

[Newark, Wayne Co. NY]

REV. CHARLES W. TOMLINSON, LL.D.
Interesting Life Story of the Father of Newark's Library

Next to Henry C. Rew an impartial observer must give credit to Rev. Charles Weldon Tomlinson, LL.D., for the status of the Newark Free Public Library today. Dr. Tomlinson is the man through whose efforts the library spirit in Newark was brought into being. Mr. Rew is the man who has given the house and furnishings. The latter would never have come about had it not been for the former, and full credit is accorded Dr. Tomlinson by the people of Newark. His connection with the formation of the library is set forth in its history, appearing elsewhere in these columns, but a few facts relative to his life are a proper part of the library's history up to this time.

He was born and educated in Philadelphia. His father was a builder by occupation and the son, of delicate constitution, was put to the stereotyping business. But learning became his passion, which the standard literature then passing from the large stereotyping establishment of D. Johnson & Co. kindled into a flame. His graduation was at what would now be termed a home correspondence school. Following this he became a boy preacher occupying city pulpits before he had attained his majority. He was still a boy when he took his first pastorate, where he remained nearly thirteen years, at Cooperstown, N.Y. From there he went to Syracuse, from which place he was driven in a year by cararrh, induced by poisoning. A long and successful pastorate in the city of Hudson followed. With a view to the collegiate education of his daughter he then went to Galesburg, Ill., where he not only had pastoral charge, but also occupied the chair of Biblical theology in Lombard University. Dr. Tomlinson is regarded as one of the foremost theologians in the Universalist denomination. The health of his daughter required a return to the East, and a seven years' pastorate of the large church at Pawtucket, R.I., followed. There the wife whom he had married in his youth drooped, and after a year spent in travel, during which Dr. Tomlinson's voice was lost by frequent out-of-door preaching in a season of unusual atmospheric disturbance, farm life near Auburn was resorted to with gratifying results. His voice steadily continued to improve and he began visiting Newark regularly and holding services in the Universalist Church. This continued a long time, and he was finally induced to remove there. He left Newark two years ago, going to Huntington, L.I., where he now resides and has charge of a parish. He is of fine Universalist stock, his paternal ancestors as far back as he can trace having engaged in the services of that church.

His many Newark friends were delighted to see him at the library exercises and his visit there will have extended several days ere he returns home.

Democrat & Chronicle, Rochester NY, Wed. 10 Apr 1901