

PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE

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to the*

*Library of Congress of the City
of New York
Oct. 29, 1888.*

REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE APPLICATION OF THAT PART

OF THE

LITERATURE FUND,

WHICH IS

APPORTIONED

BY THE

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY,

TO THE

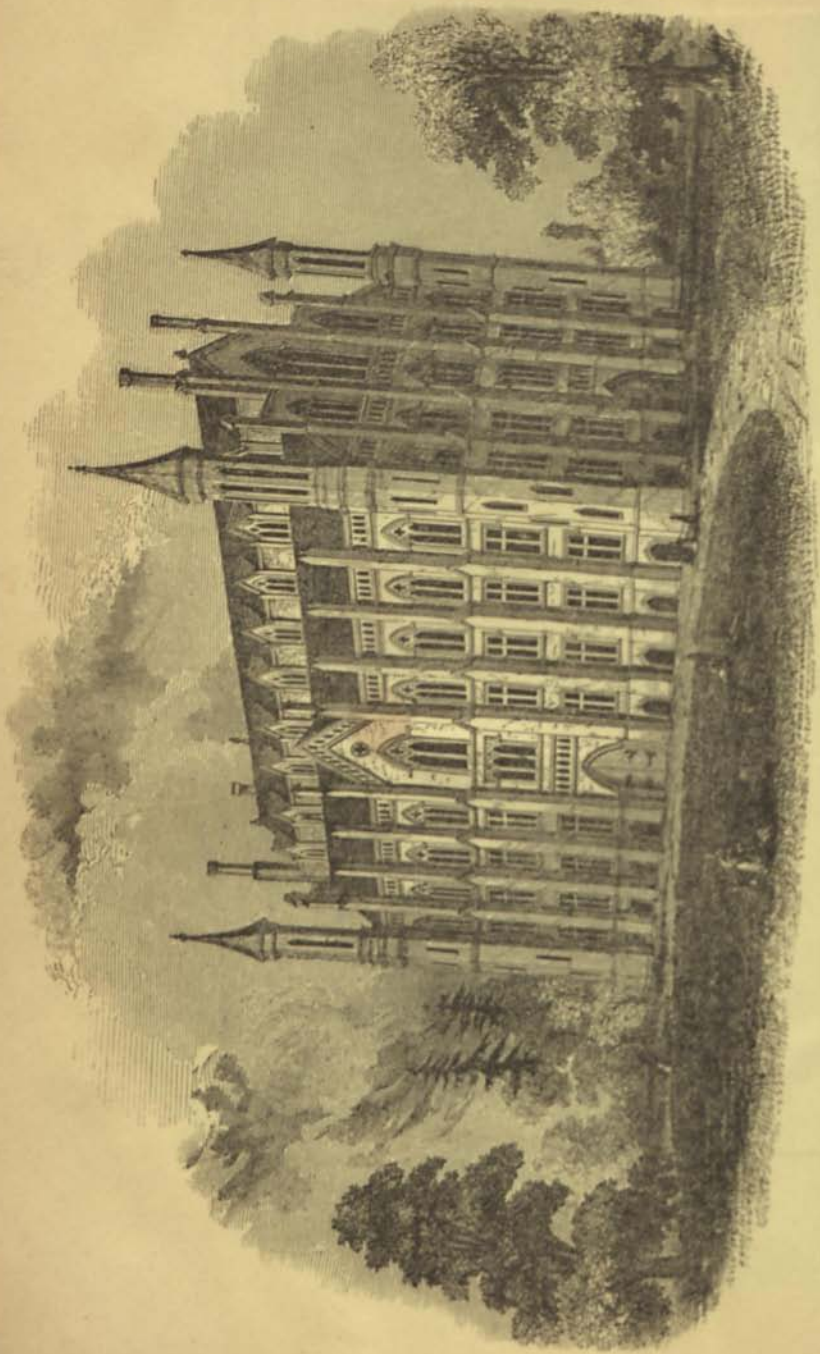
CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK.



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1847.



TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

BOARD OF EDUCATION,

JANUARY 20, 1847.

ORDERED to lie on the table, be printed, and made the special order for the next meeting.

JOHN A. STEWART, *Clerk.*

TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

THE COMMITTEE appointed by the Board, under the following resolution, viz:—

“*Resolved*, That a committee of *three* be appointed to inquire into the application of that part of the Literature Fund which is apportioned by the Regents of the University to the City and County of New York. That the said committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of applying to the Legislature for such an alteration of the Law as will permit the moneys referred to, to be applied to the support of a High School or College for the benefit of pupils who have been educated in the Public Schools of the City and County,”

BEG LEAVE TO

REPORT :

THAT they have given to the subject that full consideration, which its great importance merits, and their conviction of the wisdom of the Board, in ordering the investigation, has continued to increase as their labors have advanced.

The schools which participate in the moneys referred to, are

1st—Grammar School of Columbia College, which received at the last Report, the sum of	\$1,142	86
2d—Grammar School of the University of the City of New York, which received	726	71
3d—New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, which received	1,242	24
4th—Rutger's Female Institute, which received	1,534	14
(1) Making an aggregate of	\$4,645	95

Your Committee would present these Schools under two distinct heads :

First, Those that from their course of study and general design might seem to have a claim upon the Literature Fund.

Second, Those that from their organization, plan and peculiar relations, have no right whatever, to a participation of the Literature Fund.

In the First Class may be placed the two Grammar Schools, before named, and in the Second, the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, and the Rutger's Female Institute.

The Literature Fund was established with the design of encouraging the establishment of Academies and Classical Schools, and that the liberal bounty thus awarded by the State might so reduce the expenses of the same, that many who otherwise would be debarred therefrom, could partici-

(1) Vide Report of Regents of the University, 1846, p. 64.

pate in the instruction of said schools. It was intended to benefit the public, not to enhance the profits of individual teachers, or to swell the dividends of stockholders in corporations, and any grants of the fund leading to such results, are evidently improper. Again: if the recipients of the fund charge as high for attendance at their schools, as those who, while they give the same quantity and quality of instruction, do not receive aid, then the conclusion is irresistible that the grants to such schools are improper.

The charges in the *Grammar School of Columbia College* are as follows :

Latin and Greek, with a full English and Mathematical course, is, per annum,	\$50 00
French,	20 00
Spanish,	20 00
Fuel,	1 00
Stationery,	2 00
	<hr/>
Making an aggregate of	\$93 00
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Exclusive of the charge for Books, the amount of which the Committee could not ascertain. (1)

The number of students who pursued the higher branches during the year last reported, was one hundred and eighty-four, consequently the amount received from the fund for each student was \$6 21. (2)

(1) See paper marked A, herewith appended.

(2) Vide Report Regents of the University, 1846, page 64.

By the last published report of the Receipts and Expenditures of this School, it appears that the school received

For Tuition Money,	\$8,325 00
From Literature Fund,	1,183 00
	<hr/>
Total Revenue,	\$9,508 00

The Expenditures were—

Salaries of Teachers,	\$4,775	
Fuel and other expenses,	1,364	
	<hr/>	6,139 00
(1) Leaving a balance unexpended, of		<hr/> \$3,369 00

How this large surplus was disposed of, or what has been done with the surpluses of previous years, does not appear in the Reports in the possession of the Committee.

The property of the School as stated in the Report of the Regents of the University for 1846, page 75, is as follows:

Value of Lot and Buildings,	\$13,000
“ Library,	300
“ Apparatus,	400
	<hr/>
	\$13,700

Thus it appears, that on a capital of \$13,700 a profit of \$3,369 has accrued, being a gain of over twenty-four per cent. per annum, a profit so large, as would at once induce all capitalists to engage in similar undertakings, could they be assured of equal gains.

(1) Vide Rep. Regents of University, 1846, p. 84.

The charges in the *Grammar School of the University of the City of New York*, are as follows :

For other than the lowest class per annum,	\$60 00
“ French,	12 00
“ Spanish, is not named in the prospectus, but is presumed to be equal in charge to French, and is put in, in order to equalize it with the previous School,	12 00
“ Stationery,	2 00
Making an aggregate of	<u>\$86 00</u>

Exclusive of the charge for Books, &c. (1)

The number of students who pursued the higher branches of education during the year was 117, and the amount received from the fund was equal to \$6 21, for each student. (2)

By the last Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of this School, it appears that there was received

For Tuition money,	\$10,138
From Literature fund,	837
Total revenue,	<u>\$10,975</u>

The expenditures were—

Salaries of Teachers,	7,526 00
Fuel and other expenses,	3,234 00
Total expenditure,	<u>\$10,760</u>
Leaving a balance unexpended of	<u>\$215 00</u>

(1) See Paper marked B. herewith appended.

(2) Vide Report Regents of the University, 1846, p. 64.

This School did not make any Report of the value of its property: (1) Consequently no statement of its probable profit and loss can be given, but the Committee would call the attention of the Board to the facts embodied in the following tabular statement:

SCHOOL.	Number of Students	Paid Teachers	Fuel and other expenses.	Total.	Average per Scholar.
Columbia College,	332	\$4,775	\$1,354	\$6,129	\$18 50
University of N. Y.	276	\$7,525	3,291	10,790	\$38 98

The Committee leave the Board to draw their own conclusions from the above statement; the figures are taken from the Report of the Regents of the University for 1846, and will be found on the pages before quoted in this Report. Having no guide before them, but the reports made by these schools to the Regents, the Committee cannot undertake to account for these discrepancies in the expenses of the two schools.

It will be noticed by the Board that the amount stated by the Regents as having been paid to these schools, varies from the amount stated in the *returns* of the schools, as having been received by them. It is presumed that the returns made by the schools refer to the sum received the *previous* year.

The Committee observe, that in these Grammar Schools the Principals and some of the Teachers are members of the faculties of the College to which they are respectively at-

(1) Vide Report Regents of University, 1846, p. 84.)

tached. It is the opinion of your Committee that this connection between the School and the College *may* operate injuriously to the latter.

The Committee now come to the Second Class of Schools which participate in the benefits of the Literature Fund. The Report from the School for the Deaf and Dumb only states the number of scholars in the institution, and the amount received from the Literature Fund. (1)

This institution is one of those strongly calculated to enlist the best sympathies of our nature. By the decrees of Providence, these unfortunatés have been deprived of the two primary essentials of intercourse with their fellow beings, viz: hearing and speech; but it is one of the great triumphs of our day, that Science has discovered a means of enabling them to know their great moral duties, and to become active and useful members of Society.

Formerly, they were treated as lunatics or idiots; but this class, so neglected and degraded in times past, is now raised to the privileges and enjoyments of the most favored of our race.

This institution, from its establishment in 1818 to this day, has been fully supported by our fellow citizens and by the State Legislature. Its appeals have always received a favorable response, and the Committee do not hesitate to say, that in their opinion it will never appeal in vain.

(1) Vide Report Regents of the University, 1846, p. 64.

It is now one of the first in the world for its mode of instruction, its success in education, and the numbers taught.

Did the Committee believe that their Report would be calculated in the slightest degree to cripple this noble and excellent charity, they might pause, even in what they know to be the path of duty. But they have no such fear; they are well convinced that it will not lack support, and therefore they feel compelled to say, that the fund whose appropriation they have been directed to inquire into, was never intended to aid the education of the deaf and dumb.

In the opinion of the Committee, only the strongest sympathy for this unfortunate class of individuals, caused the Regents of the University to permit them to participate in the Literature Fund.

The Committee feel assured that they have only to direct the attention of the Board to the obvious purpose of the institution of the fund in question, to convince it that the annual grant to the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, is an appropriation of the fund to purposes, other, than those for which it was established.

The only remaining School to be noticed by the Committee is the "*Rutger's Female Institute.*" This School, as its title indicates, is for females only.

By the Report heretofore alluded to, it appears that the receipts of this School during the year, were as follows :

For Tuition money,	\$17,041 00
“ Interest on funded moneys,	150 00
“ Amount from the Regents of the University,	1,562 00
	<hr/>
Total receipts,	\$18,753 00

Expenditures.

For Salaries of Teachers,	10,612 00
Repairs of buildings,	1,328 00
Fuel and other expenses, <i>including dividends to Stockholders</i> ,	6,215 00
	<hr/>
(1) Leaving a surplus for the year of	\$598 00

It appears from the Report of the Regents above quoted, that *part* of the expenditures were for the payment of dividends. It is within the knowledge of your Committee, and they desire to call the attention of the Board to the fact, that this Institution is a *Corporation*, having a Charter from the Legislature of this State, and consequently, any contributions from the Literature fund, go to swell the dividends of the Stockholders. A greater misuse of this fund your Committee cannot conceive. The Committee cannot believe, that either the Regents of the University or the Legislature, will allow such a perversion of the fund to continue after it is brought to their knowledge. It is also within the knowledge of your Committee, that the Stockholders in addition to their dividends, are allowed a deduction of *Five per cent.* on their bills for tuition.

The School is one of private interest and should be so regarded.

(1) Vide Report Regents of the University, 1846, p. 84.

It will be seen from the foregoing, that only two of the Schools that are enjoying the benefits of the fund, have any plausible claim to a participation of its advantages, and it is respectfully submitted by the Committee to the consideration of the Board, whether the charges in the two Schools alluded to, are not of such a nature as to preclude the majority of our citizens from enjoying any benefit from the same.

The Committee greatly doubt whether any advantage is derived by the public at large from the present mode of distributing this fund; if any, it is confined to that portion of our community who neither need nor seek for public assistance.

The Committee after anxious inquiry feel bound to state, that the price of instruction as charged in the Grammar Schools of the two Colleges, is quite as high as the prices charged in the numerous private Schools of the same character and standing in our city, and therefore all these grants, intended for public utility, only go to swell private emoluments, without any corresponding public benefit. Under these circumstances, it cannot be denied, that it is the duty of every good citizen to use his best efforts to stop such a mis-appropriation of the public moneys.

The Committee annex the terms of tuition in some of the most respectable Grammar Schools of the city which do not participate in the benefits of the Literature Fund, and a comparison of these terms with those contained in the pa-

pers marked *A.* and *B.*, will prove the correctness of the conclusions of the Committee. (1)

Regarding the two Schools included in the Second division by your Committee, they feel that any arguments they might advance, after the plain statement of facts that has been made, would be unnecessary.

If these facts, truly and frankly stated as they are, do not convince the Board of the impropriety of the grants of money made to those Schools, any arguments of the Committee would be useless.

The Committee add a list of some of the branches of Education which are *not* taught in either of the two Grammar Schools, which draw from the public funds.

Electricity, Civil Engineering, Analytic Geometry, Descriptive Geometry, Hydrostatics, Levelling, Mechanics, Navigation, Nautical Astronomy, Optics, Surveying, Agricultural Chemistry, Geology, Mineralogy, Natural History, Constitutional and Governmental Law, Political Economy, and the Principles of Teaching. (2)

The perusal of this list will show, that many of the branches most important to a manufacturing, agricultural and commercial people, are entirely neglected in these Schools.

From the foregoing facts, your Committee come to the conclusion, that the fund is not so disposed of as to give "the greatest good to the greatest number;" and they are

(1) See Papers numbered 1 to 8.

(2) Vide Report Regents of the University, 1846, p. 119, et seq.

of opinion, that this sum, if discreetly expended, would give gratuitous instruction in the higher branches of learning to many of our most promising youth, who under our present system of high charges, must remain in ignorance. The Committee close this part of their Report by stating, that the highest average from the Literature Fund is in our own Senatorial district, being \$6 21 per scholar; and that the lowest is in the 8th Senatorial district, being \$2 40; and that the average through the State is \$2 96 $\frac{3}{4}$. (1)

This statement shews, that in our Senatorial district, the smallest number participate in the benefits of the fund set apart by the State for the purposes of education. No fault can be imputed to the Regents for this state of things: they have only complied with the law—and if improper grants have been made, it is reasonable to suppose that they were actuated by an anxious desire to further the cause of public education, and that they were uninformed of the facts which your Committee have brought to your notice, rendering it improper for these Schools and Institutions to participate in the benefits of the fund.

By the new Constitution, Article III, the State is divided into thirty-two Senate Districts, of which this city is to compose those numbered 3, 4, 5 and 6. Consequently, it will be entitled to one eighth of the income of the Literature Fund, which at present is equal to \$40,000 per annum, and gives to the city \$5,000 per annum, with a probable increase.

(1) Vide Report Regents of the University, 1846, p. 73.

The Committee have now to consider the last and most important part of the duty, with which they were charged by the Board, to wit: the establishment of a Free High School or College; and admitting its great importance, they will endeavor to treat it in the same frank manner, and with the like scrupulous attention to facts, which have, as they believe, been the leading feature of the preceding part of their Report.

The two Colleges in our city are Columbia College and the University of the City of New York; the former is a venerable Institution, being the first ever established in this State, and dating long prior to the war of the Revolution. It has at various times under the Colonial and State Governments received liberal grants, and its present fiscal condition is much to be regretted.

The second is modern in its date, and it is now in the receipt of \$6,000 per annum from the State Legislature.

In the Report of the Regents of the University for 1846, on page 56, the situation of *Columbia College* is stated as follows:

<i>Number of Students</i>	114
Paid Professors	\$12,158 00
“ Interest on debt, loans repaid	5,588 00
“ Repairs	1,344 00
“ Incidentals	1,888 00
“ Library and Apparatus	67 00
	<hr/>
	\$21,045 00
	<hr/>

Being an aggregate expenditure, equal to \$184 60 for each student taught.

The debt of the College is stated at \$63,404.

In the same report and on the same page the condition of the University of the City of New York is stated as follows :

	<i>Number of Students</i>	. . . . .	131
Paid	Professors	. . . . .	\$11,718 00
"	Interest on debt, loans repaid	. . . . .	5,180 00
"	Repairs	. . . . .	3,433 00
"	Library and Apparatus	. . . . .	_____
	Total Expenditures	. . . . .	<u>\$20,331 00</u>

Which is equal to \$155 20 for each student taught.

The debt of the University is stated at \$73,999.

The debt owing by the two Institutions is \$137,403.

The whole number of students in the two Colleges as per last Report was 245.

The Committee are unable to state precisely, what is the cost to each student attending the Colleges, but presume it will not vary much from \$125 per annum, including books, &c.

Your Committee confess their mortification in declaring the fact, that in this great and wealthy city, the commercial metropolis of the New World, only two hundred and forty-five of the youth of the city are found in our College halls. This truth would induce the stranger to suppose that we despised education, and made the acquisition of

money our only study. But the liberal amount of money annually expended in our city for the support of primary schools, their number and excellence, with the throng of pupils that fill them, prove that education is not undervalued by us; and if only the small number of two hundred and forty-five is to be found pursuing the higher branches, it does not arise from any want of regard for those studies among our citizens.

The two colleges in our city could, it is believed, instruct with their present buildings and professors, and without a dollar additional outlay, over six hundred students.

That a large reduction in the price of tuition would increase the income of the Colleges, your Committee fully believe. But to do this, some effort should be made to render the institutions *popular*, and every improvement in the mode of instruction which has been fairly tested, should be promptly adopted.

Our sister cities all outstrip us in this cause. Boston, Albany, Philadelphia and Baltimore, all have their High Schools; and the numerous individuals instructed in these Institutions, who have a high standing among our literati, and in the councils of the nation, prove that these Seminaries do produce *élèves* that can compete with the alumni of our colleges.

In the German Colleges the pupils are not numbered by scores, but by hundreds and thousands, and the experience of that country proves, that three things always concur, to wit: cheapness of instruction, numbers taught, and a high standard of education.

It is believed by your Committee, that such improvements in the mode of instruction may be introduced, that while a higher standard of education is attained, will both reduce the cost of tuition and save that most valuable of all things—time; and that such an institution as that alluded to in the resolution creating the Committee, can be established at small cost, and to the great advantage of our community.

The establishment of the proposed institution would no doubt exercise a beneficial influence on our Public Schools. Admission into it would be a high prize, for which each scholar would contend, and thus, in the strife to obtain mental superiority, all would be improved.

In view of the facts heretofore noted, it is evident that from various causes, the majority of our citizens cannot give their children any education beyond that which they receive in Public Schools, and your Committee would therefore recommend that the Board should take the necessary steps to establish a *Free College* or *Academy*, for the benefit of pupils who have been taught in the Public Schools of the city.

Your Committee will not at present enter into the details of the proposed Institution, but will briefly remark, that their design is to offer the idea of a College, which, while it shall be in no way inferior to any of our Colleges in the character, amount, or value of the information given to the pupils; the course of studies to be pursued will have more especial reference to the active duties of operative life, rather

er than those more particularly regarded as necessary for the Pulpit, Bar, or the Medical profession. Another important feature in the proposed plan is, that the laboring class of our fellow citizens may have the opportunity of giving to their children, an education that will more effectually fit them for the various departments of labor and toil, by which they will earn their bread. Such an Institution, where Chemistry, Mechanics, Architecture, Agriculture, Navigation, physical as well as moral or mental Science, &c. &c., are thoroughly and practically taught, would soon raise up a class of mechanics and artists, well skilled in their several pursuits, and eminently qualified to infuse into their fellow-workmen a spirit that would add dignity to labor—a spirit congenial with the character of our Republican institutions, while at the same time the diffusion of correct knowledge among the working class of our population, would make them better acquainted with their inestimable value.

That giving the rudiments of Education to a youth who is to be a mechanic is sufficient, is taking a wrong view of the case; because, if he has an education superior to the wants of his calling, it will enable him to perform what he has to do, in a superior and cheaper manner than he otherwise could, and the fact that he possesses this superior knowledge does not unfit him for the discharge of his most simple avocations.

Will the education proposed to be given, render a mechanic less fitted for his business? Because he perfectly

understands the laws of the mechanical powers, the lever—the pulley—the screw—will he therefore be disqualified for handling the saw and the plane? On the contrary, will not this knowledge save him much valuable time and hours of toil in endeavoring to obtain results, of which ignorance alone makes him uncertain?

That the mechanic in some countries is considered as a mere machine, is only based on his admitted ignorance; educate him, and he instantly becomes a scientific man. Operating under the guidance of known laws, he achieves in a short time and in a superior manner, that, which in a state of ignorance, would only be imperfectly executed, after a long expenditure of the sweat of his brow.

If the wealthy part of the community seek instruction to enlarge the minds of their children, why should not an opportunity be given to the sons of toil to give the *same* advantages to their children? and why should the intellectual enjoyments which the former seek as a “great good” for their children, be denied to those of the latter?

The great importance of Chemistry has only been duly appreciated in our day; it is now the right hand of Agriculture, and the great assistant in many branches of manufactures. Now, a few hours suffice to shew the farmer what is required to secure the fertility of his lands, while formerly years were expended in fruitless experiments.

Our earths hide no secrets from the analytical chemist, and the quack is soon told the component parts of his colorless nostrum; murder perpetrated in secret, and leaving no

outward mark, has often been detected by this science, which may be truly termed, the *great one* of our age.

A youth desirous of becoming a thorough chemist, of learning something beyond the mere grammar of the art, is compelled to resort to Europe for instruction; and he there finds in the possession of a single private professor, a laboratory of greater extent and value, than the united laboratories of all the colleges and academies in our State. This should not be; and it is believed by your Committee that this branch may be cheaply put on such a footing as soon to draw out from among our youth, many a Davy, Lussac, and Faraday.

The Board of Education being without emoluments, without political patronage, and happily removed in a great degree from party strife, may be fairly deemed as proper a Trustee for the proposed Institution as any one that could be devised.

The Board is elected by the People, and it is fair to presume it represents their wishes. Should any action of the Board, in its management of the proposed College, not meet the views of its constituents, only a few months can intervene before they can interpose the proper remedy.

The Committee therefore propose the following resolutions for the consideration of the Board:

Resolved, That a Committee of Three be appointed to draft a memorial, in the name of "The Board of Education of the City of New York," praying

1st. That the Legislature will be pleased to pass a law directing the Regents of the University to pay over to the Board of Education such amount of the Literature Fund as may be apportioned by them to the Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Senate Districts of this State—such moneys to be applied to the support of a Free College or Academy for the instruction of students who have been pupils in the Public Schools of the said city.

2nd. That the Legislature will further authorize the Board of Education in said city to call on the Supervisors from time to time, to raise by tax such sums as may be required for the erecting, furnishing and fitting up of said College or Academy, and supporting the same—such sums to be notified to, and raised by the said Supervisors, in the same manner and under the same heading of taxation that the moneys for the support of Common Schools in said city are now raised.

3rd. That the government of said College or Academy shall be with the Board of Education of the City and County of New York, with power to enact such rules and by-laws as are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Laws of the State of New York.

4th. That the title of all real property purchased for said College or Academy to vest in the Corporation of the City of New York, and the title of all personal property in the Board of Education.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

TOWNSEND HARRIS, }
J. S. BOSWORTH, } *Committee.*