THE THIRD REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Iowa Institution

FOR THE

EDUCATION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB,

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA;

FOR THE YEARS 1858 & 1859.

DES MOINES, IOWA:
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1860.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

TO THE

GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE.

THE Board of Trustees of the Iowa Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, in accordance with the Act establishing the Institution, would submit to the General Assembly of this State, their third Report.

It is with no ordinary degree of satisfaction, that since the date of our last Report, we have witnessed the uninterrupted prosperity and success of this Institution, over which we have been created Trustees.

Its widening usefulness has been limited only by its restricted resources and inadequate circumstances.

The advantages and means, which the Institution has enjoyed have not been unimproved, as actual results can testify.

We do not propose to indulge in further general remarks, but shall at once invite attention to several particulars, showing the progress and condition of the Institution from its adoption by the State, to the present period; and more especially dwelling upon the history and facts which properly belong to the present Report.

LEGISLATION.

PREVIOUS to the establishment of an Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, the State had made a liberal provision by which the mutes of this State were enabled to acquire an education in the Asylums of neighboring States.

But this measure failed to benefit the greater number of our mutes; who, by sympathizing and anxious parents, and friends, were not permitted to go so far from home to obtain an educa-

tion; and hence were doomed to ignorance. Besides the Statute making this provision was not so guarded as in every case to secure the designed application of the funds appropriated. It is doubtless true that the existence and nature of the law were not generally known; for a special effort is sometimes necessary to inform the friends of these unfortunate persons, of the existence of an Institution; and afterwards to induce them to avail themselves of its advantages. But as intelligence becomes more general, this difficulty will diminish and all will be happy to accept every means to elevate and improve the afflicted.

The following appropriations have been made by the State for the support of the Institution:

For 1855 and '56,	$10,000,00
" 1857,	7,000,00
Deficiency for 1857	1,000,00
For '58 and '59,	16,000,00
Total	$34,000,00

The most careful economy, consistent with the purposes of the Institution, has been exercised in the disbursement of the above mentioned appropriations, which have in no single instance exceeded the actual wants of the establishment; but rather fallen below the demands of its highest usefulness.

A Financial Report for the past two years is herewith submitted.

BUILDINGS.

As no steps have yet been taken to secure a permanent building, which might be regarded as a home for the unfortunate mutes of our State, the Trustees have been obliged to lease such buildings as could be obtained, and affording as many conveniences as possible.

The Institution has occupied three different buildings, each removal improving its condition, and enlarging its advantages and facilities to accomplish its work.

The Trustees have contracted for the lease of the Park House, a former hotel in Iowa City, for the term of two years; the lease beginning June 13th, 1859.

The present rent is sixty dollars per month.

This building answers our purpose as well as any we could *rent* in the State; but is evidently inferior to an edifice designed for a Deaf and Dumb Institution.

Its advantages are, more ample room and comfort, than hitherto enjoyed.

Its disadvantages are:

1. Want of surrounding grounds.
2. Publicity and exposure to unfavorable influences.
3. Inadequacy of arrangement.
4. Incapacity to accommodate all who may apply for admission.

It is capable of accommodating fifty pupils with ease and comfort; and its advantages so superior to our former buildings that we are disposed to bide our time, and wait the pleasure of the State; simply exhibiting the facts in the case, and leaving inferences to a just and generous public.

HEALTH.

The general health of our pupils has been good. Indeed, considering the character of the buildings formerly occupied by the Institution, the freedom from disease has been greater than might have been predicted; for it is well known that health cannot be enjoyed in crowded apartments; nor where circumstances deny the privilege of full and free exercise.

It is perhaps true that the Deaf and Dumb, as a class, do not possess the energy and power to resist disease, that belong to such as suffer from no physical infirmity.

Their physiology is defective, and it is a received law — that where one member suffers, all the members must suffer.

The absence of the important sense of hearing, and the silence and inactivity of the vocal organs, may be a source of imperfect health.

It becomes our sad duty to record the death of two of our pupils. LEONARD SCHMOLE, and MARY LEATHERWOOD. The former died of lung fever. The latter from the effects of an accidental fall.

From the innocence of their lives, and from the feeble glimmer of moral light within them, (for they had not been long at the Institution,) we believe that the transition has been to them a trans-

ition from darkness to everlasting day. The Father of us all, is merciful, and makes us responsible only according to our advantages and attainments.

INTELLECTUAL DEPARTMENT.

To many minds the education of the Deaf and Dumb presents a mystery, that would vanish upon closer observation.

It is probable that this class of persons has existed since the world began, but we are indebted to a recent age for the happy discovery, that their education is a possibility; and the *mystery* connected with it disappears, when we reflect that a language of signs may be constructed so perfect as to express any ideas however abstract.

This language is used more or less extensively by the Aborigines of this Continent; and indeed, we may assert that all men have recourse to gestures and signs in expressing their thoughts and emotions; and more especially those who lack a ready utterance.

How easy then the labor, when *necessity* impells, of building up, by means of natural and arbitrary signs, a medium of communication. The path once discovered, and progress begun, the mind goes forward with interest and ease, in the invention and use of silent symbols of thought.

The Deaf and Dumb prior to any systematic attempts at their education, were degraded outcasts from social privileges and civil responsibilities. They merely existed; and did not actively embark in those pursuits, nor share in those enterprises which have impelled the world forward, and made the grand features of history. They were not represented in public sentiment, nor felt in any political developments, commercial movements or moral revolutions; but naturally and usually were numbered with the miserable idlers, paupers or criminals of our race.

Such was their doom until in the eighteenth century, the philanthropic DE L' EPEE, of France proved to the world the possibility of their education by employing a system of pantomine and gestures, as a means by which to convey to their minds, the rich treasures of knowledge.

He did not hesitate to make great sacrifices to accomplish his generous object; and posterity will mention him among the benefactors of mankind.

The *Sign-language*, is our grand medium of instruction, and it is so perfected and systematized, as to be capable of conveying, with grace, impressiveness and ease, the most refined and abstruse thought, as well as the most beautiful and sacred emotions.

It is a silent and ample stream on whose mystic bosom fleets of knowledge may freely sail, laden with the wealth of varied learning, into the harbors of those minds from which

"Wisdom is by one entrance, quite shut out."

There is no class of rational beings so sadly unfortunate as uneducated mutes: for theirs it is to present the disheartening spectacle of intellects capable of unlimited expansion, but doomed by a terrible affliction to darkness and desolation.

It is difficult to conceive of their profound ignorance so universal is its dominion over their minds.

The Blind, without the advantages of an Institution, can learn much that is valuable at home, and can enjoy many of the sweets of social life. Not so the Deaf. The mute child sits solitary and unresponsive in the family circle. The words of intelligence, the flash of wit, the charms of poetry, the power of music, and even the sacred oracles of God, are all lost upon this victim of silence. Happily one source of pleasure is possessed by him; he can comprehend and enjoy the expressions of affection and sympathy, visible upon the countenances, and in all the acts of those made near to him by nature. Nor is this a trifling consideration, nor a light pleasure, for the unfortunate child is ever the recipient of unwearying love and solicitude, and this brings light to his heart; but parents should beware lest an undue partiality and excessive indulgence ruin the disposition of their afflicted children, and prove more an injury than a benefit. They should be taught habits of prompt obediance at home, and while young.—True affection will manifest itself in seeking the highest welfare of its object.

From considerations such as have just been presented, we may feel safe in the assertion that public policy and State interest, require the education of every mute of proper age and capacity, within the limits of Iowa.

The course of studies pursued by our pupils is eminently *practical*. Our grand aim is first, to teach them the English Lan-

guage, and this is no easy labor; for, upon entering the Institution, not knowing a single word of the language, they are required to begin where the infant begins, and learn the meaning of each word, and also the mode of forming words into sentences. Their progress depends on their talents. The process is slow, but the result is sure. Patient labor will accomplish wonders.

Our pupils are instructed in Geography, History, Arithmetic, and in the elements of general science. While upon this branch of our Report, we would take occasion to recommend, to the teachers in similar Institutions (to whom this Report may be sent,) "Lower's Grammar of Composition" as a work peculiarly adapted to the wants and capacity of mutes, who have made some progress in their course. We are happy to state that not a few households have already been gladdened through the instrumentality of our infant Institution; in seeing their afflicted ones emerging from ignorance into the light of knowledge; and from rude and rebellious propensities, into principles and habits of refinement and propriety.

While upon this point, we would be recreant to justice, did we fail to acknowledge the power and influence of the Christian religion over the minds and conduct of our pupils; and we are happy to bear this testimony, that the spirit and principles of the Bible are "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness."

It alike affords restraint to vice and insubordination, and incentives to growth in knowledge and virtue.

In connection with this division of the Report, we would mention with hearty approbation, the action taken by the fifth Convention of American Instructors of the deaf and dumb, against habits of vagrancy on the part of some former pupils of our Institutions.

At this Convention, the following, among other resolutions, was adopted:—

"Resolved, That this Convention discountenances and wholly disapproves of this vagrant course of life; and earnestly recommends to the officers of our public conveyances to give them no facilities for travelling, but place them upon the same footing in this respect, with other passengers."

Let charity express itself in securing *labor* for mutes; and not in affording means to encourage vagabond and injurious habits.

Number of Mutes.

The number of mutes in the United States, is estimated at ten thousand.

Their usual proportion to the general population is as one to two thousand, and upon the supposition that the State of Iowa contains six hundred thousand inhabitants, we have within our limits three hundred mutes.

The census of the State of Iowa for the year 1859, shows the present number of mutes in the State to be three hundred and one; which verifies the correctness of the above data.

Of the mutes in this State not less than eighty (80) have enjoyed the privileges of instruction.

Since the date of the last Report, sixty-one have been at the Institution; and fifty pupils are at the present date in actual attendance, besides applicants not yet admitted.

The building now occupied, is capable of accommodating comfortably, fifty pupils, and by a little crowding, sixty-pupils.

Of course, the mute population will increase with the general increase of population; and it is easy to calculate the probable number of deaf and dumb in this State, ten years hence, provided the future general growth corresponds with our past progress.

Trades.

The attention of the Trustees has been recently called to the importance of our male pupils learning some useful trades during their attendance at the Institution; and steps have already been taken to effect so desirable an end.

With a good education, and a good trade, our male pupils will be able to leave the Institution, as independent, self-reliant and productive citizens.

The advantages of this undertaking are too numerous and obvious to require explanation, or argument.

The female pupils are instructed in duties pertaining to housekeeping, and also, in dress-making, and plain and fancy needlework.

Experience has proved that mutes can succeed as well as others in several branches of industry, and many of the deaf and dumb

Institutions in the United States, and Europe, have introduced trades as an important feature of the instructions imparted to their pupils, and the result in these Institutions prove that trades are sometimes remunerative, often self-supporting; and always beneficial to the Institutions themselves, and a decided advantage to the pupils.

The Board of Trustees.

We have no special remark to make of the Board, except to record the loss, by a removal to a neighboring State, of the former worthy President of the Board, the Rev. F. A. Shearer.—As one of the earliest, most constant and useful friends of the Institution, with an unceasing interest in its prosperity; his name in this Report deserves honorable mention; as it is already recorded in lasting characters upon the hearts and memories of not a few of those for whom the Institution was established. He has a worthy successor in Mr. H. D. Downey, who has recently been appointed to fill his vacancy.

Permanent Location.

There is no question so important to the deaf and dumb of Iowa, as the location of their Institution, and the character of the building which shall be provided for them by the State, as their permanent home.

It is not the purpose, nor province of this Report, to recommend the time nor the place for the location of the Institution; but it will not be considered intrusive to offer some general views which should have some weight in the final determination of this matter; and first of all, evidently, the chief question in the location of the Institution, should be: Where will the interests of the Institution be best promoted; not what other interests can be subserved by its location.

What one point presents the advantages of ready access from the various localities of the State; of healthful situation; of convenient proximity to the officers and Legislators of the State; of possessing means to interest and instruct pupils; of affording all that might naturally and properly be required to support an Institution;—besides other advantages which will suggest themselves.

It should be borne in mind that the permanent building is not

for one day, nor one generation, but that it will be an almoner of good to generations, yet unborn; and that not for ourselves alone, but for posterity is this charity intended.

Although it may seem premature, yet we will express the hope that whenever this State shall determine to erect an Asylum for her Deaf and Dumb, the present New York Institution may be the model; for it combines nearly every possible excellence of arrangement and capacity, and possesses every modern improvement. It is the result of many years of experience, and may be safely selected as a model.

Of course the State of Iowa will not soon need so *extensive* a structure; but the plan is possible and worthy of imitation, on a smaller scale.

Buildings are already in process of erection for the Insane and the Blind of our State; also liberal provisions have been made for our University; and other educational purposes. This Report does not complain at any such acts of wise and liberal policy; but only would ask not to be made a *sacrifice* to advance other and kindred objects. Justice may shine in Charity as well as in human law and human pursuits.

The last Census of our State shows a *larger number* of *mutes* than of any other unfortunate class; and those acquainted with their affliction and its affects, know that their appeal for relief, silent as it is, rises from an infirmity distressing in itself, and worthy of every possible mitigation.

It is feared that the present financial crisis will postpone the day for the completion of an Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb; and should this be the case, we can but bow to that necessity which knows no law, and hope for a brighter future.

The Present wants of the Institution.

The appropriation made by the General Assembly of 1858, has met the demands of the Institution with the exception of a small deficiency at the close of the present year 1859; when it will not be possible to pay the salaries of the employees. The appropriation would have proved ample but for the purchase of a considerable quantity of furniture; the purchase of which was made a condition necessary in order to secure our present building.

The deficiency will approximate five hundred dollars.

Our estimate for the coming two years is as follows: —

For deficiency of 1859,	500
For support of Inst. in 1860,	8,500
" " " " " 1861,	9,000
Total,	$18,000

This estimate is as low as it can possibly be made, consistently with the purposes of the Institution, and the growing demands upon its treasury; for it must be remembered that the number of pupils is now constantly increasing, and each pupil will of course, increase the general annual disbursment.

Our family has within the past two years, averaged in actual attendance, about forty-five persons. It will, during the next two years, average not less than sixty; so that our expenses must increase. With the appropriation which we have named, and now respectfully ask of the Representatives of the State, we do not expect luxury, or superior advantages; we simply desire comfort, and usual facilities to accomplish the end of our efforts — the elevation of an unfortunate class.

To the General Assembly of this State, we again commit the interests of our Institution, confident that no appeal to your intelligence and generosity, will be unheeded; and assured that the cause of education in all its departments will be liberally sustained and encouraged.

W. PENN CLARKE, Pres.
W. E. IJAMS, Sec.

Financial Report of the Iowa Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, from January 1st, 1858, to December 13th, 1859.

Received.

Appropriation by Gen. Assembly for 1858,	$8000,00
Interest on the same,	70,21
Appropriation for 1859,	8000,00
	$16070,21

Expended.

Total for 1858,	$7899,63
" " 1859,	8114,58
Estimate of indebtedness Jan. 1st, 1860 for salaries &c.,	556,00
	16570,21
Deficiency,	500,00

Of the above expenditures, the following general statement will set forth the purposes and amounts: —

For salaries in 1858,	$2612,50
" " " 1859,	1537,50
Rent in '58 and '59,	1668,00
Wood, (approx.)	850,00
Meat, "	800,00
Bread, "	800,00
Furniture, "	800,00

The balance has met ordinary current expenses, for which satisfactory vouchers are held by the Board.

W. E. IJAMS, Sec.

CATALOGUE OF PUPILS FOR THE YEAR 1858 AND 1859.

Names.	Age.	Residence.	Place of Nativity.	Cause of Deafness.
Ballard, Samuel A.	22	Sheffield.	New York.	Congenital.
Ballard Volney P.	20	Sheffield.	New York.	Congenital.
Bayles Matilda.	20	Mt. Pleasant.	Ohio.	Cholera Infantum.
Bennet Isaac L.	11	Galesburg.	Iowa.	Typhoid Fever.
Bickford Margaret.	14	Birmingham.	Iowa.	Congestive Fever.
Box Emma.	17	Fort Madison.	Iowa.	Whooping Cough.
Boyce James.	13	Agency City.	———	Winter Fever.
Brower Jacob.	9	South English.	Ohio.	Inflamation of Brain.
Bryan William.	23	Marengo.	Pennsylvania.	Scarlet Fever.
Bull Horatio.	21	Dubuque.	Ohio.	———
Canine John.	13	Pella.	Indiana.	Tidamees.
Cross Isaac.	11	Webster.	Iowa.	Congestion of Brain.
Cubberly Charles.	18	Keosauqua.	———	———
Dixon William.	11	PrairieCreek.	England.	Congenital.
Donnel Catherine.	16	Hamlin's Grove.	———	Influenza.
Folwell Mary E.	16	Winterset.	———	———
Foy George W.	17	Tipton.	Iowa.	Lung Fever.
Friend Ama.	19	Tipton.	Ohio.	Cold.
Gilbert Chauncey.	12	Wyoming.	———	Scarlet Fever.
Griffith Mary E.	17	Montezuma.	Ohio.	Fever.
Harrison William H.	14	Pleasant Plain.	Iowa.	Spinal Affection.

CATALOGUE OF PUPILS—CONTINUED.

Holka Alfred.	10	Toledo.	Germany.	———
Holka John.	12	Toledo.	Germany.	———
Hughes Mary.	18	Anamosa.	———	———
Hummer Elizabeth.	16	Near Iowa City.	Iowa.	Congenital.
Hummer John.	11	Near Iowa City.	Iowa.	Congenital.
Huston David.	17	Boone P. O.	Indiana.	Gatherings.
Huston Frederick.	11	Boone P. O.	Iowa.	———
Huston George D.	13	Boone P. O.	Indiana.	———
Huston Sarah S.	23	Boone P. O.	Indiana.	Scarlet Fever.
Kephart Levi.	14	Shueyville.	Pennsylvania.	Dropsy in the head.
Latimer Nancy J.	10	Grinnel.	Iowa.	Congenital.
Leatherwork Mary.	10	Davenport.	———	———
Litzen Mary.	9	Davenport.	Ohio.	———
Lott Isaac.	17	Bellefontaine.	Michigan.	Congenital.
Matthews Elizabeth.	26	Washington.	Virginia.	———
Matthews George.	21	Canada West.	Canada.	———
McClure Susannah.	19	Northfield.	Iowa.	Scarlet Fever.
Middleton Jacob.	18	Wassonville.	Iowa.	———
McGuire Sarah.	14	Iowa City	Iowa.	Fever.
Miedke Charles.	10	Davenport.	Ohio.	A fall.
Moore John W.	18	Lancaster.	Indiana.	Congenital.
Moore Mary J.	12	Lancaster.	Indiana.	Congenital.
Morgan Melissa.	18	Franklin County.	Iowa.	Scarlet Fever.
Packwood Angeline.	19	Agency City.	Indiana.	———
Schupp Joseph.	11	Davenport.	Germany.	Congenital.