

BOARD OF EDUCATION,

OCTOBER 18, 1848.

REPORT

Of the Executive Committee for the care, government and management of the Free Academy, in relation to the organization of the departments of instruction in said Institution, submitted to the Board of Education, October 18, 1848, and ordered to lie on the table and be printed for the use of the members.

JOHN A. STEWART,
Clerk.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1870-71

Presented to the Board of Education at their meeting held on the 10th day of June 1871.

By the Board of Education.

JOHN A. STEWART

CLERK

THE Executive Committee for the care, management, and government of the Free Academy, have the honor to submit a report on the subject of the organization of the Departments of Instruction.

The Committee of last year introduced, in the month of May last, an extended report on the plan of the Free Academy. In that report the general purpose of the institution, it is believed, is fully and fairly exhibited. It recapitulates all that had before been presented to the public and the Legislature, as evidence of the intentions of the latter in authorizing the establishment of the institution, and the approval of the same by the people in the vote confirming and adopting the Act. The practical aim of the institution, in affording the means of elevated education to youth from among the whole people, and endowing them with eminent qualifications for all the various employments of life, is prominently exhibited. The expectation held forth that the instruction to be provided should be of a very high order, is also presented anew. The facts and principles there brought together may be regarded substantially as forming a guidance for framing the structure of the Free Academy under the law authorizing its establishment.

The time has now arrived for commencing the work. In entering upon the consideration of the subject, we are met at the threshold with the inquiry, Shall a scheme of organization be defined in advance, embracing studies that will extend over several years, and providing for the instruction of a thousand pupils, in the wide range of subjects involved in the design of the Academy? The difficulty of arranging the entire details of such a scheme is obvious. The probability is, that no harmonious and satisfactory conclusion could now be reached. There would

be necessarily, in the present imperfect state of our acquaintance with all the ramifications of the subject, and the absence of all experience to direct us, a clashing of opinions on many points. To perfect a complete plan for the institution when full in its teachers, scholars, and courses, involves to some extent a knowledge of the bent and purpose of the pupils, which nothing but experience can give—the defining of the boundaries of each branch of instruction introduced—and the adjustment of the whole in a harmonious system. The plan must provide for the continuous employment of teachers and scholars during the hours they are severally engaged, and for conducting the regular training of the classes in a consecutive course of study. It seems unnecessary to decide so long beforehand all the important questions comprised in the arrangement of the entire scheme, and the Committee are of opinion that it would be altogether inexpedient to do so. The probability is, that no such arbitrary plan would be carried out. And to define now the precise limits of each professorship—the subdivisions of each branch of knowledge—and especially to decide as to each and all the practical applications of the sciences in which instruction is to be furnished—would probably be found an embarrassment instead of a help when it should be necessary to put the scheme in operation.

It would be still less advisable, after having arranged a complete organization, to appoint the entire corps of professors and teachers required to officer the same. It might prove injurious to their future usefulness, as it would be embarrassing to the management of the institution, to have a considerable number of instructors engaged, who should hold their position, receive the emoluments of office, and yet for a time perform no duty, or be irregularly and imperfectly employed, perhaps for several years. And it would be a wasteful and unjustifiable expenditure of public money. To delay the appointment of a full corps of teachers may seem like a postponement of the realization of all the privi-

leges expected, and it may temporarily be a disappointment to a few, th at education is not accessible in various branches of knowledge, but it is believed that the success of the Free Academy will be more certainly secured, and the expectations of its friends more fully realized, by adopting the course recommended.

There is this disadvantage, undoubtedly, in deferring the arrangement and publication of the complete plan, that there will be a want of information on the part of the public as to what is to be taught, and how much of each subject. But they have been informed of the aim and general purposes of the institution, in accordance with which its system of studies must be carried out. It is believed, too, that the favor of the discriminating will be gained, a more solid confidence secured, and the usefulness of the institution promoted, by the exercise of a wise deliberation in arranging and settling its organization.

The practical and simple course would seem to be, to provide at present only the essential parts of the system and develop it hereafter, when we shall have gained some knowledge by the practical working of the institution, and familiarized our minds with the whole subject. We shall, by pursuing this method, have the benefit of the judgment of those who shall be engaged in the business of instruction in the Academy. We shall know, better than we can now, the educational wants of our pupils, and how to provide the special training necessary to meet the diversified objects they have in view.

It is comparatively an easy matter to decide on the branches of instruction that should be provided at the outset. The studies of all admitted must, for a certain period, be almost entirely theoretical. It is impossible for the pupil to make any valuable progress in any of the specific applications of science to business or the arts, until he is well versed in the principles of the science.

The studies then, it may be said, will be the same to a great extent, for the whole body of pupils, and they will be such as follow the most naturally upon the acquisitions demanded for admission. Their knowledge of mathematics must be advanced. They must continue the study of history. They must employ their knowledge of grammar, and train their minds to original thought, in the practice of composition and belles lettres' studies. It seems desirable, as a means of moral discipline, that they should early receive some instruction in the elements of moral science. And they may commence in the study of the Constitution of the United States, their investigations in political science.

The subjects of chemistry and natural history, which in college courses are not usually commenced in the freshman year, may be advantageously deferred until the pupils have had the advantage of a year's discipline and intellectual growth in the institution. It will be necessary hereafter to provide the means of instruction in chemical science at the beginning of the course, in the case of students who design remaining but a short time in the Academy, and desire the knowledge for the purpose of making it available in the occupation they intend to pursue. But in all, except such special cases, it will probably be best to postpone chemical studies, and the range of sciences embraced under the head of natural history, till after the first year of the course. The Committee may, however, deem it expedient to make a recommendation to the Board hereafter on the subject of appointing a Professor in the Department of Chemistry.

It is supposed that instruction should be furnished in book-keeping, in order to qualify young men for mercantile pursuits, and that it should be introduced at the outset. It will probably be found convenient and advantageous that while one portion of a class is engaged in book-keeping, the remainder should take a lesson in writing. Although writing is among the subjects of examination for entrance, and a fair hand-writing will be re-

quired of all candidates, it may be deemed advisable to preserve and improve the hand and counteract bad habits, by devoting one or two hours a week to writing, during a considerable portion of the course.

The Department of Drawing, in view of its varied and eminently practical uses, ought to assume a position of prominence in the scheme of the Free Academy. Drawing practice will occupy but a few hours in the week, and they will be hours of pleasant relief from recitations. It is supposed that instruction should be provided in this branch also, at the commencement of operations.

It is presumed that the Board will decide to introduce the study of the Latin and Greek languages. In that case, arrangements must be made to teach Latin particularly at the beginning of the student's course. It will be indispensable also to furnish the means of acquiring several of the modern European languages. It is recommended to the Board to make provision for teaching French and Spanish at the opening of the Academy. It may be found necessary to furnish instruction in German. If, upon the admission of the class, the want should be felt, provision should be made for supplying it.

The subjects enumerated comprise the branches which, in the judgment of the Committee, should be the studies of the first year. To recapitulate and specify them more particularly, they consist of Mathematics, History, Composition and Declamation, the Elements of Moral Science, the study of the Constitution of the United States, Drawing, Book-keeping and Writing, the Latin, French, and Spanish languages.

In the adjustment of these studies, if it should be decided to introduce them, it may perhaps be necessary to make some slight modifications. The distribution of them and the allotment of the

time of each professor to sections of the class entering, cannot be made until the number is precisely ascertained.

Nearly all these studies are such as are indispensable in any course of superior education. They constitute the necessary ground-work for the more advanced studies that will be pursued, whatever particular direction these may take. The establishment of them as the introductory studies in the Free Academy will not interfere with the form of organization that may hereafter be decided on as to other departments of knowledge. The languages constitute an exception to this general remark. It is not supposed that all the students will want to acquire any foreign language. In the arrangements for conducting instruction, provision must be made for employing in some other branch of knowledge, those members of a class who do not wish to study either of the languages. Whatever languages are introduced must of course be carried further in the subsequent years of the course, and the Board, by deciding now on the introduction of the languages proposed, will decide on an important feature in the entire system.

Assuming that the branches named are to be introduced, the next inquiry is, what number of teachers will be required to give instruction in these subjects? To answer that inquiry fully, it will be necessary to know what is the number to be taught. This cannot be now ascertained with any approximation to certainty. We can neither know how many will apply for admission, nor how large a proportion will pass a strict examination in the requirements adopted. But as it is necessary to assume some basis, the Committee, on mature reflection, have determined to recommend the appointment of a corps of instructors who could teach two hundred pupils, if that number should enter. Even if the number should be considerably less, it will be necessary to provide about the same number of teachers, in order to give instruction of an elevated character in the variety of sub-

jects to be introduced. If a larger number should be admitted, it would be easy to arrange for teaching them by the appointment of an additional assistant.

In accordance with the views presented, it is recommended to the Board to appoint the following Professors :

- A Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.
- An Assist. Professor of Do. Do. Do.
- A Professor of History and Belles Lettres.
- A Professor of the Latin and Greek Languages and Literature.
- A Professor of the French Language.
- A Professor of the Spanish Language.

The subject of the appointment of a Professor of Drawing will be submitted to the Board hereafter. The services of competent teachers of book-keeping and writing can be obtained, when it may be necessary to employ them.

The services of the Professors of French and Spanish will be wanted for two, or three, or five hours in each week, as may be hereafter decided, and they will receive a compensation proportioned to the amount of services performed by them. In the same way the teaching of Latin may occupy but a small portion of the time of the professor. But it is deemed best to appoint to the chair of Ancient Languages some distinguished and able man, in order to exhibit the strength of the department and the character of the instruction to be given in it. If this should be the pleasure of the Board, the Professor will still be fully employed by aiding to teach other branches. His services will be required to assist in English studies.

It will be essential that the officers first appointed should for some time perform somewhat miscellaneous duty. Many of the candidates for the various positions have been informed that in the

commencement of operations, miscellaneous service would be expected of them, and there is no doubt that any gentlemen appointed will assent to it with the greatest cheerfulness. It seems the proper as well as the most economical course. And the latter consideration assumes additional importance in view of the fact that for some length of time, the expenses of the Free Academy will appear large compared with the number of pupils instructed—it being necessary to appoint heads of departments at full salaries, and do but little of the work by means of assistants.

It is proposed to give the head of the department of English studies, for the present, the title of Professor of History and Belles Lettres. This title will not exactly indicate the range of his duties—because in the studies of the first term it is proposed to include something of Moral and Political Science. One professor, however, can for a while conduct the department with aid from the other professors not fully occupied, and an assistant may hereafter be appointed, when it shall be found necessary. The Principal will probably be able to devote some time to instruction, and with the force proposed, the studies enumerated can be very well conducted, unless the number of scholars should exceed our expectations.

The committee suppose that it is expected of them that they should discharge the responsible duty of recommending to the Board for the various positions to be filled, the names of particular individuals from among the large number of candidates. They suppose that the applications have been referred to them for this purpose. They have accordingly devoted to the subject, in view of its importance, and under a sense of the share of responsibility resting upon them, the most careful attention and their best judgment. They have read all the testimonials accompanying every application. The applications are very numerous for each chair, and fortunately for the Free Academy, many of them are from men of eminent ability. It augurs well for the success of this school of learning, that it has invited the attention of so many

able men, and that they appreciate the peculiarly interesting field of labor, and the opportunities of usefulness and distinction, that will be here presented. The difficulty has not been to find among the candidates men that are qualified for the posts, but to select from among a considerable number of highly qualified candidates. The committee have reached in every case, and without any surrender of opinion, an entirely unanimous result. This would not have been attained, in all probability, if they had been swayed by any other principle than the one which has guided them. They determined to dismiss every consideration of temporary expediency, local prejudices, the favor of friends, or fear as to the effect of any appointment upon particular classes or portions of the community, and to look simply at the character and qualifications of the applicant, according to their ability to judge of them, weighing all the elements that make up qualification. If they have erred in judgment in any case or cases, the Board will make the proper selection. From among the many distinguished applicants, it will not be difficult to find for each department some one fully competent to fill it with success, impart to it reputation, and give it a form, direction and spirit in accordance with the great purposes of the institution. It is hoped that a faculty will be appointed which will compare favorably with those of the highest distinction in the country.

The name of Edward C. Ross is respectfully presented to the consideration of the Board for the Professorship of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. Professor Ross is a graduate of the West Point Military Academy, and occupied the post of Assistant Professor of Mathematics in that institution for twelve years, with entire success. He is now, and has been for the last eight years, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Kenyon College, Ohio. His reputation for mathematical attainments, and as a mathematical teacher, is a national one. His testimonials are from gentlemen fully competent to judge of his qualifications, and nothing can be more pointed than the testi-

mony they bear to his eminent fitness for the post in every respect.

The name of Gerardus B. Docharty is respectfully presented to the consideration of the Board for the Assistant Professorship of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. Mr. Docharty has had twenty years experience as a teacher, occupying the situation of Instructor in Mathematics or Principal in several Academies on Long Island. He is strongly recommended as an able and successful teacher, and has an established reputation as a mathematician.

The name of Theodore Irving is respectfully presented to the consideration of the Board for the Professorship of History and Belles Lettres. Professor Irving is a native of this city, and a graduate of Columbia College. He has for ten years occupied the same Professorship in Geneva College, with great industry and ability. He gave instruction there also in moral Philosophy, Political Economy, and in the French and Spanish Languages. His recommendations are full and satisfactory. He possesses an unusual range of accomplishments for the Department, and seems peculiarly fitted by his tastes and training to direct his pupils in the pursuits of elegant literature.

The name of John J. Owen is respectfully presented to the consideration of the Board for the Professorship of the Latin and Greek Languages and Literature. Mr. Owen is a graduate of Middlebury College, Vermont. He has resided several years in the city, and is well known as the Principal of the Cornelius Institute. He is the editor of several Greek authors—these editions have earned for him a wide celebrity, and they have been introduced very extensively into colleges and classical seminaries. He has had thirteen years experience as a classical teacher. The same Professorship in Middlebury College has been tendered to him. Mr. Owen's application is accompanied with an imposing

array of testimonials from Presidents and Professors of colleges, and other eminent literary men, as to his scholarship, the reputation of his published works, his success as a teacher, and his fitness for the post in every particular. It would be an advantage to any institution of learning, requiring the appointment of a Professor of the Latin and Greek languages, to associate with that Department Mr. Owen's brilliant reputation for profound attainments and critical scholarship.

The name of J. P. Edwards is respectfully presented to the consideration of the Board for the Professorship of the French Language. The testimonials of Mr. Edwards are complete and satisfactory. He is a native of France, and was educated in one of the Military Schools there. He possesses the rare qualification of speaking both the English and French languages perfectly well. He is an experienced teacher. The main consideration which has led to the selection of his name is a confidence in his success in teaching his pupils to *speak* French. This practical purpose is the object of its introduction into the course, and the teacher should be selected with special reference to this purpose.

The name of Augustin José Morales is respectfully presented to the consideration of the Board for the Professorship of the Spanish Language. Mr. Morales is a native of Andalusia, in Spain. He has resided thirteen years in this country, and is a citizen of the United States. His testimonials are full and highly respectable. It is believed that he is very successful in teaching his pupils to *speak* Spanish.

The services of a Janitor will be required. It is important that he be appointed soon, in order to protect the building and the furniture which will soon be placed within it. As soon as the apartments designed for the occupation of this officer are ready, he should enter upon his duties and take up his residence

in the building. The appointment of Nicholas Seeber is respectfully recommended. He is a man of excellent character, with an industrious family, and is believed to be a particularly suitable man for the place.

The views and recommendations submitted in this report, are embodied in the accompanying resolutions.

New York, October 1Sth, 1848.

ROBT. KELLY;
THOMAS DENNY,
J. S. BOSWORTH,
SAMUEL A. CRAPO,
WM. T. PINKNEY.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. The following Professorships are hereby established in the Free Academy:

Professorship of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.
Assist. Professorship of Do. Do. Do.
Professorship of History and Belles Lettres.
Professorship of the Latin and Greek Languages and Literature.
Professorship of the French Language.
Professorship of the Spanish Language.

2. The salaries attached to said Professorships shall be as follows:

The Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy shall receive a salary at the rate of \$1500 per annum, payable quarterly.

The Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy shall receive a salary at the rate of \$800 per annum, payable quarterly.

The Professor of History and Belles Lettres shall receive a salary at the rate of \$1500 per annum, payable quarterly.

The Professor of the Latin and Greek Languages and Literature, shall receive a salary at the rate of \$1500 per annum, payable quarterly.

The Professor of the French, Spanish, or other modern language, shall receive a compensation proportioned to the amount of service rendered and as may be agreed on from time to time, said compensation to be payable quarterly.

3. A Janitor shall be employed in the Free Academy, who shall take care of the building, property, and premises generally, keep the same in order, perform all cleaning necessary, make fires, deliver messages, and in general discharge such duties as may be required of him. He shall occupy the apartments in the basement of the building reserved for the purpose, and be allowed coal for family use. He shall receive a salary at the rate of \$500 per annum, payable quarterly.

4. The engagement of all professors, teachers, lecturers and officers in the Free Academy, unless where a specific agreement shall be made, shall be terminable at the pleasure of either party on giving notice of the same, and the salary shall thereupon immediately cease.

5. Edward C. Ross is hereby appointed Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, to enter upon his duties as professor on the 15th January, 1849, and his salary shall commence from that date.

6. Gerardus B. Docharty is hereby appointed Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, to enter upon his duties on the 15th January, 1849, and his salary shall commence from that date.

7. Theodore Irving is hereby appointed Professor of History and Belles Lettres, to enter upon his duties as professor on 15th January, 1849, and his salary shall commence from that date.

8. John J. Owen is hereby appointed Professor of the Latin and Greek Languages and Literature, to enter upon his duties as professor on 15th January, 1849, and his salary shall commence from that date.

9. J. P. Edwards is hereby appointed Professor of the French Language, to enter upon the duties of the office when his services may be required, and receive such compensation as the Board may hereafter determine.

10. Augustin José Morales is hereby appointed Professor of the Spanish Language, to enter upon the duties of the office when his services may be required, and receive such compensation as the Board may hereafter determine.

11. Nicholas Seeber is hereby appointed Janitor, to enter upon the duties of the office when the committee on the Free Academy may deem his services to be required, and his salary shall commence from that date.

12. The Committee on the Free Academy are hereby authorized to adopt a course of studies for the first term in accordance with the recommendations of this report, subject to such modifications as may be deemed by them expedient.