

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ELEVENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION OF
THE STATE OF NEW YORK, HELD
JULY 7TH, 8TH AND 9TH, 1874**

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UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
I. Sketch of the Origin, Objects and Plan of the University Convocation (reprinted from Proceedings of former years).....	1
II. Minutes of the Eleventh Anniversary, July 7th, 8th and 9th, 1874.....	5
Registered members of the Convocation of 1874.....	34
The Modern Theory of Forces. By Professor Ransom B. Welch, D. D., LL. D., of Union College.....	39
Roman Orthoepey as opposed to English-Latin. By Principal Frederick S. Jewell, Ph. D., of the Poughkeepsie High School.....	67
Laboratory Practice. By Professor Albert H. Chester, A. M., E. M., of Hamilton College.....	93
My Old School-Master. By Professor Tayler Lewis, LL. D., L. H. D., of Union University.....	96
Memoir of the Rev. Cyrus Comstock. By the same author.....	110
The Science of English Grammar. By Principal William Harkins, B. S., B. L., of the Dunkirk Union School.....	116
Positive and Negative Terms in Mathematics. By Professor William D. Wilson, D. D., LL. D., L. H. D., of Cornell University.....	122
The Instruction of Deaf Mutes. By Mrs. Charles Kelsey, of Cayuga Lake Academy.....	129
Report of the Department of Mechanic Arts of Cornell University. By Professor Jno. L. Morris, Dean.....	137
New Scheme of the Functions of the Human Body. By Professor Thomas S. Lambert, M. D., LL. D., of the Claverack Academy and Hudson River Institute.....	144
College Journalism. By Principal Oliver E. Branch, A. B., of the Forestville Free Academy.....	149
School Supervision. By Superintendent Levi S. Packard, A. M., of Saratoga Springs.....	155
The Relations of the Colleges and the Secondary Schools. By Principal Cecil F. P. Bancroft, Ph. D., of Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass.....	165
The Free Academy in a System of Graded Schools. By Principal Asa Gardiner Benedict, A. B., of the Rome Free Academy.....	174
The Academy in its Relation to the Work of Common Schools. By Principal John W. O'Brien, A. B., of Griffith Institute.....	181
Sir William Hamilton and other Teachers of Philosophy. By Professor John W. Mears, D. D., of Hamilton College.....	186
The Healthfulness of Intellectual Pursuits. By Principal John E. Bradley, A. M., of the Albany High School.....	193
Statistical Report on Instruction of Common School Teachers. By Principal Alonzo Flack, Ph. D., Chairman.....	205

	PAGE.
The Fine Arts as an Under Graduate Study. By Professor George F. Comfort, A. M., of the Syracuse University.....	211
University Necrology.....	215
Professor James McNaughton, M. D.....	215
Professor David H. Cruttenden, A. M.....	219
Professor Samuel Darwin Wilcox, A. M.....	222
Professor Evan W. Evans, A. M.....	223
Professor Philip M. W. Redfield, A. M., M. D.....	224
President Samuel Ware Fisher, D. D., LL. D.....	228
Principal William Fox.....	234

THE UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK.

I. SKETCH OF ITS ORIGIN, OBJECTS AND PLAN.

[Reprinted from the Proceedings of former years, by direction of the Convocation.]

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* literary 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

*Now twenty-three (1874).

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 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 coöperate 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 in August [see *amendment*], at 10 o'clock, A. M., unless otherwise appointed by the Board of Regents. [*Amended*, in 1873, as to the time of meeting, by making it the first Tuesday after the Fourth of July, except when the Fourth occurs on Monday, in which case it shall be the second Tuesday thereafter.]

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 fourth anniversary, held August 6th, 7th and 8th, 1867, it was

Resolved, That the Regents be requested to invite the attendance of representatives of colleges of other States at future anniversaries of the Convocation.

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.