

**SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF  
INSTRUCTION. LECTURES,  
DISCUSSIONS, AND PROCEEDINGS,  
PORTLAND, ME., JULY 8-11, 1895**

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OF THE

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**American Institute of Instruction**

LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, AND PROCEEDINGS

Portland, Me., July 8-11, 1895

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION,  

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SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING,

JULY 8, 9, 10, AND 11, 1895.

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JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.  

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FIRST DAY—MONDAY, July 8.

EVENING SESSION.

The sixty-fifth annual meeting of the American Institute of Instruction opened in the City Hall, Portland, Me., Monday evening, July 8, 1895.

The President, Hon. W. W. Stetson, of Auburn, Me., called the Institute to order at 8:10 p. m.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Rollin T. Hack, pastor Second Parish church, Portland.

The President then introduced the Temple Quartette of Boston,—E. M. Spears, 1st tenor; E. F. Webber, 2d tenor; Robert Bruce, 1st bass; L. B. Merrill, 2d bass,—who sang "Comrades in Arms" by Adams, and, as an encore, "Fairest Is She" by Nevins.

President Stetson extended a cordial welcome to the members of the Institute in behalf of the directors, and introduced His Excellency, Gov. Henry B.

Cleaves, who welcomed the Institute in the name of the State of Maine.

WELCOME.

Governor Cleaves spoke as follows :

*Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen* :—It is with pleasure that I welcome to our state the members of the American Institute of Instruction. Your organization has exercised a powerful influence for more than sixty years in promoting and advancing the cause of popular education, and I bring to you, with full and overflowing measure, the cordial greetings of the people of Maine, and extend to you a generous welcome within our limits.

I need not come here to tender you the freedom of our magnificent and prosperous commonwealth, for the great cause you represent holds a commanding position in every city, in every town, and hamlet, and home throughout our borders. Wherever you may travel within our attractive and progressive domain, you will find the cause of education dear to our people; you will be welcomed with the greatest hospitality, and made to feel that you are not strangers within our gates.

We feel especially honored by your presence in our commonwealth, and appreciate the distinguished honor bestowed at your last session in the selection of one of our citizens as your president. You come to a state that has always shown its devotion to the great cause of education, and at no time in her history has she ever failed to recognize that the stability, and safety, and power of the commonwealth could best be preserved and promoted by the education of its children. Upon those who are directing the educational forces of our country a great responsibility rests. They are to grapple with the problems of to-day, and meet the new questions and conditions that are rapidly crowding themselves upon us. We can but appreciate, however, even with the advanced educational thought of the present, that many of the old landmarks erected by our fathers are worth preserving; that in many respects the old-fashioned is not to be despised.

Our state glories in her excellent educational system; she boasts of the superior advantages of her colleges and numerous seminaries of learning; she takes a natural pride in her normal

schools, her academies, and her grand free high school system. Her common schools, the avenues to which are wide open to all, the nurseries of good and pure government, are guarded with an enthusiastic pride; and to the honor of our state, everywhere upon the soil the cause of education sits enthroned, the standard never to be lowered, but raised higher and higher as the years go by.

I trust you may have an agreeable and profitable session, and the good influence of your work will further stimulate the cause of education; and when you return to your homes may you carry with you the most pleasant recollections of our state and her people. Welcome to the state of Maine!

President Stetson then presented His Honor Mayor Baxter, who welcomed the Institute in behalf of Portland, in the following address:

Among the duties officially devolving upon me, none is more pleasant than welcoming to our city the representatives of such noble associations as this, whose purpose it is to promote the public welfare by making the blessings of education more and more available to the world.

Time was, though we can poorly realize it now, when it was contended that universal education would so change the structure of society as to imperil its existence; and men who claimed a standing in the ranks of the thoughtful, conscientiously opposed popular education on the ground that it would incapacitate the larger portion of mankind for industrial pursuits; and, viewed from the standpoint of such reasoning, there was in it an appearance of truth.

No farther back than Franklin's time, education was largely theoretical, and for some time later, continued following the ruts of custom as though no other path were possible. It is true that Bacon, to whom the world is so greatly indebted for splendid thoughts, uttered long before Franklin's time his well known aphorism that "Education is the cultivation of a just and legitimate familiarity betwixt the mind and things;" yet, although these remarkably true words have vibrated upon the ears of men for nearly three centuries, it is only recently that they have attracted any considerable attention. Theoretical education, such as those who opposed popular education were alone considering, might be