

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

DOCUMENTS

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1865.

AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1865.

FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 26.

The Committee on Education, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the State Normal School, and who were directed by a vote of the Legislature to visit that Institution, have attended to their duty, and ask leave to submit the following

REPORT :

The undersigned, members of the Committee, went to Farmington on Thursday, February 2, and spent the whole of the following day in witnessing the exercises of the school, in examining the premises, and in making themselves acquainted with the affairs of the Institution generally.

They find the location to be a very favorable one; healthful and attractive, and reputed to be in summer one of the most delightful villages in the State.

The people in Farmington are characterized by intelligence, industry, and temperate habits.

It is in all respects a substantial community—such as a careful parent would regard as especially desirable, as a place in which to intrust a son or daughter.

The building, now nearly completed, is a substantial brick edifice sixty feet long, forty feet wide, and two stories high, with a well proportioned tower. It will be ready for use at the commencement of the spring term. It is a fine structure, and well adapted to the purposes for which it was intended.

This, together with the old Academy building now forming a *rear extension*, will be sufficiently large to accommodate three hundred students.

Your Committee found in attendance on the day of their visit, thirty four students; eighteen others being engaged in the work of teaching,—many of them, with marked success.

Your Committee witnessed the regular exercises of the school, the teachers kindly arranging to furnish them the best possible opportunity to see, and judge for themselves.

Although the young gentlemen and ladies of the school were not aware of the scrutiny to which they were to be subjected until they found themselves in the presence of the Committee, they betrayed but little embarrassment, and every recitation was a fine success.

The exercises of the day, included exercises in Reading, Spelling, Penmanship, Book-keeping, History, Grammar, Arithmetic, Algebra, Physiology, and Latin.

The teachers are *masters* of their work, and in our judgment, well qualified to discipline and educate the youth who are desirous of becoming fitted for the important work of teaching in our common schools.

The school was particularly characterized by good order, excellent discipline, thoroughness and faithfulness in teaching, and zeal and promptness on the part of the pupils.

Your Committee were specially gratified with the recitations in Grammar and Arithmetic. These studies were taught almost *exclusively* on the principle of analysis—a principle which we regard as eminently important, and in *this* school, was carried to a greater extent than we had before witnessed.

It is expected, that at least one hundred scholars will be in attendance at the commencement of the spring term; and as this is a school of great promise—answering the very object for which it was instituted, the Committee take pleasure in asking for this Institution the fostering care of the Legislature. *It is your own school, and one, of which you may well be proud!*

We shall confidently look for gradual and marked improvement in our common schools, through the instrumentality of this Institution. We shall expect to see a class of teachers go forth, whose influence will be felt throughout the State—a class of teachers, whose system of instruction will be better adapted to the intellectual wants of our youth, than any which has heretofore been taught in our State.

For further particulars with reference to our State Normal School, we would invite particular attention to the Report of the Committee of the Council, and also to the extended Report of the State Superintendent of Schools.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

3

Your Committee would further add, that the moral influence exerted by the teachers, was spoken of in the highest terms, and that many of the leading and most influential citizens of the village, spoke of the State Normal School in terms of high commendation.

All which is respectfully submitted.

For the Committee,

CORNELIUS STONE,
D. T. RICHARDSON,
H. M. EATON,
OTIS HATHAWAY,
T. H. McLAIN,
C. BICKFORD.

AUGUSTA, Feb. 7, 1865.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 8, 1865. }

Report accepted, and on motion of Mr. CROSBY of Dexter,
350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

HORACE STILSON, *Clerk.*