospital is in direct private telephonic communication with the Govan Burgh Fire Station. Exercise in fire drill takes place once a month, usually under the supervision of the Firemaster of Govan.

### The Medical, Surgical, and Electrical Departments.

The medical section consists of the "Sophia Jex Blake" ward, and two of the small wards above-mentioned. The ventilation is by cross-windows, and the heating by large open fires. The department is fully equipped with all the adjuncts which are essential to the comfort and treatment of the patients. The physician's private room is also provided with the necessary apparatus for bacteriological investigation, the analysis of urine and the examination of the blood, as well as for ophthalmoscopic work. Over 200 medical cases were treated in the year 1911.

The surgical section consists of the "Florence Nightingale" ward, one of the small wards above-mentioned, and the large operating theatre with vestibule. The large ward is devoted to female patients and children, while the small ward, with its three beds, affords accommodation for the male patients. The theatre is a

large, airy, well-lit room, finished in the same style as the wards. It is heated by radiators, and is supplied with basins of various types and fitted with various taps. The operating table is probably the best of the kind, and possesses all necessary movements. The stock of implements is ample, and of the aseptic type, the smaller instruments being contained in a tight-fitting glass cabinet closed by a "word" padlock, only those knowing the necessary word being able to gain access to the instruments. A surgical engine for ear and brain work is a feature of this department. An abundant supply of glass tables on wheels is provided, as well as portable stands for basins of solution. The sterilizers for instruments and dressings are placed in the vestibule, and, once the dressings are sterilized, they are only touched by the surgeon or his assistants, a special apparatus being used which obviates the touching of the dressings by the nurses. In the vestibule is also a large press with glass doors, in which the spare dressings and other materials are stored, and this is amplified by further accommodation in the surgeon's room. Over 260 surgical cases were admitted for treatment, and over 290 operations, many of a serious nature, were performed, in the year 1911.

The electrical department is well furnished and up-to-date. Here electrical treatment in all its forms can be carried out, as well as Röntgen ray photography. The electrical installation consists of :

(1) A portable switch board from which can be obtained the constant and interrupted currents.

(2) A motor for generating the three phase sinusoidal current, which can be used also with a vibrator for vibratory massage.

(3) Schnee's four-cell bath, consisting of four earthenware tanks, for arms and legs. The patient is seated on a chair which can be raised or lowered, as desired, the limbs are immersed in water,



or water plus salt or other substance. Any of the above currents can be passed through the patient as desired.

(4) An eight plate static machine, with all the usual furnishings.

(5) High Frequency apparatus. This apparatus is used for the generation of high frequency currents. It consists of a resonator and a couch. It is excited from a new 12-inch Rhumkorff coil by Schall.

(6) X or Röntgen ray apparatus, which can be used for two purposes—(a) For photography and screen examination; (b) for therapy.

For the generation of the X rays the department has a 12-inch coil, two mercury interrupters and an electrolytic one, and two switch boards—one connected with the mercury interrupters, the other with the electrolytic. There is also a Shenton's localising couch, which permits of the Röntgen ray tube being moved in various directions under the patient who lies on the couch.

A completely fitted-up dark room adjoins the electrical room.

For the X ray therapeutic work the equipment is very complete and up-to-date. The X rays are generated in the same way as for photographic purposes. The tube, however, is placed in a Deane's shield, which is practically X ray-proof, *i.e.*, the X rays are confined to the part to be acted upon. The shield is composed of lead glass, which does not permit of the passage of the rays through it. This is necessary for the protection of the workers, doctors and nurses.

The electric light cabinet, which is fitted up in one of the small wards on the upper floor, is lined with rows of electric lamps, and has a stool in the centre on which the patient sits. The head of the patient protrudes through a hole in the top. This bath induces profuse perspiration in from ten to fifteen minutes.

Many cases are treated with great benefit in which ordinary forms of treatment have failed. Cases of obstinate forms of skin disease, chronic rheumatic affections, nervous affections, etc., are frequent, and in diagnosing fractures, foreign bodies, tumours, lung and heart affections, etc., the value of the Röntgen rays is well known.

### Trustees and Staff.

The Trustees of the Hospital consist (1912) of the following four, *ex officio*:—D. P. M'Kechnie, Provost of Govan; The Rev. R. S. Kirkpatrick, B.D., Minister of the Parish of Govan; The Rev. Robert Howie, D.D., Senior Minister of St. Mary's United Free Church, Govan; The Very Rev. Canon McBrearty, Senior Clergyman of Saint Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, Govan; and of Sir George T. Beatson, K.C.B., M.D.; Her Grace The Duchess of Montrose, LL.D., who is President; Dr. Charles Workman; Dr. William Snodgrass; Mrs George Ferguson; Dr. John Macintyre; The Lady Helen Graham; Mrs. R. H. B. Thomson; Lady Ure Primrose, Vice-President; Ex-Provost James Kirkwood. The staff consists of the following:—Physician—W. G. Barras, M.D., L.S.Sc., D.P.H.; Assistant Physician—R. Yuill Anderson, M.B.; Surgeon—John A. C. Macewen, M.B., C.M., B.Sc., F.R.F.P.S; Assistant Surgeons—R. S. Dewar, M.A., M.B., Ch. B., and Milne M'Intyre, M.B., Ch.B.; Medical Electrician—J. Gibson Graham, M.A., M.D.; Anæsthetist—Alex. Campbell, M.B.; Dental Surgeon—William Hamilton, L.D.S.; Resident Medical Officer—A qualified medical woman holds office for six months; Matron—Miss J. M. Grant; two sisters, seven nurses, janitor, and six servants. Secretary and Treasurer—Archibald Craig, LL.B.

## THE COTTAGE NURSES' TRAINING HOME.

This important Institution, in connection with which Mrs. Elder directed the Hospital to be used and worked, was founded in the year 1901 by Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose for the purpose of bringing within the reach of the people of Govan and the rural population of Scotland the village system of nursing, which had proved very successful in England. The objects of the Home as now developed are the following :—(1) To provide nursing in their own homes in maternity and other cases for the working classes and the poor in the district of Govan and elsewhere, without distinction of creed ; (2) to train women in district nursing in order to fit them for work as Cottage Nurses in rural and other districts ; (3) to train women as Certificated Midwives for the Highlands and other districts, where those may be required.

Her Grace's enterprise commended itself so highly to Mrs. Elder that she not only provided its original Home, at a cost of £2,600, but, as has been already mentioned, directed her Trustees to hand over to its Executive Committee, the Elder Cottage Hospital and the Hospital endowment fund. Other generous donors have contributed in no stinted measure to enlarge the Home and advance it to its present position ; but in view of what Mrs. Elder did for it, and of its connection with the Hospital, it is appropriate here to include some notice of its work.

The Home is centrally situated in South Avenue, Copland Road, Govan. There is also a branch at 172 Watt Street, S.S., Glasgow, in which two of the nurses reside at night, and which is in telephonic connection with the Home.

The training extends over a period of nine months to a year, and includes both general nursing and maternity work in the district. The instruction given is made as efficient as possible, and is carried out both by lectures and by practical work, under a qualified instructor, in the homes of the labouring classes. Those pupil nurses for whom hospital training is desired are sent to the Elder Cottage Hospital for part of their training. Thus they obtain valuable experience in general and surgical nursing, in addition to the knowledge acquired in district work. At the end of their course of training each nurse's qualifications are tested by an examination in the instruction that has been given her.

Some of the pupil midwives receive part of their training in a Maternity Hospital, where they go through the regular course, attend the examinations held there, and, if found competent, obtain their certificates in midwifery from such institution. The remainder of their training is in the Govan district. Those not passed through a Maternity Hospital are trained entirely in the district by the Matron, Miss Isabel Scrimgeour, who holds the general Training Certificate of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, for obstetrics, and the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board. They attend lectures given at the Home by a physician, Dr. Walter Colquhoun, who is recognised by the C.M.B. as a teacher in midwifery. The instructing staff also includes two sisters, both fully trained, besides a three years' trained nurse and three midwives. Thus they obtain all the practical training necessary, and are qualified at the end of their course to attend the examinations held by the C.M.B. in Newcastle where they obtain their certificates. The midwives sent out from the Home also receive training in general nursing as well as maternity.

In addition to Maternity work, the aim of the founders of the Home has been to supply nurses who could assist the medical men in country districts in their duties, and also nurse the poor in their homes. The training of these nurses in domestic and other duties

fits them for the special kind of work they are expected to undertake in addition to nursing, so that they are capable of and expected to perform work which some of the higher-class nurses do not usually undertake. In many of the poor districts of Scotland any other kind of nurse cannot at present be obtained for financial and other reasons.

The work carried on by the Home is a national one, but it is evident that the Home is of great service to the people in Govan itself. To begin with, any poor woman requiring the service of a midwife in Govan can obtain one fully trained and one who holds a qualifying certificate. No charge is made, and any poor woman in Govan may be attended by a qualified midwife free of charge. It is only expected that each patient will make a contribution, according to her means, towards the upkeep of the Home. Further, in the training of nurses in the district, not only the seniors on the staff but the pupil nurses can render service to medical men by assisting them in their midwifery work, and also in general nursing. No nurse is sent from the Home to attend a case of general nursing unless a recommendation has been made by a medical practitioner. A nurse, if required to stay in a patient's house for any reason, can be had for a very small sum weekly, and not only does she undertake nursing duty but domestic work as well. Should a medical man require assistance at a maternity case, or should he require assistance in a general nursing case, or should he recommend a nurse to visit at a house to look after a patient, no charge whatever is made, when the patient's circumstances do not permit of it.

It will give some idea of the good work which has been done by the Matron and other members of the staff of the Home when it is stated that over 4,850 cases of midwifery have been attended during the last ten years. The cases of this kind attended in the year 1911 numbered 695; the visits paid by the nurses 18,357; and the general cases numbered 251.

The Executive Committee of the Home consists (1912) of the following:—Her Grace The Duchess of Montrose, LL.D., President; D. P. M'Kechnie, Provost of Govan; The Rev. R. S. Kirkpatrick, B.D., Minister of the Parish of Govan; The Rev. Robert Howie, D.D., Senior Minister of Saint Mary's United Free Church, Govan; The Very Rev. Canon M'Brearty, Senior Clergyman of Saint Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, Govan; and of Professor M'Kendrick, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.; Sir George T. Beatson, K.C.B., M.D.; The Lady Helen Graham, Lady Ure Primrose, Mrs. George Ferguson, Miss Eleanor C. Barnes, Ex-Provost James Kirkwood, and Dr. John Macintyre. The House Committee (in Govan) consists of Mrs. Ferguson, Miss Kirkpatrick, Mrs. M'Kechnie, Mrs. Sinclair Couper, Mrs. R. H. B. Thomson, Provost M'Kechnie, Ex-Provost Kirkwood, and Dr. James Barras.

The Honorary Consulting Obstetric Physicians are:—Dr. W. L. Reid and Dr. E. H. Lawrence Oliphant, Consulting Physicians to the Glasgow Maternity Hospital. The staff consists of:—Matron, Miss Isabel Scrimgeour, who has under her six assistants, and, on an average, twenty nurses; Physician, Alexander Campbell, M.B.; Lecturer, Walter Colquhoun, M.A., M.D.; Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Archibald Craig, LL.B.

# OBITUARY NOTICE OF MRS. ELDER.

(FROM THE "GLASGOW HERALD" OF MONDAY, 20th November, 1905.)

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MRS. JOHN ELDER OF GOVAN.

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A NOTED WEST OF SCOTLAND PHILANTHROPIST.

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By the death of Mrs. John Elder, which took place on Saturday evening at her house, 6 Claremont Terrace, Glasgow, the West of Scotland loses one of its most distinguished and philanthropic ladies, and the Burgh of Govan one who has been closely associated for many years with its principal industry, and who has besides conferred on it many benefactions. Than "Mrs. Elder of Govan" there is no name better known on the Clydeside, and even among those who had not seen her she was respected and revered, not only because of her husband, who predeceased her by thirty-six years, but also because of the way in which she has spent her life in good works, always more than ready to anticipate any possible method whereby she could help a good cause quietly, and above all to do something for the social and moral welfare of the West of Scotland in general and the Burgh of Govan in particular. In Govan her name has all along been a synonym for open-handed though discreet philanthropy, and she could always be depended on to contribute to any movement likely to benefit the public of the Burgh.

## Association with Shipbuilding.

Mrs. Elder was the widow of Mr. John Elder, the famous shipbuilder and engineer, whose improvements on the marine steam engine have always been considered as second only to those made by James Watt. Mr. Elder, with his friend Mr. Randolph, founded the engineering firm of Randolph & Elder, and after about eight years as millwrights and engineers began, in 1860, to build ships. The business increased immensely, and ultimately became the great works which afterwards developed into the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company (Limited), Govan. Mr. Elder in his later years had entire charge of the works, which he carried on with great success until his death in 1869 at the early age of forty-five. To these works or to Mr. John Elder himself it is unnecessary to make more extended reference here. Mrs. Elder was the only daughter of Mr. Alexander Ure, who was in his day a well-known writer in Glasgow, and her only brother was Mr. John F. Ure, one

of the most distinguished of civil engineers, and a man who, as engineer to the Clyde Navigation Trust, laid the foundation of many of the improvements which were afterwards made in the harbour and river. When Mr. Elder died his widow was left sole proprietrix of the extensive business at Fairfield. This position, however, she retained for only nine months. First her brother became a partner, and some time later the works passed entirely into other hands and became first a private and then a public limited liability company. Mrs. Elder, however, never ceased to take a personal interest in everything that concerned Fairfield, and she was a frequent and welcome visitor at the establishment, which is even yet among those who have known it long spoken of familiarly as "Elder's Yard."

#### **Mrs. Elder and Govan.**

Of Mrs. Elder's method of spending the wealth with which her husband's genius and industry endowed her, it is hardly possible to speak with adequate fulness. Her private benefactions were many, but of these the public were always kept in ignorance. To her gifts to the people of Govan and Glasgow reference may, however, be made. She lived in Glasgow, but her heart was always in Govan. In 1883 she purchased, at a cost of £37,500, about 36 acres of ground on the opposite side of Govan Road from Fairfield Shipyard, and after laying it out as a splendid park gave it as a free gift to the Commissioners of the Burgh, to be open to all the people, and to be known ever after—in memory of Mr. John Elder and his father, Mr. David Elder—as the Elder Park. In the deed of gift it was expressly stipulated that "It shall at no time and in no circumstances be competent for the said Commissioners or their foresaids to alienate or give out on lease any portion of the Park." In 1903 a fine free library, another of Mrs. Elder's gifts to the Burgh, was erected in the south-east corner of the Elder Park. Her catholicity of spirit and freedom from conventional restraints of any kind were shown by the stipulation she made in presenting the library to the Town Council—that it should in all time coming be open for a certain number of hours each Sunday, so that the working people of the neighbourhood, whose week-days are filled with a round of toil, might participate in its privileges. She also presented to the burgh, about a year ago, the Elder Cottage Hospital, which is situated close to the park. She was a member of Park Parish Church, Glasgow (Dr. Donald Macleod's), but she took a very special interest in Elder Park Parish Church, Govan, and was a liberal contributor to its funds. She enriched the building about eight years ago by gifts of an organ and a baptismal font, while Mr. J. J. Burnet, A.R.S.A., acting under her instructions, carried out a scheme for beautifying the chancel. She also assisted in the endowment of the church, and contributed largely to the hall fund of the congregation. In 1885 she started an admirable school of domestic economy in Govan, paying all the expenses incurred by it.



### Gifts to Glasgow.

Mrs. Elder's public gifts to Glasgow were associated principally with university and other educational work. About 1873 she gave £5,000 for an additional endowment of the Chair of Civil Engineering at Glasgow University, and ten years later she gave £12,500 for the endowment of the "John Elder Chair of Naval Architecture." In making this latter gift she was understood to be carrying out a scheme which her husband had at heart, but which he was prevented by his premature death from personally initiating. The Chair of Naval Architecture at Glasgow was the first of its kind, and its first occupant was Dr.—then Mr.—Francis Elgar, afterwards managing director of the Fairfield Company, and now its consulting naval architect. Mrs. Elder also founded the Queen Margaret College, which is now the women's department of Glasgow University. It was through her influence that the College was connected with the University, and became practically a part of it. Mrs. Elder also contributed to the funds of the Technical College and to many other public institutions. Only a few months ago she gave £5,000 for the founding of a Chair of Astronomy at the Technical College. Altogether her public benefactions were estimated a few years ago as having exceeded £200,000.

### Public Recognition.

In 1883 a movement was begun among the workmen at Fairfield Yard (then Messrs John Elder & Co.'s) for the erection of a statue in the Elder Park to Mr. John Elder. This movement met with a hearty response from the public, and in July, 1888, the statue, by Mr. J. E. Boehm, R.A., was unveiled by the Marquis of Lothian. A few years ago a proposal was made that a statue of Mrs. Elder should also be erected in the park. This, too, was enthusiastically received, and a large sum of money was raised by voluntary subscriptions. This statue, which is the work of Mr. A. M'Farlane Shannan, A.R.S.A., is now almost completed, but the date of the unveiling ceremony has not yet been fixed.

In recognition of her public services, the Senate of Glasgow University, on the occasion of its ninth jubilee in 1901, conferred on Mrs. Elder the honorary degree of LL.D.

Mrs. Elder, who was in her seventy-eighth year, was married in 1857. Although for two or three years she has been in failing health, she was considerably better during last summer, and was able about six weeks ago to visit her own hospital and library at Govan. Her last illness began about a month ago, and although at the beginning of last week she was a little better, she had a relapse on Saturday, and she died a little before midnight. The funeral—to Glasgow Necropolis—will take place on Wednesday.

# INDEX.

	PAGE
Address to Mrs. John Elder by Provost, Magistrates and Town Council of Govan, at opening of Elder Free Library, .. .. .	44
Anthony, Provost John, speech at unveiling of statue, .. .. .	16
at banquet after unveiling, .. .. .	19, 29
Banquet in Town Hall, after unveiling of statue, .. .. .	18
in Reading Room, after laying of memorial stone of Library, ..	36
in Town Hall, after opening of Library, .. .. .	50
Bilsland, Lord Provost, speech at banquet after unveiling of statue, ..	25
Buchanan, Bailie Joseph, speech at banquet after unveiling of statue, ..	26
Burnet, Mr. John James, A.R.S.A., architect of Elder Free Library, ..	31
of Elder Cottage Hospital, .. .. .	53
Busts of Mr. and Mrs. John Elder in Elder Free Library, .. .. .	4, 33
Carnegie, Mr. Andrew, LL.D., opening of Elder Free Library by, ..	39, 44
speech after the opening, .. .. .	48
Cottage Nurses Training Home, .. .. .	58
Craig, Mr. Archibald, speech at banquet after laying of memorial stone of Library, .. .. .	38
Duncan, Mr. Robert, M.P., speech at banquet after unveiling of statue,	27
Elder, Mrs. John, her public gifts, .. .. .	13, 42, 63, 64
death of, .. .. .	1, 62
obituary notice, .. .. .	62
Elder, Mr. Alexander, letter from, at unveiling of statue, .. .. .	18
Elder Cottage Hospital, .. .. .	52
“ Glasgow Herald ” Obituary notice of Mrs. Elder, .. .. .	62
Kirkpatrick, Rev. R. S., B.D., at unveiling of statue, .. .. .	8
Library, Elder Free, gift by Mrs. John Elder for, .. .. .	30
conditions, .. .. .	31
site and architect, .. .. .	31
description of building, .. .. .	31
inscription on memorial tablet, .. .. .	33
laying of memorial stone, .. .. .	34
opening ceremony, .. .. .	39
first books borrowed, .. .. .	44
notes by Mr. Robert Robertson, Librarian, .. .. .	50
Macdonald, Mr. Alexander, late Town Clerk of Govan, .. .. .	2, 22, 38, 44
Mackintosh, Dr. Donald J., expert for Elder Cottage Hospital, ..	53

	PAGE.
Montrose, The Duchess of, arrangements for unveiling of statue by, ..	5
reception at Town Hall, .. .. .	6
arrival at Elder Park, .. .. .	7
unveiling of statue, .. .. .	12
appreciation of Mrs. John Elder by, .. .. .	12
speech at banquet following unveiling, .. .. .	20
founder of Cottage Nurses Training Home, .. .. .	58
Marr, Provost John, statement as to movement for erection of statue, ..	9
speech at banquet after unveiling, .. .. .	23
at memorial stone of Elder Free Library, .. .. .	34
at opening of Library, .. .. .	41
estimate of Mrs. Elder's public donations, .. .. .	42
Memorial Stone of Elder Free Library, laying of, .. .. .	34
Obituary Notice of Mrs. Elder from "Glasgow Herald," .. .. .	62
Rankin, Mr. John, Burgh Treasurer, Treasurer of Statue fund, .. .. .	2
Robertson, Mr. Robert, Librarian of Elder Free Library, notes by, ..	50
Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (Clyde Division), guard of honour at unveiling of statue, .. .. .	7
Shannan, Mr. A. M'Farlane, A.R.S.A., selected as sculptor of statue, ..	4
busts of Mr. and Mrs. John Elder by, .. .. .	4, 33
speech at banquet after unveiling, .. .. .	24
Statue of Mrs. John Elder, .. .. .	1
meetings in Govan for public recognition of her services to com- munity, .. .. .	1, 2, 4
committee, .. .. .	2
statue decided on, .. .. .	4
selection of sculptor, .. .. .	4
sub-committee, .. .. .	4
selection of site, .. .. .	5
unveiling by Duchess of Montrose, .. .. .	5
statement as to movement by Ex-Provost John Marr, .. .. .	9
description, .. .. .	11, 12
Unveiling of statue by Duchess of Montrose, .. .. .	5
Ure, Mr. John Francis, speech at unveiling of statue, .. .. .	17
at banquet after unveiling, .. .. .	21
at banquet after the laying of the memorial stone of Library, ..	37
at opening of Library, .. .. .	47
Williamson, Ex-Bailie Andrew, speech at banquet after unveiling of statue, .. .. .	24
at memorial stone of Elder Free Library, .. .. .	34
at banquet after laying of memorial stone, .. .. .	36
at opening of Library, .. .. .	43
Wilson, Dr. James, public meeting called by, .. .. .	1, 10