



AMERICAN FOUNDATION
FOR THE BLIND INC.





TWENTY-FIRST
ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE TRUSTEES
OF THE
PERKINS INSTITUTION
AND
MASSACHUSETTS
ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND,
TO THE
CORPORATION.

CAMBRIDGE:
METCALF AND COMPANY,
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.
1853.

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Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

Boston, January 10, 1853.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION.

GENTLEMEN, — We have the honor to lay before you the several documents required by law and by custom at your annual meeting; the Report of the Director, the Inventories of all the property, real and personal, and the Report of the Treasurer.

Our own visits to the Institution enable us to answer for its general satisfactory appearance and condition. The Report of the Director will show that the teachers and other persons employed have discharged their several duties with fidelity; and that the general condition of the School and of the Work Department has been most satisfactory.

The various inventories show the amount of real estate, and give an exact numeration of all the articles of movable property, whether household furniture, books, or apparatus, with a valuation of each.

The Report of the Treasurer, which has been duly audited by a committee of your board, shows that there has been a small excess of expenditure over the income.

We have to acknowledge with gratitude the receipt of \$ 2,000 from the executors of the will of the late James Ingersoll, Esq. Without occasional aid of this kind, the small capital of the Institution would have even now been entirely expended, or else a great deal of good that has been done would have been left undone.

There is at this moment great need of more aid than can be furnished by the ordinary income of the Institution, for carrying out several projects, which are of great importance to the blind, not only of our Institution, but of the whole country. We might name others, but will confine ourselves to that of a library in raised characters. There is a great demand for books, by those blind who have learned to read, and there is no means of supplying the demand. By far the greater part of the books now in use have been printed at our press; in fact, the Boston type, or Dr. Howe's system as it is called, has superseded the others, and our books are generally sought for and read. At the Great Exhibition in London, specimens of various kinds of characters for the blind, and books got up in different countries, were exhibited, but the committee recognized the superiority of this system, and awarded the medal to it. Under these circumstances, it is much to be regretted that our operations have necessarily been suspended for want of funds; and we

commend the subject to those who can do more than give the sympathy and the good wishes which all yield so readily to the unfortunate blind.

Respectfully submitted.

THOMAS T. BOUVÉ,
J. T. BUCKINGHAM,
THOMAS G. CARY,
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER,
GEORGE B. EMERSON,
ISAAC EMERY,
NATHANIEL H. EMMONS,
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,
SAMUEL MAY,
CHARLES SUMNER,
GEORGE R. RUSSELL.

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A P P E N D I X A .

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR TO THE TRUSTEES.

GENTLEMEN, — Another year in the life of our Institution has passed, and so even has been the tenor of its way, that, in turning back over the record of its days, weeks, and months, little is found which calls for especial notice. The general course has been both pleasant and prosperous. We must not, however, fall into an error to which managers of public institutions, like other persons, are liable, to wit, that of congratulating themselves upon exemption from common misfortunes, and looking back with complacency upon the successful performance of a certain amount of good, while in reality they are travelling in a circle, instead of progressing forward and upward. Persons may congratulate themselves upon what they have done, forgetful that the sin of short-coming lies at their door, if they have failed to do all that was possible for promoting the cause committed to their keeping. They may forget that the success which crowns an effort is not merely a reward, but also a bond for making another effort. The sum of each year's duties and labors

should not be a thing to rest upon, but a round in the ladder upon which to mount and fix the next one still higher up, as a future stand-point to another still above that. In the present case, however, we cannot be wrong in reflecting with gratitude upon our exemption during the past year from accidents and calamities, an escape from which watchful and prudent foresight may indeed render probable, but never make certain. No case of death or of severe sickness, no serious accident or mishap, has left its scar upon the memory of the year.

The State of Massachusetts has continued to grant to the Institution the annual allowance upon which it relies mainly for support, and without which it could not exist. Other States, in and out of New England, have continued to send beneficiaries, and a few individuals have sent private pupils, the payment for whom increases the income, and makes it nearly equal to the expenses. Nearly, but not quite; for the interest of the small funded capital belonging to the Institution, added to all other sources of income, does not make the ordinary receipts equal the expenses. In former years great expense was incurred in the purchase, the enlargement, and improvement of buildings and grounds; and during the last year even, it has cost much to repair the damage done to our premises by the alteration made by the city in the grade of the streets. During the whole period of the existence of the Institution, liberal appropriations have been made, not only for carrying out our own immediate object; and giving every facility and advantage for educating the blind of New

England, but also for promoting the good of the blind everywhere, by devising and improving apparatus for instruction, and by printing and diffusing books in raised characters. In this respect, certainly, our Institution has done its full part towards the promotion of the common weal. For the means of doing these things, in the face of an annual deficit, reliance has been placed upon those generous men in our community, whose large benevolence is the secret spring which keeps the institutions of beneficence that so abound within our borders in healthy and vigorous operation. Some of these men, in generous answer to appeals, and others without any appeal, but guided by the instinctive perception of want which benevolence imparts, have, from time to time, by their liberal donations, enabled the Institution to extend the sphere of its usefulness, and to undertake enterprises having in view the good of the blind generally, which could not have been undertaken with the ordinary means at its command. One of these enterprises, and by far the most important one, — that of printing books and forming a library, — has been suspended during the last year from want of funds; but there is hope that it will be taken up again and carried on in good time.

The number of inmates reported in January, 1852, was one hundred and four; of these twenty-five have left, while only eighteen new ones have been admitted, so that the present number is ninety-seven. For several years past the number has fluctuated between ninety and one hundred and ten. The aggregate, however, has been kept higher

than it would otherwise have been, by the employment of adults in the Work Department. Several who have finished their regular course in the School, and who would otherwise have ceased all connection with the Institution, now find employment here.

It may be that we should not have been able rigorously to carry out the rule of discharging persons at the end of five or seven years, or of whatever time might have been fixed for the course, because in practice it is found exceedingly difficult to do so. In most, if not in all institutions for the blind, cases are continually occurring where the rule of discharge is not carried out. For one reason or another, persons are retained beyond the regular time; they linger year after year; they take root, become fixtures, and sometimes encumbrances. This is acknowledged to be an evil even now, and it is sure to become a greater evil by and by.

The establishment of an independent Work Department enables us to obviate this evil. Pupils can be discharged at the end of their course of instruction, five or seven years, as the case may be. Those who can get a living by work anywhere can get it here; those who cannot, must be provided with an asylum, but their place is not in a school for youth.

The average age of our pupils is now about twelve years and a half, which is lower, perhaps, than in any other large institution. The advantage of this to teachers and pupils, and all concerned, will be readily understood and appreciated by all who are familiar with the practical workings of similar establishments.

The number of admissions to the Junior Department has not been so great for several years past as it ought to have been, and has not kept pace with the increase of population. No inference, however, of any worth, respecting the increase or decrease of blindness in the community, can be drawn from this circumstance; indeed, it may be satisfactorily explained by other considerations. The pupils in our Junior Department are 61 in number; and they come from the following States:— Massachusetts, 36; Rhode Island, 6; Vermont, 5; Connecticut, 5; Maine, 3; New Hampshire, 3; South Carolina, 2; New York, 1. Now in all the New England States provision is made for the education of blind children at this Institution. The population of Massachusetts is 995,000, that of the other New England States 1,733,000. Now, as Massachusetts never sends less than 36 children to our Junior Department, the other States together should send 61, whereas they only send 22. This difference doubtless arises mainly from the fact, that the Institution is best known nearest home, and partly from the fact, that the difficulty and expense of access to it increase with the distance. This natural explanation seems the more certain, because at all times, even leaving out of the account the city of Boston, we have had more pupils from the eastern counties of our State, in proportion to the population, than from the western. This disproportion, however, is decreasing with the increase of facilities of communication.

It would be indeed pleasant to note any indications that the infirmity of blindness is becoming less common, but as yet none are apparent. There

is reason, however, for hope that it will diminish. The first step towards lessening the prevalence of blindness, or of any other infirmity, in any community, is to create conviction in the minds of the members thereof that such infirmity may be lessened, and finally eradicated, by some means within human control. Now a close study of the natural laws of the human organization establishes such a conviction in regard to blindness, and it cannot fail to become a general one among intelligent people.

It is morally certain, that most cases of congenital blindness follow as consequences of departure from a normal and healthy condition on the part of the parents or some progenitor of the sufferers. It is equally certain, that a large proportion of those who become blind in early life are made so because the original organization of their apparatus of vision was imperfect or feeble. Their organs of sight were too scantily endowed with enduring vital force, to withstand those ordinary ills and accidents which make little impression on other persons. It is almost as much by accident that they retain vision any number of years, as that they finally lose it.

Now in all such cases the parents or progenitors must have offended against the laws of nature in some way or other; and though it may have been without intent or knowledge, the consequences are none the less sure to follow; — their offspring are physically blind, because they were intellectually or morally blind.

Since blindness, then, for the most part, follows as the natural consequence of certain physical conditions, which conditions can be ascertained and

avoided, it should not be considered as an infirmity necessarily entailed upon the human race, but one of which cases may be multiplied or lessened at will. They may and probably will be lessened, as more and more people study nature, and learn that real religion requires implicit obedience to every law of God, in whatever way and at whatever period of time the law may be revealed, and whether it regards our hearts and feelings, or our temple of the body and its conditions.

Now it seems that part of the proper business of institutions for the blind is to make special study of the causes of the infirmity of blindness, and to diffuse knowledge concerning them as widely as possible in the community. Accordingly, considerable pains has been taken here to make careful and minute observations of as many cases as possible, and to ascertain all the attendant facts and conditions concerning the physical state of the sufferers and their progenitors, that may by any possibility furnish a clew to the causes of the infirmity. If similar observations and researches are made with care in other institutions, great good may follow. When the range of observation has become wide enough, and the number of facts sufficiently large, valuable inferences will doubtless be drawn. Meantime, all that has hitherto been ascertained tends to prove what faith in Divine wisdom would lead one to infer, that it is possible for man greatly to limit the prevalence of blindness in any highly civilized community, if not entirely to prevent its occurrence, except in cases of severe accidental injury.

THE SCHOOL.

This has been conducted upon the same general plan as in former years. The course of intellectual instruction does not differ from that given in the best common schools of the State, except, perhaps, that the scholars advance further in certain branches, and that music is one of the most important of them. Besides, in addition to a course of intellectual instruction, there is daily exercise in manual labor, with a view to learning a trade.

The instruction in the school is given by young women. Our experience shows that they are as competent to impart instruction in all the common branches of study, and to train the intellect of their pupils, as men are, and that, moreover, they develop the moral sentiment and affections far better.

It is true, that order and discipline are easily maintained in schools for the blind, and the attention of the scholars and their interest in their studies are easily secured. This, however, is not owing altogether to any peculiarity resulting from their infirmity. There is much more disposition to fun and frolic in blind children than would be supposed, and if this disposition is unduly repressed, it will find side vent in mischief, as it does in others.

It is a very common remark, that scholars in schools for the blind usually manifest more interest in their studies, and a greater fondness for instruction, than those in common schools; and there is some truth in it, especially if it be applied to those of tender years. But the difference is not so great as it is supposed to be by some, and it is not all

owing to the fact of blindness. The error arises from considering only those blind who are sent to institutions and there manifest ability, and comparing them with ordinary children. The true test would be to take a hundred blind children and a hundred seeing children, and compare them from birth to youth. Such comparison would show that there is a larger proportion of the blind who from bodily weakness or disease are unable to attend school, than of the seeing. Among those who enter the institutions for the blind, there are many who manifest great inclination or capacity for study, and these are usually taken as the standard; but there are others who manifest neither, and they should not be left out of the account.

Again, schools for the blind are compared with the average of common schools for the seeing, and the children are found to be more fond of study; whereas the comparison should be made only with the very best common schools. In schools for the blind, generally, the classification is better than in ordinary schools; and the classes are smaller. But the chief advantage is, that the instruction is *oral*, and is presented in the most agreeable form. If blind children were put into classes of forty or fifty, and left to get their lessons by themselves, it is not likely that they would show the same interest in them that they do now.

Nevertheless, after all allowances are made, it is still true that, upon the whole, the scholars in schools for the blind do manifest more fondness for study and more interest in their lessons than those in ordinary schools, and it is most especially true of chil-

dren: as they become youths, the difference diminishes. The common and ready explanation of this is, that, as lack of vision cuts off many of the ordinary objects of attention and amusement, it also increases the disposition for study and for mental effort generally.

It may be remarked here, that this increase of mental activity, and of the power of attention, caused by the exclusion of visible objects, about the advantages of which so much has been said, is not always to be set down on the side of profit; for it may have its disadvantages also, unless the matter is carefully considered and understood by teachers and pupils.

The active exercise of all the senses, (the ministers of the perceptive faculties,) during the whole period of childhood and youth, is essential to vigorous maturity of mind. Nature provides for this in the restless curiosity of the young, and in the supply of an infinite variety of objects, each endowed with a great variety of qualities. At every instant, during every waking hour of childhood and youth, the nimble senses, especially the eye and the ear, the nimblest of all, are taking note of external things, their qualities, their relations, their successions, and storing them up in the mind as materials for the future use of the reasoning faculties. Acquaintance with facts forms the substratum, the basis, upon which the pyramid of knowledge rests; and the deeper and the broader this basis is laid, the higher will the structure rise. The simplest fact may be useful, for as the smallest pebble in the base of a pyramid helps to raise and sustain the apex, so may

the smallest item of knowledge elevate the crowning reason, and give to it a wider horizon. This process of building up is necessary for the elevation of all common minds, however it may be with men of genius, who seem to soar upon the wings of intuition to the topmost height, and to embrace at a glance the widest view, while others are toiling up step by step, and slowly gaining a wider horizon. In this aspect, the lack of one of the senses is a hindrance to mental growth, and, if it were not in some degree counteracted by increased activity of the others, would be a much more serious one than it actually is. Hence those engaged in instructing the blind should be careful to cultivate the activity of the perceptive faculties, by giving the greatest possible number and variety of objects for the remaining senses to act upon. In doing this, however, care must be taken to avoid another evil, to wit, the precocious development of the reflective faculties. This precocity may be either in time or in order; that is, the reflective faculties may be developed at too tender an age, or antecedently to the development of faculties which should have preceded in the order of time. A child may be led to reason and to generalize at a period when he ought to be exercising his perceptive faculties in gathering knowledge; or if this period is passed in mental inaction, he may be led to reason and to generalize without having first gathered sufficient material. He does not place a pyramid upon a broad base, but rears a column, which is very liable to topple over. There is a tendency among the blind to both these errors, and the course of their edu-

cation should be shaped with a view to avoid them. Careful consideration of blind children who possess ordinary talents will show that, while they know fewer facts than seeing children of equal ability, they are more thoughtful and reflective. Their peculiarity becomes more apparent if we compare them with deaf mutes. The comparison will show, moreover, what may be worth the attention of metaphysicians; to wit, that through the eye come mostly the means of knowing, through the ear the means of thinking. The young deaf mutes see and perceive the most; the blind discern and think the most. The first may have more varied perceptions, the second make their perceptions more the subjects of reflection. The adult mute may have more knowledge of things, but the adult blind has more knowledge of principles.

The words *knowing*, *thinking*, and the like, are to be taken in their popular meaning, for, of course, all knowledge of external things, and indeed all development of the intellectual faculties, must come through impressions on the senses. It is equally of course that all impressions upon the organs of sense, which occasion sensations and perceptions, are the atoms — the material — out of which thought and knowledge are composed, and from the aggregate of which the mental character is formed. Nevertheless, after all these allowances are made, it will be found that the amount and kind of thought and knowledge, and the quality of mental character, are greatly modified by the medium through which the first impressions have been received, and the sensations awakened.

This matter may be made clear by another view, which will, moreover, show at the same time the immense influence of society in forming individual character. All persons are incessantly engaged, during the period of childhood and youth, in the active exercise of their perceptive faculties, — looking, listening, smelling, tasting, feeling, — and thus gathering a store of impressions touching the qualities and relations of things. In this busy employment, the individuals fly all abroad over the field of existence, like bees in search of the flowers of knowledge, without much concert of action, but each one relying mainly upon his own individual effort. When, however, the honey of thought is to be stored, and principles and axioms to be formed, then the bees come home to society, and then begins that mutual aid, that interchange of labors, that social communing, without which all previous labors are of little worth. The bee's thighs may be laden with sweets, — the man's brain with impressions, — but without the hive, and without the community, neither honey nor knowledge avails much for future use.

After all his efforts and his experience, man learns much more that is really valuable from others than he can by himself; and if we take into account the vast treasures left in the common storehouse of knowledge by preceding generations, the amount added by each individual sinks into insignificance. But most especially are the higher and crowning parts of the intellect brought to perfection by the action of mind upon mind; and this action is mainly through the medium of language, spoken or

written, but in ordinary cases far more by the former than the latter. "Give me," said a convict who had long been immured in one of our prisons, — "give me a *live* man for one night in my cell, and I will learn more from him than I can learn from all the books and papers that I can read in a year." Now this medium of speech is possessed fully and entirely by the blind man, while it is possessed but very imperfectly by the deaf mute; and no amount of study and labor can ever overcome the distance between them. The blind can master fully and entirely the ordinary language of the society in which they live, as other children master it, without labor; while the mutes learn it but partially and imperfectly, even with ever so much labor. To the blind it becomes vernacular, — to the mute it ever remains a foreign idiom, whose niceties he cannot master. Even those who by rare abilities and by great study come nearest to it, fail to catch the subtler parts of the sense, — the aroma, as it were, of language; as when, for instance, the point and the wit lie in delicate play upon words. How much more so must it be with persons of ordinary talent and ordinary culture!

As compared, then, with deaf mutes of equal natural ability, the blind man has a less valuable organ for perception; his knowledge of sensible things and qualities gathered from personal observation may be much smaller, but his means for availing himself of the knowledge gained by others, and his capacity for developing his own reasoning powers and his higher mental faculties, are far greater. Even with less knowledge, he may have far more understanding.

The history of the mutes and of the blind confirms

what would seem to be the natural inference from *a priori* reasoning. In the annals of the mutes we find many who distinguished themselves by keenness of perception, by quickness and brilliancy of imagination, and who even displayed their power in the concrete, as by excellence in the fine arts; but we find none who gave proof of great reasoning faculties, — no philosophers. Among the blind, on the other hand, we find many who possessed in an eminent degree the reflective faculties, and who were fond and capable of the widest generalizations and the highest range of reason, — men of truly philosophic minds. As compared with seeing persons of equal natural ability, the blind have still fewer advantages for perception and observation, and during youth they will usually be behind in variety and extent of knowledge; but as the activity of the perceptive faculties diminishes, and the higher intellectual powers are developed, the distance between them rapidly diminishes; and it often happens that the infirmity of the blind causes them to cultivate and to exercise their reflective powers, until they are able to outstrip their more favored competitors in mental growth. It must be understood, however, that these remarks apply to exceptional cases, and that as a general rule blindness is an indication of lack of ordinary vital force in the system, and an obstacle to harmonious and full development of mental power.

But it is time to return from these general remarks, to the immediate subject of the school. The classes have made satisfactory progress in their various studies, and several pupils will be discharged at the end of this term, who are well acquainted with all

the elementary branches, and have considerable knowledge and skill in music. The years that they have passed in mental activity, and the knowledge they have acquired, cannot fail to be of great advantage to them in after life; and to lessen the fearful odds against them in the antagonism and the strife which unhappily still pervade society, — a strife in which the weakest goes to the wall. It may not be easy to see how the acquaintance with this or that branch of study, or even how a general cultivation of his intellectual faculties, is going to be of immediate use to a blind youth, or of any direct service to him in getting his livelihood; nevertheless, it is certain that with a cultivated mind he is better prepared to play his part in life than with an uncultivated one. They are blind indeed who doubt this, and they would hardly see the blaze of proof which flashes conviction on other minds as soon as presented.

The department of instruction has been mainly under the care of Miss M. C. Paddock, assisted by Miss Sophia Carter, who have given great satisfaction by their fidelity, zeal, and discretion.

Great attention has been paid, as indeed in all preceding years, to the study of music, both in theory and practice. Besides excellent instruction given daily by an accomplished teacher, and the use of good instruments, the pupils have had the great advantage of attending concerts and rehearsals in the city. The whole responsibility for musical instruction has devolved upon Mr. Anthon Werner, who has discharged his duties with ability and success.

The results of the systematic attempt, made about

the same time in different States, to impart musical instruction to a considerable number of blind persons, have curiously illustrated, upon a small scale, the operation of principles which govern more important matters. When institutions for the blind were first established, great expectations were entertained, and great hopes were held out, that all who were capable of becoming organists, tuners of pianos, or teachers of vocal or instrumental music, would surely find employment and earn a livelihood. The public was interested; and a demand was created, which soon exceeded the supply. A great number of blind persons turned their attention to music; and some who were well qualified, but more who were not well qualified, presented themselves in the market. Concerts and lessons by the blind were the order of the day. The market was overstocked, and for the most part with inferior goods; consequently the demand fell, — blind musicians and music were soon at a discount, — and much disappointment, and some suffering, followed. Such was the state of the matter during the years immediately succeeding the establishment of institutions for the blind in the principal States. These things, however, regulate themselves. A few years ago, say from five to ten, there was a general feeling of disappointment; institutions for the blind had not done what was promised; a great many blind persons had attempted to get a livelihood by music, but the majority had failed to do so. It was not considered how suddenly they had been brought forward, and how very inferior was the article they offered in the market.

But another change has taken place, or is going

on. Many of those who without natural ability and without laborious study had taken advantage of the newly awakened interest of the public, and expected that people would continue to listen to and pay for poor music, because made by them, found their mistake. They found that the public tired of poor concerts, and would not take lessons of incompetent teachers; in fine, they found that music could not be made to pay, except by those really masters of it; and they took themselves out of the way. Meantime, others of more ability or more industry kept on resolutely in the study of music, and established themselves in different places, with the determination to be content with small beginnings, and to persevere to the end. The good effects are beginning to be seen. Several have already gained the confidence of the community, and are beginning to earn a comfortable livelihood by teaching music, tuning pianos, or playing the organ in churches. The result shows, that, though the most sanguine hopes entertained at the outset have not been realized, yet very much has been accomplished. It is now established, beyond a doubt, that if blind persons who have a decided taste and talent for music, and a natural aptness for teaching, will labor perseveringly to qualify themselves, they may have reasonable assurance of success. It is with regard to music precisely as it is with regard to mattresses, or any thing else offered in the market by the blind,—at first the public purchases without much attention to quality, out of sympathy with the venders; but it soon returns to the settled principles of trade, and refuses poor articles at any price.

The instruction of the boys in the hours devoted to manual labor and learning their trades, and indeed the general care of them when not in attendance upon classes, have devolved upon Mr. G. T. Murdock, formerly a pupil, and now an able and valuable assistant. The like offices for the girls have been faithfully discharged by Miss M. Neilson.

Both boys and girls spend three hours in the afternoon in various kinds of simple handicraft work, and the employment is beneficial to them in many ways. It furnishes a gentle stimulus to the mental faculties, while it prevents that morbid activity of brain which too much study produces in all young persons, and especially in the young blind. It helps to form regular habits of industry. It trains the body, and especially the hand, to strength, and to activity and dexterity of motion. It is thus not only essential to those who expect to earn their livelihood by working at a trade, but it is highly useful to all, and should be viewed with more favor and less dislike than it usually receives. It is an essential feature in the division and employment of time, in every well-regulated institution for the blind.

WORK DEPARTMENT.

The Work Department has been managed in the same manner as it was the last year, which has been found very satisfactory. A contract was made with Mr. Patten, upon terms, however, a little more favorable to the Institution than the former one. The settlement on the 31st of December, 1851, showed that Mr. Patten had made a net profit of \$ 772.33 ;

the Institution having given him the advantage of the use of horse and wagon. This year the contract was renewed on the following terms. Mr. Patten as agent was to take all the stock and manufactured articles on hand, at the prices named in the account of stock; also to take all the debts as so much cash. He was to make all new purchases of stock, to pay the rent of the store, the wages of his assistants and of the blind workmen, to do his own carting, find his own fuel, pay the insurance, — in a word, to be at the whole expense of carrying on the Work Department. The Institution engaged only to pay the expense of keeping the books by some person, who was to be responsible to it, and not to the agent. In return, the agent is to have all he can make over and above the actual expenses. He is not deterred by the small amount of profits for the past year, but hopes to increase them during the current one.

This arrangement has many advantages. It simplifies the matter very much. It frees the Institution from pecuniary responsibility. It insures economy in the use of stock, and caution against loss through bad debts, by making it for the pecuniary advantage of the agent to save as much and lose as little as possible. The blind persons employed do not board in the house, nor depend upon the Institution for any thing but a supply of work. They are masters of their own time and actions, the same as other workmen are.

The results of the last year's operations may be briefly stated thus.

The assets rendered by the agent in the settle-

ment of the account of 1851, and received by him as so much cash, on renewal of the contract for 1852, were as follows:—

Stock on hand and manufactured articles,	\$ 7,545.46	
Debts due from individuals,	3,453.26	
Cash,	546.55	
		<u> </u>
	\$ 11,545.27	
Balance of indebtedness,	885.88	
		<u> </u> \$ 12,431.15

The liabilities assumed by him were as follows:—

Amount due to the Institution for capital originally invested,	\$ 6,256.96	
“ of debts to individuals,	6,174.19	
		<u> </u> \$ 12,431.15

The settlement, December 31, 1852, exhibited the following results:—

ASSETS.

Stock on hand and manufactured articles,	\$ 9,442.18	
Debts due from individuals,	4,918.23	
Cash,	285.60	
		<u> </u>
	\$ 14,646.01	
Balance of indebtedness,	1,595.88	
		<u> </u> \$ 16,241.89

LIABILITIES.

Amount due to the Institution for capital originally invested,	\$ 6,256.96	
“ of loan for increase of capital,	2,000.00	
“ of debts to individuals,	7,984.93	
		<u> </u> \$ 16,241.89

This shows that the profits of the agent, which amounted in 1851 to \$ 772.33, amounted in 1852 to only \$ 62.33. This sum is of course taken by Mr. Patten, and charged to the establishment, and makes the balance of indebtedness the same as it was

when he first assumed the responsibility; that is, \$ 885.88 + his profits \$ 772.33 = \$ 1,658.21.

This matter may perhaps be made clearer by being stated in another form. When the agent took the shop, it owed to the Institution and to individuals more than it had stock and good debts to show for; that is, its liabilities exceeded its assets by \$ 1,658.21, which was the *balance of indebtedness* against it. The agent was to have all he could make. At the end of the year the accounts showed that the liabilities of the shop exceeded the assets by only \$ 885.88, — instead of \$ 1,658.21 as at the beginning, so that the balance of indebtedness against the shop was reduced by \$ 772.33. This sum the agent took as his profits; it was charged as so much cash paid, and of course brought up the balance of indebtedness to the original sum, \$ 1,658.21. At the end of 1852, he had reduced the balance of indebtedness to \$ 1,595.88; which was only \$ 62.33. This is all his profit for the year; he takes it, it is charged to the shop, and the balance of indebtedness, January 1, 1853, stands as in former years, \$ 1,658.21.

The amount paid to blind persons employed during the year, in cash, for their wages, is \$ 3,993.33, being \$ 305.44 more than was paid the last year.

The amount of sales in 1851 was \$ 18,370.14; in 1852, it was \$ 19,289.74, being an increase of \$ 919.60.

The various parts of the Institution have thus been noticed in detail. For the harmonious working of the whole, and for the general good results, great credit is due to the zeal and fidelity of the

teachers and the general good conduct of the blind. The Institution has now been more than twenty years in operation; it has gone on steadily in its course, and it is a cause of gratulation that that course has not been interrupted by a single obstacle or untoward event of any considerable magnitude or importance.

For the opportunity of aiding in this work of beneficence, and for the great confidence and trust always reposed in him, the Trustees have the thanks of the undersigned.

S. G. HOWE.

A P P E N D I X B .

WHILE the foregoing sheets were passing through the press, the volume containing the full report of the Juries at the Great Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations, in London, was received.

The Report of the Jury upon the Books for the Blind contains much that will be interesting to the blind, and to persons whom this Report will be likely to reach ; and therefore the following extracts from it are made.

“ While the puzzling question of an alphabet best adapted both to the fingers of the blind and the eyes of their friends, was under warm discussion on this side the Atlantic, Dr. Howe was developing his system at Boston, in the United States, and soon made those improvements and modifications which have rendered the Boston press so famous. He adopted the common Roman letter of the lower case. His first aim was to compress the letter into a comparatively compact and cheap form.

“ This he accomplished by cutting off all the flourishes and points about the letters, and reducing them to the minimum size and elevation which could be distinguished by the generality of the blind.

“ He so managed the letters, that they occupied but a little more than one space and a half, instead of three. A few of the circular letters were modified into angular

shapes, yet preserving the original forms sufficiently to be easily read by all. So great was this reduction, that the entire New Testament, which according to Haüy's type would have filled nine volumes, and cost £ 20 sterling, could be printed in two volumes for 16 shillings. Early in the summer of 1834 he published the Acts of the Apostles. Indeed, such rapid progress did he make in his enterprise, that by the end of 1835 he printed in relief the whole of the New Testament for the first time in any language, in four handsome small-quarto volumes, comprising 624 pages, for four dollars. These were published altogether in 1836.

“The alphabet thus contrived by Dr. Howe in 1833, it appears, has never since been changed. It was immediately adopted, and subsequently became extensively and almost exclusively used by the several principal public institutions throughout the country. It deserves only to be better known in Great Britain and elsewhere, to be appreciated. In America, seventeen of the States have made provision for the education of their blind, and as universal education is the policy of the country as well as its proudest boast, these books for the blind soon became in great demand. Dr. Howe some time since proposed a library for the blind, and, with a view of increasing the number of books as rapidly as possible, arrangements have been made between the several institutions and presses to exchange books with each other, and not to print any work already belonging to the library of the blind. This harmony of action, together with the uniformity of the typography, presents so many obvious advantages, that the Jury cannot but wish a similar system were pursued by the Institutions of Great Britain and the Continent of Europe. We subjoin a list of the books printed at the press of the Perkins Institution, in Boston.

“From this list it appears that, exclusive of the three volumes not fully described, 7,903 pages, containing on an

average 77 square inches, have been printed at this press, or more than twelve times the quantity of matter contained in the New Testament. Almost all the books are stereotyped, and small editions are struck off as they are required. They are sold at the actual cost, the cost of the larger works being averaged on an edition of 250 copies. The above prices include the binding; fifty per cent. discount is made for books sold in sheets. The books are embossed in the Institution under the superintendence of Dr. Howe himself, by means of a powerful press, built for the purpose. The sale of books in 1851 amounted to \$427. This, however, is exclusive of the Scriptures. The American Bible Society, which now uses the stereotype plates of the Bible described above, distributed last year 149 volumes of the Bible. In short, the Boston books possess a neatness, clearness, sharpness, and durability of impression peculiar to themselves. The seventh volume of the Cyclopædia is already printed, and the Jury learn with pleasure that the printing of the remaining volumes will be resumed, and probably be finished in twenty volumes, very soon. Want of funds is the temporary and only obstacle.

“ Early in 1833, Jacob Snider, a young gentleman, native of Philadelphia, applied his mind to the contrivance of a method of printing in relief.

“ The alphabet at first adopted was a mixture of the upper and lower case italics, and the relief was produced by heavy pressure on thick paper between two sheets of copper having the letters deeply cut. The embossing was thus on both sides.

“ His first attempt, after printing a few elementary sheets, was on the Gospel of St. Mark, which he completed by the end of 1833, in a large quarto volume, and published early in January, 1834. An account of his first American book for the blind may be found in Poulson’s

American Daily Advertiser, of the 16th of January, 1834. The Four Gospels were soon after printed in Roman capitals; but being found too bulky and otherwise objectionable, they were abandoned, and a smaller, more compact, and sharper type, in the Roman capitals, was adopted.

“ For the list of books printed at the Philadelphia press, see Table.

“ It appears that the Boston and Philadelphia institutions were founded almost simultaneously, and that their presses and system of typography were established without being apprised of the efforts of each other. Time, however, has at length remedied this diversity. The typography of the Philadelphia books is exceedingly well executed, and compares most favorably with the best of the Glasgow books, but the press has ceased to work, and printing in capital letters will not probably be resumed.

“ From the preference which the present distinguished and intelligent Director of the Philadelphia institution, Mr. William Chapin, late Superintendent of the Ohio institution, is known to entertain for the Boston system of typography we may reasonably hope that, when printing shall be resumed there, it will be with Howe’s alphabet. It is the opinion, however, of Mr. Chapin, that all the American institutions should unite, not only in the use of the same alphabet, but that they should all contribute to support one press.

“ It may be remarked here, that the pupils in all the American institutions read fluently in both the upper and lower case letters; but it is presumed that Philadelphia and Glasgow books will soon be entirely abandoned there; and as the Boston books can now be obtained in London at a price cheaper than any of the five different systems of books printed in Great Britain, it is to be hoped that they will come into general use here. If it be thought that the letters are too small for adults to read with ease, books

may be printed with larger types, and even then be less bulky and expensive than any of the systems in arbitrary characters now in use.

“ In the year 1848 or 1849 the Virginia institution set up a press, and has printed several elementary and school books. The Boston type is adopted, with the exception that capitals are used at the beginning of sentences and proper names. This alteration, in the opinion of the Jury, is not an improvement, as the blind are thus compelled to learn two alphabets instead of one. The Virginia books are well embossed, and it is hoped that in future books capitals will be omitted.

“ To the American Bible Society at New York much praise is due for their commendable efforts in the circulation of the Scriptures among the blind. The stereotype plates of the Bible in six volumes, executed at the Boston press, under the superintendence of Dr. Howe, now belong to this Society. They have printed a second edition from the same plates, and annually distribute gratuitously from 100 to 300 volumes.

“ It had ceased to be a matter of surprise in the United States that the blind could read, before the public attention was loudly called to the subject in Great Britain; for we see that in 1836 there were two active printing establishments for the blind in the United States; by one, the whole of the New Testament had been published in a cheap form, in the common lower-case letters, and by the other the Four Gospels in Roman capitals. Let us now return to the Society of Arts of Edinburgh, and their prize medal, to which we have already referred. It was not until the 31st of May, 1837, that the Society's medal was awarded. In 1836, when the nineteen different alphabets were before the committee of the Society, circulars were drawn up and distributed, with specimens of the several alphabets, to the various institutions for the blind in England and Scotland, and every means employed to arrive at a cor-

rect result. The opinions of Mr. Taylor, of York, and Mr. Alston, of Glasgow, seem to have been those which the Society chiefly followed. They were in favor of the common Roman capital letter, merely deprived of the seruphs, or small strokes at their extremities, and accordingly the prize was awarded to Dr. Fry, of London; and on the 31st of May, 1837, a medal was granted to him for the *invention* of an alphabet which appears to have been in use since 1833 in Philadelphia.

“On receiving the Society’s circular in 1836, submitting the forms of all the competing alphabets to him, Mr. Alston was struck with the simplicity of Fry’s, and immediately conceived the idea of making such alterations as he thought necessary, and putting it to the test. The changes made were simply to reduce the side of the letters and render the faces thinner. On the 26th of October, 1836, he exhibited his first specimen of printing in relief in the Roman capital letter, at a public examination of the blind. It was Fry’s alphabet slightly changed to improve the sharpness of the embossing. He then made a successful appeal for a printing fund. After great exertions and most commendable perseverance he procured a printing-press, with two fonts of type, and the other necessary printing apparatus.

“In January, 1837, he issued a few elementary works. By March, 1838, he had made such progress that the whole of the New Testament was printed in four super-royal quarto volumes. The type is great primer, and there are in the four volumes 623 leaves of 42 lines to a page. In December, 1840, Mr. Alston completed the printing of the Old Testament in fifteen super-royal quarto volumes, in double pica type. Of nine of the volumes he printed 200, and of the remaining six, 250 copies. There are in all these fifteen volumes 2,535 pages, with 37 lines on a page. Mr. Alston was justly proud of his great work, the entire Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments, in nineteen vol-

umes. In his 'Statements of the Education, Employments, and Internal Arrangements adopted at the Asylum for the Blind, Glasgow, with a Short Account of its Founder, &c.,' 10th ed., 1846, 8vo, pp. 80, he says, 'This is the first Bible ever printed for the blind'; but in this he was evidently in error, as we have shown that the greater part of it had long before been printed in Boston. We allude to these facts merely because it seems a matter of much regret that Mr. Alston should have devoted so much enterprise and money in producing the Scriptures, when he might have ascertained that they had already been printed, and could have been bought at less money than it would cost him to print them. The main difference between the Glasgow and the Boston alphabets is, that one is in the upper and the other is in the lower case, which difference is certainly not of sufficient consequence to demand two editions. Had he expended the same energy and money in producing other valuable books, and exchanged them with the Boston and Philadelphia institutions, as he was urged to do, the three institutions would have been greatly benefited by the large outlay, and the blind of both countries would have had a great increase to their library. On the 18th of January, 1838, the officers of the Philadelphia institution wrote to Mr. Alston, informing him that they possessed a printing-press, and, 'understanding that you adopt the same character, it appears to our Board of Management that both institutions would gain by an interchange of volumes.' Mr. Alston at once acceded to this proposition, and immediately shipped 150 volumes, being ten full sets of the New Testament, and fifty single copies of the Gospels, besides multiplication-tables and other works. We subjoin a complete list of the books issued from the Glasgow press since its first establishment.

"Since the death of Mr. Alston, on the 26th of August, 1846, the Glasgow press has almost ceased to work.

"A few of the volumes have been reprinted. It is at

present engaged in reprinting the Gospel of St. John and the Acts of the Apostles. Since 1837 it has been almost the only press that has supplied England, Ireland, and Scotland with embossed books in Roman type. These books are typographically well executed, and the Jury think that Mr. Alston and the Glasgow press are deserving of great praise.

“The objections, however, to the small Roman capitals, in which most of the books are printed, are such, that it is to be hoped that ere long this press will follow the example of that at Philadelphia, and adopt Howe’s typography.

“In France, Belgium, Prussia, Austria, Switzerland, and the United States, the Roman lower-case alphabet is used. In most, if not all, of these countries, the institutions for the blind are supported and partially controlled by government, and perhaps this is the reason why, in all of them, nearly the same system of typography prevails.

“In Great Britain, however, the case is different. There are now five entirely different systems of typography in use here, and vigorously pressed upon the benevolent public.

“The unfortunate blind are thus deprived of the advantages they might have if harmony of action and uniformity of typography were adopted. This diversity of opinion is causing great injustice to them, and the Jury cannot but urge upon the parties concerned the speedy adoption of some one system throughout the country. Our opinion is decidedly in favor of Howe’s American typography. Perfection is not claimed for this system, but it seems to us that there are fewer objections to it than to any of the others, and it may be the more easily improved; but any one of the five principal systems now used in England is far better than so many. The present state of printing in the Roman character in Great Britain is, as we have seen already, that every press has been stopped, while the

books in arbitrary characters seem to be increasing and gaining public favor. The principal of these is one known as Lucas's. It was devised by T. M. Lucas, of Bristol, about the year 1835. It consists of arbitrary characters, and is said to be founded on Byron's system of stenography. It is simple, speedily learned, and easily read by the touch, and is generally acknowledged to be of all the arbitrary systems the best.

“If now the New Testament, printed in all the six systems used in the English language, be taken as a standard of comparison, the following table will show the results:—

Systems.	Number of Vols	Size.	Number of Pages	Number of Lines in a Page.	Number of Square Inches in a Page.	Price.
Howe's . .	2	4to	430	—	117	£ s. d. 0 16 0
Alston's . .	4	“	623	42	90	2 0 0
Gall's . .	8	“	—	28	70	2 0 0
Lucas's . .	9	“	841	27	70	2 0 0
Frere's . .	8	obl. 4to	723	—	110	2 10 0
Moon's . .	9	“	—	25	110	4 10 0

“By a comparison of all these lists, it will be found that Howe's books are not only much less in bulk than any of the others, but are also much cheaper.

“The Jury beg to suggest, that a uniform system should be adopted, and that, in future, all books printed for the blind should be printed in the same character.

“Dr. Howe's plan appears simple, easy, and fit for general adoption.

“His system has been fully described, and to it the Jury give the preference above all others.”

LIST OF BOOKS

PRINTED AT THE

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS
ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

WITH PRICES OF SUCH AS ARE FOR SALE.

	No. of Volumes.	Price per Volume.
Lardner's Universal History,	3	\$ 3.00
Howe's Geography,	1	3.00
" Atlas of the Islands,	1	2.50
English Reader, First Part,	1	3.00
" " Second Part,	1	3.00
The Harvey Boys,	1	1.00
The Pilgrim's Progress,	1	2.50
Baxter's Call,	1	1.50
English Grammar,	1	1.00
Life of Melancthon,	1	1.50
Constitution of the United States,	1	1.50
Book of Diagrams,	1	1.50
Viri Romæ,	1	2.00
Peirce's Geometry, with Diagrams,	1	2.00
Political Class-Book,	1	2.00
First Table of Logarithms,	1	1.00
Second " "	1	2.00
Principles of Arithmetic,	1	1.00
Astronomical Dictionary,	1	1.50
Philosophy of Natural History,	1	3.00
Rudiments of Natural Philosophy,	1	3.00
Cyclopædia,	4	3.00
The Book of Common Prayer,	1	
Guide to Devotion,	1	
New Testament (Small),	4	
New " (Large),	2	
Old "	6	
Book of Psalms,	1	
" Proverbs,	1	
Psalms in Verse,	1	
Psalms and Hymns,	1	
The Dairyman's Daughter,	1	
" Spelling-Book,	1	1.00
" Sixpenny Glass of Wine,	1	
Howe's Blind Child's Manual,	1	1.00
" " " First Book,	1	1.00
" " " Second Book,	1	
Total number,	<hr/> 51	

APPENDIX.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE

Dr. *Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the*

For amount paid on orders of Auditors of Accounts, for various disbursements, as per accounts rendered,	\$ 20,104.67
Cash for 10 Shares of Boston and Providence Railroad,	900.00
Balance on hand to new account,	1,030.73

\$ 22,035.40

Boston, January 7th, 1853.

THE undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1852, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the accounts to be correctly cast, and properly vouched, and the balance in favor of the Institution to be one thousand and thirty dollars $\frac{73}{100}$, say \$1,030.73.

The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to the Institution: —

9 Shares in New England Bank,	\$ 900.00
83 “ State Bank,	4,980.00
20 “ Tremont Bank,	1,975.00
16 “ Columbian Bank,	1,600.00
35 “ Atlas Bank,	3,368.75
25 “ Concord Railroad,	1,250.00
10 “ Boston and Providence Railroad,	900.00
2 Certificates City of Boston Water Scrip,	2,000.00

—————\$ 16,973.75

C.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1852.

Blind, in Account with T. B. WALES, JR., Treasurer. Cr.

By Balance on hand, Jan. 1, 1852,		\$1,560.09
" Amount received from State of Massachusetts,	\$9,000.00	
" " " " N. Hampshire,	550.00	
" " " " Connecticut,	785.23	
" " " " Vermont,	897.88	
" " " " Rhode Island,	250.00	
" " " " Maine,	1,000.00	
" " " " Paying Pupils,	536.50	
	<u>13,019.61</u>	
" " " " Legacy of J. Ingersoll,	2,000.00	
" " " " " of Miss Tufts,	100.00	
" " " " Donations,	58.50	
	<u>2,158.50</u>	
" " " " Dividends on Stocks,		1,118.70
" Sale of 30 Shares Columbian Bank,	3,090.00	
" " " 4 " Boston and Maine Railroad,	418.00	
	<u>3,508.00</u>	
Less Brokerage,	8.50	
	<u>3,499.50</u>	
" Sale of Books and Apparatus to other Institutions,		300.45
" Balance of Idiot Account,		378.55
		<u>\$22,035.40</u>

Errors excepted.

(Signed,) T. B. WALES, JR., *Treasurer.*

Boston, Dec. 31, 1852.

Amount brought up,		\$16,973.75
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased June, 1844,	\$765.64	
" " " " " 1847,	5,000.00	
" " " " " 1848,	5,500.00	
" " " " Jan. 1850,	1,762.50	
" " " " July, 1850,	1,020.25	
	<u>\$14,048.39</u>	
		<u>\$31,022.14</u>

(Signed,) JOSEPH N. HOWE,
JAMES HODGE.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

YOUNG blind persons, of good moral character, can be admitted to the School by paying \$ 160 *per annum*. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, &c. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the Institution.

There is a vacation in the Spring, and another in the Autumn. The friends of the pupils can visit them whenever they choose.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the Governor for a warrant.

The following is a good form, though any other will do :—

“ TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR :—

“ SIR, — My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged _____, cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“ Very respectfully, _____.”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the Selectmen of the town, or Aldermen of the city, in this form :—

“ I hereby certify, that, in my opinion, Mr. _____ is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$ 160 *per annum* for his child's instruction.

(Signed,) “ _____.”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form :—

“ I certify, that, in my opinion, — — — has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools ; and that he is free from epilepsy, and from any contagious disease.

(Signed,) “ ——— ———.”

These papers should be done up together, and directed to “ The Secretary of State, State-House, Boston, Mass.”

An obligation will be required from some responsible person, that the pupil shall be removed without expense to the Institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and South Carolina, by applying as above to the “ Commissioners for the Blind,” care of the Secretary of State in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

For further particulars, address Dr. S. G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relations or friends of the blind who may be sent to the Institution are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions : —

1. What is the age of the applicant ?
2. Where was he born ?
3. Was he born blind ?
4. If not born blind, at what age did he become so ?
5. What is the supposed cause of the blindness ?
6. Have there been any cases of blindness, or deafness, or insanity, in the family of the applicant, among his brothers and sisters, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, or cousins ?
7. Were his parents or grandparents affected with scrofula, in any form ; with consumption ; humors, such as salt-rheum ; eruptions of any kind ; or had they any peculiarity of bodily constitution whatever ?
8. Were the parents or the grandparents of the applicant related to each other by blood ? If so, in what degree ?

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION,
FOR 1853.

PRESIDENT.

RICHARD FLETCHER.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

TREASURER.

T. B. WALES, JR.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

THOMAS G. CARY,
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER,
GEORGE B. EMERSON,
NATHANIEL B. EMMONS,
JOSEPH LYMAN,
SAMUEL MAY,
GEORGE R. RUSSELL,
CHARLES SUMNER, } *In behalf of the
Corporation.*

The Board of Visitors, consisting of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, &c., have appointed

THOMAS T. BOUVÉ,
ISAAC EMERY,
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS, } *Trustees in behalf of the State.*
EDWARD JARVIS,

TWENTY-SECOND
ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE TRUSTEES
OF THE
PERKINS INSTITUTION
AND
MASSACHUSETTS
ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND,
TO THE
CORPORATION.

CAMBRIDGE:
METCALF AND COMPANY,
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.
1854.

REPORT.

Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

Boston, January 16, 1854.

TO THE CORPORATION.

GENTLEMEN,—The undersigned, Trustees appointed by your Board, and by the authorities of the State, respectfully submit their Annual Report, and the several documents required by the law.

The Report of the Treasurer will show the condition of the finances.

The several inventories of real and personal estate will show the amount of property of all kinds owned by the Institution.

The Report of the Director will set forth the details of the history and condition of the establishment during the past year. The undersigned, while following the example of preceding Boards, and leaving the immediate care and management of the Institution to the Director, have not failed to satisfy themselves that their confidence was deserved.

The undersigned earnestly commend to the Board and to their successors, the claim of the Institution against the city of Boston for damages.

Six years ago the grounds and gardens, the out-buildings and fences, were all in excellent order. There were gardens well stocked with shrubbery and trees of many years' growth, and there was easy access upon the north and east sides. But the city altered the existing grades, lowered Broadway, and cut through the hills of the east and south, leaving precipices forty feet deep. It was necessary to abandon the establishment and remove into the country, or go to great expenditures of money in the expectation that the city would reimburse it. The latter course was adopted. A heavy embankment and a long flight of steps saved the north side. On the east, a steep embankment just saved the main building, but access there had to be abandoned. The outbuildings and fences had to be removed, the trees and shrubs cut down, and the gardens destroyed, and the whole surface removed and re-graded. The work has been going on during five years, and has but recently been completed by the city, so that the grounds of the establishment could be put in order. More than \$6,000 have been expended from the scanty funds in the treasury; there has been a loss in buildings and fences which \$4,000 would not replace, and there must still be a considerable expenditure of money to finish the work; and when all is done, the access to the main building must ever be inconvenient. During all these years great inconvenience and discomfort have been suffered by the inmates, who have been deprived of their play-ground, and by all connected with the establishment.

The matter has been before a committee of the Board of Aldermen, who have unanimously reported that the city ought to pay the sum of \$10,000 as damages. If this were done, and the Institution were exempted from taxation for sidewalks and sewers, pecuniary justice would be done, but nothing more.

The immediate and special object for which this Institution was originally designed, to wit, the instruction of blind children of New England, has been attained; and so long as the annual appropriations in its favor are continued by Massachusetts and by the other States, so long may every blind child in our borders have opportunities of instruction equal to those enjoyed by seeing children in our best public schools. But, as in every other work of beneficence, the attainment of one object opens to the beneficent mind new objects of interest and new fields of labor. In the present case, two objects of great interest and of pressing importance have been disclosed; the first is, to enable indigent blind persons to earn their own livelihood by their own labors; the second, to provide a library of books in raised print for those blind persons who have learned to read.

With regard to the first, experience has proved that the ordinary wages, or the income, of the common day-laborer so little exceeds his necessary daily expenses, that when, as in the blind man's case, the income falls short, then want presses on his heels. The margin is so narrow, that, no matter how little the income falls below the average, the want is immediately felt, as, in a tread-mill, if the foot lags but ever so little, the heel is ground.

Now some provision is needed by which the blind man's margin may be a little enlarged, so that, while he shall be held to work (as all ought to be who would eat), yet, since through his infirmity his performance is necessarily less than that of other men, the reward for it shall be equally great, or enough to live upon. This principle is sound and plain, and it gives to the blind man a strong claim upon the justice of society. It ought to be acted upon; nevertheless the Institution has not the pecuniary means of acting upon it to any sufficient extent. There is many a blind man, who, because he cannot quite earn his living by work, is obliged to renounce work altogether, and live at public charge.

Another object is the supply of books in raised letters, — a library, in short, for the blind, containing dictionaries, books of science, and standard books of reference.

Both these objects will be fully set forth in the Report of the Director, but the undersigned cannot leave their trust without earnestly commending them to the attention of all who are able to do anything towards promoting them.

Respectfully submitted by

THOMAS T. BOUVÉ,
 THOMAS G. CARY,
 THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER,
 GEORGE B. EMERSON,
 STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,
 EDWARD JARVIS,
 JOSEPH LYMAN,
 SAMUEL MAY,
 GEORGE R. RUSSELL,
 G. HOWLAND SHAW,
 W. D. TICKNOR.

R E P O R T

OF THE DIRECTOR TO THE TRUSTEES.

GENTLEMEN, — The following Report upon the history and condition of the Institution during the past year is respectfully submitted.

The year has been one of pleasantness and prosperity. By attention to the natural laws which govern life, by considering them as divine commands, and by obeying them as nearly as possible, the blessing of health (which is in no other way attainable) has been secured. Death has not invaded our borders, and wherever his merciful forerunner, disease, has appeared, to demand account of some sin against the natural law, the forfeit has been light, and life has been spared.

The number of blind persons connected with the Institution in January, 1853, was, —

In the Junior Department,	61
In the Work Department,	36
	— 97

During the year 1853, there were admitted, —

To the Junior Department,	19
To the Work Department,	8
	— 27
	<hr/> 124

	124
And there were discharged from the first,	6
And from the second,	7
	— 13
So that the present number is	111

That is, seventy-four in the Junior, and thirty-seven in the Adult Department.

The Institution has been conducted upon the same general principles as in former years. The members thereof have pursued their several occupations with regularity and cheerfulness. Their time is divided between the school-room, the music-room, the workshop, the play-ground, and the bed-room. Two vacations in the year give variety to the pupils, relaxation to the teachers, and the pleasures of home to all.

The general conduct of the pupils has been good. Not only have they shown that eagerness for study and that desire for mental improvement which are characteristic of the blind generally, but they have, moreover, been docile and well-behaved. Though under the instruction, and for the most part under the government, of young women, and without any fear of corporal punishment, they have nevertheless rendered ready obedience to all that was required of them. This speaks well for both parties; and the blind and their friends should feel grateful for the gentle firmness and the constant friendly watchfulness with which the Matron and the teachers have discharged their several duties. The undersigned, while painfully conscious of his inability to do much for the daily and hourly pleasure and profit of the blind, has great comfort in the knowledge that

so much is done by the truly gentle and earnest women who are associated in the work.

The same course of study has been pursued by the pupils as in the preceding years, and generally with great thoroughness. Reading, writing, arithmetic, algebra, geography, history, and physiology, are carefully taught and faithfully learned. The study of music continues to be an important branch of instruction, and though not quite so much can be said of the progress of the pupils during the past year as is desirable, still they have made proficiency.

Upon the whole, the record of the year may be filed away among the annals of the past, and inscribed, "Read and approved"; though nothing contained therein should be considered as assuming that all has been done that might have been done, or as lessening the obligation to do more and better in future.

The Work Department for adults has been administered as an independent establishment, according to the policy adopted several years ago. Thirty-seven men and women have been kept supplied with work, by the wages whereof they have been enabled to pay their board at places of their own selection.

The experience of another year shows the superiority of this over any other system that has yet been tried. It gives to the blind certain inestimable advantages in a greater degree than any asylum, any home, or any congregate establishment under whatever name, and however well managed, ever can give them. It lessens their feeling of obligation and increases their feeling of self-respect. It calls into play all the faculties necessary for self-support and self-guidance; but which asylums and homes tend

to paralyze. It gives to every blind man and woman that which we all claim for ourselves, the largest liberty consistent with the rights of others. The best argument in its favor, however, is, that those who have enjoyed it would not willingly give it up for any public asylum that could be provided for them.

The operations of the shop have been more extensive than in any former year. The amount of sales was, in 1852, \$ 19,289.74 ; in 1853, \$ 28,038.58. The amount of wages paid to blind persons was, in 1852, \$ 3,993.33 ; in 1853 it was \$ 4,611.55.

The contract with Mr. Patten, the agent, was renewed, upon more favorable terms to the Institution than before. He was to purchase all the materials, pay the workmen, pay the rent and expenses of the shop in town, keep his own team, in short, assume all the expenses, and make all the sales at his own risk, upon condition that he should have all the profit. The Institution paid the salary of the bookkeeper, and retained general supervision of the establishment. The result shows that the agent has made a loss of \$ 418.67, besides the loss of his own time.

This loss, together with the salary of the bookkeeper, paid by the Institution, makes the net cost of carrying on the workshop fall a little short of eight hundred dollars. This is the worst view of the case. By means of this expenditure nearly forty men and women have been kept employed during the year. They have earned and received over four thousand dollars in wages, and the business has been enlarged so that more persons may be employed and more wages paid in future. Surely twenty-five dollars a year is a small sum to enable a blind man to compete

with seeing workmen, — to put him upon an equality with them, and enable him to earn his own livelihood and to sit at his own hearthstone. There is a more favorable view, however ; for the loss last year is attributable mainly to the failure of two firms with which our shop traded, and by which a loss of \$ 643.77 was sustained. This need not occur again, for although it seems impossible to trade in this community and to keep entirely clear of the crooked, wasteful, and demoralizing course into which abuse of the credit system drives both buyers and sellers, still something may be done by greater firmness than the agent has hitherto shown. Hundreds of wealthy people, and hundreds whose character is more than wealth, present themselves at our counter and buy from one to one hundred dollars' worth of goods, which they expect will be charged to them. And in one sense they have a right to expect it, for in the present universal custom of charging everything, from a skein of thread to a man-of-war's cable, they might well feel aggrieved if credit were refused them. But if they will look at the matter a moment they will not feel aggrieved by being asked to forego, at least when dealing with the blind, a system which is sure in the long run to cause great trouble, loss of time, of money, and of patience.

We are sometimes called upon to make a charge of less than a dollar, — yea, less than a dime, — against very respectable and affluent people. But we will suppose the amount is a dollar. This must first be written down in the "Blotter," then entered upon the "Journal," then posted into the "Leger." Now, to say nothing about "trial balances" and other

botherations of bookkeepers, suppose this bill of one dollar is made out in July or January by the clerk and handed to the boy. He trots up to number seven hundred and forty-eleven Washington Street, rings, and sends in the bill. The lady sends word that "she has not the change in the house, but if the boy will just step down to the counting-room, on Commercial Wharf, her husband will settle it." Away goes the boy to Commercial Wharf, and if he is in luck he catches the gentleman before he has "gone on 'Change." The gentleman says, he dares say it is all right, but then there are so many of those "plaguey little bills" that he had rather speak to his wife about it; and wishes the boy would call up at the house some day after dinner. Accordingly, not to seem too pressing, some day the next week the boy rings at the door, and the servant who hurriedly opens it tells him there is "company to dinner," and she don't like to trouble the gentleman just then, — the boy had better come by and by, — an hour hence. The boy retires meekly, and if he has any other "plaguey little bill" in that neighborhood he goes with it; if not, he considers whether it is best for him to lounge about for the hour, or try to run down to the store and back, when, perhaps, some kindred spirit comes along with a marble or a top and decides the matter for him. At the end of the hour he rings again, and this time it is nearly all right. The lady recollects that she had the article, and that it was a very good one; the gentleman is good-natured, and says he "would be very happy to pay the bill, only he has not change enough about him, but he will try to think to send the amount into the store to-morrow,"

which, perhaps, he does ; but then, again, perhaps he don't. Now suppose he don't, and that the amount is carried to "profit and loss" in despair, who is to pay for the loss? Why, in the ordinary course of things, the other customers. But suppose he does pay one hundred cents for an article which *cost* net ninety-five, and at least fifty-five for collecting, who is to pay the loss? Why, the other customers to be sure.

It is true that this habit of doing business has called into existence a class of adroit and "knowing" men called collectors, who have great success in the pursuit of money "under difficulties," and who prevent some demoralization to shop-boys; but after all, the habit, for it can hardly be called a system, is very bad, at least for our business. It is, however, so common here,—it is considered so much a matter of course, by those who trust everybody, that everybody will trust them,—that many deem it impossible to carry on a retail business without either falling into it, or else giving offence and losing custom. Nevertheless, the habit is so loose and slovenly, so costly, so vexatious to many and unsatisfactory to all, that in the case of our shop a strong effort must be made to break away from it. Our customers are for the most part considerate persons, and will take no offence where none is intended.

It is highly desirable that the business of the Work Department should be increased, in order that its benefits may be extended to a larger number of persons. It ought to have a much larger working capital than it has ever yet had. The scanty funds of the Institution, however, do not suffice to provide for this. Indeed, they do not suffice to carry out other plans of

pressing importance, and which have been so often commended to the attention of the Board, and so often approved by it.

One is the investment of a fund, the interest of which should be devoted to eking out the wages of men and women who can earn nearly, but not quite, enough to support themselves. They can earn enough to pay for three weeks' board in a month, but because they cannot pay for the fourth, and cannot get trusted for it, they must remain idle and be supported by public or private charity somewhere else. They are like people wishing to swim across a river, who have heart and strength for three fourths of the distance, but not for the whole. It is not proposed to provide them a ferry-boat, but to throw them a rope, and to help them to land.

This is a matter which so much commends itself to the hearts of philanthropists that there is strong hope, in a community like ours, of its finding some one who has the will and the means of carrying it into execution.

Another plan is that of providing a fund for printing books for the blind; a plan for the accomplishment of which many who are sitting in darkness are continually hoping.

Greatly as we desire the accomplishment of these purposes and plans, deeply as we may lament that the funds of the Institution do not suffice for all we project and wish for, we must not forget how much there is to be grateful for. The cause of the blind has taken deep hold of the hearts of the people of Massachusetts and of New England, and it will never be neglected. It is as much a matter of certainty that

liberal provision will be made by the public for the instruction of the blind, as that it will be for the instruction of the most favored class. A school or schools for the blind is indeed a necessary part of the system of Common Schools. Nor is this confined to New England. The principal States of the Union have established institutions for the blind within their borders; or have made liberal provision for the instruction of their beneficiaries at other schools. One of the most interesting events of the past year was the Convention of Superintendents and Teachers of the Blind, held in New York in the month of August. There were there present representatives of seventeen schools, and they all gave favorable accounts of the cause of the blind in their various sections of the Union.* When we recall to mind that twenty-eight years ago the good Dr. Fisher and two or three believing friends had obtained an act of incorporation for the first institution for the blind in the United States, but for several years could not obtain means of putting it in operation, and then reflect that they are now springing up all over the country, there is surely reason for gratulation.

These institutions are for the most part established upon a liberal scale, and upon sound principles. They differ from most of the European institutions in two important respects. First, they are not intended as asylums, as places for the maintenance of the blind. They are strictly schools; establishments for the instruction of the blind and their training in some

* The proceedings of this meeting should be put upon more permanent record than the columns of newspapers afford, and they are therefore inserted in this Report as an Appendix.

art or calling by which the inmates can obtain a livelihood.

Second, they are not regarded as charitable or eleemosynary institutions, but as public schools, to the benefits of which the blind have the same right as ordinary children have to Common Schools. They are for the most part administered (as they should always be) upon the principle, that the State is bound to furnish the means of instruction to all children, and since no provision is made for this class in Common Schools, it must be made in special schools or institutions. The adoption of this liberal principle is a great advance upon the system of doling out alms to the blind, or building charity asylums for their support. It takes them out of the category of humble dependents and recipients of charity, and recognizes their social equality.

A still further advance of public opinion will doubtless recognize the claim of the blind upon society for full employment or labor, and sufficient compensation therefor to procure a decent livelihood.

Respectfully submitted by

S. G. HOWE.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE

Dr. *Perkins Institution for the Blind in*

For amount paid on orders of the Auditors of Accounts, for various disbursements during the year, as per account,	\$ 14,327.63
Paid for 5 Shares of new stock, Tremont Bank,	500.00
Balance to new account,	771.08

\$ 15,598.71

Boston, 31st January, 1854.

THE undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1853, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the accounts to be correctly cast, and properly vouched, and the balance to be seven hundred and seventy-one dollars $\frac{8}{100}$, say \$ 771.08.

The Treasurer also exhibits to us evidence of the following property belonging to the Institution : —

9 Shares in New England Bank,	\$ 900.00
83 “ State Bank,	4,980.00
20 “ Tremont Bank,	1,975.00
5 “ Tremont Bank (new stock),	500.00
16 “ Columbian Bank,	1,600.00
35 “ Atlas Bank,	3,368.75
25 “ Concord Railroad,	1,250.00
10 “ Boston and Providence Railroad,	900.00
2 Certificates City of Boston Water Scrip,	2,000.00
	<hr/> \$ 17,473.75

A.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1853.

<i>Account with T. B. WALES, Treasurer.</i>		Cr.
By Balance on hand, Jan. 1, 1853,	\$ 1,030.73	
“ Annual Appropriation from State of Massachusetts,	9,000.00	
“ Amount received from State of Rhode Island,	1,049.00	
“ “ “ “ Connecticut,	712.00	
“ “ “ “ Vermont,	800.00	
“ “ “ “ Less Collection,	1.00	
	<u>799.00</u>	
“ “ “ “ State of S. Carolina,	851.46	
“ “ “ “ New Hampshire,	450.00	
“ Amount received from Private Pupils,	249.50	
“ Balance Miss Tufts's Legacy,	100.00	
“ Amount received from Visitors,	20.20	
“ Dividends on Stocks,	1,190.35	
“ By sale of old materials by Steward,	8.25	
“ Sale of Books and Apparatus to other Institutions,	130.10	
“ Balance of Girls' Fancy-work,	8.12	
	<u>\$ 15,598.71</u>	

Errors excepted.

(Signed,)

T. B. WALES, *Treasurer.**Boston, Dec. 31, 1853.*

Amount brought up,	\$ 17,473.75
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased June, 1844,	\$ 755.68
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased March, 1847,	5,000.00
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased Sept., 1848,	5,500.00
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased Jan., 1850,	1,762.50
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased July, 1850,	1,020.25
	<u>14,038.43</u>
	\$ 31,512.18

JOSEPH N. HOWE, }
 JAMES LODGE, } *Committee.*

APPENDIX B.

CONVENTION OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND TEACHERS OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND.

THIS Convention was held on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of August, at the New York Institution for the Blind, and was called to order by Wm. Chapin, Esq., of Philadelphia, who nominated T. Colden Cooper, Superintendent of the New York Institution, as Chairman *pro tem.*, and James S. Brown, Esq., of Louisiana, as Secretary.

All Superintendents of Institutions for the Blind, and Teachers of the Blind in such Institutions, were declared entitled to seats in this Convention.

The following gentlemen were then appointed the permanent officers of the Convention : — President, S. G. Howe ; Secretary, T. Colden Cooper.

The delegates present were S. G. Howe, Director Perkins Institution, Mass. ; William Chapin, Principal Pennsylvania Institution ; T. Colden Cooper, Superintendent New York Institution ; R. E. Hart, Superintendent Ohio Institution ; Dr. I. Rhoades, Superintendent Illinois Institution ; Dr. Merillat, Superintendent Virginia Institution ; J. M. Sturtevant, Superintendent Tennessee Institution ; W. H. Churchman, Superintendent Indiana Institution ; C. B. Woodruff, Superintendent Wisconsin Institution ; J. S. Brown, Superintendent Louisiana Institution ; Samuel Bacon, Principal Iowa Asylum ; Henry Dutton, Principal Georgia Institution ; David Loughery, Principal Maryland Institution ; Edward Wheelan, Superintendent Missouri Institution ; B. W. Fay, Teacher Indiana Institution ; A. Reiff, Teacher New York Institution ; J. W. Bligh, Teacher New York Institution.

Invitations were extended to Messrs. Russ, Jones, and Chamberlain, former Superintendents of the New York Institution for the Blind, to attend the meetings of the Convention, and to share its deliberations.

A resolution was also passed inviting the managers of the New York Institution for the Blind, and Mr. E. W. H. Ellis, Trustee of the Indiana Institute, to attend the sittings of this Convention.

On taking the chair, Dr. Howe addressed the Convention as follows:—

“GENTLEMEN: I accept with readiness the place and the duty which your vote assigns to me.

“It is pleasant to meet so many delegates from so many Institutions for the Blind. Here are delegates from Institutions in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Ohio, Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Louisiana, beside New York and Massachusetts. But this is not all, for many of the States give generous support to these Institutions, and send to them pupils. When we consider this fact, and look upon this Convention, we have assurance, if indeed any were needed, that the cause of the education of the Blind can never fail in this country for want of public favor or of ardent and able promoters.

“The sight of such a Convention is, moreover, surprising as well as pleasant, for it seems but yesterday (though it is really more than twenty years) that I undertook to organize and put in operation an Institution which had been incorporated four years before in Massachusetts, and I then looked around the country in vain for some one practically acquainted with the subject. There was not then upon this continent a school for the blind, a teacher of the blind, or even a blind person who had been taught by one. I had but an imperfect knowledge of the European schools, and supposed, therefore, that I should gain time, and start with greater chance of success, in what was regarded by many as a visionary enterprise, by going to Europe for teachers and for actual knowledge of all that had been done there.

“I went, therefore, saw what little there was to be seen of schools for the blind, and soon returned, bringing a teacher of the intellectual branches from France, and of the mechanical branches from Scotland. Meantime my old friend and companion, Dr. Russ, had been laying the foundations of the noble Institution in which we are now assembled, and Mr. Friedlander had come from Europe and been urging the inhabitants of Philadelphia to give him an opportunity of showing his skill in the art of teaching the blind, which he had so successfully practised in Germany.

“Dr. Russ has long since turned to another field of philanthropy,

in which he still labors with zeal and ability ; and Friedlander, having successfully finished his work on earth, has gone to receive in heaven the welcome of Well done, good and faithful servant ! All three were thus successful. But, gentlemen, had we all failed in the first attempt, had we all died out of the world, still the work would have gone on, and to-morrow, if not to-day, the many beautiful and flourishing institutions for the blind that now adorn our country would be in existence. God does not leave the fulfilment of his purposes dependent upon such frail contingencies as the life of one man, or of many men. Wherever he suffers an infirmity on an evil to exist, he sows broadcast over the earth in all human hearts the seeds of benevolence, which in due season spring up and bear fruits of beneficence. Hence the simultaneousness of great discoveries, — whether of means for promoting material good or for lessening physical evil ; — the seeds are everywhere, and as soon as the necessary combination of influences arrives, they germinate. In this case they have done so abundantly, perhaps more abundantly here than would have been possible elsewhere. It is nearly fourscore years since the venerable Haüy, amid the prevailing storm of human passions, planted in France the first seed of an institution for the blind ; it is only a score of years since the first seed was planted in this country, yet now we find here about as many institutions as in all Europe.

“ Hence it is that, though in 1830 we might have looked around the country in vain for a single school for the blind, a single teacher for the blind, or a blind person who had been taught in a school, there are now flourishing institutions in most of the great States, from New England to Georgia in the South, and to Wisconsin in the West, — there are ardent and excellent teachers, — there are hundreds of children under instruction, besides those who have graduated from those schools, and who are wiser, better, and happier men and women from having sojourned within them. And let me say, gentlemen, though in no spirit of boasting, that our schools for the blind compare most favorably with those of Europe ; nay, (for why should not the truth be spoken ?) our general system is superior, and some of our schools rank at least equal with the best that can be found abroad. One might say even more, for it is strictly true, that, though this country owes to Europe the first thought of the systematic instruction of the blind, and the first practical effort to demonstrate it, she has already paid the debt with

more than compound interest by great improvement in the general system of instruction, and by valuable improvements in the mode of imparting it. But this is a theme upon which none of us can dwell without danger of encouraging feelings of self-gratulation which had better be suppressed. Let the past be nothing but the lower stepping-stone from which we have attained our present height in our ascent toward the yet unattained height at which we aim.

“ We may well congratulate ourselves, gentlemen, upon the present pleasant meeting. It is the first one of the kind ever held, I believe, in any country, but we may be sure it will not be the last. One of the recognized and undoubted advantages of the present over past times is the greater facility for the concentration of the mental power of many persons upon one particular point. This has been heretofore done by free and rapid interchange of thought through the press. But it is not enough that there be impersonal interchange of thought ; it is found that every department of knowledge and science may be enlarged and explored with greater advantage when those engaged in it can meet face to face, and ‘ magnetize ’ and animate each other by personal intercourse.

“ We see that doctors, who had pored alone over osteology, or neurology, a score of years, — until they thought they knew the metes and bounds of every foramen, the fibres and fibrillæ of every nerve, as well as they knew the shape of their own fingers, — go home from their annual conventions, and take up the dry bones of their skeletons with a feeling that, after all, they had not learned half of what is to be learned.

“ The pursuit of any literary calling in solitude almost surely makes pedants and dullards. The country schoolmaster, doctor, or minister, who mingles not with others of his craft, is very apt to become a conceited pedant, and to consider himself as at the *Ultima Thule* of his profession. The little circle in which he lives looks up to him as a great man ; and he looks down upon it as though it were the world. But attendance upon a great convention of members of his profession takes much of this nonsense out of him, if indeed he has not become so fossilized that nothing but nonsense is left within him.

“ But if it be useful and necessary for persons of other callings and professions to meet together in order to take out nonsense and put

good sense into each other, it is most particularly so for us. The doctor, lawyer, clergyman, and schoolmaster may readily commune with others of the like calling in the daily walks of life ; but not so with us. We live widely apart, — at the nearest, in contiguous States. It is therefore not only pleasant, but it may be highly profitable to ourselves, and to those for whose good we ought to devote our time and thought, that we meet together. I hail this Convention, therefore, with great pleasure, and regard it with great respect.

“ Among the advantages of a Convention like this will be, apart from the pleasure of personal knowledge and personal intercourse, a careful consideration of what are our duties to the public, whose agents we are, and to the class of persons for whose benefit we hold our offices, and for whose happiness and welfare we are, in a great measure, responsible. Our duties to the public and to the blind are not antagonistic, but on the contrary a wise performance of the one favors the performance of the other.

“ Our duties to the public are manifold. The communities in which we live, recognizing the right of all the young to an education at the hands of the public, and finding that the young blind cannot be taught in common schools, have established institutions for their especial benefit. Over these institutions we preside, and in them we take part. We are to see that these are administered humanely and economically. We are to see that, so far as is possible, the instruction and the training shall be such as will tend to improve and elevate the whole morally and intellectually, — to enable the greatest possible number to support themselves, — to lessen the number of those who must continue for life a charge upon the public, and to diminish the expense of their maintenance by enabling them to do something for themselves. This is especially true of the large proportion of indigent blind. The children of wealthy parents are likely to be provided for by them.

“ But our duty to the public does not end here. We are not only to consider individual blind persons, but the whole subject of blindness, in its phenomenal aspect, as part of the natural history of man. We find in every country, and among every variety of the human race, a certain, though a varying, number of the population who are born blind, or who become blind. Blindness, then, is and has heretofore been one of the phenomena in the natural history of

human development; whether it be an inherent and permanent one is another question.

“Now, it is not only very interesting, but it is very important, to ascertain the phenomenal laws of blindness. Is it from an inherent defect in the organic constitution of the human race that so many of its members in every generation suffer under infirmity? Our faith in the goodness and the omnipotence of the Creator forbids us to believe this. Is it, then, that all races of men have gone out of the way, or have never yet got into the true way of life? Is it in consequence of imperfect civilization, imperfect knowledge of the laws of life, and imperfect obedience even to those that are known, that so many lack an important sense, and thus fall short of the normal standard of health?

“Surely natural reverence for our Creator, and the natural confidence that everything which comes from his hand is either perfect in itself or contains within itself the tendencies and the capacities for attaining perfection, must lead us to this latter conclusion. I believe, moreover, that the limited observations that have been made and recorded go to confirm it. If this be so, then we are to conclude that blindness is not an inherent, but an incidental, defect in the human organization.

“If others of this Convention are of the same mind, then they will agree with me that one important duty which we owe to the public is to institute minute and extensive inquiries into all the phenomena attendant upon blindness, so that by collecting and comparing them we may ascertain the laws that regulate the increase or the decrease of the infirmity, and its greater or less prevalence in the community.

“That such laws exist, I, for my own part, have no manner of doubt. Not only do the numerous analogies in the natural history of domestic animals—the propagation of certain physical peculiarities, the eradication of certain defects, and a hundred similar facts—all lead to this conclusion; but close observation of men and families confirms it.

“There are persons among whose offspring the chance that some will have imperfect sight would seem to be at least as one to a hundred; while there are others, among whose offspring the chance of the occurrence of such infirmity is so small as hardly to be appreciable, certainly not as one to ten thousand.

“Nor is this true alone of the chance of children being *born* blind. There are families in which all the children are born with apparently good sight, but the probability of some of them becoming blind is tenfold greater than is the probability that blindness will occur among the children of another family, who are nevertheless to be exposed to the same accidents. I have known more than one person whose ancestral antecedents were such, that, when I have heard of his becoming blind, I have not wondered so much at the fact, as at the lateness of its occurrence.

“These things being so, they clearly point out a duty we owe to the public, not only so to administer our several institutions as that the pupils shall reverence and obey the natural laws which regulate the increase and decrease of blindness, but also to render these laws widely known in the community; and I trust that no squeamishness and no morbid sentimentality may restrain us. We are not only to care for such of the blind as be, but we are to see that there be as few of them as possible to be cared for.

“Call me Utopian, or call me what you may, I believe, as I believe in the wisdom and benevolence of the Creator, that a community may so live in obedience to his laws, that, after a few generations, blindness, deafness, insanity, and other infirmities, (save as the result of accidental violence,) would not appear in it. They would be known only as existing among ‘outside barbarians’ who might call themselves civilized, but who would continue to build vast asylums for those unfortunates who ought to be considered as living and suffering proofs of the ignorance or sin of the community which produces them.

“But while believing in the possible physical perfection of a community, and the possible eradication of blindness and other infirmities, one must keep in view the actual imperfection of civilization, and the present and prospective prevalence of blindness. We have our duty to the blind, as well as to the public; — to the blind as a class, and as individuals. We are to see that, as a class, they understand their rights, and that others know and respect them. It is in no manner their fault that they are blind; the fault is in the community, — in others; the misfortune alone, and the consequent sufferings, alas! are theirs. They are not mere objects of pity, and of cold charity; they have claims upon the sympathy and upon the justice of the community. We are to demand for them, at the

hands of the public, a full participation in the benefit of education, not as a matter of charity, but as matter of right. In one sense it is the community that makes them blind; let the community redress the wrong as far as it can, by giving them mental light.

“A school for the blind is no more an object of charity than a school for those who see. The state admits the right of every child to instruction at the public charge; and if there be children who cannot be taught in common schools, let the state build an uncommon one for their benefit. Our institutions are only uncommon schools. They ought not to be considered charity schools. The blind ought not to be considered charity scholars more than the others.

“But beside the right of the blind child to instruction, the blind man has a right to the means of labor, and to a living by the results of his labor. If the ordinary labor provided by the community cannot be done by him, let special means of labor be found for him. The blind man has stood hat in hand too long already. He has stood by the way-side, where Bartimæus stood eighteen centuries ago, and probably as many centuries before the day of that worthy and all-believing beggar of Jericho, and has asked alms; — let us teach him that he may put on his hat, and ask justice and work.

“We are to lift up the down-fallen. We are to teach the blind to know and to respect themselves, as the certain way of being respected by others. But while encouraging the blind, and inspiring them with self-respect, we are to avoid running into an extreme, and unduly exciting their self-esteem. In this, as in everything else, we should look to and rely upon the truth, sure that, however disagreeable it may seem at first, it will prove more beautiful in the end than the most agreeable form of untruth. Their outward sight is sealed, — let their inward sight be trained to see and love only the pure light of truth. We should let them understand, that, in spite of all compensations, — in spite of all quickening of other senses, — in spite of all the aids and advantages they may have, — they still suffer under an infirmity so grievous in its nature, so important in its effects, both moral and physical, that they must ever be placed at great disadvantage in the struggle of life.

“It is not only true, that, as a general rule, the lack or the loss of sight is an outward sign of inward bodily weakness or disorder

affecting the whole system, — in a word, of defect or inferiority of physical organization; but it is, moreover, true, that it is, in all cases, an impediment, and a serious one, to the attainment of that degree of bodily and mental vigor that the individual might otherwise reach. There is no study, there is no calling, that a blind man can pursue with the same success that he would do, if, with the same efforts, he had the advantages of sight. It is either a myth, that an old philosopher put out his eyes in order the better to study mathematics and metaphysics, or else the man was no philosopher, but a fool.

“Teach the blind what they lack, and in what they are inferior, and they will be all the more likely to make up by diligence and perseverance for their natural disadvantage. By diligence and perseverance, as is well known to you all, the blind may make rapid progress, and attain eminence in all branches of study, the illustrations of which do not require the aid of light and shade. Most of the pupils of the institutions for the blind in this country actually receive a better intellectual education than ordinary children in the same walk of life obtain in the common schools. This arises in part from what is in other respects a great disadvantage, — to wit, the lack of printed text-books, which obliges the teachers to depend upon oral instruction.

“But, happily, in one respect, and that one of the greatest importance, the blind are at no disadvantage. I mean the capacity for development and cultivation of the moral and affectional nature. It needs no outward vision to see the excellence of knowledge, the beauty of truth, the holiness of virtue. It needs no eye to guide the affections to the legitimate objects of love. Ajax prayed for light to see and smite his foes; he would have needed none to know and love his friends.

“But, gentlemen, this subject is too important for me to enter upon in a cursory and informal discourse. I commend it to your serious attention as one of vital importance. You know as well as I do how often the blind manifest moral capacities, spiritual excellences, and affectional emotions of the highest order. You, as well as myself, must have felt that they have sometimes exchanged positions and offices with us, and become our exemplars and teachers of virtues and affections.

“For my own part, when I recall to memory some blind persons

whom I have known, and think of their cheerful resignation to their heavy calamity, — their forgetfulness of their own misfortune in their eagerness to lighten the misfortunes of others, — their abiding faith, their enduring hope, their abundant charity, — I feel that it is I who have been the gainer from the intercourse between us. I prize humanity more highly, I reverence its Author more devoutly, when I see that, crushed and broken by calamity, it still exhales the odor of virtue.

“ But, gentlemen, I will no longer trespass upon your attention, or detain you from the commencement of your labors.”

The Convention then proceeded to business, and discussed the several resolutions and propositions submitted by the committee or by individuals. An animated debate ensued, in which several blind persons, educated in the various institutions, took prominent parts, and gave proof of their talents and acquirements.

The following resolutions were finally adopted, as expressing the views of the Convention.

“ *Resolved*, That, whereas most of the States of the Union are provided with institutions for the education of the blind, this Convention representing such institutions recommend the following resolutions : —

“ *Resolved*, That a permanent provision in aid of the education of the blind, and for a suitable library in the raised letters, should be regarded as a subject of national concern.

“ *Resolved*, That, as Congress has appropriated large portions of the public lands for general education, from the benefits of which the blind have been and necessarily are excluded, their claim for a portion of the proceeds of these lands to aid in their education is both just and reasonable.

“ *Resolved*, That a memorial in behalf of the Institutions for the Blind in the United States be presented to the next session of Congress, asking for national aid by an appropriation of public land, — a portion to be equitably applied to all the States for the education of their blind, and a portion for a specific fund for printing books in raised letters.

“ *Resolved*, That Messrs. Howe, Chapin, Cooper, Brown, and Churchman be a committee to prepare such memorial, previous to the first day of January next.

“ *Resolved*, That it will be expedient for a delegation of pupils from several institutions to visit Washington on the presentation of the memorial, to give public illustration of the success of the system of instructing the Blind.

“ *Resolved*, While this Convention would not discourage the use of any type or character now in existence, they decidedly recommend a uniform type or letter for all future publications for the blind.

“ *Resolved*, That the ‘ Boston letter,’ so called, in which the great bulk of books for the blind have been printed, be preferred as the standard type for all future books printed for the blind, subject to the amendments proposed in the following resolution.

“ *Resolved*, That a committee of three, including the President of this Convention, be appointed at this meeting to examine the ‘ Boston letter,’ to ascertain whether any alteration in any of said letters be expedient, and if so, to recommend its general adoption.

“ *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed by the chair, to consider upon and report to the next Convention a plan for the publication of a periodical expressly devoted to the advancement of education among the blind.

“ *Resolved*, That such committee, if they find it practicable to procure the publication of such periodical as a private enterprise, be authorized, in behalf of this Convention, to secure the commencement of the same under their own general supervision.

“ *Resolved*, That in the event of the commencement of such a publication, the instructors and pupils in all existing institutions for the blind be invited to contribute to its columns.

“ *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to correspond with the ‘ American Bible Society,’ with a view of obtaining from said Society a copy of the New Testament and of the Psalms for every blind person who shall present to them a certificate of the principal of the institution where he or she was educated, that he or she can read, and is unable to pay for such book.

“ *Resolved*, That this Convention do not approve of the recent method of binding the Bible for the blind, by the ‘ Bible Society,’ which unites the leaves so as to present the printing on both sides of the leaf, and accordingly suggest the expediency of the Bible being bound as formerly ; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the officers of the Bible Society.”

Messrs. Wheelan, Churchman, and Sturtevant presented a report upon Mr. Mahony's system of musical notation, which, after some debate, was adopted by the Convention.

“ *Resolved*, That this Convention recommend to the various Institutions for the Blind, and to all blind persons interested in the subject of music, the new system of notation devised by Mr. Mahony, as possessing many advantages.

“ *Resolved*, That Mr. Mahony merits the encouragement of this Convention in his laudable efforts to supply this desideratum in the education of the blind.”

The question of discipline in schools for the blind was discussed at some length, and it was remarkable that all the speakers who were blind insisted that blind children should be subjected to an equally strict discipline with seeing children. It was finally

“ *Resolved*, That the fact of blindness should make no difference in the discipline of children.”

A highly interesting debate followed on the necessity of connecting manufacturing departments with all institutions for the blind, and it was

“ *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this Convention, every institution should offer employment to all its graduates of good moral character.”

It was then resolved, that a committee be appointed to call another Convention of Superintendents and Teachers of the Blind, and that in such Convention each institution shall be entitled to but one vote.

Mr. Churchman was invited to furnish to the next Convention an essay upon the best plan of public buildings for the Blind.

The thanks of the Convention were then offered to the Directors, Superintendents, and other officers of the New York Institution for the Blind, for the hospitalities tendered and courtesies shown the members of this Convention during its session.

LIST OF BOOKS

PRINTED AT THE

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS
ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

WITH PRICES OF SUCH AS ARE FOR SALE.

	No. of Volumes.	Price per Volume.
Lardner's Universal History,	3	\$ 3.00
Howe's Geography,	1	3.00
" Atlas of the Islands,	1	2.50
English Reader, First Part,	1	3.00
" " Second Part,	1	3.00
The Harvey Boys,	1	1.00
The Pilgrim's Progress,	1	2.50
Baxter's Call,	1	1.50
English Grammar,	1	1.00
Life of Melancthon,	1	1.50
Constitution of the United States,	1	1.50
Book of Diagrams,	1	1.50
Viri Romæ,	1	2.00
Peirce's Geometry, with Diagrams,	1	2.00
Political Class-Book,	1	2.00
First Table of Logarithms,	1	1.00
Second " " 	1	2.00
Principles of Arithmetic,	1	1.00
Astronomical Dictionary,	1	1.50
Philosophy of Natural History,	1	3.00
Rudiments of Natural Philosophy,	1	3.00
Cyclopædia,	8	3.00
The Book of Common Prayer,	1	
Guide to Devotion,	1	
New Testament (Small),	4	
New " (Large),	2	
Old " 	6	
Book of Psalms,	1	
" Proverbs,	1	
Psalms in Verse,	1	
Psalms and Hymns,	1	
The Dairyman's Daughter,	1	
" Spelling-Book	1	
" Sixpenny Glass of Wine,	1	
Howe's Blind Child's Manual,	1	1.00
" " " First Book,	1	1.00
" " " Second Book,	1	
Total number,	55	

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

YOUNG blind persons, of good moral character, can be admitted to the School by paying \$ 160 *per annum*. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, &c. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the Institution.

There is a vacation in the Spring, and another in the Autumn. The friends of the pupils can visit them whenever they choose.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the Governor for a warrant.

The following is a good form, though any other will do: —

“ TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR: —

“ SIR, — My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged , cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“ Very respectfully, ——— ———.”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the Selectmen of the town, or Aldermen of the city, in this form: —

“ I hereby certify, that, in my opinion, Mr. ——— ——— is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$ 160 *per annum* for his child’s instruction.

(Signed,) “ ——— ———.”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form: —

“ I certify, that, in my opinion, — — — has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools ; and that he is free from epilepsy, and from any contagious disease.

(Signed,) “ _____ .”

These papers should be done up together, and directed to “ The Secretary of State, State-House, Boston, Mass.”

An obligation will be required from some responsible person, that the pupil shall be removed without expense to the Institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and South Carolina, by applying as above to the “ Commissioners for the Blind,” care of the Secretary of State in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

For further particulars, address Dr. S. G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relations or friends of the blind who may be sent to the Institution are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions : —

1. What is the age of the applicant ?
2. Where was he born ?
3. Was he born blind ?
4. If not born blind, at what age did he become so ?
5. What is the supposed cause of the blindness ?
6. Have there been any cases of blindness, or deafness, or insanity, in the family of the applicant, among his brothers and sisters, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, or cousins ?
7. Were his parents or grandparents affected with scrofula, in any form ; with consumption ; humors, such as salt-rheum ; eruptions of any kind ; or had they any peculiarity of bodily constitution whatever ?
8. Were the parents or the grandparents of the applicant related to each other by blood ? If so, in what degree ?

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION,

FOR 1854.

PRESIDENT.

RICHARD FLETCHER.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

TREASURER.

T. B. WALES, JR.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

THOMAS G. CARY,
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER,
GEORGE B. EMERSON,
JOSEPH LYMAN,
SAMUEL MAY,
GEORGE R. RUSSELL,
G. HOWLAND SHAW, } *In behalf of the
Corporation.*

The Board of Visitors, consisting of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, &c., have appointed

THOMAS T. BOUVÉ,
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,
EDWARD JARVIS,
W. D. TICKNOR, } *Trustees in behalf of the State.*

BY-LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTION
FOR THE
EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

INCORPORATED 1829.

NOW KNOWN AS THE
PERKINS INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

SECOND EDITION.

CAMBRIDGE:
METCALF AND COMPANY,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1854.



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-nine.

An Act, to incorporate the New-England Asylum for the Blind.*

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That Jonathan Phillips, William Prescott, Isaac Parker, William B. Calhoun, Israel Thorndike, Jr., Thomas H. Perkins, William Sullivan, William Parsons, Robert Rantoul, Theodore Sedgwick, Stephen C. Phillips, Richard D. Tucker, John Welles, Samuel T. Armstrong, Thomas Kendall, John Tappan, William Appleton, Samuel A. Eliot, Stephen White, James Savage, Amos Lawrence, Abbott Lawrence, Josiah J. Fiske, George Bond, Edward Brooks, William Thorndike, John Homans, James C. Merrill, Franklin Dexter, John C. Gray, William H. Prescott, Bradford Sumner, Benjamin S. Pickman, John D. Fisher, Isaac L. Hedge, William P. Mason, John Lowell, Jr., Charles M. Owen, Thomas A. Greene, together with such other persons as may be admitted members of the Corporation hereinafter created, according to the by-laws thereof, be, and they hereby are, incorporated by the name of the New England Asylum for the Blind, for the purpose of educating blind persons.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That the said Corporation may take, receive and hold, purchase and possess, any grants and devises of lands and tenements, in fee simple, or otherwise, and any donations, bequests, and subscriptions of money, or other property, to be used for the erection, support, and maintenance of an Asylum

* The name was changed to that of the New England Institution for the Education of the Blind.

for blind persons. *Provided*, that the income of said Corporation, from its real and personal estates together, shall not, at any time, exceed the sum of thirty thousand dollars.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That the Legislature of this Commonwealth, or any committee or officer duly appointed by them for that purpose, may, from time to time, send to the said Asylum, for maintenance and education, such blind persons as they may think proper, which persons so sent shall be admitted to all the privileges, and be subject to all the rules and regulations, of the said Asylum. *Provided*, that the whole number of blind persons so maintained and educated at said Asylum, under the authority of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, shall at no one time exceed thirty.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That the said Asylum shall be under the direction and management of twelve Trustees who shall be chosen annually, and shall remain in office until others are chosen and qualified in their stead; four of which Trustees shall be chosen by the Board of Visitors hereinafter mentioned, and the remaining eight by the Corporation aforesaid.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That the said Corporation may, at their first or any subsequent meeting, choose all necessary and convenient officers, who shall have such powers and authorities as the said Corporation may think proper to prescribe and grant to them, and shall be elected in such manner and for such periods of time as the by-laws of said Corporation may direct. And the said Corporation may make and establish such by-laws and regulations for the internal government and economy of said Asylum, as they may think proper, provided the same are not repugnant to the laws and Constitution of this Commonwealth.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, the President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, with the Chaplains of the Legislature, for the time being, be, and they hereby are, made and constituted a Board of Visitors of the said Asylum, with authority to visit the same semiannually, and as much oftener as they may think proper, in order to inspect the establishment, and to examine the by-laws and regulations enacted by said Corporation, and generally to see that the object of the said Institution is carried into effect.

SEC. 7. *Be it further enacted*, That there shall be paid out of

the Treasury of this Commonwealth, to the said Corporation, for the maintenance and education of each blind person sent to the said Asylum, under the authority of the Legislature, the same compensation as, by the by-laws of said Corporation, may be demanded and is actually received for the maintenance and education of such other blind persons as are at that time residing in said Asylum. And the Governor of this Commonwealth, for the time being, is hereby authorized, by and with the advice of the Council, from time to time to draw his warrant on the Treasurer for such sums of money as shall appear, from a certificate under the hands of the four Trustees appointed by the Board of Visitors as aforesaid, to be the true amount then due to the said Corporation from the Commonwealth, for the maintenance and education of such persons.*

SEC. 8. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall be lawful for the said Corporation, at any general meeting of the members thereof, to alter and change the name of said Corporation, and to substitute therefor such other name as they may deem expedient. And upon such change, so as aforesaid made, the said Corporation shall have, hold, and enjoy all the powers and privileges given by this Act, notwithstanding such alteration and change of name.

SEC. 9. *Be it further enacted,* That Jonathan Phillips is hereby authorized to call the first meeting of said Corporation, by causing a notification thereof to be published three weeks successively in any three of the newspapers printed in the city of Boston.

* By a subsequent act, the sum of \$ 9,000 per annum is appropriated by the State towards the support of the Institution.

BY - L A W S .

ARTICLE I.

THE Corporation shall be composed of the persons named in "An Act to incorporate the New-England Asylum for the Blind"; of such persons as may be at any legal meeting elected members by ballot; of such persons as have been at any time appointed members in behalf of the State; and also of all such persons as shall pay the sum of twenty-five dollars or upwards.

ARTICLE II.

There shall be an annual meeting of the Corporation on the second Monday of January in every year, for the purpose of electing officers of the Institution, at which meeting the following officers shall be chosen by ballot, namely:— A President, a Vice-President, Eight Trustees, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, to serve until the next annual meeting, and until others are chosen and qualified in their stead: Provided, however, that if, from any cause, the officers should not be elected at the annual meeting, they may be elected, or any vacancy filled, at any other meeting regularly notified for the purpose.

ARTICLE III.

Notice of the annual meeting shall be given, by the Secretary, in one or more of the newspapers printed in Boston, at least seven days previous to the day of meeting.

ARTICLE IV.

The President, or, in his absence, the Vice-President, shall preside at all meetings of the Corporation.

ARTICLE V.

The Secretary shall call a special meeting of the Corporation on the requisition of the Board of Trustees, or of any ten members of the Corporation,—notice being given as for the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees, three of whom shall form a quorum, to meet at least as often as once in each month. They shall have power to take any measures which they may deem expedient, for encouraging subscriptions, donations, and bequests to the Corporation; to take charge of all the interests and concerns of the Asylum; to enter into and bind the Corporation by such compacts and engagements as they may deem advantageous; to appoint a Director, and, through him, all necessary officers and assistants, with such compensation as they may deem proper; to make such rules and regulations, for their own government and that of the Asylum, and not inconsistent with these By-Laws, as may to them appear reasonable and proper, subject, however, to be altered or annulled by the Corporation. They shall cause a fair record to be kept of all their doings, which shall be laid before the Corporation at every meeting thereof; and at every annual meeting they shall make a report in writing on the Treasurer's accounts, and on the general state of the Institution; comprising a statement of the number of persons received into and discharged from the same, the employment of the pupils, and an inventory of all the real and personal estate of the Corporation.

ARTICLE VII.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify and attend all meetings of the Corporation, and to keep a fair record of their doings. It shall, moreover, be his duty to furnish the Treasurer a copy of all votes of the Corporation or of the Trustees, respecting the payment of moneys by him.

ARTICLE VIII.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and have the custody of all moneys and securities belonging to the Corporation, which he shall keep and manage under the direction of the Trustees. He shall pay no moneys but by their order, or the order of

their committees, duly authorized. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and have the custody of all moneys and securities belonging to the Corporation, which he shall keep and manage, under the direction of the Trustees. He shall pay no moneys but by their order, or the order of their committee, duly authorized. His books shall be open to the inspection of the Trustees. He shall make up his account to the first day of January, in each year, together with an inventory of all the real and personal estate, and of the debts due to and from the Corporation; and he shall give such bonds for the faithful discharge of his duties, as the Trustees shall, from time to time, require.

ARTICLE IX.

These By-Laws may be altered at any meeting of the Corporation: Provided, that public notice of an intended change is given one week previous to such meeting, and that two thirds of the members present approve the alteration.

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE TRUSTEES.

A MEETING of the Trustees shall be held monthly.
The presence of three members shall constitute a quorum.

VISITING COMMITTEE.

Some one of the Trustees shall visit the Institution as often as twice in each month, in the capacity of Visiting Committee.

This Committee may examine the state of the Institution; the progress, &c. of the pupils; and receive and examine any reports of the Director.

This Committee may report on the state and condition of the Institution at any monthly meeting of the Trustees.

AUDITORS OF ACCOUNTS.

Two of the Trustees shall be appointed annually as Auditors of Accounts, and the Treasurer shall pay no money except upon their order.

DIRECTOR.

The Director shall appoint all Teachers and Assistants, subject to the approval of the Trustees.

It shall be the duty of the Director to be in daily attendance at the Institution; he shall direct the course of studies to be pursued in the school; the work to be done in the shop, &c.

He shall cause an account to be kept of the articles fabricated, and of the sale of the same.

He shall lay before the Trustees, at each monthly meeting, a report of the state of the Institution, and such account to the Visiting Committee as may be required.

He shall cause an account current of the sales and expenditures of the workshop and *sales-room* to be kept, and shall submit the same to the Trustees or Visiting Committee whenever required.

He shall direct a quarterly examination, at which any of the Trustees may be present.

He shall prepare the Annual Report of the Institution, to be presented to the Visiting Committee for revision, previous to being laid before the Trustees to act thereon.

The teachers, assistants, workmen, and pupils shall be under the immediate direction of the Director; and no orders shall be given to them except through him.

ADMISSION OF BENEFICIARIES.

Candidates for admission must be over eight, and under fourteen years of age, and none others shall be admitted except in special cases.

They should produce certificates of incurable blindness from some respectable physician of regular standing. They must be free from any epileptic or contagious disorder, and from any physical affliction that would render them unfit inmates with others.

Beneficiaries should produce a certificate from the selectmen or the overseers of the poor of their town, stating that their parents and immediate relatives are unable to defray the expenses of their education.

They must produce a satisfactory evidence of good moral character whenever it is required.

They must be provided with a sufficient stock of decent and comfortable clothing.

The clothing must be renewed from time to time, as may be necessary, by the parents; anything more than common mending will not be done at the expense of the Institution.

All the articles of clothing must be marked with the name of the owner, *at full length*.

ADMISSION OF PUPILS NOT BENEFICIARIES.

Any blind persons of proper age and qualifications may be admitted to the Institution, at the discretion of the Director. They shall pay at least sixteen dollars per month, one quarter in advance, or give sufficient security therefor.

This sum will cover all the expenses of board and ordinary tuition.

INSTRUCTION.

The pupils will be taught reading, writing, arithmetic, algebra, geography, history, physiology, and such other subjects as are taught in the best common schools ; beside vocal and instrumental music.

They will be required to observe strictly all the rules and regulations of the Institution.

No one can absent himself from the Institution without the permission of the Director ; nor from the school-room, without his consent, or that of the instructor.

The hours for work, for study, and for recreation being established by rule, each pupil will be expected to conform strictly to them.

All will be expected to attend Divine service on the Sabbath ; but each may select his own place of worship, — provided he furnishes himself with a guide.

The Rules and Regulations of the Trustees may be altered by the Trustees at any regular meeting of the Board, provided that notice has been given of the proposed change at the preceding regular meeting, and provided that every member not present at such preceding meeting shall have written notice of the same.

23rd

SENATE...No. 37.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Council Chamber, February 8, 1855. }

To the President of the Senate :—

I herewith transmit, for the use of the Legislature, the Annual Report of the Trustees of the Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

HENRY J. GARDNER.

*Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts }
Asylum for the Blind. }*

BOSTON, February 6, 1855.

His Excellency the Governor :—

SIR:—I have the honor to enclose the Report of the Trustees of this Institution for the year 1854.

It will be seen that the conditions of the grant from the State have been fulfilled on the part of the Institution, by the reception of a greater number of indigent blind persons than is required by the law.

Indeed, all who present themselves are freely received, provided they are of the proper age and character.

There are, in all, seventy-two indigent blind persons belonging to Massachusetts connected with the establishment. Of these, forty-nine are connected with the Junior Department; the others are adults, and employed in the Work Department.

The Report of the Trustees, and other documents, hereto appended, will furnish more minute information about the concerns of the Institution.

Respectfully,

S. G. HOWE.

*Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts }
Asylum for the Blind. }*

BOSTON, January 3, 1855.

To the Corporation:—

Gentlemen:—The undersigned, Trustees, respectfully submit their Annual Report, as follows:—

The year just closed has been, with the institution and its concerns, one of general health and prosperity.

There has been about the average number of inmates in the school and in the work department.

The usual course of instruction and training has been pursued in the school, and the result is satisfactory. The work department for adults has been conducted upon the same plan as during previous years, and about the same amount of business transacted.

It is to be regretted, however, that the institution has not sufficient funds to extend the benefits of this industrial establishment to a greater number of persons, since there are so many who need them. A committee has been appointed to bring this matter before the legislature and to seek further pecuniary aid from the State.

The trustees earnestly commend the industrial department to the corporation and to the public, as a plan of charity which is very simple; which yields a large return of good for a small investment of money; and which is as little liable to abuse and to objections as any plan of public beneficence can well be.

It is desirable, however, that more pecuniary means should be at the disposal of the trustees, in order to extend the operations of this agency of public beneficence.

This is not generally known. The institution bears the

name of a man noted for his wealth and his munificence, and enjoys the patronage of a State noted for its ability and disposition to support establishments of instruction and charity. It is supposed, therefore, to be rich. But it is not so. It has not even the advantage sometimes accruing to an individual, from being supposed to possess wealth; but, on the contrary, its having the name may prevent its having the thing. Aside from its real estate, (all of which is needed for actual use,) the institution has not funds enough to pay an annual income of much over one thousand dollars. It is entirely dependent upon the yearly appropriation from the State. This, with its small income from paying pupils, and other sources, barely suffices for yearly expenses in the immediate duty of instructing and training the young blind. For the means of extending its usefulness,—for printing books for the blind generally,—for aiding adult blind, and for other general purposes of beneficence to this class of the unfortunates, the institution must rely upon a share of that material encouragement which individuals in this community so liberally bestow upon these institutions of public charity, which possess their confidence.

The claim against the city of Boston for damages caused by altering grades of streets, mentioned in the last Report, has been allowed by the authorities, and ten thousand dollars paid into the treasury. This, however, does not really increase the funds of the institution, because nearly as much has been expended in work, fences and buildings, made necessary by the alterations in grades, and the balance will have to be expended before the repairs are completed.

Besides, the city authorities insisted, as a condition of payment of the claim for damages, that their charge for laying common sewers and sidewalks should be allowed. The charge for common sewers was paid without much reluctance, because the institution was in some sense directly and specially benefited thereby; but the charge for sidewalks was paid most reluctantly, because it seemed an unjust one.

This is a matter in which the institution has still an interest, because there are other sidewalks to be laid, and large charge may be made therefor.

There is, for instance, the lot upon which the workshop now

stands, containing about 20,000 feet of land, the situation of which will show how severe this charge may be.

This lot has 500 feet frontage on the street.

The sidewalks are laid 13 feet wide, so that 6,500 square feet of sidewalk must be laid for these 20,000 feet of land; and the cost for this lot alone comes to about one thousand dollars, which is fully equal to ten per cent. on the market value of the land.

This charge is not only enormous in amount, but it seems unjust, and contrary to the spirit of the Constitution.

The Constitution requires that all taxes shall be equally assessed. Now, names do not alter things; and this charge for laying sidewalks, though called an assessment, is really a tax upon real estate; and the question may well be raised, whether it is not an unequal one.

The city claims and asserts ownership of the street, and the benefits of it are for all classes of persons. It says arbitrarily to the abutter, You shall pay for paving one-third of the street in front of your premises; and it might, upon the same principle, make him pay for half, or the whole of it. Does it not, then, lay an unequal tax upon him, since it selects him and makes him pay for a thing in which he obtains no ownership and no right, which other citizens who are exempted from this tax do not obtain? He is made to pay for the sidewalk and to keep it in repair; but he cannot use it any more than others can. The city denies him any ownership therein, and fines him if he leaves a bale of goods upon it; though, by that sort of contradiction which departure from plain principles is sure to involve, it asserts, at other times, that he has an ownership, and fines him if he does not clean off the snow.

It is said that his property is benefited by the sidewalk; but so is property of all kinds benefited; and it is only a question of more or less advantage.

The comfort, convenience and interest of those who do not own a foot of real estate are promoted, as well as his is, by a sidewalk which is public to every body, but which he is obliged to build and maintain at his sole expense.

A benefit should not be conferred,—surely not thrust,—upon a man at the expense of any principle of equal right. Besides, a man should be considered as the best judge of his

own interest, and allowed to accept or refuse what others call benefits.

There is another ground upon which payment of this tax (for such it really is) may be objected to by the institution; to wit, the provision of the law by which the real estate of incorporated public charitable societies actually used by them is exempted from all taxation.

The report of the treasurer, which is submitted herewith, will show the amount of receipts and expenditures during the year, and the amount of property belonging to the institution. It may be remarked here that all bills and vouchers for expenses are carefully audited by a committee of the trustees, and orders are drawn by them upon the treasurer.

The various inventories of personal and real estate are herewith submitted, according to the requirement of the law.

The report of the directors will set forth in detail the condition of the several departments.

The trustees close by commending the institution to the corporation, the legislature, and the public, as an establishment of public beneficence, worthy to be liberally supported and perpetually cherished.

THOMAS T. BOUVE,
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,
EDWARD JARVIS,
WM. D. TICKNOR.

Trustees in behalf of the State.

THOMAS G. CARY,
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER,
GEORGE B. EMERSON,
JOSEPH LYMAN,
SAMUEL MAY,
GEORGE R. RUSSELL,
G. HOWLAND SHAW,

Trustees in behalf of the Corporation.

S. G. HOWE, *Secretary.*

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR.

To the Trustees:—

Gentlemen:—The peaceful current of the past year has not been broken in our simple household by any event which calls for particular notice.

Indeed, but for the requirements of law and custom, no special Report thereupon would be necessary. Gratitude for continued blessings and for uninterrupted prosperity would be none the less felt though no public mention thereof were made.

As it is, the required Report must necessarily be, for the most part, a repetition of former ones.

The school has continued, under the same teachers, to impart moral and intellectual instruction to the young blind; to train them up in habits of regular mental and manual labor; to aid the due development of their capacities and characters, and so prepare them for usefulness and happiness in after life.

The work department has continued to furnish employment, and so give means of support, to former pupils of the school and to other adult blind. Neither of them has attained that degree of perfectness in its operations which is desirable, and which must be ever aimed at without ever reaching; but at least no ground has been lost during the past year; on the contrary, it is believed that something has been gained.

The number of blind persons connected with the Institution, reported at the close of last year, was one hundred and eleven. During the year twenty-five have entered and twenty-two have been discharged, leaving the present number one hundred and fourteen; of these, seventy-two belong to Massachusetts.

The school has been in a satisfactory state, and the classes have made satisfactory progress, considering the condition and capacity of the pupils.

They all lack an important sense, and many of them lack the normal vigor and strength of youth. Some did not have in childhood the advantage of being trained in virtuous and intelligent families, which are the best of all schools.

They have, for the most part, striven to make up for these disadvantages, as the blind may well do, with success. They are all much better for having so striven, and all are much more intelligent and capable than they would have been without the advantage of such opportunities for improvement. Some have been animated by a most laudable spirit, and have made great improvement. They stand, in point of intellectual attainment and moral worth, above the average of ordinary persons of their age.

The same teachers have had the charge of the school and of the boys' workshop, and have continued to merit the confidence so fairly gained by many years of faithful service.

The supervision of all household matters has devolved upon the kind lady who discharged the duty so acceptably the last year. She still cumpers herself with much serving, and is careful of every thing, not forgetting the one thing needful. The value of her ministration of matériel things, however, though great, is small in comparison with the value of the spirit in which they are performed, and which is felt in the moral condition of the household.

Not much has been done in the printing office during the year beyond printing a collection of hymns. The lack of funds has virtually suspended the publication of books for the blind just as the want of them is beginning to be generally felt, and just when, indeed, great improvement in the art of manufacturing them had been made.

Even the Cyclopædia, of which several volumes had been printed, and which promised to be the most valuable work ever published for the blind, has been arrested at its eighth volume. This should not be so; and, if the merits of the case were widely known, it would not be. Among the many in this age and country who feel that next after the necessity of food and clothing comes that of reading, there are wealthy persons who can understand how this necessity must be sharpened by blindness, and who would surely minister to this yearning of the blind for books if they were fully aware of it.

The work department, as during previous years, has continued to furnish employment and means of support to a number of blind men and women. The amount of sales during the year was twenty-four thousand three hundred and sixty-nine dollars and sixty-eight cents, which is a little less than that of the last year. The amount paid in wages to the blind was four thousand three hundred and twenty-five dollars and sixteen cents, which is also a little less than the amount paid last year. The general results, however, have been satisfactory, because the balance sheet* shows a small profit, and because the amount of stock and of manufactured articles remaining on hand at the end of the year is considerably less than at the beginning. Only a part of the work of an establishment is done (and that often the easiest part) when the goods are finished and sent to the store to be sold: they are yet to be disposed of. There is but little satisfaction in a nominal profit on the balance sheet if it is made by rating stock even at market price, so long as the amount of it goes on increasing from year to year.

In estimating the value of stock and manufactured articles on hand December 31, 1854, the same price was assumed as had been done the like articles the last year; there can be no uncertainty about that, therefore. Most of the stock and manufactured articles that were on hand at the beginning of the year has been sold, as has also a large part of the articles made up during the year.

Much of the work has been for churches, several of which have been furnished entirely with cushions from our store. Some of this work has been done upon a plan that is as fair and advantageous for both parties as any that can be devised. The purchaser finds all the materials, or pays all the bills for them, and the work is done for him at our shop at a small rate of profit. Where a purchaser can trust to the honesty of a party, he certainly will find his advantage in this way of doing business.

This matter is earnestly commended to the attention of committees and of persons engaged in furnishing churches or other public buildings. They may, by getting their work done

* See balance sheet for 1853 and 1854, at the end of this Report.

here, be sure of having it done faithfully ; of having due economy practised in the use of materials ; in a word, of making a good bargain for those who employ them, at the same time that they promote the benevolent purposes of the establishment.

Every year's experience furnishes fresh proof of the advantages of the present, on which the work department is conducted, over the old one, and, indeed, over any one of which the practical workings are well known. The relations between the workmen and women and the Institution are the same as between ordinary employers and persons employed, with the difference that the Institution does not seek any pecuniary profit, but, on the contrary, submits to a loss. It does not, however, in consequence of this, seek to control the workmen, or require more than should be required in all well-regulated establishments ; to wit, good moral deportment, and regular and faithful work. It leaves them the largest liberty, and throws upon them the healthful responsibility of self-guidance and control. They provide for their own board wherever and however they choose. They become members of the general community, and do not constitute a community of blind persons. I wish that the principles upon which such establishments should be founded might be well pondered by those who are so zealously and generously engaged in building up, in various parts of the country, schools for the blind, because the policy which they adopt, and the shape which they give to these establishments, will affect the interests of the blind for years, perhaps for ages, to come. These principles show that, whatever may be done with children, all institutions for the government and direction of men, whether political or social, should interfere as little as is possible with individual character and disposition. They should leave the greatest possible freedom for development and for enjoyment to each one. Their functions should be simplified as much as may be, and their operations confined within the narrowest limits consistent with good morals, security and order.

Now, these principles apply to the blind as well as to others. In their application they may need modification, but not change ; because blindness does not necessarily change men in any important moral qualities, however it may modify them ; and it

modifies them much less than is generally supposed—less, certainly, than deafness does. This is most fortunate for the blind, because their welfare and happiness are greater or less according as the consequences of their infirmity lead to greater or less distinctions between them and other men.

If it were not for certain intellectual advantages which he cannot well have out of a school for the blind, a sightless child had better be reared up among ordinary persons, and never associate closely with the blind. Thus would his individual happiness probably be most promoted, and the effect of the infirmity be most neutralized. In organizing establishments for the blind, therefore, we must beware lest any of its features tend to widen the distance between them and others, and to create a class apart by constant and close association with each other. While striving to lessen the physical consequences and disabilities resulting from their infirmity, we must try also to lessen the moral consequences and peculiarities, so far as they may be unfavorable to happiness.

If we bear these principles in mind, and consider that an establishment for the employment of blind men and women should conform as much as may be to general good usage among those who see; that entire personal freedom and self-guidance are as sweet and as important to them as to us; that they are more likely to be happy in a humble lodging of their own, with entire freedom, than in any great establishment which we can organize for them, governed, as it must be, by rules and regulations not of their own making; especially when we consider that communities or families of persons suffering a common infirmity are manifestly unnatural, that they are in manifold ways unfavorable, and are tolerable only in view of certain great advantages,—we shall not regard saving a little money by boarding the workmen together in an artificial home as an adequate compensation for the loss of the various advantages and comforts of the natural homes which they make for themselves in the families round about. It is true that there are sometimes very strong and pressing cases. The question, whether a man shall support himself or remain idle, is sometimes decided by the cost of his board being a little more or less; and here the board in common would save him. But it is better in such cases to make a special effort for his

benefit, and find him additional aid in another way, than to depart from a clear principle.

It is proposed in some institutions to get round the difficulties by providing an establishment in which workmen and women may or may not board, as their inclination or ability decides. But Nature is too broad to be got around; and a compromise of this kind, like most others, must be at the expense of a valuable principle. A boarding-house of this kind would soon become an asylum or house of refuge for those who, by reason of lack of bodily or mental vigor, could not support themselves or come near to doing so. By constant association they would act unfavorably upon each other. The modifications of character flowing from the infirmity would become stronger, because not neutralized by the influence of general society. The mental and moral tone of the inmates would almost necessarily be lowered. The great household would become a community worse than one in which the presence of able-bodied, able-minded, active and intelligent blind persons served as a leaven to lighten the lump.

But what is to become of those who cannot, by their unassisted efforts, support themselves? Ah, that is a serious question; and we must try to solve it in the best, and not merely in the easiest and cheapest, way. Society has too long ignored the just claim of the blind, or tried to satisfy it with an alms. They have a just claim to a share in the labor of the world, and to a comfortable living in payment for their work. They have a claim, too, for a place in the society of the world, and ought neither to be banished to an almshouse, nor set apart in a community of persons laboring under a similar infirmity.

I do not purpose to pursue this subject now; but, before leaving it I desire to mention one of the persons employed in our work department, and who died the last year. His case is deserving of particular notice, because it shows that men of any calling or class of life may be reduced to need such aid as is here afforded, and because such notice is a proper tribute to a good man.

Captain Pratt was a navigator and shipmaster of good standing, and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of merchants in whose employment he sailed. He became blind while still in the vigor of life. His situation was then a sad one. He had

not yet laid in ample stores for the voyage of life; and though he cheerfully put himself upon short allowance, he knew they would not carry him through; and he dreaded coming to want. He had kind friends and relatives; but dependence was painful, and he shrank from the thought of its one day becoming entire.

But what troubled him even more, was the idleness to which he was suddenly reduced. He soon became used to the blindness. It was only having the sky darkened the whole instead of half the time. It was only standing all his watches in the night. If he could only have employment, the rest of the voyage could be pursued pleasantly in the dark, for he knew he should not miss the lighthouse at the end of it.

After a while he heard of this establishment, and removed to South Boston with his faithful wife. They took a snug little house near the workshop, to which he was led daily, in which he soon learned to work. His wife was supplied with sewing from the shop, and their joint earnings eked out their scanty means, so that they were able to live very comfortably.

The captain was nearly himself again. His house was always very tidy and comfortable. He had a snug parlor in which to receive an old messmate, and a spare bed to lodge him in. He had employment; took an interest in it; was busy about it, and therefore cheerful; and so he safely finished his voyage without striking upon the dreaded rock of pauperism.

There may be many such cases. Blindness is accidental to the individual, but not so to the community. It is just as sure, in the actual physical condition of the race, that a certain proportion of the people will be struck by blindness, as it is that a certain proportion will die of consumption.

Saving by accident, neither can occur except in imperfectly organized individuals; and such individuals may become very rare, if not unknown, long before the physical condition of the race reaches its greatest attainable perfection. This, however, must be the work of generations upon generations; and meanwhile we must accept the liability to blindness as one of the conditions of our being, and provide accordingly.

Something has already been gained intellectually. Formerly blindness was regarded as an inscrutable and unavoidable dispensation—one of the many blows struck by a blind

Nemesis upon an offending race; but now men begin to see that it is the plain consequence of a violation of natural laws, and that returning obedience to them will remove it.

Something, too, has been gained morally. Formerly, if a man were struck blind midway in the path of life, he was as surely trampled down and lost as though he were one of an army in full flight from a vengeful foe. Now, some at least are taken by the hand and led along. That many more ought to be, is very certain; and therefore it is that this particular establishment for aiding adult blind persons ought to have further support and great enlargement.

It needs only to be more extensively known, in order to be more liberally encouraged. It has many friends and patrons, and they have our warmest thanks. By giving to the establishment their countenance and patronage, they may be sure of getting their work well done, and of giving employment and encouragement to worthy and industrious persons.

Respectfully submitted by

S. G. HOWE.

*Balance Sheets for 1853 and 1854, showing Assets, Liabilities,
Sales, &c.*

January 1, 1854—ASSETS.

Stock on hand,	\$9,143 93
Cash on hand,	723 46
Debts due,	6,569 12
Balance of Indebtedness,	2,076 88
	<hr/>
	\$18,513 39

LIABILITIES.

Due Institution, Original Capital and Loan,	\$8,256 96
Due sundry individuals,	10,256 43
	<hr/>
	\$18,513 39
Balance of Indebtedness in 1853,	\$1,658 21
“ “ “ 1854,	2,076 88
	<hr/>
Loss,	\$418 67
	<hr/>
Wages paid Blind Persons in 1853,	\$4,611 55
Sales in 1853,	28,038 58

January 1, 1855—ASSETS.

Stock on hand,	\$8,516 60
Cash on hand,	100 18
Debts due,	6,988 35
Balance of Indebtedness,	1,166 95
	<hr/>
	\$16,772 08

LIABILITIES.

Due Institution, Original Capital and Loan, \$4,256 96	
“ “ “ “ “ “ 2,000 00	
“ “ “ “ “ “ 2,000 00	
“ “ “ “ “ “ 3,000 00	
	<hr/>
	\$11,256 96
Due sundry individuals,	5,515 12
	<hr/>
	\$16,772 80
Amount of Indebtedness Jan. 1, 1854,	\$2,076 88
“ “ “ “ “ 1855,	1,166 95
	<hr/>
Profit this year,	\$909 93
Amount of wages paid to Blind Persons in 1854,	\$4,325 16
Amount of sales in 1854,	24,369 68

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION
FOR 1855.

PRESIDENT.

EDWARD BROOKS.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

TREASURER.

T. B. WALES.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

THOMAS G. CARY,
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER,
SAMUEL ELIOT,
GEORGE B. EMERSON,
JOSEPH LYMAN,
SAMUEL MAY,
GEORGE R. RUSSELL,
G. HOWLAND SHAW,

} *In behalf of the
Corporation.*

A. J. BELLOWS,
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,
WILLIAM M. JACKSON,
JACOB SLEEPER,

} *In behalf of the
State.*

TWENTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE TRUSTEES
OF THE
PERKINS INSTITUTION
AND
MASSACHUSETTS
ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND,
TO THE
CORPORATION.

CAMBRIDGE:
METCALF AND COMPANY,
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1856.

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11

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R E P O R T .

Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

Boston, January 14, 1856.

TO THE CORPORATION.

GENTLEMEN, — The Trustees respectfully report for the year 1855, as follows.

The year has been one of general health among the inmates, and of general prosperity in the affairs of the establishment.

The immediate government of the Institution and instruction of the pupils have been in the hands of the same persons who have satisfactorily discharged those duties for so many years. The Report of the Director, herewith submitted, will give more in detail the history of the year.

The cost of carrying on the establishment has greatly increased of late years, owing to an extension of its sphere of usefulness and to the great increase in all the expenses of living, so that the small capital has been constantly growing smaller.

It was in consideration of this fact that the Legislature, at its last session, upon the petition of the

Trustees, increased the annual grant of the State from nine thousand to twelve thousand dollars.

Generous friends, too, have strengthened the hands of the Trustees by timely aid. The executors of the will of Mr. Robert G. Shaw, Jun., made an appropriation from his estate of four thousand dollars, which has been applied mainly to the support of the department for furnishing employment to adult blind persons.

Miss Mary Lamb, by her will, left one thousand dollars, and another maiden lady (whose family, knowing and sharing her desire to give in secret, wish her name withheld from the public) left five thousand dollars for the general purposes of the Institution.

These sums have enabled the Trustees to purchase land adjoining the premises, and so to make a much-needed enlargement of the play-grounds.

As it seems to be the settled policy to retain the establishment in its present location, the Trustees have continued the work of improving the building and the grounds, as fast and as far as the means at their disposal would permit. This necessarily involves considerable expense; which, however, must not be counted as unprofitable investment.

Some other improvements are still desirable, such as a larger laundry, bathing and washing rooms in the east wing, and a better apparatus for warming and ventilating the whole building; but they would involve greater expense than the means now at command will warrant.

The Trustees have also during the year appropriated twenty-five hundred dollars to increase the

capital stock of the Work Department for Adult Blind. This makes the total amount invested thirteen thousand seven hundred and fifty-six dollars and ninety-six cents, besides the building, which cost ten thousand dollars.

This investment, too, must be considered as a permanent, but not an unprofitable one. Indeed, it is to be wished that the working capital could be increased, so that larger purchases of stock could be made for cash, at the most favorable seasons.

Often as the objects of the Work Department of the Institution have been stated, the Trustees will re-state them. There are many young men and women, former pupils in the school, (or persons becoming blind when beyond the age for entering the school,) who have not the ability to teach music, or earn a livelihood, except by the work of their hands. They have been taught handicraft, and are willing to work; but blind workmen, though ever so skilful and industrious, cannot compete with ordinary workmen. If unprotected, they, as the weakest, surely suffer in the competition which surely follows when they go into the market. With few exceptions, they must be helped in some way, or go to the almshouse. Plain as this truth is, it has been too often ignored by the friends of the blind. They have thought it to be enough to instruct them in the common branches of learning, to give them knowledge of some handicraft, and let them take their chance in the world. But the rules of trade have no exceptions, and no saving clauses for charity. Humanity, indeed, admits that every man has a just claim for work, and for bread enough to eat in pay-

ment thereof. But competition is a race with a scramble at the end, and the winner gets not only all he can eat, but all he can carry off. Now, in this race the man without eyes is distanced by the man with eyes, who not only works more swiftly, but whose sight is advantageous to him in various ways. The object of the Work Department, therefore, is to lessen the inequality in the race between them, — to give the blind man a better start, and less weight to carry. This is done by taking off from him certain burdens which the other must carry, such as interest on capital, rent, commissions on sales, and the like. These have been assumed by the Institution for several years, and of course at considerable cost. But a number of blind men and women have been enabled to secure for themselves the whole profits of their work, and to live comfortably, not in an asylum, but boarding in families of their own selection; not in unnatural associations, or families of persons having a common infirmity, but according to the natural way, the infirm diffused among the sound members of common society.

The means are now wanted for extending these advantages to a greater number, for many need them. There are many who could, by great diligence, earn almost enough to support themselves; but as they would fall somewhat short of enough to pay their board in the city, they must remain idle at home in the country, perhaps at public charge.

There should be a fund, the interest of which divided among industrious blind men and women, according to their merits and wants, would enable

them so to eke out their scanty earnings as to live in comfort. The legacy of Mr. Shaw will make a beginning in this way.

The Trustees are happy to state, that the work of printing for the blind has been resumed during the past year, and they trust that means will be provided for carrying it on; because it is a matter which concerns not only the pupils of this Institution, but the blind of the whole country, and indeed of all who use the English language; for, with trifling exceptions, none is done elsewhere.

The *Paradise Lost* of Milton has been printed during the past year, and the other poetical works of the illustrious bard are now in press.

The means for printing *Paradise Lost* were furnished mainly by Mr. J. M. Heady, a blind youth of Kentucky, who conceived an ardent desire that his fellows in misfortune should possess this great poem, and went about his State, and collected nearly five hundred dollars for the purpose. This was not sufficient for so large an edition as was wanted, but nearly so, and the work was undertaken here.

There is something uncommonly interesting about this little circumstance. Less than two centuries ago the blind bard wrote his great work, for which he could hardly find a publisher, and his publisher hardly find readers, in the capital of the Old World; and now it has become of such universal repute, that a blind youth goes about a great State, which in Milton's day was a howling wilderness, and asks the inhabitants thereof, not, as blind men in the olden time were wont to do, for alms, but that he and his fellows may possess this poem and enjoy it. He

asks, too, that the books may be in such form as to be read without eyesight, which Milton would have said never could be done, except by a miracle as strange as any he sang about.

The Trustees hope that this enterprise of printing for the blind may find favor among those who are able to promote it, since the funds of the Institution do not suffice to carry it on as it should be carried on. Any book of merit would be most acceptable; and persons so disposed may cause to be printed any work of their own selection which they think calculated to promote the advantage and happiness of the blind.

The Trustees refer the Corporation to the Treasurer's Report, herewith submitted, for an account of the expenses and the state of the funds.

The several inventories required by law are ready for examination.

Finally, the Trustees commend the Institution and its interests to the Corporation, the Legislature, and the public, as worthy of their moral and material encouragement and aid.

THOMAS G. CARY,	}	<i>Trustees in behalf of the Corporation.</i>
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER,		
SAMUEL ELIOT,		
JOSEPH LYMAN,		
SAMUEL MAY,		
GEORGE R. RUSSELL,		
G. HOWLAND SHAW,		
A. J. BELLOWS,	}	<i>Trustees in behalf of the State.</i>
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,		
WILLIAM M. JACKSON,		
JACOB SLEEPER,		

S. G. HOWE, *Secretary.*

REPORT

OF THE DIRECTOR TO THE TRUSTEES.

GENTLEMEN,— You have been made acquainted with the internal condition of the Institution by your visits, and by the reports which have been laid before you monthly. To the Corporation, however, and to others concerned in its welfare, a general summary may be interesting. Nor need the report be confined to mere statistics, and a recital of what has actually occurred.

In most of the reports of foreign institutions of beneficence there is little more than a list of honorable names of patrons and governors, of subscribers to the funds, and a few meagre statistics. In this country we sometimes run into the opposite extreme of diffuseness; but this is the better extreme. Here the annual reports, especially of institutions kindred to this, serve not only as historical and statistical records, but constitute a sort of periodical literature for the blind and the mute, and furnish an opportunity to those engaged in the management of the schools for setting forth the results of their experience and reflection. Thus the knowledge gained in one place

is made useful in others; and the institutions become mutually advantageous to each other.

The reports of the Superintendents, especially, have contained valuable hints and suggestions, and it is to be hoped that the practice of allowing them full liberty and opportunity of publishing their views will be encouraged.

The observations of simple and earnest men, deeply engaged in any pursuit involving so much care and responsibility, are almost necessarily worth more for practical purposes, than the speculations even of superior men, who give but passing attention to the matter. The Superintendents, being alone responsible for the opinions they express, are thereby encouraged and cautioned; and even if they make mistakes, these may be of advantage to others.

The number of pupils in the Junior Department reported January 1st, 1855, was seventy-nine. Of these, nine left during the year, while twenty-one new ones entered; so that the present number is ninety-one. The number in the Adult Department has decreased, however, being at the close of the year only twenty-three. So that the total number of blind persons connected with the Institution is one hundred and fourteen.

The general health of the inmates has been good. We have to mourn, however, for the loss, by death, of one of the most interesting and promising of them. Miss Julia Graves died at home, during the autumnal vacation, of acute disease. She was a person of uncommon ability, and excellent character. She was greatly beloved here, as well as at her home, and her loss is greatly lamented by many.

This is the only case of death among the pupils for many years ; which is remarkable in view of the fact that the blind, as a class, are more liable to disease than other classes of men, and the average duration of life among them is shorter.

There has been but little change of the persons employed in the School and in the household. The same teachers and officers who have for many years discharged their various duties so diligently and satisfactorily, have continued during the past year to render their valuable services. The good condition of the School and house is mainly owing to their care and fidelity.

Mr. G. T. Murdock, a former pupil, left us during the year to take a post of responsibility in the Institution for the Blind in Kentucky. He had been for several years employed here as master of the boys' workshop, and had general charge of their deportment out of school. He has been of great use, and his large experience will doubtless be valuable in his new sphere. His place has been taken by Mr. McLaughlin, also a former pupil. One teacher and two assistants, all blind, are still useful here. The mention of this leads naturally to some considerations as to the fitness of the blind for teachers.

When the various institutions were established in this country, it was expected and foretold, that, by careful training and instruction, the blind might not only become the best teachers in these establishments, but would also be well fitted for teaching certain branches in schools for common children. The result, however, has not justified even the first of these expectations.

The mode of instruction almost universally adopted with ordinary children, and considered essential in this country, is not such as to give to blind persons a good opportunity of exercising the talent for instruction which they may possess. The reasons for this are various. Prominent among them is the fact that he can exercise but imperfect supervision. The instruction is given to classes; and it is only a rarely gifted person who can keep a class of children attentive and studious more than a few minutes at a time, by the mere interest with which he can inspire them in the subject of study. There will be some whose thoughts wander at once, and they soon draw off others if left unrestrained. Now the teacher's eye is a live whip, and its efficacy is wonderful. The blind man lacks this whip, and though his ear may be so acute that he can hear the rustle of a limb, or a nod of the head, he cannot hear winks and looks. In oral teaching he might darken the room, and gain that superior quickness of perception which a common teacher should have; but this would hardly be allowed.

Nor does the eye act as whip and spur alone, but in various ways it quickens and enlivens the relations which are so important between teacher and pupil. It might be thought that, in teaching a class of blind children, sight could give a teacher but little advantage. It is not so, however; he still has many advantages over the blind teacher, which are not quite counterbalanced by the sympathetic relations which the latter so much more readily establishes with his pupils. This will appear if we attend to certain facts, some of which involve considerations of the moral effects of blindness.

Total blindness is not common among those who are considered as blind. A large proportion can distinguish between daylight and dark; many "see men as trees walking"; others can even distinguish colors. They are known as "seeing blind." Sometimes even when there is such disorganization of the structure of the eyeballs as utterly to prevent vision, the light still affects the nerves, and the person will hardly admit that he is blind. In all these cases the children have a pretty distinct notion of the kind of supervision which eyesight enables others to exercise over them, and they regulate themselves accordingly. They also readily adapt themselves to all those moral relations and social arrangements which are modified at least by the existence of vision among men.

There are cases, though comparatively rare, where eyeballs never existed, or were totally destroyed in infancy; or where the optic nerves are so completely paralyzed, that the person is in total and "ever-during darkness." It would seem that children in this condition would not only be unable to form any clear conception of the sense of sight, but would with difficulty be made to conform to the ordinary modes of life of those whose whole physical relations are so much influenced and modified by the existence of light.

The same difficulty, though to a less degree, might be supposed to exist even with certain moral relations; for these, and many of the "minor morals," are influenced and modified in the same way by light. But there is little difficulty of the kind. It is true that the moral relation among beings with one sense more or one sense less than we have, would be differ-

ent, and to us inconceivably different, from those we hold with our kind. But a man born blind is not in the condition of one of a race of beings differing from us by the lack of one sense, and therefore the difference between us is not utter, and our mode of physical and moral being is not utterly inconceivable by him. This is not the common notion even of philosophical writers, among whom the doctrines put forth by Diderot, in his brilliant but paradoxical letter on the blind, seem prevalent. One or two assertions which he makes, with comments thereon, will illustrate the drift of these remarks.

Finding that a blind man holds thieving in great aversion, he says it arises from two causes, — “the ease with which others can steal from him without his knowing it, and still more, perhaps, the ease with which others would detect him if he should attempt to steal from them.”

There is covert malice or false reasoning here. The propensity to steal arises from the greater or less activity of the desire to acquire and possess, and of the restraining power of conscience. Now the original activity of these must be the same in the blind as in seeing persons, and can be but little modified by the necessary difference of their training. It is true that there is usually considerable difference in the training, and in the external relations of the blind and of those not blind; and if there should be many successive generations of blind persons, the training would affect the stock. A normal condition of the whole apparatus of physical sensation is essential to perfect development of the moral nature, and a *race* of men with one sense less than we have would

doubtless be inferior to ours. But though Nature allows a "wide margin of oscillation," she allows no such aberration as a race of blind men would be. At any rate, we have to do with individual cases only, and in treating these we must always bear in mind that the blind are not a class apart, and that in the main their education is to be conducted upon the same general principles as that of other children.

Again, Diderot says: "The blind man makes little account of modesty. Were it not for the inclemency of the weather, from which clothing guards him, he would not understand its use. He confesses, indeed, that he does not understand why we cover one part of the body more than another," &c.

This is unsound in theory, and contradicted by facts. Modesty is not conventional, but natural. The constitution of the human mind gives men not only the capacity, but the strong tendency, to attain it. The immodesty of savages shows not only their non-attainment, but it shows too that civilization, and not savagedom, is the normal condition of man.

If modesty were merely conventional, it would have been necessary, in the case of Laura Bridgman, to take uncommon pains to teach her its observances, — to give her caution upon caution, and most careful directions as to deportment in various circumstances; and after all it would have been impossible to provide for all contingencies, and to prevent her from violating the rules of propriety in company. But nothing of the kind was done, for it was unnecessary. No particular directions about modest deportment and manners were given her, and yet no maiden ever adopted

them more readily, or observed them more scrupulously. With the development of her intellect came the revelations of the moral nature, and she could read the scripture of her own heart, teaching purity and virtue.

These general reflections are not so wide of practical application as they may at first seem to be. If we consider that the difference between a blind child and one who sees is not a radical one, arising from a specific difference of character, but an accidental one, arising from accidental lack of one sense (and that sense not the most important for mental and moral development), we shall see how easily a class of blind children adapt themselves to those peculiarities of treatment adopted by those whose character and actions are much modified by living in an atmosphere of light. We shall see, too, that, while a blind person certainly labors under disadvantages (moral as well as mechanical), he will feel these principally in his attempt to teach classes in common schools, or classes of young children in schools for the blind. In these cases he cannot compete satisfactorily to himself, or advantageously to his pupils, with teachers of equal ability who have sight.

He can do much better in those cases where he is sure of the interest and co-operation of his pupils, as in teaching a single scholar; or in teaching special branches, as music, or mathematics, to persons of mature mind, or teaching advanced classes in a school for the blind. In these cases the physical or mechanical disadvantages under which a blind person necessarily labors are counterbalanced by certain advantages in mental training which blind-

ness often gives. A blind man who has a thorough knowledge of music or mathematics, and also that fervid impulse to communicate it which gives inspiration to the teacher of anything, will find means to overcome all the difficulties in his way, and teach any person who earnestly desires to be taught.

There are in this country, as well as in Europe, several blind persons who teach with great ability and success, both in schools for the blind and out of them. But the most eminent example on record is that of Saunderson, the celebrated algebraist, who succeeded Whiston in the chair of Mathematics at Cambridge, the same which had before been filled by Sir Isaac Newton. Saunderson's example should be kept in mind by every blind person who aspires to eminence in any branch of learning, for he was in the condition of one born blind, having lost his sight entirely, by small-pox, when a babe in arms. Yet he became a good classical scholar, and a profound mathematician. He was the friend and correspondent of Newton. He wrote elaborate treatises on algebra and fluxions; and what seems next to impossible, he was able to interest and instruct large classes in a great University upon the laws of light, the theory of colors, and other subjects connected with mathematics. His seemed the pursuit of knowledge, not under difficulties only, but impossibilities. He was eminent and useful in life, and his usefulness did not cease with his death; for even now, let any blind person who longs for, yet despairs of attaining eminence in knowledge, only think of Saunderson, and he will take heart and hope.

Our pupils have continued to make proficiency in

the study and practice of vocal and instrumental music, under the charge of their kind and assiduous teacher, Mr. Ansoerge. Almost all who have left carry with them the means of increasing their own happiness, and the pleasure of others, by their acquaintance with music; and some have a fair prospect of earning their livelihood as organists or teachers.

The development and cultivation of musical taste have such refining effect upon character; the love and practice of music, like vigorous growth of healthy plants, so tend to keep down noxious weeds that spring up in every neglected soil; the blind have such general fondness for the musical art; a proficiency in it so surely promotes their own happiness and the pleasure of all about them, while it opens a field of profitable employment to all who have marked ability, — that our practice has always been to give elementary instruction in vocal and instrumental music to all our pupils. The only exceptions are those rare cases where the pupils have defective hearing, or those still rarer cases where they lack the capacity for perceiving and the faculty of enjoying the harmonious relations of sound.

Where there are so many pupils, the instruction must be going on all the time, and upon a great variety of instruments. This makes our great house like a huge smithy, where men with hammers and tongs and files and bellows are fashioning machines. There is clashing and clanging, and drumming and scraping and squeaking, and dire distracting discord; but out of all this confusion comes at last a concord of sweet sounds, and harmony and beauty. Nor

does the advantage end here, but there go forth every year those who will carry the love and knowledge of music to many a distant home, and who will become sources of refinement and pleasure to all about them.

The same policy is observed in most of the kindred schools in the United States, so that there are now a considerable number of blind persons who have been taught vocal and instrumental music. Some of them, having natural gifts, have by great diligence attained considerable skill, and lead useful lives as organists, tuners of pianos, or teachers of music. In this way the debt to the public is partially repaid.

Like most good things, however, this general education of the blind, and especially their instruction in music, is liable to abuse, and it is sometimes followed by an evil which will continue some time, and then probably correct itself. The generous gift of music made by the public to the blind is sometimes met with an ungrateful return; as when the public is pestered by strolling bands of blind musicians, who have no especial talent but that of assurance, and who take advantage of the ready sympathy which their infirmity excites, and get money for music which is so poor that it would hardly be listened to, certainly not paid for, if perpetrated by ordinary persons.

There may be some strollers who really merit attention and encouragement as public performers, but they must be very rare exceptions. Some, too, may be driven into this pursuit by what seems stern necessity; and they are to be pitied. But for the

most part they are persons disinclined to regular and industrious occupation, — persons of idle habits, who love to rove about and frequent taverns, — who delight to excite attention in villages and be the object of public interest. The life they lead is necessarily demoralizing to themselves, and worse than useless to others. Blind persons, especially young women, who respect themselves and regard the class to which they belong, will shrink from a course which is hardly better than licensed beggary.

Such strolling bands should seldom be encouraged by the public. The money which is given from a feeling of sympathy can seldom be of real use, for the strollers cannot long earn a living by such a course. They must go from place to place, and depend upon the interest excited by the novelty of the exhibition; and when this is over, they are left worse off than they were before, because unfitted by the demoralizing nature of their occupation for quiet and steady industry.

Sometimes, however, the public should sternly rebuke blind strollers, for they raise money by falsely pretending that they are authorized to do so by public institutions, or that they are going to print books, or to do something else for the benefit of the blind generally. In this way many impose upon superintendents of railroads, and keepers of hotels, and travel scot-free.

It should be as widely known as the press can make it, that the generous sympathy of the public with the blind has been and still is grossly abused, not only by strolling blind musicians, but by unworthy individuals, who, as agents, as lecturers, and

even as preachers, raise money, and live in free quarters, by falsely pretending that they are laboring for the good of their fellows in misfortune. Many a church, and even pulpits, have been polluted by the presence of such men.

The high character which the blind (as a class) deservedly bear for patient endurance of a grievous infirmity, their general honesty, industry, and good qualities of mind and heart, make the public a more easy dupe of a few lazy beggars or unprincipled impostors.

In the Work Department rather less has been done than during the preceding year. The demand has not been so great. The cost of carrying on the shop, over and above the receipts, has been seven hundred and forty-one dollars and forty cents. The amount paid in cash to blind men and women was three thousand three hundred and seventeen dollars and eighty-one cents; or one thousand and seven dollars and thirty-five cents less than in 1854. Much of the work has been in large orders, as furnishing cushions for churches.

There is usually a sharp competition for these jobs, and we obtain them only with great difficulty. In the first place, there is a natural disposition on the part of the committee of the church to give the work to tradesmen who belong to the sect or congregation; then some of the committee have personal preferences, or their business connections may incline them to favor some particular house; then some of the competing parties, having little to lose in capital or reputation, put in low bids, and, if they get the job, quell any chance compunctions of con-

science by reflecting that, as the committee would have cheap work, they must take up with poor work, — that the workman is worthy of his hire, and that they have a right to a fair profit on the job, whether it was so nominated in the bond or not, — and the like.

There is no business in which substitution of poor stock and poor work for good materials and faithful work can be more easily made, or pass longer undetected, than in upholstery. Happily, in our establishment, no one is subject to the temptations of unjust gain; and the work is always done faithfully and strictly according to contract. The preference, therefore, which church committees sometimes give to the blind amounts to this: “You give us greater assurance than any one else, that you will fulfil the contract in letter and in spirit; — now if you will also take it for a less number of dollars than any one else, you may have it; if not, not.” The workmen are, perhaps, without employment, — they are very anxious for the job, — and we name a price that will barely cover cost, supposing everything works favorably. But sometimes everything does not work favorably, and though we get the contract, there may be actual loss upon it. The cushions, however, are put into the church all the same, and the congregation sit down with the comforting assurance that the committee have furnished the pews in the very cheapest manner, and, at the same time, “have encouraged the blind.” Sometimes the committees give further “encouragement” to the virtue of patience, by withholding payment long beyond the time stipulated, and to the virtue of perseverance by

placidity resisting duns. This is not always the case, however, for some committees of churches and other public buildings are willing to treat our establishment, in their official capacity, with the same liberality which characterizes them in their individual capacity, and which so many of our citizens manifest in their dealings with our shop.

But though the past year has not been one of prosperity with the Work Department, it is, nevertheless, now in a better condition than before to execute orders, large or small; for the workmen have, for the most part, become quite expert in their several callings by long experience.

The workshop of the Junior Department, or the training shop, continues to be useful by making the children dexterous, and preparing them for that manual labor which all should be able to perform, and which many will have to rely upon for support in after life.

This apprenticeship to work is quite as important for girls as for boys, and probably a larger proportion of the former will be able to earn a comfortable livelihood in after life by their own hands. This, however, will not be by working at what are called trades. There is now in this country such a minute subdivision of labor, and such sharp competition for employment, — the work done by girls is so light, and depends so much on quickness of sight, swiftness of hand, and accuracy of movement, — that a workshop for any special trade, carried on by blind girls, cannot compete with ordinary shops, except at considerable loss. Nevertheless, it would be desirable to carry on such a shop, and to teach trades to girls even at a

loss, provided the occupation were such as gave habits of manual dexterity, and were besides such as they would be likely to work at to advantage in after life, at their several homes. It should be borne in mind, however, that all the disadvantages attendant upon congregating blind men together in one establishment are as great, if not greater, in the case of women.

It has not been the policy of our Institution to teach regular "trades" to girls, because there are so many difficulties in the way of employing women advantageously upon them, and because there are so many considerations which render questionable the wisdom of so employing them, even if it could be done profitably, or even at small pecuniary loss.

Our policy has been to teach sewing, knitting, and such simple kinds of fancy work as develop the mechanical faculties, and give dexterity and quickness of hand. In addition to this, the girls are taught various kinds of house-work, laundry-work, and the like.

Employment of some kind in the domestic circle is on many accounts the most suitable for blind women; and many years' experience shows that a larger proportion of them can be so employed with advantage to themselves and others, than was formerly anticipated. We must not indeed infer, that, because an individual blind woman can do this or that kind of house-work, therefore all, or even the most of them, can do the like; but when we see many overcoming difficulties that seemed even to them insuperable, we may profit by the lesson. Now we do frequently see blind women performing domestic offices such as would at first be deemed utterly unfit

for them. They are handy at the needle, and some even fashion garments. They do various kinds of netting, knotting, crochet-work, and the like. They can do common washing and ironing, and wash up floors. They can spread the table, clear it away, wash up the dishes, and put them away. They can make beds, and clean up chambers. They can be useful assistants in the nursery, and in the kitchen. They are not so afraid of the fire, or scalding water, but that many a one will put on the kettle, set the table, get out the caddy, skim a pan of milk for cream, and make herself a nice cup of tea, rather than go to bed without it.

When they are thrown upon their own resources, and obliged to perform such domestic offices for themselves, or for those nearly connected with them, we see so many of them go to work resolutely, and become expert and handy at house-work, that we are inclined to believe too little account has been generally made of the capacity of blind girls for becoming useful domestics. I am confident that too little account has been made of it here, and believe the same is true of other institutions. A greater attention to various kinds of house-work, with a view to domestic service, is perhaps desirable. There are many of our educated blind women who have counted in vain upon their music or other accomplishments as a means of livelihood, and who would now be much better if they had given closer attention, when young, to household work. There are several reasons why more attention has not been given to this matter in public institutions. Among them has been, in some cases, a false pride, on the part of pupils and friends, and

a participation in the vulgar notion of the disreputability of the occupation of domestics. Perhaps this has been fostered by the great interest of the public in the institutions and their pupils, and the general desire to atone for the former neglect of the blind, by doing everything that is possible for their improvement. The zeal of kindness may have unduly warped the policy to the side of indulgence, and when experience demonstrates this, it is the part of wisdom and true friendship to rectify it. A greater attention to various kinds of house-work, with a view to employment as domestics, is perhaps desirable in the education of blind girls. Many of them are so situated as to find pleasant places in the families of their relatives, and those who are not may find friends who by a little extra care and attention, and by a little modification of their domestic arrangements, can give them profitable employment.

It is gratifying to be able to announce that something has been done by our press towards supplying that pressing need for more books, which the education of so many blind persons causes to be more and more keenly felt. The *Paradise Lost* of Milton has been printed, mainly by subscriptions raised by Mr. J. M. Heady, a blind youth, who had conceived a strong desire to confer upon his fellows in misfortune the great boon which such a poem in raised letters would be. He went about his native State (Kentucky), and raised a sum sufficient to commence the work. Further means were found here, not only to print a larger edition of the *Paradise Lost* than Mr. Heady's means would warrant, but also to add another volume, with *Paradise Regained*, Sampson

Agonistes, Lycidas, and most of the poetical works of the great bard who sang so sweetly, though "darkling."

A vigorous effort should be made still further to increase the library of the blind, and there is a prospect that it will be made successfully during the present year.

The several inventories required by law are herewith submitted.

Respectfully,

S. G. HOWE.

P. S. A translation of Diderot's celebrated Essay upon the Blind is about to be put to press.

APPENDIX

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE

Dr. *Perkins Institution for the Blind in*

For amount paid, at sundry dates, on Orders of Auditors, for various disbursements for ordinary expenses, and improvement of real estate, as per account rendered,	\$ 20,135.95
For amount paid H. Waldron and others, for Land at S. Boston,	3,711.00
“ “ “ Theophilus Stover, Land on Broadway,	450.00
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ \$2,811.50	
Less remaining on mortgage,	1,500.00
	<hr/>
	1,311.50
“ “ “ for building materials for Stable, fences, &c.,	1,500.00
“ “ “ advanced to capital of Shop,	2,500.00
“ Cash on hand to new account,	780.47

\$ 30,388.92

NOTE. — This account shows the actual receipts and expenditures only, not the amounts borrowed and repaid during the year.

A.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1855.

<i>Account with T. B. WALES, Treasurer.</i>		Cr.
By Cash from old account,		\$ 152.13
“ Four Quarterly Payments of Appropriation by State of Massachusetts,		10,500.00
“ Amount received from S. Carolina, for Pupils,	\$ 630.00	
“ “ “ “ Vermont, for Pupils,	1,290.20	
“ “ “ “ Private Pupils,	324.50	
	<hr/>	2,244.70
“ “ “ “ Indiana Institution for the Blind, for Books, Apparatus, &c.,	35.25	
“ “ “ “ New York, “	19.24	
“ “ “ “ Tennessee, “	38.00	
“ “ “ “ Iowa, “	120.75	
“ “ “ “ Strangers, “	5.00	
	<hr/>	218.24
“ “ “ “ Dividends on Stocks,	1,199.60	
“ “ “ “ William Oliver's Estate,	225.00	
“ “ “ “ Executor of Robert G. Shaw, Jr.,	4,000.00	
“ “ “ “ “ “ Miss Lamb,	1,000.00	
“ “ “ “ Legacy,	5,000.00	
“ “ “ “ Donations,	5.00	
“ “ “ “ Sale of Stocks,	5,444.25	
“ “ “ “ Mr. Heady, on account of Printing,	400.00	
		<hr/>
		\$ 30,388.92

Errors excepted.

(Signed,)

T. B. WALES, *Treasurer.**Boston, Dec. 31, 1855.*

Boston, 12th January, 1856.

THE undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1855, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the accounts to be correctly cast and properly vouched, and the balance to be seven hundred eighty dollars $\frac{47}{100}$, say \$780.47.

The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to the Institution:—

9 Shares in New England Bank,	\$ 900.00	
17 “ State Bank,	1,020.00	
25 “ Tremont Bank,	2,500.00	
12 “ Columbian Bank,	1,200.00	
25 “ Concord Railroad,	1,250.00	
10 “ Boston and Providence Railroad,	900.00	
50 “ Western Railroad,	4,812.50	
10 “ Boston and Maine Railroad,	1,045.00	
	<u> </u>	\$ 13,627.50
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased June, 1844,	\$ 755.68	
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased March, 1847,	5,000.00	
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased Sept., 1848,	5,500.00	
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased Jan., 1850,	1,762.50	
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased July, 1850,	1,020.25	
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased May, 1855,	3,710.00	
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased Aug., 1855,	450.00	
Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased		
April, 1855,	2,811 50	
Less Mortgage Deed to Mass. Hospital		
Life Office, for	1,500.00	
	<u> </u>	1,311.50
		<u> </u>
		19,509.93
		<u> </u>
		\$ 33,137.43

NATHANIEL H. EMMONS, }
 JOSEPH N. HOWE, } *Committee.*

APPENDIX B.

BALANCE-SHEETS FOR 1854 AND 1855, SHOWING
ASSETS, LIABILITIES, SALES, &c.

January 1, 1855.

ASSETS.		
Stock on hand,		\$ 8,516.60
Cash	"	100.18
Debts due,		6,988.35
Balance of Indebtedness,		1,166.95
		<u>\$ 16,772.08</u>
LIABILITIES.		
Due Institution, Original Capital and Loan,		
4,256.96	+ 2,000.00	} \$ 11,256.96
2,000.00	+ 3,000.00	
" Sundry Individuals,	5,515.12	
		<u>\$ 16,772.08</u>
Balance of Indebtedness in 1854,		\$ 2,076.88
" " " in 1855		1,166.95
Profit this year,		<u>\$ 909.93</u>
Wages paid Blind Persons in 1854,		\$ 4,325.16
Amount of Sales in 1854,		\$ 24,369.68

January 1, 1856.

ASSETS.		
Stock on hand,		\$ 7,428.36
Cash	"	504.04
Debts due,		8,017.59
Balance of Indebtedness,		1,908.35
		<u>\$ 17,858.34</u>
LIABILITIES.		
Due Institution, Original Capital and Loan,		
4,256.96	+ 3,000.00	} \$ 13,756.96
2,000.00	+ 2,500.00	
2,000.00		
Due sundry Individuals,	4,101.38	
		<u>\$ 17,858.34</u>
Balance of Indebtedness, Jan. 1, 1855,		\$ 1,166.95
" " " 1856,		1,908.35
Loss this year,		<u>741.40</u>
Wages paid Blind Persons in 1855,		\$ 3,317.81
Amount of Sales in 1855,		\$ 19,958.60

LIST OF BOOKS

PRINTED AT THE

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS
ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

WITH PRICES OF SUCH AS ARE FOR SALE.

	No. of Volumes.	Price per Volume.
Lardner's Universal History,	3	\$ 3.00
Howe's Geography,	1	3.00
“ Atlas of the Islands,	1	2.50
English Reader, First Part,	1	3.00
“ “ Second Part,	1	3.00
The Harvey Boys,	1	1.00
The Pilgrim's Progress,	1	2.50
Baxter's Call,	1	1.50
English Grammar,	1	1.00
Life of Melancthon,	1	1.50
Constitution of the United States,	1	1.50
Book of Diagrams,	1	1.50
Viri Romæ,	1	2.00
Peirce's Geometry, with Diagrams,	1	2.00
Political Class-Book,	1	2.00
First Table of Logarithms,	1	1.00
Second “ “	1	2.00
Principles of Arithmetic,	1	1.00
Astronomical Dictionary,	1	1.50
Philosophy of Natural History,	1	3.00
Rudiments of Natural Philosophy,	1	3.00
Cyclopædia,	8	3.00
The Book of Common Prayer,	1	
Guide to Devotion,	1	
New Testament (Small),	4	
New “ (Large),	2	
Old “	6	
Book of Psalms,	1	
“ Proverbs,	1	
Psalms in Verse,	1	
Psalms and Hymns,	1	
The Dairyman's Daughter,	1	
“ Spelling-Book,	1	
“ Sixpenny Glass of Wine,	1	
Howe's Blind Child's Manual,	1	1.00
“ “ “ First Book,	1	1.00
“ “ “ Second Part,	1	
Collection of Hymns for the Blind,	1	2.00
Milton's Poetical Works,	2	*
Total number,	58	

* Price varies according to style of binding.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

YOUNG blind persons, of good moral character, can be admitted to the School by paying \$ 200 *per annum*. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, &c. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the Institution. The friends of the pupils can visit them whenever they choose.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the Governor for a warrant.

The following is a good form, though any other will do : —

“ TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR : —

“ SIR, — My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged , cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“ Very respectfully, ——— ———.”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the Selectmen of the town, or Aldermen of the city, in this form : —

“ I hereby certify, that, in my opinion, Mr. ——— ——— is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$ 200 *per annum* for his child's instruction.

(Signed,) “ ——— ———.”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form : —

“ I certify, that, in my opinion, ——— has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools ; and that he is free from epilepsy, and from any contagious disease.

(Signed,) “ ——— ———.”

These papers should be done up together, and directed to “ The Secretary of State, State-House, Boston, Mass.”

An obligation will be required from some responsible person, that the pupil shall be removed without expense to the Institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and South Carolina, by applying as above to the “ Commissioners for the Blind,” care of the Secretary of State in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

For further particulars, address Dr. S. G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

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1. What is the age of the applicant ?
2. Where was he born ?
3. Was he born blind ?
4. If not born blind, at what age did he become so ?
5. What is the supposed cause of the blindness ?
6. Have there been any cases of blindness, or deafness, or insanity, in the family of the applicant, among his brothers and sisters, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, or cousins ?
7. Were his parents or grandparents affected with scrofula, in any form ; with consumption ; humors, such as salt-rheum ; eruptions of any kind ; or had they any peculiarity of bodily constitution whatever ?
8. Were the parents or the grandparents of the applicant related to each other by blood ? If so, in what degree ?

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

FOR 1856.

PRESIDENT.

EDWARD BROOKS.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

TREASURER.

THOMAS B. WALES.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

THOMAS G. CARY,
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER,
SAMUEL ELIOT,
GEORGE B. EMERSON,
JOSEPH LYMAN,
SAMUEL MAY,
WILLIAM PERKINS,
GEORGE R. RUSSELL,
WILLIAM M. CORNELL,
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,
WILLIAM M. JACKSON,
JOSEPH B. THAXTER,

} *In behalf of the
Corporation.*

} *In behalf of the
State.*



TWENTY-FIFTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE TRUSTEES
OF THE
PERKINS INSTITUTION
AND
MASSACHUSETTS
ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND,
TO THE
CORPORATION.

CAMBRIDGE:
METCALF AND COMPANY,
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.
1857.

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

FROM 1630 TO 1800

BY SAMUEL JOHNSON

NEW YORK: 1800

PRINTED BY J. COLLIER

The history of the city of Boston is a subject of great interest and importance. It is a city which has been the seat of many of the most important events in the history of the United States. It is a city which has been the birthplace of many of the most important men in the history of the United States. It is a city which has been the scene of many of the most important events in the history of the United States.

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REPORT.

Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

Boston, January 12, 1857.

TO THE CORPORATION:—

GENTLEMEN,—There has been no change of the usual routine in the internal affairs of the Institution, no change of persons administering them, and no marked event to break the uniformity of the year, so that the Annual Report of this Board may well be confined to matters strictly required by law.

The record of the doings of the Board at their monthly and special meetings is herewith submitted.

The general condition of the Institution has been highly satisfactory to the Board.

The whole number of persons connected with it at the close of the year, also the admissions and discharges, will be shown by the Director's Report.

The Report of the Treasurer shows that, aside from its real estate, the Institution has a capital of only \$ 13,627.50.

The accounts of the Treasurer have been duly audited and certified by a Committee of your Board.

The accounts for the immediate expenses of the Institution have been carefully audited every month by a committee of the Trustees.

The usual inventory of real and personal property is herewith submitted.

THOMAS G. CARY,
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER,
JOSEPH LYMAN,
SAMUEL MAY,
WILLIAM PERKINS,
GEORGE R. RUSSELL,
WILLIAM M. CORNELL,
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,
JOSEPH B. THAXTER.

R E P O R T

OF THE DIRECTOR TO THE TRUSTEES.

GENTLEMEN, — The reports which have been made to your Board at the monthly meetings have kept you familiar with the internal history of the Institution; and a very brief summary may suffice for the usual Annual Report.

The past season has been one of quiet and successful operation of our long established system. Our tried and faithful officers, men and women, have continued to discharge their several duties satisfactorily; and our household, even to the domestics, is one of known and familiar faces. The same persons go on from year to year, working harmoniously together, not merely in view of their hire, but feeling, I think, an interest in the common end, — the good and the happiness of the Blind, — and desirous of promoting it. They are mostly of that class of persons, who, in this country, generally turn from domestic service to occupations which give more freedom for development of individual character, and more chance for what is called success in life. The demand for cheap labor is too often supplied by those who hold their labor cheap.

In an establishment like ours, — in every one, indeed, which is a home for persons in the tender bud of youth, — there are, besides those special methods and appliances which are seen, a multitude of influences which are not seen, but which are more important than the public ones, for developing and forming the character of the inmates. It is not the sunshine and the shower alone which invigorate the plant, but there are forces at work beneath the surface, and in close contact with the very rootlets, that still more affect its growth and strength. A worm at the root may be worse than one in the bud. As no office, however humble, can be filled in a household by a good person without making others better, so none can be filled by a corrupt person without making others worse. Parents of scholars in boarding schools may know the officers and teachers, but they cannot well know those who come in constant contact with the children in the familiar round of domestic life, and whose power, if for good, must be greater than that of teachers, but, by the same stern law, must be greater, too, if for evil. It is apt to be for evil when one of the bonds of sympathy between the adult and the child is a common low plane of knowledge. It therefore becomes those in charge of public institutions for the nurture of youth to be careful in the selection of those whom they employ, even in the humblest offices.

In respect to our household influences, I think we are, all things considered, peculiarly favored; and for this we are mainly indebted to our pains-taking and self-sacrificing Matron.

The pupils, taken as a whole, are not so much

distinguished as those of some former years for intellectual activity, but their general conduct has been good. The infusion of the Celtic element, though not as yet very large, has perhaps lowered the average intellectual standard.

The measles invaded the household in a severe form last Spring, and proved fatal in one case. Two other pupils died of chronic disease at their homes in the country ; but, notwithstanding this uncommon mortality, it has been a season of good health in our large household. Our nursery has generally been empty ; our physician's office a sinecure ; and the apothecary, if dependent on us, would soon find his occupation gone.

The total number of inmates reported in January, 1856, was one hundred and fourteen. Since then sixteen have entered, while three have died, and eighteen have left, leaving the present number one hundred and nine, of whom twenty-five belong to the Work Department, and do not form part of the household. This number is small in proportion to the population of those States whence our pupils come. It is small too in proportion to the capacities of our Institution, and the scale of our establishment ; for, with little or no increase of force in the school or in the household department, a larger number might be received. Doubtless there are certain advantages to the pupils in having the number kept down ; and there are very obvious objections to an overgrown household.

Judging by the principles which govern kindred establishments, it is clear that two schools of one hundred and twenty-five scholars each would be bet-

ter than one of two hundred and fifty. Perhaps, indeed, the maximum number, taking in view the best interests of the pupils, would be nearer one hundred than two hundred. Certain it is, that the number of pupils should not be too great for the directing head to have personal, and minute, and daily knowledge of each member. Our number clearly falls short of that which, all things considered, it ought to be; and measures should be taken to increase it. The fact that the towns and counties lying nearest to Boston send the greatest proportion of pupils, and that the numbers decrease as the distance increases, shows that we have only to give greater publicity to the Institution in the remote sections of New England, to procure an increased number.

Our Work Department has given steady employment to the men and women engaged in it, and their number remains about the same. Without receiving any gratuity, without any feeling of dependence, without any restraint except from that law of self-control which every honest man obeys, these persons, living where they choose and as they choose, continue to bear witness in their lives to the wisdom of our present system, and to its superiority over the former one. Not one of them, at least not one American, hard as he is obliged to work, and poor as may be his fare, would willingly exchange the little home of his own choosing or making for any public Asylum, however light might be its restraint, and reasonable its rulers. Other localities and other circumstances may require different modes of employing the adult blind, but I trust none will be introduced into New

England but such as will encourage them to have homes of their own, to mingle with the world, and to practise those habits of self-reliance and self-government which are absolutely essential to manly character.

The work is conducted in this Department exactly as in ordinary business establishments. The shop and sales-room are as distinct from the Institution proper, as a merchant's factory and sales-room are from his dwelling-house. There can, therefore, be no uncertainty about the profit or loss.

Taking one year with another, for the last seven years, it has cost the Institution to support the Work Department the interest on the money invested in the building, and on the capital originally advanced for purchase of machinery and stock.

There is no yearly charge or allowance from the general treasury, except four hundred dollars for the salary of a book-keeper. The profit and loss account of the shop has varied each year, and the exact amount has been set forth in each Annual Report.

During the past year, the sales have been nineteen thousand seven hundred and twenty-six dollars and three cents, which is less than the preceding year by two hundred and thirty-two dollars and fifty-seven cents. The amount paid in cash to blind men and women, as wages for their work, was four thousand one hundred and fourteen dollars and ninety-four cents, or seven hundred and ninety-seven dollars and thirteen cents more than in 1855.

Music continues to form a prominent branch of our system of instruction, and the pupils have given much attention to the study and practice of it during

the past year. There has manifestly been a revival of the enthusiasm for music which characterized our establishment many years ago. The pupils are willing not only to play, but to work.

While on this subject, it may be well to revert to an evil mentioned in a former Report; and, as the evil is not yet entirely cured, to repeat what was then said, in the hope that by the wider spread of correct views the public may learn that discrimination without which they are apt, while giving alms, to sow tares which may spring up and plague posterity.

“It has always been part of our system to give to music a prominent place in our course of instruction.

“The same policy has been observed in most of the kindred schools in the United States, so that there are now a considerable number of blind persons who have been taught vocal and instrumental music. Some of them, having natural gifts, have by great diligence attained considerable skill, and lead useful lives as organists, tuners of pianos, or teachers of music. In this way the debt to the public is partially repaid.

“Like most good things, however, this general education of the blind, and especially their instruction in music, is liable to abuse, and it is sometimes followed by an evil which will continue some time, and then probably correct itself. The generous gift of music made by the public to the blind is sometimes met with an ungrateful return; as when the public is pestered by strolling bands of blind musicians, who have no especial talent but that of assurance, and who take advantage of the ready sympathy which their infirmity excites, and get money for music

which is so poor that it would hardly be listened to, certainly not paid for, if perpetrated by ordinary persons.

“There may be some strollers who really merit attention and encouragement as public performers, but they must be very rare exceptions. Some, too, may be driven into this pursuit by what seems stern necessity; and they are to be pitied. But for the most part they are persons disinclined to regular and industrious occupation, — persons of idle habits, who love to rove about and frequent taverns, — who delight to excite attention in villages and be the object of public interest. The life they lead is necessarily demoralizing to themselves, and worse than useless to others. Blind persons, especially young women, who respect themselves and regard the class to which they belong, will shrink from a course which is hardly better than licensed beggary.

“Such strolling bands should seldom be encouraged by the public. The money which is given from a feeling of sympathy can seldom be of real use, for the strollers cannot long earn a living by such a course. They must go from place to place, and depend upon the interest excited by the novelty of the exhibition; and when this is over, they are left worse off than they were before, because unfitted by the demoralizing nature of their occupation for quiet and steady industry.”

“Sometimes, however, the public should sternly rebuke blind strollers, for they raise money by falsely pretending that they are authorized to do so by public institutions, or that they are going to print books, or to do something else for the benefit of the blind

generally. In this way many impose upon superintendents of railroads, and keepers of hotels, and travel scot-free.

“It should be as widely known as the press can make it, that the generous sympathy of the public with the blind has been and still is grossly abused, not only by strolling blind musicians, but by unworthy individuals, who, as agents, as lecturers, and even as preachers, raise money, and live in free quarters, by falsely pretending that they are laboring for the good of their fellows in misfortune. Many a church, and even pulpits, have been polluted by the presence of such men.”

Our press has continued to add its contributions to the scanty literature to which the Blind can have access, without the help of those who see. A Third Reading-Book for beginners has been printed; also Diderot's Essay. We have now in press, Combe on the Constitution of Man.

The work of printing for the blind must be very slow and expensive. It cannot flourish as a commercial enterprise. There cannot be any money made out of it. There is, indeed, a desire for the books among a large class of persons, but there is no commercial demand, because the blind are proverbially poor. We have occasional orders from individuals in this country and in England. The principal demand, however, is from the public institutions of the United States, and this is altogether too small to give any commercial stimulus. The whole amount of our sales last year was only five hundred and sixty-one dollars. Even this probably was much more than the amount of sales by any other establish-

ment in this country. From what I can learn of European institutions, it seems that none of them make any considerable sales. Indeed, printing for the blind there is, in most cases, a mere matter of show. It proves what may be done for the blind, but does not much toward accomplishing it.

The work, however, will not always languish. There may be some contrivance by which sounds shall be represented in tangible characters, and in a form so compact, as to reduce the size of books to a mere fraction of their present enormous bulk. But more probably the matter will attract the attention of some beneficent and wealthy person, who will see that money invested in this enterprise will bring forth fruit of blessing an hundred fold.

Until then, we must work patiently on, each one in his humble way doing all he can to promote the desired object, and confident that, sooner or latter, by means now seen or unseen, there will be a Library for the Blind worthy the name.

The usual inventories and accounts are herewith submitted.

Respectfully,

S. G. HOWE.

A P P E N D I X

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE

Dr. *The Perkins Institution for the Blind in*

For amount paid, at sundry dates, on orders of Auditors, for various disbursements for expenses, as per account rendered,	\$ 17,963.51
Interest on Mr. Stover's mortgage,	90.00
Balance to new account,	1,193.85

\$ 19,247.36

A.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1856.

Account with T. B. WALES, Treasurer.

Cr.

By Cash from old account,		\$ 780.47
“ Four quarterly payments of Appropriation by State of Massachusetts,		12,000.00
“ Amt. received from State Rhode Island for Pupils, \$ 732.96		
“ “ “ “ Vermont, “	1,160.00	
“ “ “ “ South Carolina, “	226.00	
“ “ “ “ Connecticut, “	1,745.17	
“ “ “ “ Maine, “	731.05	
“ “ “ “ private pupils, . . .	108.50	
		<hr/> 4,703.68
“ “ “ for books, apparatus, &c. from Louisiana Institution for Blind,	82.50	
“ “ “ from Ohio “ “	21.00	
“ “ “ “ Georgia, “ “	52.12	
“ “ “ “ Illinois “ “	66.00	
“ “ “ “ New York “ “	75.50	
“ “ “ “ E. Winfield,	2.00	
“ “ “ “ Mr. Heady,	195.00	
“ “ “ “ E. Deering,	3.00	
“ “ “ “ A. C. Barnes & Co.	24.99	
“ “ “ “ sundry persons,	48.60	
		<hr/> 570.71
“ “ “ “ dividends on stocks,	942.50	
“ “ “ “ William Oliver's estate,	250.00	
		<hr/> <hr/> \$ 19,247.36

Boston, Dec. 31, 1856.

Boston, 10th January, 1857.

THE undersigned, a committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind for the year 1856, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the accounts to be properly vouched and correctly cast, and the balance to be eleven hundred ninety-three dollars $\frac{85}{100}$, say \$ 1193.85.

The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to the Institution:—

9	Shares in New England Bank,	\$ 900.00	
17	“ State Bank,	1,020.00	
25	“ Tremont Bank,	2,500.00	
12	“ Columbian,	1,200.00	
10	“ Boston and Providence Railroad,	900.00	
50	“ Western Railroad,	4,812.50	
10	“ Boston and Maine Railroad, . . .	1,045.00	
25	“ Concord Railroad,	1,250.00	
		<hr/>	\$ 13,627.50
	Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased June, 1840,	\$ 755.68	
	Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased March, 1847,	5,000.00	
	Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased Sept. 1845,	5,500.00	
	Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased Jan. 1850,	1,762.50	
	Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased July, 1854,	1,020.25	
	Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased May, 1855,	3,710.00	
	Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased Aug. 1855,	450.00	
	Deed of Land in S. Boston, purchased April, 1855,	1,311.50	
		<hr/>	19,509.93
			<hr/>
			\$ 33,137.43

JOSEPH N. HOWE, }
 JAMES LODGE, } *Committee.*

LIST OF BOOKS

PRINTED AT THE
PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS
ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

WITH PRICES * OF SUCH AS ARE FOR SALE.

	No. of Volumes.	Price per Volume.
Lardner's Universal History,	3	\$ 3.00
Howe's Geography,	1	3.00
" Atlas of the Islands,	1	3.00
English Reader, First Part,	1	3.00
" " Second Part,	1	3.00
The Harvey Boys,	1	2.00
The Pilgrim's Progress,	1	3.00
Baxter's Call,	1	3.00
English Grammar,	1	2.00
Life of Melancthon,	1	2.00
Constitution of the United States,	1	2.00
Book of Diagrams,	1	2.00
Viri Romæ,	1	3.00
Peirce's Geometry, with Diagrams,	1	3.00
Political Class-Book,	1	3.00
First Table of Logarithms,	1	2.00
Second " "	1	3.00
Principles of Arithmetic,	1	2.00
Astronomical Dictionary,	1	2.00
Philosophy of Natural History,	1	3.00
Rudiments of Natural Philosophy,	1	3.00
Cyclopædia,	8	3.00
The Book of Common Prayer,	1	
Guide to Devotion,	1	
New Testament (Small),	4	
New " (Large),	2	
Old " "	6	
Book of Psalms,	1	
" Proverbs,	1	
Psalms in Verse,	1	
Psalms and Hymns,	1	
The Dairyman's Daughter,	1	
" Spelling-Book,	1	
" Sixpenny Glass of Wine,	1	
Howe's Blind Child's Manual,	1	1.50
" " " First Book,	1	1.50
" " " Second Part,	1	
" " " Third Part,	1	2.00
Collection of Hymns for the Blind,	1	3.00
Milton's Poetical Works,	2	3.00
Diderot's Essay,	1	3.00
Total number,	60	

* It has been found advisable to advance the price from that of former years.

T E R M S O F A D M I S S I O N .

YOUNG blind persons, of good moral character, can be admitted to the School by paying \$ 200 *per annum*. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing ; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, &c. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the Institution. The friends of the pupils can visit them whenever they choose.

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The following is a good form, though any other will do :—

“ TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR :

“ SIR, — My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged _____, cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“ Very respectfully, _____.”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the Selectmen of the town, or Aldermen of the city, in this form :—

“ I hereby certify, that, in my opinion, Mr. _____ is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$ 200 *per annum* for his child's instruction.

(Signed,) “ _____.”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form :—

"I certify, that, in my opinion, ——— has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools ; and that he is free from epilepsy, and from any contagious disease.

(Signed,) " ——— ———."

These papers should be done up together, and directed to "The Secretary of State, State-House, Boston, Mass."

An obligation will be required from some responsible person, that the pupil shall be removed without expense to the Institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

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For further particulars, address Dr. S. G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relations or friends of the blind who may be sent to the Institution are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions : —

1. What is the age of the applicant ?
2. Where was he born ?
3. Was he born blind ?
4. If not born blind, at what age did he become so ?
5. What is the supposed cause of the blindness ?
6. Have there been any cases of blindness, or deafness, or insanity, in the family of the applicant, among his brothers and sisters, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, or cousins ?
7. Were his parents or grandparents affected with scrofula, in any form ; with consumption ; humors, such as salt-rheum ; eruptions of any kind ; or had they any peculiarity of bodily constitution whatever ?
8. Were the parents or the grandparents of the applicant related to each other by blood ? If so, in what degree ?

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

FOR 1857.

PRESIDENT.

EDWARD BROOKS.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

TREASURER.

THOMAS B. WALES.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

THOMAS G. CARY,	}	<i>In behalf of the Corporation.</i>
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER,		
GEORGE B. EMERSON,		
JOSEPH LYMAN,		
SAMUEL MAY,		
WILLIAM PERKINS,		
GEORGE R. RUSSELL,		
JAMES STURGIS,	}	<i>In behalf of the State.</i>
WILLIAM M. CORNELL,		
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,		
JOSEPH B. THAXTER, JR.,		
WILLIAM D. TICKNOR,		

TWENTY-SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31, 1857.

BOSTON:
WILLIAM WHITE, PRINTER TO THE STATE.
1858.

HV1796

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, }
BOSTON, January 11, 1858. }

To the Corporators:—

GENTLEMEN,—The undersigned, in conformity with law and custom, respectfully submit a general Report of the condition of the institution during the past year.

For more particular details they refer you to the Report of the Director and Treasurer, which are inclosed.

The average number of blind persons connected with the institution has been 124; of whom 90 have been pupils in course of instruction, and 24 have been connected with the workshop department. They have been employed in the manner so often set forth in our previous Reports.

No changes have been made in the general system of management, for none have been found necessary. Neither has any change been made of the persons who have the immediate charge of the institution, and who are therefore mainly responsible for the successful working of the system upon which it is administered. They have continued to discharge their several duties in a satisfactory manner.

The Trustees of course can exercise only general supervision. They must rely mainly upon the integrity of agents; and long trial under proper supervision, is of course the best test of this.

Mr. Thomas B. Wales has kindly continued to act as Treasurer. The gratuitous services of this gentleman are valuable to the institution.

During the year the question has been raised whether it would not be wise to remove the institution from its present

location to a more favorable one in the country. The Trustees have given the question some consideration.

The removal from the city proper to South Boston was, doubtless, a wise one; but many considerations similar to those which made that removal desirable, may now be urged in favor of another.

Eighteen years have produced a great change in the neighborhood. The open fields have been cut up by streets, and there is a dense population where there was then but a very sparse one.

The extraordinary alteration in the plan for grade of streets by the city government occasioned pecuniary loss, for which the subsequent appropriation of \$10,000 as damages, did by no means afford indemnity. Moreover, by undermining and destroying, not only our stone stable but the site on which it stood, and by cutting off entirely all access to the main building from the east, and making the entrance in front very inconvenient and tedious, it involved disadvantages which no outlay of money can effectually remedy. The yard and play-ground, instead of being left nearly on a level with surrounding streets, are now perched some fifty feet above them, and supported by steep and costly embankments, the entire slope of which are an abatement of the extent of our premises.

There is also a great disappointment with regard to water. The anticipated supply from the Cochituate has not been realized. It will never rise above the basement, and in dry times it has to be coaxed even thus far. Sometimes it fails entirely in the daytime; and no water is to be had except from the cisterns where it has accumulated by night.

Of course there can be no sufficient supply for extinguishing a fire should one unfortunately occur in the upper part of the building.

Other weighty considerations have been set forth by the Director, which underlie the whole subject of the education and treatment of the blind.

But on the other hand, many important considerations may be urged in favor of retaining the present location. The attention attracted to the institution by a great number of benevolent persons, the convenience of its inspection by the public, by the legislature, and all the authorities, and by

the Trustees themselves, are in favor of its metropolitan location. The uncertainty about the permanence of the present location has made the Trustees unwilling to incur the expense of some improvements which are loudly called for; such, for instance, as a proper and efficient apparatus for warming and ventilating the building.

They recommend the whole matter as one worthy the serious attention of their successors.

The Trustees feel bound to call the especial attention of the corporation to the orderly and neat condition of the buildings and premises of the institution. This reflects credit upon all who have it in charge. It is also most gratifying to remark that the spirit which seems everywhere to prevail in the conduct of this establishment is that of a well-ordered, harmonious home, and that the aim of its management evidently is to supply to the pupils those kindly domestic influences so important in the education of all young persons.

The Trustees believe that a proper economy has been observed in this as well as in former years, in the management of your pecuniary affairs. All the accounts for expenditures are audited monthly by a committee especially appointed for the purpose; and the Treasurer pays no money except upon their order. The disbursements have been as small as the approved system of the household, schools and workshop would permit. The necessary care, supervision and attendance upon the pupils always require more than ordinary expenses. Moreover, the work-shop as well as the school has been conducted, not so much upon the principle that it should be profitable, as upon the more humane idea that those who are willing to work and be useful should be placed in positions where they can do so, and in which to the extent of their power they may attain an independence.

Besides making all proper expenditures for the instruction and the welfare of the blind of our own Commonwealth, a liberal policy has been adopted in various matters which touch the interests of the blind as a class.

No advantage has been taken of the condition, in the annual grant from Massachusetts, by which the number of beneficiaries might be limited to forty, but all applicants of proper age and qualifications have been admitted.

In printing for the blind, the institution has incurred great expenses, the advantages of which must be felt by all the institutions in the country, and by hundreds of blind persons who have been taught, but who could never obtain books, if in addition to actual cost, the price were enhanced by the addition of the usual profits made in trade.

The several inventories of real and personal estate required by law, are herewith submitted for the inspection of the corporation.

In conclusion, the Trustees commend the institution to the kind consideration of the corporation, the legislature, and the public generally.

Signed by

JOSEPH LYMAN,
WM. D. TICKNOR,
For the Trustees.

THOMAS G. CARY.
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER.
SAMUEL MAY.
WM. PERKINS.
GEORGE R. RUSSELL.
JAMES STURGISS.
WM. M. CORNELL.
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.
JOSEPH B. THAXTER, JR.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR.

Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, }
Boston, January 11, 1858. }

To the Trustees:—

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to submit the following Report for the past year:—

The number of inmates reported January 1st, 1857, was 109. Since then 26 have been admitted, 19 have left, and 2 have died, leaving the present number 114, of whom 24 are in the work department.

The monthly reports which have been made to your Board, and the visits of your committees, have kept you acquainted with the condition of the Institution, so that no detailed report thereupon need now be made.

There have been no material changes among the persons employed as teachers, or among the assistants in the household department. Within a certain limit, length of time in service makes a person more valuable. Our pupils are mostly of the tender age when the domestic affections are putting forth their tendrils, and require something to cling around. A boarding-school should be made a substitute for home, as nearly as it can be. But there can be none of the feelings of a home where there are constant changes in the members of the household. What old familiar landmarks are to those who see, old, familiar voices are to the blind.

We have been fortunate, therefore, in keeping most of our teachers and members of the household for many successive years, and still more fortunate in having so many who hold their places as much from love of the work as from love of its hire.

The course of instruction marked out so many years ago, has been followed steadily during the past year, and with satisfactory success.

Reading by raised letters, and writing by the mode peculiar to the blind ; arithmetic by help of tangible figures or types, and geography by raised maps and globes, constitute what is really peculiar in the mode of instruction in our school, and in others of the same kind. They differ, besides, from common schools in the greater amount of instruction conveyed by oral teaching.

Nothing farther is aimed at in the way of direct instruction than giving knowledge of the English branches taught in our best common schools. In these, considerable proficiency and great thoroughness are attainable by the blind.

There is, however, an unusual amount of mental activity among the pupils ; and they learn a great deal from books, periodicals and newspapers, which are read to them out of school hours. They devour these with insatiable appetite, and their demand for more is greater than the supply which can be safely given. Such reading, like the fruit and sweetmeats after a solid repast, is apt to be taken too freely, and rather because it is palatable than because it is wanted.

When the desire for things wholesome, whether for the body or the mind, begins to pall, it is pretty certain that rest is wanted, rather than condiments and stimulants to whip up the flagging appetite. Great care should be taken with the young blind not to increase indisposition to bodily activity by over supply of mental stimulus. After school a rush for the playground is a healthier indication than a rush for the piano or for the newspaper.

Great attention is paid to music as a branch of instruction. The object is to develop the musical sense in all the pupils, and to give to them such knowledge of vocal and instrumental music as may be a source of pleasure to themselves and a bond of sympathy with others.

All, therefore, who can acquire the rudiments of a musical education, have opportunity and encouragement to do so. Some, however, cannot do even this.

It is maintained by some educationists that the capacity for development of the musical sense is almost universal, and that

it is as rare to find a person who cannot attain the rudiments of musical education, that is, one who lacks utterly the musical sense, as it is to find one who is born deaf. This may be true of certain races in the present state of their civilization.

It is also a common notion that the blind possess the musical sense more generally than those who see; but it is probably a mistaken one. The sense may be, and is more generally developed; but this is because their condition naturally leads them to cultivate it more assiduously. I am inclined to think that total lack of the sense among the blind is more common than among an equal number of those who see.

Be this as it may, our endeavor is to give to all a tolerable knowledge of the theory and practice of vocal and instrumental music, and the success is considerable, because the blind give themselves passionately to the pursuit.

Some do this not only for the pleasure which it gives, but with a view to making music the means of earning a livelihood.

There is a common and very natural mistake about this, arising from the fact that so many of the ordinary callings of life cannot be followed by the blind, and of course they press towards the few in which there is no invincible obstacle to their success, and even to their eminence. An honorable ambition, therefore, often inspires the pupils to become teachers of music.

There is in all schools for the blind an undue pressure for musical instruction. They look upon the profession of music much as passengers, when forced to quit a ship at sea, look to the life boat, as the one which promises the best chance of a safe voyage.

It is not sufficiently borne in mind that many qualifications, rarely united in one person, must combine in order to make a good instructor, and that a man should rather gain a livelihood by being a good broom maker than a poor teacher.

The calling of teacher is a natural one, and requires peculiar natural gifts. Now nature never supplies superfluous materials; but to every generation due proportion of those fitted for natural callings.

To become a good teacher of music, one must have by nature an uncommon share of musical sensibility. But this is not all. He must have, also, those rarer endowments which are necessary for becoming a good musician and performer, but which are not

given to all who have musical sensibility. And, after all he must have those still rarer mental and moral endowments which are essential for drawing out the musical sensibility of others, and imparting to them his own knowledge.

Probably not more than one man so endowed can be found in a population of several thousand ordinary persons; how unreasonable, then, to expect to find a score of such in every school for the blind, that has but a hundred pupils!

Such considerations have to be borne in mind by directors of schools for blind, in order to enable them to resist the tendency of the pupils to crowd toward a calling in which but few are qualified to succeed, and to shape the course of instruction so as to guide them towards other callings.

Two of the pupils died during the past year at their homes in the country, and there have been several cases of rather severe indisposition here. The standard of health as compared with that among an equal number of ordinary persons, has been low; but as compared with an equal number of blind persons, it has not been so; for it must be admitted by all familiar with the subject that the standard of health is lower among the blind than among others of the same age, and this for obvious reasons.

One object in the government of a school for the blind, should be to elevate the general standard of health among the pupils. Nor is this object a vain one; for, doubtless, we may lessen in various ways the obstacles which blindness opposes to the gratification of the natural tendency of the young to sports and gambols which serve to develop and strengthen the body. While childhood lasts, indeed, the stock of animal spirits is so great that it easily overcomes the obstacle, and keeps up considerable activity in spite of falls, and bumps, and awkward hits; so that if we give blind children room and verge enough, and leave them to themselves, they do pretty well in the way of exercise. They will even achieve as much in the way of pranks and mischief as any reasonable person could expect.

A house, however, does not afford supply for the demand; its resources are soon exhausted, even if all the material be not used up and destroyed. We must therefore encourage sports and games in the open air, by various appliances, in order to secure the advantages of this valuable season for bodily training.

When other boys go out into the great training school to take their lessons with ball, or hoop, or skates, we should not try to compensate the blind boy by exercising his mind, even over pleasant stories, but send him out too, and contrive some way in which he can sweeten his exercise by a wholesome mixture of play. The inclemency of the climate is a great obstacle in our way. The languid circulation which characterizes the blind makes them sensitive to cold, and cold increases the languor. This must be fought against resolutely. It seems a hard rule to shut children out of the house upon a cold day, and to bar the doors upon them inexorably during the recesses, yet such course is found to be really useful.

Do what we may however, it will be found usually that the average of health and of longevity is less among the blind than among those who see, and it behooves us to consider earnestly, and to discuss openly, the causes thereof. They will be found mainly to be two.

First, the bodily organism had less vital force from the very germ. The springs of life were not so stiff; they were not wound to run so steadily or so long.

Next, sight more than all the other senses, invites to bodily activity, and the lack of this sense leads to neglect of that perpetual activity of body and limb which is necessary not only for grace and beauty, but even for healthy growth and development.

The first of these causes is of course beyond our reach, at least so far as the present generation is concerned. The second, however, is within human control. We may do much to counteract it by organized effort and systematic training, provided, however, we can bring the importance of the matter home to the hearts and minds of the blind themselves, so as to secure their zealous coöperation. Without that we can do little; for such is the subtle though close relation between the moral and physical nature, that even exercise and training of the body, in order to be most beneficial must be spontaneous and pleasant.

It is not enough, however, that we attract children by new contrivances, new games, and the like; and that we add to the attraction our own personal interest in them, for these cannot be perpetual; and when they cease, and the pupils grow from childhood to youth, they relapse into habits of bodily inactivity.

The blind incline to this almost as much as persons chilled by cold incline to sit down and go to sleep; and though the consequence is not so immediate and fearful, it is certain and lamentable; for life is shortened, and made less useful and happy.

We should therefore strive to convince the understanding of those whose good we seek, and prove to them that their true interest, even more than that of other persons, demands close observance of the laws of health.

If to the dictates of the reason we can add those of the moral and religious sense, the success will be greater. The still small voice of this sense is seldom heard by the young in the tumultuous rush of their animal spirits; but it will be more readily heard by the blind, because they feel less of this tumult, and because the moral and religious nature is more easily developed in them.

We should therefore try to form a public opinion among them upon these matters; and perhaps no better way is now open for this than through the only kind of literature peculiarly devoted to them—that of the periodical reports of schools for their special instruction.

Considerations may be urged in them which would be out of place in ordinary reports, which are merely a sort of “account rendered.”

It is conceivable, and certainly it is most desirable, that the blind as a class may be brought up to the average standard among seeing persons, of vital force, and perhaps even of longevity; because they may make amends for original defects by strict obedience to those laws which others perpetually violate, and are pretty certain to violate for generations to come. It is with health and vigor, somewhat as it is with money; a seemingly unlimited supply in youth leads to extravagance and waste. We learn to spend more than our daily income, and of course lessen by so much the capital stock. There is this difference, however, in favor of money, we may possibly make up for losses by great efforts and by good luck; but an over-draft upon the constitution can never be compensated by any effort; and Nature knows no such thing as luck, nor tolerates any game of chance. No, the amount of original stock cannot be increased, for the

casket which holds it contracts when undue subtraction is made and will not expand again ; so that of course the future yield must be less.

Common as is the sin of over-draft upon the constitution, and venial as it is held even by good men, it can never be pardoned—that is, separated from its consequences, any more than other sins, because God never permits that what has been shall not have been.

The poverty then of the blind, in respect to original capital stock of vital force, may perhaps be made to accrue to their advantage, so far as comparison with others go, provided they can be educated to understand the laws of health and to obey them. Their attention should be early turned to the study of physiology, and particularly those of its laws which bear especially upon persons in their situation. In the workings of the machinery of life, the blind are apt to be caught and pinched in two ways, as will be seen by attention to certain physiological principles, the workings of which I shall attempt to set forth briefly and familiarly.

In order to preserve the freshness and health of the body, we must observe the law which commands constant and rapid change of its integral particles. We die daily, whether we will or no. But the extent to which we are *born* again daily, depends much upon ourselves. The component particles of the body have but an ephemeral existence. Hundreds of generations of them go to make up our individual life. Multitudes of them are dying every hour and every moment ; and fresh particles are constantly formed to replace them.

But this incoming multitude cannot have room and verge enough except the worn out and effete particles are thrown off. Away then with the dead to make room for the living ! This is the law ; and fortunately we cannot disobey it totally, because part of the work is done independently of our volition, and disobedience to it would be death to the whole body. The removal is effected, that is, the waste particles are carried off by various and complex organs of respiration, perspiration and the like, but the pervading characteristic of all is motion.

Motion is not only essential to life, but in one sense it is life itself. Arrest of all motion among the particles of the body, though but momentary, (as by lightning, perhaps,) is death ; and

after the briefest instant of real death there cannot be a return to life, any more than there can be a return of motion to a cannon ball that has been brought to a stand still; since the momentum in both has been destroyed. Nature, therefore, has not trusted so precious a thing as life to the will of man, but has secured motion enough for its continuance by automatic arrangements, which are beyond his control. Every throb of the breast, every inspiration of the lungs, every twinkle of an eyelid,—nay, every passage of a thought is accompanied by motion, change, and waste.

But though nature does not put the lamp of life into a man's hand, to be carried in constant fear of its going out from accident or neglect, though she makes sure that it shall burn, she says that whether it burns brightly or dimly, whether briefly or long, must depend upon himself. She gives automatic motion enough to secure life, but he must supply voluntary motion enough to secure health and long life.

The automatic motions remove only part of the effete atoms of the body. Voluntary motion must do the rest, or they remain and clog the system. If people were fully aware of this, how much more briskly would they move about, to get quickly rid of this dead matter. But how frantically would they fly about, if, instead of carrying the effete particles of their own bodies, each one was obliged to carry, as a burden, the dead particles of some other person. They would die of horror and disgust. As it is, however, very few are conscious of this operation; and thousands in civilized life carry about with sweet complacency their own dead atoms, mixed up with the living ones. They grow feebler and feebler as the proportion of effete matter grows greater, and that of fresh living matter less, until at last partial death becomes total death.

Now so long as the dead and effete particles are carried off by the various excretions, just as rapidly as new and fresh ones are formed by wholesome nutrition, so long are we young and fresh. During the first third of life the vital force is very great, and though the supply through nutrition must exceed waste, in order that there may be growth and consolidation of the body, still the waste is very rapid also. New particles rush in swiftly, cast out the dead ones vigorously and utterly, so that the bodies of the young are fresh and alive all over. The swift moving

machinery of life throws the blood out to every part of the surface, and tinges the firm elastic flesh with roseate hue. As long as this condition lasts, youth lasts, be the number of years what they may.

The duration of the period depends, first, upon the amount of vital force with which the body was endowed in the germ. Two persons may live the same sort of life, and yet one will cease to be young and fresh at twenty, while the other continues so at forty. The stock of vital force is usually smaller in women than in men. It is usually smaller in those born blind than in other persons.

Second, the stock being about the same, the duration of youth depends upon obedience or disobedience of the laws of life. All excesses shorten it. Too much and too little work of brain and limb curtail it. It is shorter in women than in men, mainly because their blood is not duly oxygenated by exercise or work in the open air. It is usually much shorter in the blind than in those who see. In a class of a hundred blind youths there are very few who have the beautiful characteristics of this period of life—the roseate hue, the rounded limb, the bounding step; and even among those few these beauties fade away earlier than among others.

During the next period of life the balance between waste and supply is established; and the system ought to be in its greatest vigor and efficiency, and in undiminished beauty. It is so, indeed, all through the animal creation, (with one exception,) because in all animals, as the demand for new particles by the system is lessened so the supply is lessened, and there is no crowding by new particles; and because the necessary supply of food must be obtained by voluntary motion in exercise. Animals work for their living; but do not toil for it. The exception is in the case of man. With man the appetites are more subject to volition, and more under the influence of habit. As his organization is higher, so the pleasurable sensations attendant upon supply—that is, taking food, are greater, and he generally strives to stimulate the flagging demand by cunning cookery.

Exercise too, being pretty much under his volition, is apt to be neglected, and so the waste and effete particles are not duly carried off. At first they linger a little in the system; then they linger longer. There now begin to be dead and effete

particles among the living ones, and the system begins to be a little clogged thereby. From this moment real manhood declines, and real age begins, be the years of life ever so few.

The spring of life having lost a little of its force, the blood is no longer thrown vigorously out to the periphery of the body ; it therefore crowds the great internal vessels, and prepares the way for congestion and organic diseases. The surface becomes a little pale. The flesh loses its elasticity. It looks puttyish and feels flabby. Freshness is now gone ; and with it beauty. Adieu youth, adieu manhood ; age is here.

This change is seen sooner in women than in men. Sooner in the blind than in others. Most women in this country are as old at thirty, or thirty-five, as they should be at forty-five or fifty. Suppose the years lost by each one to be only ten, what millions of years of bloom, and beauty, and vigor, are lost to each generation ! But how can we calculate the billions of years lost to the next generation by reason of the diminished stock of vital force imparted to the offspring !

Other principles of physiology which underlie the laws of hygiene should be kept in view by those who manage institutions for the young ; but these are the ones which bear with peculiar force upon those who lack sight, and neglect of which involves evil consequences that are not the necessary and inevitable effects of blindness.

The work department for adult men and women has been conducted on the same principle of entire separation from the junior department which has been found so satisfactory in former years. The persons employed have the same relation to the institution that ordinary workmen do to factories and similar establishments. Nothing more is required of them than is required in all well regulated workshops. They must come punctually to their work, and continue at it diligently during work hours. After that they go their own ways to their several homes. No supervision is exercised over them, and nothing more required of them than the maintenance of good moral character.

At the end of each month they are paid whatever they have earned.

This system gives them more personal independence, more

freedom from restraint, and more opportunity for finding their places in general society, than is possible where they are associated in one establishment. It certainly is less open to the objection, (not a mere theoretical one,) which is brought against establishments for persons suffering under a common defect or infirmity, namely, that they unduly congregate together those who should be separated and diffused in general society.

The principle which underlies this is so important that it may be referred to at the risk of repetition.

Every departure from a normal condition of body has a tendency to draw after it unfavorable consequences which extend even to the moral nature. If this tendency is not checked, it develops moral peculiarities which become characteristic of the class of persons who labor under the defect or infirmity. Classes or castes are thus formed, and clannish feelings are engendered. A feeling of sympathy, which is not natural, but which grows out of the common defect, draws such persons together. Now, the result of too close association is to *intensify* all the moral peculiarities growing out of the abnormal condition.

Such result is surely undesirable. The effects of it are seen in various classes of the unfortunate; as those who study these classes know but too well.

If any suppose that the blind are exempt from the workings of this general law, they will be convinced of their error by close observation of those large European establishments in which hundreds of adult blind persons live together. The prevalent spirit there is any thing but desirable or amiable.

Happily the abnormal tendency in the blind is so slight that no considerable evil need result from it, provided it is not intensified by close and long association together. Slight as it is, however, it exists, and deserves the attention of all who would build up institutions upon sound principles.

The best corrective of this tendency is to separate and diffuse the blind in general society. It is the one, also, which will most surely promote their real happiness in life.

A conviction of the truth of these principles, and of their practical importance, has made me for many years a strenuous opponent of establishments in which large numbers of adult

blind are to be gathered together for permanent residence. The tendency of such establishments, if successful, is to grow; and in a few generations they would become unendurable.

I would have all of the adult blind who can by any possibility live apart in general society, do so; and for those who cannot, I would provide in the manner least opposed to the principles above indicated.

I would have them associated together for work, so far as such association is necessary; but not associated for any domestic or social purposes.

That would seem to be a higher form of social charity which would take the blind into the bosom of society, wherever the lines had fallen to them, and lessen as far as possible the peculiarities growing out of their defect by giving them constant and close association with those who see, than that which would put them out from among us—which would gather them together in common establishments, and constitute them a class apart.

I am happy to say that the practical result of our establishment for supplying adult blind with work has been most satisfactory. Between twenty and thirty have been enabled to earn their own livelihood, and to enjoy a feeling of independence, while the actual cost to the institution is very small. In a few years more it will probably be nothing.

It would have been very easy to increase the number of workmen by raising the rate of wages; but sound policy forbids holding out any inducements which will draw to the city those who by dint of great effort can get along in the country.

An apparently severe policy in this respect, which keeps the rate of wages so low that great industry and diligence are necessary in order to pay their board, has kept our numbers down and left only real workers in our shop. It has perhaps forced many to rely upon their own efforts, and upon their friends in the country, who would otherwise have leaned upon us.

There may have been cases where the rule worked hard, but upon the whole the results have been good. The present indications, however, are that with our increasing number of graduates it will be necessary to increase the number of adult workmen to perhaps fifty.

In a business point of view the shop has done well the

last year, considering the times. The sales were \$19,369.99, or \$360.04 less than in 1856.

The wages paid to blind men and women amounted to \$3,411.00, or 57.49 less than 1856.*

The work of printing for the blind has been continued steadily, though not upon a large scale.

That very important work, "Combe upon the Constitution of Man," has been printed and is now in use. It is a book written in a truly philosophical, but also a religious spirit. It requires close study, but is deeply interesting, and will prove a valuable addition to the library for the blind. A new book of simple exercises for children, making the third of the series, has also been printed.

The account of the shop and other details will be found in appropriate appendixes.

Respectfully submitted by

S. G. HOWE.

* An error crept into the last Report, by including the wages of some seeing persons in the amount purporting to be paid to the blind. The true amount was \$3,468.39.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1857.

Dr. THE PERKINS' INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND *in account with* T. B. WALES, *Treasurer.* *Cr.*

For amount paid at sundry dates, or orders of Auditors, for various disbursements, for expenses. as per account rendered, viz. :—		By cash from old account,	\$1,193 85
For construction account,	\$2,722 00	four quarterly payments of appropriation by State of Massachusetts, amount received from State of Connecticut, for pupils, . . . \$1,965 00	12,000 00
printing, binding, &c.,	1,007 46	from State of New Hampshire, for pupils,	1,562 50
ordinary expenses, as per Steward's account,	17,435 41— \$21,164 87	from State of Maine, for pupils,	1,040 42
interest on Mr. Stover's mortgage,	90 00	from State of Rhode Island, for pupils,	419 71
amount paid Union Bank, return loan,	2,500 00	from State of South Carolina, for pupils,	178 50
amount invested in 20 shares Boston and Maine Railroad,	1,627 00	from State of Vermont, for pupils,	80 00
amount invested in 10 shares Boston and Providence Railroad,	742 50	on account of Anna Ross,	25 00
amount invested in 15 shares Boston and Worcester Railroad,	1,155 00	on account of Laura Bridgman,	30 00—
amount invested in 10 shares Massachusetts Western Railroad,	950 00	for books, apparatus, &c., sold to—	
balance to new account,	2,567 49	Pennsylvania Institution for Blind,	101 00
		Alabama Institution for Blind,	23 00
		Ohio Institution for Blind,	46 00
		Texas Institution for Blind,	169 50
		Louisiana Institution for Blind,	18 00
		South Carolina Institution for Blind,	91 50
		Wisconsin Institution for Blind,	50 24

for books, &c., to sundry individuals as		
per memorandum,	108 39—	627 63
dividends on stocks,		1,027 50
William Oliver's estate,		7,170 00
Executors of Wm. Pickman,		1,000 00
Union Bank loan,		2,448 75
		<u>\$30,796 86</u>

BOSTON, January 9, 1858.

The undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of the Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1857, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the accounts to be properly cast, and balance to be twenty-five hundred and sixty-seven and $\frac{49}{100}$ dollars—say, \$2,567.49.

The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to the Institution:—

9 shares New England Bank,	\$900 00	60 shares Western Railroad,	\$5,762 50
17 shares State Bank,	1,020 00	30 shares Boston and Maine Railroad,	2,942 00
25 shares Tremont Bank,	2,500 00	25 shares Concord Railroad,	1,250 00
12 shares Columbian Bank,	1,200 00	15 shares Boston and Worcester Railroad,	1,155 00
20 shares Boston and Providence Railroad,	1,642 50		<u>\$18,372 00</u>

N. H. EMMONS,
JOSEPH N. HOWE, } *Committee.*

LIST OF BOOKS printed at the Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, with prices of such as are for sale.*

	No. of Vols.	Price per Vol.
Lardner's Universal History,	3	\$3 00
Howe's Geography,	1	3 00
Atlas of the Islands,	1	3 00
English Reader, First Part,	1	3 00
Second Part,	1	3 00
The Harvey Boys,	1	2 00
The Pilgrim's Progress,	1	3 00
Baxter's Cull,	1	3 00
English Grammar,	1	2 00
Life of Melancthon,	1	2 00
Constitution of the United States,	1	2 00
Book of Diagrams,	1	2 00
Viri Romæ,	1	3 00
Peirce's Geometry, with Diagrams,	1	3 00
Political Class-Book,	1	3 00
First Table of Logarithms,	1	2 00
Second " "	1	3 00
Principles of Arithmetic,	1	2 00
Astronomical Dictionary,	1	2 00
Philosophy of Natural History,	1	3 00
Rudiments of Natural Philosophy,	1	3 00
Cyclopædia,	8	3 00
The Book of Common Prayer,	1	-
Guide to Devotion,	1	-
New Testament, (Small,)	4	-
New Testament, (Large,)	2	-
Old Testament,	6	-
Book of Psalms,	1	-
Proverbs,	1	-
Psalms in Verse,	1	-
Psalms and Hymns,	1	-
The Dairyman's Daughter,	1	-
Spelling-Book,	1	-
Sixpenny Glass of Wine,	1	-
Howe's Blind Child's Manual,	1	1 50
First Book,	1	1 50
Second Part,	1	-
Third Part,	1	2 00
Collection of Hymns for the Blind,	1	3 00
Milton's Poetical Works,	2	3 00
Diderot's Essay,	1	3 00
Total number,	60	

* It has been found advisable to advance the price from that of former years.

The above amounts barely cover the cost. All expenses of packing and transportation have to be charged extra.

We are prepared, also, to manufacture maps, globes, and other school apparatus for the blind, and to deliver them to other institutions, or to blind persons, at actual cost.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

YOUNG blind persons, of good moral character, can be admitted to the School by paying \$200 *per annum*. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, &c. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the Institution. The friends of the pupils can visit them whenever they choose.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the Governor for a warrant.

The following is a good form, though any other will do:—

“TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR:—

“SIR,—My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged , cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“Very respectfully, ——— ———.”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the selectmen of the town, or aldermen of the city, in this form:—

“I hereby certify, that, in my opinion, Mr. ——— ——— is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$200 *per annum* for his child's instruction.

(Signed,) “——— ———.”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form:—

“I certify, that, in my opinion, ——— ——— has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools; and that he is free from epilepsy, and from any contagious disease.

(Signed,) “——— ———.”

These papers should be done up together, and directed to “The Secretary of State, State House, Boston, Mass.”

An obligation will be required from some responsible person, that the pupil shall be removed without expense to the institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island and South Carolina, by applying as above to the "Commissioners for the Blind," care of the secretary of state in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

For further particulars, address Dr. S. G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relations or friends of the blind who may be sent to the institution are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions:—

1. What is the age of the applicant?
2. Where was he born?
3. Was he born blind?
4. If not born blind, at what age did he become so?
5. What is the supposed cause of the blindness?
6. Have there been any cases of blindness, or deafness, or insanity, in the family of the applicant, among his brothers and sisters, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts or cousins?
7. Were his parents or grandparents affected with scrofula, in any form; with consumption; humors, such as salt rheum; eruptions of any kind; or had they any peculiarity of bodily constitution whatever?
8. Were the parents or the grandparents of the applicant related to each other by blood? If so, in what degree?

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

FOR 1858.

PRESIDENT.

EDWARD BROOKS.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

TREASURER.

THOMAS B. WALES.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

THOMAS G. CARY.
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER.
GEORGE B. EMERSON.
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.
JOSEPH LYMAN.
SAMUEL MAY.
WILLIAM PERKINS.
BENJAMIN ROTCH.
GEORGE R. RUSSELL.
JAMES STURGIS.
JOSEPH B. THAXTER, JR.
WILLIAM D. TICKNOR.







TWENTY-SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

PERKINS INSTITUTION

AND

MASSACHUSETTS

ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND,

TO THE

CORPORATION.

CAMBRIDGE:
METCALF AND COMPANY,
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1859.

REPORT.

Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

Boston, October 14, 1858.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION:—

GENTLEMEN, — A recent law requires that all reports which are to be laid before the Legislature shall be made up to the 30th of September of each year, and handed in to the Secretary of State on the 15th of October.

In order to conform to this law, and to a consequent change in your by-laws, the Trustees now submit their Report and the customary Reports of Superintendent and Treasurer, which, however, embrace only a period of three quarters. Hereafter the annual meeting will be held in October, and all the reports made for a full year ending September 30th.

Nothing has occurred since the last Report to break the usual quiet uniformity of the Institution; nor has there been any change which requires special notice.

The accompanying Report of the Treasurer will show the state of the finances; and a general abstract

of the Steward's account will give the principal items of expenditure. The details of these can be easily ascertained by examination of the books.

All the accounts are strictly audited every month by a committee of this board. The Treasurer pays out no money except upon the order of this committee.

The regular income of the Institution from its vested funds is so small, that it is entirely dependent upon the annual grant of \$12,000 from the State. Indeed, the whole regular income, including this grant, though it may with great economy be made to suffice for ordinary and necessary expenses, has been totally inadequate for the heavy outlay occasioned by the changes and improvements in the real estate and buildings.

In order to meet these expenses, and also to carry on the work of printing books and improving the apparatus for instructing the blind, the Trustees have been obliged to encroach upon the capital of the Institution, and to rely upon the liberality of the humane. This reliance has not, thus far, been ill-founded. The Institution has received several legacies; and where no special direction has been given to fund the capital, it has been merged with the common fund, and used in such manner as seemed advisable for the immediate interest of the pupils, or for the advancement of the cause of education of the blind in general. This cause the Trustees have ever had at heart; and it has been their wish to do a full share, to say the very least, in its promotion.

When this Institution was incorporated, a little more than a quarter of a century ago, no steps had

been taken elsewhere in this country towards public provision for the education of the blind; but now, more than a score of similar establishments have sprung up in various parts of the Union, and most of the States have made provision for the instruction of blind children.

It is true, indeed, that this rapid extension of the system is owing mainly to the general sympathy of the people for the blind; but it is equally true, that the existence and multiplication of embossed books gave to that sympathy direct action, by the conviction which they produced of such action being feasible and useful.

The Director, Dr. Howe, has taken the lead in the enterprise of creating a library for the blind. And the Trustees have for many years made very liberal advances from the treasury for the furtherance of the work.

Such a work, however, is too expensive to be carried on solely by any single institution, unless its means are much greater than ours, or unless it is sustained by generous contributions of those whose privilege it is to possess the means of beneficence. To such, this enterprise is commended as a simple and sure way of doing good, for its object is to spread knowledge before those whose life is, as it were, a long night, and to whom a book is a light and a joy.

The supplementary department of the Institution, or the workshop for adults, has been in a satisfactory condition, and paid its own way. The amount of work has been less the past year than in some former ones, owing to general depression in all branches of home manufacture. It has been enough, however,

to give direct and constant employment and means of livelihood to nearly thirty persons here, and indirectly to many others in the country. There are still others who are unemployed; and they will be furnished with employment as fast as the increase of custom will warrant it.

The Trustees have exercised such supervision over the immediate operations of the establishment as they could, by formal and by informal visits; and are happy to express their entire satisfaction with the manner in which the affairs of the Institution have been conducted by the Director.

Signed by

THOMAS G. CARY,
JOSEPH LYMAN,

For the Trustees.

REPORT

OF THE DIRECTOR TO THE TRUSTEES.

Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

Boston, September 30, 1858.

GENTLEMEN, — I have the honor to report as follows, for the three quarters last past.

The number of blind persons connected with the Institution in January last was reported as 114. Since then 15 have been admitted and 15 have been discharged, leaving the actual number 114. Of these 89 are resident in the household, and 25 are connected with the Work Department.

The general health of the household has been good. There have been no deaths; and only one case of severe illness.

Of those immediately connected with the Institution, fifty-nine are beneficiaries of Massachusetts; the remaining thirty are from the other New England States.

In former years there have always been among our pupils a number from Southern States; this number has grown less, as institutions have spread south-

ward, until last year, when the opening of a State school in South Carolina took away the last beneficiary from the South. This is not to be regretted as far as our Institution is concerned, because there never was any considerable pecuniary profit from beneficiaries, and because the reasons for receiving them from the Southern States no longer exist. Those reasons were, first, that we might have as many pupils as could be taught together with greatest advantage to themselves; and secondly, that blind children who wished to be educated might have the opportunity, though residing in parts of the Union where no schools existed.

For many years the desirable number of pupils was not furnished by Massachusetts and the neighboring States, because knowledge of the system of instructing the blind, and faith in its efficacy, did not enough abound. But this is no longer the case; and, for many years to come, there will doubtless be found in New England a sufficient number of blind children of suitable age and disposition for at least one school.

It is partly in consequence of pupils from the Southern States having been educated at this and other Northern institutions, and having carried home living proof of the value of the instruction, that so many schools for the blind are now springing up in the South. It is pleasant to think of the sympathy and encouragement which these young establishments receive from good men and women; and to indulge hopes of their permanent success, in spite of the difficulties and obstacles which lie in the way of all such enterprises, and which are more numerous

and formidable at the South than at the North. There is now public provision in the United States for the education of a greater number of blind children, in proportion to the population, than in any other country, except, perhaps, some of the Swiss Cantons.

There seems, indeed, to be some danger lest the general good of the cause should be endangered or retarded by ill-directed efforts. Some individuals, who are moved by a desire to do good, but who are ignorant of the real wants of the blind, and some who are moved by a desire of distinction, or by even less worthy motives, may attempt the establishment of schools in places where they are not really needed, — where they cannot flourish, and where their sickly existence tends to prevent the growth of other establishments.

For instance, when a school is established in a State which does not furnish a large number of pupils, it is obviously better for that State, and for the blind themselves, that pupils should be sent from the neighboring States, and that one good school should be well maintained by their joint efforts, rather than have two or three very small and poor ones. Nevertheless, so readily do people respond to any appeal in behalf of the blind, especially to the first appeal, and so easy is it to enlist local prejudice and State pride, that the general interest of the blind is liable to be overlooked, and harm to be done to the cause of education by premature attempts to establish State schools.

It is always an ungracious task to criticise a benevolent enterprise ; and it is very difficult to

guide and direct any public impulse or gush of sympathy, without checking it. The public sympathy for the blind is always ready to manifest itself, and will doubtless continue to flow, in spite of any unwise direction that may be given to it; but it will last all the longer, and will do vastly more for the real and permanent interest of the class, if it be duly enlightened. The task of enlightening it should fall upon those who have knowledge and experience in the matter.

The question of how many institutions shall be provided in these United States for the education of the blind, is certainly an important one; and as it is not yet permanently settled, those who can throw any light upon it should do so. If it is to be settled by mere appeals to sympathy for the sufferers, and to local prejudices, there will be as many schools as are asked for; but if it is settled by wisdom, there will be only as many as are needed.

It is plain that the number of children and youth composing an institution for the blind is not a matter of indifference. It is clear that with a certain number we can derive the greatest advantage, and encounter the least disadvantage, from their association; and that any great departure from this, either one way or the other, is undesirable.

Now what is the most desirable number? My own experience and reflection lead me to think that, in institutions for the blind organized as those of the United States now are, that is, upon the plan of boarding-houses, the number of pupils should not fall much short of fifty, and should not much exceed one hundred.

Before giving reasons for this opinion, I remark : —

First, that I do not think that creating public institutions for the blind, and for some other dependent classes, is the best conceivable mode of discharging our duty to the unfortunate persons composing them ; nor that such establishments are entirely unobjectionable, but that they are probably the best possible in the present state of society. They will doubtless continue to exist as long, if not longer, than any other establishments of public beneficence. They may be considered as objectionable in some respects, but not so much so as institutions of public charity generally ; and they will be maintained in order to prevent greater evils and suffering, which would follow if they were abolished.

Secondly, I do not think that the boarding-school system is the best one that can be devised for carrying out the purposes of such an institution ; though doubtless many years will elapse before any essential change can be introduced in this country.

Thirdly, in balancing considerations, I give to economical ones, or rather to questions of cost, not what I consider their real weight, but the weight which the public inflexibly stamps upon them.

If the number falls much short of fifty, the cost per pupil is very much greater than it would be with a large number. This is too clear to need any explanation. All will see that the smaller the number, the greater the comparative cost.

If the number does not exceed twenty-five or thirty, they cannot be classified and taught to any advantage. Twenty-five, indeed, would form a large class for one teacher. But, first, they are of two

sexes; secondly, they are widely apart as to age and capacity. Now there are many considerations in favor of classification according to sex in schools for the blind, and of entire separation, as well while in school as when out of it, which do not apply to ordinary youth. If these considerations are heeded, as I think they should be, then, with only twenty-five or thirty pupils, we have twelve or fifteen boys, and as many girls, in each class.

But there must be further subdivision according to age and capacity; and this must be greater even than in common schools, because experience shows that few institutions can or do resist the strong appeals that are sometimes made for admission of pupils who are under or over the prescribed age. If the minimum be fixed at eight years, there will be continual applications to make exception in favor of particular cases, some of which can hardly be resisted. How hard, for instance, to say nay to pleading in favor of a blind child of seven, or six, or even five years old, who is an orphan, or is abandoned by his parents, and to whom only two doors are open,—that of the almshouse, and that of the institution!

If the maximum of age be fourteen, or even sixteen, then there come applicants who are older, but who could not be sent earlier, or who, perhaps, have only lately become blind. In both cases the plea for admission generally prevails. It is on account of such cases, and of the desire to have as many pupils, and so do as much good, as possible, that there is such a great variety in the ages of the inmates of American institutions. It ranges from six to twenty, and even in some cases to twenty-four years.

This matter of the best age for the admission of pupils deserves serious consideration, and it is to be hoped that the superintendents of various institutions may give their views upon it in their reports.

Besides the actual diversity of age among the pupils, there is, moreover, too great diversity in mental power, even in very small schools, for it ranges from imbecility to great cleverness, while there is too little diversity of talent and disposition. Thus we shall have two or three clever boys, five or six of ordinary capacity, and three or four stupid ones. Now teachers cannot work to advantage with such numbers.

If, on the other hand, the number be increased two or three fold, and range from forty to one hundred, we lose, of course, some of the affectional advantages of the family circle (which indeed are very great), but we gain very important moral and intellectual ones. We have diversity of talent and disposition, and that contact and conflict of mind with mind which awaken knowledge of self and knowledge of others. There is sufficient range of character for similarity of temper and disposition to beget friendships. The increase of numbers begets spirit and animation; and if the system be good, there arises a wholesome emulation, which greatly promotes the objects of the school. With this greater number, then, we get most of the advantages of congregating the blind together, (which, it must be confessed, are mainly material ones,) and we have the least of the disadvantages. As the number increases, and especially as it exceeds one hundred, we begin to see the evil effects of disregarding too much that natural indication which forbids the congregating together of a

large number of persons subject to a common infirmity. That infirmity, be it what it may, is of course an evil ; and it is equally of course that certain undesirable moral results must grow out of it. These results may be small, and easily counteracted in the individual ; but by close and long-continued association of individuals, they become intensified and formidable.

The natural and obvious way of lessening such undesirable moral results, in other words, of preventing blindness from affecting the character injuriously, is to surround the child by sound moral influences ; that is, to keep him among ordinary and whole people. We depart from this course, and run counter to this natural indication, when we congregate many blind children together for a long period ; though we do so purposely, for the sake of certain advantages which we think will more than counterbalance the disadvantages.

Now my thought is, that the number may be so great as to turn the balance, and make the disadvantages preponderate. This begins to show itself when the undesirable peculiarities growing out of the infirmity are intensified by mutual association, and give tone and spirit to the family or community, instead of being diluted and subdued by the healthy tone of the sound members. An institution with two hundred or two hundred and fifty pupils would be in some respects open to even graver objections in this country than in France, where such a one exists. The regulations must conform to the spirit of the country, and no considerations of the wealth or social position of pupils should have weight in their classi-

fication. The beneficiary of the State should not be allowed to feel that his advantages in the institution are any less than those of a pupil whose parents pay for his instruction.

There is another consideration to be borne in mind while discussing this and similar questions, such as what is the best age for admission of pupils, how long shall they remain, and the like; and this consideration is the greater or less opportunity which there may be, under different circumstances, for the inmates to form intimacies which lead to intermarriage. In very small schools there must almost necessarily be very great intimacy. In the very large ones there must be frequent opportunities of acquaintance. The latter, however, present the advantage of being able to have complete separation in all the classes, and even to have the sexes in different buildings. Be this as it may, the experience of all shows that the blind are no wiser in their generation than the children of light; that the natural law which forbids the sin of entailing an infirmity upon posterity is disregarded by them as well as by others, because the self-esteem of each individual whispers that his case is an exceptional one. If he thinks at all about it, he admits that God forbade the sin to everybody, except to him; he sees that the consequences are inevitable to others, but thinks he will contrive to dodge them.

What has been quaintly said of common marriages is still more applicable to those of blind persons, — they usually result from mere propinquity in time and space. We should not, to say the least, favor unduly the propinquity in space. Quite enough of the pupils

will be married, especially the young men, — we may be sure of that; but institutions should offer them no facilities for intermarriage with blind women. If they do, they in so far defeat one indirect purpose of their establishment, which is, or should be, to lessen the number of blind persons in the country; for, surely, blindness is not an essential and inherent defect in the human race, but it is to be regarded as an accidental or an inbred imperfection of the bodily organism, which would become less and less frequent, and perhaps entirely disappear, after persistent obedience, during several generations, of the natural laws which govern that organism; and it is part of the duty of institutions to direct public attention to those laws.

The conclusion from these desultory remarks is, that, taking the population of New England as a basis of calculation, there should be about fifteen institutions for the blind in the United States; and that it is better for the general cause, and cheaper for individual States, to send their blind children to institutions already established, in neighboring States, than to build up new ones.

It was said above, that blindness is to be regarded as an accidental imperfection of the bodily organism. The word *accidental* is used designedly; and I would take this opportunity to qualify slightly an opinion expressed in a former Report, namely, that congenital blindness would probably be unknown among men if they carefully observed all the natural laws of life. Enough is now known of those laws to prevent those multitudinous cases of blindness which are *inbred*, but not enough probably to prevent occasional cases of congenital blindness. They might be

so rare as to be marvels, but still the marvel might now and then occur. This is to be inferred from the fact that blindness does occur even among animals in a natural state, though they may well be supposed to live up to the natural laws of their organism.

Strolling not long ago in the woods, I was struck by the sight of a robin training her young ones to fly. She had got them out of the nest, and on to the ground. As I drew nigh, they all fluttered away except one. The motions of this one were so singular as to fix my attention. As I came nearer, it did not seem to know how to avoid me; and when I put out my hand, it did not shrink away. I took it up, and found it was totally blind. The poor thing seemed whole in other respects, and lived several days; but all efforts to raise it were useless.

This was clearly a case of congenital blindness; for the eyeballs were only rudimentary. Some accidental derangement or disturbance had arrested the progress of development in this part of the organism.

We know that some such causes produce derangement and distortion among plants and the lower animals, and the inference might be, that the liability to such derangements is greater as the organism is more complex, and that they must be most common in man, because he has the most complex organism. But let no such inference seem to lessen the necessity of efforts to eradicate blindness and other infirmities from the race; for it is, to say the least, a doubtful one. As the complexity of the organism increases, so does its importance increase, and the Creator endows it with capacities denied to lower forms. To man especially does he give such great capacity and power,

that the condition of his organism is very much in his own hands. Man alone has self-consciousness; and he alone has the power of greatly modifying and improving his bodily condition.

The first step towards this is the conviction derived from accurate observation, that his actual condition is worse than it need be. If the whole subject is too vast for comprehension at first sight, attention to one branch will make it simple and easy.

Recent authorities state that there are in all Europe 250,000 blind persons, and 211,585 deaf mutes. It is true that the statistics of most of the countries are unreliable, but all are not. In Prussia, for instance, great care seems to have been taken. There the estimate, based upon returns in 1831, gave one blind person to 1,415 inhabitants; in 1834, one to 1,410; in 1837, one to 1,378. The Belgian returns give one blind person to 1,316 inhabitants; other German States, one to 1,400.

Taking the lowest estimate, it may be safely assumed that there are near a half-million mutes and blind in Europe, and a proportional number in this country. This great number of defective members of each generation certainly modifies to some extent the phenomenal condition of the race; but there is no reason to suppose that such modification is necessarily a persistent condition. Naturalists admit that there is a constant tendency in the races of animals to return from deviations caused by disease or accident, towards the natural type. Surely man is not cut off from this beneficent condition. On the contrary, analogy leads to the belief that he may profit most of all by it, and turn it to his own benefit, as he does other natural laws.

It is not unreasonable to suppose that in the human race the tendency to return to the normal type does not imply retrogression, but is only tendency to return to the type which is characteristic of the particular period of its existence as a race; just as the *vis medicatrix naturæ* in the adult does not give tendency to return to the state of health typical of childhood or infancy, but to the state typical of manhood.

Thus in an early stage of civilization, though the deviations from the normal state of bodily health may, for obvious reasons, be more frequent than in the barbarous stage, yet the awakened intellect enables men to avail themselves of the natural law, and bring about return to that type of health which characterizes the civilized stage. Now all analogy warrants the supposition that this latter type must be higher and more perfect than the former.

According to these views, if, as seems probable, insanity, blindness, deafness, and other indications of deviations from the natural type, become more numerous as society seems to advance in civilization, it is because the advance is not real and equal in all parts of man's nature.

In certain early stages of mental culture, the animal nature is apt to be first quickened and intensified, and its sway may for a while be complete; but with further culture its cravings become less and less heeded, as the higher faculties are developed, and their demands begin to be felt. When the fully awakened intellect guides aright the strong religious disposition which pervades man's being, and makes him realize that natural laws are verily God's laws, then he will obey them.

A wise and prudent woman, in the case of her own child, might possibly have prevented that disturbance in the process of development which caused the blindness of the robin, above alluded to. So that, after all, though the fact of animals being born blind may seem to call for some qualification of the remark, that congenital blindness would be unknown in a society where all the natural laws were carefully observed during several generations, the qualification need not be an important one. It remains essentially true, that men may have as many or as few blind, deaf, or idiotic children born to every generation as they will.

The department for supplying work to adults continues in about the same condition as in former years. From twenty-five to thirty persons have been employed most of the time, and \$ 2,187.28 paid to them for their work. As, however, the account of stock will not be made up until December, no accurate statement of the profit or loss for the year can yet be made.

The general financial results have been satisfactory. The best evidence of this is, that no appropriation has been made from the general funds of the Institution to this department since the year 1855 ; and then it was done, not for the current expenses, but to increase the working capital.

The accounts of the Work Department are kept entirely separate, and all stock and materials purchased are paid for from the proceeds of the sales. During the past year, the wages of the workmen, the rent of the store in town, the cost of keeping a horse and wagon, clerk-hire, fire-insurance, and all contin-

gent expenses, have been paid by the shop itself. The clerk-hire is a new charge to the shop, having formerly been paid from the general fund.

Cash is paid for all goods purchased, and, as far as possible, cash payments are required for all goods sold.

The workmen are paid punctually every month. The stock of manufactured articles is not allowed to increase unduly. All excess of the year's production is sold at auction. The same is done with articles that are poorly made, or that have become shop-worn and unsalable. The shop, however, is not responsible for them, but only for what is sold at its own counter.

Upon some occasions, when demand for work was slack, we have made up large lots of cheap mattresses specially for auction, being satisfied if they brought enough to pay the bare cost of materials, and give the workmen just wages enough to live upon.

The men upon these occasions, and indeed generally, manifest a commendable spirit, and co-operate with those who have the direction of the enterprise for its successful result. The degree of success is already considerable; because, if we do not reckon the cost of general supervision, the department is no longer of any pecuniary charge to the institution, except for interest on the capital invested in building the workshop at South Boston, and in purchasing the original stock and machinery.

Every year's experience has enabled us to lessen the cost of carrying on the establishment, while it has given the workmen greater skill. If this continues a little longer, the shop will be able to pay the interest on the capital invested in its stock, and be-

come entirely self-supporting, except for the interest on the cost of the building. Indeed, this could be done now, if we were willing to go back to the old system, and board the workmen and workwomen in common ; because this would be cheaper than board in private houses, and the workmen would therefore require less wages for their support. I should consider such a measure, however, to be a step backward ; to be penny wise and pound foolish ; to be abandoning a policy which is dictated by sound principles, and to be laying the foundations of what would probably in time become an almshouse. But there is little probability of this being done. Whoever may have the direction of this enterprise in future will of course study the principles which underlie the whole matter ; will consider the experiments which we have made ; will note the results of every year's trial, and consult some of the intelligent blind persons who have had knowledge in the matter. The result will doubtless be persistence in a system which is the simplest that has been devised, and which gives to the workman not only daily bread, but freedom to eat it, where, when, and as he chooses, and which trains him up to be a useful member of society, by leading him to live in it, rather than in an asylum.

The number of persons directly employed in the workshop continues the same as in former years. This is not, however, the limit of its usefulness. Several of its former members work in the country, and indirectly are connected with the shop. Many more work entirely for themselves, and do well.

It is not desirable to increase the number of our immediate workmen more than is absolutely neces-

sary. It is not sound policy to encourage pupils to remain in the city after their course of instruction is finished; nor is it good policy to retain here those adults who come from the country to learn a trade. It should be done only in exceptional cases, and as a matter of necessity.

The best thing for a blind youth who has learned a trade in an institution, is to go back at once to the town where he belongs, and try to establish himself there. He should try by every possible means to live there, where the lines have fallen to him; to maintain his place in the general society where he rightfully belongs; and never resort to an asylum of any kind, except in the last stern necessity. If this occurs, he should let not a whit of the fault or responsibility rest with him. Even those few who are to remain as teachers will be all the better for going out a few years, and taking lessons of life in the actual world.

The tendency of the workshop to increase unduly the number of blind persons in one locality is a very important matter, and should be kept constantly in view by those who are building up institutions. It involves moral and material considerations of great importance. Nor are these merely theoretical; for we are beginning already, even in this country, to see the evil consequences of neglecting the principle which underlies the matter; and the end is not yet.

In view of the increasing number of those who have finished their course here, and who must work for a livelihood, I have for some time been anxious to make arrangements for providing work which they can do at home, in the country. In order to effect this, it is necessary that the business at our workshop

should be enlarged. The enlargement, however, must not be brought about by any such appeal to the charitable feeling of the public as would induce them to come and buy; for, besides the strong considerations against such an appeal, the result of it would only be spasmodic, and the benefit temporary. Indeed, the idea, which is too prevalent, that persons who give their custom to the blind at our store must make a little sacrifice, is groundless and hurtful. We believe that, with the advantages which the Institution gives to the blind workmen, they are put nearly upon a level with seeing men. We see that, after long practice, they can do certain simple kinds of work thoroughly and well. We know that the materials of all the goods on sale are honestly what they are stated to be. Knowing these things, we have placed our shop in one of the great thoroughfares of trade, in fair competition with others, and have invited inspection of the goods manufactured.

We might indeed urge people to come and buy, and plead as our motive the strong desire of giving work and support to the blind. This would be at least quite as generous and disinterested as the motive so commonly put forth in advertisements, to wit, the great desire of accommodating the public; but we do not do even this; for, while our motive in selling is to employ the blind, we expect that the motive of the buyer will be to get a good bargain.

It is only by acting on this principle that we have been able to create a steady and reliable business. If it is enlarged in this way, the enlargement will pretty surely be permanent; and we shall thus obviate one difficulty which has been urged as an objec-

tion to our plan, to wit, that the blind may be encouraged at one season with prospect of employment, and left at another to suffer from lack of it.

Practically, there has never been much difficulty on this score, and of late years but very little of it. There are certain kinds of simple work which almost all can do, and for which there is a steady demand at certain seasons, such, for instance, as making door-mats. This constitutes, therefore, a kind of staple; and when orders for mattresses do not come in briskly, the men fall back upon their looms and mat-boards.

Some of the workmen have been entirely dependent upon their wages for more than ten years, and have made a comfortable living; a few have relatives in the country, and go to them a few months in the winter, returning here regularly in the spring.

There are scores and hundreds of blind persons in the country who would be glad of the same opportunity; and the main difficulty in the way of their having it arises from their inability to compete with seeing persons who work for the wholesale dealers. By taking advantage of that law of trade which gives to the retailer so large a share of profit, and allowing all this to the blind workman, our establishment gives means of support to a certain number, which will be greater or less according as our retail business is greater or less. Beyond this we cannot safely go, as will be seen by looking at the practical workings of any branch. For instance, the price which is readily paid by families for reseating cane-bottom chairs, gives a good living profit to a blind man; and most of the work of this kind in the city comes

to our shop. If, however, we should attempt to enlarge the business greatly, and go into the work of seating new chairs, we should come into competition with the wholesale dealer. He gets his work done in the State prisons and other public establishments; or he carries his frames around the country, leaving a hundred here and a hundred there, to be done in families, at odd hours, in bad weather, perhaps by women and children. The price which he pays will not keep the pot boiling, as these thrifty people know very well; and they do not rely upon it, but earn it when they cannot earn any more. The blind man, however, must have one steady employment, for he cannot turn his hand to everything.

Next to establishing here a large and permanent business, the most unobjectionable way of meeting his want is one which has before been mentioned in our Reports, and which commends itself to the judgment, as well as to the feelings. It is to establish a fund, the income of which shall be devoted to eking out his earnings. Suppose, for instance, that one thousand dollars were given in trust to this Institution, with directions that the income should be paid monthly to some blind man who had already earned an equal sum. There is many a man in the country who could and would gladly earn every week from one to two dollars, if he could get a third; but failing this, he must go to the almshouse, where he earns nothing, for, the spur being removed, he becomes an idle pauper.

One thousand dollars invested in this way would keep one man industriously and profitably employed, as long as he could work; and it would employ oth-

ers after him. Ten thousand would keep eleven or twelve so employed. Such an investment would be living proof of the truth of the proverb, — Help yourself, and Heaven will help you.

In conformity with a custom which, if not abused, is a good one, and which requires of directors of public institutions like ours a yearly account, not only of their doings, but of their thinkings, I have in this Report, as in some former ones, touched upon matters pertaining to the general organization of such establishments. In doing so I have laid much stress upon the necessity of guarding against the evils which are to be apprehended from associating together in too great numbers, and for too long time, persons who labor under a common infirmity. I have also been obliged often to allude to the disadvantages flowing from the infirmity. This may have given offence to morbid sensibility. It may have seemed to render public institutions less attractive in the public eye. But if the principles insisted upon are sound, and the motives in putting them forth are good, there need be no anxiety about the final effect.

It would have been easy to present a different aspect of the case, and to dwell upon the manifest advantages of institutions for the blind, without alluding to their small disadvantages. Looking merely to temporary results, it would have been better to touch no string which would grate upon a sensitive ear, or damp the ardor of a generous public.

It would be pleasant to point out persons so happily constituted that they seem to gather good from an evil tree ; and to become wiser, purer, and better,

in all ways, from becoming blind. It would be easy also to dwell on certain moral and intellectual advantages which seem to grow out of blindness. We must not, however, be guided by the exceptional, but by the common results. Especially we must not forget, in the admiration which the virtues and the excellences of certain persons excite, that blindness, like any other departure from a normal condition, is naturally followed by disadvantages which it is our business to lessen and remedy as much as is possible.

When we think of the docility, the gentleness, the gayety, and other graces of youth, which so often abound among the blind, — of the cheerfulness, the courage, the industry, shown in later life by many, who not only bravely bear their heavy infirmity as though it were no burden at all, but who show active sympathy for every form of suffering in others, — when we think of these things, we must rejoice over them as proofs of the high capacities of our common nature, which can bear blossom and fruit in spite of sterile soil and cruel mutilation; but we must not neglect any of the laws of its culture.

We must remember that the highest and brightest examples for our pupils are those blind persons who, without the advantage of institutions especially adapted to their wants, have shown honesty, energy, talent, and success in various active walks of life, and who have manifested the Christian graces and virtues in all their social and domestic relations. But in order that such examples may not be wanting in future, we must organize and regulate our institutions so as that they shall not foster a clannish spirit, and a dis-

position to monkish seclusion; but will arm their pupils for the battle of life, and inspire them with courage to contend resolutely, but generously, for their share of its duties, its responsibilities, and its blessings.

The details of the establishment, which are important in themselves, but of little public interest, are communicated monthly to the Board, and may be referred to whenever occasion presents.

I take the opportunity, in closing, to express my obligation to those persons who have been associated with me in the direction of the establishment; and who have labored with zeal and fidelity for its welfare. On them more than on all others, the inmates rely for daily comfort, improvement, and happiness.

Respectfully submitted by

S. G. HOWE.

9

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE

Dr. *The Perkins Institution for the Blind in*

For amount paid at sundry dates, on Orders of Auditors, for various disbursements * for expenses, as per account rendered, viz. :—	\$ 13,337.39
For amount invested in Western Railroad, 25 shares,	2,456.25
“ interest on Mr. Stover’s mortgage,	90.00
“ amount on T. Stover’s note and mortgage,	1,500.00
“ “ invested in Western Railroad Bonds, \$4,000.00	
Interest on same,	52.00
	<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
	4,052.00
Balance to new account,	3,618.23

\$ 25,053.87

* These items will be made out and printed at the end of the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1858.

<i>Account with T. B. WALES, Treasurer.</i>		Cr.
By cash from old account,		\$2,567.49
“ three quarterly payments of appropriation by State of Massachusetts,		9,000.00
“ Amount received from Vermont, for Pupils, \$ 880.00		
“ “ “ “ Connecticut, “ 2,979.83		
“ “ “ “ New Hampshire, “ 900.00		
“ “ “ “ South Carolina, “ 79.00		
“ “ “ “ Rhode Island, “ 299.38		
	—————	5,138.21
“ “ “ on account of Private Pupils, . . .		750.00
“ “ “ for Books, Apparatus, &c., sold to		
Mississippi Inst. for Blind, \$ 125.00		
Louisiana “ “ 147.00		
Pennsylvania “ “ 24.74		
District of Columbia, 25.25		
Sundry individuals, as per		
memorandum, . . . 94.62		
“ “ “ from George Winslow, . . . 23.36		
	—————	439.97
“ “ “ “ Dividends on Stocks, 1,158.20		
“ “ “ “ William Oliver's estate, 835.00		
“ “ “ “ Ex'r of J. Black, Esq., 5,000.00		
“ “ “ “ Mrs. Watson's Legacy, 165.00		
	—————	7,158.20
		<u>\$ 25,053.87</u>

Boston, October 12, 1858.

THE undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1858, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the accounts to be properly vouched and correctly cast, and the balance to be three thousand six hundred eighteen and $\frac{23}{100}$ dollars, say \$3,618.23.

The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to the Institution : —

9 shares in New England Bank,	\$ 900.00
17 “ State Bank,	1,020.00
25 “ Tremont Bank,	2,500.00
12 “ Columbian Bank,	1,200.00
20 “ Boston and Providence Railroad,	1,642.50
85 “ Western Railroad,	8,218.75
30 “ Boston and Maine Railroad,	2,942.00
25 “ Concord Railroad,	1,250.00
15 “ Boston and Worcester Railroad,	1,155.00
4 certificates, Western Railroad Bonds,	4,000.00
	\$ 24,828.25

NATHANIEL H. EMMONS, } *Committee.*
 JOSEPH N. HOWE, }

LIST OF BOOKS

PRINTED AT THE

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS
ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

WITH PRICES* OF SUCH AS ARE FOR SALE.

	No. of Volumes.	Price per Volume.
Lardner's Universal History,	3	\$ 3.00
Howe's Geography,	1	3.00
" Atlas of the Islands,	1	3.00
English Reader, First Part,	1	3.00
" " Second Part,	1	3.00
The Harvey Boys,	1	2.00
The Pilgrim's Progress,	1	3.00
Baxter's Call,	1	3.00
English Grammar,	1	2.00
Life of Melancthon,	1	2.00
Constitution of the United States,	1	2.00
Book of Diagrams,	1	2.00
Viri Romæ,	1	3.00
Peirce's Geometry, with Diagrams,	1	3.00
Political Class-Book,	1	3.00
First Table of Logarithms,	1	2.00
Second " " " "	1	3.00
Principles of Arithmetic,	1	2.00
Astronomical Dictionary,	1	2.00
Philosophy of Natural History,	1	3.00
Rudiments of Natural Philosophy,	1	3.00
Cyclopædia,	8	3.00
The Book of Common Prayer,	1	
Guide to Devotion,	1	
New Testament (small),	4	
" " (large),	2	
Old Testament,	6	
Book of Psalms,	1	
" Proverbs,	1	
Psalms in Verse,	1	
Psalms and Hymns,	1	
The Dairyman's Daughter,	1	
" Spelling-Book,	1	
" Sixpenny Glass of Wine,	1	
Howe's Blind Child's Manual	1	1.50
" " " First Book,	1	1.50
" " " Second Part,	1	
" " " Third Part,	1	2.00
Collection of Hymns for the Blind,	1	3.00
Milton's Poetical Works,	2	3.00
Diderot's Essay,	1	3.00
Total number,	60	

The above amounts barely cover the cost. All expenses of packing and transportation have to be charged extra.

We are prepared, also, to manufacture maps, globes, and other school apparatus for the blind, and to deliver them to other institutions, or to indigent blind persons, at actual cost.

* It has been found advisable to advance the price from that of former years.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

YOUNG blind persons, of good moral character, can be admitted to the School by paying \$ 200 *per annum*. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, &c. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the Institution. The friends of the pupils can visit them whenever they choose.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the Governor for a warrant.

The following is a good form, though any other will do:—

“TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR:—

“SIR,— My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged , cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“ Very respectfully, _____ .”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the selectmen of the town, or aldermen of the city, in this form:—

“ I hereby certify, that, in my opinion, Mr. _____ is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$ 200 *per annum* for his child's instruction.

(Signed,) “ _____ .”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form:—

"I certify, that, in my opinion, — — — has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools; and that he is free from epilepsy, and from any contagious disease.

(Signed,) "—————."

These papers should be done up together, and directed to "The Secretary of State, State-House, Boston, Mass."

An obligation will be required from some responsible person, that the pupil shall be removed without expense to the Institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and South Carolina, by applying as above to the "Commissioners for the Blind," care of the Secretary of State in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

For further particulars, address Dr. S. G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relations or friends of the blind who may be sent to the Institution are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions:—

1. What is the age of the applicant?
2. Where was he born?
3. Was he born blind?
4. If not born blind, at what age did he become so?
5. What is the supposed cause of the blindness?
6. Have there been any cases of blindness, or deafness, or insanity, in the family of the applicant, among his brothers and sisters, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, or cousins?
7. Were his parents or grandparents affected with scrofula, in any form; with consumption; humors, such as salt-rheum; eruptions of any kind; or had they any peculiarity of bodily constitution whatever?
8. Were the parents or the grandparents of the applicant related to each other by blood? If so, in what degree?

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

FOR 1858-59.

PRESIDENT.

EDWARD BROOKS.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

TREASURER.

THOMAS B. WALES.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

THOMAS G. CARY,
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER,
GEORGE B. EMERSON,
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,*
JOSEPH LYMAN,
SAMUEL MAY,
WILLIAM PERKINS,
BENJAMIN S. ROTCH,*
GEORGE R. RUSSELL,
JAMES STURGIS,
JOSEPH B. THAXTER, JR.,*
WILLIAM D. TICKNOR.*

* Trustees in behalf of the State, appointed January, 1858. The State Trustees for 1859 have not yet been designated by the Governor.

TWENTY-EIGHTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

PERKINS INSTITUTION

AND

Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind,

TO THE

CORPORATION.

CAMBRIDGE:

WELCH, BIGELOW, AND COMPANY,
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1860.

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R E P O R T .

Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

Boston, October 5, 1859.

TO THE CORPORATION AND THE LEGISLATURE:—

GENTLEMEN, — The undersigned, Trustees in behalf of the Corporation and of the Legislature of Massachusetts, respectfully submit the following Report and documents, in which may be found all the information required by law and usage to be laid before the annual meeting.

First. The Report of the Treasurer, duly audited by a committee of the Corporation. This Report shows that the funds in his hands amount to \$ 24,828.25, invested as per memorandum enclosed, being the same amount as reported at the commencement of the year, and a balance on hand amounting to \$ 739.69.

The Report shows in detail all the sums received on account of the Institution, and the sources whence they are drawn ; but it does not show the items of expenditure. This is because the Treasurer does not pay the bills for current expenses, but only drafts drawn by a committee of the Trustees.

The disbursements are made by the Director, and his accounts are examined monthly by the Committee on Accounts, who give drafts upon the Treasurer for the amount expended. Every bill is examined, and, if found correct, is approved, numbered, and recorded.

Secondly. The Report of the Director. This gives the required information respecting the admissions, discharges, and number of pupils; also their general condition and occupation during the year.

The total number of blind persons resident in the Institution or connected with the workshop is 122.

The Director also makes such remarks upon matters connected with the education of the blind as seem to him appropriate.

Thirdly. The inventories of real and personal property belonging to the Institution required by law.

The property consists mainly in real estate situated in South Boston. This is now becoming valuable. It will soon be in demand for house-lots, and can doubtless be sold advantageously within a few years.

Whenever the main lot, south of Broadway, with the buildings, can be sold for enough to purchase an estate in the country, and to build suitable buildings, the successors of the present Board will probably remove the Institution, because the objection to its present location will be likely to increase, as the neighborhood becomes more populous, rather than to lessen, and because they will have the means to do it. It could not be done now, were the necessity for it greater than it is, without incurring debt; and this should always be avoided if possible.

The lot north of Broadway, on which the workshop is situated, will probably be held longer. Indeed, it does not seem advisable to contemplate the removal of the Work Department for adults from South Boston at present, even if the School should be removed. The Work Department is quite separate from and independent of the School, with which the workmen and workwomen have no relation. Indeed, they all board in the neighboring houses, where they have made themselves comfortable homes. A necessity for a removal may arise in future, but it does not seem to exist now.

The Trustees, besides their monthly meetings, in which they transact any business that may be necessary, have visited the Institution by their committees, at least as often as twice in each month. The reports of these committees as to the condition of the premises, and the occupations of the pupils, have always been satisfactory.

The examinations have shown the school to be in a satisfactory condition.

The enlargement of the play-grounds gives to the girls more opportunity for exercise in the open air and in sunshine than formerly, a circumstance of great importance for all children, but especially for the blind.

The boys who have no talent for music need unusual opportunity for training in the workshop, as manual labor must be their main dependence for future support. In view of this, additional accommodations for the boys' workshop are desirable.

Finally, the Trustees heartily commend the Institution to the Corporation, the Legislature, and the

public, as worthy the patronage of the State and the encouragement of good men who have the stewardship of wealth.

Adopted by order of the Board.

Attest,

S. G. HOWE, *Secretary.*

REPORT

OF THE DIRECTOR TO THE TRUSTEES.

Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

Boston, September 30, 1859.

GENTLEMEN, — The undersigned has the honor to submit the following Report touching the history and condition of the Institution during the year which closes this day.

On the 30th of September, 1858, the number of blind persons connected with the Institution was 114. During the year 28 have been admitted, and 19 have been discharged; so that the total number at this date is 123. Of these, 3 are teachers, 3 are assistants, and 88 are pupils. They all reside in the building of the Institution, and, with the teachers and domestics, make up the household. The others, 29 in number, are adults, and are connected with the Work Department as journeymen. They do not reside at the establishment, but board in the neighborhood, and come to the shop daily to their work.

HEALTH.

The general health of the inmates has been as good as usual. There has been very little sickness, and none of a grave character. The pupils are of an age when the great spontaneous activity of the vital force keeps in abeyance whatever morbid tendencies may exist. They are subject to wholesome rules of diet and regimen, and are, therefore, usually in the enjoyment of what is called "good health." As compared with other blind persons of their age, the average standard of health among our pupils is high.

The careful observer, however, will see a marked difference between a hundred blind youths in this, or any other institution, and a hundred youths in an ordinary school. This is especially true of the male sex. He will find among the blind a larger proportion of scrofulous, narrow-chested, angular, pallid, and feeble boys, who move sluggishly and soon tire; and a smaller proportion of those full-chested, chubby, rosy, elastic creatures, whom nothing can keep still, and nothing tire out.

To the common eye the children in a school for the blind look pretty well, and feel pretty well; and they would be surprised by any expression of doubt about their bodily health and strength. This "feeling well," however, and being well, is a relative matter. Two young men of the same age may, to a casual observer, seem equally strong and well, and both may lead temperate lives; and yet John's amount of vital force, if measured by the capacity for persistence of all the bodily functions, in spite

of morbid tendencies and in spite of time, — that is, his *quantum* of life; — may be double that of Thomas. He may do twice the amount of work, manual, mental, or spiritual; he may bear twice the amount of wear and tear, and yet live on a score of years after Thomas has died of old age. So much for the difference of *stock*, where the external modifying influences, that is, the mode of life, are the same. If John, springing from good stock, is carefully trained up according to the laws of health, then he may, like Boone or Humboldt, live, hunting or writing, up to ninety; while Thomas, coming of poor stock and living unwisely, dies a mere youth, or barely struggles on to a stunted and sickly manhood. If, however, the conditions of life are reversed, and John, like most young men born to riches, wastes his abundant vital force in riotous living, while Thomas uses his scanty portion frugally, then the *quantum* of Thomas's life, measured by its duration, may be equal to John's, while, if measured by the amount of bodily and mental action, it may be much greater.

Now if the blind, as a class, have a much smaller *quantum* of life than ordinary persons, it must be either on account of some flaw in the stock whence they sprung, or of some peculiarity in their mode of life, induced by their infirmity, such as bodily inactivity; but probably it results from both causes. At any rate, it is a matter well worth considering.

The undersigned has repeatedly stated that his experience goes to confirm what would be the natural inference from the premises, to wit, that the infirmity of blindness not only tends to circumscribe

the activity and to lessen the enjoyment of life, but moreover to shorten its duration. This tendency, of course, may be partly corrected by proper training, and a careful mode of life; but it should always be kept in mind. In former Reports of this Institution the blind have been urged by various considerations, addressed to their reason and moral sense, to observe carefully all the laws of health. As such appeals, however, can have little force when based upon the mere opinion of an individual, compared with what they would have if founded on well-ascertained truths, it may be well to set forth those truths plainly.

Most people become resigned, even cheerful, under habitual ill-health. There is nothing shocking in the thought that you are less robust and healthy than your neighbors; but the certainty that you must die sooner is at least startling. Disease in the physical system works like the worm in fruit, and seems to hurry it through its phases of growth and maturity, to early decay; but the analogy extends not to the moral nature, and man does not become ready to drop prematurely into the grave. The soul feels an instinctive right to a lease of at least threescore and ten years of a tenantable tabernacle, with proper warning for a peaceful and willing departure; and she protests against earlier and forcible ejection by active disease, or by decay of the tenement.

Among the blind, love of life and aversion to early death are not lessened by their infirmity, nor by its usual effect of lowering the standard of health. If, therefore, stubborn statistics of mortality can come as a voice from the dead, saying to them, You will surely die earlier than your neighbors unless you

take uncommon care, then they may heed this voice, though they heed not that of the prophets.

Several institutions for the blind in this country have existed more than a quarter of a century; and though the period is a short one, yet valuable statistics may already be gathered from their records.

Look at the nature of the source whence these statistics are drawn.

First, the pupils of the several institutions are in some respects a picked class. Feeble and sickly children would not generally be sent from home.

Next, while they are in the School, they come under very favorable physical influences. In this Institution much attention has always been paid to the laws of health. The pupils are well fed, well clad, and comfortably lodged. They breathe fresh air, bathe daily, take active bodily exercise, live in a cheerful social atmosphere, and suffer no undue strain upon their mental faculties. The rules of the establishment require that they be so trained during the five or seven years of their pupilage. But, besides this, they are taught physiology, and made to understand that the rules derive not their binding force from the will or wisdom of an individual, but from their conformity with natural principles, and their aim to promote health and longevity. The same is probably true of the other institutions whence these statistics are drawn.

It is to be feared, indeed, that the regular, simple, and wholesome habits gained in school are not persisted in by all after they return to their several homes. There they come under new influences. They think, naturally enough, that they may live as carelessly and unwisely as those about them, not remembering

that the blind, in order to preserve ordinary health, must take extraordinary care of it. The aid of discipline being withdrawn, they are tempted by the example of their neighbors to neglect or break the rules of diet and regimen which are important for all, but essential to the blind, if they wish to keep in as high condition of bodily and mental health as their more favored fellows.

Those especially whose misfortune it is to lack the spur of necessity, and to imbibe the vulgar notion that work is not respectable, yield easily to the languor and sluggishness which, little by little, creep over them as they grow older, until they lose all love for any bodily effort and exercise beyond that of rocking a chair. Notwithstanding such cases, however, the good effect of wise training during the years of pupilage must tell upon the great majority of graduates for many years, and make them to live longer and more healthily than they would otherwise have done. The average length of life is doubtless greater among them than it would otherwise have been; greater at least than among others who suffer under the like infirmity. Statistics of mortality, therefore, based upon the average duration of life among the pupils of good educational institutions, must present the most favorable case that can fairly be made for the blind as a class. They may therefore lay to heart the lesson taught thereby; and be sure, moreover, that, if there be any error, it is probably of omission of persons deceased, but supposed to be still living, and that its correction would make the case more unfavorable to them as a class.

Viewed in this light, the inferences from the following Tables will appear striking.

TABLE I.

Comparing the Relative VITALITY (or ability to resist destructive influences) of the BLIND, at Divers AGES of Life, according to the combined Experience of SEVEN American State Institutions for the Blind, with that of the Populations of Massachusetts and of England respectively.

[Calculated by Mr. E. B. ELLIOTT, Consulting Actuary, Boston.]

Ages on Admission.	Number of Persons admitted (known whether surviving or deceased).	Average Age, on Admission.	Average Years elapsed, to middle of 1859.	Number deceased (before the end of 1859).	Number surviving (in 1859).	According to Elliott's Massachusetts Life Table.			According to Farr's English Life Table.				
						Number that should be surviving (in 1859).	Deficiency of actual Survivors, relative to the Number that should be surviving.		Number that should be surviving (in 1859).	Deficiency of actual Survivors, relative to the Number that should be surviving.			
							Number.	Per cent.		Number.	Per cent.		
0 - 6	14	4.4	19.1	1	13	12.0	—1.0†	12.0	—1.0†	12.0	189.8	18.8	9.9
6 - 10	210	7.7	14.3	39	171	189.2	18.2	189.8	18.8	189.8	189.8	18.8	9.4
10 - 14	287	11.5	13.2	52	235	237.2	22.2	237.2	22.2	237.2	237.2	24.5	9.4
14 - 18	209	15.5	13.3	38	171	182.0	11.0	182.0	11.0	186.6	186.6	15.6	8.4
18 - 22	177	19.3	14.8	50	127	149.6	22.6	149.6	15.1	154.0	154.0	27.0	17.5
22 - 26	101	23.3	14.6	19	82	84.8	2.8	84.8	3.4	86.9	86.9	4.9	5.6
26 - 30	47	27.4	12.6	10	37	40.3	3.3	40.3	8.1	40.8	40.8	3.8	9.4
30 and over,	38	37.2	12.7	11	27	31.9	4.9	31.9	15.4	31.8	31.8	4.8	15.2
Age not specified,	19		12.4	4	15	16.7*	1.7	16.7*	10.4	17.1*	17.1*	2.1	12.4
All ages,	1102	15.4	13.8	224	878	963.7	85.7	963.7	8.9	978.5	978.5	100.5	10.3

NOTE.—This table may be read thus:—Between the ages of 6 and 10 the number of persons admitted to the above-mentioned institutions, of whom it is known whether they were living in 1859, or had previously deceased, was 210; (their average age on admission was 7.7 years; the average period elapsed since admission and previous to the middle of the year 1859 was 14.3 years); the number of those who died before the end of the year 1859 was 39; the number surviving in 1859 being 171. The number that should be surviving, according to the *Massachusetts Life Table*, is 189.2. Hence the number of actual survivors was 18.2 less than the number demanded by the *Massachusetts Table*, which deficiency is 9.6 per cent of (189.2) the number so demanded. The number that should be surviving, according to the *English Life Table*, is 189.8. Hence the number of actual survivors was 18.8 less than the number demanded by the *English Table*, which deficiency is 9.9 per cent of (189.8) the number so demanded.

* Calculated on the assumption that the average age on admission of the persons whose ages were not specified was the same as the average age of those whose ages were specified, to wit, 15.4 years.

† Excess.

TABLE II.

Comparing the Relative VITALITY (or ability to resist destructive influences) of the BLIND, at Divers PERIODS AFTER ADMISSION, according to the combined Experience of SEVEN American State Institutions for the Blind, with that of the Populations of Massachusetts and of England respectively.

[Calculated by Mr. E. B. ELLIOTT, Consulting Actuary, Boston.]

Years.	Number of Persons admitted (known as surviving or deceased).	Number deceased (previous to the middle of 1859).	Number surviving in 1859.	Average Age, on Admission.	Average number of Years elapsed (to middle of 1859).	According to Elliott's Massachusetts's Life Table.				According to Farr's English Life Table.			
						Number that should be surviving (in 1859).	Deficiency of actual Survivors, relative to the Number that should survive.			Number that should be surviving (in 1859).	Deficiency of actual Survivors, relative to the Number that should survive.		
							Num-ber.	Per cent.			Num-ber.	Per cent.	
								3 Year Group.	7 Year Group.			3 Year Group.	7 Year Group.
1832	13	4	9	12.7	27	9.7	0.7			10.1	1.1		
1833	49	17	32	16.4	26	36.3	4.3	} 7.1	}	37.6	5.6	} 10.4	}
1834	29	7	22	15.9	25	21.8	-0.2*						
1835	26	8	18	17.1	24	19.7	1.7	} 17.8	}	20.4	2.4	} 20.7	} 15.6
1836	33	12	21	15.5	23	25.5	4.5						
1837	45	18	27	16.3	22	35.1	8.1	} 12.3	}	36.3	9.3	} 15.4	}
1838	41	12	29	14.9	21	32.6	3.6						
1839	30	12	18	14.5	20	24.2	6.2	} 8.7	}	25.0	7.0	} 8.4	} 11.1
1840	37	8	29	16.6	19	29.9	0.9						
1841	47	7	40	14.2	18	39.0	-1.0*	} 6.0	}	40.2	0.2	} 8.4	}
1842	56	16	40	16.5	17	46.5	6.5						
1843	70	13	57	12.7	16	60.2	3.2	} 8.9	}	61.5	4.5	} 11.0	}
1844	68	14	54	13.9	15	58.6	4.6						
1845	43	11	32	14.6	14	37.3	5.3	} 11.1	}	38.3	6.3	} 12.6	}
1846	51	9	42	15.3	13	44.6	2.6						
1847	35	8	27	14.2	12	31.2	4.2	} 7.6	}	31.7	4.7	} 9.1	}
1848	43	12	31	16.3	11	38.3	7.3						
1849	60	8	52	16.8	10	54.2	2.2	} 4.4	}	55.1	3.1	} 5.5	}
1850	54	9	45	18.5	9	49.0	4.0						
1851	38	4	34	15.3	8	35.2	1.2	} 5.0	}	35.6	1.6	} 5.2	}
1852	28	1	27	11.5	7	26.7	-0.3*						
1853	40	0	40	12.6	6	38.4	-1.6*	} 6.4	}	38.3	-1.7*	} 6.7	}
1854	30	5	25	14.5	5	28.8	3.8						
1855	34	4	30	15.7	4	32.8	2.8	} 4.4	}	33.0	3.0	} 4.6	}
1856	23	5	18	16.8	3	22.4	4.4						
1857	16	0	16	17.6	2	15.7	-0.3*	} 6.4	}	15.8	-0.2*	} 6.7	}
1858	23	0	23	18.0	1	22.8	-0.2*						
1859	40	0	40	16.2	0	40.0	0.0			40.0	0.0		

NOTE. — This table may be read thus: — Of the 68 persons admitted to the before-mentioned institutions during the year 1844, 14 died previous to the middle of the year 1859, and 54 were surviving in that year. The average age on admission of the 68 persons was 13 9 years, and the average number of years elapsed between the time of admission and the middle of the year 1859 was about 15 years. According to the Massachusetts Life Table, the number that should be surviving in 1859 was 58.6, showing the number of actual survivors to have been 4 6 less than the number demanded by such Table. The deficiency (4.6 + 5.3 + 2.6 = 12.5) of actual survivors relative to the number that should survive of those admitted during the three years 1844, 1845, and 1846, was, according to the Massachusetts Table, 8.9 per cent of (58.6 + 37.3 + 44.6 = 140.5) the number demanded; and the deficiency of actual survivors relative to the number that should survive of those admitted during the seven years 1839 to 1845 inclusive, was, according to the same Life Table, 8.7 per cent of the number demanded. In like manner may be read the results derived from comparison with the English Life Table.

* Excess.

TABLE III.

SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS PRESENTED IN THE TWO PRECEDING TABLES.

Comparing the Relative Vitality (or ability to resist destructive influences) of the BLIND, at Divers Ages of Life, and also at Divers Periods after Admission, according to the combined Experience of SEVEN American State Institutions for the Blind, with that of the Populations of Massachusetts and of England respectively.

[Calculated by Mr. E. B. ELLIOTT, Consulting Actuary, Boston.]

DEFICIENCY in the Number of the BLIND that survived in 1859, relative to the Number that should then be surviving.

Ages on Admission.	According to the Massachusetts Life Table.		Average Years elapsed (to middle of 1859).	Date of Admission, (in periods of three years).	According to the English Life Table.		Average Years elapsed (to middle of 1859).	Date of Admission, (in periods of seven Years).	According to the English Life Table.	
	Elliott.	Farr.			Elliott.	Farr.			Per cent.	Per cent.
0 - 6	....	....	25.8	1832 - 34	7.1	10.4	23.6	1832 - 38	12.5	15.6
6 - 10	9.6	9.9	22.8	1835 - 37	17.8	20.7	16.6	1839 - 45	8.7	11.1
10 - 14	8.6	9.4	20.0	1838 - 40	12.3	15.4	10.2	1846 - 52	7.6	9.1
14 - 18	6.1	8.4	16.9	1841 - 43	6.0	8.4	3.2	1853 - 59	4.4	4.6
18 - 22	15.1	17.5	14.1	1844 - 46	8.9	11.0				
22 - 26	3.4	5.6	10.8	1847 - 49	11.1	12.6				
26 - 30	8.1	9.4	8.2	1850 - 52	4.4	5.5				
30 and over,	15.4	15.2	5.1	1853 - 55	5.0	5.2				
Age not specified,	10.4	12.4	2.0	1856 - 58	6.4	6.7				
All ages,	8.9	10.3								

NOTE. — This table may be read thus: — Of the number of persons admitted to the above-mentioned institutions, between the ages of 10 and 14, the number that was surviving in 1859 was 8.6 per cent less according to the Massachusetts Life Table, and 9.4 per cent less according to the English Table, than the number that should then be surviving. Of the number of persons admitted during the three years 1838 - 40, from which the average time elapsing to the middle of 1859 was 20.0 years, the number that survived in 1859 was 12.3 per cent less according to the Massachusetts Table, and 15.4 per cent less according to the English Life Table, than the number that should then have been surviving. Of the number of persons admitted during the seven years 1839 - 45, from which the average time elapsing to the middle of 1859 was 16.6 years, the number that survived in 1859 was 8.7 per cent less according to the Massachusetts Table, and 11.1 per cent less according to the English Table, than the number that should then have been surviving.

The foregoing Tables have been calculated from data furnished by *seven* American State Institutions for the Blind; namely, those of New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, and Massachusetts; and are the results of careful discussion of data, by far the most extensive and trustworthy, it is believed, yet published in any country, relative to this unfortunate class.

The whole number of blind persons admitted to these institutions, concerning whom reliable information was furnished relating either to their age on admission, or to their condition (as living or deceased) in 1859, was 1,252. The condition in 1859 of 150 of these persons is not known; consequently only the remaining 1,102 cases were retained and employed in the construction of the Tables.

In each of these Tables the numbers of the blind actually surviving in 1859 are compared with the numbers that *should* then be surviving, according to two different Life Tables; — first, the Massachusetts Life Table,* prepared by Mr. Elliott from the State Census and Registration Returns for the Year 1855; and secondly, the English Life Table,† prepared by Dr. Farr of London, from the returns for the year 1841.

It should be remarked, that the intensity of mortality between the ages of 15 and 45, (within which interval of age the experience of the blind furnished for these computations usually ranges,) is somewhat

* Proceedings of American Association for the Advancement of Science, Montreal Meeting, 1857.

† Sixth Annual Report of the Registrar-General (England).

greater in Massachusetts than in England, although generally *less* at other periods of life.

In the first Table, the results are distinguished by *ages*; in the second and third, by the *periods of time elapsed* between admission and the year 1859.

According to the first Table, it appears that, of the entire 1,102 persons admitted, whose after-history is known, 878 now survive; whereas, the Life Table of Massachusetts calls for about 964, and that of England for about 979 survivors, — thereby indicating that the power of the blind, represented by the returns of these institutions, to resist destructive influences is about *nine* per cent (more exactly, 8.9 per cent) *less* than that of the population of Massachusetts, and *ten* per cent (10.3) *less* than that of the population of all England; and that the number of deaths is from *sixty* to *eighty* per cent *greater*, according to the tables employed for the comparison, than the number required by such tables. It also appears that the age of admission has but little influence in causing this deficiency, the diminished rate of vitality being nearly the same with those entering early in life and those entering at the more advanced ages. The irregularities manifest in the columns headed "Per cent" must be attributed chiefly to the insufficiency of the data when minutely subdivided.

Inspection of the second Table shows, that, as a rule, the *greater* the interval of time elapsing after admission, the wider the divergence of the experience of these institutions for the blind from the results of observations relative to the health, strength, and endurance of the population at large in Massachusetts and in England.

This divergence is shown most clearly by those results in which the data of seven consecutive years have been grouped; according to which it appears, that for the period from which (to the year 1859) only an average interval of *three* (3.2) years has elapsed, the deficiency is from 4.4 to 4.6 per cent; for that period from which an average interval of *ten* (10.2) years has elapsed, the deficiency is from 7.6 to 9.1 per cent; for that period from which an average interval of *seventeen* (16.6) years has elapsed, the deficiency was from 8.7 to 11.1 per cent; and for the seven-year period from which to the middle of the year 1859 an average interval of *twenty-four* (23.6) years has elapsed, the deficiency was from 12.5 to 15.6 per cent.

These facts accord with what might *à priori* be expected. The pupils on admission to these institutions are, as a rule, comparatively healthy and vigorous, constitutionally superior to the average of those afflicted with loss of vision, and must be considered as *selected* lives,—the best of their class. A considerable length of time is requisite for the favorable effect of selection to disappear. If the *select* portion of the blind persons admitted into these institutions have *nine* or *ten* per cent less of vital force, of ability to resist destructive influences,—if they are less fitted than the community generally, by constitution and mode of life, for anticipating and combating adverse influences in the struggle for existence which is the lot of all,—it is safe to conclude that the deficiency in vital force of those born blind, or born to become blind, *as a whole*, considerably *exceeds* these rates.

The interval of time through which these observations extend is quite limited; the first admissions to these institutions, reported, having been in the year 1832,—from the middle of which year to that of 1859 is an interval of but twenty-seven years. With longer intervals of time, the divergence would doubtless have been wider, and the deficiency rate still greater.

The direct and plain inference from them is, that the blind, as a class, do not live as long as other people. The indirect, but almost equally plain inference is, that during their shortened years they have less health and strength, less ability for the active duties, and consequently for the pleasures, of life. This is a sad thought were it only about one person, but how much sadder is it when it touches a large class! There are, probably, about 50,000 blind persons in Great Britain and the United States together, of whom almost all were born blind, or born to become blind early in life. By being “born to become blind,” is meant that a person is born with such constitutional tendencies, that certain forms of disease, which in other persons may affect any one of various organs, in him are sure to affect the visual organs. These seem to be the weak points in his system. They are so feebly endowed with vital force, that they are destroyed or weakened by disease or accidents which would not cause lasting injury to ordinary eyes. Such persons, that is, those who are born without sight, and those who lose it early in life, constitute what is called the class of the blind, which does not properly include those whose sight fails from old age, or who gradually cease to see.

Now if we could draw our statistics from this great class, and not from the favored few who have been taught in schools, the average duration of life would be much less. We should probably find the average amount of vital force, or power to resist destructive agencies, to be nearly one fifth less than that of ordinary persons. We should then understand why it is that we so seldom see or hear of an old blind person, that is, one blind from birth or from childhood.

Of course it is less important to live long than it is to live actively, usefully, and happily. But here is the rub; the very cause which lessens the length of life, lessens also its activity, usefulness, and happiness. Thus the lot of the blind seems harder and sadder than it is usually thought to be. Their years are not only fewer, but fuller of the ills which flesh is heir to. Their infirmities, and the consequences of them, if uncorrected, tend to turn the thoughts and emotions inward upon self, and to lessen the force of generous sympathies. But thanks to God, who has endowed man with self-consciousness and the power of self-control, all these evils may be lessened, if not quite counteracted, by wisdom, faith, and courage on the part of the sufferers, especially if they are aided by a little active sympathy from their more favored fellows. The knowledge that blindness is a greater calamity even than it is usually thought to be, and that, when not counteracted, it lowers the tone of the mental as well as the physical nature, should urge society to more strenuous efforts of benevolence, and should cause the blind themselves to make a more vigorous struggle for life, and for a

share of all the pleasures, duties, and responsibilities thereof.

Let the graduates of schools for the blind, then, bear continually in mind, that they are less fully endowed with vital force than other men, and therefore are more liable to sickness and early death; but let them not forget that the persistence of life and the degree of health depend on something besides original vital force; that is, upon wise observance of the laws of life, upon temperance, cheerfulness, and virtue.

By avoiding the thousand and one common sins of omission and commission against our physical nature, they will live, if not quite as long as other men, yet at least more vigorously and more happily than they would otherwise have done.

Let them ponder the fact, that though the nervous system is no more acute by nature in them than it is in other men, perhaps usually less so, yet that by training of particular senses they often attain what seems to others marvellous acuteness. Then let them apply the same system of training to their mental as well as bodily faculties, and they may count upon the same measure of success.

By diligent and wise training and intellectual exercise, they may rise far above the ordinary level of mental attainments, and some may reach honorable eminence. Let them make earnest and vigorous efforts to resist the tendency which their infirmity has to turn the thoughts and emotions inward, until each sufferer becomes to himself the morbid centre of a morbid universe. Let them strive by all means to widen the circle of their sympathies, and to for-

get their infirmity in active duties, and in their care and love for others. It is the duty of their teachers to prepare them to make the most of the life and of the powers that are given them; but little can be done by any teaching without their own active and earnest co-operation, — that is, without faith, courage, and diligence on their part.

They must consider that the precious boon of life is given to them, as it is to others, in trust, and upon generous but inflexible conditions; and that not one jot or tittle of the consequences of their conduct will be spared them by reason of their infirmity. As no law of gravity will be slackened to save them the consequence of a misstep, so no law of morals will be relaxed to lessen for them the suffering which is bound to its violation, as effect is bound to cause. On the other hand, no virtuous and good thought or deed can be unrewarded to them, any more than it can to others.

The blind must consider that the capacity of their life for activity and goodness and happiness is so vast, that there should be no question about its value as compared with that of others. It should be gratefully accepted, and cherished and lengthened as much as may be. It should be improved and enjoyed to the utmost; and spent so virtuously and joyfully as to make it the best tribute of praise and gratitude to its Great Giver.

THE SCHOOL.

There have been no marked changes in the management or condition of the School. The same

system of instruction has been followed during the past year as during so many former ones, and mostly with the same teachers. Under their care the pupils have gone on industriously in their studies, acquiring useful knowledge, mostly by means of oral instruction, and developing their own mental powers by regular exercise thereof. A part of each day is devoted to the common branches of English education. All are taught reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, and geography; and the advanced class is taught algebra, geometry, natural philosophy, physiology, and the like. They generally take great interest in their studies, and do not need any of the usual stimulants to diligence and earnestness in the pursuit of knowledge. Indeed, although the close observer may see, as was before remarked, that the standard of bodily health and vigor is lower than in ordinary schools, he must also see that the standard of mental activity is higher; that is, if the pupils are drawn from the same ranks of life. This is owing partly to the fact that blindness tends to disturb the harmonious development of the mental powers, forcing some while retarding others; and partly to the change which is made in the usual method of instruction, so as to adapt it to the peculiar wants of the pupil.

Blind children are no more inquisitive by nature than children who see; but the range of their observation and thought being circumscribed in certain directions, their attention is apt to be more eager and keen in other directions. So far from requiring to be urged to thought and reflection, the danger is that the blind will indulge in them too much, and at too early a period of life. Their childhood is too apt

to be abridged. They do not play and frolic long enough. As a general rule, they take interest in matters which others of their age care little about. The duration of the period of activity of the perceptive faculties is shortened; and the reflective faculties come too early into action. Hence the teacher has no difficulty in securing the attention of his blind pupils. If they do not learn, it is his fault.

As an instance of the interest they feel in contemporaneous history, it may be stated, that, during the late sharp struggle in Italy, the older pupils not only wanted to hear all the news of the war, but desired to understand fully the movements of the armies; and a map of the country was prepared expressly, so that they could feel out the water-courses, mountains, and positions of the chief towns and fortresses.

MUSIC.

The liberality of your Board in granting funds for purchasing new musical instruments, and providing the necessary means for improving the system of musical instruction, has been fruitful of much pleasure and profit to the pupils. The purchase of twelve new and beautiful pianos in place of the old and imperfect ones, and the addition of many new instruments to the band, have given fresh life to the teachers and spirit to the pupils. This branch of our system of instruction is now in a satisfactory state, though it may be that the enthusiasm among the pupils for musical studies, if not controlled, will act unfavorably upon their progress in other branches.

The musical sense, or perception of harmonious relations in sounds, certainly is not more acute by nature in the blind than in others, — probably it is less so; but, for plain reasons, it is so much cultivated by them, that in a given number of blind persons there will be a larger proportion of musicians than among an equal number of ordinary persons taken promiscuously. For reasons often repeated, instruction in music forms a prominent branch in all schools for the blind; and the selection of a teacher for this branch is an important but difficult matter.

In every civilized society there are many persons who have musical taste and acquirements, and who are good performers; but it is hard to find among them one who unites in himself all the various qualities of mind and heart which are desirable for a good teacher of music. If we superadd the special qualities desirable for such a special duty as teacher of a school for the blind, the difficulty is increased.

Of course it is very much harder to find such a person among the blind themselves, because the number from which to choose is so much smaller. This matter is apt to be overlooked by the blind in their eagerness for employment.

Nature does not create men all alike, and pitch them into the world like bits of clay, to be fashioned just as well into one vessel as into another; but she *sorts* them, each sort having special fitness for special purposes; and there is a wonderful adjustment of the number given of each sort to the number needed.

Suppose, for instance, that among the million inhabitants of Massachusetts there are only about one

thousand of the sort best fitted to make teachers of youth. If we want one to teach music well, the difficulty of finding him is greater, because, besides the general qualities to be found in all of his sort, we want special qualities for this special want.

If now we apply the same rule to the blind, we should find but very few, hardly more than two or three, of the sort fitted for teaching common branches; and if we come to the special sort of teachers, the chance is there will not be one.

Now the fact agrees with the theory; for among the many living graduates of this School, there are but two or three well fitted by natural endowment for general teachers, and not one well fitted for the more difficult post of teaching music in a large establishment. As we widen the circle, however, and comprehend the graduates of other schools, the probability of the existence of a person having any given qualifications increases.

One having many of the requisite natural qualifications, and great acquired advantages, presented himself last year in the person of Mr. T. J. Campbell of Tennessee. Upon the general principle that, other things being equal, a blind person should have preference, Mr. Campbell was taken for a time upon trial, and, having succeeded perfectly, was engaged as teacher and superintendent of the department of music.

The success which has followed his earnest labors is satisfactory to his employers, and must be highly encouraging to the blind generally. He has been placed upon the same footing, and paid the same salary, as his predecessors, who were persons ranking high in the musical profession, and some of them distinguished by peculiar gifts.

PRINTING IN RAISED LETTERS.

Something has been done during the year towards enlarging the library of the blind, but not much, because the means are so limited. Our press, however, has not been quite idle; for, besides several editions from stereotyped plates, one new and important work has been printed, namely, Paley's Natural Theology.

This will be a very valuable book for the blind, because, aside from the merit of the main argument, it conveys a great amount of information upon subjects connected with every-day life and its duties. The book has been secured to the blind principally by the efforts of Mr. E. P. Deering, of Portland, Maine. This young gentleman, formerly a pupil of our Institution, has always manifested much interest in the welfare of his fellow-sufferers. Enjoying the opportunity of cultivating his literary taste, and knowing well what a source of pleasure books are to the blind, he exerted himself among his friends, and raised the larger part of the money necessary to print this interesting and important work.

The enterprise of printing for the blind is one that commends itself to the understanding and the heart of all who look at it closely, because, while it is hardly possible it should be abused, or perverted to the pecuniary profit of any one, it is sure to bring great comfort and joy to many. A small sum of money, wisely appropriated to printing a book for the blind, is like good seed planted in good soil, that will bear abundant fruit through many seasons.

WORK DEPARTMENT.

The Work Department has been in a satisfactory condition, all things considered. The sale of articles manufactured by the blind has increased with the general revival of business. The average number of blind workmen has been greater than during the last year. The amount of wages paid to them was \$3,316.43, against \$3,022.07 paid during the preceding twelve months. The sales have amounted to \$14,520.78, being a gain of \$535.18 over the preceding year. This of course represents principally the value of manual work.

The good effects of the system of an independent Work Department, in which the workmen rely upon their own efforts, and receive only what they can earn, is becoming more and more apparent in many ways.

Several of the young men who were formerly supposed to be incapable of supporting themselves, who had no confidence in their own ability, and who, so long as they were boarded and cared for, hung listlessly about, not earning enough to pay for their bread, now that they are thrown upon their own resources, and obliged to husband their means, live quite independently and comfortably.

Of course there are a few who have not proved equal to the task of supporting themselves, even with the indirect aid given them by the establishment; and they have been obliged to fall back upon the towns whence they came. It is sad to think of such cases. It is hard to resist the impulse to relieve them by a sacrifice of the principle which for-

bids their being congregated in one establishment. But it is believed that, in the long run, greater good will be done, and less evil encountered, by adhering to the principle. If aid is to be given in special cases, it had better be done at the several homes of those who need it. In this way the number who remain idle will be very small, and it will be made up mainly of those whose presence would be most undesirable in a working hive.

The advantage of our system of work is not confined to those who are actually engaged in the shop, for there are several others who have been supplied with tools and stock, and who work at home on their own account. It is desirable, in some respects, we should be able to furnish employment to a greater number of workmen in the workshop; but it is still more desirable to increase the means of giving employment to others in their own homes in the country. In this way we shall avoid the evil of congregating the blind together in undue numbers, and shall leave them as we found them, and as they should be, — diffused among the community at large. If the effect of an institution for the young blind is to congregate adult blind in undue numbers in its neighborhood, it will of course so far lessen the amount of the good which it does to the community. Such congregation, if persistent, is unnatural and undesirable.

Upon the whole, the year that has just closed may be looked back upon with grateful emotions, for it has given opportunity of doing good in a pleasant path of duty, that has not been altogether lost. It is true, in-

deed, that the Institution is not so richly endowed in the world's wealth as to enable it to meet fully all the wants of those whose mission it is to aid and assist. More books should be printed ; more labor should be furnished to men and women at home, and more things done in various ways than can be done with the means at command. This, however, should only encourage to greater effort, so as to make up for lack of material by increase of zeal and diligence.

The undersigned is happy to testify that these qualities of zeal and diligence have not been wanting in the corps of persons — the matron and teachers and attendants — whose duty it is to minister to the wants and promote the true interest of the pupils. The general moral tone of the household is high ; and the prevailing spirit is that of good-will and kindness. There is the utmost punctuality in the division of time, and economy in its use ; there is sobriety without sadness, frugality without meanness, temperance without asceticism, labor without exhaustion, and good works without parade thereof. There is a docile and trusting spirit on the part of the pupils ; and the intercourse between them and those who care for them is most kind and confidential.

The undersigned may speak of these things without impropriety, because they are brought about mainly by the gentle but firm influence exerted by the matron and by the teachers, several of whom are blind. They merit, and they have, his grateful acknowledgments.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. G. HOWE.

APPENDIX.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE

Dr. *Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the*For amount paid at sundry dates, on Drafts of the Auditor,
as per account rendered:—

For construction account,	\$ 1,434.50
“ printing and binding books in raised letters,	1,331.75
“ pianos and musical instruments,	1,787.50
“ coal and fuel,	859.00
Expense of Boys' Workshop,	100.00
Subsistence account, salaries, and other expenses, as per accounts rendered and audited,	16,555.27
	<hr/>
	\$ 22,068.02
Balance to new account,	739.69

 \$ 22,807.71

(Errors excepted.)

BOSTON, September 30, 1859.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1859.

Blind, in Account with T. B. WALES, Treasurer.

Cr.

By cash on hand from old account,	\$ 3,618.23	
“ four quarterly payments of State appropriations (Massachusetts),		12,000.00
“ State of Maine, for beneficiaries,	\$ 1,923.33	
“ “ Vermont, “	800.00	
“ “ Connecticut, “	982.34	
“ “ Rhode Island, “	289.49	
“ private pupils,	45.07	
		<hr/>
		4,040.23
By dividends on stocks and bonds,		1,877.90
By sale of books and apparatus:—		
To Tennessee Institution for Blind,	\$ 73.30	
“ Missouri “ “	89.59	
“ Dist. of Columbia “ “	29.75	
“ New York “ “	116.75	
“ Pennsylvania . “ “	59.25	
“ Michigan “ “	95.00	
“ South Carolina “ “	28.50	
“ Maryland “ “	32.63	
“ sundry persons,	103.67	
Collected by E. P. Deering for printing books in raised letters, . . . . .	. 503.00	
		<hr/>
		1,131.35
Received on account of Laura Bridgman,		110.00
“ “ Joseph Harris,		15.00
By dividend on Mrs. Watson's legacy,		15.00
		<hr/>
		\$ 22,807.71
		<hr/>

Signed, THOMAS B. WALES, *Treasurer.*

Boston, October 5, 1859.

THE undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1858 - 59, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the accounts to be properly vouched and correctly cast, and the balance to be seven hundred and thirty-nine and $\frac{69}{100}$ dollars, — \$ 739.69.

The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to the Institution : —

9 shares New England Bank,	\$ 900.00	
17 " State Bank,	1,020.00	
25 " Tremont Bank,	2,500.00	
12 " Columbian Bank,	1,200.00	
20 " Boston and Providence Railroad,	1,642.50	
85 " Western Railroad,	8,218.75	
30 " Boston and Maine Railroad,	2,942.00	
25 " Concord Railroad,	1,250.00	
15 " Boston and Worcester Railroad,	1,155.00	
4 certificates Western Railroad 6 per cent Bonds,	4,000.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 24,828.25
Deed of land in South Boston, dated June, 1840,	\$ 755.68	
" " " " March, 1847,	5,000.00	
" " " " Sept., 1845,	5,500.00	
" " " " Jan., 1850,	1,762.50	
" " " " July, 1850,	1,020.25	
" " " " May, 1855,	3,710.00	
	<hr/>	17,748.43
" " " " Aug., 1855,	\$ 450.00	
" " " " April, 1855,	1,311.50	
	<hr/>	1,761.50
		<hr/>
		\$ 44,338.18

N. H. EMMONS, }
 JOSEPH N. HOWE, } *Committee.*

LIST OF BOOKS

PRINTED AT THE

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS
ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

WITH PRICES OF SUCH AS ARE FOR SALE.

	No. of Volumes.	Price per Volume.
Lardner's Universal History,	3	\$ 3.00
Howe's Geography,	1	3.00
" Atlas of the Islands,	1	3.00
English Reader, First Part,	1	3.00
" " Second Part,	1	
The Harvey Boys,	1	
The Pilgrim's Progress,	1	3.00
Baxter's Call,	1	3.00
English Grammar,	1	
Life of Melancthon,	1	2.00
Constitution of the United States,	1	2.00
Book of Diagrams,	1	
Viri Romæ,	1	3.00
Peirce's Geometry, with Diagrams,	1	3.00
Political Class-Book,	1	
First Tables of Logarithms,	1	2.00
Second " " " " " " " " " " " "	1	3.00
Principles of Arithmetic,	1	2.00
Astronomical Dictionary,	1	2.00
Philosophy of Natural History,	1	3.00
Rudiments of Natural Philosophy,	1	3.00
Cyclopædia,	8	3.00
The Book of Common Prayer,	1	
Guide to Devotion,	1	2.50
New Testament (small),	4	
" " (large),	2	
Old Testament,	6	
Book of Psalms,	1	2.50
" Proverbs,	1	2.50
Psalms in Verse,	1	
Psalms and Hymns,	1	3.00
The Dairyman's Daughter,	1	
" Spelling-Book,	1	
" Sixpenny Glass of Wine,	1	
Howe's Blind Child's Manual,	1	
" " " First Book,	1	1.50
" " " Second Book,	1	1.50
" " " Third Book,	1	1.50
Collection of Hymns for the Blind,	1	3.00
Milton's Poetical Works,	2	3.00
Pope's Essay on Man, and Diderot's Essay on the Blind, } bound together,	1	3.00
Paley's Evidences,	1	4.00
Combe on the Constitution of Man,	1	4.50
Vicar of Wakefield,	1	3.00
Total number,	63	

The above amounts barely cover the cost. All expenses of packing and transportation have to be charged extra.

We are prepared, also, to manufacture maps, globes, and other school apparatus for the blind, and to deliver them to other institutions, or to indigent blind persons, at actual cost.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

YOUNG blind persons, of good moral character, can be admitted to the School by paying \$ 200 *per annum*. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, &c. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the Institution. The friends of the pupils can visit them whenever they choose.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the Governor for a warrant.

The following is a good form, though any other will do:—

“TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR:—

“SIR,— My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged , cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“Very respectfully, _____”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the selectmen of the town, or aldermen of the city, in this form:—

“I hereby certify, that, in my opinion, Mr. _____ is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$ 200 *per annum* for his child’s instruction.

(Signed,) “_____”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form:—

"I certify, that, in my opinion, ——— has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools; and that he is free from epilepsy, and from any contagious disease.

(Signed,) "—————."

These papers should be done up together, and directed to "The Secretary of the Commonwealth, State House, Boston, Mass."

An obligation will be required from some responsible person, that the pupil shall be removed without expense to the Institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, by applying as above to the "Commissioners for the Blind," care of the Secretary of State in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

For further particulars, address Dr. S. G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relatives or friends of the blind who may be sent to the Institution are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions: —

1. What is the age of the applicant?
2. Where was he born?
3. Was he born blind?
4. If not born blind, at what age did he become so?
5. What is the supposed cause of the blindness?
6. Have there been any cases of blindness, or deafness, or insanity, in the family of the applicant, among his brothers and sisters, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, or cousins?
7. Were his parents or grandparents affected with scrofula, in any form; with consumption; humors, such as salt-rheum; eruptions of any kind; or had they any peculiarity of bodily constitution whatever?
8. Were the parents or the grandparents of the applicant related to each other by blood? If so, in what degree?

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

FOR 1859 - 60.

PRESIDENT.

EDWARD BROOKS.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

TREASURER.

THOMAS B. WALES.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

JOHN A. ANDREW,
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER,
GEORGE B. EMERSON,
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,*
JOSEPH LYMAN,
SAMUEL MAY,
JULIUS PALMER,*
WILLIAM PERKINS,
BENJAMIN S. ROTCH,*
GEORGE R. RUSSELL,
JAMES STURGIS,
WILLIAM D. TICKNOR.*

* Trustees in behalf of the State.

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

T H E T R U S T E E S

OF THE

PERKINS' INSTITUTION

AND

Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind,

TO THE CORPORATION.

B O S T O N :

WILLIAM WHITE, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1 8 6 0 .

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, }
BOSTON, September 29th, 1860. }

To the Corporation :

GENTLEMEN,—The undersigned have the honor to give the following account of their trust for the year which closes this day.

They have visited and inspected the establishment as frequently as is required by the By-Laws, and found the premises in good condition.

They are satisfied that the pupils are well and kindly treated, and that the internal affairs of the institution are administered in a spirit of wisdom and kindness. It is creditable both to pupils and officers, that in so large an establishment good order and obedience are maintained without any severity of discipline, and without any other punishment than moral disapprobation, or the privation of certain privileges ; because in things pertaining to moral conduct, the blind are like ordinary persons, and are to be treated and directed according to ordinary principles.

The undersigned by their Committee on accounts, have had control of the finances, and audited the bills for all expenses. The Director has the immediate responsibility for all expenditures ; but all the bills are audited, recorded, and paid by drafts upon the Treasurer.

The expenses are necessarily large ; and they must continue to be large so long as the buildings and real estate require such large outlay for repairs. The main building was not built with a view to its present use ; and though convenient, is unnecessarily extensive. It has numerous piazzas and outworks, which require frequent repairs.

Considerable sums have been spent in past years for printing books in raised letters, and for improving the means of instructing the blind generally. Whenever a pressing call has been made for any matter immediately connected with the great object of the institution, money has been granted by the Trustees to meet it. In this way the expenses have generally exceeded the regular income. Hitherto the deficit has been made up by donations and legacies, to which no special conditions were attached, and which did not require to be funded.

By means of these funds great good has been done, and the way opened for doing much more. In some respects, the expenditure has been a sort of investment, for the institution has been provided with ample means and appliances for the instruction and training of youth within its walls; and besides this, has contributed much to advance the general cause of the education of the blind.

The regular sources of income are, first, an annual grant of twelve thousand dollars by the legislature of Massachusetts, in consideration of which, blind children belonging in the State, whose parents are not wealthy, can be admitted gratuitously.

Second, beneficiaries from all the New England States who are received upon warrants from the respective governors and charged two hundred dollars a year.

Third, private pupils.

Fourth, the income from the personal estate, which now amounts to about twenty-five thousand dollars and which is safely invested.

It has not been deemed advisable for many years past to ask the legislature for any extra allowance, but it will become necessary to do so. A pressing want begins to be felt of some things too costly to be procured without largely exceeding the regular income. For instance, the large organ, the gift of Mr. George Lee, has been in constant use for about twenty years, and will need to be replaced soon by a new one. Such an instrument as will afford all the required advantages for practice will cost at least six thousand dollars.

Again, there is great need of efficient apparatus for heating and ventilating the main building. The one now in use is old, cumbrous and nearly worn out. A new one would cost at least

five thousand dollars; but it would be an immense improvement in many respects. It would be worked at much less expense of fuel than the present one, and would make the building more comfortable and safe for the inmates.

The importance of this matter has been felt more and more, for several years past; and would have been pressed upon the attention of the Corporation, were it not that there has been a growing probability of the removal of the institution from its present location to a more favorable one.

The Treasurer's account, duly credited, is herewith submitted; also an abstract showing the sources whence the income is derived and the principal items of expenditure. The details of both may be found in the books. The cash balance in the Treasurer's hands at the beginning of the year was seven hundred and thirty-nine dollars and sixty-nine cents, (\$739.69); and the personal estate, consisting of bank and railroad stocks, was twenty-four thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight dollars and twenty-five cents, (\$24,828.25); the present cash balance is one thousand and sixty-nine dollars and twenty-nine cents, (\$1,069.29); and the personal estate at the same valuation is twenty-five thousand three hundred and twenty-eight dollars and twenty five cents, (\$25,328.25), showing a small increase.

The Report of the Director will show the number of pupils entered and discharged, the condition of the school and of the workshop, and other matters of interest.

The inventories of real and personal estate are submitted in detail.

The Trustees most heartily commend the institution to the attention and good will of the legislature and of the public.

THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER.
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.
JOSEPH LYMAN.
SAMUEL MAY.
JULIUS A. PALMER.
WM. PERKINS.
JAMES STURGIS.
WM. D. TICKNOR.
BENJ. S. ROTCH.
JOHN A. ANDREW.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF TREASURER'S REPORT.

DR. PERKINS' INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, *in account current with T. B. WALES, Treasurer.* Cr.

<p>Sept. 1, 1850. To cash paid for five shares Tremont Bank, new Stock, \$500 00</p> <p>Sept. 30, 1860. To amount paid on drafts of Auditors of Accounts for current expenses, from September 1, 1859, to September 30, 1860, as per memorandum and vouchers, 20,886 39</p>	<p>Oct. 1, 1859. By cash on hand from old account, \$739 69</p> <p>Sept. 28, 1860. By cash from following sources during the year, at dates, as per book:—</p> <p>Four quarterly payments, State of Massachusetts, \$3,000 each, 12,000 00</p> <p>For beneficiaries from the State of—</p> <p>Maine, \$1,936 66</p> <p>Connecticut, 1,100 00</p> <p>Vermont, 947 18</p> <p>New Hampshire, 831 10</p> <p>Rhode Island, 449 50</p> <hr/> <p>For tuition, private pupils, 5,264 44</p> <p>For dividend on Stocks, 442 27</p> <p>For George Hill's legacy, \$1,000 00</p> <p>Mrs. Thompson's legacy, 295 44</p> <p>Dividend on Mr. Watson's legacy, 30 00</p> <hr/> <p>1,325 44</p> <p>For sale of books in raised letters, and apparatus—</p> <p>To the Tennessee Inst. for the Blind, \$15 50</p> <p>Georgia " " 13 75</p> <p>Mississippi " " 43 50</p> <p>S. Carolina " " 22 00</p> <p>Pennsylvania " " 61 75</p> <p>Illinois " " 42 03</p> <p>Maryland, " " 74 14</p> <p>Wisconsin " " 64 12</p> <p>Kentucky " " 185 75</p> <p>To sundry individuals, 188 65</p> <hr/> <p>711 19</p> <p>To sale of old iron, &c., by Steward, 13 65</p> <hr/> <p>\$22,455 08</p>
<p>Sept. 30, 1860. Cash on hand to new account, 1,069 29</p> <hr/> <p>\$22,455 68</p>	

THOMAS B. WALES, *Treasurer.*

(Errors excepted.)

BOSTON, September 30, 1860.

BOSTON, September 28, 1860.

The undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1859-60, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the accounts to be properly vouched and correctly cast, and the balance to be ten hundred and sixty-nine and $\frac{29}{100}$ dollars—\$1,069.29.

The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to the Institution :—

9 shares New England Bank,	\$900 00	
17 shares State Bank,	1,020 00	
25 shares Tremont Bank,	2,500 00	
5 shares Tremont Bank (new),	500 00	
12 shares Columbian Bank,	1,200 00	
20 shares Boston and Providence Railroad,	1,642 50	
85 shares Western Railroad,	8,218 75	
30 shares Boston and Maine Railroad,	2,942 00	
25 shares Concord Railroad,	1,250 00	
15 shares Boston and Worcester Railroad,	1,155 00	
4 certificates Western Railroad 6 per cent. bonds,	4,000 00	
		\$25,328 25
Deed of land in South Boston, dated June, 1840,	\$755 68	
“ “ “ March, 1847,	5,000 00	
“ “ “ Sept. 1845,	5,500 00	
“ “ “ Jan. 1850,	1,762 50	
“ “ “ July, 1850,	1,020 25	
“ “ “ May, 1855,	3,710 00	
		17,748 43
Deed of land in South Boston, dated Aug., 1855,	\$450 00	
“ “ “ April, 1855,	1,311 50	
		1,761 50
		\$44,838 18

N. H. EMMONS,
THO. T. BOUVÉ,
Committee.

General Abstract of the Account of the Work Department, Oct. 1, 1860.

ASSETS.

Stock on hand,	\$5,114 08
Cash on hand,	1,509 04
Debts due,	5,034 69
Balance of indebtedness,	3,310 78
	<hr/>
	\$14,968 59

LIABILITIES.

Due Institution, original capital and loan,	\$13,756 96
Due sundry individuals,	1,211 63
	<hr/>
	\$14,968 59

Amount of indebtedness October 1, 1859,	\$3,887 89
“ “ October 1, 1860,	3,310 78
	<hr/>
Gain for one year,	\$577 11

Amount of Wages paid to blind persons from October 1, 1858, to October 1, 1859,	3,316 43
Amount of Wages paid to blind persons from October 1, 1859, to October 1, 1860,	3,722 90

Amount of Sales from October 1, 1858, to October 1, 1859,	14,480 78
“ “ October 1, 1859, to October 1, 1860,	15,199 45

A correct copy,

M. R. RAYMOND, *Book-keeper.*

THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

PERKINS' INSTITUTION

AND

Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

OCTOBER, 1861.

BOSTON:

WILLIAM WHITE, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1861.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, }
BOSTON, October 10, 1861. }

To His Excellency the Governor :

The undersigned has the honor to transmit the Annual Report of the Trustees of this Institution for the year ending September 30, 1861.

Respectfully,

S. G. HOWE,
Secretary of the Corporation.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

*Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, }
BOSTON, October 9, 1861.*

*To the Corporation of the Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts
Asylum for the Blind, and the Legislature :*

The undersigned, Trustees of the institution, respectfully submit the following Report for the year closing September 30, 1861 :

The general condition of the establishment has been very satisfactory.

The health of the inmates has been good. There have been no epidemics and no case of fatal sickness.

The average number of blind persons connected with the institution has been 120. The entrances, discharges, &c., is set forth in the Report of the Director.

The same officers and teachers so many years employed in the immediate direction and government of the establishment, have discharged their several duties satisfactorily during the past year. There is no change of any consequence to note in this respect.

The report of the Treasurer, herewith submitted, will show the state of the funds, and the general receipts and expenditures for the year.

A more detailed account is given in the Abstract of Expenditures, and the items will be found in the Steward's account.

All bills are audited by a Committee of this Board, monthly ; and the Treasurer pays out money only upon this requisition.

Besides its real estate in South Boston, the institution has a capital of only \$25,000. Of course it is dependent upon the

annual grant from the State of Massachusetts for its support. This is very liberal, and suffices for necessary current expenses, but unfortunately it leaves no margin for extra expenses, which are sometimes necessary.

For instance, it has become very desirable to procure a new organ, the old one, provided by the munificence of Mr. George Lee, some twenty-five years ago, being worn out by constant use, by day and by night, almost every day in the year. A new one, such as was desirable, would cost about six thousand dollars. If the Trustees should expend this sum, it would have to be from the capital, and would reduce it 33 per cent. They therefore applied last winter to the legislature for aid. It was not granted in a direct form, but an increase of the annual grant was made; and by help of this, in a few years enough may be saved to make the purchase. It is to be hoped, however, that some aid will be had from donations or legacies. Such have been made from time to time in years past, and they have enabled the institution to do a great deal for the common cause of the education of the Blind throughout the country, by providing books and getting up improved apparatus for facilitating instruction.

There is reason to believe that the general, though incorrect impression, that the institution is richly endowed, has prevented it from receiving so much aid in this way as it would have otherwise done.

There are various ways in which the benefits of this institution could be extended to a greater number of persons, if its pecuniary means were increased.

For instance the work department, for supplying work to adult blind men and women, might be enlarged, and more persons employed.

It is hard to conceive a better form of active beneficence, or one less liable to abuse, than a wise expenditure of money to enlarge an establishment which has proved, by twelve years' experience, that with a little helping hand, blind men and women may, by their own diligence and thrift, support themselves.

The inventories of real and personal estate are herewith submitted.

The Trustees again commend the establishment to the Corporation, the Legislature, and the public, as well deserving their attention and favor.

Respectfully submitted by the Trustees.

THOMAS T. BOUVÉ.
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER.
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.
SAMUEL MAY.
JOSEPH LYMAN.
BENJAMIN S. ROTCH, JR.
WILLIAM PERKINS.
W. D. TICKNOR.
JAMES STURGIS.
JOSIAH QUINCY, JR.
JOSEPH B. THAXTER, JR.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

DR. PERKINS' INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, in account with T. B. WALES, Treasurer. CR.

1861. Oct. 1,	To cash paid for four shares in Columbian Bank, To amount paid on drafts of Auditors of Accounts for current expenses, from October 1, 1860, to September 30, 1861, as follows:— For re-construction and repairs [account, Subsistence account, Salaries Stable Printing books, &c., Fuel, [2 years' coal], Gas account, Clothing and sundries account, Garden account, Musical Instruments, Furniture and housekeeping articles,	\$400 00	1860. Oct. 1, 1861. Sept. 30,	By cash on hand from old account. By cash from following sources during the year, at dates as per book:— By four quarterly payments State of Massachusetts, \$3,000 each, By amount received for beneficiaries— From the State of New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, By amount received for Tuition, private pupils, clothing, &c., Dividends on stock, &c., P. O. Dalton's legacy, Winslow's legacy, account Laura Bridgman, Interest on, By amount received for sale of books in raised letters, and apparatus, as follows:— New York Institution for the Blind, Georgia Tennessee Missouri Mississippi Pennsylvania Georgia Sundry individuals, By amount received for bread, sold to Idiot School, sale of old barrels, &c.,	\$1,069 29 12,000 00 4,848 84 1,437 50 1,977 40 590 00 \$35 50 138 87 112 50 37 00 51 50 163 50 269 12 92 00
1861. Oct. 1,	To balance cash on hand to new account,	2,018 04			
		\$22,264 84			\$22,264 84

BOSTON, October 2, 1861. .

The undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind for the year 1860-61, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the payments to be properly vouched and correctly cast, and the balance to be twenty hundred and eighteen and $\frac{4}{100}$ dollars—\$2,018 04.

The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to the Institution:—

16 shares Columbian Bank,	\$1,600 00	
9 shares New England Bank,	\$900 00	
17 shares State Bank,	1,020 00	
25 shares Tremont Bank,	2,500 00	
5 shares Tremont Bank (new,)	500 00	
20 shares Boston and Providence Railroad,	1,642 50	
85 shares Western Railroad,	8,218 75	
30 shares Boston and Maine Railroad,	2,942 00	
25 shares Concord Railroad,	1,250 00	
15 shares Boston and Worcester Railroad,	1,155 00	
4 certificates Western Railroad 6 per cent. Bonds,	4,000 00	
		24,128 25
Deed of land in South Boston, dated June, 1840,	\$755 68	
“ “ “ “ March, 1847,	5,000 00	
“ “ “ “ Sept., 1845,	5,500 00	
“ “ “ “ January, 1850,	1,762 50	
“ “ “ “ July, 1850,	1,020 25	
“ “ “ “ May, 1855,	3,710 00	
		17,748 43
Deed of land in South Boston, dated August, 1855,	\$450 00	
“ “ “ “ April, 1855,	1,311 50	
		1,761 50
		\$45,238 18

N. H. EMMONS,
JOSEPH N. HOWE,
Committee.

General Abstract of the Account of the Work Department, Oct. 1, 1861.

ASSETS.

Stock on hand,	\$5,989 94
Cash on hand,	1,406 79
Debts due,	3,424 15
Balance of indebtedness,	3,738 36
	<hr/> \$14,559 24

LIABILITIES.

Due Institution, for original capital and loan,	\$13,756 96
Due sundry individuals,	802 28
	<hr/> \$14,559 24

Amount of indebtedness October 1, 1860,	\$3,310 78
Amount of indebtedness October 1, 1861,	3,738 36
	<hr/>
Loss this year,	\$427 58

Amount of Wages paid to blind persons from October 1, 1860, to October 1, 1861,	\$3,247 61
Amount of Wages paid to blind persons from October 1, 1859, to October 1, 1860,	3,722 90

Amount of Sales from October 1, 1860, to October 1, 1861,	\$11,356 41,
“ “ October 1, 1859, to October 1, 1860,	15,199 45

A correct copy,

M. R. RAYMOND, *Book-keeper.*



THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

PERKINS' INSTITUTION

AND

Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

OCTOBER, 1862.

BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER, STATE PRINTERS,
No. 4 SPRING LANE.

1863.

REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
FOR THE YEAR 1875

Presented to the Senate of the State of New York
at the Session held at Albany, January 1st 1876

The following report of the Commissioners of the Land Office, for the year ending on the 31st day of December, 1875, was presented to the Senate of the State of New York, at the Session held at Albany, January 1st, 1876, and was read and approved. The report contains a full and complete statement of the affairs of the Land Office, and of the various lands and interests therein, and of the various claims and demands upon the same. It also contains a full and complete statement of the various lands and interests therein, and of the various claims and demands upon the same. It also contains a full and complete statement of the various lands and interests therein, and of the various claims and demands upon the same.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, }
BOSTON, September 30, 1862. }

To the Corporation :

GENTLEMEN,—The undersigned, Trustees, respectfully report as follows, for the year closing this day.

It has been a peaceful and prosperous season with the institution.

It has been, too, a season of general health. There have been few cases of sickness; and death has not entered the door.

The main purpose of the institution, which is to give to blind children the same kind and degree of instruction as is given to other children in the best common schools of the State, and to train them up to industry, has been pursued steadily and successfully during the year.

The general principle upon which the institution is conducted, is to counteract, as far as may be, the unfavorable effects (whether moral or physical) of the infirmity of blindness; to lessen by special training the disadvantages under which its subjects labor; and so make them conform in character to those who see.

Gathering them together from different parts of the country, and associating them together in two great families during many years of their childhood and youth, does not at first seem to be in accordance with this general principle; but the reasons for doing it are pressing, and have hitherto been deemed satisfactory in all Christian lands.

Once together, the establishment is to be conducted in such wise, as best to promote the interest and happiness of the blind, with the least cost and detriment to the public.

Intermarriage should be discouraged, as it tends to increase the number of blind in the community.

Permanent asylums should be discouraged; since they tend to intensify the unfavorable characteristics growing out of blindness.

Gathering the blind from the country, and congregating them for permanent residence in cities, should be avoided; for this is wrong to the city.

The period of residence of the pupils in the institution should be as short as is consistent with a thorough course of instruction. After that is finished they should not be encouraged to remain in the city, but should be sent forth to those places in which the lines have fallen to them.

The finger of nature clearly points to a diffusion of abnormals, of whatever kind, among the sound and normal; and forbids their congregation in groups.

Such are some of the guiding principles in the general conduct of the institution.

The liberal allowance of funds by the legislature of Massachusetts, together with the income from pupils of other States, have enabled the trustees to carry on the establishment for many years without encroaching upon the small capital. During the past year heavy expenses had to be incurred for repairing and painting the main building.

By frugality in the household, and saving whenever saving is true economy, means have been found for procuring costly articles, but necessary articles, such as musical instruments.

The expense for these, however, has been uncommonly great in the last year. Four new piano-fortes, in perfectly plain cases, but of the best workmanship, have been received from the makers, Messrs. Heaman & Sharland, and two more are contracted for.

The new organ which is already in the house, (though at this writing not entirely erected,) costs six thousand dollars, of which four thousand five hundred is to be cash, and the balance in the two old organs.

This seems a great sum for a small organ; but it is not so

when the peculiar structure and nice finish of the instrument is considered.

It is a great object to have a model organ. It is very desirable that our pupils should be trained to play upon an instrument which embraces all the parts found in church organs of divers kinds, so that to whatever instrument they are afterwards led, they may find themselves at home with it.

Such an one has been completed by Messrs. Hook, and is now in the process of erection in the institution, and will be ready in a few days. It is a grand and beautiful instrument, and promises to be a source of great benefit to the blind.

The payment for these instruments will fall mainly upon the next year's account, and will be a heavy item.

The number of blind connected with the institution, as reported last year, was one hundred and twenty. Since then twenty-six have been received and twenty-seven discharged; so that the present number is one hundred and nineteen, all told.

The details respecting these will be found in the report of the Director.

That report will embrace also a more minute account of expenditures than can be given in the Treasurer's report.

All the accounts for current expenditures and the vouchers are examined and audited monthly by a Committee of this Board.

The approval and order of this committee are required by the Treasurer for all moneys paid by him.

The inventories of personal and real estate, as required by law, are herewith submitted.

Finally, the Trustees again commend the institution to the confidence and the sympathy of the legislature and the public.

THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER.

SAMUEL MAY.

WM. PERKINS.

BENJ. S. ROTCH.

WM. D. TICKNOR.

JOSIAH B. THAXTER, JR.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

JOSIAH QUINCY, JR.

JOSEPH LYMAN.

THOMAS T. BOUVÉ.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

DR. PERKINS' INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, *in account with* T. B. WALES, *Treasurer.* Cr.

1862. Oct. 1,	To amount paid on drafts of Auditors of Accounts for current expenses, from October 1, 1861, to September 30, 1862, as follows:—* For re-construction and repairs account, Subsistence account, Salaries Stable Printing office Books and stationery acc't, Fuel account, Gas account, Musical instruments acc't, Advance on new organ, Furniture and housekeeping articles account, Insurance account, Exhibition and travelling expenses of pupils account, Boys' shop account, Sundries,	1861. Oct. 1,	By cash on hand from old account, By cash from following sources during the year, at dates as per book:— By four quarterly payments State of Massachusetts, \$3,000 each, By extra allowance from State for 1861, By amount received for beneficiaries— From the State of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, By amount received for tuition of private pupils, clothing, &c.— Benjamin Dyer, Mrs. M. R. Tebbetts, Allen Commissioners, John Cochrane, By amount received for dividends on stock, By interest on Miss Loring's legacy, By interest on E. W. Williams' legacy, Account Laura Bridgman, By amount received for sale of books in raised letters— Ohio Institution for the Blind, Illinois Institution for the Blind, Wisconsin Institution for the Blind,	\$2,018 04 12,000 00 3,000 00 5,945 75 \$100 00 50 00 21 75 18 00 \$110 00 30 00 500 00 50 00 \$76 00 396 00 140 50
				\$24,743 32

	\$49 50	
	72 98	
Columbia Institution for the Blind, Washington, Sundry individuals,		\$734 98
By sale of tickets of admission to institution,		41 00
Broom machine and press,		45 93
Bread to Idiot School,		312 78
old barrels,		25 54
By contribution of members of legislature at exhibi- tion of pupils at Vermont,		54 06
To balance cash on hand to new acc't,	\$6,330 41	
	\$31,073 73	\$31,073 73

* The items cannot be made out with accuracy until the close of the year.

Boston, November 19, 1862.

The undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1861-2, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the payments properly vouched and correctly cast, and the balance to be six thousand three hundred and thirty $\frac{41}{100}$ dollars—\$6,330.41.

The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to the Institution:—

16 shares Columbian Bank,	\$1,600 00	
9 shares New England Bank,	900 00	
30 shares Tremont Bank,	3,000 00	
17 shares State Bank,	1,020 00	
20 shares Boston and Providence Railroad,	1,642 50	
30 shares Boston and Maine Railroad,	2,942 00	
15 shares Boston and Worcester Railroad,	1,155 00	
85 shares Western Railroad,	8,218 75	
25 shares Concord Railroad,	1,250 00	
	<hr/>	\$21,728 25
Deed of land in South Boston, dated June, 1840,	\$755 68	
“ “ “ “ March, 1847,	5,000 00	
“ “ “ “ Sept., 1845,	5,500 00	
“ “ “ “ January, 1850,	1,762 50	
“ “ “ “ July, 1850,	1,020 25	
“ “ “ “ May, 1855,	3,710 00	
“ “ “ “ August, 1855,	450 00	
“ “ “ “ April, 1855,	1,311 50	
	<hr/>	19,509 93
		<hr/>
		\$41,238 18

NATH'L H. EMMONS,
JOSEPH N. HOWE,

Committee.

General Abstract of the Account of the Work Department, Oct. 1, 1862.

ASSETS.

Stock on hand,	\$5,205 12
Cash on hand,	2,085 79
Debts due,	3,566 82
Balance of indebtedness,	4,017 45
	<u>\$14,875 18</u>

LIABILITIES.

Due Institution, original capital and loan,	\$4,256 96
	2,000 00
	2,000 00
	3,000 00
	2,500 00
	<u>\$13,756 96</u>
Due sundry individuals,	1,118 22
	<u>\$14,875 18</u>

Balance of indebtedness October 1, 1861,	\$3,738 36
Balance of indebtedness October 1, 1862,	4,017 45
	<u>\$279 09</u>
Loss this year,	\$279 09
Wages paid blind persons from Oct. 1, 1861, to Oct. 1, 1862,	\$3,458 62
Sales from Oct. 1, 1861, to Oct. 1, 1862,	\$14,940 20

A correct copy.

M. R. RAYMOND, *Book-keeper.*

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

Young blind persons, of good moral character, can be admitted to the School by paying \$200 *per annum*. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, &c. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the institution. The friends of the pupils can visit them whenever they choose.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the governor for a warrant.

The following is a good form, though any other will do :

“ *To his Excellency the Governor:*

“SIR,—My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged _____, cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“Very respectfully, _____.”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the selectmen of the town, or aldermen of the city, in this form :

“I hereby certify that, in my opinion, Mr. _____ is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$200 *per annum* for his child’s instruction.

(Signed,) _____.”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form :

“I certify that, in my opinion, _____ has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools; and that he is free from epilepsy, and from any contagious disease.

(Signed,) _____.”

These papers should be done up together, and directed to "The Secretary of the Commonwealth, State House, Boston, Mass."

An obligation will be required from some responsible person, that the pupil shall be removed without expense to the institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island, by applying as above to the "Commissioners for the Blind," care of the Secretary of State in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

For further particulars address Dr. S. G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relatives or friends of the blind who may be sent to the institution are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions:

1. What is the name of the applicant?
2. Where was she born?
3. State the year, month and day of her birth.
4. Was she born blind? If not, at what age was the sight impaired?
5. Is the blindness total or partial?
6. What is the supposed cause of the blindness?
7. Has she ever been subject to fits?
8. Is she now in good health and free from eruptions and contagious diseases of the skin?
9. Has she ever been to school, if yes, where?
10. What is the general moral character of the applicant?
11. Is she gentle and docile in temper, or the contrary?
12. Has she any peculiarity of temper and disposition?
13. Of what country was father of the applicant a native?
14. What was the general bodily condition and health of the father, was he vigorous and healthy, or the contrary?
15. Was the father of the applicant ever subject to fits or scrofula?
16. Were all his senses perfect?
17. Was he always a temperate man?
18. About how old was he when the applicant was born?
19. Was there any known peculiarity in the family of the father of the applicant; that is were any of the grand-parents, parents, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters or cousins blind, deaf or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind?
20. If dead, at what age did he die, and of what disorder?
21. Where was the mother of the applicant born?
22. What was the general bodily condition of the mother of the applicant, strong and healthy, or the contrary?

23. Was she ever subject to scrofula or to fits?
24. Were all her senses perfect?
25. Was she always a temperate woman?
26. About how old was she when the applicant was born?
27. How many children had she before the applicant was born?
28. Was she related by blood to her husband, if so in what degree, 1st, 2d, or 3d cousins?
29. If dead, at what age did she die, and of what disorder?
30. Was there any known peculiarity in her family, that is were any of her grand-parents, parents, uncles, aunts, sisters, brothers, children or cousins, either blind, or deaf, or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind?
31. What are the pecuniary means of the parents, or immediate relatives of the applicant?
32. How much can they afford to pay towards the support and education of the applicant?

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION FOR 1862-3.

PRESIDENT.

SAMUEL MAY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

TREASURER.

WILLIAM CLAFLIN.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

THOMAS T. BOUVÉ.

THEOPH. P. CHANDLER.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

JOSEPH LYMAN.

JOSIAH QUINCY, JR.

WILLIAM B. ROGERS.

BENJAMIN S. ROTCH.

GEORGE R. RUSSELL.

JAMES STURGIS.

JOSEPH B. THAXTER, JR.

WILLIAM D. TICKNOR.

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

PERKINS' INSTITUTION

AND

Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

OCTOBER, 1863.

BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER, STATE PRINTERS

NO. 4 SPRING LANE.

1864.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

PH.D. THESIS

THE CHEMISTRY OF THE

HYDROLYSIS OF ESTERS

BY

ROBERT H. BROWN

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

at the University of Chicago

Under the supervision of Professor [Name]

Chicago, Illinois

19[Year]

Copyright 19[Year]

Printed in the United States of America

Published by the University of Chicago Press

Chicago, Illinois

19[Year]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, }
BOSTON, October 5, 1863. }

To the Secretary of the Commonwealth :

The undersigned Trustees respectfully report as follows, for the year ending September 30.

The institution has been conducted upon the same general system, and by the same officers and teachers, as during the last and many former years.

The Trustees have kept general supervision by their visiting committees, and controlling expenditures by their auditors, but confided the immediate management to the Director and teachers.

The results show that the responsibilities and duties devolved upon them have been faithfully met and discharged.

The expenditures have been larger than usual, owing partly to increased cost of living, and partly to purchase of new musical instruments.

Strict economy, however, has been used, and frugality has been during this, as during former years, a marked feature of the establishment.

The Director, Dr. Howe, having been appointed upon an important commission by the United States government, tendered his resignation last spring, but it was accepted only conditionally,—the Trustees being unwilling to consent to his

entire separation from the institution, and they hope that he may be able again to resume the entire charge of it. He relinquished his salary, however, and a temporary arrangement was made with Mr. J. T. Sargent, who was to act as Director, it being understood that Dr. Howe would visit the institution whenever his other duties allowed him to do so, and to exercise that general supervision of its affairs for which his long experience gives him uncommon advantage.

Mr. Sargent declining to remain longer than one quarter, Dr. Edward Jarvis was appointed in his place, and is now acting as temporary Superintendent. As he has been a Trustee in former years, and once acted as Superintendent, he is well acquainted with the duties of the office.

For an account of the finances, the Corporation is referred to the accompanying Report of the Treasurer, Hon. William Claffin.

The Report of the Director gives the details of the operations of the several departments of the institution during the year.

The several inventories required by law are herewith presented for inspection.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

THOMAS T. BOUVÉ,
THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER,
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,
JOSEPH LYMAN,
JOSIAH QUINCY, JR.,
WM. B. ROGERS,
BENJ. S. ROTCH,
GEORGE R. RUSSELL,
JAMES STURGIS,
JOSEPH B. THAXTER, JR.,
WM. D. TICKNOR,

Trustees.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR.

Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, }
BOSTON, October 1, 1863. }

To the Trustees :

GENTLEMEN,—Although the immediate duties of Director now devolve upon Dr. Edward Jarvis, I will, at his request, discharge the duty of making the usual Annual Report.

The year has been one of prosperity and happiness to the blind who are under public care, not only in our own, but in all the northern institutions.

Among the sad evils of the war is the breaking up of the asylums of the south, and the scattering of their unfortunate pupils. But none such have been felt here as yet. The usual appropriations have been made to all the institutions, and Massachusetts has even increased hers.

In our own institution the year has been passed peacefully and happily.

The number of blind persons connected with the establishment, September 30, 1862, was one hundred and fifteen. Since then twenty-five have left, and twenty-seven have entered, and the present number is one hundred and seventeen. Of these eighty-four are in the juvenile department, or the school proper, and are pupils under instruction.

They, with three women employed in domestic service, and four adult teachers, comprise all the blind persons in the household proper.

Twenty eight adults, (twenty-four men and four women,) are employed in the work department, and do not board in the house. They take care of themselves, and are under no other control or supervision than is exercised over workmen and women in ordinary establishments.

The general health of all has been very good, as compared with that of blind persons generally.

There has been no death among them, and very few cases of disease.

The general course of instruction in the school, and in the management of the household, have been the same as in former years, and their results very satisfactory.

It is pleasant to testify to the zeal and fidelity with which the matron, the teachers and domestics have continued to discharge their several duties, and to minister to the wants and promote the welfare of the pupils. To them it is owing, mainly, that in spite of the infirmity which marks the household, it has been a very happy one during the year.

MUSIC.

Great additional facilities for instruction in music have been obtained since the last report. The new organ has been thoroughly tried, and proved to be an excellent instrument. It embraces all the parts found in church organs, so that the pupils by intimate acquaintance with it, are prepared to play upon any other.

It was built by Messrs. Hook, at a cost of about six thousand dollars. I believe that those gentlemen have faithfully performed their contract. They have furnished a beautiful instrument, which will long stand as a monument of their skill, and a source of great happiness and benefit to the blind.

Besides the great organ, seven new pianos have been purchased during the year, viz., three square, one upright, two — pedalias, and one grand.

They were furnished by Messrs. Sharland & Heaman, and seem to be very fine instruments. The whole number of pianos now in use is twenty-six. This increase of the number of instruments was made necessary in order to carry out more effectually than heretofore the plan of preparing the blind to tune pianos as an occupation.

This has been done successfully, and several youths are now earning a livelihood by tuning pianos. More will doubtless do so; and I confidently anticipate that they will establish such a reputation as tuners, that people will employ them to keep their finest instruments in order.

LAUNDRY.

The continued success of the workshop for adults, and the gratifying results of the effort to place blind men upon the same footing as ordinary workmen, without the disagreeable necessity of living in an asylum, or home, has been most gratifying.

The establishment, however, was mainly for men, and there was great need of finding employment for women. Indeed, it has always been more difficult for blind women to earn their livelihood, than for men. Happy were those who found employment in simple household work; but these were few. Many excellent young women who have been taught in the institution, are now sitting with folded hands and sad hearts, longing for something to do.

To meet this want, which has long been felt, a laundry has been organized, and has been in operation three months.

There are now five blind young women regularly employed, and I trust that work will be provided for as many more as need it.

The plan is the same as that so successfully carried out in the men's work department. The women are to be paid according to the amount and value of their work; and they are to provide their own board and pay all their own expenses. They will need a little assistance at first, as our men did, but will be able by and by to support themselves as the men are doing.

They come daily to the laundry and do their work, and live as they please; in short, they are situated precisely as ordinary women working in a laundry would be; and this is what the blind want.

It should be borne in mind, for it is too often overlooked, that blind persons, who have proper self-respect, shrink as much from the thought of being supported by an asylum, under whatever name it is disguised, as those who see, shrink from the thought of "coming upon the town." This feeling, so natural and so honorable, should be encouraged, not repressed.

Whoever would aid the blind, should strive to make them as far as possible associates and equals with those who see, and to do nothing which points them out as differing from other members of society.

We should bear in mind that all who have infirmities of any kind naturally wish to keep them out of mind.

The Steward's accounts, and the inventories of property, are duly made out and ready for inspection.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

S. G. HOWE.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

DR. PERKINS' INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, in account with WILLIAM CLAFLIN, Treasurer. CR.

1863.		1862.	
Oct. 1,		Oct. 1,	
To amount paid on drafts of Auditors of Accounts for current expenses, from October 1, 1862, to September 30, 1863, as follows:—		By cash on hand from old account,	\$6,330 41
For construction and repairs,	\$3,544 78	By cash from following sources during year, at dates as per book:—	9,000 00
Subsistence,	3,543 42	Three quarterly payments State of Massachusetts, \$3,000 each,	
Household furnishings,	128 89	By amount received for beneficiaries—	
Fuel,	2,410 08	From State of Vermont,	\$2,935 38
Light,	162 51	Connecticut,	1,900 00
Insurance,	69 83	Maine,	1,760 00
Stationery,	99 97	Rhode Island,	200 00
Musical instruments,	6,762 85	By amount received from tuition of private pupils—	
Salaries,	5,971 41	Mrs. Salisbury, account of J. Penno,	\$100 00
Stable,	370 71	Mrs. Cabot, account of J. Brackett,	19 50
Boys' workshop,	114 60	E. F. Duren, account of F. Crocker,	44 81
Travelling expenses and exhibitions,	130 87	By amount received for dividend on stock,	164 31
Incidentals,	718 37	interest on Mrs. Watson's legacy,	1,767 10
		" Massachusetts Life Insurance Company,	50 00
		account of Laura Bridgman,	50 00
		By amount received for sale of books in raised letters—	112 50
	\$24,028 29	Indiana Institution for the Blind,	\$149 48
		Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind,	70 00
		New York Institution for the Blind,	121 00
		Columbia Institution for the Blind,	17 50
		Iowa Institution for the Blind,	24 00
		Michigan Institution for the Blind,	9 62
		Sundry individuals,	30 85
		By sale of tickets of admission to institution,	422 45
		bread to Idiot School and others,	40 00
		flour barrels and old iron,	992 12
		horse,	10 14
		brooms, &c., account of boys' shop,	47 00
To balance cash on hand to new acc't,	1,566 97		13 85
	\$25,695 26		\$25,695 26

Boston, October 7, 1863.

The undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1862-3, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the accounts to be properly vouched and correctly cast, and the balance to be fifteen hundred and sixty-six $\frac{97}{100}$ dollars—\$1,566.97.

The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to this Institution:—

16 shares Columbian Bank,	\$1,600 00	
9 shares New England Bank,	900 00	
17 shares State Bank,	1,020 00	
30 shares Tremont Bank,	3,000 00	
20 shares Boston and Providence Railroad,	1,642 50	
30 shares Boston and Maine Railroad,	2,942 00	
15 shares Boston and Worcester Railroad,	1,155 00	
85 shares Western Railroad,	8,218 75	
25 shares Concord Railroad,	1,250 00	
		\$21,728 25
Deed of land in South Boston, dated June, 1840,	\$755 68	
“ “ “ “ March, 1847,	5,000 00	
“ “ “ “ Sept., 1845,	5,500 00	
“ “ “ “ January, 1850,	1,762 50	
“ “ “ “ July, 1850,	1,020 25	
“ “ “ “ May, 1855,	3,710 00	
“ “ “ “ August, 1855,	450 00	
“ “ “ “ April, 1855,	1,311 50	
		19,509 93
		\$41,238 18

JOSEPH N. HOWE,
EDWARD JARVIS,

Committee.

General Abstract of the Account of the Work Department, Oct. 1, 1863.

ASSETS.

Stock on hand,	\$6,878 44	
Cash on hand,	1,979 15	
Debts due,	3,346 23	
		<u>\$12,203 82</u>
Balance against the shop,		3,184 96
		<u>\$15,388 78</u>

LIABILITIES.

Due Institution, original capital and loan,	\$4,256 96	
	2,000 00	
	2,000 00	
	3,000 00	
	2,500 00	
		<u>\$13,756 96</u>
Due sundry individuals,	1,631 82	
		<u>\$15,388 78</u>
Balance against the shop October 1, 1862,	\$4,017 45	
Balance against the shop October 1, 1863,	3,184 96	
		<u>\$832 49</u>
Gain this year,		\$832 49
Amount of wages paid blind persons from Oct. 1, 1862, to Oct. 1, 1863,		\$3,366 31
Amount of sales from Oct. 1, 1862, to Oct. 1, 1863,		\$12,983 38

A correct copy,

M. R. RAYMOND, *Book-keeper.*

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

Young blind persons, of good moral character, can be admitted to the School by paying \$200 *per annum*. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, &c. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the institution. The friends of the pupils can visit them whenever they choose.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the governor for a warrant.

The following is a good form, though any other will do :

“ To his Excellency the Governor :

“ SIR,—My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged _____, cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Perkins’ Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“ Very respectfully, _____.”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the selectmen of the town, or aldermen of the city, in this form :

“ I hereby certify that, in my opinion, Mr. _____ is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$200 *per annum* for his child’s instruction. (Signed,) _____.”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form :

“ I certify that, in my opinion, _____ has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools; and that he is free from epilepsy, and from any contagious disease. (Signed,) _____.”

These papers should be done up together, and directed to “ The Secretary of the Commonwealth, State House, Boston, Mass.”

An obligation will be required from some responsible person, that the pupil shall be removed without expense to the institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island, by applying as above to the “ Commissioners for the Blind, care of the Secretary of State in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

For further particulars address Dr. S. G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relatives or friends of the blind who may be sent to the institution are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions:

1. What is the name of the applicant?
2. Where was she born?
3. State the year, month and day of her birth.
4. Was she born blind? If not, at what age was the sight impaired?
5. Is the blindness total or partial?
6. What is the supposed cause of the blindness?
7. Has she ever been subject to fits?
8. Is she now in good health and free from eruptions and contagious diseases of the skin?
9. Has she ever been to school, if yes, where?
10. What is the general moral character of the applicant?
11. Is she gentle and docile in temper, or the contrary?
12. Has she any peculiarity of temper and disposition?
13. Of what country was father of the applicant a native?
14. What was the general bodily condition and health of the father, was he vigorous and healthy, or the contrary?
15. Was the father of the applicant ever subject to fits or scrofula?
16. Were all his senses perfect?
17. Was he always a temperate man?
18. About how old was he when the applicant was born?
19. Was there any known peculiarity in the family of the father of the applicant; that is, were any of the grand-parents, parents, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters or cousins blind, deaf or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind?
20. If dead, at what age did he die, and of what disorder?
21. Where was the mother of the applicant born?
22. What was the general bodily condition of the mother of the applicant, strong and healthy, or the contrary?
23. Was she ever subject to scrofula or to fits?
24. Were all her senses perfect?
25. Was she always a temperate woman?
26. About how old was she when the applicant was born?
27. How many children had she before the applicant was born?
28. Was she related by blood to her husband, if so in what degree, 1st, 2d, or 3d cousins?
29. If dead, at what age did she die, and of what disorder?
30. Was there any known peculiarity in her family, that is, were any of her grand-parents, parents, uncles, aunts, sisters, brothers, children or cousins, either blind, or deaf, or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind?
31. What are the pecuniary means of the parents, or immediate relatives of the applicant?
32. How much can they afford to pay towards the support and education of the applicant?

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION FOR 1863-4.

PRESIDENT.

SAMUEL MAY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

TREASURER.

WILLIAM CLAFLIN.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

THOMAS T. BOUVÉ.

THEOPH. P. CHANDLER.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

JOSEPH LYMAN.

JOSIAH QUINCY, Jr.

WILLIAM B. ROGERS.

BENJAMIN S. ROTCH.

GEORGE R. RUSSELL.

JAMES STURGIS.

JOSEPH B. THAXTER, Jr.

WILLIAM D. TICKNOR.

JOHN H. STEPHENSON,

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

PERKINS' INSTITUTION

AND

Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

OCTOBER, 1864.

BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER, STATE PRINTERS,
No. 4 SPRING LANE.

1864.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, }
BOSTON, October 5, 1864. }

*To the Members of the Corporation, and to the Legislature of
Massachusetts :*

The undersigned Trustees, appointed by the Corporation, and by the Governor and Board of Visitors in behalf of the State, respectfully report, as follows, for the year closing September 30th, 1864.

The year has been one of peaceful prosperity, and nothing has occurred to interrupt the usual course of instruction and employment.

The several documents herewith submitted will furnish all the information respecting the institution, which is required by law and custom.

The Director's report shows that the number of blind persons received and discharged has been rather larger than usual.

The average number of blind children, who are likely to be sent to the institution, for instruction from the New England States, for some years to come, will not, probably, exceed one hundred. Our institution can easily accommodate so many, and a much larger number is not desirable in one establishment.

The number of adults who are furnished with employment, will probably increase, especially if the laundry for the employment of blind women, which has been established as an experiment, should succeed according to present expectations.

The Trustees ask especial attention to this subject, which is fully set forth in the Director's report.

It is not desirable to encourage those who finish their education at the institution, to remain in the neighborhood ; much less to induce blind persons to leave the country and congregate in the city. On the contrary, it has ever been the policy of the institution to encourage its graduates to find homes in the places where they belong, so that the blind may be dispersed in the community and not form a class apart.

The establishment of a work department for adults, was rather a matter of necessity than of choice. It would have been easy, by an appeal to public charity, to endow that establishment so largely that it could do a great deal in the way of charity, and make the labor of the inmates so light and their comfort so great, that the blind would have flocked to it, and been numbered by hundreds. The opposite course, however, has been followed, so that those only resort to it who cannot well find employment elsewhere ; and they are required to work as industriously as ordinary workmen do, and are paid what they really earn.

The same reasons which called for the establishment of a work department for blind men, now call for a similar one for women. Every year a certain number of young women leave the institution, well-educated in the common branches of school learning, and well-trained in industrious habits. Most of them find comfortable homes among their relatives, and are able to render themselves useful and agreeable members of ordinary households. A few teach music, and gain a livelihood thereby. But here and there is one who needs special aid. The number of these has so increased that an organized effort is needed to help them to help themselves. The experiment of a laundry promises well thus far. It has necessarily been expensive, and will continue to be so yet longer ; but the cost may safely be considered as an investment, which will yield a large income of beneficence in future years.

Interesting statements are made by the Director, concerning the success of pupils who have left the institution, and are earning a good livelihood by teaching music and tuning pianos.

Others are working at their trades in the country, and their work is made more profitable by the facilities which are given them in the way of business by our sales-room.

The policy of the institution is to encourage the blind in every way, to rely upon their own efforts; to live by their own industry, and never to receive alms.

True friendship for the blind is not shown by yielding to emotions of pity, and removing from their path obstacles which they themselves can by care and toil overcome, for in the end they would be stronger and happier for the effort to do so. But it is both wise and humane, by organized effort, to give the blind such encouragement to industry, and such facilities for work, as will counterbalance the real and heavy disadvantages arising from their infirmity, to the extent that they shall be on a level with ordinary workmen. So far, no farther. Help to industry, but no encouragement to idleness.

By such organized effort, the State and benevolent individuals have built up this institution, and they are relied upon to sustain it so long as it merits confidence, and shows good return for the investment.

Such efforts are, however, necessarily costly, and the report of the Treasurer will show that during the past year the expenses have exceeded the income.

This arises from two causes: first, the increased cost of carrying on the establishment, the reasons for which must be apparent to all; second, the enlargement and improvement of the premises.

These improvements have been long called for, and the call has been resisted, partly because the productive fund was so small, and partly because there was doubt about retaining the institution permanently in its present location.

The first objection has been overruled by the hope that "patient continuance in well doing" would secure for the institution the continued patronage of the State; and would, moreover, be rewarded by the sympathy and substantial assistance of good men.

The Trustees, therefore, did not hesitate any longer about reducing the small capital of the institution by making the needed improvements. These are enumerated and described in the report of the Director.

As to the second objection, it has been overcome by the conclusion which has been formed by most of the Trustees, that, upon

the whole, the present location of the establishment can be advantageously retained for some years to come.

The pecuniary means of the institution are so limited, and the cost of carrying on its necessary operations so much increased, that some works of great interest, but not of immediate and pressing need, have been interrupted. Printing books in raised letters has been suspended for two years. This was a very useful work, and a source of great pleasure and improvement, not only to our pupils, but to all the institutions for the education of the blind in the country. They were mainly supplied with our books; and there was an increasing call for them in England. The cost of the printing office, however, was considerable, because, although the books were sought for, the cash sales were very limited, the blind being generally too poor to pay money; and therefore the work was suspended. It is to be hoped that the hearts of those who have the power of doing good may be moved to furnish the means of resuming it. This form of charity is not only manifestly a good one, but it presents features which render it peculiarly attractive to some minds. The seed silently planted will bear fruit through many seasons; increasing, perhaps, with the lapse of time. He who causes a book to be printed for the blind, may convey his gift of knowledge in such form as best suits his taste. This has sometimes been done very happily. Perhaps the name of Peter C. Brooks will be read by the fingers of the blind, upon the title-page of Pierce's Geometry, after the inscription upon his tombstone has become illegible to the eye.

The policy of the institution has been liberality in all matters which touch the real and permanent interests of the blind, but economy, even to parsimony, in everything else. During more than thirty years, not a repast has been served for the Trustees, nor a penny spent for their carriage-hire. Their services are strictly gratuitous.

While large outlays have been made for improvement of the grounds and buildings, and thousands of dollars annually expended upon books, apparatus, musical instruments and the like, the utmost frugality has pervaded the household. A large corps of teachers has been maintained; but the domestic service has been upon the most economical scale, and the fare of the simplest and cheapest kind, consistent with health.

The report of the Treasurer will show the general condition of the finances ; and that of the Director will exhibit the details of expenditure.

The several inventories required by law are herewith submitted.

The Trustees close their Report by commending the interests of the institution to the corporation and to the legislature, in the hope and belief that whatever additional aid may be needed, will be cheerfully and promptly granted.

Adopted by vote of the Board, October 5, 1864.

THOS. T. BOUVÉ,
 THEOP. P. CHANDLER,
 STEPHEN FAIRBANKS,*
 JOSEPH LYMAN,
 JOSIAH QUINCY, JR.,
 WM. B. ROGERS,
 BENJ. S. ROTCH,*
 GEORGE R. RUSSELL,
 JAMES STURGIS,
 JOSEPH B. THAXTER, JR.,*
 JOHN H. STEPHENSON,
 ——— ———,†

Trustees.

SAM'L G. HOWE, *Secretary.*

* Trustees appointed by the Governor.

† One vacancy, occasioned by the lamented death of WM. D. TICKNOR.

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION,

1864-5.

PRESIDENT.

SAMUEL MAY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

TREASURER.

WILLIAM CLAFLIN.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

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JOSEPH LYMAN.

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WILLIAM B. ROGERS.

BENJAMIN S. ROTCH.

GEORGE R. RUSSELL.

JAMES STURGIS.

JOSEPH B. THAXTER, JR.*

* Two vacancies to be filled by the governor.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR TO THE TRUSTEES.

The number of pupils reported, September 30th, 1863, was one hundred and nineteen; admitted during the year, twenty-three; discharged during the year, twenty-five; present number, one hundred and seventeen.

This is made up of eighty-one in the junior department, or the school proper; three teachers; two in domestic service; twenty-three adult men and women in the workshop, and eight women in the laundry.

Of these, thirty-six are on pay; and the aggregate amount earned and received by them in cash, during the year is \$5,726.02.

Besides these there are several blind men who learned their trade here, and who are supplied with tools and stock, from our workshop, and work at home, in the country. They either sell their goods in their own neighborhood, or send them to us to be sold on their account.

The monthly reports which have been made have kept you informed of the current events. None of them are important enough to need special mention here.

The general health of the inmates has been maintained at its usual average. Among the pupils proper, there have been but few cases of sickness, and none of death. The nursery has been occupied but little.

Several of the pupils have been under treatment by oculists, with a view to the restoration or improvement of their vision. A hope, and almost an expectation, has been excited in some of them that they should be cured; but those hopes and expectations have not been realized.

This is no new thing. There is a frequently occurring, and almost periodical excitement upon this subject;—a sort of revival of buried hope which cannot be reasoned with, and which

it seems almost cruel to repress. This sort of revival is occasioned sometimes by reports, (whether well or ill founded,) of a blind person being restored to sight; sometimes by a young and sanguine oculist who honestly believes that he can restore or at least improve vision in cases where others have failed; but occasionally by a dishonest pretender, who wishes to get notoriety, which to him is capital, by practising upon the blind. He has nothing to lose, and hopes he may make a lucky hit, careless of what harm he may do, or what painful disappointment he may occasion. While one patient is under treatment, and is encouraged by false hopes, others conceive them also, and there follows a feverish excitement upon the subject.

There have been many such revivals in our institution; during all of which the hopes of one or two have at first run high, and soon been shared by many others, until there followed a general excitement on the subject. It is sometimes painful to see those come forward in whom there is evidently no possibility of sight, and who, having become resigned and even happy in their darkness, are again excited and disturbed by false hopes. It is painful too to record that hitherto all these periods of excitement and hope have been followed by disappointment. Some few have seemed to be improved for awhile, but out of many hundred cases, only two are remembered in which any considerable benefit was received, and in only one of those has it been permanent.

The rule of our school is to receive those only who are considered as incurably blind. If among the applicants there are any whose blindness seems curable, or which even presents a feeble chance of being improved, they have the advice of our best oculists. If any treatment is deemed desirable, it is to be made before the applicant is admitted to the school. This rule ought to be adhered to more strictly than it has been hitherto.

Recovery of sight, or even improvement of what little vision a person may have, is a matter so highly desirable to all parties, and it is of such vital importance to the sufferer, that no pains or expense should be spared to bring it about. But, during the treatment, the patient can seldom be a fit subject for a school. Even if the treatment did not prevent observance of the studies and the discipline, the moral condition of the patient would do it. The issue is of vast moment to him. It involves hopes so

exciting,—fears so depressing,—doubts so tormenting, that there is no room for anything else. If he ever saw, or if he even perceives a faint glimmer of light, he anticipates more exquisite pleasure from sight than those who securely possess it ever realize; and he fears that its total loss will bring more lasting suffering and sorrow, than the blind themselves experience.

Among the adults connected with the institution, there has been during the year, more sickness than among the pupils; and two cases have been fatal. There is always a higher rate of sickness and mortality in this class than in the junior department, for reasons set forth in our twenty-eighth report.

The school proper, in the juvenile department, has been attended during the year by about eighty pupils. Their general conduct has been very satisfactory. They are docile and industrious, and no severity of discipline is required in their government. The school has been conducted with marked ability and success, by the same young ladies who have given us proof, in years past, of their skill and fidelity as teachers.

The general course of instruction has been the same as in former years. The object is to give to all the pupils the same kind and degree of instruction in the common English branches, as is given in our best common schools; and this object has been attained in as great a degree as could be expected. A few pupils pursue successfully the branches taught in our High Schools.

BOYS' WORKSHOP.

Besides a knowledge of the English branches, our course of instruction includes daily exercise and training in simple and easy manual work. This gives physical exercise, increases dexterity and self-reliance, and prepares the pupils for whatever trade or calling they may afterwards follow. Even those who aspire to become teachers, and those who will never be obliged to work for a living, are benefited by this kind of training. As a laundress or a broom-maker is better fitted to follow successfully a mechanical calling, by having had mental culture in youth, so a teacher is better for possessing that bodily culture and dexterity, which training in some manual art gives so effectually. It is good for every one, but especially for the blind,

for it improves their gait and carriage, and lessens that awkwardness of appearance which those who are untrained almost always present.

It is in view of the importance of this, and of early habits of self-reliance, that we require our pupils to do everything for themselves that they can do. Even the boys make their own beds and take care of their own rooms. They learn to run and jump and wrestle and bowl. The gymnasium is considered to be an important adjunct to the school-room; and the rapid wear and tear of solid bowling-alleys, and of hard wood apparatus, gives proof of the vigor and force of their operations. They are kept out of doors as much as possible. In the summer they bathe in the sea, and many of them can swim, and can row a boat.

The girls are employed daily in household duties, and are taught to sew, to knit, and to do various kinds of fancy work.

This kind of training, though not so agreeable to them, or so much prized by their friends, is nevertheless of service to all; and to many is more useful in the end than listening to poetry, or practising on the piano.

The boys spend two or three hours every afternoon in a workshop, where they learn simple trades. They make brooms, seat chairs, and braid mats. The work is under the management of a former pupil, who has a small salary, (\$150,) and makes what he can out of the business. He purchases the stock, and sells the goods, or they are sold on his account, at our store. This arrangement has many advantages over any other which we have tried. It secures vigilant attention to business; economy of stock and of time, and prevents slovenly work, which is always unprofitable work. It trains at least one person to close business habits; and his example helps others. If there is any profit, it cannot be better disposed of than to one of that class whose prosperity it is our business to promote.

Almost all the pupils devote some time each day to the study and practice of music. This is in pursuance of our uniform policy which requires that the pupils should receive instruction and training in vocal and instrumental music, with a view to general culture, and to that familiarity with the art, which is so desirable for all youth, but especially for the blind.

A few of the most advanced pupils, who show special talent for music, with such general mental ability as is essential for excellence in any art, devote as much time to the study as can be done advantageously. They receive careful instruction, and have excellent instruments for daily practise.

The liberal expenditures which have been made within a few years for musical instruments, give us very great advantages, such as were not formerly enjoyed, and which can hardly be found elsewhere. There is a beautiful organ, built at great cost, and with great care, and which is so constructed as to give a great variety of practice. It is an instrument which ranks amongst the first in the country.

There are twenty-six piano-fortes, all in excellent condition, and so arranged in commodious rooms that both teacher and pupils can work advantageously.

Besides these advantages, our students of music have opportunities of hearing the best masters and the best music which the city can furnish. The professional musicians of Boston, and the musical societies, show great liberality and kindness in this matter; and they deserve our thanks, as well as the gratitude of the blind.

The object in giving special instruction and training to a few pupils is, that they may become good musicians, good teachers, and good tuners of pianos.

Care is taken, however, to avoid the common error of mistaking great sensibility to musical sounds, and marvellous powers of imitation, for real talent. The blind musical prodigies, of whom the country has seen so many, prove for the most part, to be prodigious failures. The most marvellous instance of all is that of Tom, the blind slave boy, whose performances created such a sensation in this country three or four years ago. After making all allowance for exaggeration, it must be admitted that his case proves that delicate sensibility to harmonious relations of sound, and marvellous power of memory and of imitation, *may* exist in one who is in other respects hardly above an idiot. The case of this blind and imbecile boy is so interesting, and in some respects so instructive, that an account of it should be preserved. A careful and minute account of it by a competent observer, would be a valuable contribution to science.

The lack of sufficient care in the selection of pupils to be trained for musicians, and other causes, (which it is hardly time yet to set forth,) have contributed to what we must acknowledge to be a failure of the hopes and expectations raised among the blind, and in the public mind, by former reports of this and other institutions.

The graduates who have gone forth as musicians, teachers, and tuners, have not, as a general thing, done so well as it was predicted they would do. We now see many reasons for the disappointment, and we may set them forth in due season; but, in the meantime, we shall try to profit by them; and, as out of the nettle, danger, is plucked the flower, safety, so out of failure try to pluck success.

A comparative degree of success has been obtained during the past year as the result of more careful selection of pupils, more thorough drill, and longer persistence in work than was formerly required.

The following extracts of letters from graduates who have recently left will show in their own language the degree of success they are now obtaining:

“It is now two years since I left the institution, and I am happy to say that during that time I have been able to support myself almost wholly by my own exertions. I commenced teaching music in this city, (Boston,) and although it is crowded with superior musicians and teachers, yet I have had a moderate share of patronage. The greatest number of pupils that I have had at any one time, was fourteen; the smallest number, two; the average about ten.

“Most of them have taken more than one quarter, and several have continued their lessons more than a year. I have tuned the pianos of all my pupils, and as many more as I could find. I have usually had one a week, and often two or three. ALONZO CARTER.”

“I have tuned twenty-two pianos, and I now have twelve scholars under instruction, and another that will commence soon.

“AARON BLAKESLEE, *New Haven.*”

Graduated March, 1864.

“I have a situation as organist, in the Episcopal Church, with a salary of \$60 a year. I had eight scholars the first quarter. They commenced to take lessons at different periods.

“I have received \$92. The prospect is that I shall have more scholars.

JEANNETTE ANDREWS, *Salem, Mass.*”

Graduated March, 1864.

“I commenced teaching April 4th. The first quarter I earned and had paid in, \$65, but had two scholars who were taking lessons once a week, for which I had not then received anything. I have now seven scholars, at \$15 per quarter; three of the number taking but one lesson a week.

LYDIA AMES, *Malden, Mass.*”

Graduated March, 1864.

“I commenced teaching here in April last, with a class of six, which has increased to ten. I shall probably retain this number until December, and hope in the meantime to add thereto.

“I have been able to defray all my expenses, which have been large, with a small surplus.

THOMAS ROCHE, *Lynn, Mass.*”

Graduated March, 1864.

“I left the institution hardly knowing what to do, but wishing to take up the first thing that promised the most money. Tuning being a new business for the blind, that is in Boston, I was doubtful how I might succeed with it. Very few of the piano makers were willing to own that a blind man could tune a piano. Beginning under those circumstances, I could but be slow. From that time till the first of January, 1864, I earned from \$175 to \$200. Since then I have earned from \$350 to \$375, and have every prospect of as much for the next four months.

JOSEPH WOOD.”

“Immediately on graduating, I came to Bangor with the view of teaching piano or organ music, or to engage in the tuning of pianos. I chose piano teaching, and my friends obtained about a dozen scholars for me to commence with, four of whom lived in Old Town, twelve miles from the city, which place I visited semi-weekly.

“At first I did some tuning, but the number of my scholars soon increased so that I was obliged to give up that branch of the business.

“The average number of my scholars during the year was sixteen, and the number of lessons per week about twenty. My terms are sixteen dollars per quarter, which is the most that any teacher of music has in this city.

“I go to the houses of my scholars to give them their lessons, without a guide except the first time, and I find no difficulty in travelling to any part of the city.

“At this time I have twenty-five scholars, which are as many as I can do justice to, and I have been obliged to refuse several applicants of late.

“My scholars are of the first families in the city, and a large number of them are quite advanced in piano playing; some of them being teachers.

THOMAS REEVES.”

Graduated March, 1863.

The musical department has been under the charge of Mr. F. J. Campbell for about seven years; and it is owing to his skill, and to his zeal that such satisfactory progress has been made. He has inspired his pupils with an ambition for real excellence; and has convinced them that it cannot be attained by haste.

THE WORK DEPARTMENT FOR ADULTS

Has been conducted on the system which was adopted about fifteen years ago, and it continues to be prosperous and successful.

The whole number of men and women employed during the year was 27.

The amount of earnings paid to them in cash was \$3,560.02.

The amount of receipts at the sales-room was \$18,604.65. A large proportion of this was for work, such as making over old mattresses, bottoming chairs, making and repairing mats. The balance sheet shows a small profit. No allowance, however, is made for interest on the capital, \$13,756.96, originally invested in the shop, from the general fund of the institution.

The successful establishment of this department is very gratifying, because it proves that with a little indirect aid in the disposal of their wares, adult blind men and women may earn their livelihood, and yet not be gathered in an asylum, not subjected to any restraint, and not considered as objects of charity; but may live just as they desire to do. It proves also that they desire to live in families, as other people live, and not in asylums, however named.

For reasons set forth in former reports, it is not desirable that the number of those immediately connected with this department should be greatly increased. But beside those so connected, there are several blind men who have been supplied with tools and stock, and who work at home in the country, either disposing of their goods in the neighborhood, or sending them to our store for sale on their account. This is the best arrangement upon the whole, that can be made for adult blind persons; and it is very desirable that it should be extended to

as many as possible. It has various advantages. It keeps up the ties of family and neighborhood. It establishes and strengthens social and civic relations between the blind and others. It keeps them distributed equally in the community. It relieves the cities from undue numbers of infirm people. It prevents the growth of that spirit of caste which is apt to be engendered where the blind congregate together. Finally, it accords with the idea which has guided our efforts, that the education of the blind should fit them for intercourse with those who see; and it reduces to its minimum the difference between them.

The history of this department shows that it may fairly be regarded as a success, financially.

The institution appropriated, at various times, \$13,756.96, as capital to carry on the business. The last appropriation was \$2,500, in 1855. Besides the debt to the institution for this capital, the department owes to sundry individuals for goods, \$1,412.80, or in all \$15,169.76. But it has stock on hand which is fairly valued at \$7,471.03. It has cash on hand, \$1,865.66. It has debts due to it, \$4,674.22; total, \$13,986.11. Assuming that we lose all the doubtful debts, and twenty per cent. of the good ones, the balance against the shop will be about \$3,000.

This balance has been growing less during several years, and if it continues to do so a few years longer, will be cancelled, and the institution will get back all its capital. The only loss will be of the interest, and the difference between the cost of the building and its actual worth. But should the business be closed up now, the loss could not exceed \$5,000, and would probably not much exceed \$3,000.

In the meantime the department has paid out in cash, to blind men and women, the sum of \$59,185.24.

But if we reckon more strictly, and take only the time from 1850, when the workmen and women left the institution and provided board for themselves, and if we make allowance for the clerk hire, which was at first paid from the general fund, we shall find that the work department has paid to blind men and women, in cash, the sum of \$54,521.14. This surely is a good return for the loss of interest on \$13,986.11, and of part of the principal.

THE LAUNDRY.

Mention was made in the last report of the experimental laundry for the employment of blind women, upon the same system as that adopted in the men's work department.

This has gone on successfully during the year, and eight women have been employed. They have earned wages barely enough to pay their board and scanty personal expenses.

Besides doing all the washing for the institution, and for the School for Idiots, they have taken in washing from many private families, and their work has given satisfaction.

The experiment may be considered a success; and since, by a vote of your Board the laundry has been adopted as a branch of the work department, it will be so conducted, and a separate exhibit made of its expenditures and income.

The receipts have not equalled the expenses as yet; but there is a nearer approach to it every month.

It is desirable that a fund of a few thousand dollars should be set apart to constitute a working capital, as in the case of the men's work department.

FINANCES.

The Treasurer's Report shows that the total receipts during the year were,	\$32,896 19
Deduct cash on hand at the beginning of the year,	1,566 77
Net receipts,	<u>\$31,329 42</u>

Ordinary Receipts.

From State of Massachusetts,	\$16,000 00
beneficiaries of other States, and	
private pupils,	4,127 97
dividends on stocks,	1,762 70
	<u>\$21,890 67</u>

Extraordinary Receipts.

From sales of stocks,	\$6,438 75
State of Massachusetts, balance	
of last year's appropriation,	1,000 00
legacy of Susan Hurd,	2,000 00
	<u>9,438 75</u>
Total,	\$31,329 42

He paid out on orders of the Auditor,	\$31,742 37
And had a cash balance on hand,	1,153 82
	<hr/>
Total actual payments,	\$30,588 55

The Steward's account shows that the ordinary expenses for the year, excluding laundry expenses and including bills due October 1, 1864, were, as per schedule annexed, \$24,282 70

Extraordinary expenses for construction, &c.,	5,789 30
	<hr/>
Total,	\$30,072 00

This gives an apparent excess of income over the expenditures, but in reality there was an excess of ordinary expenses over ordinary income, amounting to, \$2,392.03.

The excess of ordinary expenditures is not in reality quite so great, because payment from the States of New Hampshire, Vermont and Connecticut, which should have been made during the year, was delayed.

In making estimates for the current year, we must consider that there will be repairs necessary, and that the number of pupils will be greater; and we must assume that the cost of all articles of consumption will be at least as high as during the past year.

Our ordinary expenses will then be about \$25,000.

The ordinary income will be,—

Appropriation from State of Massachusetts,	\$16,000 00
Dividends on investments,	1,000 00
Income from beneficiaries and private pupils, about,	7,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$24,000 00

Thus there will be a deficit, which should be provided for in some way. Three methods suggest themselves.

1. To ask for an additional appropriation from the State of Massachusetts.

2. To charge higher rates for beneficiaries from other States.

3. To ask authority from the legislature to require a small payment from the parents or friends of our own State beneficiaries.

The first seems undesirable while the number of beneficiaries remains as small as it now is.

The second method, or that of raising the charge for beneficiaries from other States, would be attended with some difficulty, for it would require the action of the several legislatures. Whenever this matter is broached we meet with objections, arising from the fact that beneficiaries are received at the School for Deaf Mutes, in Connecticut, at a very low rate, much less than actual cost; while another fact is not generally known, namely, that that institution has a large fund, given by the United States Government for the benefit of that class. Still, doubtless, something might be gained in that way.

The third method, or that of requiring a small payment from the parents of State beneficiaries, would seem to be not only just, but, in some respects, advantageous to all parties. We have always opposed whatever measures tend to make people consider blind children as belonging to the class of paupers. We have advocated the doctrine that they have the same right to instruction at the hands of the public as other children have, and that instruction should be special and adapted to their condition. The public places its common school within the reach of every ordinary child; but it cannot place a special school within the reach of each blind child, and therefore compromises by building up one central school and maintaining the children there. Any indigent person having a blind child, may send it to the State institution, without feeling that in the matter of schooling he is any more a recipient of public charity than are his neighbors, who send children to the common school. It ought not to cost him any more to send his child to school than it costs his neighbors to send theirs; but, on the other hand, if he has means, it ought not to cost him any less. By the present arrangement it does cost him less, because he has not to pay his child's board. Would there be any unfairness, then, in requiring him to pay what it would actually cost him to board his child at home—say \$50 a year. Or if the parent were really unable to pay this sum, would there be any injustice in requiring payment of the town in which the child properly belongs?

There would be some advantages in the arrangement; among others that of making the benefit which the child receives more highly prized by all parties.

It is probable that in the case of at least forty of our State beneficiaries \$50 a year might be paid by the parent without embarrassment.

The inventories of property, real and personal, with full details, are submitted herewith.

The Steward's accounts have been duly audited each month, by the Auditors, Messrs. Fairbanks and Thaxter.

Respectfully submitted by

SAM'L G. HOWE.

APPENDIX.

[No. 1.]

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

Dr.	PERKINS' INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, in account with W. CLAFLIN, Treasurer.	Cr.
1864. Oct. 1,	To amount paid on drafts of Auditor of Accounts for current expenses, from October 1, 1863, to September 30, 1864; drafts numbered 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 200,	
	\$31,842 57	
	To balance to new account,	
	1,053 82	
	\$32,896 39	
1863. Oct. 1,	By balance from page 3, cash,	\$1,566 97
	By cash from following sources during year, at dates as per book: Three quarterly payments State of Massachusetts, \$3,000 each,	9,000 00
	Extra allowance, State of Massachusetts,	3,000 00
	Cash, State of Massachusetts,	5,000 00
	Amount received for beneficiaries from State of Maine, appropriation,	1,281 09
	Amount received on account of J. Penno,	100 00
	Amount received on account of Laura Bridgman, interest on Mrs. Loring's legacy,	60 00
	Amount received for dividends on stock, as per memo.,	1,762 70
	Legacy of Susan Hurd,	2,000 00
	Sale of shares in Worcester Railroad,	2,246 25
	Sale of shares in Western Railroad,	4,192 50
	Cash from Steward, for board, sales, &c., as per statement,	2,686 88
	\$32,896 39	

BOSTON, October 5, 1864.

The undersigned, a committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1863-4, have attended to that duty and hereby certify that they find the accounts to be properly vouched and correctly cast and cash balance to be one thousand fifty-three dollars eighty-two cents. The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to the institution :

16 shares	Columbian Bank, . . . . .	..	.	\$1,600	00
9	"	New England Bank, . . . . .	.	900	00
17	"	State Bank, . . . . .	.	1,020	00
30	"	Tremont Bank, . . . . .	.	3,000	00
20	"	Boston and Providence Railroad, . . . . .	.	1,642	50
30	"	Boston and Maine Railroad, . . . . .	.	2,942	00
60	"	Western Railroad, . . . . .	.	5,801	46
25	"	Concord Railroad, . . . . .	.	1,250	00
				<hr/>	\$18,155 96
	Deed of land in South Boston, June, 1860, . . . . .	.	.	\$755	68
	" " " " March, 1847, . . . . .	.	.	5,000	00
	" " " " September, 1845, . . . . .	.	.	5,500	00
	" " " " January, 1850, . . . . .	.	.	1,762	50
	" " " " July, 1850, . . . . .	.	.	1,020	25
	" " " " May, 1855, . . . . .	.	.	3,710	00
	" " " " August, 1855, . . . . .	.	.	450	00
	" " " " April, 1855, . . . . .	.	.	1,311	50
				<hr/>	19,509 93
				<hr/>	\$37,665 89

Signed by

JOSIAH QUINCY,
 FRED. W. G. MAY,
Committee.

[No. 2.]

Statement of Receipts by Steward paid to Treasurer.

1863.			
Aug.	8.	Am't rec'd, sale of books, writing boards, &c.,	\$5 00
	8.	“ “ sale of admission tickets, . . .	12 00
Oct.	1.	“ “ Horace Thomas, account of board, &c., of son,	50 00
	1.	“ “ sale of books, type, &c., . . .	31 31
Nov.	2.	“ “ sale of old iron,	2 10
	2.	“ “ A. H. Robinson, account of board of daughter,	50 00
	6.	“ “ laundry work to date,	24 84
	6.	“ “ sale of books,	2 50
Dec.	22.	“ “ sale of books to Ohio Institution,	65 25
	22.	“ “ sale of books to Philad'a “	28 00
1864.			
Feb.	11.	“ “ sale of flour barrels and grease, .	8 50
Mar.	7.	“ “ A. H. Robinson, account of board of daughter,	50 00
	7.	“ “ sale of bread, sundries,	82 20
	7.	“ “ sale of bread to Idiot School, .	881 22
	7.	“ “ sale of books, &c.,	24 50
	24.	“ “ Horace Thomas, acc't of son's board,	100 00
	24.	“ “ sale of books,	1 50
	27.	“ “ E. F. Duren, account of clothing bills paid for Freddie Crocker, .	29 30
			<hr/> \$1,448 22
Aug.	5.	Am't rec'd, sale of books to Penn. Institute, .	\$35 50
	5.	“ “ sale of books to sundry individuals,	35 00
	5.	“ “ Mr. Trafton, for board of daughter,	50 00
	5.	“ “ Mr. Harris, for board of son, .	50 00
	5.	“ “ on account of Sarah Redcliffe, .	100 00
	5.	“ “ Idiot School, account of laundry, .	500 00
	5.	“ “ sundry individuals “ “ .	85 00
			<hr/> \$855 50
Aug.	26.	Am't rec'd for board of blind woman at l'ndry,	\$35 60
	26.	“ “ interest on legacy of Mrs. Loring, for Laura Bridgman,	50 00
	26.	“ “ cash for work at laundry,	209 50
Sept.	6.	“ “ for b'd of blind women at laundry,	35 00
	6.	“ “ cash for work at laundry,	47 00
	6.	“ “ sale of old iron, barrels, &c., .	6 06
			<hr/> \$383 16
		Total,	<hr/> \$2,686 88

[No. 3.]

General Abstract of the Accounts of the Work Department.

October 1, 1863, the Department owed—

To the institution for loan for original capital,	\$13,756 96	
To sundry individuals,	1,631 82	
		<u>\$15,388 78</u>
The assets were—Stock on hand,	\$6,878 44	
Cash on hand,	1,979 15	
Debts due,	3,346 23	
		<u>12,203 82</u>
Balance against the Dep't Oct. 1, '63,		<u><u>\$3,184 96</u></u>

The amount of wages paid in cash to blind workmen during the year Oct. 1, 1862, to Oct. 1, 1863,	\$3,366 31
The amount of sales, was,	12,983 38

October 1, 1864, the liabilities of the Department were—

Debt due to institution for original loan,	\$13,756 96	
Debt to sundry individuals,	1,412 80	
		<u>\$15,169 76</u>
The assets were—Stock on hand,	\$7,471 03	
Cash on hand,	1,865 66	
Good debts due,	2,674 22*	
		<u>12,010 91</u>
Balance against Department,		<u><u>\$3,158 85</u></u>

Net gain this year, \$26 11

The amount of wages paid in cash to blind persons was	\$3,560 02
which is \$213.79 gain over last year.	
The amount of sales was	\$18,604 65
which is a gain of \$5,621.27 over last year.	

The undersigned, Auditors of Accounts, have examined the cash account and vouchers of the shop of the institution, from September 30th, 1863, to October, 1864, and find them correctly cast and properly vouched, and the balance on hand to be \$1,865.66.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS, } *Auditors.*
J. B. THAXTER, }

* The charges on the books amount to \$4,674.22, but by carrying every doubtful debt to profit and loss account, it is reduced to \$2,674.22, and made quite reliable.

[No. 4.]

List of Books printed at the Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

	No. of Vols.
Lardner's Universal History,	3
Howe's Geography,	1
Howe's Atlas of the Islands,	1
English Reader, First Part,	1
English Reader, Second Part,	1
The Harvey Boys,	1
The Pilgrim's Progress,	1
Baxter's Call,	1
English Grammar,	1
Life of Melancthon,	1
Constitution of the United States,	1
Book of Diagrams,	1
Viri Romæ,	1
Pierce's Geometry, with Diagrams,	1
Political Class-Book,	1
First Table of Logarithms,	1
Second Table of Logarithms,	1
Principles of Arithmetic,	1
Astronomical Dictionary,	1
Philosophy of Natural History,	1
Rudiments of Natural Philosophy,	1
Cyclopædia,	8
Book of Common Prayer,	1
Guide to Devotion,	1
New Testament, (small,)	4
New Testament, (large,)	2
Old Testament,	6
Book of Psalms,	1
Book of Proverbs,	1
Psalms in Verse,	1
Psalms and Hymns,	1
The Dairyman's Daughter,	1
The Spelling-Book,	1
The Sixpenny Glass of Wine,	1
Howe's Blind Child's Manual,	1

	No. of Vols.
Howe's Blind Child's First Book,	1
Howe's Blind Child's Second Book,	1
Howe's Blind Child's Third Book,	1
Collection of Hymns for the Blind,	1
Milton's Poetical Works,	2
Diderot's Essay,	1
	<hr/>
Total number,	60

[No. 5.]

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

Young blind persons, of good moral character, can be admitted to the School by paying \$200 *per annum*. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, etc. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the institution. The friends of the pupils have every reasonable facility for visiting them.

Persons who wish to make a special study of music, and to have extra instruction, will be charged higher rates.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the governor for a warrant.

The following, is a good form, though any other will do :

“ *To his Excellency the Governor :*

“ SIR,—My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged _____, cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Institution for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“ Very respectfully, _____.”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the selectmen of the town or aldermen of the city, in this form :

“ I hereby certify that, in my opinion, Mr. _____ is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$200 *per annum* for his child's instruction. (Signed) _____.”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form :

“ I certify that, in my opinion, _____ has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools; and that he (or she) is free from epilepsy or any contagious disease.

(Signed) _____.”

These papers should be done up together, and directed to "The Secretary of State, State House, Boston, Mass."

An obligation will be required from some responsible person, that the pupil shall be removed, without expense to the institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

The pupils are required to attend public worship on the Sabbath, at some of the churches in the neighborhood, and the parents will designate the particular church.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, by applying as above to the "Commissioners for the Blind," care of the Secretary of the State in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

For further particulars, address Dr. Samuel G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relations or friends of the blind who may be sent to the institution, are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions :

1. What is the name of the applicant ?
2. Where was he [or she] born ?
3. State the year, month and day of the birth.
4. Was he [or she] born blind ? If not, at what age was the sight impaired ?
5. Is the blindness total or partial ?
6. What is the supposed cause of the blindness ?
7. Has he [or she] ever been subject to fits ?
8. Is he [or she] now in good health and free from eruptions and contagious diseases of the skin ?
9. Has he [or she] ever been to school, if yes, where ?
10. What is the general moral character of the applicant ?
11. Is he gentle and docile in temper, or the contrary ?
12. Has he any peculiarity of temper and disposition ?
13. Of what country was father of the applicant a native ?
14. What was the general bodily condition and health of the father, was he vigorous and healthy, or the contrary ?
15. Was the father of the applicant ever subject to fits or scrofula ?
16. Were all his senses perfect ?
17. Was he always a temperate man ?
18. About how old was he when the applicant was born ?
19. Was there any known peculiarity in the family of the father of the applicant ; that is, were any of the grand-parents, parents, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters or cousins blind, deaf, or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind ?

20. If dead, at what age did he die, and of what disorder?
21. Where was the mother of the applicant born?
22. What was the general bodily condition of the mother of the applicant, strong and healthy, or the contrary?
23. Was she ever subject to scrofula or to fits?
24. Were all her senses perfect?
25. Was she always a temperate woman?
26. About how old was she when the applicant was born?
27. How many children had she before the applicant was born?
28. Was she related by blood to her husband, if so, in what degree, 1st, 2d, or 3d cousins?
29. If dead, at what age did she die, and of what disorder?
30. Was there any known peculiarity in her family, that is, were any of her grand-parents, parents, uncles, aunts, sisters, brothers, children, or cousins, either blind, or deaf, or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind?
31. What are the pecuniary means of the parents, or immediate relatives of the applicant?
32. How much can they afford to pay towards the support and education of the applicant?

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

PERKINS' INSTITUTION

AND

Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

OCTOBER, 1865.

BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER, STATE PRINTERS,
No. 4 SPRING LANE.

1866.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1962

PHYSICS 351

LECTURE NOTES

BY

ROBERT H. DAVE

PHYSICS 351

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LECTURE NOTES

BY

ROBERT H. DAVE

Perkins' Institution, and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, }
BOSTON, December 4, 1865. }

Dear Sir,—I have the honor to enclose the Annual Report of the Trustees of this Institution to the Corporation, for the information of the legislature.

Respectfully,

SAM'L G. HOWE.

Hon. O. WARNER, *Secretary of State, &c., Boston.*

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, }
BOSTON, October 4, 1865. }

To the Corporation:

GENTLEMEN,—The undersigned Trustees respectfully report as follows for the year closing September 30th, 1865:

The number of members last reported was one hundred and seventeen. There have been since admitted, twenty-seven; discharged, nineteen; present number, one hundred and twenty-five. Of these, ninety-five are in the school proper, twenty-eight in the work-shop and laundry, and two in the household department.

There are several others indirectly connected with the Institution, who are supplied by it with stock and tools, and work at home.

The Report of the Director will set forth in detail the condition of the various departments.

The Trustees would remark that the general health of the inmates has been good, and their department excellent.

The general direction of the Institution, and the immediate charge of the school and household, have been confided to the same persons who have exercised it so many years, to the entire satisfaction of the Board. There has hardly been a change even among the domestics.

The pupils are so well disposed, and the relations between them and those in charge are so happy, that hardly anything, deserving the name of government is necessary, and no system of rewards and punishments is required. There is indeed strict discipline, with punctuality in all exercises, and dil-

igence in all pursuits; but these can hardly be said to be enforced, because they are so readily given.

The pupils, as a class, are in no wise different from other youth in respect to their dispositions and passions, and the same sort of difficulties are apt to arise in schools for the blind as in ordinary schools. We may therefore fairly attribute the harmony and good feeling existing in the Institution to the tact and kindness of those employed in the direction of it, and who are, for the most part, women. The fact that such good feeling exists, and has been so long uninterrupted, is creditable to teachers and pupils.

It is part of the policy to employ blind persons in all offices which they can fill advantageously. This is desirable, not only because it gives them the means of support, but it acts as an incentive to others. There are certain kinds of teaching for which sight is necessary, but not so with all. The principal teacher of music is blind, and he makes use of the advanced pupils as assistants. The foreman of the workshop is a blind man, and there are two domestics who are employed advantageously about the house.

The general course of instruction, laid down so long ago, has been followed steadily and successfully during the past year. It has been frequently set forth in our annual reports, and needs only to be generally stated now. The main object is to train up the pupils in such manner as will best fit them for self-guidance and support in life. They all receive instruction in the ordinary English branches, and usually make as great proficiency in them as do the scholars in our common schools. Besides this, the rudiments of vocal and instrumental music are taught to all who have the capacity to learn. They are trained by the general discipline of the establishment, and by special exercises, with a view to develop their physical powers, and to rely upon themselves as much as possible. The girls have calisthenic exercises and dancing; the boys all have a variety of games. Advantage is taken of the vicinity of the sea to vary their amusements and exercises. They bathe daily during the warm season; and many of them learn to swim, and to row a boat. Then there is special instruction for both sexes in such simple handicraft as develops manual dexterity and prepares them for learning a trade.

During the last year of their term, they devote themselves more especially to such calling as they will be likely to follow in life. Those who manifest unusual ability and musical talent, combined with good mental ability and aptness to teach, have special instruction in music. For this the Institution possesses peculiar and special advantages. It has a large and beautiful organ, twenty-four pianos, and a good collection of musical instruments. Above all, it possesses the indispensable requisites of able and zealous teachers.

Several young men and women have finished their course of instruction during the past year, and have a fair chance to earn a livelihood by teaching music and tuning pianos. Most of the young men who leave us are able to go to work at trades at home, or to enter our workshop for adults. This establishment, and the laundry for women, have been in successful operation during the year. The workmen and women are paid according to their earnings. All these persons pay their own board and expenses, and most of them live very comfortably. Some of those who have been long practised at work are now laying up a little money every year. The whole amount earned and paid over to them since October 1st, 1864, is \$5,808.28.

Besides this amount there has been paid during the year to blind persons employed in the Institution, the sum of \$2,037.16. This makes a total of \$7,845.44 earned by blind persons, and paid out to them in cash.

The expenses of the Institution during the year have been uncommonly great. This is mainly owing to building a new wing, and putting the whole building and grounds in thorough repair and good order. The new wing furnishes, on the first floor a large and commodious gymnasium; on the second floor a suite of apartments for the principal teacher and his family; another suite for the steward and his family; the third floor furnishes ten new music rooms; and the fourth floor furnishes two large and commodious workshops for the boys. The old bakery has been removed from the cellar, and rebuilt above ground in the new wing. Then the old vaults have been entirely removed and replaced by commodious and thoroughly ventilated closets, bathing-rooms, &c.

The whole main building is now in excellent condition, and

nothing is lacking for the comfort of the inmates, and the economical working of the establishment, except a good and efficient apparatus for warming and ventilation. When this is once provided, the building can not only be warmed and ventilated more thoroughly than before, but it can be done with greater safety, convenience and economy. The saving would probably be nearly enough to pay the interest on the first cost. Nevertheless, the Trustees have not felt authorized to make the outlay, because it could not be done without incurring debt. They think that a special appropriation should be asked of the legislature to cover the expenses, and recommend that their successors should ask for it.

The play-grounds have been enlarged by purchasing a lot of land next out of the girls' yard. This is the last vacant lot adjoining our premises, all the others being occupied by dwelling-houses.

These new buildings, and the alterations and improvements in the old ones, have been undertaken at a time when materials and labor were enormously expensive, but the necessity of the case seemed to leave no other course. The expenditure, however, must be considered in the nature of an investment, and it is doubtless a good one.

The new wing is built in the most substantial manner, with the best materials. All the improvements are of a permanent nature; and although they have required the expenditure of a large part of the available funds of the Institution, the Trustees felt authorized to make them, because they had come to the conclusion that the present location is, upon the whole, the best that can be had, and, that the Institution will probably remain there during their day and generation, at least.

The expenditure leaves the Institution dependent for its current expenses upon the liberality of the legislature, and gifts of the charitable; but these may safely be relied upon so long as they are merited by a wise and prudent management of its affairs.

REASONS FOR INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF THE INSTITUTION.

There are now in the United States some ten or twelve institutions for the blind, which may be considered as permanently established. These are all in the northern States, and it is a gratifying fact, that they have all flourished during the late

war ; while, on the other hand, those which had been organized in the slave States, and were struggling on through precarious infancy, were unhappily involved by the rebellion in the general ruin which it brought upon the southern section of the Union. Some of these will be revived, and the whole country will then be provided with institutions in which ordinary blind youth can get the rudiments of knowledge, and such general instruction in music as will suffice in ordinary life.

The pupils in all the institutions amount to nearly one thousand. Besides these, there are some children who have the means of being taught at home. Now among these there must be many who have taste and ability for higher literary attainments, and greater proficiency in music than can be afforded in ordinary public institutions, and who have the means of paying for them.

There is, then, a want of some place in which such blind persons can find what they need, to wit, instruction in the higher branches of study, such as are given in our best academies and high schools, and opportunity for scientific and thorough musical education.

It will be the object of this institution to supply this want ; and, indeed, it can now do so in respect to music.

The musical instruction is of a high order. It is both scientific and thorough ; and the organ and piano-fortes, though in plain cases, are finished in the best manner by the best makers in the country. But besides the rare opportunity for the study of music within the walls of the Institution, our pupils have the inestimable advantage of easy access to operas, concerts, oratorios and public musical performances of all kinds. Boston has excellent musical societies, and the managers of most of these do, with great liberality, afford to our pupils every facility and encouragement in their power. The Institution is therefore enabled to offer young blind persons from any part of the country, at very low rates, advantages and facilities for perfecting themselves in the study of music, such as can hardly be had elsewhere at any price.

The report of the Treasurer will show the condition of the finances.

The reports of the Director, which have been made monthly to the Board, and kept them informed of the condition of the

Institution, are on file. His accounts, as Steward, show in detail all the expenditures; these accounts are audited every month by the Auditors, who alone are authorized to draw warrants upon the Treasurer.

The several inventories required by law are herewith submitted.

Finally, the Trustees commend the Institution to the corporation, the legislature, and the public, as worthy of their confidence and support.

Respectfully,

THOS. T. BOUVÉ.
STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.
JOSEPH LYMAN.
GEORGE R. RUSSELL.
JAMES STURGIS.
JOSIAH QUINCY.
JOHN H. STEPHENSON.
JOSEPH B. THAXTER, JR.
THOS. B. ROTCH.
WM. B. ROGERS.

S. G. HOWE, *Secretary.*

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

Young blind persons, of good moral character, can be admitted to the school by paying \$250 per annum. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, etc. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the Institution. The friends of the pupil have every reasonable facility for visiting them.

Persons who wish to make a special study of music, and to have extra instruction, will be charged higher rates.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the governor for a warrant.

The following, is a good form, though any other will do :

“ To his Excellency the Governor :

“ SIR,—My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged _____, cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Institution for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“ Very respectfully, _____.”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the selectmen of the town or aldermen of the city, in this form :

“ I hereby certify that, in my opinion, Mr. _____ is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$250 per annum for his child's instruction. (Signed) _____.”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form :

“ I certify that, in my opinion, _____ has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools; and that he (or she) is free from epilepsy or any contagious disease.

(Signed) “_____.”

These papers should be done up together, and directed to "The Secretary of the Commonwealth, State House, Boston, Mass."

An obligation will be required from some responsible person, that the pupil shall be removed, without expense to the Institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

The pupils are required to attend public worship on the Sabbath, at some of the churches in the neighborhood, and the parents will designate the particular church.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, by applying as above to the "Commissioners for the Blind," care of the Secretary of State in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

For further particulars, address Dr. Samuel G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relations or friends of the blind who may be sent to the Institution, are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions :

1. What is the name of the applicant?
2. Where was he [or she] born?
3. State the year, month and day of the birth.
4. Was he [or she] born blind? If not, at what age was the sight impaired?
5. Is the blindness total or partial?
6. What is the supposed cause of the blindness?
7. Has he [or she] ever been subject to fits?
8. Is he [or she] now in good health and free from eruptions and contagious diseases of the skin?
9. Has he [or she] ever been to school, if yes, where?
10. What is the general moral character of the applicant?
11. Is he gentle and docile in temper, or the contrary?
12. Has he any peculiarity of temper and disposition?
13. Of what country was father of the applicant a native?
14. What was the general bodily condition and health of the father, was he vigorous and healthy, or the contrary?
15. Was the father of the applicant ever subject to fits or scrofula?
16. Were all his senses perfect?
17. Was he always a temperate man?
18. About how old was he when the applicant was born?
19. Was there any known peculiarity in the family of the father of the applicant; that is, were any of the grand-parents, parents, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters or cousins blind, deaf, or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind?

20. If dead, at what age did he die, and of what disorder?
21. Where was the mother of the applicant born?
22. What was the general bodily condition of the mother of the applicant, strong and healthy, or the contrary?
23. Was she ever subject to scrofulous affections, or to fits?
24. Were all her senses perfect?
25. Was she always a temperate woman?
26. About how old was she when the applicant was born?
27. How many children had she before the applicant was born?
28. Was she related by blood to her husband, if so, in what degree, 1st, 2d, or 3d, cousins?
29. If dead, at what age did she die, and of what disorder?
30. Was there any known peculiarity in her family, that is, were any of her grand-parents, parents, uncles, aunts, sisters, brothers, children, or cousins, either blind, or deaf, or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind?
31. What are the pecuniary means of the parents, or immediate relatives of the applicant?
32. How much can they afford to pay towards the support and education of the applicant?

PERKINS' INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND,
in account with WM. CLAFLIN, Treasurer.

1865.		DR.	
Oct. 1.	To amount paid on drafts of Auditor of Accounts for current expenses, from October 1st, 1864, to September 30th, 1865, drafts numbered 199, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, . . .		\$48,126 41
	To collection of \$2,325, Vermont draft, $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.,		5 81
	To Cash for one share of State Bank to make 18 shares old exchanged for 12 shares National State Bank,		75 00
	To Interest balance to date,		232 78
			\$48,440 00
1864.		CR.	
Oct. 1.	By balance of cash on hand,	\$1,053 82	
5.	By Cash, Tremont Bank dividend,	135 00	
	State Bank dividend,	136 00	
	Columbian Bank dividend,	56 00	
	New England Bank dividend,	45 00	
	State of Massachusetts,	4,000 00	
Dec. 14.	By Cash, State of Maine,	1,191 79	
28.	By Cash, State of Rhode Island,	845 83	
1865.			
Jan. 2.	By Cash, dividend Western Railroad,	300 00	
	Boston and Providence Railroad,	180 00	
4.	By Cash, State of Vermont,	2,325 00	
5.	By Cash, dividend Boston and Maine R. R.,	120 00	
	State of Massachusetts,	4,000 00	
28.	By Cash, State of Connecticut for Beneficiaries, \$1,500, less collection, \$1.88, from Mr. Green, for board and tuition of daughter,	1,498 12	
	from Mr. Harris, for board and tuition of son,	50 00	
	from Mr. Harris, for board and tuition of son,	60 00	
	from Mrs. Salisbury, for board and tuition of John Penno,	100 00	
<i>Carried forward,</i>			\$16,096 56

	<i>Brought forward,</i>	\$16,096 56
Jan. 28.	By Cash, from Mr. Marsh, account Laura Bridgman,	60 00
	from sale of tickets, (exhibitions),	75 00
	from sale of books and writing- board,	4 00
	from donation of Mr. Warren,	5 00
Feb. 18.	By Cash, sold through Brewster, Sweet & Co., 20 shares Boston and Maine Railroad at \$122½, \$2,450, less brokerage, \$5, and tax \$1, \$6,	2,444 00
23.	By sale through Brewster, Sweet & Co., 10 shares Boston and Maine Railroad, at \$121½, \$1,215, less brokerage, \$2.50, and tax \$0.50, \$3,	1,212 00
24.	By sale through Brewster, Sweet & Co., 20 shares Boston and Providence Rail- road, at \$130, \$2,600, less brokerage, \$5, and tax \$1, \$6,	2,594 00
Apr. 20.	By Bank dividends :	
	On 16 shares Columbian, \$48 gold, sold at \$1.46,	\$70 03
	On 9 shares New England,	270 00
	On 17 shares State,	40 80
	On 40 shares Tremont,	160 00
		<hr/> 540 88
28.	By State of Massachusetts,	4,000 00
June 30.	By Legacy of T. Tidd,	300 00
July 6.	By State of Massachusetts,	4,000 00
	Western Railroad dividend,	240 00
17.	By State of Maine, for instruction of pupils, \$1,316.63, less ¼ per cent. col., \$3.29,	1,313 34
21.	By Dr. Howe, account of ben- eficiaries, New Hampshire, \$3,000 00	
	Dr. Howe, account of ben- eficiaries, Connecticut,	2,294 90
	Dr. Howe, beneficiaries, Rhode Island,	283 84
	Dr. Howe, Mr. Trafton, board and tuition of daughter,	50 00
	Dr. Howe, Mr. Murray, board and tuition of son,	50 00
	Dr. Howe, J. C. Harris, board and tuition of son,	160 71
	Dr. Howe, Mrs. Spencer, ac- count of son,	134 54
	<i>Carried forward,</i>	<hr/> \$5,973 99
		\$32,834 78

	<i>Brought forward,</i>	\$5,973 99	\$32,884 78
July 21.	By Dr. Howe, Mr. Marsh, account of Laura Bridgman,	50 00	
	Dr. Howe, sale of books, \$13.70; writing-boards, \$26.95; tickets, \$32.30,	72 95	
	Dr. Howe, net proceeds of concert at Worcester,	62 75	
	Dr. Howe, Union Mut. Ins. Co., amount of damage,	20 00	
		<hr/>	6,179 69
	Dr. Howe, State of Vermont beneficiaries,	341 50	
Aug. 5.	By sale of Western Railroad rights,	127 50	
Sept. 30.	By Dr. Howe, for sale of books, \$13; acc't J. W. Murray, \$50,	63 00	
	Balance to new account,	8,843 53	
		<hr/>	\$48,440 00

Boston, October, 1865.

The undersigned, a committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1864-5 hereby certify that they have attended to that duty, and that they find the accounts to be properly vouched and correctly cast, and that there is a cash balance due the Treasurer from the Institution, of eighty-eight hundred and forty-three $\frac{53}{100}$ dollars. .

The Treasurer also exhibited to us, evidence of the following property belonging to the institution :

12 shares State National Bank,	\$1,200 00	
9 " New England National Bank,	900 00	
40 " Tremont National Bank,	4,000 00	
16 " Columbian National Bank,	1,600 00	
60 " Western Railroad,	5,801 46	
25 " Concord Railroad,	1,250 00	
		<u>\$14,751 46</u>
Deed of land in South Boston, June, 1840,	\$755 68	
" " " " March, 1847,	5,000 00	
" " " " September, 1845,	5,500 00	
" " " " January, 1850,	1,762 50	
" " " " July, 1850,	1,020 25	
" " " " May, 1855,	3,710 00	
" " " " August, 1855,	450 00	
" " " " April, 1855,	1,311 50	
		<u>19,509 93</u>
		<u>\$34,261 39</u>

WM. ENDICOTT, JR., }
 CHAS. E. STEVENS, } *Auditors.*

Analysis of Treasurer's Account.

The Treasurer's Report shows that the total receipts during the year, were,	\$39,596 47
Deduct cash on hand at the beginning of the year,	1,053 82
	<hr/>
Net receipts,	<u>\$38,542 65</u>

Ordinary Receipts.

From State of Massachusetts,	\$16,000. 00
Beneficiaries of other States and private pupils,	13,749 57
Dividends on stock,	1,752 88
	<hr/>
	\$31,502 45

Extraordinary Receipts.

From sale of stocks,	\$6,377 50
Mr. Marsh, acc't Laura Bridgman,	110 00
sale of tickets, books, &c.	164 95
Donation of Mr. Warren,	5 00
Legacy of T. Tidd,	300 00
proceeds of Concert at Worcester,	62 75
Ins. Co. for amount of damage,	20 00
	<hr/>
	7,040 20
	<hr/>
	<u>\$38,542 65</u>

He paid out on orders of the Auditors,	\$48,126 42
paid out for collecting drafts, interest, &c.,	313 58
	<hr/>
Total actual payments,	<u>\$48,440 00</u>
	<hr/>
Amount paid out,	\$48,440 00
Total receipts paid Treasurer,	\$38,542 65
Amount of cash on hand,	1,053 82
	<hr/>
	39,596 47
	<hr/>
Balance due Treasurer,	\$8,843 53

General Analysis of Steward's Account, October 1st, 1865.

	DR.	CR.
Amount due October 1, 1864,		\$655 53
Paid as per Steward's book,—		
Ordinary expenses as per schedule annexed, and extraordinary expenses as per schedule for con- struction,		48,816 92
Total receipts on drafts from Treasurer,	\$48,126 42	
receipts from other sources as per schedule annexed, &c.,	1,203 71	
	<hr/>	
	\$49,330 13	
Less error in draft 210,	50	
	<hr/>	
	\$49,329 63	
Amount due Steward, October 1, 1865,	142 82	
	<hr/>	
	\$49,472 45	\$49,472 45

*Amounts received by Steward during the year ending September 30, 1865,
not paid Treasurer.*

For bread,	\$514 53
board of laundry women,	626 86
sale of flour barrels,	6 00
sale of tickets,	47 60
amount returned on account of Wm. Denney,	2 00
sale of grease,	6 72
	<hr/>
Total,	\$1,203 71

*General Analysis of Expenditures for the year ending September 30,
1865, as per Steward's Account.*

ARTICLES.	Amounts paid during the year.	Liabilities Oct. 1865, for arti- cles purch'd.	Total.
Household furniture,	\$946 44	\$159 87	\$1,106 31
Dry goods and clothing,	388 38	216 50	604 88
Fruits and vegetables,	436 31	180 88	617 19
Bread stuffs,	1,671 67	196 60	1,868 27
Groceries,	1,128 98	357 91	1,486 89
Dairy,	1,667 04	441 63	2,108 67
Meats,	1,577 11	641 50	2,218 61
Fish,	104 77	51 12	155 89
Water and ice,	30 00	107 70	137 70
Fuel and light,	476 19	1,724 25	2,200 44
School apparatus,	326 04	64 25	390 29
Advertising,	101 42	-	101 42
Post office and telegrams,	49 49	5 33	54 82
Printing office and printing,	190 23	68 81	259 04
Boys' shop,	44 61	59 03	103 64
Drugs, medicines and dentistry,	16 62	6 17	22 79
Washing,	1,071 99	972 41	2,044 40
Taxes,	25 47	-	25 47
Insurance,	255 00	315 00	570 00
Stable,	1,291 36	205 52	1,496 88
Travelling and express,	353 31	39 55	392 86
Tools,	27 04	8 29	35 33
Boarding pupils out,	183 12	13 50	196 62
Salaries and wages,	9,197 10	267 85	9,464 95
Office in town,	8 09	1 00	9 09
Advance for water and newspapers,	14 25	-	14 25
Refunded to Mr. Greene,	13 60	-	13 60
Construction and repairs,	16,419 94	2,374 60	18,794 54
Deed of land,	1,600 00	-	1,600 00
Liabilities of 1864 paid in '64 and '65,	7,714 92	-	7,714 92
Total,			\$55,809 76
Deduct for construction,	17,484 50		
Land,	1,600 00		
Advance for water and newspapers,	14 25		
Liabilities of 1864 paid '64 and '65,	7,714 92		
Actual current expenditures,			26,813 67
			\$28,996 09

General Abstract of the Accounts of the Work Departments, October 1, 1865.

WORKSHOP—Liabilities.

Due Institution for original loan,	\$13,756 96	
Due Institution for use of horse, wagon, &c.,	650 00	
Due sundry individuals,	330 73	
	<u> </u>	\$14,737 69

Assets.

Stock on hand,	\$5,378 48	
Cash on hand,	2,495 68	
Debts due,	3,960 74	
	<u> </u>	11,834 90

Balance against the workshop, \$2,902 97

Balance against the workshop, Oct. 1, 1864, \$3,158 85

Balance against the workshop, Oct. 1, 1865, 2,902 79

Gain of the year, \$256 06

Amount paid blind workmen for the year ending Sept. 30, 1865, \$3,827 16

Amount paid blind workmen for the year ending Sept. 30, 1864, 3,560 02

Increase over last year, \$267 14

Amount of sales for the year ending Sept. 30, 1865, \$22,554 96

Amount of sales for the year ending Sept. 30, 1864, 18,604 65

\$3,950 31

LAUNDRY—Liabilities.

Due Institution for original loan,	\$2,621 46	
Due store No. 20, Bromfield Street,	253 38	
Due sundry individuals,	487 18	
Due institution for sundry bills paid,	471 90	
	<u> </u>	\$3,833 92

Assets.

Debts due,	\$602 40	
Cash on hand,	34 00	
	<u> </u>	636 40

Balance against the laundry, \$3,197 52

Balance against the laundry, Oct. 1, 1865, \$3,197 52

Balance against the laundry, Oct. 1, 1864, 2,621 46

Increase of indebtedness, or loss, \$576 06

Amount received for washing and ironing for the year ending Sept. 30, 1865,		\$5,142 04
Amount paid blind women for the year ending Sept. 30, 1865, .		\$1,981 12
If interest on \$13,756.96, capital originally invested is charged—\$825.37—the net cost of carrying on the men's work for the year will be,	\$569 31	
Cost of women's laundry will be—		
Interest on original loan, (\$2,621.46,)	\$157 27	
Loss,	576 06	
	<u>733 33</u>	
Total cost for the year of the work department including interest on capital,		<u>\$1,302 64</u>
Deducting interest the loss is		\$320 00

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION,
1865-6.

PRESIDENT.

SAMUEL MAY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

TREASURER.

WILLIAM CLAFLIN.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

THOMAS T. BOUVÉ.

SAMUEL ELIOT.

STEPHEN FAIRBANKS.

GEORGE S. HALE.

JOSEPH LYMAN.

JOSIAH QUINCY.

WILLIAM B. ROGERS.

BENJAMIN S. ROTCH.

GEORGE R. RUSSELL.

JOHN H. STEPHENSON.

JAMES STURGIS.

JOSEPH B. THAXTER, JR.

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

Perkins Institution and Massachusetts
Asylum for the Blind,

TO THE CORPORATION.



BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER, PRINTERS, No. 4 SPRING LANE.

1867.

VISITING COMMITTEE.

For October,	Messrs. APTHORP and BOUVE.
November,	BOUVE and BROOKS.
December,	BROOKS and ELIOT.
January,	ELIOT and HALE.
February,	HALE and LOWELL.
March,	LOWELL and LYMAN.
April,	LYMAN and QUINCY.
May,	QUINCY and MUDGE.
June,	MUDGE and PERKINS.
July,	PERKINS and ROTCH.
August,	ROTCH and STURGIS.
September,	STURGIS and APTHORP.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Perkins Institution for the Blind, }
BOSTON, Nov. 19, 1866. }

To the Corporation.

GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned Trustees have the honor to report as follows for the year closing September 30, 1866.

The number of blind persons immediately connected with the Institution, as last reported, was 117. Since then 30 have been admitted, and 24 discharged, leaving the present number 123.

The monthly reports of the Director set forth in detail the number of admissions, discharges and the like, and the history of the year. This has been very satisfactory. The general health of the inmates has been excellent. The prescribed course of study and work has been followed regularly and industriously; and no untoward event has occurred.

Besides the blind persons immediately connected with the establishment, several others have been furnished with aid for carrying on at home the broom trade, or business they learned here. They are provided with tools and stock at cost; and those

who cannot readily sell their goods at home, can send them to our store to be sold on their account. This is considered to be the wisest and best mode of carrying out the object of the Institution. It helps the blind to help themselves; it lessens the evil of attracting them from the country to settle in the city; it obviates the inconveniences and evils of large boarding establishments; and it keeps unbroken those ties of family, of friendship and of neighborhood, which are more important even, for the blind, than for ordinary persons.

An institution for the blind which keeps the greatest number of persons usefully employed, and earning their own livelihood at their different homes, while having the least number within its walls, does its work with the least show, but the greatest efficiency.

The blind are generally poor; and the poverty of some, and the impatience of others, prevents them from devoting the time and labor to their respective callings which is absolutely necessary for excellence. Some rush to the market with their imperfect wares; others offer themselves as musicians, or teachers of music, or tuners of pianos, before they are properly prepared. The public extends them a ready sympathy, and they mistake its kind toleration for genuine approval. But sympathy and kindness do not make a sound basis for trade; and the public tire of buying inferior articles, or putting

up with poor services. Our graduates begin to find this out; and it is gratifying to state that a much larger proportion of them now succeed in getting a good livelihood than in former years.

They have learned that it pays better to secure a permanent market and moderate profits by character for substantial and faithful work, than to rely upon an extra price paid in view of their infirmity. Of those who have left within five years, two-thirds are doing well; and some very well, in their several trades.

The same is true of those who study music. There are at least twenty, in and near Boston, who earn a handsome support as pianists, tuners, organists, &c. Some have permanent places in piano-forte manufactories as tuners.

The changes and improvements in the buildings and grounds which have involved great expense, and nearly consumed the surplus funds, are now completed, and found to be of great advantage. The only things wanting, to make the premises entirely satisfactory, are, first, a removal of the brick stable on the land lately purchased, so as to give an easy and commodious access to the main building; and, second, a heating apparatus more safe, commodious and economical, than the present one. When these are done, the Institution will possess great and rare advantages in respect to material arrangements and conveniences, as of

school-rooms, music-rooms, sleeping-rooms, workshops and the like. These indeed can be had anywhere by spending money enough; but the advantages of location must exist; they cannot be bought. In this respect our Institution is most fortunate. The location is not only salubrious, but it possesses many rare advantages. Among them, that which is indispensable for the highest culture in certain branches—to wit, easy access to the centre of a large and highly cultivated community. The establishment is within the city, and yet has singular advantages of room and air. It is upon the summit of a dry, gravelly peninsula, which slopes away on all sides to the sea-shore. There is ample space within the premises; and the neighborhood presents rare opportunities for all sorts of land exercises. Besides these, there are great facilities for bathing, swimming, and rowing,—of all of which our pupils avail themselves; many of them being good swimmers and good oarsmen.

The facilities for attending churches, lectures, concerts, &c., are uncommonly great, and have been duly improved.

The advantages of easy access to musical performances of the highest order are of very great importance to those who are to become musicians. Boston presents many such, and the persons who conduct them are generally very kind and liberal towards our pupils.

They thus have an opportunity of training the ear in the best school. This is all-important to those who are to become musicians; as essential indeed as the sight of good pictures and statuary to one who would become a good painter or sculptor.

The immediate charge of the establishment has been intrusted to Dr. Samuel G. Howe, and the several officers who have so long and so acceptably administered it.

The inventory of real and personal estate shows the assets to be \$175,000; of these, however, less than \$5,000 are investments which pay any income. The Institution is therefore entirely dependent upon the bounty of the State. The annual appropriation in its favor has been raised to \$20,000; but even this, at the present scale of prices, does not suffice to meet its wants; and the Trustees will be compelled to ask for more.

The report of the Treasurer, Hon. William Claflin, will show the receipts and expenditures, and also the amount of available funds on hand.

It will be perceived that this is very small; too small, indeed, to carry on the Institution upon the liberal and efficient scale which has hitherto characterized its operations.

By liberality is not meant luxury of living, nor high pay; for the fare has always been very plain, and the salaries barely enough to command good

service; but readiness to procure whatever was necessary for the instruction and training of the pupils; the best accommodations and opportunities for study and work; the best teachers, apparatus and books; the most perfect musical instruments, and the like. Much of this, as the grounds, the buildings, the large organ, &c., is in the nature of a permanent investment. The Institution is rich in these, but in nothing else. It has never been sufficiently endowed with funds to live within its income, but has relied upon the liberality of the State, and upon occasional donations and legacies. The Trustees have felt confident that so long as it continued to deserve well, it would be well sustained; and, therefore, have not hesitated while they had funds, to expend them whenever it could be done with that true economy, which secures large return of good from reasonable expenditure of money.

Many things, however, are still wanting, which cannot be had by any means now at the command of the Trustees. It is to be regretted that people generally suppose the Institution to be rich, because it bears the name of a rich man, who, with others, gave it liberal gifts; but those gifts have been expended, or invested in building, and other means of carrying on the establishment; and the Institution is now in need of aid and encouragement from the wealthy and liberal.

Two things are now especially wanted: first, the means of giving a supplementary course of instruction in the higher English to those who wish to pursue a more advanced course of study than is given in ordinary institutions for the blind; and a more thorough musical education to a select number of pupils who have the capacity and disposition for high culture. Second, the means of printing of books in raised letters.

Our press has been almost idle for several years; and has ceased to supply the blind with books. This is felt as a sad loss, not only by our own pupils, but by all those in the country who have learned to read. The Trustees hope and believe that the suspension of work will be only temporary. In former times our press not only supplied the other institutions with school and text-books, but provided many valuable standard works for the general use of all the educated blind in the country. The whole Bible, Milton's works, The Vicar of Wakefield, Tytler's History, Paley's Philosophy, Pierce's Geometry, and several other valuable books have been printed and widely circulated. A cyclopædia, intended to be a compend of general knowledge, reached its eighth volume, and stopped for want of funds. The books are very costly, though very durable; but the blind are generally poor, and, therefore, though the desire to possess books is strong, the sale is very limited. Many of our books

have been given away, or furnished at less than cost. The work of printing for the blind must be done,—mainly by charity; and surely it is hard to find a field in which a little seed will bear more abundant fruit.

Whoever will select some standard book, and furnish the means of stereotyping it, may have the satisfaction of dispensing happiness very widely in his own day, and the assurance that many in coming generations will rise up and call him blessed.

The Trustees heartily commend this matter to the minds and hearts of those who are able and willing to forward benevolent enterprises.

The accounts of the Steward are herewith presented in detail. They have all been audited regularly. All money received is paid over to the Treasurer, who pays it out only upon regular drafts of the Auditors of accounts.

The accounts of the Work Department show that although the men's shop can pay its way, yet the women's laundry, thus far, continues to be costly.

The several inventories of real and personal estate, required by law, are herewith submitted.

The Trustees have to lament the death of two of their number, who have served the Institution long and faithfully.

MR. STEPHEN FAIRBANKS has been a Trustee on the part of the State for nearly twenty years. He

has acted as one of the Auditors of accounts for ten years, and always discharged his duties with care and attention. He manifested his interest in the Institution by frequent visits; and his genial and pleasant manner made his visits most welcome.

Mr. GEORGE R. RUSSELL was also a faithful and valuable Trustee; and though of late years his infirm health prevented his frequent attendance at the meetings, he still rendered good service by his counsel and his sympathy.

Finally, the Trustees commend the Institution and the interests of the unfortunate and afflicted class for whose benefit it exists, to the attention and the confidence of the legislature and of the public, and invoke upon them the favor and blessing of Him from whom cometh all good.

(Signed,)

ROBERT E. APTHORP.

THOS. T. BOUVÉ.

FRANCIS BROOKS.

SAMUEL ELIOT.

GEORGE S. HALE.

JOSEPH LYMAN.

JOSIAH QUINCY.

E. R. MUDGE.

JAMES STURGIS.

BENJ. S. ROTCH.

EDWARD N. PERKINS.

SAM'L G. HOWE, *Secretary.*

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE
BLIND *in account with* WILLIAM CLAFLIN, *Treasurer.*

1865.		DR.		
Oct.	1.	To balance of cash,	.	\$8,843 53
	10.	cash, per draft No. 223,	.	2,000 00
	25.	“ “ No. 224,	.	3,245 75
Nov.	8.	“ “ No. 225,	.	3,252 20
	15.	“ per Dr. Howe received from State for workshop,	.	130 12
Dec.	18.	To cash, per draft No. 226,	.	3,901 57
1866.				
Jan.	2.	To cash, per draft No. 227,	.	3,000 00
	17.	“ “ No. 228,	.	3,022 56
Feb.	17.	“ “ No. 229,	.	3,087 14
Mar.	15.	“ “ No. 230,	.	3,339 57
Apr.	16.	“ “ No. 231,	.	4,284 10
July	2.	“ “ No. 232,	.	3,236 22
Aug.	4.	“ “ No. 233,	.	4,504 68
Oct.	1.	To interest,	.	114 84
		balance,	.	4,954 87
				<u>\$50,917 15</u>

1865.		CR.		
Oct.	10.	By cash from State of Massachusetts,	.	\$4,130 12
	10.	Bank Dividends:		
		New England Bank,	.	\$45 00
		State Bank,	.	48 00
		Tremont Bank,	.	200 00
		Columbian Bank,	.	240 00
				<u>533 00</u>
	19.	By cash, donation of Samuel May, Esq., “ to be expended by the trustees in printing books pamphlets and papers, suitable for the use of the pupils, for their benefit,”	.	1,000 00
	20.	By cash, per Dr. Howe's account, dated Oct. 18, for tuning pianos by pupils,	.	\$58 60
	20.	By cash, per sale of books,	.	273 95
	20.	“ “ of tickets,	.	25 55
				<u>\$358 10</u>
<i>Carried forward,</i>				<u>\$5,663 12</u>

		<i>Brought forward,</i>	\$358 10	\$5,663 12
Oct.	20.	By cash, per sale of three printing machines,	15 00	
			<hr/>	373 10
	25.	By cash, Concord Railroad dividends,		150 00
Nov.	2.	" " " "		50 00
	11.	By cash, sale of 60 shares Western R. R.,		8,262 00
Dec.	19.	" of Dr. Howe, board and tuition of pupils, sales, &c., per his account rendered,		1,640 58
	30.	By cash, sale of Concord R. R. stock:		
		twenty shares, at \$60,	\$1,200 00	
		five shares, at \$61,	305 00	
			<hr/>	\$1,505 00
		Less broker's tax, per Brewster, Sweet & Co.,	6 87	
			<hr/>	1,498 13
1866.				
Jan.	16.	By cash, State of Massachusetts,		4,000 00
	22.	" " of Maine,		1,373 28
Mar.	31.	" " of Massachusetts,		4,000 00
Apr.	3.	" Bank Dividends:		
		Tremont,	\$200 00	
		Columbian,	80 00	
		State,	48 00	
		New England,	45 00	
			<hr/>	373 00
	16.	By cash, Dr. Howe, sales, &c., per his account rendered,		1,242 43
	23.	" State of Vermont, \$2,187.50; less am't per collection, \$5.47,		2,182 03
May,	3.	" State of Rhode Island,		1,800 00
	16.	" Legacy, £10, of Francis Walder Mitchell, of Renton Co., Dunbarton, Scotland, received through Henry Mitchell, of Boston,		67 50
	21.	By cash, sale of Bank Stocks through Brewster, Sweet & Co.:		
		16 shares Columbian Bank, at \$112,	\$1,792 00	
		40 " Tremont Bank, at \$115½,	4,620 00	
		9 " New England B'k, at \$115,	1,035 00	
		12 " State Bank, at \$106½,	1,278 00	
			<hr/>	\$8,725 00
		Less brokerage, \$19.25, and tax, \$3.85,	23 10	
			<hr/>	8,701 90
		<i>Carried forward,</i>		<hr/>
				\$41,377 07

		<i>Brought forward,</i>				\$41,377 07
May	28.	By cash from State of Connecticut,				2,625 00
July	5.	“ “ “ of Massachusetts,				6,000 00
Sept.	1.	By cash, Dr. Howe, as per account rendered,				756 50
	29.	“ “ “ “ “ “				158 58
						<u>\$50,917 15</u>

Oct. 1. By balance, cash, \$4,954 87

(Signed,)

WM. CLAFLIN.

General Analysis of Steward's Account, October 1, 1866.

	DR.	CR.
Amount due October 1, 1865,		\$7,839 13
Paid as per Steward's book,—		
Ordinary expenses as per schedule annexed, and extraordinary expenses as per schedule for extraordinary repairs, &c.,		37,344 04
Total receipts on drafts from Treasurer,	\$36,873 79	
receipts from other sources as per schedule annexed, &c.,	2,702 50	
	<u>\$39,576 29</u>	
Amount due Steward, October 1, 1866,	5,606 88	
	<u>\$45,183 17</u>	<u>\$45,183 17</u>

*Amounts received by Steward during the year ending September 30, 1866,
and not paid over to Treasurer.*

For bread supplied to School for Idiots, &c.,	\$1,354 63
board of laundry women,	147 50
board of Mr. Campbell's family,	181 38
board of G. A. Huse,	11 48
balance due from salesroom for use of horse and wagon,	724 46
<i>Carried forward,</i>	<u>\$2,419 45</u>

<i>Brought forward,</i>	\$2,419 45
For sale of horse,	172 28
amount returned on account of A. D'Ouville,	28 00
error in voucher,	10 00
sale of tickets,	43 20
sale of grease,	6 54
sale of flour barrels,	23 03
Total,	\$2,702 50

*General Analysis of Expenditures for the year ending September 30,
1866, as per Steward's Account.*

ARTICLES.	Amounts paid during the year.
Household furniture,	\$1,713 68
Dry goods and clothing,	432 06
Fruits and vegetables,	524 67
Breadstuffs,	2,358 42
Groceries,	1,913 27
Dairy,	2,702 60
Meats,	2,055 59
Fish,	245 32
Water and ice,	253 10
Fuel and light,	2,479 09
School apparatus,	1,641 75
Advertising,	34 38
Post office and telegrams,	19 33
Printing office and printing,	685 93
Boys' shop,	316 15
Drugs, medicines and dentistry,	47 77
Washing,	2,308 49
Taxes,	30 02
Insurance,	90 00
Stable,	1,397 69
Travelling and express,	103 13
Extraordinary travelling expenses of pupils,	216 35
Boarding pupils out,	151 14
Salaries and wages,	11,763 87
Office in town,	187 68
Cash refunded,	47 17
Fire crackers,	2 83
Construction and repairs,	3,622 56
Liabilities of 1865 paid in 1865 and 1866,	7,839 13
	<hr/> \$45,183 17

DEDUCT for

Extraordinary repairs and construction, . . .	\$2,700 57
Extraordinary travelling expenses of pupils, . . .	216 35
Liabilities of 1865 paid in 1865 and 1866, . . .	7,839 13
	\$10,756 05
Actual current expenditures,	\$31,427 12

OCTOBER 1st, 1866.

The undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1865-6, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the accounts to be properly vouched and correctly cast, and that there is a cash balance in the hands of the Treasurer of \$4,954.87, (forty-nine hundred fifty-four and $\frac{87}{100}$ dollars.)

The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to the Institution :—

Deed of land in South Boston, dated April, 1844; . . .	\$755 68
“ “ “ dated August, 1848, . . .	5,500 00
“ “ “ dated February, 1847, . . .	5,000 00
“ “ “ dated January, 1850, . . .	1,762 50
“ “ “ dated July, 1850, . . .	1,020 25
“ “ “ dated April, 1855, \$2,810.50;	
less mortgage, \$1,500, . . .	1,311 50
“ “ “ dated April, 1855, . . .	3,710 00
“ “ “ dated August, 1855, . . .	450 00
	\$19,509 93

(Signed,)

THOS. T. BOUVÉ, }
 GEORGE S. HALE, } *Auditors.*

A D D R E S S

DELIVERED AT THE CEREMONY OF

LAYING THE CORNER-STONE

OF THE

New York State Institution for the Blind,

AT BATAVIA,

SEPTEMBER 6, 1866.

BY

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

BOSTON:

WALKER, FULLER & COMPANY.

1866.

Wright & Potter, Prs., 4 Spring Lane.

A D D R E S S .

My Friends and Fellow-Citizens:—

The ceremony which brings us together is an uncommon one, and it suggests an uncommon train of thought.

Those in whose behalf an institution is to be established here, are blind; and we are naturally led to consider how the infirmity of blindness affects the mental condition, and the moral and social relations of men.

That which distinguishes humanity—which lifts man above all created earthly beings, and to a rank a little lower than the angels, is the mind, or soul, with its powers of outlook and self-inspection. But mind, or soul, or spirit—call it as we may—would be powerless and worthless in this state of being without language.

Language is to the mind more even than the right hand is to the body. Without language, we can have no knowledge of each other, save such as the brutes have; no society except gregariousness; no affections, save those growing out of animal instinct. If language were abolished, and men

made dumb, the course of civilization would not only be arrested, but rolled backward; and, in a few generations, there would remain only tribes of wild men, battling among the ruins of cities and villages, with each other and with the brutes, for mere animal existence.

Language is not the mere servant of the mind, the vehicle of thought, but it is the instrument of our moral emotions, of our social affections; of all friendship, of all love. That love which is awakened through the sight, passes away with the decay of the beauty which is seen. But the love which is awakened by spiritual intercourse, lasts not only while life lasts, but survives the death of the loved object; and endures while memory endures.

Language, then, is the bond of union, of affection, and of interest, among individual men and women,—for their intercourse is mainly by speech, audible or written.

But language is of vast extent, and speech is only one of its powers. By speech and by print, men of our generation hold intercourse with each other. There are, moreover, some sorts of language by which the generations of men hold intercourse with other generations, and by which they converse across centuries and cycles of time. Among the various forms of language between the generations, and between the ages, monuments hold a high place.

As men and women unwittingly, and sometimes unwillingly, reveal their character, and even their secret motives of action, by the sort of language which they use, so the generations unwittingly

reveal the prevailing ideas of the men who lived in them, by the works which they leave behind them. Consider the Pyramids of Egypt, and read the speech which they utter. Study not their hieroglyphics, nor believe their inscriptions, for the phrase "to lie like a tombstone," was probably as good in the great Necropolis of Egypt as it is in a modern graveyard; but consider what the huge structures themselves tell us of the generations which built them! What say the ten million cubic feet of solid masonry, enclosing two or three small chambers, whose entrances are so narrow that the enclosed sarcophagus must have been placed therein before the walls were built; and those entrances afterwards closed up by huge blocks of stone, too heavy to be moved by any common force? What does all this tell? What is the language of that generation, spoken by the tongue of the pyramids to this generation?

It is, that the monarchs were absolute, selfish, cruel and short-sighted. That they built these vast monuments to preserve their fame from oblivion, and their bodies from disturbance. Vain hope! Their very names are forgotten, and

"Not a pinch of dust remains of Cheops!"

The monuments tell us, moreover, that the people must have been ignorant, oppressed, and like "dumb, driven cattle."

They tell us, that great multitudes of men and women were driven in from towns and villages, to toil and moil, and lift stones and carry sand for weeks and months; and when some had died and

all were exhausted, then that fresh gangs were driven in to take their places.

And so of smaller monuments, whether the triumphal arch, where the chained captive walks sadly behind the sculptured conquerors; or the storied column, with its winding procession of battles, assaults and sieges, leading up to the proud victor standing self-glorified on the top.

And so of those which tell a better story—the aqueducts, the fountains, the bridges, the canals, the docks and the like. If we study the monuments which a generation built, and the kind of men in whose honor they raised statues, we may learn much of the character of the people themselves.

You are assembled to lay the foundations of a monument which will speak to future generations; and although what you grave upon the corner-stone, and what you put within it, should never be seen, the monument itself will talk to future generations; and what will it tell them?

It will disclose that the physical condition of the human race in this country was imperfect and unfavorable, and that there were born to this generation, and expected to be born in the next, sightless children, numerous enough to form a persistent class. That children of this class were not only loved and cherished by their parents and kindred, but also cared for by the public. That there was no Mount Taygetus here, on which to expose them, with other infirm folk, to perish or be devoured, but asylums into which they were gathered and nurtured.

It will prove that the social and political union which here leagued three million people into one powerful State, was formed and maintained not only for defence against enemies, for common commercial interests, for great enterprises, for social prosperity and enjoyment, nor yet for mental culture and high civilization of the many, but also for the protection and care of the weak and infirm. That the State of New York, which could dig out a navigable river clear across her broad land,—which had just armed and sent forth three hundred thousand sturdy soldiers to serve the common country and the cause of humanity,—that this great State, while holding on in her high career of material prosperity, and providing schools for all the children, took thought also that not even the sightless little ones should be neglected.

In such language will the building, whose foundation-stone you this day lay, speak to many generations in coming time.

But while thus noting with pleasure and even excusable pride, the humane impulses which prompt and which will carry forward the work, pardon me if I utter a word of warning.

Good intentions, and kind impulses, do not necessarily lead to wise and truly humane measures.

Nowhere is wisdom more necessary than in the guidance of charitable impulses. Meaning well is only half our duty; thinking right is the other and equally important half.

Every one of you has probably learned by experience, that he may by alms or unwise aid

increase the very suffering which he sought to relieve.

How many times have you given for the mere luxury of giving? It is not only more blessed to give than to receive, but also more pleasant. Take an extreme case, and consider how many children are positively harmed by having too much done for them; and especially by having gifts showered too profusely upon them.

No people are more eager and successful than ours in pursuit of gain; but none so profuse in scattering it. We have a passion for giving gifts, especially to children. This passion waxes strong at particular seasons, the return of which is calculated upon by the cunning urchins, as the farmer calculates upon the early and the latter rain.

They consult the almanac which says of holidays, Look out for presents in drops; of birthdays, for abundance of gifts; and once in the year for the great hail storm lasting from Christmas to New Year. Parents, then, as if half ashamed of their weakness, resort to the pleasant myth of Santa Claus, who pelts the eager urchins with all sorts of missiles, from sugar plums up to images of every sort of beast and bird that came out of Noah's ark; and many beside whose strange appearance would excite wonder and admiration in any modern museum or menagerie; for they are unlike anything in the heaven above, on the earth beneath, or the waters under the earth.

The wit of men and women is then taxed to invent new toys, and new ornaments; and many arts and trades are plied diligently for months before the

holidays, to supply the demand for gifts. Mean-time children are all on tip-toe of hope and expectation; and as the time approaches they can hardly think by day of anything but presents, or sleep at night without dreaming that Santa Claus is at hand. And when the day arrives, what multitude and what variety of gifts, from father, mother, brother, sister, aunt, uncle and cousin—by blood and by marriage to the third and fourth degree. Those who have wide family relations get presents enough to stock a small shop, and set up in trade.

Christmas to such children is not the day when the most inspired Son of God was born into the world to reveal his Father's love, and develop the divine capacity inherent in his human brethren, but the day when Santa Claus comes down the chimney to bring a new dispensation of toys and sugar plums.

To older children it is a day for receiving choicer gifts, of greater value every year.

Thus to the young the blessed anniversary is stripped of its most endearing associations and clad with others unfavorable in their nature. Love and affection do indeed crave to speak in language of tokens and gifts; and there is so much that is beautiful even in our Christmas festival, that rather than lose it, we would cling to all the extravagances, all the pranks and humors, and hold Santa Claus among our household gods. But may we not retain all that is graceful and good without the evil?

Be that as it may, I mention Christmas not to detract from its merits, but only to illustrate my meaning in speaking of gifts and undue attentions to blind children. To those born of wealthy parents, Santa Claus instead of a yearly visitor is a common carrier; and the class generally suffer rather from excess of sympathy than from lack of it; more from what is done for them, than from what is left undone; more from attentions than from neglect.

Better a bruise or a bump than not make their own way about. If an ordinary child falls over an object, you cry "Jump up and try another!" You should cry that to the blind. But no; those dear children must learn no hard lesson through suffering. Every obstacle must be removed from their way, which must be carpeted with velvet; and they must be cautioned against danger, instead of being encouraged to meet it. They are helped to do what they should learn to do alone; kept at home when they should be urged abroad; seated in the rocking-chair when they should be tumbling about house and grounds; helped and waited upon when they should be held to help and wait upon their elders; spared when they should be urged; enervated where they should be hardened, and often demoralized by the habit of receiving as gifts what they should earn by hard effort, or resolutely forego.

For one blind child who is properly trained to consider the dangers, difficulties, and obstacles arising from his condition, as things to be met and overcome, by sharpened senses, by hard study, or

hard effort, by muscular strength and activity, by courage and presence of mind, by self-confidence and resolution—for one trained up in this spirit, a score are enervated and emasculated for life by excess of sympathy and unwise help during childhood.

It frequently happens that parents refuse to send a blind child to school or to an Institution until the best years for study are passed, simply from excess of affection and anxiety for its safety. The other children may wander abroad to gather courage and strength from facing dangers and overcoming difficulties; but this dear pet, who has the sorest need of all to be trained to hardy self-reliance; who should become strong in limb, and supple in joint; who should be a good gymnast, and climb, and jump, and lift weights, and swim and row; who should saw and pile wood, and feed cattle, and be put to every possible kind of work about the house and farm, that he may become healthy in body and resolute in purpose, the better to face and travel his stony road,—he must be wrapped in flannel, and kept in the rocking chair, to grow up pale and flabby, and awkward, and timid, because his mother “loved him, not wisely but too well.”

As it is with individuals, so it is with communities; because society moved by pity for some special form of suffering, hastens to build up establishments which sometimes increase the very evil which it wishes to lessen.

There are several such already in this country; and unless we take heed there will be many more.

Our people have rather a passion for public institutions, and when their attention is attracted to any suffering class, they make haste to organize one for its benefit.

But instead of first carefully inquiring whether an institution is absolutely necessary, that is whether there is no more natural and effectual manner of relieving the class; and afterwards, taking care that no vicious principle be incorporated into the establishment; they hastily build a great showy building, and gather within its walls a crowd of person of like condition or infirmity; and organize a community where everything goes by clock-work and steam. If there be a vicious principle in the organization, as of closely associating persons who ought to live apart, it is forgotten in admiration of contrivances for making steam do what once was done by the good housewife, with her cook and maid; and of the big bright coppers, the garish walls, and the white floors.

But no steam power, nor human power can long keep a vicious principle from cropping out. It has done so in many European institutions of charity; it will do so in many of ours.

Let me cite one in Rome, a city boastful of the number and extent of its charitable institutions.

There stands, in one of the retired streets, dimly lighted by night, the great Foundling Hospital, as it is called. Though really it is a sort of free nursery.

In the outer wall there is a niche sheltered from the weather. At the back of the niche is a small door opening into the hospital. Then there is a

crane which swings out and in, and to this crane is attached a nice warm cradle, near by which hangs a bell. When a woman wishes to get rid of her infant, she goes by night and lays it in the cradle, pulls the bell and runs away. Or if she fears to make any signal, she is sure that when the babe awakes and cries, it will arouse the watch; that the cradle will be swung into the wall, and her abandoned little one be fed, and clad, and cared for.

The impulse which prompted such an institution, and such a practice, was beautiful and good. Some kind heart had been moved by hearing of little innocents left to suffer cold and hunger in the open streets, and pity rather than wisdom prompted the building of a foundling hospital. But it is more than probable, that for one child saved from death, a score are abandoned by mothers who would have taken care of them had they not be tempted by the facilities held out by the hospital, for getting rid of them with safety to the infants and to themselves. It thus tends to encourage vice, and to act as a premium upon crime.

No class has suffered so much from this lack of wisdom in the guidance of charitable emotions, as the blind have suffered, and do suffer. And this is easily understood. Of all bodily defects or infirmities, blindness is the one which *seems* the most dreadful. We feel and comprehend at once the severity of the privation; and we imagine that it entails a great deal more suffering and unhappiness than it really does. The sight of a blind man, and still more of a blind child, touches every heart, and appeals forcibly for sympathy and aid.

This sympathy and pity prompt us at once to some outward action; they are too strong for our control. We must *do something*, and not knowing well what to do,—not understanding what the sufferers really need—we put our hands in our pockets, and give money.

Thence it is that in all countries and all ages, before and since

“Blind Bartimeus at the gate
Of Jericho in darkness sate,”

the blind man has been considered as the object for alms-giving. The very thought of blindness, suggests a sightless man, standing by the way-side holding out his hat for alms.

So universal is this, that blindness and begging seem to some as synonymous.

Indeed, after police regulations become established, and vagrancy is punished, and begging is forbidden, and the streets are cleared of mendicants; still the blind man keeps his old stand at the corner, and holds out his hat. No policeman is so hard-hearted as to disturb him; and he is allowed by general consent to remain at his post, where he often gathers more money than the laborers can earn by their work.

In Italy they make every bridge a “Bridge of Sighs;” they stand at the city gates, and at the street crossings; or sit in their reserved seats on the steps of churches; and detecting with quick ear every approaching footstep, raise a plaintive clamor, which is changed to blessings if an alms is dropped, but sometimes to muttered curses if it is withheld.

Such is the general treatment which the blind as a class have received from the public in all countries. That treatment shows the existence of tender and charitable feelings the world over. But it shows, also, that those feelings, if unguided by reason, may do as much harm as good, if not more. With all their pity and their sympathy, people have failed to give the blind man what he most needs, and have unwittingly put obstacles in the way of his ever getting it.

Nor have governments been much wiser. Some of the old establishments for the blind are merely asylums, which have become centres of idleness and vice. The larger they are the worse they become. Witness the great Lazar House for the blind at Naples; and the "Quinze Vingts" or Asylum for fifteen score of blind men at Paris. The lives led there are not a whit better than that of the spectacled blind musicians in the *Caffé des Aveugles*, whose deplorable condition attracted the attention of the Abbe Haüy, and led to the formation of the first school for the blind.

Even the modern institutions of Europe and America, greatly superior as they are, in most respects, to the old ones, and admirable as most of them are, still savor too much of being merely *charitable*. They are organized too much like almshouses; and administered in such wise as to tend strongly to the formation of life asylums, disguised under other names.

One of the present difficulties is to correct the prevailing notion about the real condition and wants of the blind. People suppose that blindness implies

not only dependence but unhappiness. That the blind are necessarily helpless, and therefore must always have direct aid if not support; and that even if educated they must still be objects of charity. Probably the popular notion about the institution whose corner-stone you to-day lay is, that of an asylum for blind children, in which they may remain for life.

Let me strive to correct some of these notions; and to explain the nature and effects of the infirmity of blindness.

I said, it *seems* to be the most dreadful one to which men are liable; but it only *seems* so to those who do not reflect.

Sore as is the affliction, there are sorer ones, which men can and do bear patiently, and even cheerfully. Should I ask whether you would rather be blind or deaf, most would exclaim, O, deaf, by all means. And so once should I have done; but not now. On the contrary, I hold that, to a person not obliged to struggle hard for a livelihood, blindness would be a lighter calamity than deafness, — I mean congenital blindness.

Nay, even with the superior advantage for manual work which a deaf mute has, I should prefer that a child of mine be blind rather than deaf.

This may seem strange; but call to mind the blind persons and the deaf persons whom you have known, and I think you will find that most of the former have been not only resigned, but social and cheerful, while the latter are, for the most part, unsocial and unhappy.

Light is beautiful; but is darkness dreadful? None of you can see in the dark; but do you expect to be unhappy to-night, even though kerosene and candles fail?

A great poet, relating his horrid dream of universal darkness, when

“ —— the bright sun was extinguished,
And the stars did wander through the eternal space
Rayless and pathless; and the icy earth
Swung blind and blackening in the moonless air,”

shows that all the dreadful effects came not from lack of light, but lack of heat; and that upon the brow of the last man, not darkness, but “famine, had written, fiend!”

But the darkness of which we are thinking implies no lack of warmth, and it affects not society. Our dream is of the effect upon ourselves alone, all others being in the bright sunlight.

Imagine yourselves, then, sitting at twilight with your children, your family, and your friends gathered about you; and the light fading until you cannot see each others' faces. You are then blind, but are you unhappy until the candles are lighted? On the contrary, do you not sit and enjoy each others' society, and talk, and laugh, as much as before.

But suppose you are all struck dumb, even before the light fades away, and you can have no more free exchange of thought, no more words of endearment and affection, no more stories and jokes, no more laughter and song, but instead thereof a dread stillness, which not even a cannon nor a thunder-clap could break; where, then, is your society?

Again, imagine a man possessed of all the comforts and refinements of outward life; with a cultivated mind and literary tastes; with a warm heart and pure affections; and who is blessed with deserving objects of his love; suppose such a man to be making merry with his relations and friends, and playing blind-man's buff with his children;—while he is blindfolded is he not as merry as ever? Does he not love the little ones whom he catches in his arms as well as though he could see them?

Now, suppose that he should find he could not remove the bandage for a day, a week, or a year. He would then be, for the time, a blind man. But in what would he have changed? What would he have lost? What great source of happiness would have been dried up in his bosom?

He soon learns to go about his house alone, and about the neighborhood, with a guide. He finds that he can attend to any ordinary business, if he chooses to do so. The world and its affairs, his friends and their welfare, have lost none of their interest for him. His home becomes doubly dear to him, and there he finds sources of pleasure which increase as they are drawn upon. In his library he finds no essential change, because poetry, philosophy and history lose no charms by being borne to his mind on the voice of affection; and custom soon gives to the habit of dictating all the pleasure there was in writing. Conversation, by which we learn more and improve more than by any and all modes of communing with other minds, becomes to him the means of new pleasure and profit.

But it is mostly in the greater development of his affections, and the exercise of them, that he finds compensations which he could not have hoped for. His home is not long dark because the rays of the sun are shut out, but, like the fabled cavern, it glows with the light of the gems which adorn it. The love and loyalty of his wife, the affection of his children, the tender regard and tried fidelity of his friends, — these jewels of the heart shine brighter for the darkness around him, and he feels that he would not lose one of them, even to recover his lost sight.

Indulgence in the exercise of disinterested affections and of love, is the only harmless intemperance; and the blind man intoxicates himself therewith by daily draughts.

This is not mere theory; experience shows that persons who become blind often grow more amiable, contented, and even cheerful than before.

There are exceptions of course, and it is unfortunate that Milton should have been one of them, — because his eminence as a poet and scholar makes his example conspicuous; and his words to be taken as the natural language of a class of unfortunates.

But Milton, austere and melancholy by temperament, saddened by blight of his generous and patriotic hopes, and embittered by his domestic troubles, was already under the cloud before darkness closed around him; and he would, doubtless, have sang sadly the rest of his life, had he not "sang darkly."

At any rate, he did not bear his misfortune as bravely as some have done. He should not, in this respect, be held up as an exemplar for the blind;

nor should his plaintive utterances, musical as they are, be quoted as depicting faithfully their mental condition.

There have been other blind men more admirable in this respect, for they set forth in their lives and conversation the sublime moral height to which men may attain by grappling courageously the nettle misfortune, and "plucking thence the flower," happiness.

If it were a simple question between the sacrifice of sight or hearing, no one who duly weighs their comparative value to his higher nature, and their importance as ministers of the mind and soul, would hesitate about which would be the greatest loss to him. He who prefers the body and its pleasures—the outer world and its beauties—would choose deafness; but he who prefers the mind and its culture, the affections and their enjoyment, would choose blindness. This preference of hearing, however, would be given only by persons of a certain mental culture, and, [in the present state of society,] of moderate competence; because, to the man obliged to labor for a livelihood, especially if others are dependent upon him, blindness becomes a more serious calamity.

The eye ministers most to the body, its wants, and its pleasures; the ear to the mind, its capacities and its affections. The choice which would be made between them, were one forced to the dreadful alternative of the loss of either, would be in some measure a test of the extent to which the spirit of Christianity had pervaded the community in which he lives.

If society practically recognizes the right of every one to a share of labor and of its profits; if its spirit is that of human brotherhood; of mutual co-operation, aid and assistance,—then a man would choose the lesser evil,—that which affects mostly the body, and impairs not the higher nature; he would prefer to be blind. If, on the contrary, the spirit of the society in which he lives is that of selfish competition and antagonism; if the man has himself and his family to support, and if he must stand or fall solely by his own strength or weakness,—if brotherhood means only kith and kin,—then he might accept the other evil, for that would apparently leave a better chance of earning his living.

But if you look a little closer into the matter, you will see good reason for considering blindness less dreadful than deafness—especially for children who are yet to get their education—that is, to have their mind and character developed. For all sensuous relations; for all outward, material, and mechanical purposes, sight is of the first importance; but for all mental, moral, and spiritual relations, the hearing is the queen of the senses. And this is because the one indispensable instrument for mental development is *speech*. Not language, in its general sense, which comprehends signs and pantomime, and which may be mastered by deaf mutes, but speech proper, which no deaf mute can ever acquire in any high degree of perfection. It is this which gives to the blind child such an immense advantage over the deaf child. He can be educated

just as we were educated,—just as the boys and girls who are growing up around him are educated.

Bear with me if I go a little into the dry philosophy of this subject.

Education is carried on mainly by means of language; but by all sorts of language, looks, gestures, actions and the like; while *instruction* is given chiefly through one sort of language,—speech,—that is, audible sounds, or spoken words, which are arbitrary signs of thought; and written words, which are arbitrary signs of audible sounds. Children therefore, in order to be instructed, must first learn these arbitrary audible sounds, or words.

But although the sounds or the words, which we adopt as the signs of our thoughts, are purely arbitrary, and we select one to express our thought, for example of a fruit, and say *apple*, while a Frenchman selects another sound and says *pomme*, still, speech itself is not arbitrary, but natural; that is, man does not select audible sounds from among the possible modes of expressing his thoughts, and make that the base of his language, but that mode is the one special mode suggested by his very nature. Some writers on deaf-mute instruction seem to overlook this psychological difference, and suppose that a language of visible signs may be a perfect substitute for one of vocal sounds. Not so. Speech is not an accidental attribute of humanity, but an essential one. It inheres in man as man. It is not a human invention, it is a natural outgrowth. Men speak because they cannot help it. There is indeed a natural disposition to attach some supplementary signs to thought, as movement of feature and limb, or panto-

mime; and these prevail among tribes and nations whose language is limited, but these are only adjuncts. Speech is the natural, therefore the best mode of expressing human thought; nay! it is the only one by which there can be full freedom for the development of the intellectual and moral nature. Audible speech is immeasurably superior to any other mode of expression, as an instrument of human education and of instruction. No language of visible signs can ever approach in thoroughness and excellence, the language of audible words. As people advance in civilization they improve this language, and come to rely upon it entirely. They reject the adjuncts—the visible signs; they do not need to eke out their meaning by gestures; and they come to express every possible condition of things, and every phase of thought by a system of vocal sounds, which becomes their vernacular. Each generation of children catches the sounds or words, and almost without effort learns the language of the country; good, bad, or indifferent,—*oaths and all*.

But, in every generation there are a certain number, who, being born deaf, do not hear these sounds; and therefore cannot imitate them. They have, however, the common human disposition and desire to express emotion and thought by some outward signs; and the natural tendency to use vocal speech as the readiest sign, prompts them to attempt vocal utterance. As however, they cannot *hear* the words which they utter, they fail to make them uniform, and intelligible to others. They cannot modulate the voice and speak distinctly; and after painful efforts they give up in despair and remain dumb.

Still, the desire to express feelings and thoughts by signs and so to commune with others, remains strong within them; and though they give up attempts to use the highest forms of language, they persist in the use of the lower form of visible signs.

They perceive that persons who speak do not confine themselves to making audible sounds, but use certain adjuncts of speech or interpretations of emotions, such as expressions of face and feature, gestures, and signs of various kinds. These are usually called natural signs, or natural language, though strictly speaking they are no more natural than are audible sounds. But these are the only parts of language which deaf children can seize upon, and they come to rely upon them alone.

They watch eagerly the play of the features, the expression of the countenance, and the gestures of the speaker, and imitate them. They invent other signs of their own, they multiply them, they *emphasize* them by earnest looks, and by eager gestures; and so form a language, which however is only rudimentary and imperfect. But besides its imperfections, this language cannot become common even among mutes, because no two adopt the same signs.

There is a certain resemblance, indeed, because they do for the most part seize upon some supposed analogy, and make a sign resembling the thing thought of: as whirling the hand for the motion of a wheel. This answers to a certain extent for things in the concrete; but when it comes to abstract matters they are lost. One selects one sign, another another; and of course they cannot form a common language. But this is not the worst of it. Men may

doubtless have cognizance of facts and phenomena; as fire and ice and recall them to memory without attaching names thereto. But it is hardly conceivable that they should go farther, and form abstract ideas as of heat and cold, without names. Definite thought suggests a name, as substance causes shadow. At any rate, there can be no great mental development, and no high culture, without signs, and even very definite signs, for the thoughts; and there can be no precise, minute, and definite signs, except speech, oral or written. Indeed, they are necessary for the simple process of recollection; because the ideas which we have formed from impressions upon the senses, if without signs attached to them, would be like a pile of books without labels or title pages. Language is to thought, what the trellis is to the vine.

This it is which gives to the blind child such measureless advantage over the deaf child in acquiring knowledge. The first at eight years old comes to school fully armed with the great instruments of thought and study. You need waste no time in establishing means of communication between your mind and his; but the mute cannot understand a single word that you say. He has indeed a certain rude language of signs and gestures, to make known certain emotions and desires; but he has no sign for a *word*, and therefore no means of expressing definite thought.

You must teach him, by a slow and tedious process, that besides the sign which he has adopted for a horse, or a house, there is another visible sign; and you *draw* a house or a horse upon a blackboard.

This sign is founded on the likeness between the house or horse, and the picture of it. This you would do with any deaf-mute child, of whatever country; and all would understand it. Then you go farther, and make certain arbitrary marks, which to him are new and strange. Under the picture of the animal, you make five marks, which you call letters — *h-o-r-s-e*; then under the picture of the building you make other five — *h-o-u-s-e*. You have then to repeat the process over and over again, until the sight of those letters, arranged in that particular order, suggests to him the idea of the thing which you have in your mind.

I do not mean to say that this is the approved method used in the schools for mutes, but one which any person, not an expert, might adopt.

Let me illustrate this by the method which I devised to teach letters to Laura Bridgman, who was not only quite deaf, but quite blind, and almost devoid of the sense of smell, which is usually much relied upon by persons in her sad condition. I began with single short words, as pin and pen. I took some embossed letters, such as the blind use, and placing three of them, *p-e-n*, on the table beside a pen, made her feel them over and over again, until they became associated in her mind with the pen. Then I introduced a fourth letter, *i*, and put together *p-i-n*, and placed these beside a pin. These were felt of over and over and over again, until the three signs, placed in that order, became associated with a pin; so that when she felt them so placed on the page of a book, the thought of a pin came up in her mind. And so on, intro-

ducing new letters, placing them in new combinations. Slowly and gradually she went on, mastering new signs or letters until she had learned twenty-six, when she began to perceive that there were no more new ones, but only new combinations of the familiar ones. Then I took a label, as s-p-o-o-n, and pasted it on a spoon, and made her feel them over again and again and again; and so with other things. You see that as soon as she got hold of the thread, as soon as she found that by putting together certain letters in certain combinations, she could make me understand what things she had in her mind, and as soon as she had learned twenty-six of these, she was mistress of the alphabet, or elements of arbitrary language, and had only to go on and learn to spell the names of all the things she could reach. This she was so eager to do, that thenceforward one could not satisfy her.

But these bits of embossed paper were most inconvenient and unsatisfactory; and so I began by doubling one fist and putting my fingers in a certain position, and placing the hand so closed beside the letter p, and repeating it so often that she associated in her mind that position of fingers with the letter p. Then I took the same course with another letter which she had learned; and so on through twenty-six letters, irrespective of their alphabetical order, until she came to understand that by a certain position of the fingers she would make three signs, p-i-n, which would signify a pin, just as did the three bits of embossed paper. Thus she was equipped with a better instrument of inter-

course; a swifter telegraph from her mind out to ours, which was always at her fingers' end.

This is said in a few minutes; but the process was so slow, so long-protracted, that it would have been wearisome indeed but for the object in view, which was to lead her out of her inward darkness into our blessed light.

It is easy to show the process by which she learned nouns, or names of all sensible objects, but it would take me too long to show the process by which she passed to a knowledge of words expressing relations, and of qualities.

The first step of the transition is easy; for you perceive that there are certain qualities which she could understand, as sweetness in an apple; and by analogy sweetness in temper. She did finally master the names of qualities, and of purely abstract ideas, so that she could read and write and converse, and thus became an intelligent, responsible moral agent, and a happy and useful member of human society, loving many, and beloved of many.

The thing which prompted me to aid her in her first efforts to get out of her dark and silent isolation, and which made me sure of success in my simple method, was the conviction that, though hardly having more intelligence than a dog, she showed the common human desire and capacity to associate names with things, and thoughts of things. She took hold of the thread by which I would lead her out, because she had all the special attributes of a human soul.

No created being devoid of these attributes could do it. Try ye, who believe that an ape or a chim-

panzee differs only a degree from man! and though the pupil may have the aid of fine sharp senses, and the help of an academy of philosophers, not even the threshold will be passed; while this child who could not see even a flash of lightning, or hear a crash of thunder,—who had, indeed, but one perfect sense,—went on by aid of that alone until she acquired language; could converse freely and rapidly; could read embossed books and write legible letters; and finally came into sympathetic and affectionate relations with her family and friends; and felt that even her poor life was a precious boon for which she was grateful to its Great Giver, whom she learned to know as her God and Father.

This was very long ago, and I may not have related, in this hasty sketch, the exact order of the different stages of instruction. But you will allow me to quote from an account which I printed concerning the application of this method to another child, a boy of twelve, blind and deaf and dumb. The record states that before entering school,—

“He was fond of teasing cats, and generally inclined to fun. He could make many of his wants understood by signs. He was, however, ungovernable, and when thwarted in any way, he became very violent, braying, striking and kicking furiously.

“His signs were expressive, and the strictly natural language, laughing, crying, sighing, kissing, embracing, etc., was perfect. Some of the analogical signs which (guided by his faculty of imitation,) he had contrived, were comprehensible, such as the waving motion of his hand for the motion of a boat, the circular one for a wheel, etc. The first object was to break up the use of these signs, and to substitute therefor the use of purely arbitrary ones.

“Profiting by the experience I had gained in the other cases, I omitted several steps of the process before employed, and commenced at once with the finger language. Taking, therefore, several articles having short names, such as key, cup, mug, &c., and with Laura for an auxiliary, I sat down, and taking his hand, placed it upon one of them, and then with my own made the letters, k-e-y. He felt eagerly of my hands with both of his, and on my repeating the process, he evidently tried to imitate the motions of my fingers. In a few minutes he contrived to feel the motions of my fingers with one hand, and holding out the other, he tried to imitate them, laughing most heartily when he succeeded. Laura was by, interested even to agitation, and the two presented a singular sight; her face was flushed and anxious, and her fingers twined in among ours so closely as to follow every motion, but so lightly as not to embarrass them; while Oliver stood attentive, his head a little aside, his face turned up, his left hand grasping mine, and his right held out; at every motion of my fingers his countenance betokened keen attention. There was an expression of anxiety as he tried to imitate the motions—then a smile came stealing out as he thought he could do so, and spread into a joyous laugh the moment he succeeded, and felt me pat his head, and Laura clap him heartily upon the back, and jump up and down in her joy.

“He learned more than a half dozen letters in half an hour, and seemed delighted with his success, at least in gaining approbation. His attention then began to flag, and I commenced playing with him. It was evident that in all this he had merely been imitating the motions of my fingers, and placing his hand upon the key, cup, &c., as part of the process, without any perception of the relation between the sign and the object.

“When he was tired with play I took him back to the table, and he was quite ready to begin again his process of imitation. He soon learned to make the letters for *key*, *pen*, *pin*; and by having the object repeatedly placed in his hand, he at last perceived the relation I wished to establish between

them. This was evident, because when I made the letters, p-i-n, or p-e-n, or c-u-p, he would select the article.

“The perception of this relation was not accompanied by that radiant flash of intelligence and that glow of joy which marked the delightful moment when Laura first perceived it. I then placed all the articles on the table, and going away a little distance with the children, placed Oliver’s fingers in the positions to spell key, on which Laura went and brought the article; the little fellow seemed to be much amused at this, and looked very attentive and smiling. I then caused him to make the letters, b-r-e-a-d, and in an instant Laura went and brought him a piece; he smelled at it, put it to his lips, cocked up his head with a most knowing look, seemed to reflect a moment, and then laughed outright, as much as to say—‘Aha! I understand now how something may be made out of this!’”

But, to return to the mute who is simply deaf. He has, of course, great advantage over poor Laura; but you can see how slow and tedious even with him, this process must be; unless, however, you have some experience in such work, you cannot understand fully its difficulties and imperfection.

In this slow and hard work the deaf-mute child must spend months and years. At the end of five to eight years, when he is fifteen or sixteen years old, he gets in respect to a knowledge of language about where your ordinary children, and even blind children were, at six or seven years old. With the blind child you need not waste a day in teaching language, that is, in giving him command of the instrument of thought, or in providing him with tools for work, while with the poor mute that task must occupy most of your time and efforts.

An eminent teacher of deaf-mutes, Rev. Collins Stone, Principal of the Hartford Asylum, says: "The effort upon which our labor is chiefly expended in the education of the deaf and dumb, is to teach them to use the English language with ease and accuracy. The deaf-mute is shut up to his sad heritage of ignorance and darkness, simply because his peculiar misfortune deprives him of all knowledge of written or spoken language." "It leaves him without a medium of communication with others, and seals up from his use the treasures of wisdom contained in books. To teach him the language of the community in which he lives is indispensably necessary, if we would bring him material relief, or break the power of the spell that weighs him down."

But after all; after the mute has spent most of his youth in learning our language, he succeeds very imperfectly, and he goes through life without mastering it thoroughly. Many of you, doubtless, are acquainted with some educated mute, and have, probably, tried to converse with him, either by the finger language or by writing, and you know how very unsatisfactory it is, and how limited is his knowledge of our language. Only the most expert of them can seize upon its nicest parts; and its delicate shades escape them altogether. For instance, they cannot enjoy a pun, or what we call play upon words; and much of the charm of style, and the beauty of poetry, are lost to them.

No deaf-mute becomes a learned man, that is, one who would be considered learned among scholars. Blindness sets no such limits to the range of culture

and of scholarship. Men born blind have become eminent as scholars, as poets, as linguists, lecturers, preachers, and even as philosophers; to say nothing of music, in which some have been brilliant composers. The successor of Sir Isaac Newton, in the university chair of philosophy, was a blind man, and lectured with ability and success upon mathematics.

Thus the darkness in which the blind dwell does not prevent them from attaining the highest forms of language, and the fullest development of the social and moral nature; but the silence in which the mutes dwell does prevent them. They, alas! cannot have through childhood, and youth, manhood, and age, that free, constant and intimate social intercourse, which is necessary for the highest development, simply because the chief instrument of human intercourse is language, and that not in its lowest form, but in the highest and most perfect form, or speech. Mutes cannot learn the wonderful language of society, and society will not stop to learn their imperfect one; consequently, they grow up more or less isolated. Now, isolation is stagnation, and complete isolation in youth would be fatal to human development and improvement. Indeed, our word *idiot*, you know, is derived from an old word signifying the purely individual *man*—devoid of human relationship.

Mutes may be rescued from entire isolation by the special and difficult instruction given them in our public institutions, which is indeed a noble and blessed work, for although it cannot counteract entirely the effects of their infirmity, it brings them

into near and dear relationship with society, by which they should be cherished as childlike and beloved members.

I have said nothing of the vast field of poetry and imagination which is opened to man by the study of music,

“ Untwisting all the chains which tie
The hidden soul of harmony,”

because I am unequal to the task. But you will easily see how many considerations, drawn from that source might be added to those which I have given, to show the great superiority of hearing over sight as a means of mental and spiritual growth.

Nor does hearing yield to sight the palm of supremacy even for all our relations with the material world. Life to be useful, must be safe. But we walk through the world surrounded with dangers of various kinds; and the warnings of these come mainly through the ear. This is, because during half of the time darkness prevails, and then the sentinel at the eye is off guard; but the one at the ear listens tireless during all the waking hours; and even when the body sleeps it is still half awake, for the ear shuts no lid as the eye does. Then, again, the eye receives no warning except when light strikes nearly from the front. Even with the eyes wide open, one-half the circle around us is unguarded; while the ear gathers in sound not only from all around but from above and below. Unless the rattlesnake be in the direct path, the eye sees him not; but the ear catches the first note of warning, come it from whence it

may. Then, again, the thinnest substance may arrest light; but sound traverses thick walls. Besides, sight is more voluntary; hearing more involuntary; indeed, it is almost automatic. You shut out sight easily, but exclude sound with difficulty. You may be blind at will; but you can hardly be deaf even by stopping the ears.

Such are some of the reasons for thinking that blindness is not so dreadful an infirmity, and does not entail such serious consequences as deafness; and to confirm them we have daily evidence that it does not cause so much unhappiness; indeed, that a great many sightless persons are social, cheerful and happy.

Still, the blind, as individuals and as a class, are sorely afflicted, and need the aid of their fellow-men; who are all ready to give it, and require only to know what is the best way.

To find that way requires thought and experience; and probably none of us have yet had enough of them. This much, however, is certain; the aid should not be given in alms, or in any way that savors of alms. Were it possible for government to pension every blind person for life, that would probably do more harm than good. We are safe in saying that as far as possible, they should be considered and treated just as ordinary persons, our equals and friends, are treated, and not singled out as special objects of pity. This is too often forgotten.

The time is past, with us at least, when blindness is considered as a special dispensation of Providence in punishment of a special sin; and yet not long

passed, for the Duke of York rudely asked Milton if he did not think he had lost sight as a punishment for writing his *Eikonoklastes*, and otherwise aiding rebellion against royalty; to which came the swift and fitting answer, "If so, your highness, how was it with your father, who lost all his senses and his head too?"

The blind will always want sympathy, and generally need aid; but they do not want to be segregated from ordinary society, nor to be considered as a class apart.

Common politeness, which is only kindness wisely directed, suggests, that in our intercourse with a blind man we should never needlessly allude to his infirmity, but treat him as if he had none. And common sense suggests that when we would help him, we should do it as we would help any other person; by putting him in the way of helping himself.

Now, as in the treatment of an individual blind man, so should it be with the treatment of the class. The State should admit the right of every child, whether native or foreign, black or white, sound or infirm, to the benefits of instruction at public expense. This is the wise policy of some of our States, where public provision is made for the gratuitous instruction of all children, by placing a free school-house within the reach of every family. As the logical consequences of this policy, if the mode of instruction in those free schools is such that any class of children, as the mutes, the blind, or the feeble-minded, cannot be taught by it, then special instruction is provided for each class;

and they are gathered into public institutions, and maintained as well as taught at public charge.

There are some seventeen institutions of this kind for the blind in the United States; and they are generally called charitable; but they ought not to be so considered any more than are the common schools. The parent ought perhaps in most cases to be called upon to pay as much toward the board of his child as it would cost him at home; but no more. The instruction, and the other advantages, are his due; for it is misfortune enough that his child is blind, without his being put to any more expense for schooling than his neighbors are for their children.

If you bear in mind what I said about the evil effects of alms, and of charitable gifts upon the blind, you will see the importance of insisting that blind children shall receive instruction from the State, not as a matter of charity, but as a matter of right.

I wish to make use of this opportunity for criticizing those institutions with a view to their improvement; and this my purpose must be my apology for alluding to the part which I have had in their establishment and organization. I not only organized the first one in the United States, the main features in the administration of which have been widely copied, but labored with more zeal than knowledge to induce people to found others; and made direct efforts to the legislatures of a dozen different States to appropriate money for their support.

I know them, therefore, from their foundation upward; and as their many merits have been freely pointed out to you, I will allude to some of their defects, that you may avoid them in your new establishment.

I accept my full share of condemnation when I say that grave errors were incorporated into the very organic principles of our institutions for the blind, which make them already too much like asylums; which threaten to cause real asylums to grow out of them, and to engender other evils. Let me set forth a little my idea of the general principles which should underlie all such establishments, and which have been too much neglected in the organization of many of our public institutions.

All great establishments in the nature of boarding schools, where the sexes must be separated; where there must be boarding in common, and sleeping in congregate dormitories; where there must be routine, and formality, and restraint, and repression of individuality; where the charms and refining influences of the true family relation cannot be had,—all such institutions are unnatural, undesirable, and very liable to abuse. We should have as few of them as is possible, and those few should be kept as small as possible.

The human family is the unit of society. The family, as it was ordained by our Great Father, with its ties of kith and kin; with its tender associations of childhood and youth; with its ties of affection and of sympathy; with its fireside, its table, and its domestic altar,—there is the place for the early education of the child. His instruction may be

had in school; his heart and character should be developed and moulded at home.

Artificial families have been tried and found wanting. Communities in imitation of the natural family, especially those confined to one sex, are fertile of evil. Witness the old nunneries and monasteries, darkened and saddened by lack of the sunlight of affection and love; embittered by petty passions and strife; soured by crushed hopes and yearnings; and defiled by unnatural vices. Witness soldiers in detached garrisons; sailors on long voyages; prisoners under long sentences. Wherever there must be separation of the sexes, isolation from society, absence of true family relation, and monotony of life, there must come evils of various kinds, which no watchfulness can prevent, and no physician can cure.

We should be cautious about establishing such artificial communities, or those approaching them in character, for any children and youth; but more especially should we avoid them for those who have any natural infirmity; or any marked peculiarity of mental organization.

Let me dwell upon this, for in my view, it is very important. Such persons spring up sporadically in the community, and they should be kept diffused among sound and normal persons. Separation, and not congregation, should be the law of their treatment; for out of their infirmity or abnormality there necessarily grow some abnormal and undesirable effects, and unless these be counteracted by education, they disturb the harmonious development of character. These effects are best coun-

teracted by bringing up the child among ordinary children, and subjecting him to ordinary social and family influences; but, on the contrary, they are intensified by constant and close association with children who are marked by the same infirmity or peculiarity.

This truth cannot be gainsaid; nor should the effects of it be disregarded because they seem so slight. As in physics, a force preponderating ever so slightly over other forces, is sure to prevail; so it is in morals. We should therefore keep this truth in mind; and give it due weight when forming plans for the treatment of any special class of persons.

As much as may be, surround insane and excitable persons with sane people, and ordinary influences; vicious children with virtuous people and virtuous influences; blind children with those who see; mute children with those who speak; and the like.

People run counter to this principle for the sake of economy in the expenses, and of some other good end, which they suppose cannot be had in any other way; as when they congregate the insane in hospitals, vicious children in reformatories, criminals in prisons, paupers in almshouses, orphan children in asylums, blind children and mute children in boarding schools. Hence I begin to consider such establishments as evils which must be borne with, for the time, in order to obviate greater evils. I would take heed, however, against multiplying them unnecessarily. I would keep them as small as I could. I would take the most stringent

measures for guarding against those undesirable effects which lessen their usefulness; and for finally dispensing with as many of them as may be possible.

But, besides this general objection to such establishments, there is another and more practical objection to the method of congregating for the purpose of education, any class of young persons marked by an infirmity like deafness or blindness. They depend more than ordinary persons do for their happiness and for their support upon the ties of kindred, of friendship, and of neighborhood. All these, therefore, ought to be nourished and strengthened during childhood and youth—for it is then, and then only, that they take such deep root as to become strong, and life-lasting. The home of the blind and of the mute should be his native town or village; there, if possible, he should live during childhood and youth; there he should form his friendships; there, if he comes to need special aid it will be given most readily and fitly; and there his old age will be most cherished. Beware how you needlessly sever any of those ties of family, of friendship, of neighborhood, *during the period of their strongest growth*, lest you make a homeless man, a wanderer and a stranger. Especially beware how you cause him to neglect forming early relations of affection with those whose sympathy and friendship will be most important to him during life, to wit, those who have all their senses; and how you restrict him to such relations with persons subject to an infirmity like his own.

I would observe, by the way, that the necessity now felt for a new institution in your State has arisen, partly at least, from radical faults in the organization of the old one, which necessarily led to faults in its administration, such as I have noticed. If the conditions of admission had been such as to exclude some who entered, but who ought not to have entered; if the term of residence had not been so long; if stringent measures had been taken to prevent the multiplication of graduates in and about the institution, and to encourage their dispersion and settlement in their several towns, instead of leaving them to congregate in the commercial capital, and to besiege the political capital; if these things had been done, the State would perhaps not now be called upon to incur the cost of building and the continual expense of carrying on a second institution.*

But, it is settled that you are to have one, and, I trust, it will become worthy of the generous motives which prompt its creation; and of the great State which is to build it.

Take heed that it shall be organized on sound principles; and while copying all the good features of existing institutions, avoid those which are not good. 'Those establishments are all faulty.' Not one of them is worthy to be your model in all respects; and the persons who flatter themselves that their favorite one is worthy to be copied exactly, are blind to faults which can be seen by looking beneath the surface. Never mind their showy buildings and special accommodations; you may as well mea-

* See Note A.

sure the morality of a family by the structure and arrangement of its dwelling-house, as test institutions by their mechanical advantages; but look at the principles and system by which they are conducted. You will, then, find that they are faulty in many respects.

They are generally wrong in receiving pupils too indiscriminately; being, in most cases, tempted to do so by the fact that they are paid according to the number they receive. They are wrong in receiving all pupils as boarders, when they should receive those only who cannot board at home, or in private families. They are wrong in associating the blind too closely, and too many years together; thus loosening or breaking the ties of family and of neighborhood,—segregating them from society,—forming a class apart,—creating a feeling of caste,—and so intensifying all the unfavorable effects growing out of the infirmity of blindness. They necessarily encourage intermarriage of the blind; and thus increase the chances of infirm progeny. They attract the blind from the country, and congregate them in the cities. They are creating the necessity, or the demand, for permanent life asylums; all of which consummations are devoutly to be prayed against.

Instead, then, of copying the existing institutions, I think, that in organizing a new one something like the following rough plan should be adopted:—If the field were all clear, and no buildings provided, there should be built only a building for school-rooms, recitation rooms, music rooms and workshops; and *these should be in or near the centre of*

a dense population. For other purposes, ordinary houses would suffice. But your field is not clear. Your establishment is located, and your building is begun; the organization, however, is not completed.

And first as to your Superintendent. Let him be a man who has natural capacity enough for the enterprise. Give him ample power and abundant means, and then hold him to give strict account, and an abundant return of good. But respect his individuality; and let him do his work in his own way, and not in yours. Establish the principles, but leave details and methods of work to him. Give him full sailing directions, but let him be absolute captain of the ship.

You will thus avoid what has been one fertile source of difficulty in our public institutions.

In deciding upon who are to be received as pupils, you should first ascertain how many of the applicants are really blind, and then, instead of imitating the example of ordinary institutions, and getting as many into the school as possible, you should receive as few as possible; that is, you should reject every one who can be taught in common schools. And here, it should be remarked, that it is much easier to have children who are partially blind, and even those totally blind, received and taught in common schools than it was formerly, because the existence of Institutions for the Blind during the third of a century has familiarized people with the fact that sight is not essential for instruction in the common branches. A great many persons have become acquainted with the methods used in the Institu-

tions, and with the use of books in raised letters. I am constantly applied to by teachers to know how to proceed with a blind child; and I always encourage them to keep it at home, and let it go to the common school as long as possible.

But suppose that two hundred candidates present themselves for your Institution; out of these it will be found that from ten to twenty per cent. are what we call "seeing blind."

These have a certain degree of sight, and do not belong in a school for the blind. If there were no such school, they would probably attend the common schools, and learn what they could.

Then there will be some, not quite blind who might be taught in common schools if special pains were taken with them, and special encouragement given. Let this be given in the shape of books, slates, maps, &c., and even a small weekly stipend, to be paid on certificate of the teacher, that their attendance had been regular. But they should not be admitted as regular pupils of the Institution, especially if they live near by. It will not be necessary to receive, as boarders, more than half of the applicants as pupils. Let those be taken, not as is usually done for five, or seven years, but on probation for six, or twelve months. Then subdivide these into two classes; those who are to remain not more than a year, and those who are to remain as long as may be necessary. Let the first be taught to read letters in raised print; to write a little; to use the slate and other apparatus adapted to the touch; and to become accustomed

to the routine of the instruction and then sent home to attend the common school.

Let them still be considered as beneficiaries of the State, and provided at public expense with books and apparatus, and if they are poor, allowed a small sum weekly toward their support, the balance to be paid by their relatives, or by the town.

After they have been some years in the common schools, some of them will be old enough to go to work, and will find employment; others will desire to return to the Institution, to learn such handicraft as is suitable for them. Keep them about one year and then send them home to work at their trades; and if need be, receive their goods to be sold on their account at the central depot of the Institution.

Then the select pupils, say fifty in number, should have every possible advantage and opportunity for study and improvement. The best masters, the best instruments, and the best opportunities for improvement. They should be kept as long as may be necessary to qualify them to get their own living, as teachers of languages, as vocalists, as tuners of pianos, as organists, and the like.

It should be a general rule, that where children are received as boarders, the parents or friends should be required to pay a small sum, at least equal to what it would actually cost them to board the child at home.

Thus your Institution will best stand that crucial test of excellence among kindred establishments, to wit, giving instruction, aid and assistance to the greatest number of blind persons, while keeping

the least number within its walls, and away from their proper homes.

But those who are to organize your Institution, should have something in view beyond instructing and aiding the blind of this generation. They should strive to bring about a condition of society in future generations which will not only prevent the necessity of removing so many blind children from home for instruction, but lessen the number who shall exist at all. As your hospitals for lunatics should be a focus whence go out light and knowledge to all the people concerning the causes of insanity, and the means of its prevention, so your Institution for the Blind should, by means of its reports, and otherwise, diffuse knowledge concerning the hereditary and other causes of imperfect organs of sight; and of those habits and morbid conditions of life which lead to so much blindness in every generation. It should make widely known the fact that there is in your State a constant number of at least twenty-five hundred persons, wholly or partially blind; that each generation is burdened with this number, not from any inherent and essential condition of the physical man, but from a temporary and remediable one; and that the blindness of so many is phenomenal, not essential; that is, dependent upon the physical condition of the people, which may be varied at human will.

Teach that the average number of blind, dumb, insane, idiotic and other defectives, is a sure test of the average physical condition of the people; that is, of the purity of the human stock;

and that number will be higher or lower according as they obey or violate God's laws. In other words, it is a test of the degree in which they lead religious or sinful lives, "for sin is the transgression of the law." Tried by this test, their lives are sinful; for there are now in this State at least fifteen thousand of the defective class; and at least as many more who inherit from birth such strong animal appetites, and such feeble restraining powers, that they are not free moral agents; that is, they are not, and cannot be, a law unto themselves. These thirty thousand are for the most part, what they are, by reason of organic and inherited physical imperfections; "The fathers ate sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge."

All these infirm or enfeebled conditions which we deplore, are punishments of transgressions of some law. But although God's punishments can neither be pardoned, nor evaded, they are temporary, not eternal; merciful, not wrathful; prospective, not retrospective in their purpose; remedial, not vengeful in their operation.

It lies therefore with this generation to modify the physical condition, and through that the moral condition of the next, and of the next. Whoever knows this, and feels that he himself can live up to his light—that he can obey the natural laws, "that he can be a law unto himself," has little faith in humanity if he doubts the capacity of the people at large to stand finally where he stands.

The body is declared to be "the temple of the Holy Ghost;" by which I understand, the dwelling,

and the instrument of the soul; and I entreat attention to the importance of having the temple "swept and garnished," and the instrument put into the best possible condition, as a means of attaining to the highest spiritual excellence, by the greatest possible number of people.

I regard every well ascertained natural law as a divine law, the binding force of which would not be increased by thunders from Sinai. New revelations of these laws are continually vouchsafed; and among them that which indicates that our spiritual growth and power depend upon the quality and condition of our physical system; which are greatly variable at human will.

My deep convictions upon this subject, and the earnestness of my purpose, must be my apology (if any be needed,) for plainness of speech and directness of comparison.

Let us suppose, then, that to every generation of horses or cattle in your State, thirty thousand were born infirm, defective, shorn of a sense, or otherwise worthless, think you that your farmers, who can breed horses of any size, shape, or color; who can breed cattle with long horns, short horns, or no horns at all,—think you they would not find of what transgression of law these defects are the punishment, and hasten to obey it? And if people can be moved to do this by the mere love of gain, how much more when moved by that mighty moral force, parental love?

Time will not permit me to enlarge upon this subject. You may regard me as an optimist; but my faith in the elevation and improvement of man's

physical condition, as a step toward his moral elevation, springs from my faith in the love and good will of the Great Father, who breathed into his children a part of his divine spirit, which, from its very essence, must grow brighter and brighter until the perfect day.

May His blessing rest upon the work which you this day begin.

NOTE A.

[Page 42.]

While these sheets were passing through the press, I submitted this paragraph to two persons who are familiar with the facts, and asked whether, in their opinion, it was correct, and ought to be published, or not.

The first replied, "If among faults of organization you include those which give rise almost necessarily to difficulties and mistakes in administration, then it is strictly true; and it ought to be published for the good of the cause."

The second said, "I think you entirely misapprehend the true nature of the cause or necessity which led to the establishment of a second Institution for the Blind." * * *

He did not object to the publication of the paragraph, but I inferred from his language that it would not be agreeable; and as he is officially connected with the old Institution, I should have stricken it out, from respect to him and his fellow-workers, if he had not added, what struck me as portentous words: "The real and true necessity for another Institution was the great number of helpless and harmless blind in the State; and it was owing to the number, condition

and necessities of this class that a new Institution was established; the object being to provide a home or asylum for them.”

Such language from a person in his position gives me serious concern; for though I think he is mistaken with regard to certain facts, his words show how strong and prevalent is the common idea, that an asylum or home, is necessary and even desirable, for the helpless and homeless blind.

Against this idea I protest earnestly; not only because it is erroneous; but because it may be harmful. It is sure indeed to disappear when the principles which ought to guide public charity are better understood; but should it, in the meantime, be adopted in the organization of the New York State Institution, my hopes of the true greatness and beneficent influences of that establishment will be blighted in the bud.

S. G. H.



THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

PERKINS INSTITUTION

AND

Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

OCTOBER, 1867.

BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTERS,

No. 4 SPRING LANE.

1868.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

RECEIVED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

Perkins Institution for the Blind, }
BOSTON, Oct. 1, 1867. }

To the Corporation.

GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned Trustees, in behalf of the Corporation and of the State of Massachusetts, respectfully submit the following Report for the year ending September 30, 1867.

The number of blind persons connected with the Institution at the beginning of the year, October 1, 1866, as pupils in the school, and as workers in the shop and laundry, was	123
Admitted during the year,	33
Total during the year,	156
Discharged during the year,	29
Present number,	127

The report of the Director shows in minute detail the history and state of the Institution.

The Trustees granted leave of absence for a year to Dr. Howe, early in March, and are happy to learn that he will return and resume his duties as Director at the beginning of the next term in November. Dr. Edward Jarvis, of Dorchester, has acted as temporary Director.

With the exception of hiring one additional teacher, no change has been made in the officers and teachers. All those who have so long and faithfully labored for the Institution, have continued in their several places; and all the affairs and work of the household and school have gone on in their usual way, and with their accustomed success.

The reports of the Treasurer and Steward are shown in detail on subsequent pages.

The inventory of the property, real and personal, shows that the estate of the Institution loses none of its value. The

house is comfortably but plainly furnished, and the furniture is well preserved, and kept in good repair.

The report of the Director gives an analytical account of the causes of the blindness of those who have been connected with the Institution during the thirty-six years of its operation, showing that many of these causes can be traced back beyond the present generation.

The largest portion, 47.09 per cent., are due to disease, to enfeebled constitutions, often inherited: 37.75 per cent. were made blind by accident, and 15.14 per cent. were born blind; and many were born with hereditary tendency to general or special disease that resulted in their loss of sight.

The Director also refers to the need of social influences in addition to the instruction and training which they receive in the Institution, in order to fit the blind for self-support after they leave the Institution. These are topics of importance which commend themselves to the serious consideration of the government and the people.

Considering the increase of the numbers in the school, and the corresponding increase of burdens on the treasury, also considering that the advance in the cost of living will probably be kept up during another year, the Director recommends that the Trustees ask for an increase of the State grant, of at least five thousand dollars.

This seems reasonable, and therefore the Board requests that the legislature grant twenty-five thousand dollars for the support of the Institution through the coming year.

ROBT. E. APTHORP.
THOS. T. BOUVÉ.
FRANCIS BROOKS.
SAMUEL ELIOT.
GEORGE S. HALE.
AUGUSTUS LOWELL.
JOSEPH LYMAN.
JOSIAH QUINCY.
E. R. MUDGE.
JAMES STURGIS.
BENJ. S. ROTCH.
EDW. N. PERKINS.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

Perkins Institution for the Blind, }
 Boston, Oct. 1, 1867. }

To the Trustees.

GENTLEMEN:—The history of the Institution during the year just ended is, in its general character, very similar to that of the previous year.

There were present and connected with the Institution October 1st, 1866:

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Pupils and learners, in the principal house,	46	38	84
Admitted,	21	12	33
Total in the house,	67	50	117
Discharged,	15	12	27
Died,	1	1	2
Now remaining,	51	37	88
 In the workshop, October 1st, 1866, .	 15	 3	 18
Admitted,	9		
Discharged,	9		
Now present,	15	3	18
 In the laundry, October 1st, 1855, .	 —	 14	 14
Admitted,	—	2	
Discharged,	—	2	
Now present,	—	14	14
 Total in the whole establishment, October			
1st, 1866,	61	55	116
Admitted,	30	14	44
Discharged,	25	15	40
Now present,	66	54	120

Besides these, there are other blind persons. The principal teacher and domestic superintendent, and five other blind persons aid in the work of the house, and another is partly employed in the laundry and partly occupied as teacher of the smaller girls, making the total blind connected with the establishment, aiding in carrying on its operations, and enjoying the benefits of them: males, 69; females, 58; total, 127.

It is, then, seen that the number of the blind has not diminished. Year after year brings its own accessions to the corps of deficient children in this and other schools. The causes, varied and frequent, still prevail, and there is no reasonable ground of hope, that at present, these will diminish. Some of these causes are within the reach of human wisdom and faithfulness to guard against and intercept.

CAUSES OF BLINDNESS.

Analyzing the record of those received into this Institution, from its beginning in 1832, through thirty-six years to the present time, it is found that of the number, 661, who have been admitted, the causes of the blindness of 482 are stated. 182 were born blind, 227 became blind from disease, and 73 lost their sight by accident; and the causes of 179 are not stated.

The proportion of these general classes of causes were,—

Congenital,	. . . . .	37.75 per cent.
Diseases,	. . . . .	47.09 “ “
Accidents,	. . . . .	15.14 “ “

These diseases were principally scarlet fever and measles. The local diseases were mostly inflammation, amaurosis and cataract.

Many of those who became blind from disease had a natural tendency to blindness. They were of weak, scrofulous or imperfectly developed constitutions. They had imperfect eyes, which were very easily disturbed or inflamed. With their feeble constitution, and small quantity of vital force, they had less than the average power of resistance. A smaller exposure produced disturbance; a slighter attack developed itself into disease; and a lighter disease overthrew them. Their imper-

fect eyes were often the central point on which their disease fastened itself with the most tenacity, and did its most effective work of destruction.

It is seen that diseases of the various kinds did the most of this destructive work, and accidents the next in order; and some conditions anterior to the birth of the sufferer formed no small part of the causes of their incompleteness of sense. Who did sin, these children or their parents, that these children were born blind, or were made so afterwards? It was with no mere captious cavilling that the doubting Jew asked this question. It may be reasonably asked now, and it ought to be asked by parents, by society, by governments, by all who are or can be, in any degree, responsible for the power of the people, whether it were the fault of any one or the inevitable result of uncontrollable causes, that the darkness has settled on these children; whether it was the misfortune of the parents that passed to the child, or the sins which are visited on themselves and the children of one generation, at least; whether it was ignorance that might have been enlightened, or error in self-management that might have been corrected; an accident that could have been guarded against, or even sin that might have been prevented. Whatever may have been the cause or causes, it is a question that should be ceaselessly asked, and answer demanded, whether they are a necessary element in the human constitution, or whether they are morbid accidents in human development and growth, which might be, in greater or less degree, controlled, and their destructive consequences diminished or prevented, if the laws of human life that are now known were taught to and recognized by all, and if the *moral* power that belongs to the most disciplined were imparted to the weak, and the wisdom of the wisest were lent to the aid of the foolish, and the best blessings of humanity were reflected from those who receive them to those who seem to be neglected by both Heaven and earth.

The experience of the past, the observation of the diseases, privations and sufferings among our people and children, in the present and past generation, fails to teach their appropriate lessons unless it analyzes the history of these evils and traces these morbid elements back through the sufferers or their parents to the primary exposure, habit or indulgence in which

they originated, to the first point of departure from perfect health; and if these causes or any of them, in their remotest beginnings or in their progress, should appear to be avoidable or controllable, then the warning should be given to the hearing of all, that as many as possible may escape this terrible consequence, of blindness.

As it has not been and is not the purpose of this Institution to heal diseases of the eyes, such patients are not brought to its observation and care, and it has nothing to do with those who are in the transition state from healthy vision to its irremediable impairment or irrecoverable loss. Only those whose diseased or clouded eyes are beyond hope of recovery, are brought to this school, and its managers have only to deal with those who have passed all the intervening stages between ocular health and partial or total blindness. As far as possible, a history is obtained of each case, but all knowledge of these intervening conditions is a matter of evidence from others, not of observation here. The history thus obtained is recorded, and from these records the facts have been derived and the deductions drawn as presented in the preceding pages of this Report.

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

The sole object of this Institution is then to take these persons of impaired or extinct vision and so to teach, educate and train them that, as far as possible, they shall know the facts and apprehend the principles that are taught to others, and that they shall have power to give and receive enjoyment in society, to engage in the work and business of the great world abroad and sustain themselves in health and strength, and discharge responsibilities of individual and social life.

With suitable teachers, endowed with power of presenting ideas graphically and clearly, it is not difficult to teach the blind most of the facts and principles that are taught in other schools to children in possession of all their senses. As the attention of the blind is not disturbed nor distracted by objects that are presented through the eyes, they acquire a power and habit of concentration and mental discipline more easily than others; and they learn arithmetic and some of the higher branches of mathematics, geography, grammar, rhetoric, as well as the more favored children, so that a stranger hearing their recita-

tions without looking at them, would hardly suspect that they were sightless scholars. There need be no deficiency in this part of their education.

Hence they learn whatever is presented to them through the ear or the sense of touch more readily than those of equal mental acumen, and thus they find no difficulty in acquiring such knowledge as can be orally imparted, and with suitable teachers and patience they can be educated in such common branches as are taught in common schools.

By the same means many of them become musicians. It must not be supposed, that the blind are originally endowed with more musical talent than others, but with their habit of concentration and their feeling that this accomplishment at least is offered to them in the same measure as to their more favored brethren and sisters, and with the very common hope that it may be the means of their support, they study and practise their lessons in singing and on the piano, organ, &c., with a more intense devotion; and hence there follows a much higher musical culture, and a much larger proportion of the blind educated in such institutions as this, than of seeing youth educated elsewhere, become singers or performers on the piano, organ and other instruments, and make it their profession and their labor, and obtain their living by teaching singing and instrumental music, and tuning pianos.

Whatever obstacles may have formerly existed to the education of the blind, and of their acquiring such knowledge and mental discipline as are ordinarily acquired in schools, these are nearly overcome, and a sightless youth of eighteen or twenty may feel as to these matters, he is nearly as well educated as his brothers and sisters who have been taught in common schools, and to that extent they are nearly as well fitted for the business and the responsibilities of life.

DEFICIENCY IN EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

But education in the schools, in books, by study, by reflection, by practice in music, is not all that our ordinary children acquire. There are other and equally important means of training, in the open and broad world, in society; boys with boys, and girls with girls, and each with both, and with men and women.

The seeing boys play in the streets, and the seeing girls go freely abroad. They see everybody and hear everybody; they use their eyes and their ears, and see and hear and observe everything about them, whether it be addressed to them or not. The great and broad book of the world, of society and nature, is ever open to them, and in greater or less degree they are incessantly learning lessons and acquiring knowledge. They learn the world's habits of action, of speech and thought; they come to understand their motives and analyze their characters. All this education, this training of the perceptive and reflective faculties, added to their education in school, fits them for life—to enter into the world and take some position, station, employment or profession—to deal with its men and women—to adapt their plans to the popular wants and arrange their business in accordance with the habits and notions of others; and thus they move on in harmony with the people about them. Whatever they prepare and offer, whether it be science, skill, handiwork or labor, meets the world's wants and finds acceptance and sale, and they, in their several ways, are generally successful and obtain their necessary bread and their comfortable prosperity by their well adapted exertions.

The apparent necessity and the actual custom of separating the blind children and youth from their homes and families, from their neighborhood and towns, and from the great mass of seeing people, old and young, and gathering them into exclusive families and schools of their own sort in institutions, deprives them of these opportunities of public education in common schools with numbers and varieties of others, in the street with the miscellaneous children of the neighborhood and town, at home and in friends' homes with persons of all ages, pursuits and purposes.

Very narrowly limited are their opportunities of observation. They have for their associates only the few who are suffering the same privation with themselves and those who have the charge of their education. The officers of the establishment and their teachers mostly, and nearly all the persons that these children and youth have intercourse with, belong to the same family, and have their dwelling, their business and their conversation in the same building with them.

Thus, from their earliest infancy or from the beginning of their privation, they are in great measure, and some almost entirely, separated from the world, and have little or no opportunities of receiving that part of their education which can only be given there, and which other boys and girls unconsciously enjoy. Consequently, when they finish their term of pupilage in this school, however long it may have been, and however learned they may be from books and personal teaching, however skilful in their trade or in sewing or in any handicraft, or fancy work or in music, they yet lack the desirable fulness of knowledge of the world's life, habits and thought. They want the tact of adaptation—the power to put whatever talent they possess into the general capital of mankind—and to that extent share freely in its labors, responsibilities and profits.

It would then seem a part of the duty of those who determine and conduct the education of the blind to endeavor, as far as possible, to avoid this deficiency, by keeping them in contact with people abroad, mingling them with other boys and girls in their schools, in their plays, in their enjoyments, by associating them with the world's business and affairs and movements, as much as is consistent with their best training and development.

In this view they should be separated from the common children only so far as is necessary for the peculiar instruction suited to their wants. In all else they should go together. They and the seeing children should continually meet on common ground, and have as much of their education as possible together. They should hear lectures, have recitations and sing in company.

Still more should the blind live in common families with the usual mixture of the old and young, the parents and children, eat at their tables, hear and join in the general conversation, enjoy the general social or family communion in the parlor, and, to the extent of their ability, aid in the operations of household and home, and take part in the movements and enjoyments of society.

If, as it cannot be denied, the peculiar education of the blind requires that they should have schools of their own, for some purposes, their assembling together should be limited to these objects, and when fulfilled they should again be scattered daily,

semi-daily, to their several homes as other children are when their school hours are finished.

There should be no common boarding-house nor artificial home, where they gather and live from month to month and from year to year exclusively together; but they should have almost as many separate homes as they are in number. As far as possible, these should be their natural homes. In a large city there may be enough of the blind for schools or classes, who could all live with their parents; and those whose homes are not in the available vicinity of any such school should find boarding places in its neighborhood, as other youth do who go to academics and colleges away from their own families. This policy has long been advocated in the Reports of this Institution.

The plan of distributing the blind in common families has been tried for about seventeen years with the men and women in the workshop, and for about four years with the women in the laundry. Formerly these blind people lived and had their permanent home in the Institution, where they ate and slept and talked and associated in shop, dining-room and parlor exclusively together, apart from the great and stirring world's cares and noise and responsibilities, and in their semi-monastic life they had a great amount of personal comfort, but a limited amount of broad and comprehensive sympathy and generous happiness.

In 1850 this was changed. The new shop was provided for day work, but the home of the blind was broken up. They went out from the Institution, and found board and lodging in various private families in the neighborhood. They ceased to be recluses and became citizens at large, and dwelt among men and women in general society, and shared in the life, the interests, the conversation, of the street and the town; and they have greatly gained thereby in intelligence, in strength, and flexibility of mind and heart. Their powers are more available, and they are of more worth to themselves and to the community than they were when they lived alone.

A better plan than this even for the matured blind is to go further from the Institution, and more generally into the life of the world, and have their shops and places of labor and business scattered throughout the country—in their several towns, in their old paternal homes, or in homes which they may make

for themselves, and there work in their several ways for the neighbors, and such chance customers as they may find—making mattresses and brooms, seating chairs, and doing whatever else they may be capable of.

Some have done this successfully. Some have extended their work beyond the special trades taught in the Institution or shop of the blind. One man, educated here twenty years ago, went home to his father's farm, and besides seating chairs for the families of his neighborhood, turned his hands to such matters connected with the farm as he had courage or ability to undertake. This versatile power developed with the culture. He gradually increased the field of his operations and usefulness, and now he and a very efficient and skilful brother carry on the farm, where he finds unceasing opportunities of using his faculties. The farm is mainly devoted to cattle and the cultivation of garden seeds. This blind man assumed chiefly the care of the cattle. He feeds and waters them, turns them out of the barn, and again drives them in at the proper times. He puts each ox, cow, calf and horse in the appointed place and stall, and fastens each in the usual way. He milks the cows, takes the hay from the scaffold, cuts and mixes it with meal, and gives each its due portion in fitting season. He harnesses the horses in wagon or chaise when the family want to ride, and again unharnesses them and puts the animals in the stable, and the vehicles in their proper places on their return. He takes care also of the pigs and the hens, hunts the eggs in the barn, or wherever the cautious fowl attempts to hide them. He shovels manure in the barnyard and elsewhere. He aids in haying—loads the hay on the wagon in the field, and packs it away in the barn. In manifold other ways he makes himself useful on the farm, and few men in his town find less time or opportunity to be idle; and in all this variety of work and exposure he has met with no accident and suffered no injury.

Moreover, he takes constant and lively interest in the affairs of the neighborhood and town—of the State and nation. Few persons seeing him at work at the barn, in the house, in the garden or in the field, or hearing him talk, would suspect that he was blind, until they noticed his eyes.

This, it is to be regretted, is indeed an uncommon instance of one resolute to let none of his other powers lie dormant after

his vision was completely extinguished, and who was induced, perhaps, to do more with his remaining sound faculties than he would have done if his eyes had not been lost.

Others have done like unto him and shown that the loss of their eyesight, though a very important part of the body, did not leave them powerless nor very essentially impair their fulness of manhood.

One blind man is, and has been, a very successful merchant in New York; another is a prosperous dealer in real estate. Several find satisfactory and profitable employment as traveling agents for sale of books, periodicals, sewing machines, or as traders in these on their own account; and many earn a very comfortable living by teaching music, giving lessons in singing and on the piano, organ, melodeon and other instruments, and many tune pianos.

Some of these by their constant communication with families and children become acquainted with their wants, and being familiar with instruments and therefore judges of their goodness and worth, are employed to purchase pianos, melodeons, &c., for them. Thus they become agents both of the people to buy, and of manufacturers to sell, and receiving a proper commission for their musical and commercial skill they add thereby to their income in proportion to their ability as men of business and their tact in commending their talents to the confidence of the people.

The blind must have food, and clothing, and shelter and many other essentials and comforts of life after they go forth from the school, as well as persons whose vision is unimpaired, and these materials and advantages must be bought with money for them as for others. However much friends and the State may do for their support and education in childhood and youth, it cannot be expected that this charity will follow them in and through maturity, nor is it desirable to them. They want to enjoy the spirit of independence—to be self-supporters—to create the bread they eat and to supply their wants by the sweat of their own brows.

The question then presents itself to all—to the blind, to their friends, and to the community, how can they be best trained to enable them to get their living? how can their remaining powers be educated, quickened and energized so as to compensate

in any degree for the loss of sight, and produce sufficient income for their support in life?

This and other institutions have considered these questions anxiously and ceaselessly. They have endeavored to shape their plans of education and training for the future good, and, as far as possible, to secure the self-sustenance of their pupils. Besides the common branches of learning, and music as an accomplishment, the boys learn to make brooms and mats, and some to upholster and make mattresses. The girls learn to sew and knit, to make fancy-work, and to do some house-work, and some of them have begun to make brooms. Besides these, as many of both sexes as can with prospect of advantage, learn music as an art or a profession, and hope to get their living thereby, as teachers, organists, as tuners of pianos, &c.

This last, the music teaching and playing, is now the largest single field open to the blind as a means of support, and it seems to be growing larger. People are becoming more disposed to employ them, and as they go forth from the school, they have more and more ground of hope that they will find opportunities to earn their living in this way.

The managers of this Institution have ever been aware of the imperfectness of the education that can be obtained by any class withdrawn as these are and must be from their homes and from general and miscellaneous society, and congregated in exclusive association with persons of their own disability; and they have endeavored to lessen this incompleteness, and compensate, as far as possible, for the loss of the outer world's influence for good.

Every candidate for admission into this school is carefully examined as to his amount of vision and the degree of disability, and, if it be found that his sight, even though imperfect, is yet sufficient to allow him to live and learn among children and men abroad, he is always advised to do so. But if he cannot do so and he must come to this school, then every means is devised to obviate its exclusiveness and to give the pupils opportunities of associating with the world abroad. They are allowed to visit at their homes and elsewhere. They are sent to their homes in vacations and encouraged to visit among their friends and relations at those periods.

In order to accustom them to the streets and to self-dependence and self-direction, if they have sufficient sight to find their way abroad, they are sent on errands to the stores, the post-office and places in the neighborhood, and to the office in the city. And even some of those whose sight is entirely lost, move about the town alone, and feel a pleasant satisfaction in their self-dependence. Within a few years, the experiment has been tried with some who had some vision, of sending them to their homes for a few months, with directions to go to the common schools where they could hear the reading and recitations of the pupils and the instructions of the teachers, and associate with the seeing children, hear and join in their conversation, and as far as may be, enter into their sports and enjoy a broader field of companionship and sympathy than they could in this school.

In these and other ways, the blind have been kept in contact with the world abroad, and offered all opportunities to acquire worldly wisdom as well as book knowledge,—an acquaintance with men and women as well as with science and literature,—in order that when they shall go forth from the Institution, they shall be prepared to enter the great arena of life, and compete with other men and women, in as many fields as possible, for its rewards of honor and esteem, of respect and substance.

EFFORTS MADE TO EXTEND THE ADVANTAGES OF THE INSTITUTION.

Believing that such institutions as this, although they still fail of giving their pupils the completeness of an ideal and desirable education, yet educate them better than they otherwise would be, the managers have endeavored to diffuse its blessings widely through New England. They have, from time to time, sent forth some of the pupils under proper teachers and guides, to give public exhibitions in various places in this and other New England States, to show what the blind can be taught to do. They have sought out the blind children in these States, and endeavored to persuade their friends and towns to send them here. Thus the doors of the house have been set and kept widely open, and all are invited to enter.

ADVANTAGES UNEQUALLY USED BY NEAR AND DISTANT COUNTIES.

Yet it is manifest that the advantages of this Institution have been very unequally enjoyed by the people in various parts of our Commonwealth. Examining the records of the Massachusetts pupils from the beginning of this school in 1832 to the present time, and comparing the numbers who have been sent here from the several counties with their average annual population, it is found that the annual average was, from Boston, one in 63,675; from Norfolk, Middlesex and Essex Counties, and from Chelsea, one in 102,405; from Worcester, Plymouth, and Bristol Counties, one in 108,749; and from Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden, Barnstable, Nantucket, and Dukes Counties, one in 155,143 of their people.

There is no evidence that there are more blind in proportion to the living in Boston and its vicinity, than in Middlesex, Essex and Norfolk, or more in these three counties than in the other and remote counties; yet it appears that, in the same number of people in each district, while Boston sent 100 pupils, the contiguous counties sent 61, Worcester, Bristol and Plymouth sent 58, and the remote counties sent only 41 to the Institution.

This accords with the social law established by an examination of all the State lunatic hospitals in this country, that in proportion as a community approaches such an institution, the number of the insane sent to it increases, and the reverse.

The Institution has been carried on through the last year as before, with the strictest regard to economy consistent with the health of the family. The State has increased its grants, and the charges to other States and to private pupils have been increased; but the cost of all the means of life, of instruction and labor, has increased in a much larger ratio, and the difficulty of supporting the Institution is greater than ever.

More children from this State have entered within the last year, than in years preceding. It is not to be supposed that blindness is increasing, or that there are more sightless children in proportion to the people, than in former years; but more attention is now paid to the education of this class. The means offered here are more known and appreciated. Parents are more familiar with the management of the school,

and have more confidence in it, and are therefore more willing to send their helpless children to its care. Hence, more are sent out of a definite number of the blind.

CO-OPERATORS.

Mr. Campbell has discharged the duties of his office with ability, rare devotion to his work, and deep interest in the education of the pupils in the school, and their success in life after they leave it. Miss Moulton, after an absence of two years, again returned to her former office at the head of the household, over which she has presided with her accustomed wisdom, energy and grace. One additional teacher has been employed in the last term on account of the increase of children. All the others had filled their respective offices through many years, and have, in the last year, as before, discharged their duties faithfully and acceptably. Mr. Bradford, the steward, superintendent of the shop, and general administrator of the physical interests of the establishment, who has been through nearly a generation, a useful, reliable and almost necessary element in the life and affairs of the Institution, has rendered another year of acceptable service.

With these disciplined and faithful co-operators, with the order established by Dr. Howe, through his long course of effective administration, and the energy and harmony of movement already existing in all parts of the establishment, household, school, shop, laundry, and store, I have found the post of temporary Director to be both easy and pleasant.

FISCAL AFFAIRS.

The fiscal affairs of the several parts of the establishment have been managed with the most careful economy, and sometimes, it may be feared, from the necessity of the case, with even too rigid economy. It would be desirable to have some other and better things; more teachers and instruments, more books, more furniture, more varied food, and other comforts. These might give the children and pupils more vigor, and increase the efficiency of the school. But the managers have constantly in mind the great work given to this Institution, of educating as many of the youthful blind as possible, and of giving employment, or affording facilities for self-sustenance, to as many of the mature blind as may ask for them.

The managers are compelled to have constantly in view the limited means of the Institution, whether the gifts of Massachusetts, the payment of other States, or the receipts from the families of private pupils, and arrange their plan of expenditure accordingly.

WORKSHOP.

The workshop has had its full average and even more than its usual amount of work, and the men and women have earned generally good wages; and some of them, at times, have had their hands full of employment, and received large returns. By this, it must not be understood that they earn as much as seeing people, doing the same work. This is not to be expected. No amount of energy, devotion, or skill in the blind, entirely compensates for their loss of sight; but they can do much for themselves, and these people have generally made the most of their remaining powers, and earn good wages and a comfortable subsistence.

LAUNDRY.

The laundry has accomplished all that could be expected of it. The women have done the washing for this Institution, and for the idiotic school in which there are nearly one hundred persons, and also much for many private families in the city. They wash and iron and do the coarse work, and some seeing women are necessarily employed to aid in the nice work, whose certain wages diminish the profits which we desire should wholly inure to the blind.

Nevertheless, these sightless washers and ironers earn wages nearly sufficient to pay for comfortable, though cheap, board and clothing. But the Institution, which assumes the responsibility of the laundry, does so at considerable cost; which, however, is diminishing year by year, as more work is sent in, and the women grow more skilful, and the whole establishment grows less burdensome.

The report of the Steward shows in detail the expenses of the house and school, by which, it will be seen, that all that has been given and paid, has been expended for necessary purposes. There has been an increase of pupils within the last year, and especially within the last term. There are yet more

blind children in the State who are known to the officers here, and whose parents begin to entertain the unwelcome thought of sending their almost helpless ones away from home, and intrusting them to the care of strangers. Yet the better thought of giving their darkened children an education, and means of sustenance and happiness, is growing in their minds, and they will fill this school more and more. These, with the advanced and advancing prices of all the materials and means of life, inevitably increase the cost of supporting the establishment, and create the necessity of more income and larger grants from the Commonwealth.

The legislature appropriated twenty thousand dollars last year, which will not be sufficient for the wants of the coming year; therefore, I would respectfully suggest, that the Trustees ask for twenty-five thousand dollars from the Commonwealth, for the support of the Institution in the year 1868.

Looking thankfully on the past, and hopefully to the future, committing this Institution with all its tender interests to the all-seeing Father of all, to him who healed the blind, to the maternal care of our generous Commonwealth, and to your faithful watchfulness,

I am, gentlemen,
With high respect,

EDWARD JARVIS, *Director pro tem.*

BOSTON, October 1, 1867.

SPECIAL REPORT OF DR. HOWE.

To the Trustees.

GENTLEMEN :—In complying with your request to make a special Report, I have no alterations or additions to suggest in the manuscript already prepared. I have too much respect for the wisdom of Dr. Jarvis to be willing to leave out anything he has written, or any recommendations he has made, even if not in accordance with my own opinions. But we agree entirely in our general views. Indeed, almost all the ideas which he puts forth concerning the general direction of the Institution, and the suggestions and recommendations which he makes, will be found in our former reports, only he expresses them more aptly and forcibly. This alone would make it desirable to reproduce them, even if it were not for the consideration that annual reports of such institutions must necessarily contain occasional repetitions of the same doctrines, and consist of line upon line of the same precepts.

As to any additions, suggested by my recent inspection of kindred Institutions in Europe, they will be few and short, because the Report is already large enough.

I made myself pretty well acquainted with the principal establishments in Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, Prussia, Austria, Bavaria, and the smaller German States, also in Switzerland and Italy, nearly forty years ago. I have visited most of them twice since, and have kept up the acquaintance by reading their reports.

They have not increased much in number, nor in extent and variety of means of instruction. The principal Institutions, as compared with the leading ones in the United States, are not so well appointed in respect to buildings, grounds and apparatus, musical instruments, and other appliances for facilitating instruction. They do not devote so much time and money to

school purposes, or to musical instruction ; and the standard of intellectual attainment of the pupils is not so high ; while in regard to mechanical work it is higher, especially in the British schools. Both are open to just criticism. The British schools tend to dwarf the mind by developing bodily strength and dexterity at the expense of intellectual development ; ours to dwarf the body by over exercise of the mental faculties.

It is my purpose to give at some time, a detailed account of these Institutions ; and therefore will now simply make some general remarks, with a view to show how much such establishments are affected by causes not under the control of their Directors.

In order correctly to measure and compare the value and importance of any two Institutions for the Blind, or of the Institutions of two countries, we must look at the principles which underlie them, and the purposes with which they are administered. Buildings, grounds, school apparatus, musical instruments, and even the amount of instruction, are less important matters than is the principle upon which an Institution is founded, and in view of which it is conducted. Hence it is that some large and rich establishments, which impart a high degree of instruction, and polish up their pupils with bright accomplishments, actually do less than some small and humble ones for the best interests of the blind, and for promoting what ought to be the chief aim of all Institutions for their education.

In my humble opinion that aim should be :

First. To prevent the infirmity of blindness from acting unfavorably upon the harmonious development and formation of character ;

Second. To compensate for lack of vision [in so far as that is a bar to bodily and mental development,] by increased exercise of the remaining senses, and by appliances adapted to sharpen those senses ;

Third. By these and by other means, to equalize, morally, physically and socially, the condition of the blind with that of ordinary persons, or as nearly as may be. In other words, to reduce to its minimum the difference between those who see, and those who do not see, so far as that difference is the result of blindness.

Blind children and youth should be trained and fashioned in such wise that peculiarities growing out of their infirmity shall not prevent them from being fused into the general mass of society.

The degree of success which is obtained in different Institutions and different countries depends partly upon conditions within our control, and partly upon things beyond our control. So strong is the claim of the blind upon the human sympathy, that in all civilized countries, wise and honest efforts to raise means for their instruction and improvement are always successful. Failure implies lack of wisdom or of earnestness in those who ask.

But it is different when we come to moral measures ; that is, when we ask for justice as well as pity ; for sympathy as well as alms.

All Institutions are affected by the social and political atmosphere around them ; and hence, as a general rule, it is found that Institutions for the Blind come nearer to attaining what we have laid down above as their highest purpose, in those countries which are most democratic in their general character and tendencies.

In England the general result of the effort in behalf of the blind has been to intensify some of the unfavorable effects growing out of blindness. They are segregated from general society even more than they were before. They are put into a class by themselves, and become more distinctly marked. Their post is still that of dependents ; for the blind man, instead of holding out his hat at the street corner, is put into an Asylum where a contribution box is held out for him at the door. The inevitable beggar's box in the Hall of Asylums is more indicative of the real character of the establishment than the pretentious gothic fronts, or even the marble tablets upon which the names of benefactors and the sums they have given are blazoned in gold letters.

Most of the European Institutions for the Blind are in the nature of Asylums, and are supported by annual contributions, which are made and received in the spirit of alms-giving and alms-taking. This helps strengthen and perpetuate—what it is most desirable to destroy—namely, the old, unhappy, and disad-

vantageous association in the public mind, of blindness with beggary.

Then as a general thing, in Europe more than in America, political and social influences favor the promotion of and maintenance of distinct classes, of different grades of respectability, among all the inhabitants. It is natural, therefore, that the several Institutions for the Blind formed under these influences, favor the segregation of blind persons into a class by themselves. In this respect they run counter to what I have tried to show ought to be the leading idea in the administration of such establishments.

It is the same in France. The ruling idea, even in respect to the Imperial Institution, is that what is done for the blind is in the spirit of mere charity.

In Germany—at least in Protestant Germany—and still more in Switzerland, the social influences are more favorable to the blind.

It is in the United States, however, that the general social influences are the most favorable, and the tendency to separate the blind into a distinct class is the least strong. Our best Institutions, moulded under those influences, place the claims of the blind upon higher ground, and demand for them justice as well as sympathy.

As it is conceded that the State (or the public) is bound to place the means of instruction within reach of all children, and as no special provision is made for the blind child, in common schools, the State erects a special school for him, and supports him in it, so that his instruction may not cost his parents any more than the schooling of ordinary children costs their parents.

Here begins the attempt to equalize the condition of the blind with that of the seeing, and to give them something nearer a fair start in the race of life. This principle ought to be further acted upon by making provision for the instruction of a certain class of blind children in common schools with common children, which matter is worthy of special attention.

The same idea pervades their subsequent treatment. Certain facilities and advantages for employment and work are accorded to the blind man as a matter of right, rather than of

charity ; and as an offset to the disadvantages arising from an infirmity for which he is not responsible.

Our Institutions have been in operation but a quarter of a century, but they show already the result of the higher principles and more just views. Patient and persevering efforts, directed by such principles, will bring still more gratifying results.

Such principles applied in practice, patiently and perseveringly, by men who are gifted with the necessary personal qualities, will soon have still greater effect.

I regret that I did not arrive at them earlier, and have not been able to act upon them more consistently. I shall not live to see their full fruition, for the eleventh hour has come to me; but many of my fellow-laborers will witness them, and have the satisfaction of knowing that, owing in part to their labors, the blind will at last be taken as equal, independent and useful members, into that general society by which they have so long been considered as burdensome dependents.

I earnestly commend to the attention of the Board, and of the legislature, the recommendation I have frequently made concerning the increase of the library for the blind.

Also to a special recommendation of certain changes in the buildings of the Institution. These would involve a considerable cost; but would give us, first, greater security from fire; second, a laundry for women upon our own premises; third, removal of the men's workshop to the central lot; fourth, increased facilities for carrying on the various branches of the establishment.

If it is found that these changes will require money that ought to be expended upon the old building, then it should be seriously considered whether we cannot have new premises in the same neighborhood, upon which the buildings and grounds shall be so arranged as to facilitate the administration of the Institution upon those principles which we accept as sound in theory.

It has been carried on, in the present building, at much greater cost of money, and of wear and tear of mind, than would have been required in one built expressly for it. Your Auditors of Accounts can testify to the constant expense required to adapt the building to the wants of the school and to

keep it in order; and those familiar with the details of administration acknowledge that it is carried on under great daily difficulties, arising from the arrangement of the apartments, and especially the location of the play-grounds. All these expenses, difficulties and inconveniences have been borne cheerfully, and considered as more than counterbalanced by the extraordinary natural advantages of the location, which exceed those of any other Institution I have ever seen. The site is upon Dorchester Heights, of revolutionary fame; and it was selected because of its great beauty and salubrity by the company who built the vast and costly building for a summer hotel and boarding-house, and which the Trustees acquired by exchange for the Perkins Mansion, in Pearl Street. It is one of the crowning eminences of a narrow peninsula, jutting into the sea, and is open to fresh breezes on all sides. There are opportunities for sea bathing and for boating, both of which our pupils improve and greatly enjoy.

But the principal advantage is that, while in an atmosphere as free and salubrious as that of the open country, the building is within the limits of a metropolis which presents opportunity for the highest intellectual culture, and especially the culture of the musical faculties. For this culture it is absolutely essential that the learner should hear the best music. Boston presents uncommon advantages in this respect, and our pupils can profit by them easily, by day and by night, either by an easy walk over dry sidewalks, or by horse cars which pass the door every five minutes.

If, without sacrificing those inestimable advantages, our Institution could have the additional one of suitable buildings and grounds, its best interests would be greatly promoted.

I urgently recommend that, whenever a change can be made, the new buildings shall be arranged with a view to carrying out the principle so often advocated in our Reports, viz., the minimum of association of blind persons with each other, and the maximum of their association with ordinary persons.

In my eighteenth annual Report, written in 1849, are these words:—

“ I am most ready to acknowledge that my views respecting the organization of establishments, even for the education of ordinary youth, have materially changed. I think that all the

advantages arising from them may be gained, and most of the crying evils attendant upon them avoided, by breaking up the 'commons system,' boarding the youth among families in the neighborhood, and bringing them together daily for the purposes of instruction and for the advantages of mutual action of their minds upon each other.

"We are bribed into a toleration of the present system, so pregnant of evils and so liable to abuse, by money,—by the Poor Richard gospel of penny saved, penny earned. I know not how to express my conviction of the disadvantages and evils of this system in a stronger manner than by saying that when I am consulted about the establishment of a new institution for deaf mutes, or even for the blind, notwithstanding the peculiar condition of the latter class, my advice is: Build up no huge building for the pupils to live in; organize no great machinery for its internal government; invest not your funds in brick and mortar and land; but put up a simple building for school-rooms; place your pupils in good families in the neighborhood, and devote the interest of the fund to paying their board, and let them be brought daily to the school for instruction.

"With all the advantages of the existing institutions for the blind, and for mutes, as they are now organized,—[and assuredly those advantages are manifold and great,]—they are attended with some serious disadvantages, principally of a moral character. By a different organization, all the former might be secured and most of the latter avoided. The system would be more costly, in a pecuniary point of view, than the present one, so much more that it will hardly be adopted in our generation."

What seemed unattainable then seems attainable now, and indeed at much less increased cost than was then supposed necessary. Experience shows indeed that there are many blind children who, owing to unfavorable home influences, could not be boarded in ordinary families, but require special domestic training and instruction. By a slight modification of the above plan this could be had. In remodelling we could well dispense with the costly, showy and imposing edifices of ordinary public institutions where all the pupils are lodged under one roof and live in one room, and could have a simple establishment, in which the pupils would be brought together as much as is

needful for their special instruction, without being kept congregated together in great numbers all the time.

All that will be needed is a large central building, for school-rooms, music rooms, and the like, and near by to it several ordinary houses, owned and furnished by the Institution and under its general control. These should be suitable for an ordinary family of a dozen or fifteen. They could be occupied by responsible persons, who would board the pupils at fixed rates. They could be conducted like ordinary houses, and the blind trained to do almost all the domestic work, thus being under some kind of instruction out of school as well as in it.

A saving of money might perhaps be made by having the houses so arranged on either side of the main building, that all could be heated from a common furnace, and perhaps be supplied with certain parts of the food, leaving the minor parts to be done in the separate houses. But if there were a commissariat, to furnish staples at prime cost, there would be little loss of money in having each family live in a house by itself, with a little garden about it, while there would be a great gain in more important matters. The general principle being adopted, the details could be easily worked out.

Such an arrangement would not be precisely what one whose means were illimitable might desire, because he would probably prefer that each blind child should live at home, or in an ordinary family, and go abroad for his instruction, just as ordinary children do; but it would be an immense improvement on that of any existing Institution; and I trust that the blind of Massachusetts may at some time have the pleasures and the advantages which such an one would give them.

It is my duty to advise the Trustees to be looking about for my successor. Whoever has held an office thirty-seven successive years must expect to quit it soon. Besides, in my case, even should my life be prolonged, there are strong reasons for my entering another field of work; though I hope to be able to give to this a part of whatever strength may be left.

Respectfully,

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind in account with WM. CLAFLIN, Treasurer.

1866.	DR.			
Oct. 16.	To draft of auditors of accounts, No. 234,	.	.	\$3,017 08
Nov. 15.	“ “ “ No. 235,	.	.	4,924 60
Dec. 11.	“ “ “ No. 236,	.	.	3,015 76
1867.				
Jan. 11.	To draft of auditors of accounts, No. 237,	.	.	5,776 16
Feb. 14.	“ “ “ No. 238,	.	.	3,546 14
Mar. 27.	“ “ “ No. 239,	.	.	3,632 31
Apr. 19.	“ “ “ No. 240,	.	.	3,878 45
May 30.	“ “ “ No. 241,	.	.	3,769 58
July 24.	“ “ “ No. 242,	.	.	3,148 66
Aug. 23.	“ “ “ No. 243,	.	.	3,226 21
Sept. 20.	“ “ “ No. 244,	.	.	3,389 47
	Balance on hand,	.	.	2,741 11
				<hr/>
				\$44,065 53

1866.	CR.			
Oct. 1.	By balance cash,	.	.	\$4,954 87
1.	State of Massachusetts,	.	.	5,000 00
Nov. 15.	amount from Dr. Howe, per statement dated Nov. 8,	.	.	308 25
Dec. 7.	amount from Executors of Hon. Stephen Fairbanks,	.	.	500 00
1867.				
Jan. 1.	By State of Massachusetts,	.	.	5,000 00
April 6.	State of Maine,	.	.	1,060 00
10.	State of Massachusetts,	.	.	4,000 00
19.	State of Vermont,	.	.	2,250 00
27.	State of Connecticut,	.	.	1,938 00
May 2.	Coupons of N. Y. Central Bond,	.	.	142 50
30.	State of New Hampshire,	.	.	4,000 00
30.	Edward Jarvis, Director, <i>pro tem.</i> , statement May 30,	.	.	897 48
June 4.	Edward Jarvis, Director, from John Wooldredge, June 4,	.	.	145 84

July 8.	By State of Massachusetts,	. . .	\$6,000 00
15.	State of Rhode Island,	. . .	1,951 67
Aug. 16.	J. Goddard, legacy,	. . .	\$5,000 00
	three months and-a-half inter-		
	est on \$4,700,	. . .	82 25
			<u>5,082 25</u>
	Less Government Tax,	. . .	300 00
			<u>4,782 25</u>
Sept. 20.	By Edward Jarvis, Director, of Wm. T.		
	Allen, statement Sept. 13,	. . .	100 00
28.	Edward Jarvis, Director, statement		
	September 28,	. . .	1,034 67
			<u>\$44,065 53</u>

The undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1866-7, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the accounts to be properly vouched and correctly cast, and that there is a cash balance in the hands of the Treasurer of \$2,741.11, (twenty-seven hundred and forty-one $\frac{11}{100}$ dollars.) The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of the following property belonging to the Institution:—

Deed of land in South Boston, dated April, 1844,	. . .	\$755 68
“ “ “ dated February, 1847,	. . .	5,000 00
“ “ “ dated August, 1848,	. . .	5,500 00
“ “ “ dated January, 1850,	. . .	1,762 50
“ “ “ dated July, 1850,	. . .	1,020 25
“ “ “ dated April, 1855, \$2,811.50; less		
mortgage, \$1,500,	. . .	1,311 50
“ “ “ dated April, 1855,	. . .	3,710 00
“ “ “ dated August, 1855,	. . .	450 00
5 bonds of \$1,000 each of the N. Y. Central Railroad, being the		
legacy of Sarah P. Pratt,	. . .	4,700 00
		<u>\$24,209 93</u>

THOS. T. BOUVÉ, }
GEO. S. HALE, } *Auditing Committee.*

Detailed Statement of Treasurer's Cash Account.

DR.

To drafts of the auditors of accounts, Nos. 234 to 244, inclusive, \$41,324 42
 cash on hand Sept. 30, 1867, 2,741 11

\$44,065 53

1866.	CR.	
Oct. 1.	By balance cash,	\$1,954 87
1.	State of Massachusetts,	5,000 00
Nov. 15.	By amount from Dr. Howe, as per following:	
	Cash from Thomas Reeves, for board and tuition of brother,	\$50 00
	Cash from Philadelphia Institution for the Blind, for books in raised print,	20 50
	B. O. Frazier, for board and tuition of son,	147 75
	Cash from Geo. Preston, for board and tuition of son,	50 00
	Cash for books in raised print,	40 00
		<hr/> 308 25
Dec. 7.	By cash from executors of Hon. Stephen Fairbanks,	500 00
1867.		
Jan. 1.	By State of Massachusetts,	5,000 00
Apr. 6.	State of Maine,	1,060 00
10.	State of Massachusetts,	4,000 00
19.	State of Vermont,	2,250 00
27.	State of Connecticut,	1,938 00
May 2.	coupons of New York Central Bond,	142 50
30.	State of New Hampshire,	4,000 00
30.	By amount from Dr. Jarvis, Director <i>pro tem.</i> , as per following:	
	Cash from J. C. Harris, on account of board and tuition of son,	\$100 00
	Cash from Levi Marsh, on account board of Laura Bridgman,	90 00
	Cash received from R. G. Moorman, on account board and tuition of daughter,	195 83
	Cash received from sale of books in raised print and writing boards,	486 65
	Cash received from pupil for musical instrument,	25 00
		<hr/> 897 48

June 4.	By cash from John Wooldredge, on account board and tuition of son,	\$145 84	
July 8.	cash, State of Massachusetts,	6,000 00	
15.	“ “ Rhode Island,	1,951 67	
Aug. 16.	cash, J. Goddard's legacy,	\$5,000 00	
	Less government tax,	300 00	
		<u>\$4,700 00</u>	
	By 3½ months interest,	82 25	
			4,782 25
Sept. 20.	By cash from Wm. T. Allen, on account board and tuition of son,		100 00
21.	By cash from Dr. Jarvis, as per statement following:		
	Thomas Reeves, on account board and tuition of brother,	\$125 00	
	Wm. Maynard, on account board and tuition of son,	75 00	
	Thomas Frazier, on account board and tuition of son,	104 17	
	Books in raised print and writing boards,	80 50	
	Use of horse and wagon and board of teamster of workshop of blind,	650 00	
		<u>1,034 67</u>	
			<u>\$44,065 53</u>

Analysis of Treasurer's Account.

The Treasurer's Report shows that the total receipts during the year were	\$44,065 53
Deducting cash on hand at beginning of the year,	4,954 87
Net receipts,	<u>\$39,110 66</u>

Ordinary Receipts.

From State of Massachusetts,	\$20,000 00
beneficiaries of other States and private pupils,	12,293 26
	<u>\$32,293 26</u>

Extraordinary Receipts.

From executors of S. Fairbanks' estate,	\$500 00
coupons of New York Central Bond,	142 50
J. Goddard's legacy,	4,782 25
Levi Marsh, on account of Laura Bridgman,	90 00
sale books in raised print and writing boards,	627 65
musical instrument,	25 00
use of horse and wagon and board of teamster of workshop of the blind,	650 00
	<u>6,817 40.</u>
Total amount received by Treasurer,	<u>\$39,110 66</u>

General Analysis of Steward's Account, Oct. 1, 1867.

	DR.	CR.
Sundry liabilities due Oct. 1, 1866,		\$5,606 88
Ordinary expenses, as per schedule annexed, and extraordinary expenses, as per schedule for extraor- dinary repairs, &c.,		38,669 75
Total receipts on drafts from Treasurer,	\$41,324 42	
receipts from other sources, as per schedule annexed,	541 13	
	<u>\$41,865 55</u>	
Amount due Steward Oct. 1, 1867,	2,411 08	
	<u>\$44,276 63</u>	<u>\$44,276 63</u>

*Amounts received by Steward for the year ending September 30, 1867,
not paid to Treasurer.*

Board of laundry girls,	\$137 50
Sale of old boiler,	75 00
of old iron,	14 93
of brooms-of boys' shop,	313 70
	<u>\$541 13</u>

*General Analysis of Expenditures for the year ending September 30,
1867, as per Steward's Account.*

ARTICLES.	PRICE.
Meats, 12,230 pounds,	\$1,852 36
Fish, 3,169 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds,	276 68
Butter, 3,001 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds,	1,157 59
Milk, 14,942 quarts,	1,169 08
Rice, Sago, etc., 813 pounds,	98 99
Sugar, 6,257 pounds,	881 43
Tea and Coffee, 575 pounds,	299 50
Breadstuffs,	2,534 10
Fruit,	151 42
Potatoes and other vegetables,	465 39
Groceries,	443 68
Sundry articles of consumption,	107 85
Household furniture and bedding,	1,209 98
Gas and oil,	465 34
Coal and wood,	3,167 35
Washing,	2,980 15
Clothing and mending,	120 40
Salaries and wages of blind people,	2,029 66
Salaries and wages of seeing people,	9,481 76
Outside aid,	415 47
Insurance,	379 23
Taxes,	13 00
Rent of office in town,	188 00
Expenses of stable,	996 07
Expenses of boys' shop,	759 62
Expenses of printing office,	366 22
Books, stationery, etc.,	704 74
Musical instruments,	562 84
Medicine and medical attendance,	101 71
Board of blind pupils,	80 50
Construction and repairs,	3,859 83
Extraordinary travelling expenses of pupils,	359 95
Expense attending purchase of horse,	208 61
Express on books and slates to Paris exposition,	8 00
Funeral expenses,	15 00
Bills to be refunded,	200 05
Sundries,	558 20
Liabilities of 1866 paid in 1866 and 1867,	5,606 88
	\$44,276 63
Deduct for extraordinary construction and repairs, \$1,548 93	
for extraordinary travelling and other ex- penses, 791 61	
for Liabilities of 1866 paid in 1866-67, 5,606 88	
	7,947 42
Actual current expenditures,	\$36,329 21

General Abstract of the Accounts of the Work Department, Oct. 1, 1867.

WORKSHOP AND LAUNDRY.

Liabilities.

Due Institution for original loan,	\$16,378 42
“ “ for interest on original loan,	982 71
“ sundry individuals,	3,795 33
	<u>\$21,156 46</u>

Assets.

Stock on hand Oct. 1, 1867,	\$5,233 43
Cash “ “	1,989 92
Debts due,	3,587 19
	<u>10,810 54</u>
Balance against the work departments, Oct. 1, 1867,	\$10,345 92
“ “ “ “ “ Oct. 1, 1866,	10,264 09
	<u>\$81 83</u>

Analysis of the Accounts of the Work Departments.

Cash on hand Oct. 1, 1866,	\$1,578 84
“ received during the year,	31,033 69
Liabilities Oct. 1, 1866,	\$5,001 59
Salaries and wages blind persons,	\$8,450 38
“ “ seeing “	5,984 04
	<u>14,434 42</u>
Sundries for stock, &c.,	14,186 60
Cash on hand Oct. 1, 1867,	1,989 92
	<u>\$35,612 53</u>
	\$35,612 53

Amount paid blind persons for the year ending Sept. 30, 1867,	\$8,450 38
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ 1866,	7,295 36
	<u>\$1,155 02</u>
Increase over last year,	\$1,155 02

*List of Embossed Books, printed at the Perkins Institution and
Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.*

	No. of Volumes.	Price per bound Vol. of those for sale.	Price, unbound, in pasteboard boxes.
Lardner's Universal History,	3	\$5 00	\$1 50
Howe's Geography,	1	4 00	1 00
Howe's Atlas of the Islands,	1	4 00	-
English Reader, first part,	1	-	-
English Reader, second part,	1	4 00	1 50
The Harvey Boys,	1	-	-
The Pilgrim's Progress,	1	5 00	1 50
Baxter's Call,	1	4 00	1 50
English Grammar,	1	-	-
Life of Melancthon,	1	3 00	50
Constitution of the United States,	1	3 00	-
Book of Diagrams,	-	-	-
Viri Romæ,	1	-	-
Pierce's Geometry, with diagrams,	1	4 00	-
Political Class-Book,	1	-	-
First Table of Logarithms,	1	3 00	1 00
Second Table of Logarithms,	1	4 00	-
Principles of Arithmetic,	1	3 00	-
Astronomical Dictionary,	1	3 00	-
Philosophy of Natural History,	1	5 00	-
Rudiments of Natural Philosophy,	1	5 00	-
Cyclopædia,	8	5 00	2 00
Book of Common Prayer,	1	5 00	2 00
Guide to Devotion,	1	-	-
New Testament, (small,)	4	4 00	-
New Testament, (large,)	2	-	-
Old Testament,	6	-	-
Book of Psalms,	1	4 50	1 00
Book of Proverbs,	1	4 00	1 00
Psalms in Verse,	1	-	-
Psalms and Hymns,	1	5 00	-
The Dairyman's Daughter,	1	-	-
The Spelling-Book,	1	-	-
The Sixpenny Glass of Wine,	1	-	-
Howe's Blind Child's Manual,	1	-	-
Howe's Blind Child's First Book,	1	2 50	-
Howe's Blind Child's Second Book,	1	3 00	-
Howe's Blind Child's Third Book,	1	3 00	-
Howe's Blind Child's Fourth Book,	1	3 00	-
Collection of Hymns for the Blind,	1	5 00	-
Milton's Poetical Works,	2	5 00	-
Diderot's Essay,	1	5 00	-
Combe's Constitution of Man,	-	8 00	2 50
Natural Theology,	-	8 00	2 50
Writing Cards,	-	50	50

Maps, globes, and other apparatus prepared for Institutions at actual cost.
A good mural map of any State can be made in plaster for about ten dollars.

APPENDIX.

Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, }
Office No. 20 Bromfield Street. }
 BOSTON, 1868. }

C I R C U L A R .

TO THE CLERGYMEN, PHYSICIANS, AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR IN THE NEW
ENGLAND STATES.

DEAR SIR:—I solicit your kind attention to some remarks concerning blind persons.

For a quarter of a century ample provisions have existed in New England for the gratuitous instruction and improvement of all of them, but still the fact is not known to parties most concerned. In remote towns and villages, many blind children grow up in ignorance, and learn only too late what a precious opportunity they have lost.

Indeed, their very existence is sometimes unknown beyond their own household or immediate neighborhood. Clergymen, and even physicians, when asked if they know any blind children, often say, “No! there is not one in my parish!” or “my round,” whereas, in reality, there may be several.

The census-taker misses many of them. Some parents either dislike to acknowledge the infirmity of a child, or fail to see how they can benefit him by making it known.

Nothing but earnest and careful search, by intelligent persons, reveals the real number of the blind.

Will you kindly undertake this work in your neighborhood; and if you find, in indigent or ignorant families, a child so deficient in sight that it cannot distinguish the nails on your fingers, or letters in a book, send me the name and address in full?

If the child is over five years of age, I will send an alphabet, in raised print, that it may begin to feel out the letters, if some one will give a little assistance in the beginning. If the child is able to go out, will you kindly urge the parents to send it to the nearest public school, and to persist in having it go regularly? If the teacher can be induced to give it a little special attention, it will learn a great deal; but if the child only sits and listens, it will learn much that will be valuable to it afterwards.

If the circumstances of the family forbid the child receiving all the necessary attention and guidance, it had better be sent here, at least for one year. This can be done without any other cost except for clothing and car-fare. Let the parents, or the selectmen, or some intelligent friend, write to the governor of your State, and he will give a warrant for free admission.

The child will here be under the care of good and kind women, who will watch over it carefully. It will be taught all the branches usually taught in common schools, and will soon be able to read the Bible, to write, cipher, &c. If the child has good musical ability, he will have opportunity of cultivating it, and be taught to sing and play.

If the blind person is an adult (not over forty years,) and well and strong, and desirous of learning some simple trade by which he can afterwards earn his living (in part, at least,) he can be admitted to the work department upon the warrant of the governor.

All blind persons admitted can have the benefit of the advice of the best oculists in the city.

By making these facts known to any family having a blind relative, you may perhaps confer upon it a great benefit, and certainly you will oblige,

Yours, truly,

SAM'L G. HOWE.

N. B.—There are impostors about; some in clerical garb. No person is authorized to speak for or receive money for this Institution without a written certificate. No society or agency is known in this country which authorizes any one to go about and preach, or take up collections, upon the vague pretence of promoting the education of the Blind.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

Young blind persons of good moral character, can be admitted to the School by paying \$300 *per annum*. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, &c. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the institution. The friends of the pupils can visit them whenever they choose.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the governor for a warrant.

The following is a good form, though any other will do:

“ *To his Excellency the Governor :*

“ SIR :—My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged _____, cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Perkins' Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“ Very respectfully, _____.”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the selectmen of the town, or aldermen of the city, in this form :

“ I hereby certify that, in my opinion, Mr. _____ is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$300 *per annum* for his child's instruction.

(Signed,) _____.”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form :

“ I certify that, in my opinion, _____ has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools; and that he is free from epilepsy, and from any contagious disease.

(Signed,) _____.”

These papers should be done up together, and directed to “The Secretary of the Commonwealth, State House, Boston, Mass.

An obligation will be required from some responsible person, that the pupil shall be removed without expense to the institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island, by applying as above to the “Commissioners for the Blind, care of the Secretary of State,” in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

For further particulars address Dr. S. G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relatives or friends of the blind who may be sent to the institution are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions:—

1. What is the name and age of the applicant?
2. Where born?
3. Was he born blind? If not, at what age was the sight impaired?
4. Is the blindness total or partial?
5. What is the supposed cause of the blindness?
6. Has he ever been subject to fits?
7. Is he now in good health and free from eruptions and contagious diseases of the skin?
 8. Has he ever been to school? If yes, where?
 9. What is the general moral character of the applicant?
 10. Is he gentle and docile in temper, or the contrary?
 11. Has he any peculiarity of temper and disposition?
 12. Of what country was father of the applicant a native?
 13. What was the general bodily condition and health of the father, was he vigorous and healthy, or the contrary?
 14. Was the father of the applicant ever subject to fits or scrofula?
 15. Were all his senses perfect?
 16. Was he always a temperate man?
 17. About how old was he when the applicant was born?
 18. Was there any known peculiarity in the family of the father of the applicant; that is, were any of the grand-parents, parents, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters or cousins blind, deaf or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind?
 19. If dead, at what age did he die, and of what disorder?
 20. Where was the mother of the applicant born?
 21. What was the general bodily condition of the mother of the applicant, strong and healthy, or the contrary?
 22. Was she ever subject to scrofula or to fits?
 23. Were all her senses perfect?
 24. Was she always a temperate woman?
 25. About how old was she when the applicant was born?
 26. How many children had she before the applicant was born?
 27. Was she related by blood to her husband, if so, in what degree, 1st, 2d, or 3d cousins?
 28. If dead, at what age did she die, and of what disorder?
 29. Was there any known peculiarity in her family; that is, were any of her grand-parents, parents, uncles, aunts, sisters, brothers, children or cousins, either blind or deaf or insane or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind?
 30. What are the pecuniary means of the parents or immediate relatives of the applicant?
 31. How much can they afford to pay towards the support and education of the applicant?

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION,
1867-8.

PRESIDENT.

SAMUEL MAY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

JOSEPH LYMAN.

TREASURER.

WILLIAM CLAFLIN.

SECRETARY.

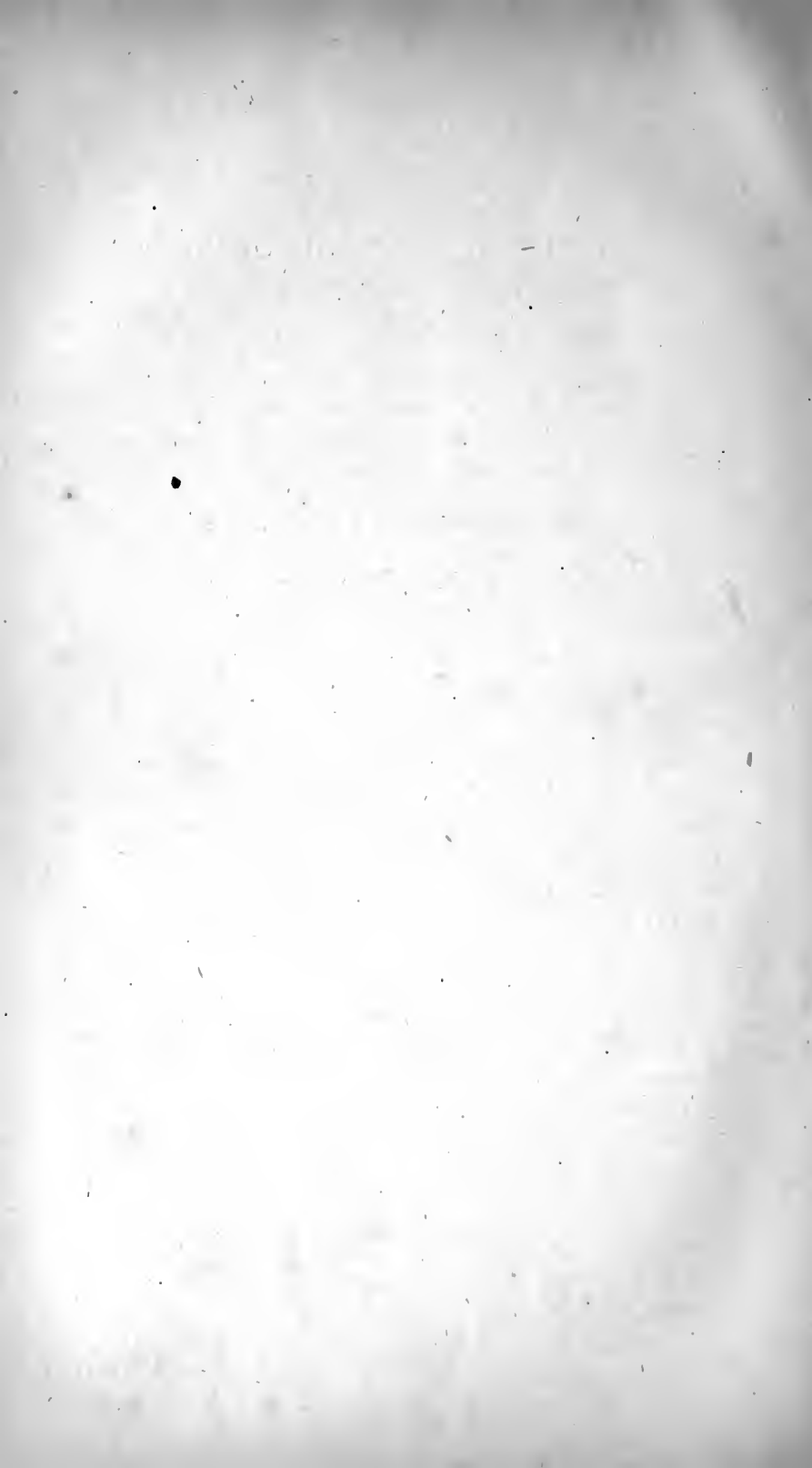
SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

ROBERT E. APTHORP.	AUGUSTUS LOWELL.
FRANCIS BROOKS.	G. R. MUDGE.
THOMAS T. BOUVÉ.	EDWARD N. PERKINS.
SAMUEL ELIOT.	JOSIAH QUINCY.
GEORGE S. HALE.	BENJAMIN S. ROTCH.
JOSEPH LYMAN.	JAMES STURGIS.

VISITING COMMITTEE:

For OCTOBER, . . .	Messrs. APTHORP AND BOUVÉ.
NOVEMBER, . . .	BOUVÉ AND BROOKS.
DECEMBER, . . .	BROOKS AND ELIOT.
JANUARY, . . .	ELIOT AND HALE.
FEBRUARY, . . .	HALE AND LOWELL.
MARCH, . . .	LOWELL AND LYMAN.
APRIL, . . .	LYMAN AND MUDGE.
MAY, . . .	MUDGE AND PERKINS.
JUNE, . . .	PERKINS AND QUINCY.
JULY, . . .	QUINCY AND ROTCH.
AUGUST, . . .	ROTCH AND STURGIS.
SEPTEMBER, . . .	STURGIS AND APTHORP.



THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

PERKINS INSTITUTION

AND

Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

OCTOBER, 1868.

BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER, STATE PRINTERS,

79 MILK STREET (CORNER OF FEDERAL).

1869.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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TRUSTEES' REPORT.

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, }
BOSTON, September 30, 1868. }

To the Corporation.

The undersigned, Trustees, have the honor to report as follows for the financial year, which closes this day.

The history of the Institution can only be learned from its annual reports; but these are not easily found, being addressed to official bodies, the members of which are continually changed. The outlines of it, therefore, may properly be repeated from time to time, for the benefit of those whose duty or inclination lead them to desire a knowledge of it.

EARLY HISTORY.

No public measures were taken in this country for the education of the blind until Dr. John D. Fisher, of Boston, called attention to it. At his instance, mainly, an association of gentlemen was formed in Boston, in 1829, for promoting this new scheme of beneficence. They procured an act of incorporation under the name of the New England Asylum for the Blind, which was the first establishment of the kind upon this continent.

The legislature authorized the governor to place indigent blind children in the Institution, at State charge.

Some time was spent in collecting information at home and abroad, and in preparatory trials, so that the Institution was not

publicly opened until 1832, and then with only six pupils, in a private house on Pleasant Street, Boston. It soon attracted public attention, and liberal subscriptions were received. The legislature made an appropriation of six thousand dollars for the support of beneficiaries. Col. Thomas H. Perkins gave to it his mansion house in Pearl Street, which was occupied a few years, and exchanged in 1839 for the Mount Washington Hotel at South Boston. In this building it has remained ever since.

Mr. William Oliver made a still more munificent donation.

Other gentlemen contributed liberally. The ladies held a fair and contributed important aid.

In this way a considerable sum was raised. It was not so large, however, that it could be permanently funded, because, after necessary investments in shape of furniture, apparatus, &c., were made, the income, added to the annual appropriation by the State, was not sufficient for current annual expenses.

It was necessary to incur large expenses for altering the building, and adapting it, and the grounds, to their new use. Adjacent lots were bought as opportunity offered. And as the pupils increased, more furniture, more musical instruments, more books and apparatus were needed.

By the terms of the grant from the State the Institution was obligated to receive only a certain number of free beneficiaries. The Trustees, however, never took advantage of this, but received all of proper age who applied.

Their policy was to spend nothing upon ornamental architecture, outward display, or internal luxuries; to be frugal even to parsimony in payment of salaries and family expenses, but to be liberal in providing everything that would promote, not only the happiness and the interests of the blind of our own State, but the cause of the education of the blind everywhere.

The multiplication of books for the blind is largely owing to the improvements in printing brought about by costly experiments, conducted through many years, in the printing office of the institution.

It is by this liberal policy that the Institution has been able to do so much good at home and abroad; but it has done so at the expense of its capital, or rather by investing a large part of it in means and appliances for extensive usefulness.

Some may think that it would have been wiser to hold the

capital intact, and to do no more than could be done by the expenditure of the income. So indeed it would have been if the capital had been large enough, and if blind pupils had been coming along slowly, and their wants only beginning to be known. But they were found to be numerous, and were suffering from neglect, as those of preceding generations had suffered; and, therefore, as soon as the feasibility of helping them was demonstrated, the Trustees proceeded at once to lay broad and deep the foundations of a suitable establishment, confident that so long as it should be wisely and honestly administered, a liberal public and an enlightened legislature would provide all that should be needed for its support.

It would be easy to show many ways in which the Institution has accomplished good ends by a liberal use of its funds, which it could not have done by confining its expenditures strictly within its income. The mention of two must suffice.

It would have been possible to make a few copies of textbooks in raised letters, by pricking the letters through the paper by hand. This would have been sufficient for the absolute needs of a class of pupils, and would have been very cheap.

But then the great improvement in embossed printing would not have been made, in our generation at least; and the blind of the whole country, who have been taught to read, would not have had at their fingers' ends, as they now have, the whole of the Bible, Milton's poetry, and many other valuable works.

The second is the instruction and training of unfortunate persons, who, besides being blind, were incapacitated from being taught as the blind are taught.

Some were partially or wholly idiotic; but this did not deter from attempts at their improvement. Indeed, the first systematic efforts known to have been made in this country for teaching idiots, were made in our Institution upon two blind idiotic children; who were greatly improved thereby.

Other children sent to the institution proved to be deaf as well as blind. Now, when a deaf-mute child is sent to the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Hartford, or to any kindred establishment, and found to be deficient in intellect, or unable, by reason of defective vision, to join the classes and be taught by visible signs, he is rejected. This is not because it is impossible to teach him, but because he cannot be classed

with others. He must have a special teacher. His instruction would require special and costly efforts, and no funds are provided therefor.

The education of Oliver Caswell and Laura Bridgman cost thousands of dollars more than that of ordinary blind or mute pupils: but who begrudges the years of patient study and costly toil, which contrived a way for these pioneers out of their dark and still isolation, into human companionship,—a way by which other unfortunates, who may be buried as they were, out of sight and hearing, may be more easily brought forth from their living tomb?

Had it been the policy to confine our yearly expenses strictly within the income, Laura Bridgman might never have known the name of God, or read the words of Christ.

The Institution has, moreover, put a liberal construction upon its powers. Strictly speaking its business was to teach and train blind children, and send them out into the world to seek a livelihood. The practice, however, has been to provide employment for such as could not find it at home; and to sell their wares for them without charge.

Within the last nine years forty-two thousand dollars have been paid, in shape of wages, to adult blind persons.

The constant aim has been to help blind persons to help themselves, and so to lighten, as much as possible, the burden which blindness imposes upon the Commonwealth.

The Institution, indeed, may be considered as belonging to the State, for although nominally the property of a large number of individuals, they are united by an Act of incorporation which gives no individual ownership, except for specific purposes; and besides, part of the Trustees are appointed by the governor and council, so that should the State wish at any time to take possession of the establishment it could doubtless do so.

Such a course, however, would not be conformable to the principles which should govern the administration of public charity. It is better that our citizens generally should continue to take their part in the administration of this and of kindred institutions, should give them aid and comfort by their contributions made directly, and not be content with those made indirectly by paying taxes.

GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF THE INSTITUTION.

The by-laws of the corporation make members thereof all persons who contribute \$25 to the funds; all who serve as trustees; and all who may be made members by special vote. Membership implies no pecuniary responsibility, and no other duty save that of attending the meetings, which are seldom oftener than once in the year.

At the annual meetings the corporation chooses a president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary, and eight trustees. The governor and council of Massachusetts appoint four other trustees, and these twelve constitute

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

who have the responsibility for the conduct and management of the Institution until their successors are appointed. They are expected to visit and inspect the Institution at least twice a month, and divide themselves into committees for this purpose, each member doing duty one month.

THE TREASURER

has charge of all the property and income. The income is derived, first, from the annual appropriation by the legislature of the State of Massachusetts, [now \$25,000,] in consideration of which all beneficiaries nominated by the governor are received gratuitously; 2d, from the other States of New England which pay \$300 a year for each beneficiary designated by their governor; 3d, from private pupils; 4th, from donations, legacies, &c.

The Trustees appoint two of their members as

AUDITORS OF ACCOUNTS,

who examine all bills, and give drafts for what they find due, upon the treasurer, who pays no money except upon their order.

The Trustees likewise appoint

A DIRECTOR,

who has the responsibility for the administration of the establishment, selects the teachers and officers, and has immediate charge and direction of affairs. He makes regular reports in writing to the Trustees.

INTERNAL ECONOMY AND ORGANIZATION.

The establishment was, in the beginning, like an ordinary family, the only peculiarity being that the five or six children were all blind, and were taught and trained at home. The household arrangements, the domestic service, the meals, were all ordered as in other houses.

During its growth of thirty-fold, the original simplicity of the single family has been departed from more and more widely. There had to be separation of pupils, first by sex, next by age and capacity, next by the training for the calling which they were to pursue ; and separation of the house into different parts. The little dining-room, with its single table, would no longer suffice for family meals and children's play-room ; the parlor with its piano would not do for family prayers in the morning, for music-room by day, for social purposes at all times ; but there must be a chapel, school-rooms, music-rooms, workshops, dormitories and the like.

With this came separation of the duties. One man and one woman could not suffice as in a small family for all the domestic offices, and for instruction, training and discipline ; there must be steward, teachers, matrons and the like.

At each remove from the simplicity of family life we gain, on the score of economy and convenience, but lose on the score of moral and educational influences.

There are two households—one for each sex. Separate parlors, dormitories, dining-rooms, &c. The matrons and teachers sit at the same table, and have the same food as the pupils.

The instruction has been conducted for thirty-five years upon the plan like that followed in the management of large boarding-schools for the education of ordinary children and youth, save that both sexes live under one roof.

THE GENERAL INFERENCES

to be drawn from this experience upon several interesting questions, especially whether it is best to educate the blind together or apart, are as follows :—

First. That persons suffering under a common infirmity as mutism, blindness and the like, are liable to certain abnormal and unfavorable consequences, flowing from their abnormal condition. These are intensified by closely associating the

sufferers together in considerable numbers, and for a considerable time ; while they are lessened by associating them with ordinary and normal persons. When, therefore, it seems necessary, for purposes of instruction and training, to gather a large number of such sufferers from different parts of the country, their association with each other should be kept at its minimum, and their association with ordinary persons carried to its maximum.

Second. It is more economical to educate blind children and youth together, than apart, if we count only the first outlay, and the cost during one generation.

Third. A blind boy or girl gains in knowledge, in character, especially in self-reliance, by dwelling in close intimacy with other blind children and youth during a certain period of time ; but afterwards he gains less than he would by close association with ordinary persons, and under ordinary social influences.

As a general rule, the special advantages may be gained in a year ; after that the child or youth would do better by living at home, being instructed in a common school, and subjected to common social influences, than under the roof of a special institution.

Sometimes, however, the necessary instruction, especially in music, cannot be had in the country. Besides, it too often happens that the home and social influences are positively bad.

Fourth. The advantages gained, after the first year, by the association of many blind persons in one family, are in spite of, rather than in consequence of, such association.

Fifth. The manifest advantages which may be gained in the instruction and education of ordinary children and youth by associating the sexes, and profiting by their happy influence upon each other, cannot be had in the case of the blind, without violating the plain principle, that an establishment for educating the infirm of any class should not furnish greater facilities and temptations for intermarriage among the members of that class, than they would have had, if left to grow up in their respective neighborhoods.

Sixth. That upon the whole it is desirable to have a stricter separation of sexes in an educational institution for the blind than in one for ordinary children and youth ; but that this can-

not be had while they inhabit the same building without a severity of discipline that defeats its own purpose. There ought, therefore, to be at least two buildings, entirely separate from and out of ear-shot of each other.

Seventh. That to secure the greatest amount of good with the least amount of evil, there should be as many separate dwelling-houses as there are tens or dozens of pupils; and that these should be arranged and conducted like common dwelling-houses, save that they may be under central supervision, and supplied from a common commissariat.

HISTORY OF THE PAST YEAR.

Number of Inmates.—Probable Increase.

The number of inmates reported at the close of the last financial year was one hundred and twenty-seven. During the year fifty-four have been admitted, and nineteen discharged, leaving the present number one hundred and sixty-two, which exceeds that of any previous year.

There is reason to suppose that it will be still further increased, and that more applicants will present themselves than can be accommodated in the present building.

Indeed, it can hardly well be otherwise. The advantages of the Institution are becoming known throughout New England. The facilities for travel are increasing. Parents are less reluctant than formerly to send their children far from home.

There are at least as many blind in New England as there are deaf-mutes, and they are equally in need of, and equally benefited by special instruction. But the long existence of the School for Mutes has made the feasibility of teaching them well known in every part of New England, so that more than two hundred and fifty are sent to the Connecticut Asylum, and to the School at Northampton. When the feasibility and advantage of educating the blind shall be equally well known, there will be as many applications for admission to this Institution. Present indications warrant the belief that within five years, at least two hundred and fifty blind children and youths will require the means of education at the hands of the State.

REGIMEN, HEALTH, &C.

Careful observation shows that the blind, as a class, have less than average constitutional vigor ; that is, vital force.

In many cases it would seem that the original germinal force was insufficient to perfect the organization in all its parts ; and that the imperfection, reacting upon the system, impedes its due development. The vital force, whether original or super-induced, being minus, of course there will be not only less than average power of action, but less power of resisting destructive agencies, and of retarding waste of tissues ; and therefore it is to be expected that the blind should be more liable to disease and early decay, than the average of men.

In many cases this deficiency of vital force may be remedied by a proper course of life and by special training, so that the individual may even rise above the average standard of health and strength, because ordinary persons do not take such precautions, and never reach their attainable standard. It is hard however to persuade the young that the degree of health and strength which they enjoy is below what they ought to enjoy.

These are not general speculations, nor merely *a priori* inferences, because statistical observations, running over a considerable time, and embracing a considerable number of cases prove them. Some such observations were published in our report for 1859.

Considering the fact above mentioned, the general health of the inmates during the past year has been very good. There have been some cases of pretty severe disease, but none of death.

The climatic influences are good.

The diet is plain, but abundant and nutritious, and it needs be so. Either from constitutional causes, or sedentary habits resulting from their infirmity,—probably from both,—the circulation, respiration and other functions less closely dependent upon the brain and nerves, are languid in most blind persons, while the cerebral functions are comparatively active. The blind, therefore, at least during the period of their education, require a nutritious diet, with a preponderance of carbonaceous or heat-giving elements, and of phosphoric elements to supply the great waste of the nervous system caused by mental activity.

The whole diet should be what is called “ full ” and stimulating ; but the stimulus should come from good food well digested,

which introduces new force to supply that wasted, and never from alcoholic drink, malt liquors, tea, coffee and the like; for these act as a spur acts upon a tired horse, exciting extra action, surely followed by undue exhaustion, which calls for more spur.

The staple articles of diet are wheaten bread, butter, milk, fresh meat, and fresh fish.

Another important requirement is that of sufficient bodily exercise. The rules of the Institution require a good deal of this in the play-ground, or upon the streets; also during the recess at the end of every school hour, which should be devoted to an airing upon the piazzas. It is difficult, however, to exact enough of it, because of two things. First, there are many among the blind who, with considerable activity of mind, have a sort of molluscous lumpishness of body. Ordinary boys kept studying closely an hour, spring up at the signal for recess, like those funny puppets that pop out of boxes when the lid is loosed, and in a moment they are tumbling over each other, or standing on their heads in the play-ground; but many of the blind sit, and hang on to the thread of thought, and retain their teacher with questions about the lessons. Others stretch and yawn, or creep like a snail reluctantly *from* school. Second, the teachers themselves, and those who have the immediate direction of the pupils, are apt, like fond, indulgent mothers, to regard what children wish, rather than what they want.

Rules and regulations, deliberately formed for the real good of the pupils, are hard to be enforced by the reason against the pleading of the heart for indulgence.

THE MAIN OBJECT OF THE INSTITUTION

Is to train up the pupils in virtuous and industrious habits; to give them useful knowledge; to cultivate and strengthen their mental and bodily powers by regular and constant exercises, adapted to their peculiar condition; to make them hardy and self-reliant, so that they may go out into the world determined not to eat the bread of charity, but to earn a livelihood by any honest work; and to live and die anywhere rather than in an asylum or almshouse.

At the end of five or six years the most of them go to their respective homes, and find some way of being useful.

A certain number have so much talent for music, and have, besides, the personal qualities necessary for success as professional musicians, that they are specially trained with a view of becoming such. They have special instruction and remain as much beyond the usual period as may be necessary. They form the special **MUSICAL CLASS**. Then there are a few others in each general class who cannot find occupation in the country, either because they have no relatives or friends there, no capacity for household or ordinary work, or they lack the qualities essential for success. Such graduates from the Institution, leave it as a place of residence, are employed in the workshop upon wages, and provide for themselves. This gives the division of the establishment into **SCHOOL** or **JUVENILE DEPARTMENT**, **MUSIC DEPARTMENT**, and **WORK DEPARTMENT**.

It will be seen from this general account that the establishment is in no sense an asylum. That part of its title is a misnomer. It aims, not to segregate the blind into a class apart, but rather to prevent that consummation which has too often followed the kind but unwise efforts of those who would fain lighten, as far as they can, one of the heaviest burdens which men are called upon to bear.

All the new-comers of proper age and condition are received into the household and remain members thereof as long as seems necessary. The usual period is five years.

It is, however, a cardinal principle that the relations which the pupils contract with the Institution shall not sever their relations with parents, relatives and neighborhood, and thereby forfeit their claims for a home. Their friends must retain certain oversight and responsibility; must keep them supplied with clothing; and must receive and care for them during vacations.

The day is divided between study in the school-room, with oral instruction; lessons and practice in vocal and instrumental music, to promote their general culture; and work at some simple mechanical occupation to give manual dexterity, and prepare them for a trade, if such is to be their calling.

THE SCHOOL, OR JUVENILE DEPARTMENT.

All the children, and almost every blind inmate, spend several hours a day in a school-room arranged and furnished like the ordinary common schools of the State.

The school is under charge of four young ladies who have won the confidence of the Trustees by many years of faithful service ; and the affection of the pupils, by patient and loving attention to their work.

They teach them to read embossed books ; to write with a pencil in common and legible letters ; to learn topographical geography by feeling outline maps ; and to cipher upon metal frames, with movable type in lieu of slate and pencil.

Globes, maps and all the various devises and apparatus devised to facilitate instruction by help of the touch, are amply provided.

The main reliance, however, is and must be upon oral instruction.

The course embraces all the branches taught in our best common schools ; and most of the pupils come to understand them pretty well ; better, probably, than ordinary scholars in school, because, from the necessity of the case, blind children give closer mental application. They more generally love study, and they are precocious thinkers. Some persons do not discover, until years after leaving school, that the lessons which they committed to memory, and the rules of grammar or logic which they recited glibly, really have a deep meaning ; but blind scholars generally go down to the root of the matter, and understand the meaning of whatever they learn.

THE DOMESTIC DEPARTMENT

is conducted upon the plan usually adopted in large boarding schools for the two sexes ; with a constant aim to make it as nearly like an ordinary family, and a comfortable house as may be.

From the necessity of the case, the approach cannot be so near as is desirable.

The long services of the matron, Miss Moulton, and of her assistants, make them valuable assistants in the general work ; and their uniform kindness causes them to be regarded by the pupils in the light of mothers and sisters.

THE MUSICAL DEPARTMENT

has been in satisfactory condition under the able management of Mr. Campbell, whose earnest, hopeful, and courageous spirit pervades every part of the establishment.

The able assistant teachers of vocal and instrumental music, the thorough instruction, the numerous and costly instruments provided within the Institution, and the extraordinary facilities which its location affords for hearing the best music, all these are not only a source of pleasure to the younger pupils, but to those blind persons who seek to perfect themselves in that art, the study of which is most congenial to their taste, and the practice of which is most likely to give them the means of livelihood.

Peculiar circumstances call for more extended remarks upon this subject.

The experience of the past ten or twelve years shows several things which should be carefully considered in the future guidance of the Institution, and in the arrangements of the musical department, especially should new buildings be erected.

The sharpened competition for livelihood by simple handicraft, such as making mats, brooms and the like; the increase of foreigners, especially Germans, whose wives and children work in the evenings, and at odd hours, upon such trades, and the invention of machinery, superseding the hand, are still further narrowing the already small circle of occupations by which the blind could earn their bread. Further remarks will be made upon this matter in speaking of the work department; suffice it to say here that this fact strengthens all the considerations in favor of enlarging the number of pupils who are selected for special musical instruction and training, and of making that instruction more liberal and thorough.

In former years, although the results of the instruction in music were upon the whole gratifying, they were unsatisfactory with respect to the number of graduates who turned their instruction to profit. It gave to all a certain degree of culture, and an abundant source of pleasure; but gave the means of livelihood to the few only who had special musical talent, and the energy and address necessary to enable a blind teacher to compete with others. Within a few years, however, there has been a marked change for the better. More of the graduates succeed in earning a livelihood by teaching music, by playing the organ, and by tuning pianos. In some cases their success is very gratifying.

This success, so superior to that of former years, is owing to several circumstances, but mainly to two. First, Mr. Campbell,

being himself blind, and knowing by his own personal experience the real wants and capacities of the blind, has introduced a more laborious and thorough drill. The pupils are not allowed to relax effort by the thought that they may turn their infirmity to account, and may expect the public to tolerate any kind of music in a blind musician.

The novelty of the subject, the ignorance of the real capacity of the blind, and the ready sympathy in their favor, crowded the market with those who lacked talent and industry, and whose only stock in trade was their blindness. This is passing away. A blind musician is no longer a novelty. It begins to be understood that a blind man, who has fair musical ability, may attain excellence and get a livelihood if he works as hard as other men work; and he will be required to do so as a condition of his support.

The pupils are made to realize that their infirmity is a positive and very great disadvantage, which can indeed be overcome by severe and long-continued labor, but by nothing else.

Another reason why the recent graduates of the Institution have had greater success than the former ones in getting a living by music is, that they have had greater opportunity of hearing good music of good musicians, and have more fully profited by it.

The instruments within the Institution have indeed been more numerous and more valuable; the instruction has been more efficient, and the practice more thorough than in former years; but, besides this, the opportunity for attendance upon public performances of various kinds has been greatly increased, and the pupils have fully availed themselves of it. The blind have learned by experience what others learned before them: that the best instruction, the most perfect instruments, the most laborious and protracted practice, will not suffice for the attainment of excellence in the art; they must also hear habitually the music of the best musicians.

To hear a great variety of music, performed by masters of high excellence in their several parts, is not only exceedingly pleasant to the blind, but it is of positive and lasting advantage to those who are to make the practice of music their calling. It trains and improves the ear; refines the taste; strengthens the judgment, and lays the foundation for sound criticism.

True, it sometimes demolishes self-esteem, and awakens to a painful consciousness of inferiority many who had been flattered, or who had flattered themselves, into a belief that they were superior performers. But this is wholesome, if it inspires resolution for hard work.

The pupils of this Institution have had the full advantage of this kind of training, especially of late years.

Those who have been selected for receiving a thorough course of instruction in music, will have during the ensuing winter (judging by the experience of past years,) opportunities for selecting from the following

PROGRAMME OF PUBLIC MUSICAL PERFORMANCES.

Sixteen orchestral rehearsals of the Harvard Musical Association.

Ten of their grand classical concerts.

Thirty performances upon the great organ.

Four concerts of the Boston Musical Conservatory.

Four concerts of the New England Musical Conservatory.

Ten oratorios by Handel and Haydn Society.

Twenty chamber concerts by the Mendelssohn Quintette Club, and by individual artists.

This presents a great variety from which to choose; because by the generous liberality of the several societies, and of many artists, most of the above performances are free to our advanced and meritorious pupils; and a large discount from the usual price of admission is made at almost all public musical entertainments.

Indeed, most of the musical societies and artists of Boston contribute largely to the enterprise of educating the blind; not merely by facilities for admission to their rehearsals and concerts, but by ready and encouraging sympathy. Praise and thanks are due to all, but especially to the Harvard Musical Association, and to the Orchestral Union.

Besides the above constant and regular performances, Boston is favored frequently by visits of some opera troupe, and of eminent individual artists—stars of greater or less magnitude. The advanced pupils can attend most of their performances gratuitously, or at reduced prices; and they are not prevented

by cost from attending any that are really useful ; so there is hardly an eminent artist with whose style and manner they are not familiar.

Owing to the introduction of vocal music into common schools, and to other causes, Boston has become eminent among our cities by prevalence of musical taste and culture. It is the centre of a large circle of towns and villages, in which the same taste and culture prevail extensively. The lovers of music resort to the city to gratify their tastes, and attend public performances. This gives the double advantage of forming a social atmosphere favorable to the study of music, and of creating a market where persons of musical ability and accomplishment can find employment.

This population is disposed not only to be charitable to the blind, but to be just. Those therefore who bring really valuable services, will find a market for them. Many of our graduates find this to be so. But they are beginning to find, also, that the people like to do things directly, not by indirection, and to call them by their right names. With them, business is business ; and though they willingly pay, once or twice, much more for the lessons, or the music of a blind man, than they would pay another for the same thing, they will not do so persistently. They will pay money to help the blind, and set it down to the account of charity. But they will not pay for, and listen to poor music. And especially they will not engage a poor teacher for their children, when they can get a better one for the same or even more money.

Such are some of the advantages and facilities which our Institution presents to the blind for the acquirement of musical education, and afterwards for finding employment ; and they are growing every day.

They are set forth in a grateful, not a boastful spirit ; much less in a spirit of invidious comparison. But they exist. They are the fruits of seeds planted by private benevolence and legislative liberality. They ought to be gratefully acknowledged, and publicly known. Indeed, a report of the Institution which ignored them, would not be a full report. It has always been administered with a view, first and directly to educate and train for usefulness the young blind of New England ; second and indirectly, to promote in every way the cause of the education

of the blind everywhere. There are scattered through the country young blind persons of musical tastes and abilities, who are willing to work hard, and who are capable of becoming good and useful teachers, by having the necessary facilities and opportunities; and if they do not find them at home, they should know where they can be found.

WORK DEPARTMENT.

A less encouraging report must be made of this part of the establishment, which is intended to furnish work and pay wages to such blind men and women as have finished their course of instruction, but have no means of working at home with any profit.

It was never intended to make this department so attractive as to induce any blind youth to remain and work in the city who could by any possibility gain a livelihood at home in the country. If it had been an object to increase rather than to keep down the number, it might have been carried up to one hundred with comparatively little cost.

It will be recollected that the workshop has been carried on for many years independently of the school. It has been of inestimable value to the blind, directly and indirectly. Directly by giving work and wages to thirty men and women, upon an average, and enabling them to live independently, and in their own way at their own homes: indirectly, by proving that if an arrangement can be made by which a blind workman can sell his mats, brooms, mattresses, and the like, and get the *retail* price, without paying profit to a middle man and a retailer, he may earn a decent livelihood, without wasting his time and sacrificing his self-respect, as he must almost certainly do who goes about and peddles his wares. No matter what their value may be, people consider that by purchasing them they are doing an act of charity, and indirectly giving alms; while the peddler is encouraged in a sort of vagabondage, destructive of industrious habits, and in a sort of dependence upon favor which is destructive of self-respect. At the bottom it is alms-giving and alms-taking, and both parties feel it so and suffer its ill effects.

During the past ten years the workshop has paid to workmen and women, in cash, as their wages, upon an average, over \$4,500 a year; and during the past year it paid them \$8,575.31.

It is becoming more and more difficult for blind workmen to support themselves by handicraft, owing to the inventions and improvements which supersede the use of the hand. Twenty years ago our workmen could earn fair wages at brush-making; now they can hardly earn their salt.

Five years ago they made and sold at good profit thousands and thousands of door mats; to-day a machine has been contrived which does in a few hours what a blind man could do in a week.

The men's workshop can still be carried on with great advantage to those who need the help it can give them, to help themselves.

THE LAUNDRY,

however, opened several years ago, as a part of the work department, proves too costly. It requires the employment of too many women who see. The Director advises the abandonment of custom work, and that some other employment be found for those women who will have to be discharged.

PRINTING FOR THE BLIND.

This important and interesting work has not been carried on as vigorously as is to be wished, owing to lack of funds. The press, however, has not been altogether idle.

An edition of Guyot's Geography has been printed, and it will be very useful not only to the blind of this, but of all other institutions in the United States. Such works are very much wanted. The Bible and several religious books have been printed here; and the books printed for the blind in England are mostly all catechisms, prayer-books, and the like.

School-books, therefore, are most needed now. One of the school-books issued from our press many years ago, but out of print, has been reprinted during the past year.

The most important work, however, is an edition of the Old Curiosity Shop, which is nearly through the press. All readers of the English language are indebted to Mr. Charles Dickens for this touching and instructive story; because in it, as in all his works, he strengthens the hearts and hopes of the lowly and unfortunate, by showing that virtue may blossom and bring forth the best fruits of human existence, under the most

adverse circumstances. But the blind in particular will be indebted to his generosity for a special effort to lighten and cheer their darkness by putting it at their fingers' ends.

It is to be hoped that this example of Mr. Dickens may attract the attention of the rich and benevolent; and be the means of increasing to a respectable size the library of the blind.

APPLICATION TO THE LEGISLATURE FOR A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR BUILDING, AND ITS RESULTS.

It has been repeatedly set forth in the annual reports of this institution that an attempt should be made to reorganize the establishment, and to bring it nearer to what may be called the cottage or family system, whenever a favorable opportunity should occur.

The chief obstacle to the realization of this plan has been that the buildings and grounds on which a great deal of money was invested, were adapted to what may be called the congregate or common system, and they could not be made to suit the family or cottage system.

The main building, which had been built for a hotel, was altered at considerable cost, to carry out the congregate system. All the new institutions for the blind in the country were built expressly for the same system. When, therefore, experience had shown its defects; and reflection had convinced many persons that a different one would better meet the peculiar wants of the blind, the existence of the buildings, the capital invested, and the routine established, proved as they do in similar cases, formidable barriers in the way of the adopting a better one, or even making material changes in the administration of the old one. The inherent defect and evils of the system were built into and perpetuated by the very structure. In consequence of this organic defect, it comes to pass that a large proportion of the cost of the administration, both in money and in brain power, is occasioned by efforts to prevent or to counteract inconveniences and evils growing out of the system itself.

The Institution has not been rich enough to make the desirable change, but so strong was the conviction of its necessity, and so firm the belief in its final attainment, that several

desirable enlargements and improvements were postponed, or only partially made. But the necessity of these improvements became so pressing, that the Trustees made application to the legislature for aid in 1867.

A special appropriation of fifteen thousand dollars was made, upon the condition, however, that at least an equal sum should be raised from other sources to finish the projected improvements.

This brought the whole matter under close and careful consideration. The plan proposed was to dispose of the men's workshop, which is now on a lot on Broadway, opposite the main building, and to build a new workshop, also a laundry for women, upon the main lot. These buildings were to face on H Street, and on Fourth Street, and to have their entrances there, and yet be accessible in the rear from the rear of the main building. This arrangement would bring all the departments of the Institution compactly together upon one lot, and yet leave them separate from each other, so far as the inmates are concerned. The workmen and workwomen could go to their respective homes without entering the juvenile department, or the yards of the school proper.

The peculiar configuration of the grounds favored this plan. There is a steep bank, in some places forty feet high, between the sidewalks of the adjoining streets and the top of the level on which the main building stands. This leaves nearly twenty thousand feet of land in steep banks, and therefore unavailable. By cutting perpendicularly down from the edge of this level to the level of the sidewalks sufficient space would be gained for a long and narrow workshop and a laundry, without taking up a foot of land now available. This was undoubtedly the best plan that could be adopted for putting the buildings and the grounds into a condition favorable for administering the Institution upon the present or congregate system.

Careful estimates of the costs, and definite proposals, showed that the buildings could be built for thirty-five thousand dollars. A survey was then made of the main building, with a view to ascertain how much would be required to put it in complete order, and keep it in order, during five years. It was found to be sound and substantial from foundation to roof-tree, but owing to the extent of the piazzas, the need of paint and other

adjuncts, at least fourteen thousand dollars more would be needed within the next five years. Add to this a suitable steam apparatus for warming and ventilating the whole building, which has long been needed for the comfort, health and even safety of the inmates, for which eleven thousand dollars would be a low estimate, making, in all, sixty thousand dollars. Of this sum the legislature would appropriate fifteen thousand dollars; as much more, at least, could have been obtained by the sale of the workshop lot and building; and the balance might have been raised by subscription.

It seemed, however, a formidable sum to expend upon improvements of the ground and buildings. It was felt, moreover, that although the improvements would contribute greatly to the comfort and the advantages of the inmates, and would promote the economical and efficient administration of the Institution upon the present system, yet they would not adapt the premises to the better system so long contemplated; nay, that they might retard, indefinitely, the period of its adoption.

Then there came the sudden and large demand for land in the neighborhood, which made it certain that the estate could be sold for a much larger sum than ever before.

These considerations brought up the question whether this was not a more favorable opportunity than would be likely again to occur for re-modelling the Institution, and introducing all the improvements which an experience of thirty years have shown to be desirable. This question was decided in the affirmative after a good deal of thought and discussion; and a resolution was passed by the Trustees not to draw the sum appropriated by the legislature, but go back to it with a full explanation of the wants of the Institution, and to make an appeal to it, and to the public, for all the aid that might be necessary to meet those wants fully.

The special reasons for this change, and the particulars of the plan, will be urged before the legislature, but a brief allusion to them may be made here.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE INSTITUTION.

After deciding upon the principles upon which an establishment shall be conducted, the next thing is to see how the necessary machinery shall be arranged for carrying out these principles.

The material machinery is mainly the building or buildings, for these are to the spirit of the establishment, almost what body is to soul. In selection of site and arrangement of buildings there are general considerations applicable to all establishments for persons laboring under a common infirmity, and there are special ones applicable particularly to the blind.

The general considerations are those of salubrity, accessibility, market, cost, and the like.

In most of these respects a healthy city suburb and the open country are about alike.

The special considerations are the comparative advantages given by different locations; first, for training and educating the blind; second, for finding market for what they can make, or for what they can do while pupils; third, for finding permanent employment after they leave.

The first are rather of a moral character; the others, material.

If the blind, or the mutes, or any class distinguished by a common infirmity or want, are to be gathered from their homes in various parts of the country and assembled for instruction and training, the place should be selected with a view to their condition and wants as a class. Neither the wishes and interests of individuals or of communities, nor even considerations of first cost should avail much; for it will be found that in this as in other like enterprises, individual wishes are only of momentary weight; and that the cheapest place is where the work can be best done. No company would be induced to locate a factory requiring water-power, far away from a stream, by a gift of money, nor by cheapness of land, nor by beauty of outlook, nor by the wishes of the community, nor by desire to have manufacturing establishments equally distributed over the State. They seek a site which combines most advantages for doing their special work. So should it be in the choice of location for institutions of public beneficence. Location and structure should be made with a view to the happiness and the advantages of the special class of unfortunates for whom it is erected. But alas! these are often overlooked; and the establishment is located to secure some gift, or to please some neighborhood; and it is set upon a hill, and built rather with a view to architectural beauty and display, than to the comfort and convenience of the inmates. Something of the ostentatious

spirit, which abroad requires charity boys to be clad in blue coats and leathern breeches, often creeps out in the location and structure of institutions of public charity, to the detriment of the inmates.

Blindness is at best a sore calamity, and has its necessary evil consequences ; but that excessive sensibility, which marks the blind as a class, (especially in this country,) and which makes life painful to some, is not one of them. It comes not of their infirmity, but of their treatment.

The condition of dependence,—the rank among paupers, to which so many in Europe are born, reconciles most of the blind there to their social banishment ; and they sit in the seat of Bartimeus, and are more or less happy according to the amount of alms which they receive. Our political institutions develop the natural aspiration for individual independence, and the desire of social equality ; and the blind man partakes of these aspirations and desires ; nay ! they are even intensified in him. When, therefore, they do not have their legitimate qualification he feels the disappointment more keenly than others do, and realizes the full weight of his infirmity. Never adequately conceiving the pleasures of sight, he considers the lack of it rather a loss of material advantages than of spiritual enjoyment. But he does adequately conceive,—perhaps he overrates, the importance and the pleasure of social relationship upon terms of entire equality, and he constantly regrets his infirmity as a bar to that. It is not that his blindness makes him ill at ease and unhappy in society ; it is the thought that others consider him awkward and inferior. This is as natural as that men wear very complacently an ugly wen, or wart, covered up under the waistcoat, which would mortify them if growing upon the face.

This feeling, which is especially strong in blind girls, should always be regarded as much as is possible, in all the arrangements for their education. They would like that the house they live in should be like other houses ; and especially that it should be undistinguished by anything which makes it look like a house for the blind.

The main question with regard to location is, shall it be in the city, or in the country ?

The common idea is that public charitable institutions should

be in the country. There are many reasons why it is not so for an institution for the blind.

The constant aim in teaching and training them should be to counteract the tendency which their infirmity has to prevent the natural and harmonious development of character, and to give it a peculiar warp or twist. Without suppressing natural individualism, we should aim to prevent what may be called *blind peculiarities* in the individual; and to lessen the tendency of the whole to segregation into a separate class, distinguished by the common circumstance of blindness.

In a word, the aim should be to obliterate the distinction between them and ordinary persons; and to fuse them in undistinguishable union with ordinary society.

To this end they should have, while young, constant and familiar intercourse with ordinary persons, and constant and familiar relations with ordinary society, and as much as possible with various phases of social life. These of course can be had much more easily in a dense than in a sparse population.

Again; that sort of intellectual magnetism which pervades the atmosphere where a multitude of cultivated people congregate, and which gives a high zest to good city life, is felt and relished keenly by the blind. It supplies the lack of that outward stimulus to inward sensibility which sight gives to ordinary people.

But even in view of physical influences upon the bodily health of the blind, there is much to be said in favor of a city life.

Friends of this Institution sometimes express a wish that it might be removed to the country with a view to the enjoyment of its freedom and its pleasures, of its fresh air, and ample space for play-grounds and exercise.

It is to be remembered, however, that most of the beauty which constitutes the charm of the country is lost to the blind. The grass is not green; the skies are not blue; the rocks are not gray; the water is not silvery; the flowers and foliage are not of rainbow hues; nor does the hourly and monthly turning of the kaleidoscope bring continual novelty, and perpetual beauty to them, as it does to others.

As to fresh air, it is hard to find habitable places in Massachusetts where it is fresher than over the three peninsulas of

Boston, East Boston and South Boston ; and statistics prove that nowhere in the State is it more salubrious than in the latter.

Moreover, a location in a large but not over-crowded city has, in some respects, advantages over one in the country, even in regard to those facilities and inducements for exercise in the open air, which ought to exist in every educational establishment, especially in those for the blind, whose infirmity discourages locomotion.

An Institution with an acre inclosed for a play-ground, and an unlimited extent of good side-walks, presents, during the course of the year, more facilities and more inducements for the blind to walk about, than does one in the country, with ever so great an extent of land.

The blind man moves about freely and rapidly in familiar places, if he is sure that things about him are to-day just in the state in which he left them yesterday.

The side-walks of a well regulated city afford him landmarks that do not change with the days, nor with the seasons. He knows the curb-stones, and the lamp-posts, the gutters and the pavements, and all the landmarks, and feels the firm brick under his feet. He measures the distance from one street to another, and knows when he comes to a crossing by the different feeling in the air, as a cross street or a court opens on his right or on his left, even before he steps down from the side-walk. In all weathers, in all seasons, his foot-marks are unchanged, except when the new fallen snow obliterates them and confuses him, but this only for a few hours. If he is expert and hardy, he learns his way about, and can find places to which he has been guided two or three times. He seldom runs against people, for, unless he foolishly affects to walk like them, they recognize him instantly for a blind man, and dodge out of his way. The very monotony and regularity of the streets, so tedious to the eye, give comfort and safety for the foot.

It is not so on the country road. There the variety so charming to the eye, perplexes and bewilders the foot. It is full of inequalities of surface and of soil. Here is a ridge to be stepped over; there a puddle to be stepped into. Here is grass, next gravel, next a rock. Here the path is straight and broad; there it is narrow and crowded up to the wall by the curving of the wheel tracks.

It is the same with the ear-marks. A stone wall gives one kind of echo, a rail fence another; a barn, a house, a bank, reflect back different sounds, which the blind man's ear detects. So do the different kinds of substance he treads upon—now grass, now gravel, now hard earth, next soft soil. The resonance of all these becomes affected and varied at unequal distance by overhanging trees.

If all these various objects and conditions would only remain stationary and the same, he would soon become familiar with them all, and walk unhesitatingly; but they change from day to day and from season to season. To-day his foot feels the dry, firm soil; to-morrow flounders in a heap of dust; the next day sinks in mire. In the spring there is wet and mud; in summer, soft grass; in autumn, dry herbage and dust; while in winter, snow utterly changes or obliterates all the old foot-marks and ear-marks, and introduces new and strange ones. No sooner do these begin to grow familiar than they vanish and are replaced by others. Where the foot feels a hard-trodden snow-path to-day, it sinks into slosh to-morrow; and it dares not tread firmly anywhere, or at any time, lest it should slip upon the treacherous ice.

It is well that every blind man who can afford it, should have some one to lead him about; indeed, he must do so in strange and unfamiliar places; but every blind child and youth, whether he can afford to pay a leader or not, should be trained to go about alone, if only for the hardihood and self-reliance which it gives him.

The location of our Institution is, in all these respects, most felicitous. It presents great facilities and great inducements for out-of-door exercise, not merely in the play-grounds,—for all artificial play-grounds become monotonous and tasteless,—but also in the neighborhood. It is in a suburb not densely populated, but with broad, straight streets, crossing each other at right angles, all paved and finished. It is upon a broad avenue, with very wide side-walks, which run in a straight line nearly a mile each way. It is within easy walking distance of churches of all denominations, and of the Music Hall and other buildings in which operas, concerts and musical performances of various kinds are given frequently, morning, afternoon and evening during the season.

All pupils go regularly to their respective churches; dozens and scores of them walk frequently to the centre of the city to attend the performances; and as there are no steam rail tracks to cross, they go fearlessly back and forth.

This they have done for years, getting an occasional fall, or bump, or bruise; just enough to give them both hardihood and caution; but never a serious injury.

One such walk, upon a pleasant errand, is more wholesome than a half-dozen taken expressly for health.

Then there are horse-cars running by the front-door every five minutes, from six in the morning to midnight.

They who suppose that a location ten miles from the city, on the line of a steam road, would be practically as near the Music Hall, as one two miles by street cars, forget that steam cars are always so formidable to the blind that they never ought to venture near them without a guide, while they may, and do, jump on to, and off of horse-cars easily.

The list of concerts and other musical performances, given under the head of Musical Department, will show how important to our pupils is easy access to the centre of the city.

PLAN OF NEW BUILDINGS.

The Director has proposed the following outline of a plan for new buildings.

One large central building with two wings. In the main part a chapel, music hall, and rooms for rehearsal. In each wing twenty-five rooms for practising upon musical instruments. On one side of this central edifice, a building with school-rooms, recitation rooms and workshop for boys; on the other side a similar one for girls.

If necessary, in order to lessen the building expenses, each of these buildings might have accommodations similar to those of an ordinary house, for one ordinary family, and a few pupils board with it.

Then, within the same lot, two, three or more cottages, arranged like ordinary dwelling-houses, each with a separate garden and yard. These cottage dwellings to front upon the street, and their yards in the rear to connect with the main yard or general play-ground. The number of these cottages to be according to the number of pupils. Each cottage to be

the dwelling and home of from six to twelve pupils, of different ages and capacities, who are to be taught in the central school, and trained to work in the shops. Whether it will be better to have these houses furnished by the Institution, and let out to ordinary families, who will board the pupils; or to have them managed by persons hired for the purpose and supplied from the common commissariat, is doubtful. Much may be said in favor of each plan. Which will be best, upon the whole, can only be settled by experience. In either case there ought to be training schools for domestic work, nearly the whole of which can be done by the pupils. Among the graduates of the Institution are many men who actually do all the work about a small farm, with the assistance of a boy who sees; and there are women who do almost all kinds of household work.

Few can become so expert as these, but all can do something; and all should be trained, and exercised and accustomed to do what they can. The facilities for such training should exist in every Institution. They cannot be found in great establishments, where cooking is done by wholesale; where tea-kettles and tongs are never known; and where much of ordinary domestic service is carried on by clock-work and steam. Our pupils are not destined to pass their lives in any such public establishment, but in private houses with ordinary families; and their training during the impressible years of youth should be such as best to fit them for ordinary life.

Such an arrangement of buildings and grounds as is suggested above would favor the administration of an Institution upon a system which may be considered as a compromise between two extremes. Some advocate an establishment which looks only to teaching blind children in a special school, and leaves them in all other respects subject to common social influences. Those whose parents live near by, to board at home. Those from a distance to have a certain sum allowed to pay their board in ordinary families. The whole responsibility for their religious, moral, and social education, to be thrown upon their parents and friends.

This is one extreme; and though it may seem radical and impractical to most people, it does not seem so to many who have hardihood themselves, and who know practically what many of the blind can do, when obliged to put forth all their energies.

The other extreme is that presented by the public institutions for the blind in the United States. Young blind persons are gathered from all parts of the State; they are cut off from family and home influences; they are segregated from general society, and formed into a class apart. They live a monastic sort of life in one great building; eat at a common table, sleep in common dormitories, and have very little association except with each other, during six or seven years of the most impressionable period of their lives.

They derive, upon the whole, great advantages; but it is rather in spite of, than by reason of, these unfavorable features of the system; the most objectionable of which evidently grow from the fact that all live in one building.

FINANCIAL.

All moneys received on account of the Institution, from whatever quarter, are paid into the treasury. All moneys paid out, for whatever purposes, are paid by the director. His bills are audited monthly by a committee of trustees. They make drafts upon the treasurer, who pays out no money except upon their order.

The Trustees take this opportunity of expressing their thanks to Messrs. George S. Hale and Thomas T. Bouvé, who have acted for several years as auditors of accounts; and to Mr. Wm. Claffin, who has long served as treasurer.

The Treasurer's account for the year, duly audited, is herewith presented. The total receipts are \$45,155.81, (forty-five thousand one hundred fifty-five and $\frac{81}{100}$ dollars.) The total expenditures were \$46,082.30, (forty-six thousand eighty-two and $\frac{30}{100}$ dollars.)

The Steward's account gives an analysis of the expenses; and shows that the indebtedness to the treasurer, and to all other parties, is less than the sum due from other States for the education of their beneficiaries, so that the expenses and the receipts are about equal. The other States pay three hundred dollars for each beneficiary. As this sum covers actual costs, an increase of their numbers will not increase the actual expenses. It is not so, however, with the beneficiaries of Massachusetts; by the terms of the grant, the Institution is to receive and support gratuitously all beneficiaries of suitable age and character

who may be recommended by the governor. An increase of the beneficiaries of Massachusetts will increase the expenditure without increasing the income. If the number of beneficiaries should increase considerably, the Trustees will be obliged to ask for an additional appropriation.

It is to be hoped, however, that a knowledge of the real condition and wants of the Institution will obtain for it a share of those charitable gifts and bequests which are so common in our community. The condition of the blind is so pitiable; it so readily excites sympathy; they are, in the providence of God, so dependent upon their more fortunate fellows; the opportunity of helping them to help themselves is so tempting; the harvest of good which a little seed sown in love is so sure to produce, that there is no other explanation of the fact that this Institution does not receive its share of private donations and bequests, save the prevalence of the mistaken idea that it is richly endowed, and does not need private aid.

The inventories of real and personal estate are herewith presented. The total amount of the first is \$155,000, of the second \$35,000, making a grand total of \$190,000. All this property is clear of debt.

The Trustees close by commending this establishment for promoting the education, the employment, and the happiness of the blind, to the consideration of the charitable,—to the patronage of the legislature,—and to the favor of Him whose blessing is ever sure, in the end, to crown honest efforts earnestly made by any of His children in behalf of their less favored fellows.

SAM'L G. HOWE, *Secretary.*

DR. PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASS. ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND *in account with* WILLIAM CLAFLIN, *Treasurer.* Cr.

1867.								
Oct. 10,	To cash draft No. 245,						Balance from former account,	\$2,741 11
Nov. 25,	draft No. 246,						By cash State of Massachusetts,	5,000 00
							E. Jarvis, as per statement Oct. 9,	131 22
							Coll. coupons N. Y. C. Railroad bonds,	142 50
1868.								
Jan. 4,	draft No. 247,						State of Massachusetts,	5,000 00
Feb. 8,	draft No. 248,						as per statement Feb. 29,	1,469 59
Feb. 11,							State of Maine,	2,850 00
Mar. 2,	draft No. 249,						State of Massachusetts,	4,000 00
Apr. 4,	draft No. 250,						State of Connecticut,	2,101 50
Apr. 28,	draft No. 251,						State of Rhode Island,	2,199 47
June 5,	draft No. 252,						Coupons N. Y. C. Railroad bonds,	142 50
June 21,	draft No. 253,						per statement May 30,	715 75
Aug. 24,	draft No. 254,						State of Massachusetts,	8,500 00
Oct. 5,							Dr. Howe's statement,	3,197 17
							Dr. Howe's statement,	715 00
							State of Massachusetts,	6,250 00
							By balance to new account,	926 49
Oct. 5,	To balance as cash,							\$46,082 30

The undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1867-8, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the accounts properly vouched and correctly cast, and that there is a cash balance due to the Treasurer, from the Institution, of nine hundred and twenty-six dollars forty-nine cents.

The Treasurer also exhibited to us evidence of title deeds to the following property belonging to the Institution:—

No. 1, Deed of land in South Boston, dated April, 1844, . . .	\$755 68
3, " " " dated August, 1848, . . .	5,500 00
2, " " " dated February, 1847, . . .	5,000 00
4, " " " dated January, 1850, . . .	1,762 50
5, " " " dated July, 1850, . . .	1,020 25
8, " " " dated Apr., 1855, \$2,811.50; mortgage canc'd, \$1,500, . . .	2,811 50
6, " " " dated April, 1855, . . .	3,710 00
7, " " " dated August, 1855, . . .	450 00
Five bonds, (\$1,000 each,) of the New York Central Railroad, valued at	4,700 00
	\$25,709 93

F. W. BIRD,

CHAS. JAS. SPRAGUE,

Auditing Committee.

BOSTON, Oct. 6, 1868.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF TREASURER'S CASH ACCOUNT.

1867-8.		DR.			
To drafts of the Auditors of accounts, Nos. 245 to 254 inclusive,		\$16,082		30	
<hr/>					
1867.		CR.			
Oct. 1.	By balance cash,		\$2,741		11
9.	State of Massachusetts,		5,000		00
10.	amount from E. Jarvis, director <i>pro tem.</i> , as per following:—				
	cash from Henry McArdle, for board and tuition, in advance three months from Oct. 1,		\$75		00
	cash for 20 Braille system writing boards,		28		00
	cash for books in raised print and writing boards,		28		22
					<hr/>
					131 22
6.	By cash coll. coupons N. Y. C. R. R. bonds,				142 50
1868.					
Jan. 21.	By cash State of Massachusetts,		5,000		00
Mar. 2.	amount from Dr. Howe, as per following:				
	cash from Levi Marsh, on account of Laura Bridgman,		\$50		00
	cash donation,		1		00
	cash from C. Rider on account of board and tuition of son,		75		00
	cash from J. C. Harris, on account of board and tuition of son,		125		00
	cash from Alex. H. Robinson, on account of board and tuition of daughter,		75		00
	cash from Dr. Murray, on account of board and tuition of son,		100		00
	cash from Mr. Preston, on account of board and tuition of son,		50		00
	cash from Rev. T. R. Tane, on account of board and tuition of niece,		150		00
	cash from Mrs. Spencer, on account of board and tuition of son,		120		53
	cash from Wm. T. Allen, on account of board and tuition of son,		100		00
					<hr/>
	<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>		\$846 53		\$13,014 83

		<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	. . . . .	\$846 53	\$13,014 83
Mar. 2.	By	cash from B. O. Frazier on account of board and tuition of son,	. . . . .	196 70	
		cash from Levi Marsh, on account of Laura Bridgman,	. . . . .	80 00	
		cash from board of laundry girl,	. . . . .	30 00	
		cash from sale of books in raised print,	. . . . .	125 80	
		cash from sale of broom corn,	. . . . .	19 06	
		cash from sale of brooms of boys' shop,	. . . . .	80 50	
		cash from sale of old boiler,	. . . . .	16 00	
		cash from C. Rider, on account of board and tuition of son,	. . . . .	75 00	
				<hr/>	1,469 59
Apr. 4.	By	cash State of Maine,	. . . . .	2,850 00	
6.		cash State of Massachusetts,	. . . . .	4,000 00	
14.		cash State of Connecticut,	. . . . .	2,101 50	
25.		cash State of Rhode Island,	. . . . .	2,199 47	
May 1.		cash coupons N. Y. C. R. R. bonds,	. . . . .	142 50	
30.		amount from Dr. Howe, as per following:			
		cash from Mrs. Spencer, on account of board and tuition of son,	. . . . .	\$100 00	
		cash from Mr. Sadd, on account of board and tuition of Arthur Skinner,	. . . . .	25 00	
		cash from Wm. Allen, on account of board and tuition of son,	. . . . .	100 00	
		cash proceeds of concert at Cambridge,	. . . . .	50 00	
		cash from sale of brooms of boys' shop,	. . . . .	11 75	
		cash from Otis Patten, bill of books,	. . . . .	66 25	
		cash from sale of books in raised print,	. . . . .	172 05	
		cash from board of laundry girls,	. . . . .	82 50	
		cash from sale of brooms of boys' shop,	. . . . .	54 00	
		cash from Rev. T. R. Tane, on account of board of Bertha Kerston during vacation,	. . . . .	40 00	
		cash from sale of old iron,	. . . . .	14 20	
				<hr/>	715 75
July 3.	By	cash State of Massachusetts,	. . . . .	8,500 00	
Sept. 30.		amount from Dr. Howe, as per following:			
		cash from A. H. Robinson, on account of board and tuition of daughter,	. . . . .	\$75 00	
		cash from Charles Dickens, donation for printing the "Old Curiosity Shop" in raised print,	. . . . .	1,700 00	
		cash from Wm. T. Allen, balance due on account of board and tuition of son,	. . . . .	8 71	
				<hr/>	<hr/>
		<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>	. . . . .	\$1,783 71	\$34,993 64

	<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	. . .	\$1,783 71	\$34,993 64
Sept. 30.	By cash from John Wooldredge, on account of board and tuition of son,	. . .	250 00	
	cash from Thomas Frazier, on account of board and tuition of son,	. . .	250 00	
	cash from Levi Marsh, on account of Laura Bridgman,	. . .	50 00	
	cash from John Lewis, on account of bill of broom corn,	. . .	50 00	
	cash from sale of soap grease,	. . .	17 15	
	cash from B. O. Frazier, on account of board and tuition of son,	. . .	65 00	
	cash from Clement Ryder, on account of board and tuition of son,	. . .	75 00	
	cash from J. C. Harris, on account of board and tuition of son,	. . .	175 00	
	cash from Rev. T. R. Tane, on account of board and tuition of neice,	. . .	150 00	
	cash from R. G. Moorman, on account of board and tuition of daughter,	. . .	166 96	
	cash from sale of books in raised print,	. . .	164 35	
			<hr/>	3,197 17
Oct. 3.	By amount from Dr. Howe, as per following:			
	from use of horse and wagon, and board of teamster of workshop,	. . .	\$623 00	
	from board,	. . .	92 00	
			<hr/>	715 00
5.	By cash State of Massachusetts,	. . .	. . .	6,250 00
	balance to new account,	. . .	. . .	926 49
			<hr/>	<hr/>
				\$16,082 30
			<hr/>	<hr/>

ANALYSIS OF TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

The Treasurer's Report shows that the total receipts during the year were,	\$45,155 81
Deducting cash on hand at the beginning of the year,	2,741 11
	<hr/>
	\$42,414 70
	<hr/> <hr/>

Ordinary Receipts.

From State of Massachusetts,	\$28,750 00
beneficiaries of other States and private pupils,	9,913 87
	<hr/>
	\$38,662 87

Extraordinary Receipts.

From donations,	\$1,701 00
coupons New York Central Railroad bonds,	285 00
proceeds of concert at Cambridge,	50 00
board of laundry girls,	244 50
use of horse and wagon, and board of teamster of workshop,	623 00
sale of brooms of boys' shop,	146 25
sale of broom corn,	69 06
sale of old boiler,	16 00
sale of old iron,	14 20
sale of soap grease,	17 15
sale of books in raised print, and writing boards,	584 67
	<hr/>
	3,750 83
	<hr/>
	\$42,414 70
	<hr/> <hr/>

GENERAL ANALYSIS OF STEWARD'S ACCOUNT, OCT. 1, 1868.

	DR.	CR.
Sundry liabilities due Oct. 1, 1867,		\$2,411 08
Ordinary expenses, as per schedule annexed, and extraordinary expenses, as per schedule of extra- ordinary repairs, &c.,		43,639 28
Total receipts on drafts from Treasurer,	\$46,082 30	
amount due Steward, Oct. 1, 1868,	18 06	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$46,100 36	\$46,100 36

*General Analysis of Expenditures for the year ending
September 30, 1868, as per Steward's Account.*

ARTICLES.	PRICE.	
Meats, 12,305 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds,	\$1,907 15	
Fish, 3,048 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds,	286 56	
Butter, 2,822 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds,	1,325 33	
Milk, 13,294 $\frac{1}{2}$ quarts,	1,040 85	
Rice, sago, &c., 648 pounds,	77 67	
Sugar, 3,516 pounds,	646 61	
Tea and coffee, 697 pounds,	253 14	
Bread, flour, meal, &c.,	2,395 85	
Fruit,	203 52	
Potatoes and other vegetables,	473 14	
Sundry groceries,	506 19	
Sundry articles of consumption,	138 32	
Household furniture and bedding,	3,148 00	
Gas and oil,	480 07	
Coal and wood,	217 31	
Washing,	2,679 80	
Clothing and mending,	46 44	
Salaries and wages of blind people,	2,151 64	
Salaries and wages of seeing people,	9,386 20	
Outside aid,	558 15	
Insurance,	100 00	
Taxes,	15 50	
Rent of office in town,	188 00	
Expenses of stable,	1,448 48	
Expenses of boys' shop,	728 51	
Expenses of printing office,	958 70	
Books, stationery, &c.,	690 54	
Musical instruments,	838 58	
Medicines and medical attendance,	105 55	
Board of blind pupils,	131 85	
Sundries,	498 19	
Ordinary construction and repairs,	3,088 10	
		\$36,713 94
Extraordinary construction and repairs,	\$1,241 81	
Extraordinary travelling expenses of pupils,	399 86	
Advertising concerts and tickets,	255 19	
Photograph of band,	77 00	
Painting banner,	13 12	
Constructing sewer,	455 59	
Fire Extinguisher,	54 50	
Board of employees during vacation,	54 00	
Goods from Paris exposition,	43 58	
Tower clock and small clock,	853 34	
Circulars and expenses of distribution,	349 98	
Covered sleigh for laundry,	50 00	
Loan to work departments,	3,000 00	
Bills to be refunded,	127 37	
		6,975 34
		\$43,689 28
Liabilities of October 1st, 1867,		2,411 08
		\$46,100 36

*List of Embossed Books, printed at the Perkins Institution and
Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.*

	No. of Volumes.	Price per bound Vol. of those for sale.	Price unbound, in pasteboard boxes.
Lardner's Universal History,	3	\$5 00	\$1 50
Howe's Geography,	1	4 00	1 00
Howe's Atlas of the Islands,	1	4 00	-
English Reader, first part,	1	-	-
English Reader, second part,	1	4 00	1 50
The Harvey Boys,	1	-	-
The Pilgrim's Progress,	1	5 00	1 50
Baxter's Call,	1	4 00	1 50
English Grammar,	1	-	-
Life of Melancthon,	1	3 00	50
Constitution of the United States,	1	-	-
Book of Diagrams,	-	-	-
Viri Romae,	1	-	-
Pierce's Geometry, with diagrams,	1	4 00	-
Political Class-Book,	1	-	-
First Table of Logarithms,	1	3 00	1 00
Second Table of Logarithms,	1	4 00	-
Principles of Arithmetic,	1	-	-
Astronomical Dictionary,	1	3 00	-
Philosophy of Natural History,	1	5 00	-
Rudiments of Natural Philosophy,	1	5 00	-
Cyclopædia,	8	5 00	2 00
Book of Common Prayer,	1	5 00	2 00
Guide to Devotion,	1	-	-
New Testament, (small,)	4	4 00	-
New Testament, (large,)	2	-	-
Old Testament,	6	-	-
Book of Psalms,	1	4 50	1 00
Book of Proverbs,	1	4 00	1 00
Psalms in Verse,	1	-	-
Psalms and Hymns,	1	5 00	-
The Dairyman's Daughter,	1	-	-
The Spelling-Book,	1	-	-
The Sixpenny Glass of Wine,	1	-	-
Howe's Blind Child's Manual,	1	-	-
Howe's Blind Child's First Book,	1	2 50	-
Howe's Blind Child's Second Book,	1	3 00	-
Howe's Blind Child's Third Book,	1	3 00	-
Howe's Blind Child's Fourth Book,	1	3 00	-
Collection of Hymns for the Blind,	1	5 00	-
Milton's Poetical Works,	2	-	-
Diderot's Essay,	1	5 00	-
Combe's Constitution of Man,	-	8 00	2 50
Natural Theology,	-	8 00	2 50
Writing Cards,	-	50	50

Maps, globes and other apparatus prepared for institutions at actual cost.

A good mural map of any State can be made in plaster for about ten dollars.

LIST OF PUPILS.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Alden, Lizzie	Barnett, Richard
Batchelder, Belle	Briggs, Herbert
Billings, Clara	Carlisle, John
Brown, Lulu M.	Carrol, Thomas
Bubier, Jennie W.	Carter, Charles
Butler, Mary	Crafts, George
Cairnes, Lizzie	Donnelley, Peter
Caldwell, Mary	Gorman, Patrick
Carter, Sarah	Griffin, Daniel
Connoley, Catherine	Harrington, John
Day, Delia O.	Hart, George
Doherty, Cassy	Heath, Frederick
Downing, Katy	Howarth, William E.
Garside, Lilla	Kiley, Thomas
Good, Ellen	Lincoln, George
Healey, Julia	Locke, Samuel
Jennison, Bella M.	Longley, Louis
Jennison, H. E.	Marble, John N.
Luke, Lizzie	McArdle, Henry
McClaren, Mary J.	McDougal, William
Miles, Rosa	McDougal, William G.
O'Hare, Mary A.	Murphy, James
Powers, Margaret	Murphy, William
Robbins, M. C.	Parker, Benjamin F.
Tower, Minnie	Patterson, John H.
Watson, Mary	Ramsdell, Herschel
Wrinn, Mary	Rider, Clement
	Thompson, Geo. Wm.
	Wallace, William
	Wooldredge, John

MAINE.

Ball, Flora E.	Crowley, Joseph
Batchelder, J. Alice	Fish, Henry
Davis, Louisa	Gowen, Frank
Healey, Abby	Greenleaf, Eugene
Morrison, Jennie	Libbey, Charles
Robinson, Mittie	Murray, Arthur
Shorey, Lydia	Quimby, William
Spencer, Henrietta	Shaw, Charles
	Stover, Luther

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Blake, Martha
 Bridgman, Laura
 Davis, Jennie
 Knight, Mary C.
 McCain, Emma J.
 McCain, Monisa
 Smith, Martha
 Warren, Julia

Cook, David
 Russell, Herbert W.
 Sagar, William J.

VERMONT.

Allen, Lucretia
 Cox, Olive
 Kesar, Katy
 Newell, Jennie
 Poor, Betsey A.

Baker, Hubert
 Gorman, Harry B.
 Hall, Henry A.
 Kilbourn, Frank
 Root, Philip M.
 Scott, Charles E.

CONNECTICUT.

Black, Freda

Barney, Charles
 Clark, Nathan
 Jewett, Frank
 Penney, Urban
 Reid, William A.
 Skinner, Arthur
 Smith, J. W.
 Young, William

RHODE ISLAND.

Brownell, Ella
 Coughlin, Matilda
 Kimball, Fanny
 Trafton, Idella

Fairman, De Volney
 McElroy, Hugh
 Pengally, John
 Preston, Charles
 Vars, John

NEW YORK.

Harris, George

KENTUCKY.

Moorman, Fannie C.

CALIFORNIA.

Spencer, C. Freddie

INDIANA.

Newland, Robert A.

CANADA.

Kerston, Bertha

Fraser, Septimus

NOVA SCOTIA.

Fraser, C. F.

TEACHERS.

Prof. F. J. CAMPBELL.

THOMAS REEVES.

DOMESTICS.

Katy Flemming.

Direxia Hawkes.

Sarah Nugent.

EMPLOYEES OF WORKSHOP AND LAUNDRY.

Barry, Mary
 Blaisdell, Lydia
 Bradley, Hannah
 Burns, Delia
 Chick, Mary
 Fitzgibbon, Mary
 Hallard, Sarah
 Hayes, Mary
 Kane, Maggie
 McCormick, Mary
 Mehan, Mary
 Salter, Mary
 Shea, Maggie
 Sherman, Phebe
 Teague, Margaret
 Weston, Mary
 Wheeler, Sarah

Blaisdell, Joseph
 Denney, William
 George, John
 Hallard, John
 Hodgkins, George
 Holden, Horace
 Lewis, John
 McInnary, Lawrence
 Montgomery, James
 Morrill, Pliny
 Murphy, William
 O'Connor, Charles
 Patten, Isaac
 Pippin, George
 Pringle, John
 Smalley, Lyman
 Smith, Robert
 Smith, Wm. Weston
 Snow, Samuel

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

Young blind persons, of good moral character, can be admitted to the school by paying \$300 per annum. This sum covers all expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, medicines, the use of books, musical instruments, &c. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the Institution. The friends of the pupils can visit them whenever they choose.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the governor for a warrant.

The following is a good form, though any other will do :

“ To His Excellency the Governor :

“ SIR,—My son, (or daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged , cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“ Very respectfully, _____ .”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the selectmen of the town, or aldermen of the city, in this form :

“ I hereby certify that, in my opinion, Mr. _____ is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$300 per annum for his child's instruction. (Signed,) _____ .”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form :

“ I certify that, in my opinion, _____ has not sufficient vision to be taught in common schools; and that he is free from epilepsy, and from any contagious disease. (Signed,) _____ .”

These papers should be done up together, and directed to “ The Secretary of the Commonwealth, State House, Boston, Mass.”

An obligation will be required from some responsible persons, that the pupil shall be removed without expense to the Institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island, by applying as above to the "Commissioners for the Blind, care of the Secretary of State," in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

For further particulars address Dr. S. G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relatives or friends of the blind who may be sent to the Institution, are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions :

1. What is the name and age of the applicant ?
2. Where born ?
3. Was he born blind ? If not, at what age was the sight impaired ?
4. Is the blindness total or partial ?
5. What is the supposed cause of the blindness ?
6. Has he ever been subject to fits ?
7. Is he now in good health and free from eruptions and contagious diseases of the skin ?
8. Has he ever been to school ? If yes, where ?
9. What is the general moral character of the applicant ?
10. Is he gentle and docile in temper, or the contrary ?
11. Has he any peculiarity of temper and disposition ?
12. Of what country was father of the applicant a native ?
13. What was the general bodily condition and health of the father—was he vigorous and healthy, or the contrary ?
14. Was the father of the applicant ever subject to fits or scrofula ?
15. Were all his senses perfect ?
16. Was he always a temperate man ?
17. About how old was he when the applicant was born ?
18. Was there any known peculiarity in the family of the father of the applicant ; that is, were any of the grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters or cousins blind, deaf or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind ?
19. If dead, at what age did he die, and of what disorder ?
20. Where was the mother of the applicant born ?
21. What was the general bodily condition of the mother of the applicant—strong and healthy, or the contrary ?
22. Was she ever subject to scrofula or to fits ?
23. Were all her senses perfect ?
24. Was she always a temperate woman ?
25. About how old was she when the applicant was born ?
26. How many children had she before the applicant was born ?
27. Was she related by blood to her husband ? if so, in what degree—1st, 2d or 3d cousins ?
28. If dead, at what age did she die, and of what disorder ?
29. Was there any known peculiarity in her family ; that is, were any of her grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, sisters, brothers, children or cousins

either blind, or deaf or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind?

30. What are the pecuniary means of the parents or immediate relatives of the applicant?

31. How much can they afford to pay towards the support and education of the applicant?

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION,
1868-9.

PRESIDENT.

SAMUEL MAY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

JOSEPH LYMAN.

TREASURER.

WILLIAM CLAFLIN.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

ROBERT E. APTHORP.
FRANCIS BROOKS.
THOMAS T. BOUVÉ.
SAMUEL ELIOT.
GEORGE S. HALE.
JOSEPH LYMAN.

AUGUSTUS LOWELL.
G. R. MUDGE.
JOSIAH QUINCY.
BENJAMIN S. ROTCH.
JAMES STURGIS.

VISITING COMMITTEE.

For OCTOBER,	Messrs. APTHORP AND BOUVÉ.
NOVEMBER,	BOUVÉ AND BROOKS.
DECEMBER,	BROOKS AND ELIOT.
JANUARY,	ELIOT AND HALE.
FEBRUARY,	HALE AND LOWELL.
MARCH,	LOWELL AND LYMAN.
APRIL,	LYMAN AND MUDGE.
MAY,	MUDGE AND QUINCY.
JUNE,	QUINCY AND ROTCH.
JULY,	ROTCH AND STURGIS.
AUGUST,	STURGIS AND APTHORP.
SEPTEMBER,	—————

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

PERKINS INSTITUTION

AND

Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.

OCTOBER, 1869.

BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER, STATE PRINTERS,
79 MILK STREET (CORNER OF FEDERAL).

1870.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

TRUSTEES' REPORT.

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, }
BOSTON, Sept. 30, 1869. }

To the Corporation.

GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned, Trustees, respectfully submit the following statement for the financial year, which closes this day.

It makes the Thirty-Eighth Annual Report of the Institution. The last one contained a brief history of the establishment, and a general outline of its organization and administration; this, therefore, may properly be confined to the history of the past year.

The number of blind persons connected with the Institution, Sept. 30th, 1868, was one hundred and sixty-two; twenty have been admitted, twenty-seven discharged, and the actual number is one hundred and fifty-five. Of these, twenty-three are in the adult or work department, and one hundred and thirty-two in the junior department, or the school proper.

The general health of the inmates has been good. There have been a few cases of sickness, but none mortal.

The report of the Director will set forth the statistics in detail.

It was stated in the last report, that the Trustees concluded not to draw from the State treasury the special appropriation of \$15,000 made by the legislature of 1866-7, upon condition that \$15,000 more should be gathered by subscription.

The reasons for this were explained in the last report. The chief one was that the time had come to enlarge the establishment, and reorganize it upon the principles so often and earnestly urged by the Director, and the appropriation was insufficient for this purpose.

The Trustees concluded to try the experiment; to abandon the congregate system with its living "in commons," its common dormitories, and other features of monastic life, and to introduce a system as nearly like that of the ordinary family, as the necessary regard for economy would warrant.

It is manifest that in the education of a child marked by any infirmity or abnormality, special measures should be taken to prevent that peculiarity from affecting unfavorably the harmonious development of his nature, and the formation of his character. The infirmity or abnormality, be it blindness, be it deafness, be it what it may, is not only a bodily lack, but also a source of evil out of which, if unchecked, there will flow abnormal and undesirable consequences.

It is useless to question this without questioning also the wisdom of the Divine hand which fashioned our mortal frame.

It is worse than useless to keep it out of sight while setting forth, and enlarging upon, the compensation which cultivation of the remaining senses affords, as is often done by reports of schools for defectives, as the blind, mutes, and the like. We must admit, and act upon the latter, but keep the former constantly in mind.

It is equally manifest that the peculiar effects growing out of any physical defect or abnormality upon the character of an individual must be intensified by close and long-continued association with other individuals marked by a like peculiarity; and the converse is equally true—they are lessened, perhaps disappear, by close and long-continued association with ordinary persons.

The problem therefore is, in the language of the Director, how to reap the positive benefits of bringing such persons together in classes for instruction and training, with the least disadvantage from their close association. When, therefore, it seems necessary, for purposes of instruction and training, to gather a large number of such sufferers from different parts of the country, their association with each other should be kept at

its minimum, and their association with ordinary persons carried to its maximum.

He says :—

“ Experience and reflection bring me to the following conclusions :

“ *First.* A blind boy or girl gains in knowledge, in character, especially in self-reliance, by dwelling in close intimacy with other blind children and youth during a certain period of time; but afterwards he gains less than he would by close association with ordinary persons, and under ordinary social influences.

“ *Second.* The advantages gained after the first year by the association of many blind persons in one family, are in spite of, rather than in consequence of such association.

“ *Third.* The manifest advantages which may be gained in the instruction and education of ordinary children and youth by associating the sexes, and profiting by their happy influence upon each other, cannot be had in the case of the blind, without violating the plain principle, that an establishment for educating the infirm of any class should not furnish greater facilities and temptations for intermarriage among the members of that class, than they would have had, if left to grow up in their respective neighborhoods.

“ *Fourth.* That, upon the whole, it is desirable to have a stricter separation of sexes in an educational institution for the blind, than in one for ordinary children and youth; but that this cannot be had while they inhabit the same building, without a severity of discipline that defeats its own purpose. There ought, therefore, to be at least two buildings, entirely separate from and out of earshot of each other.

“ *Fifth.* That to secure the greatest amount of good with the least amount of evil, there should be as many separate dwelling-houses as there are tens or dozens of pupils, and that these should be arranged and conducted like common dwelling-houses, save that they may be under central supervision, and supplied from a common commissariat.

“ I believe that the same rules should be kept in view in the education of deaf mutes.”

To carry out such a system, new buildings were necessary; and the Trustees applied to the legislature for a larger grant.

The application was referred to the Committee on Public Charitable Institutions, who reported unanimously in its favor. Their report abounded in words of wisdom and of humanity; some of which we deem it not improper to reproduce here.

“It would be a waste of words to urge the claim which blind children have for a full share of the means of instruction which the State accords to all the young. They have even stronger claims than common children, because they start at a disadvantage in the race of life; because they carry a burden in their infirmity; because they come mostly of poor and humble parents; and because, without special instruction and training, they are almost certain, sooner or later, to become a public charge.

“All children have a right to instruction. The children of the rich are sure to get it; and the State is bound, alike by duty and interest, to see that none lacks the means of obtaining it. Massachusetts has ever acknowledged this claim of children, and enforced it by legal enactments. She practically commands that a school-house shall be built within walking distance of every one of them, and she is cheerfully obeyed. School-houses are multiplied throughout the land, and some of them are palatial in their proportions and perfect in their equipments. None but those who would cheaply equip a regiment for the war, would cheaply equip a district school.

“The rich man seeks for his child the best teacher, the best school-room, the best apparatus of instruction; and the public is rapidly coming to the consciousness that the whole Commonwealth is richer than any individual man, and that the schools for its children shall be as good as the best.

“But with every generation of children there comes a certain number for whom these beautiful and commodious school-houses might as well have been built without a window, and without even a key-hole, to let in a ray of light—for they are blind.

“They, more than all the others, need instruction. More than all others they have a claim upon the public for it, because, without it they are doomed not only to mental as well as bodily darkness, but to certain dependence. The burden of their support keeps their family poor, and upon the death of their parents they almost surely fall upon the public for maintenance. Hence the connection in all past times, and in all countries, between blindness and beggary. The seat on which sat Blind Bartimeus at Jericho, is repeated at the gates of every city of the old world.

“But ways and means have been found to instruct the blind. School-houses can be so constructed and equipped as to be, for

them, all ablaze with the light of knowledge. The people of Massachusetts first erected such a school upon this continent. Private citizens gathered the funds, purchased and equipped the building, and carried the experiment to a successful conclusion, asking the State merely to pay the annual cost of its own indigent pupils.

“Massachusetts adopted the policy of giving special instruction to the blind, forty years ago, and has, by annual liberal appropriations, kept her institution in the front rank of kindred establishments in Christian nations and states. It is admitted that these appropriations have been wisely and efficiently expended for the benefit of the blind, by a board of trustees appointed partly by an association of citizens, and partly by the governor and council. Those trustees now ask for a special grant, sufficient to enable them to provide new, commodious and safe buildings, and to reorganize the institution upon those principles which reason and the experience of forty years show to be essential. They ask it because the present building is entirely inadequate to the wants of the establishment. The inmates have increased from six—which was the number when the State aid was first asked—to a hundred and sixty, most of whom reside within the walls. The edifice, which was built for a hotel, no longer suffices, either for the numbers, for the proper grading of the school, or for the proper classification of the inmates, and is specially inadequate for safety against fire, since it has become necessary to occupy the upper stories.

“The trustees propose, as a first step, to build upon their present premises a sufficient number of separate dwelling-houses, say eight or ten, to accommodate the present number of pupils, who shall live as ordinary children live, in separate families. With these dwelling-houses, the main building, now partially occupied for dormitories, and very much crowded, will afford quite convenient room for the chapel, music hall, practising rooms, recitation rooms, &c. By this arrangement, a long step will be taken towards avoiding most of the evils of congregating together a large number of persons, subjects of a common infirmity, upon the old monastic or boarding-house system. It can make the nearest approach to the true family system which is consistent with reasonable economy in the management of such an establishment.

“The reports of the institution during the last twenty years have abounded in arguments, showing how desirable such an arrangement is for the well-being of the blind as a class. They have set forth, not only the reasons for such change, but pointed out instances of the good effects following the adoption of the principle of separation. They have shown the impossibility of doing full justice to the children of our farmers and mechanics,

without better means of classification than they now possess. They have shown that they have been obliged to reject persons whom they otherwise would have been glad to receive.

“It is estimated that the cost of the new houses will be about eighty thousand dollars. The Trustees are confident that with such aid, they can make the institution competent to meet all the reasonable wants of the blind for many years to come.

“The Trustees ask that the Commonwealth will furnish them the means of educating her blind children in some slight degree proportionate to the means she has so liberally furnished for educating her seeing children. They do not ask it as a charity, but they expect it as a part of the obligation early assumed to educate every son and daughter of the Commonwealth. For her seeing children Massachusetts opens primary, grammar and high schools. Every town is required by law to provide adequate instruction, free, for all seeing children of suitable age. For these schools the towns raised by taxation last year, \$2,636,774. In addition to this sum, voluntary contributions were made to the public schools amounting to \$32,790, and there were also raised by taxation, for various purposes, \$88,496, making an aggregate of \$2,758,060, raised in the towns for the public schools. Farther, the State applied to the same schools \$88,988 from the income of the moiety of the school fund, making a total of \$2,847,048.

“There are, throughout the State, various funds for the benefit of private schools, amounting to \$1,165,112, the income being last year \$74,467. The amount paid for tuition in incorporated academies was \$124,276, the amount paid for tuition in private schools was \$410,000, making the aggregate for private schools, (not including colleges,) \$658,734. These two amounts make an aggregate of \$3,505,782, applied to the support of public and private schools for seeing children last year, not a dollar of which was of the slightest use to the blind.

“But the Commonwealth has gone farther. She has established Normal Schools at points convenient of access for all her seeing children, and for the support of them, as well as for the payment of the expenses of the board of education, she applies the other moiety of the income of the school fund, amounting to about \$75,000 annually. Adding this amount to the aggregate before found, we have \$3,580,782 as the grand total of the annual cost of the education of seeing children, not including amounts paid by individuals for tuition in the colleges. In addition to all this, the Commonwealth has made munificent appropriations to the Agricultural and other colleges. To her blind children all these schools are closed. And yet education is more indispensable to the blind

than to the seeing. Even in our community there are many seeing persons without the slightest education in the schools, who are still useful citizens and successful in the various walks of life. An uneducated blind person is utterly helpless, and must become dependent.

“We believe that blind children have the same claims upon the State for education as seeing children, and that their needs are greater; that the Commonwealth owes to her blind children the opportunities for better education than those hitherto enjoyed, which have been confined almost entirely to merely elementary studies; that she is abundantly able to furnish them means, and cannot afford to withhold them; that she has an institution where these children can be educated more cheaply and more successfully than in any other institution in the world, and that every consideration of economy and of humanity appeals to the legislature to place at the disposal of the trustees of this institution, the means of increasing its usefulness, and of enlarging and perfecting the efforts which have made the Massachusetts Institution for the Blind an honor to the Commonwealth, and a blessing to mankind.”

The report concluded with the following Resolve, which, as amended, passed both branches of the legislature unanimously, without a word of debate:—

“*Resolved*, That there be allowed and paid to the trustees of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, the sum of eighty thousand dollars, and the same is hereby appropriated, for the purpose of erecting suitable buildings for the use of the institution, the same to be paid from time to time in instalments, as may be certified to be necessary by the trustees: *provided*, that no portion of the said sum shall be paid, until the said trustees shall have conveyed to the Commonwealth, by a good and sufficient deed, and free from all incumbrances, the land on which the buildings to be erected shall stand, and so much adjacent thereto as the governor and council shall require; and until the plans for said buildings and the estimates therefor shall have been approved by the governor and council.”

It required considerable time to prepare plans for the proposed dwelling-houses.

Further delay was occasioned by the difficulty of purchasing, at a fair price, a lot of land which jutted into our premises, and made part of them unavailable. But everything was finally

arranged ; the governor and council approved the plans ; and the work of building will be commenced immediately.

The sum appropriated by the legislature will barely suffice to build the boarding-houses. The land upon the north side of Broadway, opposite the main building, which is comparatively useless to the Institution, can be sold for enough to pay for the land nearer at hand which has been purchased ; and also to remove the stable and the men's workshop to the north side of Fourth Street ; and to put the whole premises in proper condition.

But in order to carry out the plans adopted for extending the usefulness of the Institution, and for making the establishment complete, more means will be required. It will be necessary either to build a large central building for music hall, practising rooms, &c., or to make extensive alterations and repairs in the present main building. In either case funds will be wanted.

There is in the State treasury the sum of \$15,000, voted by the legislature of 1867-8, which can be had by raising other \$15,000 by contributions. This much at least ought to be raised before the end of this year, else it will be forfeited.

When the present plans are carried out, the Institution will have all the material appliances necessary for carrying on its beneficent work advantageously.

The moral means must be supplied by those who shall administer it.

The report of the Treasurer, and the inventories of real and personal estate, are herewith presented.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

ROBERT E. APTHORP.
THOMAS T. BOUVE.
FRANCIS BROOKS.
SAMUEL ELIOT.
GEORGE S. HALE.
E. R. MUDGE.
AUGUSTUS LOWELL.
EDWARD N. PERKINS.
JOSIAH QUINCY.
BENJ. S. ROTCH.
JAMES STURGIS.

The undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the year 1868-9, have attended to that duty, and hereby certify that they find the accounts properly vouched and correctly cast, and that there is a cash balance in the hands of the Treasurer, of thirteen hundred and forty-six dollars and thirty-nine cents.

The Treasurer also exhibited to us title deeds to the following property belonging to the Institution :—

Deed of land in South Boston, dated April, 1844,	. . .	\$755 68
“ “ “ “ February, 1847,	. . .	5,000 00
“ “ “ “ August, 1848,	. . .	5,500 00
“ “ “ “ January, 1850,	. . .	1,762 50
“ “ “ “ July, 1850,	. . .	1,020 25
“ “ “ “ April, 1855,	. . .	3,710 00
“ “ “ “ August, 1855,	. . .	450 00
“ “ “ “ April, 1855,	. . .	2,811 50
Five bonds, (\$1,000 each,) of the New York Central Railroad, valued at		4,700 00

EDWARD AUSTIN,
WM. A. WELLMAN,

Auditing Committee.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF TREASURER'S CASH ACCOUNT.

1868-9.		Dr.	
To balance of cash due October 1, 1868,			\$926 49
drafts of the Auditor of Accounts, Nos. 255 to 264 inclusive,			47,750 02
cash on hand September 30, 1869,			1,346 39
			<u>\$50,022 90</u>
1868.		Cr.	
Oct. 12.	By cash from State of New Hampshire,		\$3,674 84
Nov. 4.	cash proceeds of coupons N. Y. C. R. R.,		142 50
10.	cash from State of Vermont,		2,700 00
1869.			
Jan. 13.	By cash from State of Massachusetts,		6,250 00
Apr. 2.	By amount from Dr. Howe, as per following:		
	From Mrs. Spencer, account board and tuition of son,		\$10 54
	Sarah Radcliffe, account board and tuition,		100 00
	Chas. N. Andrews, account board and tuition of son,		49 75
	Dr. Murray, account board and tuition of son,		100 00
	Rev. T. R. Tane, account board and tuition of niece,		40 00
	Clement Ryder, account board and tuition of son,		75 00
	Levi Marsh and S. G. Howe, Trustees of fund for Laura Bridgman,		80 00
	C. N. Andrews, account board and tuition of son,		49 75
	Mrs. H. Skinner, account board and tuition of son,		30 00
	sale of brooms of boys' shop,		266 75
	sale of broom corn,		66 49
	sale of books in raised print,		431 09
	School for F. M. Youth, for washing,		203 75
	School for F. M. Youth, for clerk hire,		100 00
	sale of musical instruments to pupils,		45 00
			<u>1,648 12</u>
	<i>Amount carried forward,</i>		<u>\$14,415 46</u>

		<i>Amount brought forward,</i>		\$14,415 46
Apr.	2.	By cash from State of Massachusetts,		7,500 00
June	4.	proceeds of coupons N. Y. C. R. R.,		142 50
July	6.	State of Vermont,		2,985 83
	6.	State of Rhode Island,		2,733 33
	6.	State of Maine,		4,390 00
	6.	By amount from Dr. Howe, as per following:		
		From Mrs. Skinner, account board and tuition		
		of son,	\$45 00	
		Rev. T. R. Tane, account board and		
		tuition of niece,	200 00	
		Idiot School, for clerk hire 3 months,	75 00	
		G. Ryder, account board and tuition of		
		son,	75 00	
		Mrs. Spencer, account board and tuition		
		of son,	125 00	
		B. F. Frazer, account board and tuition		
		of son,	300 00	
		contributions per Loring Moody,	41 51	
		contributions of Albert G. Brown, Salem,	5 00	
		contributions, anonymous,	10 50	
		sale of books in raised print,	411 52	
		sale of brooms from boys' shop,	274 00	
		sale of soap grease,	19 80	
			<hr/>	1,582 33
July	8.	By cash from State of Massachusetts,		7,500 00
Aug.	7.	By amounts from Dr. Howe, as per following:		
		From Levi Marsh and S. G. Howe, Trustees		
		of fund for Laura Bridgman,	\$50 00	
		Rev. T. R. Tane, on account board and		
		tuition of niece,	54 75	
		sale of brooms from boys' shop,	59 86	
		Mrs. Bridgman, account board of		
		Laura,	40 00	
		sale of books in raised print,	50 35	
		R. G. Moorman, for flute purchased for		
		daughter,	55 00	
			<hr/>	309 96
Sept.	30.	By amounts from Dr. Howe, as per following:		
		From sale of books in raised print,	\$279 20	
		sale of broom corn and handles from		
		boys' shop,	34 29	
		board of teamster, and use of horse and		
		wagon at workshop,	650 00	
			<hr/>	963 49
	30.	By cash from State of Massachusetts,		7,500 00
			<hr/>	\$50,022 90

ANALYSIS OF TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

The Treasurer's Account shows that the total receipts during the year were, \$50,022 90

Ordinary Receipts.

From State of Massachusetts, \$28,750 00
 beneficiaries of other States and private pupils, 17,908 79
 ----- \$46,658 79

Extraordinary Receipts.

From coupons New York Central Railroad bonds, . \$285 00
 use of horse and wagon, and board of teamster
 of workshop, 650 00
 sale of brooms from boys' shop, 701 39
 sale of books in raised print, 1,172 16
 sale of soap grease, 19 80
 amount from Idiot School for washing, 203 75
 amount from Idiot School for clerk hire, 175 00
 sale of musical instruments to pupils, 100 00
 contributions, 57 01
 ----- 3,364 11

 \$50,022 90

Several contributions to the Building Fund were received by the Treasurer, and will be acknowledged in the Report of the next year, which will contain a detailed account.

GENERAL ANALYSIS OF STEWARD'S ACCOUNT, OCT. 1, 1869.

	DR.	CR.
Liabilities due October 1, 1868,		\$18 06
Ordinary expenses, as per schedule annexed, and extraordinary expenses, as per schedule of extra- ordinary repairs, &c.,		47,946 48
Total receipts on drafts from treasurer,	\$47,750 02	
Amount due Steward October 1, 1869,	214 52	
	-----	-----
	\$47,964 54	\$47,964 54

Account of Stock October 1st, 1869.

Real Estate,*		\$155,000 00
Household Furniture,	\$10,748 75	
Provisions and Supplies on hand,	330 63	
1 Grand Organ,	5,500 00	
3 Cabinet Organs,	700 00	
27 Pianos,	5,120 00	
Other Musical Instruments,	1,385 25	
Library of books on Music,	292 00	
Library of ordinary books,	729 25	
Embossed Books and Stereotype Plates,	11,728 75	
Printing Office, Presses, Type, &c.,	5,838 00	
School Furniture and Apparatus,	2,656 17	
Boys' Shop,	355 12	
Stable, Horse, Wagon, Furniture, &c.,	1,186 60	
		46,570 52
		<u>\$201,570 52</u>

* Estate on south side of Broadway, with buildings,	\$125,000 00
on north " "	25,000 00
Upland and Flats on Ninth Street, South Boston,	5,000 00
	<u>\$155,000 00</u>

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS OF WORK DEPARTMENT, OCTOBER
1, 1869.

Liabilities.

Due Institution for investments at sundry times since the first date,	\$19,378 42	
Due Institution for interest on the above,	1,162 70	
sundry individuals,	714 36	
		————— \$21,255 48

*Assets.**

Stock on hand, Oct. 1, 1869,	\$5,811 37	
Cash on hand, Oct. 1, 1869,	161 61	
Debts due,	3,220 26	
		————— 9,193 24
Balance against Work Department, Oct. 1, 1869,	\$12,062 24	
Balance against Work Department, Oct. 1, 1868,	11,789 36	
		—————
Total cost of carrying on Work Department,	\$272 88	

Analysis of Work Department.

	DR.	CR.
Cash on hand, Oct. 1, 1868,		\$2,069 68
received during the year,		21,681 73
Liabilities, Oct. 1, 1868,	\$1,822 87	
Salaries and wages paid blind persons, \$4,143 82		
Salaries and wages paid seeing persons, 2,712 53		
	—————	6,856 35
Sundries for stock, &c.,	14,910 58	
Cash on hand, Oct. 1, 1869,	161 61	
		—————
	\$23,751 41	\$23,751 41

* To the Assets of the Work Department should be added \$5,000, for the Workshop building, which was paid for out of the above "Investments."

*List of Embossed Books, printed at the Perkins Institution and
Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.*

	No. of Volumes.	Price per bound Vol. of those for sale.	Price unbound, in pasteboard boxes.
Lardner's Universal History,	3	\$5 00	\$1 00
Howe's Geography,	1	4 00	50
Howe's Atlas of the Islands,	1	4 00	-
English Reader, first part,	1	-	-
English Reader, second part,	1	4 00	1 50
The Harvey Boys,	1	-	-
The Pilgrim's Progress,	1	5 00	1 00
Baxter's Call,	1	4 00	1 00
English Grammar,	1	-	-
Life of Melancthon,	1	3 00	50
Constitution of the United States,	1	-	-
Book of Diagrams,	-	-	-
Viri Romae,	1	-	-
Pierce's Geometry, with diagrams,	1	4 00	-
Political Class-Book,	1	-	-
First Table of Logarithms,	1	3 00	50
Second Table of Logarithms,	1	4 00	-
Principles of Arithmetic,	1	-	-
Astronomical Dictionary,	1	3 00	-
Philosophy of Natural History,	1	5 00	-
Rudiments of Natural Philosophy,	1	5 00	-
Cyclopædia,	8	5 00	2 00
Book of Common Prayer,	1	5 00	1 00
Guide to Devotion,	1	-	-
New Testament, (small,)	4	4 00	-
New Testament, (large,)	2	-	-
Old Testament,	6	-	-
Book of Psalms,	1	4 50	1 00
Book of Proverbs,	1	4 00	50
Psalms in Verse,	1	-	-
Psalms and Hymns,	1	5 00	-
The Dairyman's Daughter,	1	-	-
The Spelling-Book,	1	-	-
The Sixpenny Glass of Wine,	1	-	-
Howe's Blind Child's Manual,	1	-	-
Howe's Blind Child's First Book,	1	2 50	-
Howe's Blind Child's Second Book,	1	3 00	-
Howe's Blind Child's Third Book,	1	3 00	-
Howe's Blind Child's Fourth Book,	1	3 00	-
Collection of Hymns for the Blind,	1	5 00	-
Milton's Poetical Works,	2	-	-
Diderot's Essay,	1	5 00	-
Combe's Constitution of Man,	-	8 00	1 00
Natural Theology,	-	8 00	2 50
Guyot's Primary Geography,	1	5 00	1 00
Old Curiosity Shop, by Charles Dickens,	3	-	2 00
Writing Cards,	-	30	30
Braille's Writing Boards,	-	-	1 25

Maps, globes and other apparatus prepared for institutions at actual cost.

A good mural map of any State can be made in plaster for about ten dollars.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR
TO THE TRUSTEES.

* * * * *

The plan so long entertained for breaking up our large community into small households, and for placing our pupils in houses more like those of ordinary families, is likely to be put into operation very soon. The special grants of the legislature will suffice for building at least eight dwelling-houses. Those for the boys have already been begun, and will be finished early next spring. They are located on the southwest corner of our premises, on Fourth Street. The contemplated site for the girls' habitations is in the southeast part, on the corner of H Street. This, however, would involve the necessity of removing the main building to the centre of the lot on Broadway, or of taking it down and rebuilding it there. If this cannot be done by means within our reach, the houses for girls can be built upon Broadway.

The most desirable arrangement would be to have a central building for a musical conservatory, with music hall and practising rooms; and two buildings for schools and workshops. It may be that private benevolence will furnish the means of obtaining the latter. In the meantime the present main building must be made to suffice. It certainly will do much better, when no longer required as a boarding and lodging house. Even the removal of pupils of one sex will give considerable relief in this respect.

When all these things shall have been obtained, and put into good working order, the chief end for which this Institution was designed will be accomplished. The necessary conveniences and appliances will exist, for giving all children of New England who, by reason of blindness, cannot be taught in common schools, the opportunity of obtaining instruction by

means specially adapted to their condition. In regard to common school instruction, we shall have equalized their condition with that of ordinary children, so far as can be done by a public organization. Besides the direct material advantage of this to the blind as a class, there is a moral advantage of great value.

Blindness and dependence,—a blind man and a beggar,—have been so long and so closely associated in the public mind, that, in the old countries, whenever institutions for the blind are projected, aid is asked solely in the name of mercy. Even here, while people consider that instruction in the common branches of learning must be accorded to ordinary children, as a matter of justice, the same sort of instruction provided for blind children is apt to be considered as a matter of charity. It was so considered at the outset of our enterprise.

The fact of being classed among dependents and considered as objects of special charity, is a source not only of mortification, but of positive disadvantage. It paves the way to the beggar's post at the roadside. People usually hold themselves at the price set upon them by others.

Our Institution has endeavored to counteract this disadvantage; and, so far as instruction is concerned, has placed the claim of the blind upon the same ground on which that of other children rests. The readiness with which this claim has been admitted, and acted upon by legislative bodies, in various States of the United States, shows how thoroughly democratic ideas have permeated our people. The idea is that of equalizing advantages, and giving to all, as nearly as can be, a fair start in the race of life.

There are now eighteen well established institutions for the blind in the United States; and in the organization of almost all of them the leading idea is that of equalizing conditions as far as may be, and of imparting instruction as a matter of duty rather than of mere mercy. The small voice of justice is beginning to be distinguished in the cry for compassion. The effect of this is becoming apparent in lifting the blind, as a class, a little above the low social grade in which they are placed, even in the most civilized European countries.

GENERAL RESULTS.

These eighteen public institutions for the blind have about one thousand pupils, boys and girls, who remain under instruction from five to seven years. They are taught the common branches of school learning; a little music; and some handicraft. This suffices for the most of them. It makes them equal, perhaps a little superior to children of their social position in respect to that kind of knowledge acquired in schools. It increases their self-respect and self-confidence. It inspires the wish to keep themselves out of the dependent class, and it greatly increases their chance of doing so. Most of them find some household or industrial establishment in which they can fill a useful place. Their moderate culture fits them for social companionship, and their little knowledge of music is a source of enjoyment to themselves and to those about them.

In this way the institutions for the blind are doing a great work of beneficence, and lightening one of the heaviest burdens which men are called upon to bear.

Throughout New England and most of the Middle and Western States, any parents who seek instruction for their blind child can have it; and, if the special school is not near their door, the child is taken to it, kept and taught, without their being put to more cost than are their neighbors, who send their child to the common school.

NECESSITY OF MEANS OF A HIGHER CULTURE.

Among the numerous graduates of our public institutions, and among blind children who receive elementary education at home, there are a few who have talents, and who, having tasted the Pierian Spring, would fain drink deep. They sigh for means of higher culture than the State institutions afford. They long to read the classics, and to master the literature of their own language, in order to gratify their tastes, to lift themselves to an intellectual level with the best society, and to add to their means of usefulness in life. History furnishes instances of blind children born to wealth, or placed in favoring circumstances, who have become respectable scholars in various departments of knowledge.

But we need not go beyond the history of our own institution for proof of the capacity of the blind to profit by culture. We

fitted for college two boys quite blind from birth. One entered Harvard University, the other Dartmouth College. Both held their own with their class, and graduated in respectable standing. One became a brilliant musician and a successful teacher of music, and gave great promise; but died young. The other has been for several years Principal of the State Institution for the Blind in Tennessee, and has managed his establishment with entire success.

It is for such as these that we need

A NATIONAL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

This Institute should be specially adapted to the condition and wants of persons whose sight is partially and temporarily impaired by disease, and of those who are permanently blind. In it the course of study should be the same as in our best colleges. All instruction should be oral; and the apparatus and modes of illustration be addressed to the touch. It should be supplied with text-books, maps, diagrams, and the like, in raised characters. It should have large collections of models of various kinds, such as weights, measures, tools, machinery, and the like; mannikins and models showing the anatomy of animals and plants, as well as their outward form. It should have collections of shells, crystals, minerals, and the like; models and sections showing geological strata; philosophical apparatus adapted to the touch; in short, everything that can be represented by tangible forms.

It would amaze those who have not reflected upon it, to know how much can be done in this way. Saunderson, the blind professor of mathematics in Cambridge, England, not only knew ordinary money well, but he was an expert numismatist, and could detect counterfeits in a collection of antique coins better than ordinary persons could do by the sight.

Such an institute should have able professors and teachers, with special aptness for adapting their lessons to the condition of their scholars. It should furnish special facilities for the study of languages, ancient and modern; of mathematics, of pedagogy, and especially of music.

It should be well provided with everything necessary in a good conservatory of music; and have funds for payment of competent teachers.

NUMBER OF PERSONS PARTIALLY AND TEMPORARILY BLIND.

A little reflection will show what a large number of persons there must be to whom such an institute would be a source of great happiness, and a means of preparation for great usefulness. They are mainly of two classes. First, young men or women retarded, embarrassed, or arrested in the course of their education by some disorder or weakness of sight, which can only be cured by months or years of entire rest of the organ. Few think they can afford this. They are tempted to use their eyes, more or less. The disease is liable to become chronic; and the sight is often weakened for life, if not totally lost. It is hard to calculate the number of such persons, though it is very easy to see that it must be large.

Acute diseases of the eye are not uncommon, and chronic affections abound. In most large cities infirmaries, or wards of hospitals are devoted to the treatment of persons so affected; and many medical men confine their attention to ophthalmic diseases. The existence of these special means of aid (as in all similar cases) makes known the existence of an unexpectedly large class of sufferers. The supply does not, strictly, create the demand, but it gives knowledge thereof.

Twenty-seven European cities, with an aggregate population of 3,233,400 inhabitants, maintain 1,635 beds in ophthalmic hospitals, or one for about every 2,000 inhabitants.

In Boston, the Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary maintains 39 beds, and the City Hospital 30 beds, for patients with diseases of the eye, or one bed for about every 3,500 inhabitants. The whole number of ophthalmic patients treated at the Infirmary in 1869, was 3,328; in the City Hospital, a little less than 2,000. Of course a considerable portion of these patients come from the surrounding country; but, on the other hand, the patients treated in the hospitals are not so numerous as those treated in practice, or not treated at all.

I infer from these and other data, that there is a constant number of at least three thousand persons in this State who suffer under acute or chronic affections of the eye, which unfit them during an uncertain period of time for close application to any study or work. The calculation is indeed a rough one; but the number is at least approximative, and is more likely to be less than to be greater than the real one. The majority are

of course either too old or too young for school or college, but many are not; and if the common course of instruction is barred to them, a special one should be provided. If the book of knowledge is closed to the sight, it ought to be opened to the touch.

But however small this class, and however few of its members should seek to profit by a collegiate institute, in which all instruction would be oral and all demonstrations tangible, there is a large and persistent class of really blind persons which would surely supply students enough to fill it.

There are sufficient data to warrant the conclusion that in a population of forty millions in the temperate zone, there are twenty thousand blind persons of all ages. So many doubtless do exist in the United States.

About one thousand are under instruction, and there will soon be many more.

From among the graduates of these primary institutions are many who desire higher culture, who can profit by it, and who ought to have it.

The different State legislatures would doubtless pay the cost of educating a select number in the National Institute.

A little reflection will show what a great advantage generous culture would be to a blind man, even if he were to be only a musician. Let him be ever so accomplished in his immediate art, he is under great disadvantages as compared with his competitors who can see. But if, besides being a musician, he knows the Latin, Italian, and German languages, and has generous culture in other branches of knowledge, he will have advantages which few of them possess, and of course he will be more nearly on a level with them, and more capable of earning a living and enjoying it.

Human effort will in such a case be successful in counteracting the principal evil which flows from the infirmity of blindness.

It is, in part, with a view to founding and endowing such a national Collegiate Institute and Musical Conservatory for the Blind, that more funds are needed.

If we should succeed in raising \$100,000 for this purpose, I trust that we shall avoid the common error of investing too large a proportion of it in brick and mortar. It will be wise to dispense with any buildings for boarding and lodging the

scholars, and to hire their board in neighboring families; because all the disadvantages of the method adopted in most of our colleges, (which is a cross between convent and barracks,) are intensified in case of the blind. No external influences should favor the tendency which a common infirmity readily engenders, to social segregation of the sufferers, and to a spirit of caste among themselves.

All that will be absolutely necessary in the way of special buildings will be two structures: one with rooms for lectures and recitations, and for collections of models; another building for music hall, instruction rooms, practising rooms, etc. The buildings could be erected in wood for \$20,000 each, above the cost of land. The first could be provided with a nucleus of collections of models, and of a museum of natural history, for about \$5,000; and with printing press and the means of embossing, for \$5,000 more. The collections would almost certainly be increased by donations. The music hall could be provided with an organ, ten pianofortes, and a collection of musical instruments, for about \$15,000. Everything, however, will have to be done in the plainest and most economical manner.

The balance could be funded, and the income devoted to paying the salaries of professors. It is reasonable to expect that a small moderate yearly allowance would be made by the legislature of our State; and that other States would send a number of select pupils from their several institutions, and pay a suitable price for their education. If there were a fund large enough to pay by its interest the salaries of professors, the other current expenses would be small.

LOCATION.

The question of location of such an establishment should be settled mainly in view to two things: first, easy access to the musical centre of a large city, so that students could constantly hear the best performers and associate with artists; second, to facilities for attending ordinary lectures upon such branches of science and learning as they would hear with advantage. Cambridge, perhaps, would be the most suitable place in the United States.

There are certain strong considerations in favor of having the college entirely separated from an ordinary Institution for

the Blind ; considerations which intelligent blind persons will fully appreciate. Moreover it may be better, on some accounts, that the collegiate institute should be entirely independent of the other establishment, and be under a distinct board of trustees.

I earnestly commend this matter to your immediate and close attention, and to the favor of benevolent individuals, as the next step to be taken for the elevation and the happiness of a class who have been in all ages, and to a considerable extent still are, classed among paupers and treated as dependents. The offer of an opportunity to the most gifted among them for broad and generous culture, would be only the logical result of the successful effort to give to all of them the opportunity of elementary instruction. Shall we not follow in the way which duty commends to our conscience, and charity to our heart ?

The seminary should of course be open to the blind of both sexes. Will not our women, who so earnestly crusade against the shadowy disabilities of their sex, lend a hand to lessen the consequences of an infirmity which constitutes positive disability to industry and usefulness ?

* * * * *

THE PRINTING OFFICE.

* * * * * During the year that charming and humanizing work of fancy, the OLD CURIOSITY SHOP, has been printed at our press at the expense of the author. It was a beautiful gift. It gave great pleasure and enjoyment to our large household of blind persons. The pupils read it with eager delight, and, I believe, with profit also to themselves. Copies were sent to the other State institutions and to the homes of blind persons all over the country. It was everywhere received with joy and thankfulness. In the schools the pupils contended for the first reading. In many low houses, scattered over the country, a blind man or woman, who had read and re-read a score of times all the embossed books in use, stretched out their hands with joy to receive this new gift, which for awhile turned their darkness into light, and their solitude into society.

I have received many letters from blind persons which express their gratitude for the gift. One of them, after expressing his gratitude, says thoughtfully : " The Old Curiosity Shop will

show to blind children an example of patience and fortitude which they cannot easily forget. Many of them will have, through life, ample opportunity for the exercise of Little Nell's virtues."

I earnestly hope that Mr. Dickens' example may be followed by other writers, who have the means. An edition of any good book, printed in raised letters, will carry comfort and joy to many who sit in darkness. It must, however, be given, for the cost is very high, and were it not, very few blind persons could buy. But why should not elementary books at least be given to them? Our laws provide that school books may be furnished without cost to those too poor to buy them. And who are so poor as the blind? Most of them are born poor. Indeed, blindness is sometimes begotten of poverty, and is almost sure to beget it in turn. If the books cannot be given by law, let them be given by love. Our literary table groans under a load; and it would be well if a few crumbs should fall within the reach of the blind.

TARES AMONG THE WHEAT.

There are, indeed, some tares in the harvest. A few graduates of the institutions, overrating their own ability and acquirements, underrating their disadvantages and difficulties, and counting too much upon the general disposition to encourage the blind, undertake tasks altogether beyond their strength. Catching from seeing people the pestilent notion that manual labor is not respectable, they shun work at trades, and try something more genteel. Without natural abilities and aptness for teaching, and without the necessary culture, they attempt to give lectures, or exhibitions, or concerts; or to teach music; and far the most part make sad failures. Their failure brings despair to them, and discredit to the blind as a class.

Still greater discredit and harm is done by a few, the most unfortunate of all, who profiting by the ready sympathy which their infirmity excites, impose upon the public and obtain money under false pretences of various kinds. But abuses will follow among the blessings conferred upon any class by the first efforts at their elevation and improvement. No unusual proportion of abuses has arisen among the blind.

BEGGARS, SWINDLERS, &C.

In consequence of the impositions practised upon the public, and the harm done to our cause by unworthy graduates of our own, and of other State institutions, I have felt constrained to insert a caution in our public papers, in the following terms:—

* * * * The cause of the education of the blind suffers, and worthy blind persons are mortified, by a few of their number perverting the instruction and advantage they have received, for the purpose of imposing upon the public, and leading idle lives. Some of them who have been taught to work, and who can have work, prefer to go about the country, giving bad music and poor recitations, which people are importuned to attend and to pay for, not because of any intrinsic merit, but merely because the performers are blind.

Some of them put up at expensive hotels, and live luxuriously by sponging the landlords. Taking advantage of the ready sympathy which blindness excites, they get free passage on railroads and steamboats, and even upon ocean steamers, and importune the benevolent in various ways. One pretending to be a clergyman, gets into pulpits, and takes up contributions, nominally to promote the education of the blind, but never gives a cent for the purpose. Another has been going about the country, principally the Western and Southwestern States, several years, and is known to have collected several thousand dollars, for an imaginary "*Printing House*" for the blind, which has never yet printed a sheet. There is something about the proceedings of one of the agents of this enterprise, which smacks not only of humbug, but of a cruel swindle.

Another, after years spent in travelling up and down the country, living and dressing luxuriously, calls for an annuity for the decline of life, &c. They are so importunate, they have so much effrontery, they gather so much money, that when really deserving persons apply for aid it is hard to be obtained.

Dreadful is the calamity of blindness; and some sufferers, in spite of all their efforts at self-support, must be aided. For their sakes, and for the best interests of the blind generally, all persons are requested to investigate each case carefully before giving money or promises.

State institutions, and organized societies for the aid of the blind, exist in all parts of the United States. Application to them will reveal the character of most of those who solicit subscriptions. It may prevent the bold and undeserving from getting what should be given to modest and worthy sufferers.

ACTS AND RESOLVES RELATING TO THE INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

1828.

ACTS, chap. 113. Incorporation, March 2. (Abstract thereof.)

Sect. 1. Incorporating Jonathan Phillips, William Prescott, and others, as the New England Asylum for the Blind.

Sect. 2. Authorizing them to hold property for the maintenance of the Asylum, the income thereof not to exceed \$30,000.

Sect. 3. Providing for the admission of State beneficiaries, not to exceed thirty, the same to be selected by the legislature, or some officer thereto appointed.

Sect. 4. Twelve trustees to have charge of the Asylum; eight of them to be chosen by the Corporation, and four by the Board of Visitors.

Sect. 5. The Corporation to appoint officers, and make regulations for the management of the Asylum.

Sect. 6. The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House, with the Chaplains of the Legislature, to constitute a Board of Visitors.

Sect. 7. The State to pay for its beneficiaries at the rate fixed by the Corporation for other inmates.

Sect. 8. Authorizing change of name, when deemed expedient.

Sect. 9. Provision for calling first meeting.

1830.

RESOLVES, chap. 81. Allowing the unexpended balance of the appropriation for the deaf and dumb to be paid to the New England Asylum for the Blind the current year, and from time to time thereafter, upon the Governor's warrant, unless other disposition thereof be made by the General Court.

1831.

Institution organized under direction of Sam'l G. Howe.

1833.

RESOLVES, chap. 28. \$6,000 to be paid annually, during the pleasure of the legislature: *provided*, that in consideration of this and former grants, (i. e., of the unexpended balance of the deaf and dumb appropriation,) the Asylum shall care for twenty poor persons belonging to the State, to be selected by the Governor and Council, and to be dismissed from the Asylum by them,—the State beneficiaries not to be under six nor over twenty-four years old.

RESOLVES, chap. 36. Giving the power of selection of State beneficiaries to the Governor alone.

1847.

RESOLVES, chap. 49. Allowing \$9,000 annually, on condition that the Asylum shall receive forty State beneficiaries, if so many shall be recommended, in accordance with the Resolves of 1833, chaps. 28 and 36. All previous grants repealed.

1849.

RESOLVES, chap. 77. Appropriating \$5,000 for a work-shop for adults provided the Asylum add thereto a like sum, and any other sums that may be necessary to complete the building.

1855.

RESOLVES, chap. 62. Increasing the annual appropriation to \$12,000; commencing April 1, 1855.

1861.

RESOLVES, chap. 51. Appropriating \$3,000 in addition to the regular amount, (\$12,000,) provided the trustees admit all such persons as the Governor may designate, and educate them gratuitously.

1862-63.

RESOLVES, chap. 84, 1862, and chap. 65, 1863, repeat the preceding grant.

1864.

RESOLVES, chap. 56. Increasing the annual appropriation from \$12,000 to \$16,000, provided that the trustees shall receive and gratuitously educate all such indigent persons, or the children of indigent persons, as the Governor may designate, and that no charge shall be made to the Commonwealth for clothing furnished to State beneficiaries.

ACTS, chap. 96. The Governor to annually appoint four trustees, who shall hold office one year, or until their successors are appointed. Vacancies occurring by death or resignation to be filled by the Governor. Such portion of chap. 113 of the Acts of 1828, as authorizes the appointment of trustees by a Board of Visitors, is repealed. This Act not to take effect until accepted by the Corporation, at a meeting to be called for that purpose.

1865.

RESOLVES, chap. 17. The trustees to fix the price for beneficiaries, with Governor's approval, the amount to be fixed in each case with reference to the ability of beneficiaries, or their parents, to contribute to their support.

1866.

RESOLVES, chap. 36. \$4,000 allowed for current expenses, in addition to the regular appropriation, (\$16,000.)

1867.

RESOLVES, chap. 19. Like the preceding.

1868.

RESOLVES, chap. 12. \$9,000 allowed in addition to the regular appropriation of \$16,000.

RESOLVES, chap. 14. \$15,000 allowed for buildings,—work-shop, laundry, &c.,—to be paid when a similar sum has actually been raised by the friends of the Asylum.

1869.

RESOLVES, chap. 19. \$5,000 annually to be allowed, additional to sums authorized by chap. 56, Resolves of 1864, and chap. 12, Resolves of 1868, making the annual appropriation this year and hereafter, \$30,000, subject to the condition of chap. 56, Resolves of 1864, to supersede the appropriation (\$16,000) made by chap. 27, Acts of 1869.

RESOLVES, chap. 71. That there be allowed and paid to the trustees of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, the sum of \$80,000, and the same is hereby appropriated for the purpose of erecting suitable buildings for the use of the institution, the same to be paid from time to time in instalments, as may be certified to be necessary by the trustees: *provided*, that no portion of the said sum shall be paid until the said trustees shall have conveyed to the Commonwealth by a good and sufficient deed, and free from all incumbrances, the land on which the buildings to be erected shall stand, and so much adjacent thereto as the Governor and Council shall require; and until the plans for said buildings, and the estimates therefor, shall have been approved by the Governor and Council.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

Blind persons, under sixteen years of age, of good moral character, can be admitted to the Junior Department by paying \$300 per annum. This sum covers all ordinary expenses, except for clothing; namely, board, washing, the use of books, musical instruments, &c. In cases of severe sickness, requiring extra nursing and medical attendance, an extra charge must be made. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the Institution.

Indigent blind persons, of suitable age and character, belonging to Massachusetts, can be admitted gratuitously, by application to the Governor for a warrant.

The following is a good form, though any other will do :

“ To His Excellency the Governor :

“ SIR,—My son, (or my daughter, or nephew, or niece, as the case may be,) named A. B., and aged _____, cannot be instructed in the common schools for want of sight. I am unable to pay for the tuition at the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, and I request that your Excellency will grant a warrant for free admission.

“ Very respectfully _____.”

The application may be made by any relation or friend, if the parents are dead or absent.

It should be accompanied by a certificate from one or more of the selectmen of the town, or aldermen of the city, in this form :

“ I hereby certify that, in my opinion, Mr. _____ is not a wealthy person, and that he cannot afford to pay \$300 per annum for his child’s instruction.
(Signed,) _____.”

There should also be a certificate, signed by some regular physician, in this form :

“ I certify that, in my opinion, _____ cannot see well enough to be taught in common schools; and that he is free from epilepsy, and from any contagious disease.
(Signed,) _____.”

These papers should be done up together, and directed to “ The Secretary of the Commonwealth, State House, Boston, Mass.”

An obligation will be required from some responsible persons, that the pupil shall be removed without expense to the Institution, whenever it may be desirable to discharge him.

The usual period of tuition is from five to seven years.

Indigent blind persons residing in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island, by applying as above to the "Commissioners for the Blind, care of the Secretary of State," in the respective States, can obtain warrants of free admission.

Adult blind persons, of good character, and in good health, who wish to learn a trade, can be admitted to the work-department, and be taught some handicraft gratuitously. They have to board in private families, and the cost must be paid by their relatives. If the relatives are poor, then application should be made for aid to the town or State authorities, to meet this expense. Such persons seldom need to remain over a year. They can usually earn enough after that time to provide, in part at least, for themselves.

For further particulars, address Dr. S. G. Howe, Director of the Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

The relatives or friends of the blind who may be sent to the institution, are requested to furnish information in answer to the following questions :

1. What is the name and age of the applicant ?
2. Where born ?
3. Was he born blind ? If not, at what age was the sight impaired ?
4. Is the blindness total or partial ?
5. What is the supposed cause of the blindness ?
6. Has he ever been subject to fits ?
7. Is he now in good health and free from eruptions and contagious diseases of the skin ?
8. Has he ever been to school ? If yes, where ?
9. What is the general moral character of the applicant ?
10. Is he gentle and docile in temper, or the contrary ?
11. Has he any peculiarity of temper and disposition ?
12. Of what country was father of the applicant a native ?
13. What was the general bodily condition and health of the father—was he vigorous and healthy, or the contrary ?
14. Was the father of the applicant ever subject to fits or scrofula ?
15. Were all his senses perfect ?
16. Was he always a temperate man ?
17. About how old was he when the applicant was born ?
18. Was there any known peculiarity in the family of the father of the applicant ; that is, were any of the grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters or cousins, blind, deaf or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind ?
19. If dead, at what age did he die, and of what disorder ?
20. Where was the mother of the applicant born ?
21. What was the general bodily condition of the mother of the applicant—strong and healthy, or the contrary ?

22. Was she ever subject to scrofula or to fits ?
23. Were all her senses perfect ?
24. Was she always a temperate woman ?
25. About how old was she when the applicant was born ?
26. How many children had she before the applicant was born ?
27. Was she related by blood to her husband ? if so, in what degree—1st, 2d or 3d cousins ?
28. If dead, at what age did she die, and of what disorder ?
29. Was there any known peculiarity in her family ; that is, were any of her grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, sisters, brothers, children or cousins either blind, or deaf or insane, or afflicted with any infirmity of body or mind ?
30. What are the pecuniary means of the parents or immediate relatives of the applicant ?
31. How much can they afford to pay towards the support and education of the applicant ?

MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION.

All persons who have contributed twenty-five dollars to the funds of the Institution, all who have served as Trustees or as Treasurer, and all who have been elected by special vote, are members.

AMORY, JAMES S.
APTHORP, ROBERT E.
ATKINSON, EDWARD.
ATKINSON, WM.
AUSTIN, JAMES T.

BEARD, A. W.
BELLOWS, A. J.
BOUVE, THOS. T.
BOWDITCH, NATHANIEL.
BREWER, THOS. M.
BREWSTER, OSMYN.
BRIMMER, MARTIN.
BROOKS, EDWARD.
BROOKS, FRANCIS.

CHANDLER, THEOPHILUS P.
CLAFLIN, LEE.
CLAFLIN, WM.
COOLIDGE, A.
CUMMINS, JOHN.

DAVIS, JAMES.
DAVIS, JOHN.
DENNY, DANIEL.
DEPEYSTER, AUG.
DIX, J. H.
DIXWELL, J. J.

ELIOT, SAMUEL A.
ELLIS, F.
EMERSON, GEORGE B.

EMERY, FRANCIS F.
EMERY, ISAAC.
EMMONS, NATHANIEL H.
ENDICOTT, WM., JR.

FISHER, FREEMAN.
FISK, BENJAMIN.
FULLER, A. W.

GODDARD, BENJAMIN.
GRANT, B. B.
GRAY, HORACE.
GRAY, JOHN C.
GRAY, THOMAS.
GREENLEAF, R. C.

HALE, GEORGE S.
HALL, D.
HALL, JEREMIAH.
HALL, N.
HILL, HAMILTON A.
HOVEY, C. F.
HOWE, SAMUEL G.

JACKSON, PATRICK T.
JACKSON, SARAH.
JACKSON, WM. M.
JARVIS, EDWARD.
JOHNSON, S., JR.

KINSLEY, E. W.

LAWRENCE, A.
LIVERMORE, ISAAC.
LORD, MELVIN.
LORING, JOSEPH.
LOUD, SAMUEL P.
LOWELL, AUGUSTUS.
LOWELL, J. A.
LYMAN, GEORGE W.
LYMAN, THEODORE.
LYMAN, JOSEPH.

MACK, THOMAS.
MAY, SAMUEL.
MINOTT, WM.
MORTON, EDWIN.
MUDGE, E. R.

PALMER, JULIUS A.
PARKMAN, FRANCIS.
PARKMAN, JOHN.
PARKMAN, MRS. SARAH.
PARKS, LUTHER.
PARSONS, THOMAS.
PERKINS, EDWARD N.
PERKINS, WM.
PETERS, EDWARD D.
PICKMAN, JOHN S.
PRESTON, JONATHAN.

QUINCY, JOSIAH.

REED, B. T.
REVERE, JOSEPH W.
ROBINSON, HENRY.
ROGERS, WM. B.
ROTCH, BENJ. S.
RUSSELL, MRS. SARAH S.

SALTONSTALL, LEVERETT.
SEARS, DAVID.
SIMPSON, JOHN K.
SLACK, C. W.
SNELLING, SAMUEL.
STEPHENSON, JOHN H.
STICKNEY, JOSIAH.
STURGIS, JAMES.
SUMNER, CHAS.

TAYLOR, CHAS.
THAXTER, JOSEPH B., Jr.
TICKNOR, GEORGE.

WALES, GEORGE B.
WALES, THOMAS B.
WIGGLESWORTH, Misses.
WILDER, MARSHALL P.
WILLIAMS, S. G.
WINSLOW, GEORGE.
WINTHROP, ROBERT C.
WOODS, HENRY.

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION,
1869-70.

PRESIDENT.

SAMUEL MAY.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

JOSEPH LYMAN.

TREASURER.

WM. ENDICOTT, JR.

SECRETARY.

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

TRUSTEES.

ROBERT E. APTHORP.
FRANCIS BROOKS.
THOMAS T. BOUVÉ.
SAMUEL ELIOT.
GEORGE S. HALE.
JOSEPH LYMAN.

E. R. MUDGE.
EDWARD N. PERKINS.
JOSIAH QUINCY.
BENJAMIN S. ROTCH.
SAMUEL S. SNELLING.
JAMES STURGIS.

VISITING COMMITTEE.

For OCTOBER,	Messrs. APTHORP AND BOUVÉ.
NOVEMBER,	BOUVÉ AND BROOKS.
DECEMBER,	BROOKS AND PERKINS.
JANUARY,	PERKINS AND HALE.
FEBRUARY,	HALE AND LYMAN.
MARCH,	LYMAN AND MUDGE.
APRIL,	MUDGE AND QUINCY.
MAY,	QUINCY AND ROTCH.
JUNE,	ROTCH AND SNELLING.
JULY,	SNELLING AND STURGIS.
AUGUST,	STURGIS AND APTHORP.
SEPTEMBER,	—————.



