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MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TO THE

TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS

AT THE

COMMENCEMENT OF THE SECOND SESSION

OF

THE THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

DECEMBER 6, 1858.—Read, and committed to a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and, together with the accompanying documents, ordered to be printed.

DECEMBER 11, 1858.—Resolved, That there be printed, for the use of the members of the House of Representatives, twenty thousand extra copies of the message of the President of the United States, together with the accompanying documents.

VOLUME I.

WASHINGTON:
JAMES B. STEEDMAN, PRINTER.
1858.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF, DUMB,
AND BLIND.

COLUMBIA INSTITUTION FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE
DEAF, DUMB, AND BLIND, *November 1, 1858.*

SIR: In compliance with the acts of Congress incorporating and providing for the support of this institution, I have the honor to report its condition on the 1st day of July last, including its operations for the preceding year. The report of the superintendent to the president and directors, and its appendix, herewith submitted, to which I beg leave to refer you, supersede the necessity for any extended details on my part.

Appendix A shows the private contributions for the support of the institution during the year, amounting to \$1,250, besides books, furniture, and various other articles.

Appendix B, being the treasurer's account, shows the receipts from all sources, viz :

From private subscriptions.....	\$1,250 00
From the United States, for maintenance and tuition, per act of Congress of February 16, 1857.....	2,125 75
From the United States, for salaries and incidental ex- penses, per act of May 29, 1858.....	3,000 00
From the corporation of Washington	100 00
From one paying pupil.....	37 50
	<hr/>
	6,513 25
	<hr/> <hr/>

Of this sum, \$75 was disbursed by the treasurer, and \$6,437 66 was advanced to the superintendent, leaving in the treasury at the close of the year 59 cents.

"B continued" is the superintendent's account, showing the disposition made by him of the moneys received from the treasurer, of which \$318 75 remained on hand.

The exact expenditures of the institution for the year were as follows, viz :

Disbursed by the treasurer.....	\$75 00
Disbursed by the superintendent.....	6,118 88
	<hr/>
Total.....	6,193 88
	<hr/> <hr/>

All disbursements are now made through the superintendent.

C gives the names of the pupils and the dates when they entered the institution, embracing twelve mutes and six blind.

The conduct of the pupils and their progress in knowledge attest the good management and assiduity of the superintendent, matron, and teachers, and have already proved that the charities of our fellow-

citizens and the government have not been expended in vain upon this infant institution.

I am happy to say that the institution is entirely out of debt, and, so far as the support of the pupils and mere literary instruction is concerned, is amply provided for. But it is still wanting in convenient house-room, and the means of teaching those industrial pursuits, whether agricultural or mechanical, which will enable them to earn an honorable subsistence after they leave the institution.

On these subjects the Board of Directors heartily concur in the remarks of their superintendent in his report, and earnestly invoke the influence and aid of your department in an application to Congress for means to supply these deficiencies.

By order of the Board of Directors.

AMOS KENDALL,
President.

HON. JACOB THOMPSON, *Secretary of the Interior.*

First annual report of the Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind, for the year ending June 30, 1858.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

JAMES BUCHANAN, *President of the United States, Patron.*

HON. AMOS KENDALL, *President.*

WILLIAM STICKNEY, *Secretary.*

GEORGE W. RIGGS, Jr., *Treasurer.*

WILLIAM H. EDES, JAMES C. MCGUIRE, JUDSON MITCHELL, DAVID A. HALL, REV. BYRON SUNDERLAND, D. D., *Directors.*

EDWARD M. GALLAUDET, *Superintendent.*

JAMES DENISON, (of the deaf and dumb,) MARIA M. EDDY, (of the blind,) *Instructors.*

Mrs. THOMAS H. GALLAUDET, *Matron.*

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the President and Directors of the Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind.

GENTLEMEN: Considerable difficulties having been surmounted at the outset, and many drawbacks experienced during the year just closed, the institution finds itself at present in a condition which cannot fail to encourage those who have taken an active part in its establishment and are interested in its progress.

Commencing its operations almost entirely without means, it has been enabled, by the aid of appropriations from Congress, together with subscriptions from private individuals,* to meet all expenses hitherto, while a balance remains of over \$300.†

The number of pupils under instruction during the year has been eighteen; one has left, and seventeen are at present in the institution. Of these, eleven are deaf mutes and six are blind.‡

The deaf mutes have been under the immediate supervision of Mr. James Denison, formerly an instructor in the Michigan Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind. Mr. Denison's talents and experience fit him most admirably for his task, and the pupils under his charge have made very satisfactory advances. The books used during the year have been Dr. Peet's "Elementary Lessons for the Deaf and Dumb" and "Mrs. Barbauld's Lessons." The instructions of the first year in the education of mutes are principally in language, the acquirement of which constitutes the greatest difficulty in the mental training of this class of persons.

The studies of arithmetic and history will be commenced the next term, improvement in spelling and penmanship being, of course, aimed at in connexion with all these exercises.

The blind pupils have been under the care of Mrs. Maria M. Eddy, whose persevering and patient efforts in their behalf have been crowned with the most gratifying results. The studies pursued have necessarily been elementary, the books used being mostly those prepared under the direction of Dr. Howe at the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, together with the Holy Scriptures, a copy of which, in eight volumes, was kindly presented to the institution by the Washington Bible Society.

It is designed to give the blind instruction in both vocal and instrumental music during the coming year, while they will also engage in the studies of geography, history, arithmetic, and penmanship.

Manual labor, except in the simplest forms of house and garden work, has not been taught in either department as yet; nor can it be satisfactorily until the accommodations of the institution are enlarged.

This is a very important branch of the education, both of deaf mutes and blind; for, without it, one of the great objects of the instruction of these classes—viz: to make them self-supporting members of society—is left unattained.

The health of the pupils has been generally good, only two cases of severe sickness having occurred during the year. Dr. A. Y. P. Garnett has thus far most kindly acted as physician to the institution, free of charge, and has been assiduous in his attentions whenever medical treatment became necessary. Owing to a kind, watchful Providence no death has occurred within our walls.

Much inconvenience has been experienced, and doubtless some sickness caused, by the necessity of using two buildings, separated a con-

* For a list of subscriptions and donations, see Appendix A.

† For an exhibit of receipts and expenditures, see Appendix B.

‡ For a list of pupils and regulations in regard to admission, see Appendix C.

siderable distance from each other, for the accommodation of the institution.

As the school and dining rooms are in different houses, pupils and teachers have been compelled to pass through the streets in all weathers. Those more easily affected are, of course, the blind, owing to the delicacy of constitution incident to their condition; and the difficulty of their attending school in inclement weather has amounted almost, and sometimes even quite, to an impossibility.

It is unnecessary to call the attention of the directors to the fact that the continuance of this arrangement would seriously impair the usefulness of the institution, for the inadaptation of the building at present occupied to the purposes of such a school as this is sufficiently obvious. But to a few specific wants that exist, even with our present number of pupils, it may be well to call attention.

There are but eight sleeping apartments in the institution, of which four are occupied by the officers and teachers, while in the others we are compelled to dispose of the pupils as follows: Six in a single room, nineteen feet by sixteen; eight in two rooms, each thirteen feet square; and three in a room twelve feet square. These chambers have low ceilings, and, although the occupants can be made comparatively comfortable in them, the ventilation is very imperfect. No spare room is available in case of sickness, and already, in several instances, we have been compelled to permit the sick and well to remain at night in the same apartment. There are, likewise, no rooms for the use of the pupils while out of school, either for study or recreation, and they are, consequently, compelled to remain, the boys in their school room, and the girls in the dining room. As these rooms are small, and in winter very poorly ventilated, the health of those occupying them has suffered to some extent.

Thus it will be observed that, with even our present number of pupils, our buildings are entirely inadequate to our wants; and the time is at hand when, to alleviate the misfortunes of all for whose benefit the institution was established, an effort should be made to secure larger and more permanent accommodations. There are already quite a number of deaf mutes and blind in the District who will soon be of sufficient age to enter the institution, and before buildings could be erected, even if already commenced, the regular increase of population will have brought others into our midst.

Long ere those now in the institution shall have completed their course of study, other silent faces will be turned towards us pleading for a home and for instruction; other eager fingers will be restlessly groping for the magic pages that can alone impart light and knowledge to their darkened understanding; and surely those who have fostered and sustained this benevolent institution thus far will be unwilling to see any who deserve and require the assistance it is designed to afford turned back from its doors and denied admission.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. M. GALLAUDET,
Superintendent.

WASHINGTON, November, 1850.

APPENDIX A.

List of subscriptions and donations for the year ending June 30, 1858.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Hon. Amos Kendall, (\$200 per annum for five years).....	\$200
James C. McGuire, (\$100 per annum for five years).....	100
Wm. H. Edes, (\$100 per annum for five years).....	100
Wm. W. Corcoran, (\$100 per annum for five years).....	100
George W. Riggs, jr., (\$100 per annum for five years).....	100
Cornelius Wendell, (\$100 per annum for five years).....	100
Judson Mitchell.....	100
David A. Hall.....	100
Jacob Gideon.....	150
James S. Morsell.....	50
Edward Dacy.....	50
J. E. Carter.....	30
J. P. Ingle.....	30
A deaf mute friend in Boston.....	30
Cash	10

DONATIONS.

Mr. Amos Kendall, one sideboard, one fender, one table spread, one crumb cloth, one stand, one rocking chair, one pair window curtains, and a quantity of straw matting.

The Washington Bible Society, one copy of the Bible in raised letters for the use of the blind, eight volumes, folio.

Wm. M. Shuster & Co., 40 yards of sheeting, one piece of crash towelling.

Perry & Brother, 15 yards sheeting.

Nairn & Palmer, various drugs and medicines.

William Stickney, one barrel of coal.

Miss Helen E. Stewart, dry goods and clothing for pupils.

APPENDIX B.

The Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind, in account with George W. Riggs, jr., treasurer.

1857.	Dr.		1858.	Cr.	
July 7	To cash paid J. O. Olds for services	\$75 00	July 3	By cash received from subscriptions	\$1,250 00
July 1858.	To cash advances to E. M. Gallaudet, superintendent, on drafts of the president or secretary	\$6,437 66		By cash received from the United States for maintenance and tuition of beneficiaries, per act of Congress of February 16, 1857	2,125 75
July 3	To balance to new account	59		By cash received from the United States for salaries and incidental expenses, per act of Congress of May 29, 1858	3,000 00
				By cash received from the corporation of Washington	100 00
				By cash, tuition of one paying pupil	37 50
		<u>6,513 25</u>			<u>6,513 25</u>
				By balance brought down	59

E. and O. E.
Washington, July 3, 1858.

GEORGE W. RIGGS, JR., *Treasurer.*

APPENDIX B—Continued.

Superintendent's statement of receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year closing June 30, 1858.

1857.		RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURES.	June 30	\$50 00
July	14	Amos Kendall, pres't, on G. W. Riggs, Jr., treas.	Salaries		\$1,886 43
	27	W. Stickney, secretary	Wages and labor		401 91
Aug.	8	Amos Kendall, president	Groceries		687 13
Sept.	1	W. Stickney, secretary	Rent		312 50
	12	Amos Kendall, president	Drugs and medicines		14 98
Oct.	6	do	Fuel and lights		170 59
	16	do	Vegetables and fruit		66 96
	21	do	Hay, oats and grain		120 59
Nov.	4	W. Stickney, secretary	Clothing		56 43
	7	do	Blacksmithing, &c.		36 28
	17	Amos Kendall, president	Meat and fish		373 70
Dec.	11	do	Yeast		4 34
	18	do	Travelling expenses		39 10
1858.			Butter and eggs		145 28
Jan.	12	do	Furniture		998 71
	19	do	Hardware		23 62
	29	do	Horse, harness and carriage		361 12
Feb.	12	do	Books and stationery		74 09
March	12	do	Sandries		97 82
	15	do	Postage		8 08
	17	do	Dry goods		173 99
April	7	do	Cakes		3 46
	17	do	Milk		52 77
June	4	W. Stickney, secretary	Balance		318 78
	21	Amos Kendall, president			
	29	do			
July	3	do			
					6,437 66
					318 78
					6,437 66

To balance brought down

E. E.

E. M. GALLAUDET, Superintendent.

APPENDIX C.

List of pupils in the Institution during the year ending June 30, 1858.

DEAF MUTES.

Name.	Residence.	Date of admission.
Blood, William	Washington county, D. C.	April 16, 1857.
Brewer, John Lewis	Georgetown, D. C.	August 12, 1857.
Collins, Robert S.	Georgetown, D. C.	January 1, 1858.
Henry, James	Washington county, D. C.	April 16, 1857.
Hughes, Hannah M.	Washington city, D. C.	August 26, 1857.
Nailor, Mary A.	Washington city, D. C.	September 14, 1857.
Paul, Ann Eliza	Georgetown, D. C.	August 7, 1857.
Quinn, John	Washington county, D. C.	April 16, 1857.
Szymanoskie, Ann	Washington county, D. C.	April 16, 1857.
White, Joseph	Washington city, D. C.	September 14, 1857.
Williams, John	Washington city, D. C.	August 3, 1857.
Winn, Isaac	Washington county, D. C.	April 16, 1857.

BLIND.

Name.	Residence.	Date of admission.
Braun, Bridget	Georgetown, D. C.	August 6, 1857.
Darby, Edward	Rockville, Md.	January 12, 1858.
Donalson, Mary M.	Washington city, D. C.	September 7, 1857.
Gibbons, Eliza Ann	Washington city, D. C.	August 3, 1857.
Gibbons, John Turner	Washington city, D. C.	August 3, 1857.
Seyes, Francis T.	Washington city, D. C.	June 1, 1858.

Regulations.

1. The academic year is divided into two terms: the first beginning on the second Thursday in September, and closing on the twenty-fourth of December; the second beginning the second of January, and closing the first Wednesday in July.

2. The vacations are from the twenty-fourth of December to the second of January, and from the first Wednesday in July to the second Thursday in September.

3. There are holydays at Thanksgiving, at Easter, and the 4th of July.

4. The pupils may visit their homes during the regular vacations and at the above named holydays, but at no other time unless for some special urgent reason, and then only by permission of the superintendent of the institution.

5. The bill for the maintenance and tuition of pupils supported by their friends must be paid semi-annually in advance.

6. The charge for pay pupils is one hundred and fifty dollars each per annum. For this sum the institution will provide tuition, board, lodging, washing, fuel, lights, stationery and other incidental expenses of the school-room.

The government of the United States defrays the expenses of those who reside in the District of Columbia, or whose parents are in the army or navy, provided they are unable to pay for their education.

It is expected that the friends of the pupils will provide them with clothing, and it is important that upon entering or returning to the institution they should be supplied with a sufficient amount for an entire year. All clothing should be plainly marked with the owner's name.

All letters concerning pupils, or applications for admission, whether for pay pupils or beneficiaries, should be addressed to the superintendent.