

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1855.

AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & BLAINE, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1855.

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 2.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED
AND FIFTY-FIVE.

AN ACT to incorporate the Trustees of the Maine State
Seminary.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives in Legislature assembled, as follows :*

SECT. 1. Oren B. Cheney, Ebenezer Knowlton,
2 Joseph Berry, Charles O. Libby, Leonard Hathaway,
3 Theodore Stevens, junior, Francis Lyford, Ephraim
4 H. Hart, Benjamin D. Peck, Stephen Williamson,
5 Philip Weaver, Joseph Edgecomb, J. S. Burgess,
6 Jason Mariner, Charles H. Smith, Nahum Brooks,
7 Joseph D. Prescott, Tisdale D. Clements, George W.
8 Bean, Alexander H. Morrill, William R. Frye, Joseph

9 Symonds, Joshua Haskell, Abel Chadwick, William
10 H. Littlefield, Ezekiel G. Page, Nathan J. Robinson,
11 and Samuel Swanton, their associates and successors,
12 are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, by
13 the name of the Trustees of the Maine State Semi-
14 nary, and by that name shall have power to prosecute
15 and defend suits at law, to have and use a common
16 seal, and to change the same at pleasure; and to take
17 and hold, for the objects of their association, by gift,
18 grant, bequest, or otherwise, any estate real or person-
19 al, the annual income of which shall not exceed five
20 thousand dollars.

SECT. 2. All property and estate, real and personal,
2 which may at any time, by donation or otherwise,
3 come into possession of said Board of Trustees in their
4 corporate capacity, shall be faithfully applied to the
5 promotion of the cause of Education, and in estab-
6 lishing and maintaining a Literary Institution, in
7 some town or city in this State: and the trustees of
8 said Maine State Seminary, by a majority vote of the
9 whole board, are hereby vested with the power to locate
10 said Seminary in any town or city in this State:—
11 *Provided, however,* it shall not be located in any town

12 or city where there is an Institution similar in kind,
13 and equal in grade—and *provided, also*, that said
14 location shall be approved by the Governor and
15 Council.

SECT. 3. The Trustees aforesaid, may adopt such
2 rules, regulations, courses of study and by-laws, not
3 repugnant to the Constitution and laws of this State,
4 as they may deem expedient, for the management of
5 their affairs and the prosperity of said Seminary; may
6 fill by ballot all vacancies occurring in their body;
7 may choose by ballot all officers and teachers neces-
8 sary for the usefulness and advantage of said Seminary;
9 and they shall be, and they are hereby, invested with
10 all the powers and privileges incident to similar
11 corporations.

SECT. 4. The number of said Trustees shall not at
2 any time be less than fifteen, nor more than thirty-
3 five, seven of whom shall constitute a quorum; and
4 the Board of Trustees shall be divided into five classes:
5 the first seven Trustees mentioned in this act of
6 incorporation, shall constitute the first class; and the
7 second seven in said list shall constitute the second
8 class, and this order shall continue through said list;

9 and the term of office of the first class shall expire on
10 the day of the annual meeting of said Trustees, in the
11 year eighteen hundred and fifty-seven; and at each
12 succeeding annual meeting, the term of office of the
13 class next in order shall expire; and all vacancies
14 shall be filled by the Board, and all persons so elected
15 shall continue in office for the term of five years.

SECT. 5. When the Trustees aforesaid, shall have
2 accepted the provisions of this Act, and shall have
3 raised for the benefit of said Maine State Seminary,
4 the sum of ten thousand dollars, and shall have filed
5 a certificate thereof, with the Secretary of State, the
6 Land Agent is hereby authorized and directed to
7 convey to said Trustees, a quantity of land equal to
8 three half townships, from any lands belonging to the
9 State; and the funds arising therefrom, shall be held
10 in trust by said Trustees, for the benefit of said
11 Seminary; *Provided, however,* that the Governor and
12 Council may, instead thereof, draw their warrant upon
13 the Treasurer of State, for what they shall consider
14 an equivalent for said lands, in money; *and Provided,*
15 *also,* that two thirds of said funds donated by the
16 State, shall be kept by said Trustees forever, as a

17 permanent fund, the interest only to be expended ;
18 and the interest of one half of said permanent fund,
19 shall go towards defraying the general expenses of
20 said Seminary ; and the interest of the other half of
21 said permanent fund, given by the State, shall be
22 expended in maintaining a Normal School Department
23 in said Seminary, for two terms—one in the spring
24 and the other in the autumn, of each year—giving
25 tuition free to persons, without regard to religious sect,
26 who may wish to qualify themselves for teachers ;
27 and if said latter sum, or the interest of one half of
28 said permanent fund, shall not all be expended for
29 the education of teachers, tuition free, as aforesaid,
30 then the remainder shall go for the education of
31 indigent students, tuition free, without regard to
32 religious sect.

SECT. 6. If ever the said Maine State Seminary
2 shall cease its operations for the period of three years,
3 then all of said permanent fund donated by the State,
4 together with the interest that may have accrued for
4 the said period of three years, shall revert to the
5 State.

SECT. 7. The Legislature, or the Superintendent
2 of the public schools, by its direction, may at any
3 time, make such disposition of the interest of one half
4 of said permanent fund, as shall be deemed most
5 expedient for the support of a Normal School Depart-
6 ment in said Maine State Seminary.

SECT. 8. The Legislature shall have the right to
2 alter or amend this act, at any time after the accept-
3 ance of the same.

SECT. 9. Oren B. Cheney, Ebenezer Knowlton and
2 Francis Lyford, or any two of them, are hereby author-
3 ized to call the first meeting of this corporation, by
4 giving notice of the time and place of said meeting, in
5 the Kennebec Journal, and The Age, papers printed
6 in Augusta, and in the Morning Star, a paper printed
7 in Dover, N. H., seven days, at least, before the time
8 appointed for said meeting.

SECT. 10. This act shall be in force from and after
2 its approval by the Governor.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 27, 1855. }

This Bill, reported by Mr. Fenno of Augusta, from the Committee on Education, was read twice, laid on the table, and 350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

H. K. BAKER, *Clerk.*