

**THE LECTURES DELIVERED BEFORE THE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION,
AT NEW BEDFORD,
MASS., AUGUST 23, 1859, INCLUDING
THE JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS, AND A
LIST OF THE OFFICERS**

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The Lectures Delivered Before the American Institute of Instruction, at New Bedford, Mass., August 23, 1859, Including the Journal of Proceedings, and a List of the Officers by Various

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VARIOUS

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION,

AT

NEW BEDFORD, MASS., AUGUST 25, 1859,

INCLUDING

THE JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS,

AND

A LIST OF THE OFFICERS.

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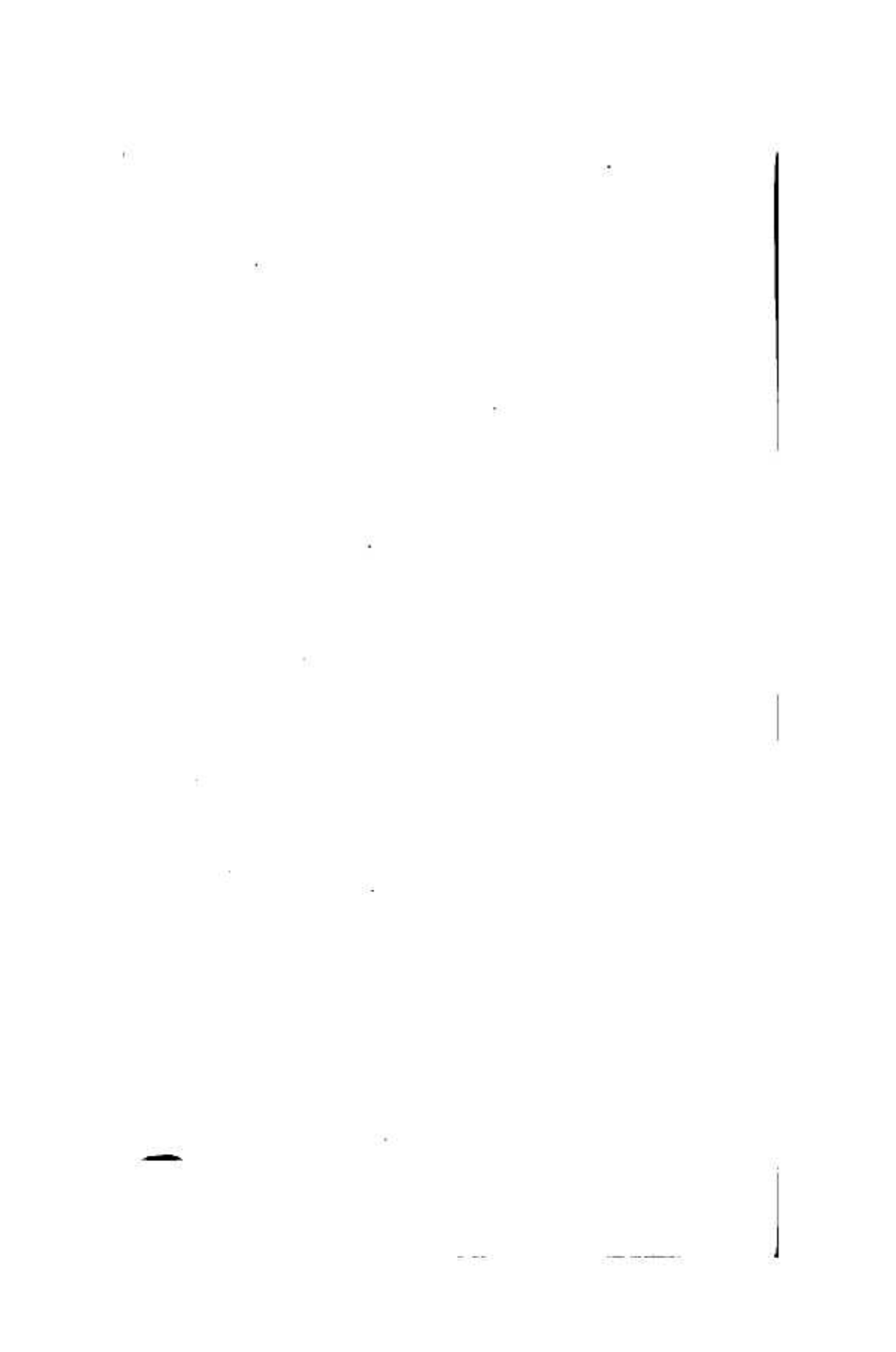
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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION.

THIRTIETH ANNUAL MEETING.

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

NEW BEDFORD, AUGUST 23, 1859.

THE Institute assembled in the City Hall, and was called to order at 2½ o'clock, P. M., by JOHN D. PHILBRICK, Esq., the President.

The Divine blessing was invoked by the REV. MR. CRAIG, of New Bedford.

The records of the last Annual Meeting were read by the Secretary, and approved by the Institute.

HIS HONOR MAYOR NYE then cordially welcomed the Institute to the hospitalities of the city, in the following words:—

Mr. President:—To me has been assigned the pleasant duty of bidding you, and through you the American Institute of Instruction, on behalf of the City Government and my fellow citizens, a cordial and hearty welcome. I desire, on behalf of those I represent, to thank the Board of Directors for the honor conferred in designating the City of New Bedford as the place for holding this, the thirtieth annual meeting of the Institute. The great work of Popular Education, for the advancement of which this organization was formed, also received the early attention

of our citizens, and continues to be cherished with unabated interest. In this connection it may be proper for me to state a fact, which at this time is particularly interesting, in view of the recent legislation of the State. As early as the year 1824, or 1825, our Public Schools were established; the great disadvantages of the district system were early seen. About twenty years ago, the system was abolished, and the *town* and the *town's committee* placed in charge of the Schools; thus did the town of New Bedford anticipate by more than twenty years the recent action of the General Court. The superiority of female teachers for the younger classes of children was early determined, and, soon after the abolition of the district system, a change in the general arrangement of the schools was made, by which a much larger proportion of female teachers was introduced. The principle has always been acted upon, and, at this time, about one hundred teachers are employed by the city, about ninety of them are females. As an auxiliary to our Free School System, the city of New Bedford, I believe, may justly claim having established the first Free Public Library in the State, from which books were delivered. Be assured, sir, it is the desire of our citizens to make your stay pleasant and agreeable, while, at the same time, they anticipate for themselves much pleasure and profitable instruction. Allow me again to renew to the members of the Institute, on behalf of my fellow citizens, a cordial and hearty welcome.

MR. PHILBRICK replied to this address, thanking the Mayor for his welcome to the Institute, which, he said, had come here to accomplish no private ends, but for a great public cause; not merely to enjoy a holiday, but to benefit and to be benefited. He trusted the exercises would be such that the citizens of New Bedford would

feel that they had received an equivalent for the pains, expense, and trouble incurred.

Addressing the Institute, he said that its progress for the thirty years of its existence had been onward and upward, and it now stood upon an eminence from which it could survey the past, from its earliest history. He alluded to the great changes which had taken place since 1830, in the means of education, and congratulated the Institute on the part it had taken in facilitating this progress. It was assembled under encouraging and gratifying auspices. He hoped that every one present would exert himself to bring about a successful result.

On motion of MR. STONE, of Plymouth, Messrs. Grosvenor, of Dorchester, and Sheldon, of West Newton, were appointed a Committee to attend to seating of the audience.

At 3 o'clock the Introductory Address was delivered by GEORGE B. EMERSON, LL. D., of Boston. Subject—*"The Forest and the Garden."*

At the close of the lecture, MR. COXEDON, Chairman of the Local Committee, announced that those who were not provided with accommodations could be supplied by calling at the City Library.

MR. THATCHER, teacher of Music in the Public Schools in New Bedford, with a trio of young ladies, favored the Institute with a song.

The Chair announced that the evening session would be held at the Baptist Church, in Williams Street.

The President read a communication from the Trustees of the Free Public Library, through ABNER J. PHIPPS, Clerk of the Trustees, inviting the members of the Institute to visit the Library Rooms, at such times and as often as may suit their individual convenience.

On motion of MR. BULKLEY, of Brooklyn, the invitation was accepted.