

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY  
CONVOCATION OF THE STATE OF NEW  
YORK, HELD JULY 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH, 1878;  
BEING PART IV OF THE 92ND ANNUAL  
REPORT OF THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY**

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Proceedings of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the University Convocation of the State of New York, Held July 9th, 10th and 11th, 1878; Being Part IV of the 92nd Annual Report of the Regents of the University by Various

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# **VARIOUS**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY  
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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION  
OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK,

*Held July 9th, 10th and 11th, 1878;*

BEING PART IV OF THE NINETY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

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1879.

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# THE UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

OF THE

## STATE OF NEW YORK.

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### 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 200 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 power 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 institu-

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\* Now twenty-three (1878).

tions 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 ten 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.

*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 FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY, HELD JULY 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH, 1878.

The sessions of the fifteenth anniversary of the University Convocation of the State of New York, were held at the Capitol, in the city of Albany, beginning on Tuesday, the 9th day of July, 1878, at 10:30 A. M.

Chancellor Benedict called the Convocation to order, and prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Fairbairn, Warden of St. Stephen's College.

The Chancellor then delivered an address, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

Professor John W. Mears, D. D., of Hamilton College, as chairman of the executive committee, briefly responded to the Chancellor's address, referring to the simultaneous meeting of the Convocation with the New York State Teachers' Association at the High School building in this city, and the American Philological Association, at Saratoga Springs. While this circumstance may tend somewhat to divide the interest which

otherwise centers in the Convocation, he expressed the hope that some advantages may result from the occurrence of these several meetings in proximity to each other.

Professor Edward North, L. H. D., of Hamilton College, read two short papers, one on "A Regents' University Catalogue," and one on "Regents' Higher Examinations."

Dr. J. Dorman Steele offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Regents of the University are hereby requested to consider the plan of a general historical catalogue, as suggested in Professor North's paper, and to publish such a catalogue, if it should seem to them both desirable and feasible.

The subject of Professor North's paper on "Higher Examinations" was discussed by Regent Upson, Warden Fairbairn, Vice-President Russel, Professors Lewis and Durstin, Secretary Woolworth, Principals Benedict, Gallup, Clarke, King, Flack, Edwards, and Taylor, and Superintendent Beattie, after which the following resolution, offered by Dr. King, was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the paper read by Professor North be referred to a committee of five, to be appointed by the Chancellor, to co-operate with the Regents in maturing a plan for higher examinations.

The Chancellor subsequently appointed as such committee Principal J. E. King, Professors E. North, J. J. Lewis and W. D. Wilson, and Warden Fairbairn.

A communication was received from Professor Hall, Director of the State Museum of Natural History, inviting the members of the Convocation to visit the rooms of the Museum at such times as may be convenient to them.

Recess to 3.30 P. M.

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AFTERNOON SESSION—3.30 O'CLOCK.

Principal Albert B. Watkins, Ph. D., of Hungerford Collegiate Institute, read a paper on "The Study of English Literature in Secondary Schools."

The paper called attention, first, to the results to be attained by this study; and, second, to the methods of teaching this branch in order to attain these results. Under the first were mentioned the development of the power to express ideas, the formation of mind, the importance of this study in its relation to the study of history, its bearing upon intellectual discipline, and its influence as an effective means of moral and social culture. In regard to the method of teaching this branch, the limited portion of time allotted to its study in different schools, compared to the limitless field to be traversed, was briefly discussed, and the writer gave a brief outline of his own method with his class during the past academic year, including the mastery of Brooke's Primer of English Literature, followed by the careful study of selections from Bryant, Longfellow and Whittier, and from Milton and Shakespeare; and in connection with them the study of metres and rhetorical figures, geographical, historical

and classical allusions, synonyms, and derivation and analysis of words. With some classes the writer had, instead of some of the poets named, read with the class selections from Bacon; or from Irving and Addison; or from Burke and Pitt and Webster. The paper emphasized the great importance of better facilities for the pursuit of this branch in college, as well as in secondary schools.

The subject of Principal Watkins' paper was discussed by Professor Wilson, Regent Lewis, and Principals Clarke and King.

Professor S. Edward Warren, C. E., of Newton, Mass. (formerly of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), read a paper on "A Better Organization of Science-Education; or, The Next Step in the New Education."

The object of this paper was to show that what is popularly called "Scientific Education" is not, but should be, as completely organized in successive institutions as the old or classical and literary education is and long has been.

A portion of the paper was devoted to showing that the two lines of education are in fact and should be in actual organization, parallel and co-extensive, grounded on real mental differences, and ministering each in its own way to real wants. The present comparative aimlessness of college "scientific departments" was alluded to, and the remedy for this difficulty was found in the end proposed by the paper, viz., the distinct distribution of the studies in science and modern languages through scientific academies and English high schools; college scientific departments, parallel with the existing classical ones; and, finally, technical and polytechnic schools.

In the first of these grades, elements should be taught; in the second, the general principles of the higher branches; in the third, the applications to purely professional practice. In this way, point and aim, now lacking, would be given to "college scientific departments;" preparatory English and scientific instruction would be made more serviceable to the many whose school education ends with this stage; and finally, the existing long and expensive polytechnic school courses, being free from general subjects—which would be provided for in college scientific courses—could be shortened, and yet improved, by being made more strictly professional.

An invitation from the librarian of the Young Men's Association of Albany, to the Regents and other members of the Convocation, to visit the library and reading rooms of the Association, was received and read.

Recess to 8 P. M.

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#### EVENING SESSION—8 O'CLOCK.

Professor Isaac Flagg, Ph. D., of Cornell University, read a paper on "The Value of Accent in Greek Verse," of which the following is a brief abstract:

The essential difference between accent (tone) and quantity (time) in the ancient Greek, is well understood by scholars. In that language, accent, so far from creating rhythm (which was wholly a matter of quantity), was employed as a counteracting musical agent against the monotony of rhythm. The "sing song" delivery, so common in reading ancient verse, results, not from any too exact following of the rhythm