

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION OF
THE STATE OF NEW YORK, HELD
AUGUST 4TH, 5TH AND 6TH, 1868**

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Proceedings of the Fifth Anniversary of the University Convocation of the State of New York,
Held August 4th, 5th and 6th, 1868 by Anonymous

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THE UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK.

I. Sketch of its Origin, Objects and Plan.

At a meeting of the Regents of the University, held on the 9th day of January, 1863, the reports of colleges and academies, and their mutual relations, being under consideration, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That it is expedient to hold annually, under the direction of this Board, a meeting of officers of colleges and academies, and that a committee be appointed to draft a programme of business for the proposed meeting, to fix the time and place, and to make such other arrangements as they may deem necessary.

The committee of arrangements on the part of the Regents were, Chancellor Pruyn, Governor Seymour, Mr. Benedict, Mr. Hawley, Mr. Clinton, Mr. Perkins, and Secretary Woolworth.

The meeting was held, according to appointment, on the 4th and 5th days of August, 1863. Chancellor Pruyn briefly stated the objects entertained by the Regents, which were mainly "to consider the mutual relations of colleges and academies, and to promote, as largely as possible, the cause of liberal education in our State. While it is a part of the duty of the Regents of the University to visit the fourteen colleges and more than two hundred academies subject to their supervision, it is obvious that this cannot be done as frequently as desirable, and that some such method as is now proposed, whereby teachers may compare views with each other and with the Regents, discuss methods of instruction and general modes of procedure, is alike practicable and necessary.

"A law enacted more than three-fourths of a century ago was cited, by which the University was organized and clothed with powers similar to those held by the Universities of Cambridge and

Oxford in England. The University of the State of New York, though generally regarded as a legal fiction, is in truth a grand reality. The numerous institutions of which it is composed are not, indeed, as in England, crowded into a single city, but are scattered, for popular convenience, over the entire State. It is hoped that the present meeting will more fully develop this fact, in accordance with which the officers of colleges and academies now convened are cordially welcomed as members of a great State University. It is also confidently expected that the deliberations now inaugurated will result in the more intimate alliance and coöperation of the various institutions holding chartered rights under the Regents of the University."

The Chancellor and Secretary of the Regents, were, on motion, duly elected presiding and recording officers of the meeting. A committee, subsequently made permanent for the year, and designated as the executive committee, was appointed by the Chancellor to prepare and report an order of proceedings. Among other recommendations of the committee the following were submitted and unanimously adopted:

The Regents of the University of this State have called the present meeting of the officers of the colleges and academies subject to their visitation, for the purpose of mutual consultation respecting the cause of education, especially in the higher departments. It becomes a question of interest whether this convention shall assume a permanent form, and meet at stated intervals, either annually, biennially or triennially. In the opinion of the committee, it seems eminently desirable that the Regents and the instructors in the colleges and academies should thus meet, with reference to the attainment of the following objects:

1st. To secure a better acquaintance among those engaged in these departments of instruction, with each other, and with the Regents.

2d. To secure an interchange of opinions on the best methods of instruction in both colleges and academies; and, as a consequence,

3d. To advance the standard of education throughout the State.

4th. To adopt such common rules as may seem best fitted to promote the harmonious workings of the State system of education.

5th. To consult and co-operate with the Regents in devising and executing such plans of education as the advanced state of the population may demand.

6th. To exert a direct influence upon the people and the Legislature of the State, personally and through the press, so as to secure such an appreciation of a thorough system of education, together with such pecuniary aid and legislative enactments as will place the institutions here represented in a position worthy of the population and resources of the State.

And for the attainment of these objects, the committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this meeting of officers of colleges and academies be hereafter known and designated as "The University Convocation of the State of New York."

Resolved, That the members of this Convocation shall embrace,

1. The members of the Board of Regents.

2. All instructors in colleges, normal schools, academies, and higher departments of public schools that are subject to the visitation of the Regents, and (by amendment of 1868) the trustees of all such institutions.

3. The President, First Vice-President, and the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries of the New York State Teachers' Association.

Resolved, That the Chancellor and Secretary of the Board of Regents shall act severally as the Presiding Officer and Permanent Secretary of the Convocation.

Resolved, That the meeting of this Convocation shall be held annually in the city of Albany, on the first Tuesday of August, at ten o'clock A. M., unless otherwise appointed by the Board of Regents.

Resolved, That at each annual Convocation, the Chancellor shall announce the appointment, by the Regents, of an executive committee of seven members, who shall meet during the recess of the Convocation at such time and place as the Regents may direct, with authority to transact business connected with its general object.

At the fifth anniversary, held August 4th, 5th, and 6th, 1868, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That there be appointed by the Chancellor at each annual meeting, a committee of necrology, to consist of three persons.

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of each member of the Convocation to notify the chairman of the committee of necrology of the decease of members occurring in their immediate neighborhood or circle of acquaintance, as an assistance to the preparation of their report.

Resolved, That the Secretary publish, with the report of each year's proceedings, the original resolutions of 1863, as they are, or may be from time to time amended, together with the two foregoing, as a means of better informing the members of the Convocation in regard to its nature, and the purposes of its organization.



II. Minutes of the Fifth Anniversary, August 4, 5 and 6, 1868.

The sessions of the fifth anniversary of the University Convocation of the State of New York were held at the Assembly Chamber of the Capitol, in the city of Albany, commencing on Tuesday, August 4th, 1868, at 10.30 A. M., and closing on Thursday, August 6th, at 12 o'clock, M.

The Convocation was called to order by Chancellor Pruyn, President, *ex-officio*.

Rev. Dr. Luckey led the Convocation in the use of the Lord's Prayer.

Vice-Chancellor Verplanck having been called by the Chancellor to occupy the chair, briefly addressed the Convocation,

and declared the session duly opened for the transaction of business.

The Executive Committee, through Acting-President Wilson, of Hobart College, reported the following order of exercises for the first day, and recommended its adoption :

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

Sessions (except the first), 9 A. M. to 1 P. M.; 3 to 5 P. M.; 8 P. M.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4th.

10.30 A. M.—Opening of the Convocation, and preliminary report of the Executive Committee.

11.30 A. M.—Normal Instruction in Colleges; Professor EDWARD NORTH, *Hamilton College*.

12 M.—A suitable course of study and appropriate testimonials for females in the higher institutions of the State. [Reported upon at the last Convocation, report accepted, committee discharged, report ordered printed and further consideration of the subject referred to the next Convocation (1868).]

12.45 P. M.—Miscellaneous business.

1 P. M.

RECESS.

3 P. M.—The Study of Politics in Colleges, Normal Schools and Academies; Professor JOHN NORTON POMEROY, *University of the City of New York*.

4 P. M.—Why should Elementary Chemistry be required for admission to Colleges? Professor LE ROY C. COOLEY, *State Normal School*.

4.30 P. M.—Miscellaneous Business.

5 P. M.

RECESS.

8 P. M.—Eulogy on the late Professor CHARLES ANTHON, LL.D.; Professor HENRY DRISLER, *Columbia College*.

The report of the committee was accepted, and adopted as the order of business for the day.

The Executive Committee also recommended the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the second paragraph of the resolution adopted in 1863, designating the members of the Convocation, be hereby amended by adding the words, "and the trustees of all such institutions," making such paragraph read as follows :

2. All instructors in colleges, Normal Schools, Academies, and higher departments of public schools that are subject to the visitation of the Regents, and the trustees of all such institutions.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The paper of Professor Edward North, of Hamilton College, on "Normal Instruction in Colleges," was read, in his absence and

at his request, by Assistant-Secretary Pratt. The paper was accompanied by the following resolution, which embodies the main thought of the author :

Resolved, That we think it desirable, and called for by the educational needs of the day, that each of the literary colleges of the State should organize and sustain a department of Normal instruction, under the direction of a competent Professor of "The Theory and Practice of Teaching."

The subject of Professor North's paper was discussed by Chancellor Pruyn; Regent Benedict; and Principal Flack, of Claverack Academy.

Regent Luckey moved that the subject be referred to a committee of five, to be named by the chair, to report at the next Convocation.

The discussion was continued by President Wilson; Principal Graves, of Oneida Conference Seminary; and Secretary Woolworth.

President Wilson seconded the motion of Regent Luckey, to refer the subject to a committee.

Secretary Woolworth announced the receipt of a telegram from President Raymond, of Vassar College, requesting that the discussion upon a suitable course of study for females in the higher institutions of learning, which had been made the order for twelve o'clock, be postponed, at least until the afternoon session, which was agreed to,

Discussion on Professor North's paper was continued by Principal Whipple, of Lansingburgh Academy; Regent Hale; Professor Martin, of the University of the City of New York; Principal Martin, of the Troy High School; Professor Robinson, of the University of Rochester; and Principal Clarke, of Canandaigua Academy.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the Convocation took a recess until three o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION—THREE O'CLOCK.

Professor John Norton Pomeroy, of the University of the City of New York, read a paper on "The Study of Politics in Colleges, Academies and Normal Schools," (Regent Luckey in the chair.)

The subject of the paper was discussed by Chancellor Pruyn; Professor Upson, of Hamilton College; Secretary Woolworth; and Regent Benedict.