

**SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF  
INSTRUCTION. LECTURES, DISCUSSION,  
AND PROCEEDINGS. NARRAGANSETT  
PIER, R. I., JULY 5-8, 1892**

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION.

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SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING,

JULY 5, 6, 7, AND 8, 1892.

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JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

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FIRST DAY—TUESDAY, July 5.

EVENING SESSION.

The sixty-third annual meeting of the American Institute of Instruction opened in the Casino Theatre, Narragansett Pier, R. I., Tuesday evening, July 5, 1892.

The president, Ray Greene Huling, of New Bedford, Mass., called the Institute to order at 8:10 p. m.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. A. B. Carver, of Yonkers, N. Y.

The president then introduced the Schubert Quartette of Boston—Mr. George J. Parker, 1st Tenor; Mr. George W. Want, 2d Tenor; Mr. Arthur B. Hitchcock, 1st Bass; Mr. D. Marks Babcock, 2d Bass—who sang "Comrades in Arms," by A. Adams, and in response to an enthusiastic encore, "Sailor's Song," by Hatton.

After a few pleasing remarks, the president introduced His Excellency, D. Russell Brown, Governor of Rhode Island, and Hon. Thomas B. Stockwell, Commissioner of Education for the same state, who delivered addresses of welcome.

WELCOME.

Gov. Brown, representing the commonwealth, said :

It affords me great pleasure to welcome you to our state, and especially to this part of Rhode Island's beautiful shores, where nature and the hand of man have provided so much that is entertaining and delightful. Let me assure you that our people greet you heartily, and appreciate the honor you confer in accepting this place for your meeting. We believe that you have acted wisely and will not regret your choice.

The cause of education should be very near to every citizen, and it is well that you, the leaders of educational thought, meet at the close of the school year for a comparison of notes and for a free interchange of ideas. Throughout our country the cause of public education is making rapid progress. Here in Rhode Island we have caught the enthusiasm, and have an ever-increasing desire for more general public instruction and the higher education of all, especially in the more practical branches of study, and we are on the up grade all the year around. But I will leave it to our commissioner, Mr. Stockwell, who has served us long and well, to tell you all about this.

In behalf of our state, I gladly welcome you to Rhode Island, and I hope that your visit will prove as pleasant as I feel sure it will be profitable to you and to the cause of education generally.

In behalf of the schools of Rhode Island, Commissioner Stockwell spoke as follows :

I am sure that after the cordial welcome extended to you by His Excellency, Gov. Brown, no words of mine are necessary; but it is, in a sense at least, quite fitting that a word should be

spoken to-night for the teachers of Rhode Island and her various educational interests.

In their behalf, then, and personally, it gives me very great pleasure to extend to you the hand of greeting, and to assure you that you are indeed very welcome to Rhode Island and her plantation.

We are the more glad to receive you within our borders, because you are not strangers. This is, I think, the fifth time you have met in our little state; and from the first meeting held under the direction of those Nestors of the Institute, whose name and fame will never grow dim, down to the present moment, this organization has steadily grown in the estimation and regard of our citizens.

But though you may have often visited the state, this is the first time you have ever been received within the classic precincts of the Narragansett country, the old "South County." No spot in New England has a richer history, and among all of the legends which cluster about her, none are more noted than those which deal with her home life. Indeed, sir, this was the seat of a truly royal hospitality, and he who was once a favored recipient never forgot his experience. It was ever a bright spot in his memory. I am sure I shall only express the feelings of this community, when I say to you, one and all, that we give you a genuine Narragansett welcome.

I think I may be pardoned the statement that I doubt if the Institute has ever met in a place more redolent in its traditions and surroundings with educational and patriotic memories.

The place of Homer's birth still remains unsettled, the location of the first free school in America is a disputed claim, but I question whether any place can claim so long and unbroken a record in behalf of free education for all, without respect to race or condition, as can the town of South Kingston, the ancient Pettaquamscutt. In 1695, Judge Samuel Sewall, one of the proprietors of the Pettaquamscutt purchase, placed in the hands of trustees a large lot of land, the profits or income of which was to go "towards the procuring, settling, supporting, and maintaining at all times forever hereafter a learned, sober, orthodox person to instruct the children and youth of Pettaquamscutt, English as well Indian, to read and write the English language and the rules of grammar." Here was one of the first, if not the very first recog-