

**STATUTES OF
COLUMBIA
COLLEGE**

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

**STATUTES OF
COLUMBIA
COLLEGE**

STATUTES
OF
COLUMBIA COLLEGE,

REVISED AND PASSED

BY THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

JULY, 1843

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

COLLEGE.

NEW YORK:

PRINTED FOR COLUMBIA COLLEGE.

1843.

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HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF
COLUMBIA COLLEGE.

THE establishment of a College in the City of New York was many years in agitation before the design was carried into effect. At length, in the beginning of the year 1753, an act of Assembly was passed, appointing Mr. James De Lancey, who was then Lieutenant Governor of the Province and Commander-in-Chief, together with other gentlemen of the different religious denominations, Trustees of the proposed Institution. Provision was also made, by the same act, for a fund to be raised by a succession of lotteries.

In the year 1754, the Trustees above mentioned, chose Dr. Samuel Johnson, of Connecticut, to be President of the intended College; who, in July of the same year, commenced the instruction of a class of students in the vestry-room of Trinity Church. On the 31st of October, in the same year, the royal charter was passed; from which period, the existence of the College is properly to be dated. The Governors of the College, named in the charter, are the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the first Lord Commissioner for trade and plantations, both empowered to act by proxies; the Lieutenant Governor of the Province, and several other public officers; together with the Rector of Trinity Church, the senior Minister of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, the Ministers of the German Lutheran Church, of the French Church, of the Presbyterian Congregation, and the President of the College, all *ex officio*, and twenty-four of the principal gentlemen of the City. The College was to be known by the name of *King's College*. Previously to the passing of the charter, a parcel of ground to the westward of Broadway, on which the College now stands, had been destined by the Vestry of Trinity Church as a site for the College edifice; and, accordingly, after the charter was granted, a grant of the land was made, on the 13th of May, 1755.

The sources whence the funds of the Institution were derived, besides the proceeds of the lotteries above mentioned, were the voluntary contributions of private individuals in this country, and sums obtained by agents who were subsequently sent to England and France. In May, 1760, the College buildings began to be occupied. In March, 1763, Dr. Johnson resigned his office of President, and the Rev. Dr. Myles Cooper, of Oxford, who had previously been appointed professor of Moral Philosophy, and assistant to the President, was elected in his place. In 1767, a grant of land was obtained, under the government of Sir Henry Moore, of twenty-four thousand acres, situated in the northern parts of the Province of New York; but upon the erection of Vermont into a separate state, this tract fell within the boundaries of that territory, and was lost to New York and the College.

In August, of the year 1767, a medical school was established in the College.

The following account of the Institution, supposed to be written by Dr. Cooper, shows its condition previously to the war of the revolution:

"Since the passing of the charter, the Institution hath received great emolument by grants from his most gracious majesty King George the Third, and by liberal contributions from many of the nobility and gentry in the parent country; from the society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts, and from several public-spirited gentlemen in America and elsewhere. By means of these and other benefactions, the Governors of the College have been enabled to extend their plan of education almost as diffusely as any college in Europe; herein being taught, by proper Masters and Professors, who are chosen by the Governors and President, Divinity, Natural Law, Physic, Logic, Ethics, Metaphysics, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Geography, History, Chronology, Rhetoric, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Modern Languages, the Belles Lettres, and whatever else of literature may tend to accomplish the pupils as scholars and gentlemen.

"To the College is also annexed a Grammar School, for the due preparation of those who propose to complete their education with the arts and sciences.

"All students but those in Medicine, are obliged to lodge and diet in the College, unless they are particularly exempted by the Governor or President; and the edifice is surrounded by an high fence, which also encloses a large court and garden, and a porter constantly attends at the front gate, which is closed at ten o'clock each evening in summer, and nine in winter; after which hours, the names of all that come in, are delivered weekly to the President.

"The College is situated on a dry gravelly soil, about one hundred and fifty yards from the bank of the Hudson river, which it overlooks; com-

manding from the eminence on which it stands, a most extensive and beautiful prospect of the opposite shore and country of New Jersey, the City and Island of New York, Long Island, Staten Island, New York Bay with its Islands, the Narrows, forming the mouth of the harbor, etc., etc.; and being totally unencumbered by any adjacent buildings, and admitting the purest circulation of air from the river, and every other quarter; has the benefit of as agreeable and healthy a situation as can possibly be conceived.

"Visitations by the Governors are quarterly; at which times, premiums of books, silver medals, etc., are adjudged to the most deserving.

"This Seminary hath already produced a number of gentlemen, who do great honor to their professions, the place of their education, and themselves, in Divinity, Law, Medicine, etc. etc., in this and various other colonies, both on the American continent and West India Islands; and the College is annually increasing as well in students as reputation."

In consequence of the dispute between this and the parent country, Dr. Cooper returned to England, and the Rev. Benjamin Moore was appointed *Præses pro tempore*, during the absence of Dr. Cooper; who, however, did not return.

On the breaking out of the revolutionary war, the business of the College was almost entirely broken up, and it was not until after the return of peace, that its affairs were again regularly attended to.

In May, 1784, all the Seminaries of learning in the State of New York were, by an act of Legislature, placed under the authority of Regents, who were styled *Regents of the University*. These Regents immediately set about the regulation of the College, the name of which was now changed to *Columbia College*. New Professors were appointed; a Grammar School and a medical department were established.

The College continued under the immediate superintendance of the Regents until April, 1787; when the original charter, with necessary alterations, was confirmed, and the College placed under twenty-nine Trustees, who were to exercise their functions until their number should be reduced, by death, resignation, or removal from the State, to twenty-four; after which, all vacancies in their Board were to be filled by their own choice.

In May, 1787, Dr. Wm. Samuel Johnson, son of the first President, was elected President of Columbia College. During the previous vacancy of the presidential chair, the Professors had presided in turn; and certificates were given to graduates, in place of regular diplomas.

In the beginning of the year 1792, the Medical school was placed upon a more respectable and efficient footing than before.

Dr. Johnson resigned the office of President in July, 1800, and was succeeded the year following, by the Rev. Dr. Wharton, who resigned his office at the end of about seven months.

Bishop Moore succeeded Dr. Wharton as President. His ecclesiasti-

