PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY CONVOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, HELD AUGUST 3D, 4TH AND 5TH, 1869

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THE UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK.

I. Sketch of its Origin, Objects and Plan.

(Reprinted from former Reports.)

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, and 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 Sixth Anniversary, August 3, 4 and 5, 1869.

The sessions of the sixth anniversary of the University Convocation of the State of New York were held, pursuant to adjournment, at the Assembly Chamber in the Capitol, in the city of Albany, commencing on Tuesday, August 3d, 1869, at 10.30 A. M., and closing on Thursday, August 5th, at 1 o'clock P. M.

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

The Lord's prayer was said by Rev. Dr. Luckey, one of the Regents.

The Chancellor then addressed the Convocation as follows:

GENTLEMEN: Our sixth anniversary meeting brings together many familiar faces and recalls events of interest in our brief history.

Our beginning was obscured by doubts as to the future, but thus far our labors have been attended, we trust, with satisfactory results. Our organization is now looked to throughout the country as one which, if properly carried out, is destined to do great good, and its past work and future hopes have of late been fully canvassed.

Legislation will be necessary to bring about in our State some of the results we aim at, and it is to be hoped that at the present session of the Convocation, initiatory steps will be taken to ask the attention of our Legislature to some provision by law for limiting and controlling the power to confer literary degrees of the higher grades, as well as to other matters demanding their consideration.

Since our last meeting, events of great interest have taken place in various parts of the world, which are of marked significance in themselves and of deep interest to us. Progress seems to be stamped on every page of present history. Liberal institutions are gaining ground in every direction, and with them the cause of education goes hand in hand. In these days the statesman and the teacher move together, and wherever the one leads the other at once follows, scattering the beneficent fruits of learning on every side. Let all who are engaged in the great