

**THE PAPERS READ BEFORE THE  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION,  
AT WORCESTER, MASS., AUGUST, 1870.  
WITH THE JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS,  
INCLUDING THE CONSTITUTION**

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## AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION.

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.

### FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

WORCESTER, MASS., July 27, 1870.

THE American Institute of Instruction commenced the sessions of its forty-first annual meeting at Mechanics Hall, in Worcester, at eleven o'clock, A. M. The chair was occupied by the President, Prof. S. S. Greene, of Brown University, who called on the Rev. T. E. St. John to open the exercises with prayer.

#### ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

The Institute was welcomed to the city by His Honor, Mayor Blake, as follows:—

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*—It is with more than ordinary feelings of emotion that I rise to occupy a brief moment of your time before the formal business of the occasion shall summon your attention, to utter a word of cordial greeting and of heartfelt sympathy in behalf of this community whom I have the honor to represent. It is peculiarly gratifying to present to you the words of welcome in behalf of a people who are so thoroughly interested and keenly alive to every sentiment pertaining to the great subject-matter of the special labor which has brought you hither from distant homes for comparative consultation and earnest advisement; a people who have aimed to place the school system of their municipality in the foreground of the age, and who with interest



unabated, and liberality unparalleled in our local history, are doing everything to establish, maintain, and perpetuate this most beneficent enterprise of free education, which has added so much to the renown of our ancient Commonwealth.

As I appreciate the presence of those who have devoted a life's work to the great principle of education,—that education which embraces the universal means by which Providence is guiding the human race to its final destiny,—I also recognize here those who by direct instruction are transmitting and interpreting to the new generation the experiences of the race; a means by which alone the present is put in possession of all the attainments of preceding generations, and through which it is to become capable of increasing and improving the inheritance.

Assembling as you do to-day in this central city of Massachusetts, representatives of the educational interests of our country, we can hardly fail to appreciate the magnitude of the inheritance which has come down to us through the passing time; the accumulative knowledge and experience and history of all the past; the embodiment of the wisdom of the ages; and, as by retrospective glance we consider the development of man's higher powers, from the Chinese sage, Confucius, five hundred years before the Christian era, we cannot but recall by progressive steps the development of that highly intellectual and æsthetic culture which gave birth to Athenian education through the lives of Solon and Pericles and Plutarch; the prominent position given to the science of mathematics by the Greek philosopher Pythagoras; the efforts of Socrates and Plato and Aristotle, through whom the higher departments of philosophy and

polity were developed ; remembering, also, the labors of Alfred and Luther and Melancthon, and the later Italian, German, and English friends of education, we cannot forget the developed mind of our own time in the persons of those who have given form and direction to the educational interests of this State and of this nation, by whose efforts knowledge has been transferred from the ascetics' cloisters, and the enjoyment of the favored few, to the free air of heaven, to be absorbed by all, through whom the doors of learning are invitingly opened to the humblest child in our midst ; by whom the universality of free schools has been established. And you will join me in the sentiment that the names of Mann and Barnard, of Wayland and Sears, of Emerson and Greene, and other pioneers of free education, will not only be remembered and cherished by the sons of New England, but will ever form a constellation more beautiful than Athenian design, more permanent than Greek mythology—immortal in the history of our country and the hearts of American citizens.

And with all this accumulated knowledge of the past, the wisdom of the centuries, how great the inheritance, how important the duty, how sacred is the trust imposed upon the profession so largely represented here ; the means by which so much is to be absorbed and analyzed and retained ; the avenue through which so much must be faithfully transmitted to the coming generations.

The gathered harvests of the world's knowledge are at your disposal, and as education must ever be the foundation principle and the corner-stone of our system of government, the seeds of republican liberty and national unity are to be sown by you. Never was there so promising a field for your noble labor, never an era in

the history of man so propitious for your grand work; settled organization the policy of the country, freedom made national, and millions of minds, representing all nationalities, waiting for development at your hands. Never an age so profound in thought, so earnest in spirit, so rich in its discoveries of truth, so grand in its triumphs over nature, so Christ-like in its efforts to uplift and bless humanity.

In the full appreciation, therefore, of your responsibilities and the magnitude of your mission as representing the educational interest of our whole people through the medium of free schools, we feel that no organized body throughout the land, no meeting of citizens, no concentration of mental power, has or can have a more important work intrusted to them than that which is now committed to your keeping; humble, perhaps, in origin, yet gigantic in power; voluntary in assumption, but infinite in conception; local in its early history, yet boundless in its development: a little seed sown in Massachusetts soil scarce half a century ago, to be gathered in the harvest of a continent; the child of New England to become through your well-directed efforts the saviour of republican American government.

In this true spirit of co-operation and interest, my friends, would I welcome you to this city of Worcester, which will ever heartily respond to every demand for the advancement of education among the people of this land, and whose voice has so recently been heard in the halls of Congress, as their representative with equal force and ability demands in their behalf that universal education shall be made a "National concern and National necessity."

Welcome to the hospitalities of our citizens, who