

MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

AND

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS,

TO THE

TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS,

AT

THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE FIRST SESSION

OF

THE THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

REPORT
OF
THE COLUMBIA INSTITUTION
FOR
THE DEAF AND DUMB AND THE BLIND,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1863.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

- Patron.*—ABRAHAM LINCOLN, *President of the United States.*
President.—HON. AMOS KENDALL.
Secretary.—WILLIAM STICKNEY.
Treasurer.—GEORGE W. RIGGS, JR.
Directors.—WILLIAM H. EDES, JAMES C. MCGUIRE, JUDSON MITCHELL, DAVID A. HALL, Rev. BYRON SUNDERLAND, D. D.
Suprintendent.—EDWARD M. GALLAUDET, M. A.
Instructors of the Deaf and Dumb.—JAMES DENISON, P. B., WILLIAM E. IJAMS, M. A., ROSWELL PARISH, JR.
Instructor of Drawing.—PETER BAUMGRAS.
Instructress of the Blind.—MARY T. G. GORDON.
Attending Physician.—N. S. LINCOLN, M. D.
Matron.—MRS. THOMAS H. GALLAUDET.
Assistant Matron.—SOPHIA G. HUNTER.
Master of Shop.—JOHN R. WRIGHT.

COLUMBIA INSTITUTE FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE DEAF AND
DUMB AND THE BLIND, *October 15, 1863.*

SIR : In compliance with the acts of Congress making provision for the support of this institution, I proceed to report its progress during the year ending the 30th day of June, 1863.

The pupils remaining in the institution on the 1st of July, 1863, numbered.	38
Entered during the past year.....	19
Left the institution.....	5
	— 14
	—
Remaining on the 30th of June last.....	52
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For a detailed account of the progress of the institution during the last year, and its present wants, I respectfully refer to the report of the superintendent, herewith submitted, marked A.

The document marked A 1, attached to the superintendent's report, shows the names and residences of all the pupils instructed in the institution during the last year.

Document marked A 2 exhibits the general expenditures and receipts of the institution during the year. It will be seen that its receipts, including a balance of \$383 20 on hand at the beginning of the year, were \$11,016 27, and its expenditures \$11,050 49, showing a balance of \$34 22 due the superintendent.

A 3 shows the pecuniary results of the manual labor shop.

A 4 accounts for the expenditure of the balance of the appropriation for the erection and furnishing of buildings.

As evidence that the bounty of Congress to this institution has not been in vain, and that the confidence of the State of Maryland and the city of Baltimore has not been misplaced, I submit herewith the report of the examining committee, marked B.

By reference to the general account it will be seen that the institution has received, during the last year, \$2,048 28 from the State of Maryland, and \$400 from the city of Baltimore—all for the board and tuition of deaf and dumb pupils. The number from that quarter is expected to be much increased during the current year.

I invite special attention to that part of the superintendent's report which relates to the manual labor shop. It is the opinion of our board of directors that mental culture is comparatively of little value to these children of misfortune, unless at the same time they be exercised in some kind of occupation by which they may be able to support themselves after finishing their course in the institution. It may well be doubted whether mere mental culture, without instruction or exercise in any trade or occupation, tends to promote either their happiness or usefulness. If not accustomed to labor while obtaining their education, they are certain to acquire a distaste for it which is likely to adhere to them during life, and as their infirmities exclude them from the learned professions and many other sources of income which are open to their more fortunate fellow-citizens, there is danger that education may be to them a source of misery rather than happiness. It is, therefore, our earnest desire to obtain the means of purchasing land and erecting suitable workshops, that we may set all our male pupils of suitable age at work, during a part of each day, at agriculture, horticulture, or some mechanic employment, for which each may seem best adapted. At present we can teach only cabinet-making, and that only to a portion of our boys. The residue of the boys and the girls of necessity spend their hours of recess from study in frolic or idleness, measurably unfitting them for labor hereafter.

Owing to the condition of the country we have received no aid during the past year from the fund transferred to us by the trustees of "Washington's Manual Labor School and Male Orphan Asylum," on the dissolution of that corporation, and the account, marked A 3, shows a balance against the shop of \$451 38. There are, however, on hand materials and unfinished work worth over \$200. But, while mental culture yields no pecuniary return, this branch of instruction has yielded, during the past year, \$1,495 46, though the boys were all young apprentices. It has been our calculation that the savings in the annual allowance of \$150 each for the board and tuition of the pupils would be sufficient to meet any possible deficiency in this branch of instruction, a calculation in which we may be disappointed by the increase in the cost of living; but we cannot doubt that Congress, if need be, will increase the annual allowance so as to meet the emergency.

We earnestly commend to your favorable consideration those portions of the superintendent's report which relate to appropriations for improvements and additional accommodations. It has been a principle with us, in the management of this noble charity, to ask for nothing which is not essential to its success,

