

**STATE OF NEW YORK, NO. 53; IN  
SENATE. JANUARY 12, 1883;  
THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE NEW YORK STATE  
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**

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**UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

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THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,

BY THE

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK.

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TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE JANUARY 12, 1883.

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ALBANY:  
WEED, PARSONS & COMPANY.  
1883.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

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No. 53.

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IN SENATE.

JANUARY 12, 1883.

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THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE STATE MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL HISTORY.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,  
OFFICE OF THE REGENTS, TRUSTEES OF THE STATE  
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
ALBANY, January 12, 1883. }

*To the Legislature :*

I have the honor to transmit the Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Museum of Natural History, as required by law.

H. R. PIERSON,

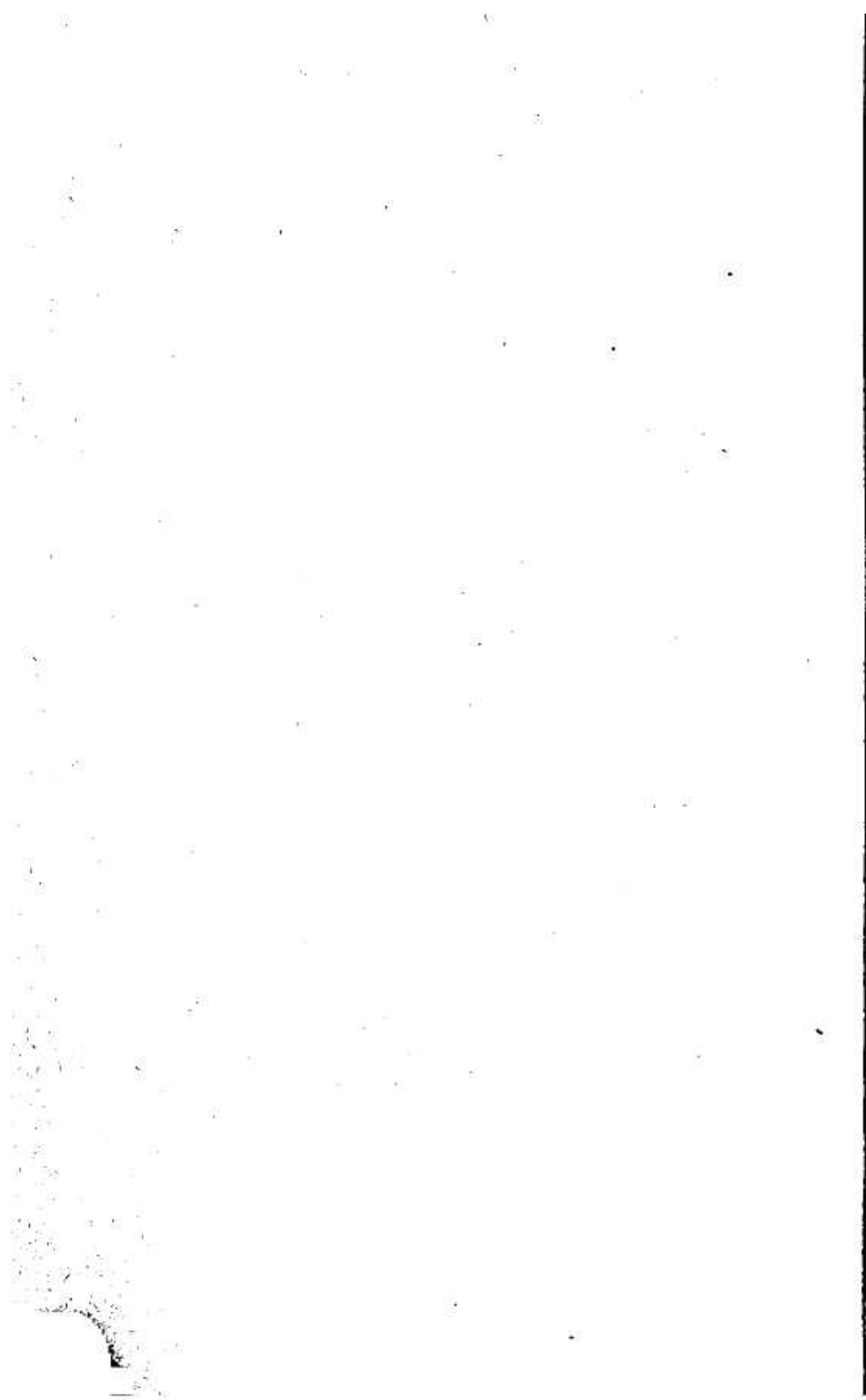
*Chancellor of the University.*



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## REPORT.

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*To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New York:*

The Regents of the University, as Trustees of the State Museum of Natural History, in accordance with the provisions of law, respectfully submit their Thirty-sixth Annual Report.

For a full account of the operations of the Museum for the past year the Trustees beg to refer to the reports of the Director and the State Botanist, which are herewith transmitted.

Owing to the crowded condition of the Museum building the increase of the collections has been made a secondary matter during the past year. The labors of the assistants have been chiefly expended in preparing specimens for exhibition, and in other ways giving to the collections their greatest scientific value.

Whenever the State shall provide the much-needed additional room a great expansion in the number and variety of the specimens can at once be made.

More than 50,000 specimens belonging to the State now in charge of the State Geologist only await space to be transferred to the State Museum. The want of a fire-proof receptacle for these vast and invaluable collections is each year more plainly felt by the Trustees. During the last year one of the largest and most valuable collections in natural history in the country, that of Amherst College, was totally destroyed by fire, owing to the want of a fire-proof building.

The work of the scientific staff in the Museum has been prosecuted with great assiduity and success during the past year. The scientific papers of the members of the staff which have been published in the annual reports of the Legislature have been of great interest to scientific men, and applications for them are received from all parts of the world. It is earnestly recommended that the means to continue these publications may be afforded. In past years there has been much irregularity in the publication of the reports and much disappointment in consequence has been occasioned. There would be a great advantage in a plan by which the scientific reports of the Museum could be

printed under the direction of the Museum staff, instead of forming a part of the public printing. But as this would entail a considerable additional expense to the Museum it could only be done by an increase of the annual appropriation for its support.

The work of distributing collections of minerals among the academies of the State, under the authority of a concurrent resolution of the Legislature, has been carried out as fully as seemed to be called for. It has been the policy of the Trustees to give these collections only in cases where there was encouragement to believe that they would be a welcome and a useful addition to the educational equipments of the institution. The Trustees earnestly desire to see the Museum become a great center of educational influence for the State. With this view they seek to devise ways for aiding teachers of science in the institutions of learning throughout the State. They would gladly see the Museum used by them for study, and the staff of the Museum employed in aiding these students in fitting themselves for science teachers.

DAVID MURRAY,  
*Secretary.*

Respectfully submitted,  
H. R. PIERSON,  
*Chancellor of the University.*