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THE RALPH VOORHEES PORTRAIT

By ROBERT C. CLOTHIER

To us of the Rutgers community, the name Voorbees has become inseparably identified with the spirit and the service of our library, and with the vigorous growth it has experienced since the turn of the century. It was in 1903 that the late Ralph Voorbees presented the library building to the college. When twenty years later the original structure became overcrowded, his widow, Elizabeth Rodman Voorbees, provided the funds for the needed addition.

We have again been reminded of the benefactions of this devoted couple by the presentation, on November 13 last, of a portrait of Ralph Voorbees, the gift of members of the Voorbees family and of the Class of 1888. Quite appropriately, the presentation address was made by Dr. Oscar M. Voorbees, nephew of the library donors and secretary of the class. The portrait was accepted on behalf of the Trustees by Dr. W. H. S. Demarest.

I am gratified for the opportunity given me in this issue of The Journal to thank publicly the members of the Voorbees family, and the class of 1888, for this splendid gift. It will be hung temporarily in the present library, and we look forward to giving it a place of honor in the new library building when our plans for a larger structure materialize. As was so well expressed at the presentation exercises, it is doubtful whether any of the manifold gifts of Ralph and Elizabeth Rodman Voorbees have been more "enduringly constructive" than that of the Rutgers Library. Throughout the years it has "fructified bountifully," and has contributed richly to the succeeding college generations.



RALPH VORHEES
Painted by Oscar Fehrer