

**MANUAL OF THE ALBANY
INSTITUTE: PREPARED
UNDER THE ORDER OF THE
INSTITUTE, MARCH, 1870**

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Manual of the Albany Institute: Prepared Under the Order of the Institute, March, 1870 by
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OF THE

ALBANY INSTITUTE:

PREPARED

UNDER THE ORDER OF THE INSTITUTE,

MARCH, 1870,

By DANIEL J. PRATT,

RECORDING SECRETARY.

ALBANY:
J. MUNSELL, 82 STATE STREET.
1870.



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ORIGIN OF THE ALBANY INSTITUTE.

The "Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures" was formed in February, 1791, at the city of New York, then the seat of government of this state, and was incorporated by the Legislature March 12th, 1793. Of this body, Robert R. Livingston (well known as one of the committee appointed to draft the Declaration of Independence, first Chancellor of the State of New York, Minister to France, etc.), was designated in the act of incorporation as the first president, and so remained until the year 1804, when the act expired by its own limitation. The society was then reincorporated under the title of "The Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts," by an act of the Legislature, passed April 2, 1804, which also constituted Mr. Livingston its first president. Of the labors of this Society, it is enough to say that four octavo volumes, mainly composed of communications read at its sessions, were published; that it exerted a most favorable influence upon agriculture; and that it was for five years the organ of the state in distributing premiums for improvements in domestic manufactures.

"The Albany Lyceum of Natural History" was organized early in 1823, under the presidency of Stephen Van Rensselaer, and was incorporated by the Legislature on the 23d day of April in that year. Directing its labors to the

advancement of a knowledge of the natural sciences, it succeeded in forming a museum embracing collections in the various branches, especially geology, mineralogy and palæontology, which were for a time regarded as the most extensive and valuable in the country.

Circumstances induced a majority of the members of the two latter societies to believe that the objects for which they had been incorporated would be promoted by mutual coöperation; and accordingly, in May, 1824, articles of association were agreed to, providing for the organization of "The Albany Institute." The substance of these articles is embodied in the charter granted by the Legislature, February 27th, 1829. It appears from the several charters above mentioned, copies of which are included in this publication, that the Albany Institute is the legitimate successor of the pioneer series of associations formed and incorporated within this state for the promotion of science; and it will be observed that the annexed roll of members includes many persons of distinction as scholars, as well as in professional and civil life.

C H A R T E R

OF THE

SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE, ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.

AN ACT to incorporate the Society, instituted in the State of New York, for the Promotion of Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures.

Passed March 11, 1793. Chap. 59.

WHEREAS several persons in the state of New York have by a voluntary agreement associated themselves together for the laudable purpose of promoting agriculture, arts and manufactures in this state; *And whereas* the said society have presented a petition to the legislature, setting forth, that the petitioners, considering that the wealth and prosperity of a country very much depend upon the flourishing state of its agriculture, arts and manufactures, and observing the benefit[s] which in other countries have accrued from the institution of societies for the purpose of encouraging those great objects, have voluntarily associated themselves, with a view of collecting from different parts of the state, the different modes of agriculture that are in practice, to suggest such improvements as may be found to be beneficial; to excite among their fellow citizens a spirit of making experiments for the amelioration of lands which have been exhausted, or in their natural state are unproductive or unfit for cultivation; for increasing the produce of such articles as are propagated amongst us, and promoting the culture of others which have been found useful in other parts, and for the improvement of field husbandry in general; and to introduce, as far as circumstances may

render proper, an emulation for the establishment of useful arts and manufactures in those parts of the state where they can be beneficially carried on; that the petitioners conceive it would greatly conduce to advance the important ends of their association, if they were authorized to act as a corporate body, and possess property to such amount as would enable them to effectuate their purposes more satisfactorily to themselves and more beneficially to the public: They therefore prayed, that the legislature would be pleased, by law, to incorporate the society for the purposes aforesaid, under such limitations and restrictions as to the legislature shall seem meet; Therefore,

§ 1. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly: That Robert R. Livingston, John Sloss Hobart, Samuel L. Mitchill, John M'Kesson, Matthew Clarkson, Samuel Bard, John Cantine, Samuel Jones, Thomas Tillotson, Joseph Hasbrouck, James C. Graham, Jacobus Swartwout, Melancton Smith, Abraham Hardenberg, John Gelston, William W. Gilbert, David R. Floyd Jones, George Clinton, Aquila Giles, Ezra L'Hommedieu, John Skenck, James Hunter, Egbert Benson, John Blagge, John P. Delancy, Francis Childs, John Watts, Peter Vandervoort, Henry Will, Ebenezer Purdy, Josiah Ogden Hoffman, John Smith of Suffolk county, Cornelius J. Bogart, William Dunlap, Walter Rutherford, Philip Van Cortlandt, John Williams, Richard Varick, John Jay, Elias Newman, Amasa Dingley, Gilbert Colden Willett, Stephen Lush, John Stevens, John Kemp, Abraham Beach, Samuel Nicoll, Jonathan N. Havens, John L. Gardner, Frederick Rhinelande, Pierre De La Bigarre, Edward Livingston, John Thurman, Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, James Duane, Simeon DeWitt, Nathaniel Sackett, William Rhinelande, Samuel Russell, Moses DeWitt, David Frederick Laring, John Nicholson, Andrew King, John Barber, Joseph Barber, Johannes*

Miller, William Thompson, David Ogden, John Delafield, Horatio Gates, Benjamin Strong, and Samuel Jones, Jr., and such other persons as shall from time to time become members of the said society, shall be and hereby are ordained, constituted and declared to be one body corporate and politic, in deed, fact and name, by the name of, The Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures; and that by that name, they and their successors *until the first day of May one thousand eight hundred and four*, shall have succession, and shall be persons in law capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, answering and being answered, defending and being defended, in all courts and places whatsoever, in all manner of actions, suits, complaints, matters and causes whatsoever; And that they and their successors may have a common seal, and may change and alter the same at their pleasure; and that they and their successors, by the same name, shall be persons capable in law to purchase, take, receive, hold, and enjoy to them and their successors, any real estate in fee simple, or for term of life or lives, or otherwise; and any goods, chattels, or personal estate, for the purpose of enabling them the better to carry into execution, encourage and promote such measures as may tend to promote agriculture, arts and manufactures in this state: *Provided*, the clear yearly value of such real and personal estates shall not exceed the sum of eight hundred pounds lawful money of New York, and that they and their successors shall have full power and authority to give, grant, sell, lease, demise and dispose of the said real and personal estates, or any part thereof at their will and pleasure; and that they and their successors shall have power from time to time, to make, constitute, ordain and establish such by-laws, constitutions, ordinances and regulations as they shall judge proper for the election of their officers, for the election or admission of new members of the said corpora-