

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1835.

AUGUSTA:
WILLIAM J. CONDON,.....PRINTER.

1835.

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

NO. 40.

HOUSE.

To the Senate and

House of Representatives,

It affords me much satisfaction in being enabled to lay before you, a copy of a letter this day received from Asa Redington, jr. Esquire, Treasurer of State, with the communications accompanying the same, by which it will be seen, that the condition contained in the "Resolve for establishing an Insane Hospital," passed March 8, 1834, requiring the sum of twenty thousand dollars to be raised by individual donations has been complied with.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }
March 5, 1835. }

ROBERT P. DUNLAP.

[COPY.]
STATE OF MAINE.

TREASURER'S OFFICE, }
Augusta, March 5, 1835. }

To the Governor and Council.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that two communications, dated 4th instant, have been received at this office, profering liberal donations in aid of the beneficent purpose of establishing an Insane Hospital, as contemplated in a Resolve of the Legislature, passed on the 8th day of March, A. D. 1834.

One of these overtures is from **Reuel Williams**, Esq., of **Augusta**, in which he "obligates himself to contribute and pay the sum of ten thousand dollars towards erecting and maintaining said Hospital, as contemplated and provided for in and by said Resolve;" in four equal annual instalments, or at such earlier periods as shall accord with the disbursements to be made by the State and other contributors to the same object.

The other proposition is from **Benjamin Brown**, Esq., of **Vassalboro'**, in which he undertakes to pay six thousand dollars at similar instalments, and also to grant to the State a farm bordering upon the **Kennebec River**, and described as containing about two hundred acres of excellent land, lying partly in **Augusta** and partly in **Vassalboro'**, and of the value

of four thousand dollars; possession thereof to be delivered to the State on the first day of April next; it being Mr. Brown's understanding, however, that the Hospital shall be erected on said farm, or on some site near or in view of the State Buildings in Augusta. Copies of said communications are herewith transmitted.

Rejoicing in the beneficence which thus promises to the insane among us, that extensive and permanent relief which their deep misfortune so impressively demands,

I am most respectfully,

your obedient servant,

ASA REDINGTON, JR. Treas.

[COPY.]

BROWN'S CORNER, VASSALBORO', }
JANUARY 15, 1835. }

ROBERT P. CUNLAP, ESQ.
Governor of the State of Maine.

Dear Sir:

By your recent Message to the Legislature, I perceive that your views in regard to the Resolve passed last winter, for establishing an Insane Hospital in this State, accord with my own. Further legislative action must be had, or the proposed object fail of its accomplishment. I have, as you know, long felt desirous that such an institution should be established in some central part of this State, and as the proposition, which I made last winter, to the Committee of the Legislature, who had the subject under consideration, was not in such a way as to effect the object designed, I have concluded to make to you, and to the Legislature through you, if you think proper to communicate the same, the following proposition.

I will convey to the State, for the site for an Insane Hospital, a farm situated on the river county road leading from Augusta Bridge to this place, containing about two hundred acres of excellent land, seventy acres of which lies in Augusta, and the residue in Vassalboro', (being the same which

I had the pleasure of shewing you last Summer.) This farm is worth four thousand dollars, and has long paid me the interest of that sum. It is now under lease till the first day of April next, at which time I propose to give possession of it to the State. I will also pay into the Treasury of the State, the sum of six thousand dollars, in six equal annual payments, provided the erection of an "Insane Hospital and other suitable buildings for the accommodation of a Superintendent, and one hundred lunatic persons furiously mad, agreeable to a plan of the most recent approved models, for such an Institution," be commenced on said farm next season. The first payment to be made in one year after the erection of the Hospital is commenced, and the said sum of six thousand dollars, to be appropriated either to the building of the establishment or defraying the expenses of the same, or in part to each, as may be designated by the Legislature. Should the above proposition meet your approbation, I would thank you in communicating the same to the Legislature, to suggest the importance of as early action upon the subject, as may suit their convenience, as I am desirous of making other arrangements, should the proposition not be accepted.

With much respect,

Your obedient servant,

B. BROWN.

Further to aid an object of so much interest to the State, and so dear to me, I consent to the following modification of the foregoing offer.

If the Governor and Council shall think that the affections of the people of the State, and the patronage of the Government, will be more likely to be secured and continued to the Hospital, by changing the location from the lot proposed to be given by me, to any site near and in view of the State Buildings in Augusta, I consent to its being so done, and in such case, the lot which I give, may be disposed of, and the proceeds applied to the general purposes of the Hospital, and that the payment of the six thousand dollars, be made in four equal annual instalments, from this time, instead of the times contained in my first offer, and faster, if the State shall contribute faster of their grant toward the object.

BENJ. BROWN.

March 4th, 1835.

(COPY.)

TO ROBERT P. DUNLAP, ESQ., GOVERNOR OF MAINE.

SIR:—The liberality and generous sympathy of the Legislature of Maine, in providing by their Resolve of 8th of March, 1834, an appropriation by the State of \$20,000 for the purpose of establishing an Insane Hospital in Maine, on condition that a like sum of \$20,000 be raised by individual donations for the same object, within one year, are worthy of all praise, and the benefits intended should not be lost, if it be possible to prevent it. How is it that the misery and distress of the *Insane* in our State have not called into exercise enough of benevolence and humane effort to secure an asylum and proper treatment for those who cannot think and act for themselves?

Do not the recent Reports of the Managers of Insane Hospitals encourage the hope, nay the belief, that by early attention and suitable treatment the diseases of the mind are as susceptible of cure, as other diseases are? and can it be that the sane portion of the community will neglect to provide the means for such attention and treatment? Strange indifference to the case of those really *impotent*; while efforts upon subjects of questionable utility are untiring!

Looking at what *has been done*, and then considering what remains *to be done* to prevent the *loss* of what has been done, I cannot keep silence any longer. The Legislature has said, “the State will give its \$20,000, provided individuals will contribute

an equal amount.” Mr. Brown has said, “I will, from the results of my industry and frugality, give \$10,000.” Does this produce no effect? Are not the sympathies of others touched by such examples of real, genuine benevolence? Cannot the groans, the cries, the misery and the wretchedness of the maniac be heard and pitied by any others? From the fact that no others have manifested a disposition to do any thing, that nothing has been done,—it would seem so; but it is impossible—it cannot, it must not be so.

Believing as I do that a majority of Insane persons, by early attention and proper treatment, may be cured and restored to their friends and to society, and that the condition of the incurable may be greatly improved and alleviated by the establishment of a Hospital, I cannot content myself to lie by and suffer all that has been done, towards providing for such an object, to be lost, when it is within my power alone to prevent it.

It belongs to others as much as to me to aid in this object; but if they do not, if they will not, shall so great a good be lost, perhaps forever, for the want of the remaining \$10,000? Was ever the sum of \$40,000 to be appropriated to a better purpose? And shall the \$30,000 provided by the State and by Mr. Brown, be suffered to return to other objects, and the cause of the insane be suffered to remain unheard, unpitied, unrelieved? No! the remaining \$10,000 must be added. I can do it, and the only

question is, *will I do it?* What better use could I make of that sum? How can I effect a greater good, with that amount, than by adding it to what the State and Mr. Brown have already provided, and thus secure the erection of an Insane Hospital under the direction and patronage of the State, whose interest and pride it will always be, as I trust and believe, to patronize and oversee it in such a manner as to render it an honor to my native State, and the means of relieving and restoring many unfortunate fellow beings who may be its tenants?

This train of reflection has induced me to prepare and place in your hands the enclosed obligation to contribute the remaining \$10,000 toward erecting and maintaining the Insane Hospital, as provided for by the Resolve of 8th March, 1834, which I do with the knowledge of Mr. Brown, and with his consent to modify the conditions of his donation so far as relates to the location of the Hospital, it being understood by him and me, that if the Governor and Council shall think the good of the Institution would be promoted by having it located in Augusta rather than on the spot proposed by Mr. Brown, they are at liberty so to do—each of us regarding it more important to secure the affections of the people and the patronage of the State to the Hospital, than to be particular as to its location. Respectfully, your obt. servt.

REUEL WILLIAMS.

Augusta, March 4, 1835.

(COPY.)

By **Resolve** of **March 8th, 1834**, **Twenty Thousand Dollars** are allowed and granted by the **State**, to be derived from the proceeds of the sales of public lands, for the purpose of establishing an **Insane Hospital** in this **State**, on condition that a like sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars** be raised by individual donations, toward erecting and maintaining the same, within twelve months, and it having been announced, and it being understood, that **Benjamin Brown, Esq.** of **Vassalboro'** has already made a donation of **Ten Thousand Dollars** toward said object, and that the remainder of the **Twenty Thousand Dollars** may be raised, so as to secure and retain the grant of the **State**, and to comply with the conditions of the **Resolve**, I hereby obligate myself to contribute and pay the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars** toward erecting and maintaining said **Hospital**, as contemplated and provided for in and by said **Resolve** of **8th March, 1834**. And I promise **Asa Redington, Jr. Esq.** Treasurer of the **State** of **Maine**, to pay him or his successor in said office, said sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars**, in four equal annual instalments from this date, to be applied and appropriated to the purpose contemplated in and by said **Resolve**. And if the work shall progress so as to render the payment of said sums in a less or

shorter period of time than four equal annual payments necessary, and the State and Mr. Brown shall pay their proportions faster than I have proposed to pay mine, in such case, I will change the times of payment to correspond with the payments made for the same object, by the State and Mr. Brown.

(Signed,) **REUEL WILLIAMS.**

March 4, 1835.

Attest, **JOSEPH H. WILLIAMS.**

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 6, 1835. }

ORDERED, That one thousand copies of the foregoing Message,
and accompanying papers, be printed for the use of the Legislature.

[Extract from the Journal of the House.]

Attest: JAMES L. CHILD, Clerk.