

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE INAUGURATION
OF JOHN HUSTON FINLEY AS PRESIDENT
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF
NEW YORK AND COMMISSIONER OF
EDUCATION. STATE EDUCATION
BUILDING, JANUARY 2, 1914**

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NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE
INAUGURATION OF
JOHN HUSTON FINLEY



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE
SOCIETY OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING
HOLDING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
AND
ADJOURNING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Edited by
John Huston Finley
1914

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John Huston Finley

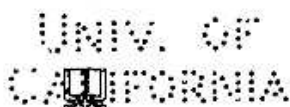
UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

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January 2, 1914



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UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

INTRODUCTION

The first Commissioner of Education of the State of New York, elected by the Legislature upon the unification of the two State educational departments in 1904, was Dr Andrew S. Draper, recalled to his native State from the presidency of the University of Illinois. His administration was marked by a complete reorganization of the educational interests of the State, an insured harmony in all the educational activities of the State, and the completion of the State Education Building, a monument to his administrative genius. His death on April 27, 1913, created a vacancy in the great office which his service had magnified.

During the interim following the death of Commissioner Draper, the duties of Commissioner of Education were performed by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr Pliny T. Sexton. With great self-sacrifice and devotion, and with no remuneration for his services, Doctor Sexton actively gave several months to the conduct of the affairs of the Department, perfecting the unification for which he had during many years labored with unceasing zeal. As stated in the memorial presented to him by the staff of the Department on relinquishing his duties, his administration of the high office he "temporarily filled so acceptably and so efficiently" was marked "by constant courtesy, by patient attention to details, by thorough and painstaking investigation of all matters requiring his official action, by helpful suggestions, and by kindly criticisms."

On July 2d, at the meeting of the Regents of the University, John H. Finley, President of the College of the