

REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Iowa Institute

FOR THE

DEAF AND DUMB,

FOR THE YEAR 1857.



DES MOINES.
J. TEESDALE, STATE PRINTER.

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1857.

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R E P O R T .

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB, SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA.

Not many important changes have occurred to the Institution since its Report made to the last Legislature. The number in attendance has been necessarily limited by the want of accommodations. The buildings now occupied are capable of containing with safety and comfort to the inmates not more than twenty-five or thirty pupils; these with teachers and others employed making a family which can barely be rendered comfortable as at present situated.

But a reference to the accompanying catalogue will show that our number has been much above the capacity of our buildings and therefore we have submitted to an over crowded house rather than reject the mute appeals of those who have sought admission to the privileges of the Institution. Twice since the date of our last Report we have been visited by contagious diseases, the Measles and the Scarlet Fever. By the former of which we lost one of our most interesting pupils, Miss NANCY JANE EVANS, who, in her sickness and death by her patience and resignation, and her calm prospect of the inevitable hour, convinced all who saw her that her education, limited as it was, had not failed to carry to her mind a knowledge of those great truths which alone can render life profitable or death less terrible.

Our experience has satisfied us that we are totally unprepared for any contagious disease, wanting as we do, separate rooms for the sick, and therefore exposing all to the ravages of the destroyer. Yet we have endeavored notwithstanding these disadvantages to contend with disease and thus far our success, under Providence, has been encouraging.

The progress of the pupils has been highly gratifying, and their

general interest in their studies and attachment for their teachers have been favorable indications.

It is now a positive certainty, beyond even the shadow of a doubt, that the Deaf can be taught, and that the extent of their attainments is merely a question of time. It has been our chief aim thus far, to give our pupils a correct Knowledge of the English Language—a Language whose acquisition is known to be exceedingly difficult. To this fact every foreigner who has visited our shores can bear testimony.

Our native tongue is believed to be unphilosophical in more respects than one. We are aware of its importance and growing influence. Its inherent beauties and power are acknowledged.—We grant that it has clothed in splendor countless thoughts of genius, and contains within its wide embrace, some of the proudest triumphs of learning. But it has defects and they are felt no where more than by the Instructor of the Deaf. It would be far more easy to teach the ancient Greek or Latin, or the modern French and German, than our Vernacular.

The English Language seems a departure from nature and custom, and at almost every step the student meets with inconsistencies in individual words and sentences.

But patient labor here as elsewhere must conquer, and though we do confess that there are but few mutes who can compose elegantly, yet may we not ask how many, who are in possession of all their faculties can prove themselves Masters of the English Language?

To acquire a Knowledge of Geography, Arithmetic, History and Astronomy, is comparatively an easy task to mutes of ordinary capacity, for these branches may be taught without an extensive acquaintance with written language.

In our Institution as in other similar Institutions, and indeed in every field of Education there are several grades of intellect, from those only one remove above idiocy to such as can master all the difficulties in their course. Hence when any school is judged by those who are intellectually inferior, or by those who may have been under instruction but a few months, there is evidently a false standard employed.

Our Institution is open to the public, and we do not fear fair and intelligent examination.

The system of education which we use, contemplates man in

his triune character, and addresses itself to the Physical, Mental and Moral qualities of those who are taught.

We endeavor to make Physiology a practical Science.

We endeavor to fill the mind with useful Knowledge and teach it to think.

We endeavor to unfold the sublime truths of the Bible in such a manner as to cultivate the conscience, refine the feelings, and point the unfortunate for Salvation to Him, who, when on earth pronounced the divine "Ephphatha," and the deaf ears were opened, and the sealed lips no longer silent. We know not how we should tame the wild natures, and subdue the strong passions of some who come to us, if we were not permitted to avail ourselves of those aids which Religion affords.

We have not yet introduced a Trade into our Institution.—Partly because our appropriation has proved insufficient, partly because we have not had room, and partly because we are of the opinion that mutes should generally devote themselves to Farming, a pursuit peculiarly adapted to them, one in which they are exempt from the vices and dangers of cities, and in which health is often found and not often sacrificed.

We shall congratulate ourselves if we can be, though in a small degree, instrumental in checking the growing disposition of our people to crowd into towns and cities, the centres of wealth, and at the same time the centres of corrupt sentiment and crime.

The last census fixes the number of mutes in the State of Iowa, at three hundred and seventy-one. This statement is probably correct: as it almost corresponds with the general proportion of this class to the entire population, both in the United States and in Europe. Of this number many are not of suitable age and capacity to attend school. Let us suppose that one-fourth are qualified of the three hundred and seventy-one, we have about ninety who could be brought to an Institution, or on the supposition that only one-fifth are qualified, then we have about seventy to apply for admission, and this number will of course increase with the population of the State, and in the same ratio.

It is unnecessary for us to say that the wants of the Mutes of Iowa are not met by the provisions at present made for their education; inasmuch as it is clear that only a fraction of the whole number can be received into the existing Institution.

We cannot feel, however, that we have discharged our whole

duty toward this unfortunate class of our fellow-citizens, without presenting their claims for a permanent building; submitting it to the consideration of the Legislature, whether immediate action should be taken upon this subject, or whether it is policy to defer the erection of an Institution to a day when the pressure of financial embarrassments shall have passed from us.

It is beginning to be pretty generally conceded, that the "State should educate the children of the State;" and our common schools have already proved a public benefit, and are doubtless destined by reforms at present at work, to increase in usefulness. We rejoice at this gratifying fact, and only ask that misfortune may exclude none—neither the Deaf nor Blind—from that elevating knowledge to which the State would invite her other more fortunate children.

Circumstances, of course, will have to determine the manner and time of relief to those who are now debarred from the inestimable privileges of an education. But we shall indulge the hope that at no distant day a good education will be offered by our State, to every child capable of being instructed; not even excepting those miserable beings to whom nature has given but a single spark of intellect, and for whom Institutions, known as "Institutions for Idiots," have been opened with the most gratifying success in several of the older States. The spirit of the age opposes exclusiveness and regards with favor any project that promises the amelioration of humanity.

GENTLEMEN:—In the conclusion of this Report, permit us to recommend to your favorable attention the Institution over which we have been placed as Trustees. If success is any test of merit, we claim to have made no failure, and are assured that no small measure of good has already been accomplished. The buildings which we now occupy though infinitely inferior to such as are possessed by adjoining States, are better than any we can rent and hence should be used until we can procure one more favorable.

Owing to the impossibility of obtaining funds except by selling our State Warrants at a heavy discount, and owing also to the fact of our expenses being greater than had been anticipated, notwithstanding a studied economy; we feel compelled to ask an additional appropriation of one thousand dollars, for the year 1858.

The last Assembly made an appropriation of seven thousand dollars for the year 1857, and a similar amount for the year 1858. Of the appropriation for '57, there will not be sufficient to meet the annual expenses by some eight hundred dollars. Therefore we ask an additional appropriation of one thousand dollars for the year 1858.

There exists no provision for the support of the Institution for the year 1859. It is estimated that eight thousand dollars will be sufficient to cover the expenses of that year.

There are now in successful operation some twenty Institutions for the Deaf and Dumb in the United States. They indicate the spirit of the nation and the age. We hope before another generation shall have passed away, that this Institution shall take rank among the foremost in the land. We have the light of experience for our guide, and can improve by the errors of other States. We have faith in the generosity and wisdom of the present day; and confidence in a smiling Providence, and therefore without fear do we again commit the interests of the unfortunate mutes of Iowa to the intelligence and philanthropy of the first Legislature under the New Constitution.

F. A. SHEARER, PRES'T.

W. E. IJAMS, Sec'y.

The success of the Institution has been owing almost exclusively to the acknowledged ability, and untiring attention of the Superintendent and Matron. For this field, PROF. IJAMS is in every respect highly qualified. He spares no time, labor or means, in the successful prosecution of his self-denying work, to which he is earnestly devoted. He is greatly beloved by the pupils, whose interest is his constant care. And he not only succeeds admirably as their *instructor*, but by the assistance of his mother, in making them happy and at home while under his supervision.

We feel that he is not only worthy our highest commendation, but that we are under peculiar obligations to him for what he has done for our infant and prosperous Institution.

F. A. SHEARER, PRES'T.

CATALOGUE FOR 1857.

NAMES.	AGE.	RESIDENCE.	PLACE OF NATIVITY.	CAUSE OF DEAFNESS.
NANCY JANE EVANS.	11	Danville.	Illinois.	Gatherings.
AMA FRIEND.	17	Tipton.	Ohio.	Cold.
ALESEPH WITHAM.	17	Brighton.		
MATILDA C. BAYLES.	18	Mt. Pleasant.	Ohio.	Chol. Infantum
SARAH MCGUIRE.	12	Iowa City.	Iowa.	Fever.
MARY HUGHES.	16	Anamosa.		
MARY E. BOX.	15	Fort Madison.	Iowa.	Whoop. Cough
ELIZABETH MATHEWS.	25	Washington.	Virginia.	
ANGELINE PACKWOOD.	17	Agency City.	Indiana.	
MARY E. FOLWELL.	14	Winterset.		
ELIZABETH HUMMER.	14	Near Iowa City.	Iowa.	Congenital.
JULIANA WHEELER.	11	Iowa City.	Illinois.	
SARAH S. HUSTON.	20	Dallas Co.	Indiana.	Scarlet Fever.
MELISSA MORGAN.	15	Alden.	Iowa.	Scarlet Fever.
MARY LEE.	25	Glasgow.	Indiana.	Congenital.
LEAPHY F. E. PINNFO.	15	Princeton.	Wisconsin.	Billious Fever.
MARY J. MOORE.	16	Lancaster.	Indiana.	Congenital.
JULIANA WEBB.	14	Albia.	Indiana.	Congenital.
LUCINDA WEBB.	11	Albia.	Indiana.	Congenital.
SARAH TAYLOR.	12	Independence.	New Brunswick.	Fever.
SUSANNAH MCCLURE.	17	Northfield.	Iowa.	Scarlet Fever.
CATHARINE N. DONNEL.	14	Hamlins Grove.		Influenza.
MARY		Davenport.		
M. E. GRIFFITH.	15	Montezuma.	Ohio.	Fever.
DENNIS A. DEWEY.	20	Iowa City.		
ANTHONY YEGGY.	24	Near Iowa City.	Germany.	
JOHN SKILES.	19	Marengo.	Indiana.	
EASTMAN LEE.	16	Glasgow.		
JACOB MIDDLETON.	16	Wassonville.	Iowa.	
GEORGE W. FOY.	16	Tipton.	Iowa.	Lung Fever.
AUGUSTUS G. GARDEN.	26	Bellefontaine.	Pennsylvania.	
ISAAC LOTT.	16	Bellefontaine.	Michigan.	Congenital.
JOHN W. MOORE.	16	Lancaster.	Indiana.	Congenital.
DAVID HUSTON.	16	Dallas Co.	Indiana.	Gatherings.
GEO. D. HUSTON.	11	Dallas Co.	Indiana.	
JOHN HOLKA.	12	Toledo.	Germany.	
JASPER WEBB.	13	Albia.	Indiana.	Congenital.
JAMES TAYLOR.	21	Independence.	New Brunswick.	Fever.
GEORGE TAYLOR.	18	Independence.	New Brunswick.	Congenital.
MATHEW TAYLOR.	10	Independence.	New Brunswick.	Congenital.
GEORGE MATHEWS.	19	Canada.		
WM. BRYAN.	21	Marengo.	Pennsylvania.	Scarlet Fever.
WM. H. HARRISON.	12	Pleasant Plain.	Iowa.	Spinal Affect'n.
LEONARD SCHMOLE.	20	Fort Madison.	Germany.	
JOHN TRUTIG.	13	Muscatine.	Switzerland.	
SAMUEL H. BLACK.	17	Knoxville.	Indiana.	Scarlet Fever.
CHARLES MATHEWS.	19	Danville.	Indiana.	
WM. P. MILLERMAN.	21	Colesburg.	Philadelphia.	Scarlet Fever.
CHAUNCEY GILBERT.	10	Wyoming.		Scarlet Fever.
HENRY KNAPP.	19	Cedar Falls.		Congenital.