

LAUNCHED ON THE LAKE.

Captain Chapman's New Steamer, the "M. F. Rohrer," Launched on Lake Manawa in the Presence of a Thousand Spectators.

Yesterday was the time fixed upon for launching Capt. Chapman's new steamer the "M. F. Rohrer." As early as 3 o'clock in the afternoon people began flocking toward the dummy depot to take the motor line for Manawa lake, while carriage load after carriage load were wending their way to the same destination. In fact, everybody seemed determined to be on hand to witness the launching of the steamer.

At 4 o'clock the mayor accompanied by Mrs. Rohrer and family, and the press representatives with their wives and sweethearts, with a number of other citizens boarded the motor train for the lake, arriving at 5 p. m. A few moments later the mayor and press representatives boarded the boat, and had hardly secured a footing, when the steamer, through some mistake, slid gracefully off the ways into her native element. This somewhat interfered with the programme, but the boat was quickly moved to the shore, and the ladies and other visitors taken on board, including Dalbey's band. As soon as order had been obtained the band favored the audience with a selection of music after which W. H. Copson, president of the press club, called the assemblage to order, and introduced Mayor Rohrer, who spoke as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND CAPTAIN D. CHAPMAN: One of the pleasantest acts of my life is to extend to you in behalf of the city council and the city of Council Bluffs our hearty congratulations on your becoming a citizen of our fair city, on your energy and wealth, contributing as it does largely to the rapidly-growing wants of Council Bluffs, Omaha and the surrounding country. Once upon a time *one* omnibus was sufficient to meet the incoming trains to our city. Today the demands require almost more omnibuses and carriages than we can count. The same may be said of the wonderful development of Lake Manawa in all its various avenues of pleasure. A little over one year ago one steamboat was enough to meet the demands. Today we find that three steamboats cannot accommodate the liberal patronage that Hotel Manawa and the lake is receiving. Hence, we again congratulate you on your prompt and active response to a business demand by building this *large, safe and convenient* steamer, the "M. F. Rohrer." I can assure you it was a very agreeable surprise to me at least, when I learned a few days ago, unofficially, of the name you had

selected. I am not aware of any individual act on my part that should entitle me to the undivided honor you have conferred in naming your splendid boat. However, I am fully aware of the fact that the city council, our powerful daily press and the good citizens of Council Bluffs have worked day and night to open up Lake Manawa in all its necessary and successful appointments for the year 1888, and in consideration of these facts and the loyal support, you have selected my name on account of my present official capacity. Then allow me only the pleasure, in behalf of the city council, our several leading daily papers, and our 35,000 good people, to return you *our* thanks for the honor conferred, at the same time hoping your business undertaking may be much more profitable than you had any reason whatever to anticipate.

My niece, Miss Lottie Armour, will now perform the ceremony of christening this steamer.

Miss Armour stepped to the bow of the steamer and said: "In conformity with the wishes of the owner of this beautiful vessel, I hereby christen it the 'M. F. Rohrer'."

As she finished speaking the above words she broke a bottle of "Mum's extra dry" over the bow of the vessel, which action was followed by the rousing cheers of the assembled thousands, and the national air, "Red, White and Blue," was then rendered by Dalbey's band, after which W. A. Mynster, esq., responded to Mayor Rohrer in a short, spicy speech on behalf of Captain Chapman, whose excessive modesty forbid his speaking in his own behalf.

Three hearty cheers for the "M. F. Rohrer" concluded the ceremonies.

Owing to the boilers being covered internally with oil, thus causing the steam to condense, the trial trip was abandoned and the company adjourned to the hotel where the mayor entertained the press representatives, their wives and friends at supper. After which a return was made to the city. It must have been a grand sight to those who stood on the shore and saw the steamer glide into the water so gracefully, and it augurs well for her future career. Everything worked smoothly and not the slightest accident occurred to mar the pleasures of the hour. THE NONPAREIL wishes the "M. F. Rohrer" and her captain oceans of success, and trusts that nothing may ever happen to mar her popularity.—*Daily Nonpareil, July 12, 1888.*

DESCRIPTION.

The Steamer "M. F. Rohrer" was supplied with side wheels during the season of 1889. The vessel is 80 feet long, 16 feet beam, 3 feet depth of hold and 100 tons measurement, and is allowed to carry 200 passengers.