

term in some states, and we believe the short term men usually go out more hardened than they enter. If one deserves the confinement at all, certainly one year's confinement is not too great an infliction. We are led to notice this subject particularly by observing the many short terms of sentences as shown by the prison register. We find persons sent from Dubuque for ten days, from Harrison, Floyd, Jones, Bremer, and various other distant counties, for thirty days, and from a very large number of counties for three months, &c., the time of many of whom would expire nearly as soon as the convict should arrive at the prison! We think it a great abuse of power, but while the power is left in the courts to name short terms, courts will be influenced to do so. It may be that in some cases a due regard to mercy an justice requires a short term. If so, the executive has the power to shorten it, and he has not yet been thought too unwilling to use the power when justice requires it.

T. W. WOOLSON,

On the part of the Senate.

SAMUEL McNUTT,

JAS. H. BROWN,

On the part of the House.

REPORT
OF THE
VISITING COMMITTEE
TO THE
STATE UNIVERSITY.

The Joint Committee appointed to visit the State University, located at Iowa City, beg leave to submit the following report:

In the performance of the duty assigned you, we have carefully examined the building and grounds; visited the different departments of said Institution; had an interview with the Faculty and several members of the Board of Trustees, and examined the books of the Treasurer. We are well satisfied that the appropriation made at the last session of the Legislature has been judiciously expended; that the Board of Trustees have performed their duties with economy and care, while the system and good order prevailing in each department, bear unmistakeable evidence of the ability and fidelity of all the members of the Faculty in the discharge of their respective duties, and that the Institution is in as prosperous and flourishing condition as good management on the part of those having it in their charge can make it, with the limited means at their disposal. The buildings are commodious and well adapted to their uses, though in part, unfinished and out of repair. Some additional shelving and fixtures are necessary for the chemical, astronomical and geological departments, also some more economical and efficient means of warming the old capitol building, which is now done with stoves. In the opinion of your committee, this could be done much more economically,

effectually and safely by furnaces of proper size and construction. We find that the University property is without any insurance against fire, and the Trustees inform us that they are without the means to keep it insured.

The literary and scientific departments are well managed by competent and laborious Professors who receive a salary by no means commensurate with their abilities and labors.

The number of students, including all departments, for the past year is as follows, viz.: Males 381, Females 256, as shown by the Catalogue for 1866-7.

The apparatus both chemical and astronomical is quite extensive and first class of its kind but entirely insufficient for a State University.

The library is small but well selected. Large additions ought to be made both to the library and apparatus from time to time, as the funds at the disposal of its Trustees will justify.

The Normal Department has been re-organized, and is now under the charge of Prof. S. N. Fellows, with a good attendance of students who have entered upon a regular course to qualify themselves for the profession of teaching. This is a very important branch of the University, and, in the opinion of your committee, if properly developed and sustained, with the great advantages to be derived from its connection with the University, will do much to supply the *present* wants of the State in that direction, at a much less expense, and with greater probabilities of success, than it can be done by the establishment of an independent institution of that character at the *present* time.

The University is without a President. Prof. N. R. Leonard is acting as President *pro tem.*, vice Prof. Spencer, resigned. The Trustees have been and are now making an effort to secure a competent person for that position, but find great difficulty in doing so, owing to a lack of funds to enable them to offer such inducements as are necessary to secure a person with the requisite qualifications for the presidency of a State University.

We have thus, as briefly as possible, referred to the State University as it is. We now propose briefly to refer to its wants. It is a State Institution. Endowed by the Government of the United

States with a fund, unfortunately less munificent than its wants require, it was designed to be the head of the school system of the State. Its graduates ought to have all the scholastic attainments to be obtained in any institution of learning in the country, and be fully qualified to enter at once upon the active duties of any literary or scientific pursuit, or the labor incident to a chosen profession. To make it complete in all of its departments we believe it to be the duty of the State. In our opinion a Law Department ought to be established at once, a good law library purchased, and all necessary steps taken to put this department in successful operation. When this is done, and sufficient means furnished to make the Institution what it was designed to be, and ought to be, the highest order of talent can be obtained to preside over and direct its operations.

To make the necessary repairs of the buildings, and complete those unfinished; establish a Law Department, and purchase a library; add to the present library, and purchase apparatus that is actually needed; develop the Normal Department properly; obtain a President and Professors as the necessities of the Institution may require; properly compensate the Faculty, and conduct the affairs in a proper manner, will, in the opinion of your committee, require an appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars for the current year. That the University fund is entirely inadequate to defray current expenses is unquestionably true, and we respectfully suggest the propriety of providing, by a small tax, a special fund that can be relied on annually, and save appropriations at each session of the General Assembly.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I. E. FELLOWS,

On the part of the Senate.

C. G. TRUSDELL,

J. T. ATKINS,

On the part of the House.