

REPORT OF MR. KING  
FROM THE  
COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE APPLICATION  
OF THAT  
PORTION OF THE LITERATURE FUND,  
APPORTIONED TO THE  
CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW-YORK.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION,

JANUARY 20th, 1847.

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

JOHN A. STEWART.

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The undersigned, one of the members of a Committee appointed under a Resolution of the Board of Education, passed July 27th, 1846, in the following words :

*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 propriety 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 :

Begs leave to Report, That the "Literature Fund" of this State was established and has been maintained for the support and assistance of the Incorporated Academies as distinguished from the Common Schools or Colleges of this State, and the income of said Fund has been distributed by the Regents of the University who are by law appointed the Trustees for such distribution. That an equal share of the income of this Fund was assigned to each Senate District into which the State was divided under the former Constitution, and the Regents of the University were directed to distribute the share assigned to each district among the Incorporated Academies in such district who should subject themselves to their visitation, in proportion to the number of pupils in each seminary, who, for a specified time should have pursued therein classical studies or the higher branches of English Education.

That the present Constitution of the State provides that the capital of the "Literature Fund" shall be preserved inviolate, and that the revenue thereof shall be applied to the support of Academies.

That inasmuch as the duties of this Board are confined to the furtherance of education in Common Schools in this

City and County, and the distribution and management of the revenues provided for that purpose; which Common School education forms but a part of the general system of education to which the State extends its aid, it does not in the opinion of the undersigned seem within the province of this Board to interfere with another part of that same system, by an inquiry into the management or distribution of a Fund provided for the support and assistance of institutions which afford more advanced instruction than the Common Schools, and for the distribution of which Fund, moreover, appropriate Trustees are appointed.

That it would also, in the opinion of the undersigned, be inexpedient to apply for the passage of a law exclusively appropriating a portion of this Fund to the support of a single institution of learning. The distribution of the income of the Fund should be on principles upon which all Academies may contend for a share of its support, and where the standard of instruction is the same, the number of scholars who in any seminary have been educated according to that standard, seems to afford the best test by which the respective claims of the different seminaries to share in the distribution of the Fund may be determined. Such a test induces those institutions to vie with each other both in the excellence of their instruction and the number of their pupils, and thus accomplishes the object of the State by affording to a large number of its citizens the opportunities of a more extensive education than is to be obtained in the Common Schools. A seminary providing

such instruction, will receive its share of the Fund upon the same grounds as other kindred seminaries in the State, whilst, if from any particular reasons it ought to receive a larger share of assistance from the State than other schools, it would be more proper to urge those reasons as inducements to the State to furnish the required aid from other sources, than to endeavor to benefit such seminary at the expense of other institutions already existing, and accomplishing the objects for which this Fund was established.

The undersigned therefore respectfully begs leave to offer the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That any application by this Board to the Legislature in relation to the "Literature Fund" of this State, would be inexpedient, and that the Committee be discharged from any further consideration of the subject.

JAMES G. KING, Jr., *Com'r. 3d Ward.*

NEW-YORK, Jan. 20, 1847.