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.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1863.
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. Eder, James C. McGuire, Judson Mitchell,
David A. Hall, Rev. Byron Sunderland, D. D.
Superintendent.—Edward M. Gallaudet, M. A.
Instructors of the Deaf and Dumb.—James Denison, P. B., William E.
Jiams, 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

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 25 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,
and to state, with all possible accuracy, the sum required for each new improvement. We have not now, and we do not intend to have hereafter, occasion to ask Congress to make up deficiencies in appropriations; and if what we ask be given, Congress shall not be troubled, through any fault on our part, with claims for arrearages. If future demands be made on public liberality, it will be hereafter, as heretofore, to meet wants growing out of the increased usefulness of the institution.

I invite attention to the remarkable fact, that during the seven years which have elapsed since the establishment of this institution it has not lost a single pupil by death. It speaks well for the salubriosity of the location, and better for the regular habits enforced upon the pupils when well, and the faithful attendance and careful nursing received by them when sick. A parallel for this fact can scarcely be found in the same number of children elsewhere of similar ages with all their faculties entire, and it is the more remarkable from the consideration that, in many instances, the deprivation of senses in these children is produced or accompanied by constitutional or permanent diseases.

For the remarkable success which has attended this institution, the board of directors is mainly indebted to the fidelity and ability of the superintendent, aided by faithful teachers, the motherly care of the matron and her assistant, and the skill and assiduity of our attending physician. On these elements, with the good will of Congress and the blessing of Heaven, we confidently rely for its future success and further advancement.

By order of the board of directors.

Hon. John P. Usher,
Secretary of the Interior.

P. S.—Since the superintendent of the institution has been made a disbursing agent of the government, the moneys appropriated for and received by the institution, except the manual labor fund, do not pass through the hands of its treasurer. Hence the absence of his report.

A.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the President and Directors of the Columbia Institution
for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind:

Gentlemen: I have the honor to report the progress made in the institution under your direction during the year ending June 30, 1863. The number of pupils remaining in the institution July 1, 1862, was thirty-eight. Of these, three did not return after the summer vacation. There have been nineteen admissions within the year, making the total number under instruction fifty-four. Two have left us, and fifty-two were connected with the institution on the last day of the year.

A table showing the names, conditions, and residences of our pupils accompanies this report.

The accounts of the institution have been kept in accordance with the regulations put in force at the commence ment of the year. Three balance sheets are attached to this report: the first showing the receipts and disbursements on account of the support of the institution; the second being an abstract of accounts rendered to the United States, of moneys expended in the erection and fitting up of the additions to our buildings; and the third showing the receipts and disbursements on account of the manual labor shop.
The appropriation for building purposes has been exhausted, and the additions completed within the sums they were estimated to cost.

The materials furnished and work performed by the contractor have met the requirements of the contract. The time consumed in the completion of the buildings was greater than was anticipated; the work, however, has been well done, and will, it is believed, prove enduring.

The advantages to the institution, of these new buildings, are very great. Not only are we able to extend the benefits of education to an increased number, but we are much better able than ever before to arrange our household properly and to contribute in a more perfect degree to the health and comfort of our pupils.

The decided increase in our numbers, already referred to, immediately followed the completion of our front extension, and I am compelled, as on the occasion of former enlargements of our accommodations, to report our buildings as very nearly full, and again to urge that further provision be made for a yet larger number of inmates.

The health of the institution within the year now under review has been generally good. Isolated cases of pneumonia, scarlet fever, and typhoid fever have appeared among the pupils; the mumps also attacked quite a number in the spring; and one case of inflammatory rheumatism near the heart was quite alarming for a few days. In all these sicknesses a kind Providence was pleased to bless the means used for recovery, and the close of the year allows us again to record the fact that death has not as yet invaded our circle.

Our physician, Dr. Lincoln, has been most assiduous in his attentions whenever his services have been needed in the household, and we feel that, under God, the speedy restoration to health that has followed every attack of sickness is due, in large measure, to his skilful treatment and watchful care.

The schools have advanced in a manner very satisfactory to those who come in daily contact with our pupils.

The teachers have been zealous and faithful in their labors, and the pupils have manifested an improved interest in their studies. As they advance on the road to knowledge the way becomes more inviting, and though, perhaps, greater effort is required to go forward, yet the results to be attained are so much more satisfying than the objects of earlier study, that the increased effort necessary to secure them is a source of pleasure and strength rather than of tedium and exhaustion.

The annual visit of the examining committee was made on the 30th of June and 1st of July last. Their examinations were continued through two entire days, and covered the whole course of the year’s study. Their report will furnish a full detail of these examinations, of which, therefore, it is unnecessary for me to speak.

Our corps of instructors has been somewhat changed since the date of my last report. Mr. Melville Ballard, for three years a faithful teacher, relinquished his position at the close of the year. His resignation occasioned much regret among officers and pupils, and the good wishes of all connected with the institution follow him in his retirement from among us. Mrs. Eliza A. Ijams, temporarily employed to instruct the new pupils received in March last, also left us at the close of the year. Her success with her class was so gratifying that her retirement would not have been permitted had not the interests of the institution demanded that a male teacher should fill her place. The first vacancy has been supplied by the appointment of William E. Ijams, M. A., for two years an instructor in the Illinois institution for the deaf and dumb, and for eight years principal of the Iowa institution. His experience in our peculiar art, together with the many desirable qualities of mind and heart he brings to the work, render him a valuable acquisition to our faculty. To the second place Mr. Roewell Parish, jr., for more than a year a teacher in the public high school in Hartford, Connecticut, has been appointed. Mr. Parish, though unfamiliar with
the language of signs previous to his appointment, has made rapid advances in its acquirement, and gives promise of becoming, in due time, a competent and useful teacher.

Instruction in the trade of cabinet-making to the male mutes has been continued during the past year. The fact that, with the exception of the master, all the hands in the shop have been mere apprentices, requiring much of the master’s time to instruct and correct them in the use of tools, has restrained me from expecting to derive any pecuniary profit from the shop the past year. And I think, when it is further considered that the time available for manual labor among the pupils cannot be extended beyond three hours and a half per diem, without infringing on the time necessary for study, relaxation, and rest, no one will be surprised to find that our cabinet shop has not been self-sustaining during its first year of existence. It is hoped, however, that with the increased knowledge and added skill which another year will bring to our youthful artisans, may also come a more satisfactory financial result. Of the success of the shop in the other more important particulars, it is unnecessary for me to say more than that it was entirely satisfactory to the examining committee.

The enlargement of our corps of teachers, made necessary by the recent accessions to our school, will increase the gross amount of our salaries the coming year. The protection of our property demands that we should renew the fences about our lot, and the preservation of the health of our inmates makes it important that our system of sewerage should be more extended and effective. Our present allowance from Congress for salaries and incidental expenses will not suffice to meet these wants, and we are under the necessity of asking for an increase of this appropriation.

Allusion has been made to the fact that our buildings, even as enlarged, will not provide accommodations for those who will be likely soon to seek admission here. Our grounds, too, as has been urged in former reports, are not as extended as the well-being and proper management of our pupils demand. Our shop building also is a temporary affair, and should be replaced by a more substantial structure at the earliest possible moment. The supply of water (derived from a cistern and well) is not adequate to meet the wants of our increasing family, and would afford but slight means for the extinguishment of fire, should that terrible calamity be visited on our buildings. A proper regard for the interests of those for whose benefit the government has incorporated and now sustains this institution, makes it important that provision should be made at the approaching session of Congress to supply the wants above enumerated. With a view of forwarding the object, I have submitted to the honorable Secretary of the Interior the following estimates:

1. For salaries and incidental expenses, embracing, in addition to the objects heretofore provided for in this appropriation, the salary of an additional teacher, rendered necessary by a large increase in the number of pupils, together with the construction of a new sewer, and the construction and repair of fences, seven thousand five hundred dollars.

2. For the purchase of a tract of improved land, containing about thirteen acres, bordering on Boundary street of the city of Washington, and adjoining the lot now belonging to the institution, to enable it to instruct the male pupils in horticulture and agriculture, and to furnish sites for mechanic shops and other necessary buildings, twenty-six thousand dollars.

3. For the erection of a building to be used as mechanic shops for the instruction of the pupils in useful labor, and to furnish more convenient and healthful apartments, as well for the instruction as for the sleeping rooms for the male pupils: thirty-one thousand four hundred and forty-five dollars and eighty-seven cents.

4. To bring the Potomac water into the institution from the nearest water mains, or other adequate sources in the city, three thousand two hundred dollars.

These estimates have been prepared with the greatest care, and the amount
of each will, it is believed, prove sufficient to meet the expenditures requisite to complete the improvements designed in each case.

It has been a matter in which the managers of this institution take a just pride, that in no case have improvements been undertaken until the means for their completion were actually in hand, and in no instance have appropriations been asked for to complete unfinished work, or to pay debts. We have endeavored always to limit our estimates to the actual pressing needs of those who had come, or were likely soon to come, to us for instruction. We have asked no money to erect buildings that are to be needed in the dim distant future, and we trust that the estimates now presented to Congress may not be deemed unreasonable.

Respectfully submitted.

EDWARD M. GALLAUDET,
Superintendent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 14, 1863.

A 1.

Names and residences of pupils.

DEAF MUTES.

Justina Bevan, Baltimore, Maryland.
Robert A. Beedle, Washington, D. C.
Julius W. Bissett, Sandy Hook, Maryland.
David Blair, Clear Spring, Maryland.
Mary Jane Blair, Clear Spring, Maryland.
William Blood, District of Columbia.
John L. Brewer, Georgetown, D. C.
Marietta Chambers, Fort Greble, Maryland.
James E. Colleberry, Libertytown, Maryland.
Florence L. Damman, Baltimore, Maryland.
Peter Duffy, Baltimore, Maryland.
John P. Fitzpatrick, Baltimore, Maryland.
John Fogerty, Washington, D. C.
George C. Fowler, Georgetown, D. C.
Catharine Haldry, Baltimore, Maryland.
James Henry, District of Columbia.
Charles A. Hughes, Washington, D. C.
Hannah M. Hughes, Washington, D. C.
Mary M. Ijams, Ijamsville, Maryland.
R. Plummer Ijams, Ijamsville, Maryland.
Conrad Ingledeiger, Baltimore, Maryland.
Annie Jenkins, Baltimore, Maryland.
Andrew J. Lambdin, Baltimore, Maryland.
Joseph H. Linton, Baltimore, Maryland.
Margaret Maher, Baltimore, Maryland.
Charles Mathaei, Baltimore, Maryland.
Mary B. Naylor, Washington, D. C.
Helena H. Nicol, Baltimore, Maryland.
Henry Otto Nicol, Baltimore, Maryland.
Virginia A. Patterson, Fort Delaware, Delaware.
Anna A. Peabody, Washington, D. C.
William Peacock, Baltimore, Maryland.
John Quinn, District of Columbia.
Charles Schillinger, Baltimore, Maryland.
Aaron B. Showman, Rohrersville, Maryland.
Emma J. Speak, Washington, D. C.
Thomas J. Sprague, Baltimore, Maryland.
Georgiana Stevenson, Baltimore, Maryland.
Charles W. Stevenson, Baltimore, Maryland.
John Strohmer, Baltimore, Maryland.
Susannah Swope, Smithsburg, Maryland.
Anna Szymanskić, District of Columbia.
Samuel H. Taylor, Washington, D. C.
Grace Webster, Baltimore, Maryland.
Sarah Jane Wells, West River, Maryland.
Henry C. Wentz, Union M. H., Maryland.
William Wirlein, Baltimore, Maryland.
Joseph White, Washington, D. C.
Isaac Winn, District of Columbia.

BLIND.

Bridget Braun, Georgetown, D. C.
Eliza A. Gibbons, Washington, D. C.
John T. Gibbons, Washington, D. C.
Daniel O'Conner, jr., Washington, D. C.
Francis T. Seyes, Georgetown, D. C.
### A 2.

**General expenditures during the year ending June 30, 1863.—The Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, and the Blind, in account with E. M. Gallaudet, superintendent.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DR.</th>
<th>Ca.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30...</td>
<td>By amount of cash from subscriptions...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for salaries</td>
<td>$3,721.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,721.47</td>
<td>By amount of cash from pasturage...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for groceries and provisions...</td>
<td>1,515.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for drugs and medicines...</td>
<td>14.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for coal and wood...</td>
<td>475.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for hay, oats, and grain...</td>
<td>405.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for furniture...</td>
<td>806.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for insurance...</td>
<td>54.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for two horses and one cow...</td>
<td>560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for books and stationery...</td>
<td>155.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for daily household expenses...</td>
<td>595.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for dry goods and clothing...</td>
<td>410.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for books for fancy work...</td>
<td>61.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for repairs and improvements...</td>
<td>703.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for medical attendance...</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for meats...</td>
<td>693.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for...</td>
<td>11,050.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To balance brought down...</td>
<td>34.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 30, 1863.

E. M. GALLAUDET, Superintendent.

### A 3.

**The manual labor shop.—The Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, and the Blind, in account with E. M. Gallaudet, superintendent.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DR.</th>
<th>CR.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1...</td>
<td>By amount of cash received for finished cabinet for nature sold...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>By balance carried down...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30...</td>
<td>1,936.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for materials...</td>
<td>772.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for wages of master...</td>
<td>745.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for rent of shop...</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of cash paid for insurance...</td>
<td>9.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amount of balance brought down...</td>
<td>451.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 30, 1863.

E. M. GALLAUDET, Superintendent.
Appropriation for the erection and furnishing of buildings.—The United States in account with E. M. Gallaudet, superintendent and disbursing agent.

Dr.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>To amount of cash paid J. G. Naylor, on contract</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>To amount of cash paid J. G. Naylor, on contract</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td>To amount of cash paid J. G. Naylor, on contract</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>To amount of cash paid J. R. Wright, master, for furniture</td>
<td>$160.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>To amount of cash paid J. W. Thompson &amp; Co., for plumbing and gas-fitting</td>
<td>$140.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>To amount of cash paid J. G. Naylor, on contract</td>
<td>$1,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>To amount of cash paid J. G. Naylor, on contract</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>To amount of cash paid Wise &amp; Callahan, for drain</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>To amount of cash paid J. G. Naylor, on contract</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,371.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>To amount of cash paid J. G. Naylor, on contract</td>
<td>$270.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>To amount of cash paid E. S. Friedrich, for services as architect</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$7,632.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cr.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>By amount of balance</td>
<td>$332.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>By amount of requisition on Secretary of Interior</td>
<td>$2,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 2</td>
<td>By amount of requisition on Secretary of Interior</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>By amount of requisition on Secretary of Interior</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>By amount of requisition on Secretary of Interior</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 30, 1863.

E. M. GALLAUDET,
Superintendent and Disbursing Agent.
REPORT OF THE EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind:

GENTLEMEN: The undersigned, constituting the “examining committee” to the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, attended to the duty of examination on the 30th of June and 1st of July last.

The examination was commenced on Tuesday morning, June 30, at 9 o’clock. After a prayer in the sign language by Mr. Gallaudet, the principal, the pupils of the blind department were examined.

The number of blind under instruction during the year has been five taught by Miss Mary T. G. Gordon. The studies pursued by them, during the year, were geography, history, (universal,) arithmetic, natural history, and vocal and instrumental music.

Two of the blind pupils were unfortunately too sick to attend the examination. The others were critically examined in all the studies they had pursued, and their proficiency was exceedingly creditable, and such as was entirely satisfactory to the committee, and reflected great credit on the patience, ability, and zeal of their immediate instructress.

There have been, in the deaf-mute department, forty-nine pupils under instruction in the course of the year. These have been divided into three classes, the most advanced having had from three to six years’ instruction under the tuition of Mr. James Denison; the middle class, from one to three years, under the tuition of Mr. Melville Ballard; the primary class, under instruction three months, taught by Mrs. Eliza A. Ijams. Mr. Peter Baumgras has also continued his instruction in drawing to a class of the older pupils, numbering twenty-one.

The first class (Mr. Denison’s) was examined in arithmetic, (fractions, compound numbers, and interest,) geography, history, English composition, and penmanship. They were also exercised in impromptu essays on subjects given them by the committee.

The second class (Mr. Ballard’s) was examined in arithmetic, (as far as division,) composition, and penmanship.

The third class, (Mrs. Ijams’s,) although under instruction but a few weeks, were able to write, spell, and render in the sign language, more than fifty substantives and adjectives. The penmanship and correctness in spelling of this class was very creditable, and attracted much attention.

The committee were very much gratified at the ability manifested by every pupil in all the classes examined. The answers to all questions were prompt and surprisingly correct. In expressing their own ideas upon the several themes given them by the members of the committee, they manifested quick apprehension, and gave the best evidence of the correct and logical manner in which their minds had been trained by their instructors; while their beautiful and rapid writing upon the large slates—a vast improvement upon blackboards—would put to shame many well educated persons in possession of all their faculties.

Many difficult questions were propounded to the first class by members of the committee, in practical arithmetic, (such as the computing of interest on broken sums, for years, months, and days; sums in compound numbers, fractions, &c.,) which were answered by all very rapidly and with perfect correctness, and by some almost as fast as the questions could be propounded.

Maps were very readily and correctly drawn upon the slates, exemplifying a perfect knowledge of geography, so far as the delineations were made.
Various representations of the passions and emotions incident to humanity, in the sign language, were made by several of the pupils, and in such a manner as to convey the specified emotion to the dullest comprehension.

The class in drawing (Mr. Baumgras's) was critically examined by the committee, who were highly gratified at the results exhibited, and which conclusively showed that many of the pupils had a decided taste for that elegant accomplishment. Specimens of pen and pencil drawings were also exhibited, most creditable to those who executed them.

Among the most interesting features of the examination was the execution, by ten of the more advanced pupils, of outline sketches on the large slates, with white crayons. The teacher would draw some figure which the pupil would proceed, in the presence of the audience, to copy, and many of the copies came well up, in artistic skill, to the originals.

The committee was busily engaged in the examination for five hours on Tuesday, and three hours on Wednesday. At 1 o'clock, on the last named day, the very interesting closing exercises of the year took place in the chapel. They were public, and the parents, relatives, and friends of the pupils were present. They consisted of musical performances by the blind, both vocal and instrumental; the reading of compositions written by the mutes; an exhibition of pantomime; exercises in extempore composition; and the distribution of rewards of merit, by the principal, to such pupils as had attained during the year to a certain standard of excellence in recitation and conduct.

A most prominent and attractive feature of the public exhibition was the writing of impromptu essays by the more advanced deaf mutes, upon subjects presented by the audience. Here, again, rapid thought and expression were required and exhibited, much to the gratification of all who witnessed the exhibition.

Beautiful fancy articles manufactured by the blind were exhibited, and showed much skill and taste in their execution. Instruction in this branch has been given by Mrs. Hunter, the assistant matron, who deserves much credit for the manner in which she has given it.

The cabinet shop, under the charge of Mr. John R. Wright, was visited by the committee, and is in itself an institution. The committee were very much gratified to find there the evidences that many of the male mutes were fast approaching the art of perfect workmen. Many of the articles exhibited, in a finished state, would do credit to the best cabinet warehouses in our city. We saw work in all its stages, and saw that it was well and faithfully done. The tools were of the best kind and in perfect order. Of this feature of the institution the committee cannot speak too highly. Manual labor, as a relaxation from study, is always interesting to one possessing any skill in the use of tools, and he who acquires the excellent trade of a cabinet-maker while receiving his mental education, will always have a resort by which a competency may be earned.

At the close of the exhibition, Mr. Ballard, having resigned his position in the institution, took leave of the officers and pupils of the institution in an affecting address, delivered in the graceful language of signs, and read to the hearing portion of the assembly by the principal. Mr. Gallaudet then offered remarks befitting the occasion, and, after distributing the rewards of merit, announced that the exercises of the day would close with the rendering, in the sign language, of the Lord's Prayer, by one of the mute young ladies, which was done in a most affecting and beautiful manner.

The committee cannot suffer this occasion to pass without rendering to all connected with the establishing and conducting of "The Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind," the highest meed of praise. It was established in the first place by the generous, liberal and philanthropic spirit of one of your own numbers, whom God has suffered to live to see it grow from a
mere private school to its present proportions of vigor and promise. Your com-
mmittee believe it is destined, under the fostering care of Congress, to become
one of the largest institutions of the kind in the United States. In the con-
ducting of it the committee have seen nothing to condemn, and they can
hardly find language in which to express their satisfaction at all they saw.
Mr. Gallaudet, the principal, and every instructor under him, seemed to be en-
dued with the sole purpose of doing their utmost, metaphorically speaking, to
find eyes for the blind, and hearing and speech for the deaf and dumb. And
while they are engaged in this sacred and philanthropic task, they seek to light
up the darkened chambers of what was once supposed to be intellectual night
with religion and patriotism, in addition to that culture which shall render their
pupils useful men and women in their day and generation; so that when they
go forth into the world they may teach reverence to God, devotion to country,
and exert a useful and beneficial influence upon all around them.

The committee earnestly recommend this institution to Congress as one
meriting their fostering care and liberal kindness.

B. B. FRENCH,  
G. W. SAMSON,  
W. H. CHAPMAN,  
Committee.

WASHINGTON CITY, July, 1863.

REGULATIONS.

I. The academic year is divided into two terms—the first beginning on the
second Thursday in September, and closing on the 24th of December; the sec-
ond beginning the 2d of January, and closing the first Wednesday in July.

II. The vacations are from the 24th of December to the 2d of January, and
from the first Wednesday in July to the second Thursday in September.

III. There are holidays at Thanksgiving, at Easter, and the Fourth of July.

IV. The pupils may visit their homes during the regular vacations and at
the above-named holidays, but at no other times, unless for some special urgent
reason, and then only by permission of the superintendent.

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

VI. The charge for pay pupils is $150 each per annum. This sum covers
all expenses except clothing.

VII. 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.

VIII. The State of Maryland provides for the education in this institution of
deaf mutes whose parents are in poor circumstances, when the applicants are
under twenty-one years of age, have been residents of the State for two years
prior to the date of application, and are of good mental capacity.

Persons in Maryland desiring to secure the benefit of the provisions above
referred to are requested to address the superintendent of the institution.

IX. It is expected that the friends of the pupils will provide them with cloth-
ing, 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.

An exception to the above regulations is made in the case of indigent pupils
from Maryland, who are clothed by the institution.

X. All letters concerning pupils or applications for admission should be ad-
dressed to the superintendent.