

REPORT

OF THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR;

BEING PART OF

THE MESSAGE AND DOCUMENTS

COMMUNICATED TO THE

TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS

AT THE

BEGINNING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOLUME II.

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1881.

COLUMBIA INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

Patron.—JAMES A. GARFIELD, President of the United States.
President.—EDWARD MINER GALLAUDET, Ph. D., LL. D.
Secretary.—HON. WILLIAM STICKNEY.
Treasurer.—GEORGE W. RIGGS, Esq.

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Supervisor.—JOHN B. WIGHT.
Attending Physician.—N. S. LINCOLN.
Matron.—MISS ANNA A. PRATT.

Assistant Matron.—MISS MARGARET ALLEN.
Master of Shop.—ALMON BRYANT.
Steward.—H. M. VAN NESS.

NOTE.—ROBERT C. FOX, Esq., has been elected Secretary in place of Hon. William Stickney, deceased, and E. FRANCIS RIGGS, Esq., has been elected Treasurer in place of George W. Riggs, esq., deceased.



REPORT.

COLUMBIA INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB,
Kendall Green, near Washington, D. C., November 2, 1881.

SIR: In compliance with the acts of Congress making provision for the support of this institution, we have the honor to report its progress during the year ending June 30, 1881.

The pupils remaining in the institution on the 1st July, 1880, numbered.....	59
Admitted during the year.....	32
Since admitted.....	23
Total.....	114

Under instruction since July 1, 1880: Males, 103; females, 11. Of these, 68 have been in the collegiate department, representing 21 States and the Federal District, and 46 in the primary department. A list of the names of the pupils connected with the institution since July 1, 1880, will be found appended to this report.

HEALTH OF THE INSTITUTION.

General good health has prevailed in the institution since the date of our last report. A light case of scarlet fever made its appearance in the month of April, but the pupil was immediately removed to his home, which fortunately was in Washington, and no spread of the disease followed. A number of cases of mumps occurred during the spring months, which presented no unusual features, and all the patients in due time recovered.

One of our students was afflicted during the year with persistent neuralgia, which affected different portions of his system. Toward the close of the winter term a fistula developed itself, an operation for which was successfully performed, after which the patient's general health was very greatly improved.

Alice Huhn, of Wilmington, Del., and a beneficiary of the State from which she came, died in April last at the age of fifteen. She had been connected with the institution only five months, and was in feeble health when she entered. Severe attacks of scarlet fever and paralysis occasioned her deafness some years ago, and from the general effects of these diseases she never recovered. The immediate cause of her death was pneumonia.

A few days after the opening of our current academic year, Mr. J. F. Haskins, of Ohio, a member of the freshmen class of our college, became ill with what proved to be typhoid fever. There is reason to believe that the seeds of the disease were in his system before his return here from his home.

The attending physician was hopeful of his recovery, but on the four-

teenth day of the fever his strength rapidly failed, and a fatal termination of the disease was reached on the 25th of October.

The following extract from the records of the faculty will show how highly he was esteemed by his instructors:

James Finley Haskins was a young man of much beauty of character, and one whose virtues it is the wish of the faculty to commend to the emulation of all the young men under their care. Sensitive to the opinions of his associates, he was yet firm in his purposes; and while modest and unassuming he was self-reliant, and yielded his opinion but to reason. His cheerful good nature and manly bearing were untainted by weakness, and made every associate a friend; while his perseverance and painstaking thirst for knowledge, and his serious, eager attention and intelligent comprehension rendered his intercourse with his teachers one of the pleasantest of their lives. Indeed, in him were exhibited the virtues of a gentleman and a student in such degree as to arouse in them the warmest feelings of admiration and friendship, and lead them to anticipate for him a life of great usefulness. Their greatest sorrow in his death is that the wholesome example of his daily life is now no longer to be one of the restraining and ennobling influences of the college life, and that the world's good work will have one the less of earnest and serious workers.

CASUALTIES.

Since the date of our last report, two students in our college have met with fatal accidents.

In November last, John M. Brown, of Franklin, Ind., then a member of our advanced preparatory class, was killed on the play-ground by the falling of a heavy timber, used to support what is known as a revolving swing. This apparatus, intended to be used by no more than four boys, was, in a moment of recklessness, loaded down with twice that number of full-grown young men. The weight of all these coming suddenly on one side of the upright post, snapped it at the ground, and in falling it struck young Brown behind the left ear, causing instant death.

In attestation of the high esteem in which Mr. Brown was held by his instructors, the following minute was adopted by the faculty:

The faculty of the National Deaf-Mute College desire to place on record their high appreciation of the character and standing of the late John Miner Brown as a student of this institution, and their sense of the great loss which has befallen the college in his sudden death.

Courteous, cheerful, a pleasant companion, and a diligent student, quick, intelligent and laborious, with mental powers of a high order, he was pre-eminently one whom it was a pleasure to teach, and on whose connection with the college his instructors can look back without recalling a single memory which they would wish to change.

Bowing in submission to the will of Divine Providence in an event which to human view seems as mysterious as sad, we would individually extend to his surviving family our heart-felt sympathy, sharing with them alike a common sorrow and a Christian hope."

On the 24th of September, Oscar Osborn, of Bloomingdale, Ind., admitted as a member of our introductory class only the day before, met his death in the gymnasium. Being an expert swimmer, he was teaching two of his college mates in the swimming-pool. His companions all at once missed him, and, thinking he had gone to his dressing-room, remained in the shallow portion of the pool for a few minutes, and then proceeded to their dressing-rooms. On passing his room they looked in, and not finding him at once feared that some accident had occurred, and gave the alarm. The pool was searched as soon as possible, and Mr. Osborn's body was found lying at the bottom. Every endeavor was made to restore animation, but no signs of life could be developed, and the physicians in attendance expressed the opinion that the young man must have been overcome by a spasm or some sudden congestion of a vital organ.

Mr. Osborn's connection with the college having been so very brief, he was a comparative stranger among us. He had, however, acquitted himself so well in his examinations for admission, and had come to us so highly recommended from his native State, that there was every reason to expect from him a successful career as a student and as a man. His untimely death is most sincerely mourned by his newly-made friends and associates here, and our warmest sympathies are extended to his afflicted relatives.

DEATHS OF OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

During the year now under review, death has wrought painful changes not only among the pupils of the institution, but also in the governing board.

HON. HENRY D. COOKE.

In February last, Hon. Henry D. Cooke, ex-governor of the District of Columbia, and for thirteen years a member of the board of directors of this institution, was removed by death. Mr. Cooke was warmly interested in the early development of our college, and when means were needed for the assistance of poor students, he contributed liberally in their behalf. The banking firm of which he was a member also rendered substantial aid in securing for the institution that portion of Kendall Green which was purchased from Mr. Kendall's executors. During the later years of his connection with the institution, Mr. Cooke was often prevented by the failing state of his health from attending meetings of the directors, but assurances of his continued interest in the welfare of the institution were not lacking, and his removal from the council board is most sincerely regretted by his associates.

GEORGE W. RIGGS, ESQ.

In August last, George W. Riggs, esq., the well-known banker, who had filled the office of treasurer of this institution from the time of its organization in 1857, departed this life. His contributions in aid of the work of the institution were frequent and liberal. His management of the invested funds committed to his care was eminently judicious and successful.

The duties of his office did not demand his presence at meetings of the board of management, but he was on all occasions ready to give his counsel when appealed to, and his advice was highly appreciated by his associate officers.

The loss to any community of such a man as Mr. Riggs is known to have been is, in many points of view, irreparable, and the management of this institution desire to join their fellow-citizens in mourning the departure of one whose death is so universally deplored.

HON. WILLIAM STICKNEY.

On the 13th of October, after an illness of only four days, Hon. William Stickney, secretary of the board, was removed by death.

This sad event was a great grief to all connected with the institution, for Mr. Stickney's genial manners and cordial manifestations of interest in the welfare of officers and pupils had endeared him as a friend to all with whom he came in contact.

On the day of his burial, the ordinary exercises of the institution were

