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REPORT  
OF THE  
JOINT COMMITTEE  
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE  
STATE UNIVERSITY AND DEAF AND DUMB ASYLUM.

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## REPORT.

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The Joint Committee appointed to visit the State University and the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, at Iowa City, having performed that duty, respectfully submit the following report :

The State University is in a very prosperous condition, numbering four hundred and four students during the current collegiate year, and bearing every evidence of ability and fidelity upon the part of those having its management and control. Forty three counties are represented in this Institution by the attendance of students from said counties, respectively, as follows :

Benton county,.....	8 students.
Blackhawk county,.....	2 "
Butler county,.....	1 "
Cass county,.....	1 "
Cedar county,.....	23 "
Clinton county,.....	4 "
Dallas county,.....	5 "
Des Moines county,.....	6 "
Dubuque county,.....	2 "
Fayette county,.....	1 "
Franklin county,.....	2 "
Fremont county,.....	1 "
Green county,.....	2 "
Guthrie county,.....	2 "
Hardin county,.....	7 "
Harrison county,.....	1 "
Henry county,.....	3 "
Iowa county,.....	2 "
Jackson county,.....	2 "
Jones county,.....	7 "
Johnson county,.....	164 "
Jasper county,.....	1 "

Keokuk county,.....	4 students.
Lee county, .....	4 "
Linn county, .....	7 "
Louisa county,.....	11 "
Madison county,.....	1 "
Mahaska county,.....	6 "
Marion county, .....	2 "
Mills county, .....	3 "
Mitchell county,.....	2 "
Polk county, .....	1 "
Pottawattamie county, .....	3 "
Poweshiek county, .....	5 "
Sac county,.....	1 "
Scott county, .....	3 "
Story county,.....	4 "
Tama county,.....	3 "
Muscatine county,.....	54 "
Van Buren county,.....	9 "
Washington county,.....	10 "
Winneshiek county,.....	3 "
Woodbury county, .....	1 "

Total number residents of Iowa,.....384

Number of students from other States,.... 20

Making an aggregate of.....404

The foregoing list embraces all the students in the several departments of the University, exclusive of the model School. The average age of the students is eighteen years.

The following statistics may be interesting as showing the progress made by this Institution during the three years last past, and the relative proportion of students from Johnson county :

Year.	No of Students.	No. from Johnson County.	No. from other Counties and States.	No. of Counties represented.
1860-61	179	100	79	32
1861-62	254	141	113	25
1862-63	288	157	131	34
1863-64	404	164	240	43

It appears from the above statistical statement that the number of students in the State University, has been steadily and rapidly

increasing, while the relative proportion of students residing in Johnson county has been constantly diminishing, and that this Institution has already become a favorite with the people of the State. Many families have taken up a *temporary* residence in Iowa City for the purpose of educating their children in the University.

Of the students now in attendance, one hundred and one have received tuition free, and in regard to their places of residence, represent forty-two counties.

The recitations and exercises of the several classes in the different departments, at which your Committee had the pleasure to be present, were highly creditable to the students as well as to their instructors, and evinced on the part of the Faculty and other teachers connected with the Institution, a degree of ability, tact, energy and industry, worthy of special commendation.

The remarkable prosperity of the institution deserves the highest consideration, and, in the opinion of your Committee, the present General Assembly should take such action in relation to the University that its efficiency may not be impaired nor its prosperity retarded.

The room used as a chapel is inadequate to accommodate the students already in attendance, not to speak of the probable increase of the number of students and of the necessity for a chapel sufficiently large and commodious for lecture purposes and commencement exercises.

The University buildings are also deficient in not containing rooms suitable for a chemical laboratory.

In the Report of the Board of Trustees of the State University, the wants above referred to are fully set forth, and a plan proposed by them is herewith presented for an additional building to contain a spacious chapel and a laboratory with a tower and observatory, the estimated cost of which is twenty-five thousand dollars.

In the opinion of your Committee, the University, with an additional building, similar to the one proposed by the Board of Trustees, would afford better facilities for the education of one thousand students, than are now afforded for the education of four hundred.

Hoping that the embarrassments which now surround our National and State Governments, will not deter members of the General Assembly from taking high ground in regard to the educational



interests of the State, nor cause them to overlook the fact that the claims of education are of paramount importance to almost all other claims, nor make them unmindful of the great political truth, that enlightened virtue is the only sure foundation for a free government, your Committee commend the State University to your favorable consideration, in the full belief that you will pursue a liberal policy in respect thereto, and that you will take such action as will be promotive of the best interests of the University, as well as of the State at large.

#### THE DEAF AND DUMB ASYLUM.

The Iowa Institution for the education of the Deaf and Dumb is in as good condition as could reasonably be expected under the circumstances. It has not been provided with any suitable buildings, pleasure grounds, furniture and many other conveniences, which are so essential to the proper management of such an institution, and to the personal comfort of its inmates. For a full and detailed statement of its financial condition, statistics, &c., your committee beg leave to refer to the Fifth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees.

The pupils now in attendance number fifty-eight, and are from almost as many different counties. They are quite intelligent, and seem to be making rapid progress in the acquisition of knowledge. Much effort has been made by those having the control and management of this institution to render it efficient—to administer to the physical comfort and promote the mental culture of the unfortunates committed to their care.

An earnest desire was manifested on the part of the deaf mutes and their preceptors, that buildings suitable for their use should be erected, in some place, with pleasure grounds attached for their recreation. The building now occupied by them is not adapted to the purpose for which it is used, and is very much out of repair. The furniture and bedding are, for the most part, such as we might expect to find in an ordinary alms house. Humanity, as well as the fair fame of the State, demands an immediate appropriation sufficient at least to purchase good furniture and bedding for the use of this institution.

Your Committee would further recommend an increased appropriation to defray the current expenses, in view of the present high

price of every article of food. The amount heretofore appropriated to meet the ordinary expenditures will be quite inadequate for that purpose during the ensuing two years.

If compatible with the public interest in other respects, an appropriation should be made by the present General Assembly for the purpose of erecting and constructing a suitable Asylum for the deaf and dumb children and youth of the State. As now situated the students have no opportunity to learn trades and thereby render themselves useful. There are no work shops for them, and no funds to purchase stock or material for manufacture, and defray expenses of such shops. We deem it essential that every pupil should not only be educated, but should have an opportunity to learn some useful branch of handicraft whereby he may gain a livelihood.

Humanity calls loudly for the relief of this unfortunate class of our population; the dignity and honor of the State demand it; and the great heart of the people will respond amen! to every proper effort put forth to ameliorate their unhappy condition.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. B. F. HILDRETH,	} Committee.
R. SEARS,	
J. B. YOUNG,	