

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty - Third Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 90.

STATE OF MAINE.

The Joint Special Committee to which was referred the order of the Legislature to enquire into the expediency of repealing the charters of the "Maine Branch of the Druidic University," and the "Eclectic Medical College of Maine" have attended to the duties assigned to it by giving public notice of the time and place of hearing; by notifying all persons interested in or having information concerning the above-named corporations to be present at the hearing or to communicate with the Committee; by serving legal notice upon the proper officers of the corporations; and by carefully considering all the evidence presented to the Committee.

With regard to the "Eclectic Medical College of Maine" the committee report that on the evening appointed for the hearing that corporation was represented there by several of its trustees and professors, its corporation officers, and an able attorney; but before the introduction of any testimony the corporation made a proposition to surrender its charter if its professors should be permitted to complete the present course of lectures, now about half through, and for which the students have fully paid in advance. It was also stipulated that no more degrees should be conferred.

A large amount of evidence was in the hands of the Committee all showing the utter unworthiness and fraudulent practices

of the College from its inception to a recent date, and its inability up to the present time to meet the requirements of a reputable Medical College. The issuance of "bogus diplomas" was not the only violation of its charter which the Committee was prepared to prove. But in consideration of the vote of the trustees to surrender their charter at the expiration of the present term of lectures and to confer no more degrees, an attested copy of which together with the charter of the corporation was placed in the hands of the Committee; and in consideration of the further fact that no fraudulent practices were alleged against the present Board of Management, and also in justice to the innocent students who have paid their money as above stated, the Committee deem it advisable that the College be permitted to continue its work, upon the conditions named, until June first, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, and then cease to exist, and to accomplish that object report the accompanying bill entitled "An Act to repeal the charter of the Eclectic Medical College of Maine."

Concerning the "Maine Branch of the Druidic University" the Committee report that no one appeared before the Committee in its defence, although one so-called Dr. Samuel York, advertised as the acting Vice President of the University and Dean of its Faculty was present and represented by counsel.

Documents were presented and testimony taken which are herewith submitted.

Extraordinary powers seem to have been conferred upon this so-called "University" by an extraordinary act of incorporation.

From its own announcements and printed circulars; from the extremely *liberal* way, to say the least, in which its "University" degrees have been conferred upon all who applied and some who did *not* apply for them; and from the sworn testimony presented the Committee can arrive at no other conclusion than that the corporation, so far at least as its University work is concerned, has been and is now entirely unworthy of confidence or respect, its longer existence would be the continuance of a fraud upon our citizens and a

disgrace upon our State, and that its charter should forthwith be annulled. The Committee therefore recommend the passage of the accompanying act entitled "An Act to repeal the charter of the Penobscot Valley Gorsedh of Bards and State of Maine Branch of the Druidic University of America."

Frank E. Sleeper, } *of the*
H. A. Weymouth, } *Senate.*

Frank L. Noble, }
E. L. Pattangall, } *of the*
J. W. Wakefield, } *House.*
A. N. Lufkin, }
H. R. Corson, }

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 11, 1887.

Reported by Mr. SLEEPER, from Joint Special Committee, and on motion by same Senator laid on table to be printed.

C. W. TILDEN, Secretary.