

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS

TO THE

United States Military Academy

MADE TO

Congress and the Secretary of War,

FOR

THE YEAR 1824.

1824.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, May 14th, 1824.

SIR:

The following named gentlemen have been invited to attend the approaching examination at West Point as a Board of Visitors.

Major General Gaines.
Doctor John Chester, of Albany.
Doct'r McAuly, of New York.
Thos. C. Levins, Prof. Georgetown College, D. C.
Doct'r Burgess, of Raleigh, N. C.
Gen'l Talmage, of New York.
Hon. M. Buchanan, of Pennsylvania.
Col. Pierce, of Chester, Penn.
Mr. Professor Kinsley, of New Haven.
Gen'l. Swift.
Col. Towson.
Gen'l. Sumner, of Boston.
Mr. C. Atwater, of Circleville. Ohio.
Honbl. J. S. Johnston, of La.
Doct'r Wm. Staughton, Pres't. of Col'a College, D. C.
James T. Austin, Esqr.
Col. Dwight.
Honbl. Mr. Warfield.

I am respectfully, Sir,

Your obt. servt,

(Signed) ALEX'R. MACOMB,

Major General & Inspector,

U. S. M. A.

To

Lieut. Col. S. THAYER,
Supt. Military Academy.

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY, WEST POINT, 8TH JUNE, 1824.

A letter from Major General Alexander Macomb to Col. Thayer, Superintendent of the Academy was read by which the Gentlemen therein named were invited by the Honourable, The Secretary of War to form a

Board of Visitors for the purpose of examining the state of the Institution and of ascertaining the progress and improvements of the Cadets in the several branches of science to which they had attended—a copy of which letter is annexed.

Of the gentlemen invited by the Secretary there were present.

Major General Gaines.

Professor Levins.

General Talmage.

Col. Towson.

Gen'l. Sumner.

Col. Austin.

Col. Dwight.

Hon'bl. Mr. Warfield.

The Secretary of War not having designated any Gentleman as President, the Board unanimously requested Major Gen'l. Gaines to preside at their meetings, and J. T. Austin, Esquire, to act as Secretary.

The Cadets were paraded under arms, were received by the Major General and performed divers Military evolutions in presence of the Board.—After which the Barracks and public Buildings were inspected by the Board.

At 3 o'clock P. M. The Board assembled in the Hall appropriated to the purpose; when ten young gentlemen of the 1st Class numbered in the Class List 20 to 29 both inclusive, were introduced and examined by Lieut. Courtenay on the subject of Military Engineering.—The Board continued together until 7 o'clock when they adjourned.

Wednesday, 9th June, 1894. Half past 8 A. M. The Board assembled; present the same gentlemen as yesterday, Doct'r McAuly of New York and Doct'r Burgess of North Carolina appeared and took their seats.—Two young Gentlemen of the First Class, Nos. 30 & 31 and the remaining number of that class from 1 to 19 inclusive were examined on the same subject that was discussed yesterday. At 1 o'clock P. M. the Board adjourned.

3 o'clock P. M., the Board assembled. The first section of the Second Class from 1 to 17 inclusive were examined in Chemistry by Lieut. Prescott; at 7 o'clock, the Board adjourned.

Tuesday Morning, 8 o'clock.—The Board Assembled. In addition to the Gentlemen present yesterday, General Swift of New York, and Col. Pierce of Pennsylvania appeared and took their seats. The first section of the Third Class were examined (from 1 to 15) on the Differential and Integral Calculus. At 1 o'clock the Board adjourned. 3 o'clock P. M. The Board reassembled. Eleven Cadets of the 2nd section, of 2nd Class were examined in Natural and Experimental Philosophy and at 7 o'clock the Board adjourned. At 8 o'clock the Board reassembled in the Chapel when Dr. McAuly preached an interesting sermon to the Cadets and Officers of the Institution.

Friday morning 8 o'clock. The Board assembled. The examination proceeded with the second section of the Second Class as yesterday until the whole number were examined. Afterwards nineteen young gentlemen being the first division of the Third Class displayed their acquirements in the French Language. The Board continued together until 1 o'clock.

Afternoon, 3 o'clock. The Board met. Professor Mansfield conducted the examination of the first section of the Second Class No. 1 to 12 inclusive, in Natural and Experimental Philosophy. Twelve Cadets having finished their examination in this department, the Board adjourned at 7 o'clock.

Doct'r McAuly took leave of the Board. Saturday June 12. The Board came together at 8 o'clock. The First Class of 31 Cadets were introduced and examined in Geography. The examination was conducted by Major General Gaines assisted by several members of the Board of Visitors. After a very close investigation of the acquirements of these young gentlemen, the Board adjourned at half past 1 o'clock.

In the afternoon Col. Dwight, Mr. Warfield and Col. Pierce took leave of the Board.

Monday June 14th, 1824. The Board assembled at 8 o'clock,

Present:—Major General Gaines.

Col. Towson.

Doct'r Burgess.

Gen'l. Sumner.

Mr. Levins.

Mr. Austin.

The examination began with the lowest section of the Third Class in Plane and Spherical Trigonometry, and the application of Algebra to Geometry, according to Leeroix and Bojant and continued until half past 1 P. M. when the Board adjourned.

In the afternoon at 5 P. M. the Board again assembled, and attended to the examination of the remaining Cadets, whose performances were not finished in the morning.

The Honourable J. S. Johnson, of Louisiana, appeared and took his seat at the Board.

At 7 o'clock P. M. the Board adjourned.

Tuesday, 15th June, 8 o'clock A. M., the Board convened. Rev. Dr. Chester, of Albany, a member of the Board, appeared and took his seat.

Nineteen young gentlemen being the second section of the Third Class were introduced and gave demonstrations in Descriptive Geometry. At 1 o'clock the Cadets were dismissed. The Board continued together for an hour in discussion of the different concerns of the Institution, after which they adjourned.

Afternoon, half past 3. The Board met and proceeded with the examination of the same young gentlemen, who were present in the morning, on the subject of fluxions. At 7 the Board adjourned.

Evening, 9 o'clock. The Board reassembled to discuss certain propositions submitted to them by several of the members. Having spent some time in consideration thereof, at 11 o'clock the Board adjourned.

Wednesday morning, 8 o'clock. The Board met. The first section of the Third Class were examined concerning Perspective Shades and Shadows. The Board continued together until 10 o'clock.

Afternoon, 3 o'clock. The Board convened, and heard the First Class examined in History. An examination of the same Cadets was commenced in Ethics when at 7 o'clock the Board adjourned.

Evening 8 o'clock. The gentlemen of the Board again assembled.

Present:—General Gaines.

Col. Towson.
 Mr. Johnson.
 Gen'l Sumner.
 Dr. Burgess.
 Mr. Levins.
 Dr. Chester.
 Gen'l Swift.
 Mr. Austin.

“The subjects which were before the Board on the last evening were resumed, and after discussion it was unanimously resolved as the opinion of the Board that suitable provision ought to be made by law for the establishment of a Professorship of Chemistry and Mineralogy upon a similar foundation to the other Professorships of the Academy.

3rd. That it is expedient that a highly accomplished Chaplain and Teacher of Ethics should always be employed in the Military Academy who in addition to his other duties may be required to instruct the Cadets in Grammar and English composition.

4th. *Resolved*, as the opinion of the Board that the Garrison Flag should never be struck during the day.

5th. *Resolved*, that it is expedient that no Cadet shall hereafter be admitted into the Military Academy but such as shall be between fifteen and eighteen years of age.

6th. *Resolved*, that Dr. Chester and Mr. Levins be a Committee to consider what further regulations are necessary in the subject of the qualification for admission and that they report in detail.

7th. *Resolved*, that General Sumner and Dr. Burgess be a committee to take into consideration the subject of the Pay and Emoluments of the Superintendent, the equalization of the Pay of the Professors, and the Pay of the Assistants in the Military Academy and to report what ought to be their respective salaries.

8th. *Resolved*, that Gen'l Swift and Mr. Levins be a committee to report on the state of Philosophical apparatus, what Instruments are wanted for the objects of this Institution and what will be the probable expense of procuring them.

Resolved, that Mr. Johnson, Col. Towson and Mr. Austin be a Committee to examine the fiscal concerns of the Institution and to make a full and detailed report concerning the same.

At 12 o'clock the Board adjourned.

Thursday morning, half-past 6. The Board attended an Artillery drill of the elder Cadets.

At 8 o'clock the Board assembled in the Examination Hall. The first section of the Second Class were examined in Mathematicks by Professor Mansfield.

Those members of the Board who were appointed on committees were excused from attending in the Hall.

At 1 o'clock the Board adjourned.

Thursday afternoon, 18th June. Several members of the Board, not engaged in other duties, attended an examination of the first division of the Second Class.

At 6 o'clock P. M. the Board assembled. All the members who remained on the Point were present.

The Committee who were directed to consider the fiscal concerns of the Institution reported as follows:

The Committee to whom was referred a consideration of the fiscal concerns of the Institution, with directions to report in detail, have attended to that business, and respectfully report,

That the pay and emoluments allowed by law to each Cadet are equivalent to fifty-six dollars and forty cents for two months, for which sum he has credit in the Treasurer's Books, that a settlement takes place with the Treasurer and each Cadet every two months at which time he is charged with such articles as have been furnished to him during that period, and receives the balance, if any be due him, in money;

A particular statement of the charges which are usually made is marked (A) to which the Committee refers.

This paper is a copy of the last settlement with eleven Cadets as they stand alphabetically on the Treasurer's Books, together with a recapitulation of the whole payments made by the Treasurer for the Cadets from 1st March to 30th April, 1824.

The Committee have examined the Treasurer's Books for more than a year past, and find this statement to be a fair representation of the course of his transactions.

By this statement it appears that the Treasurer receives from the proper Officer of the Government the pay and Emoluments of the Cadet for two months being \$56.40; that he then charges the Cadet with the sum of four dollars for a Book Fund, which sum is paid to the Commissary for the purpose of supplying necessary Books and Stationery. This sum is taken as the probable amount which will be wanted on an average for the term of a Cadet's residence at the Academy, but an exact account

is kept of it, and at the expiration of the Cadet's residence he is credited with the whole, viz : For four years, ninety-six dollars, and charged with Books and Stationery actually furnished him during that period, and on this settlement he pays what may be due from, or receives what is due to him.

The Books and Stationery are furnished by the Quartermaster and are procured and delivered to the Cadets at the lowest price. Those which are imported come free of duty, and the actual expense and no more is charged to the Cadet. The Academic Staff, or a Board appointed by them, examine and regulate their prices. Your Committee have examined them and find that great care, prudence, and economy regulate the whole of this department in the price, quality, and quantity of articles furnished to the Cadet.

The next article of deduction is for damage done to the public property and includes a reasonable assessment for accidental or intentional injury actually sustained. It is assessed only on those by whom any injury is caused.

Next follows a deduction of fifty cents for the support of the Band of Music and is a voluntary tax assumed by the Cadets in aid of the Compensation provided by law for music and is necessary to secure the services of those accomplished performers who compose this useful and animating Corps.

The next deduction is made in favour of S. Spencer as Barber, Shoe Black, and Varnisher.

By contract he performs whatever operations are necessary as Barber and Shoe-black for $\frac{50}{100}$ per month. The varnishing of caps, cartouch boxes, &c., is regulated by what is required by each Cadet. From ten to fifty cents pay this charge. The contract is a favorable one, and the other charge is moderate. Before payment, it is submitted to the Superintendent.

The Washing for the Cadets is the next item of deduction. This is also regulated by contract. Fifty cents per week, being four dollars at every pay day, is charged for such washing as is necessary. Taking into consideration the necessity of great cleanliness, both for personal appearance and for health, this may be considered as the lowest price at which washing can be done for the Cadets.

The next deduction is twenty dollars paid Mr. Cozzens for two months' Board. This price, as well as the quantity and quality of food, is regulated by contract—a copy of which is annexed marked (B). As the members of the Board have repeatedly examined the fare served up to the Cadets at the tables, the quantity and quality of the provisions, and the manner in which it is prepared, and have expressed their satisfaction with this arrangement, it is hardly necessary for the Committee to add that the whole establishment in this respect does, in their opinion, unite comfort and economy.

The next item is a similar charge by Mrs. Thompson. Some Cadets who may be temporarily invalids or who, for other causes, cannot Mess in the Common Hall are permitted to have their food at her house. The charge is only made to those who are not charged with Board by the Steward, Mr. Cozzens.

The next deduction is made for shoes. Cadets are permitted to get shoes which are paid for according to the number supplied them. The Uniform or Jefferson Shoe is charged at three dollars per pair. According to the information acquired by the Committee they are well made and are supplied according to the most favorable terms which could be obtained. But the Committee think that they are high charged, and that some small deduction may hereafter be obtained in a new contract.

The next deduction is made for clothing actually delivered. The terms upon which it is supplied are regulated by contract as appears in paper marked (C). The quantity delivered is regulated by the Superintendent, whose indefatigable attention is directed to every department connected with the welfare of the Institution.

The Post Master's bill is next deducted.

In the winter time a charge of one dollar for two months is made for drawing, sawing, and piling wood. The wood is delivered without other charge by the Government.

If any particular circumstances render it proper that a Cadet should receive any part of his emoluments before the regular pay day not exceeding the sum earned, it is allowed on the certificate of the Superintendent and charged in the next column.

Next follows the Store Keeper's charges. These are regulated as follows: Bedding, trunk, oil or candles, tables, chairs, &c., being necessary for the convenience of the Cadets, are kept by the Store Keeper, Mr. De Witt, and sold to the Cadets at prices fixed by a Board of Officers designated for that purpose. Each Cadet keeps a book in which the articles delivered to him are charged; the account is at the end of two months presented to the Superintendent by whom it is examined. If any article is charged too high it is reduced. No prohibited articles are included, and the account when thus adjusted is certified by the Superintendent and paid out of the balance (if any remaining) in the Treasurer's hands to the Cadet's Credit. If there be no credit, or not enough to balance the amount, the remainder is carried into the next settlement.

The whole of this arrangement appears to your Committee to be regulated with the nicest care, and by principles of prudence and economy; at the same time that it secures to the Cadet everything necessary for his reasonable accommodation, and the Committee are not prepared to say that it can in any way be made better.

The succeeding part of the paper (A) shews a Recapitulation for two months of the disbursements for the Cadets on the above arrangement.

By this it appears that for two months the sum paid the Cadets in cash, after deducting the several items above mentioned, was \$2165.20, or an average of less than \$4.50 per month per man.

It is, however, to be considered that many of the Cadets bring with them many articles of clothing and books which others have to purchase. Some, unquestionably, are supplied with money and procure for cash what others obtain on credit, and which are charged on the books of the Treasurer. Some, by very great economy, and denying themselves indulgencies which are allowed by the Regulations of the Academy, have a balance in their favor. But, after careful enquiry and examination, the Committee are of opinion that their pay and emoluments are nicely adjusted to the necessary expense, and that while care and prudence will enable a Cadet, by the provision made for him, to meet his necessary expenses, nothing but great exactness will produce this result; and that the pay and emoluments could not be reduced without very serious injury to the Institution.

The Committee find this opinion strengthened by the fact that except in some rare instances few Cadets, for the first two years, receive any of their compensation in cash from the Treasurer.

After consideration this report was accepted and unanimously confirmed by the Board.

The Committee concerning qualifications for admission reported as follows:

The Committee appointed to consider what further Regulations are necessary on the subject of the qualifications for admission, and that they report in detail, beg leave respectfully to report

That they have carefully considered the subject, they have examined the existing laws for the Regulations of the Institution and they have conferred with the Superintendent and other Officers, and are of opinion that it is not expedient, at this time, to recommend any increase of qualifications for admission. The qualifications now required are very small as a basis for the liberal studies of the Institution and for the high pursuits in which the Cadet is immediately engaged upon his admission. Although it is inconsistent with the design of the Academy, and with the actual course of instruction, to consider it as a primary school, and although the simple elements of Mathematical and English education should certainly be possessed before admission, still such is the state of public sentiment it is to be feared that if any higher qualifications were required it might be injurious to the Institution.

The existing regulations, if fully enjoined, would go far to prevent improper admission—several things prevent their entire execution. The manner in which young men are recommended and appointed is imperfect. They often come from a distance with great expense without fully understanding themselves the amount of attainments which is indis-

pensable. They are often found deficient and must be rejected under circumstances which are always painful to the Academic Staff, and sometimes very seriously injurious to themselves. To prevent disappointment on the part of applicants, and to remove as much as possible all discretionary responsibility from the Superintendent and his associates, the following resolutions are respectfully submitted to the Board for adoption:

1st. *Resolved*, that it be respectfully suggested to War Department that all applicants for admission into this Institution be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of their full qualifications before they receive an appointment as a Cadet.

2nd. That the Academic Staff be instructed to be rigid in their examination of candidates, and that no applicant be permitted to join the Institution unless found to be fully qualified agreeable to the provisions of the Laws which apply to the case.

Whereupon the aforesaid resolutions were adopted, and at 9 o'clock the Board adjourned.

Friday, 18th. 9 o'clock the Board met. The First Class were examined on Fortifications and the Military Art.

The Board adjourned at 1 o'clock.

At 3 o'clock P. M. the Board assembled in the Library. The Committee appointed to consider the subject of compensation, &c., made a report which was read and discussed, after which it was accepted and adopted as the opinion of the Board as follows:

The Committee who were appointed to take into consideration the expediency of equalizing the rank, pay, and emoluments of the several Professors of the Military Academy; the subject of the pay and emoluments of the several Assistant Professors and Teachers and that of the Superintendent; with instructions to report what ought hereafter to be allowed to each for their services, have made diligent enquiries into all the subjects committed to them, and are fully satisfied that the preservation of that harmony among the Instructors, which is important to the success of a literary Institution, and the substantial and permanent advantage of the Institution itself requires that the principal Professors in each branch of instruction should stand on the same footing both as it regards their rank and pay.

There are many considerations in favor of such an arrangement which will readily present themselves to the Board, the most prominent of which is that every Professor will, in consequence, be content to remain at that station to which he shall be appointed, and for the studies of which, after long experience in the same, he is best qualified. Whereas, now, every vacancy which happens in a branch, to the Professor of which higher rank and emoluments are attached, causes each of those of subordinate grade to seek promotion, and their known qualifications are such that the selection will be made from among them,—consequently successive vacancies take place in the subordinate Professorships,

to all of which new appointments must be made of persons who, in all cases, are less qualified than their predecessors for the performance of the duties required by their new offices. However much the present organization, and the practice under it may tend to the diffusion of general knowledge among the Professors in every branch of science, yet there can be but little doubt that the effect is to prevent the attainment of that elevated standard in each, which the course of instruction prescribed for the Institution requires.

Your Committee, therefore, on this part of their inquiry, recommend that all the Professors of the Academy (including the Professor in the branch of Chemistry and Mineralogy, which the Board has recommended should be organized) shall, during their continuance in office, have the brevet rank, pay, and emoluments of Major of Cavalry, and that each Assistant Professor shall, during his continuance in office, have the brevet rank, pay, and emoluments of a Captain of Infantry, if not an Officer of the Army, and if taken from the Army then so much in addition to his pay and emoluments as shall be equal thereto.

On the subject of the employment and compensation of the other Teachers and Assistants at the Academy, your Committee recommend that the principal Teacher of the French Language should have the brevet rank, pay, and emoluments of a Major of Infantry, and that there should be two Assistant Teachers with the rank, pay, and emoluments of Captains of Infantry; that the Teacher of Drawing should have the rank, pay, and emoluments of a Captain of Infantry, and the Sword and Riding Master that of a Lieut. of Infantry; that there should be employed one Modeller with the pay of Fifty dollars per month; one Fire Worker and one Armourer with the pay of Thirty dollars per month, each.

Your Committee also recommend that the Superintendent should be authorized, under the direction of the Secretary of War, to enlist one sergeant, two corporals, and twelve privates to be employed as labourers in the service of the Academy, and who shall have the same pay and emoluments as are allowed to the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Army. The necessity of this provision is strongly recommended for the purpose of carrying into effect the Police arrangements of the Institution, assisting the several Professors in their various experiments, taking charge of the Halls, of the Barracks, the Laboratory and Public Rooms; the actual inspection of which, by the Board, your Committee think must have convinced them of the necessity of some alterations in this branch of economy. Labourers must be employed for these and other necessary purposes, and the expense by the mode proposed will be less than by any other, while the responsibility and subordination of the persons employed will be greater.

Your Committee has made special enquiry into the duties of the Officers of the Army who are detailed for duty at the Military Academy, and are fully of the opinion that there are but few, if any, officers of

whom so much extra service is required. Their police duties as superintendents of the different barracks, is of the most irksome and unpleasant kind, and their confinement almost incessant, wherefore it is recommended that each officer so detailed shall be allowed ten dollars a month in addition to his pay in the line.

In deciding upon the course which it was proper for them to pursue on the subject of the allowances which are made to Lieut. Col. Thayer, the Superintendent, of whose attainments in science, as well as of whose diligence, impartiality and economy in the administration of the affairs of the Academy they cannot express themselves in terms too strong for their belief, are under some embarrassment. The information they have obtained, as well as their own observation convinces them, that there is no literary institution in the country which is so attracting to strangers and foreigners as that, most of whom, when they visit it, are introduced by letter or otherwise to the notice and attention of the Superintendent. The rules of the Academy also prevent the Cadets from leaving it, excepting under special circumstances, more than twice during their Academic course to see their parents and friends. This necessarily makes the visits of those who are most interested in the health and prosperity of the pupils, more frequent here than at any other seminary. The Officers of the Army also, who are the graduates of the Academy, seek opportunities of paying their respects to their old Instructors, and of indulging in all those delightful associations and reflections which a visit to this distinguished seat of science must create. From these and many other causes connected with his situation, which expose the Superintendent to very unusual expenses for an Officer of his rank, your Committee are most deeply impressed with the necessity of increasing the emoluments derived from his present rank and station, but the modesty and devotedness to the interests of the Institution of which he has the charge has led the Superintendent in the most urgent manner to solicit of the Committee that no motives, personal to himself or relating to his duties and obligation should induce them to bring his situation into the public consideration.

While on the one hand the Committee would most willingly comply with Col. Thayer's requests when the public interest was not concerned; so, on the other, being sensibly impressed with its superior obligation, they feel themselves imperiously bound to reject all personal considerations in this as they have in every other case, which has been the subject of their enquiry, and to govern themselves by the true and paramount interests of the Institution without regard to that of the individuals who may be affected by the measures they have recommended. They are fully convinced that the public justice, as well as its interests, demand an increase of the Superintendent's emoluments. They therefore recommend that hereafter the Superintendent of the Military Academy, during the continuance in office, be allowed the rank, pay, and emoluments of an Inspector-General.

From the table of the pay and emoluments of officers of different grades and corps which is annexed, the Committee will be able to ascertain the allowances which it is proposed to make to each particular officer referred to in this report; it being understood by them that it does not include any charge for quarters or fuel which are supplied by the Government in addition to the payments made in cash; nor does it include any allowance for forage, which is only made to those officers who actually keep horses in the public service.

On motion it was unanimously resolved.

Resolved, that in the opinion of this Board the *Sunday Drill* and Inspection of Arms ought to be dispensed with as unnecessary and inexpedient. Unnecessary, as in a time of peace, no exigencies of the service can require them, and *inexpedient* as well because they interrupt the *rest* which the Creator has provided for all his creatures, as because they are calculated to excite or cherish prejudices against the Institution in the minds of a large and respectable portion of the nation.

They are also *inexpedient*, because they are calculated to disqualify the cadets, for the peculiar public duties of the day, and those more private pursuits, which are so important in their influence upon the character and morals of the members of the establishment.

At 6 o'clock the Board adjourned. At 8 o'clock the Board attended divine service performed by Dr. Chester, in presence of the Cadets, after which the Revd. Gentleman took leave of the Board.

Saturday, June 19th, 1894. 8 o'clock the Board assembled in the Library to consider the report by them to be made to the Secretary of War.

At 2 o'clock the Board attended an address, made by their request to the Cadets, by Col. Austin.

At 4 o'clock the Board again assembled and adopted the report hereto annexed, to the Secretary of War.

On motion *Resolved*, that Col. Austin be requested to furnish the President of the Board of Visitors with a copy of his address delivered at their request, to the Cadets at West Point, that it may be printed,

Resolved, That the proceedings of the Board be attested by the President and Secretary, and transmitted to the Hon. Secretary of War.

Col. Johnson, General Sumner, Mr. Lewis, Gen'l Swift and Dr. Burgess, took leave of the Board, it being considered that the course of the examination had been sufficiently developed and that Major General Gaines would continue to assist until it closes.

(Signed) EDMUND P. GAINES,

*Major General and
President of the Board of Visitors.*

JAMES T. AUSTIN,
Secretary.

(C)

QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,
U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,

SIR: West Point, June 17, 1824.

In answer to the interrogations made by the Committee of the Board of Visitors to the Military Academy, in relation to the supplies furnished the Cadets by the Quartermaster, I have the honour to state as follows:

That the clothing is furnished by the tailor and shoemaker at the following prices, viz.:

Uniform Coats.....	\$11 70
Uniform Grey Pantaloon.....	6 50
Uniform Sheeting do	1 90
Uniform Vests (grey cloth).....	2 37
Shoes.....	3 00

Gray cloth, of 6½ qrs. width, is furnished by contract at 4 $\frac{3}{100}$ per yard, and not accepted until inspected by a Board of Officers appointed for that purpose. The contract for cloth is made yearly, and regulates the charges for each article of clothing.

The Cadet Commons are furnished by contract which continues for two years. They are to be furnished agreeably to the accompanying bill of fare, and pay \$10 per month.

Wood is contracted for yearly, and is furnished this year at the Post for \$3.87½ per cord, from which \$0.12½ cents is deducted for piling and measuring. The Cadets are at no expense for wood except the sawing and distributing it, for which they paid last winter $\frac{5}{100}$ a month each.

All the books, instruments, and stationery necessary for the use of the Cadets in their studies are procured at the lowest possible rates from Europe and otherwise, and sold to them at the first cost. A stoppage of \$2 per month is made from each one at every payment, which is credited to them upon this account, and what they receive is charged. Whenever they are about to leave the Academy a settlement is made, and the balance, either stopped from, or paid them, as the case may be.

Very respectfully, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
(Signed), AENEAS MACKAY,

Asst. Quartermaster.

To COL. N. TOWSON, of the Board of Visitors, West Point.

(A)

REPORT CONCERNING COMPENSATION, ETC.

	Cavalry or Ordnance Pay.					Infantry Pay.				
	Pay.	Subsistence.	Clothing.	Amount.	Forage.	Pay.	Subsistence.	Clothing.	Amount.	Forage.
Brig. General..	\$1428.00	\$1095.00	\$90.36	\$2613.36	\$480.00					
Colonel	1200.00	584.00	60.24	1844.24	384.00	\$1020.00	\$584.00	\$60.24	\$1664.24	\$284.00
Lt. Colonel.....	1020.00	511.00	60.24	1591.24	288.00	840.00	510.00	60.24	1410.24	288.00
Major	840.00	438.00	60.24	1338.24	288.00	720.00	438.00	60.24	1218.24	288.00
Captain	660.00	292.00	30.12	982.12		540.00	292.00	30.12	862.12	
1st Lieutenant..	459.96	292.00	30.12	782.08		420.00	292.00	30.12	742.12	
2nd Lieut-nant.	459.96	292.00	30.12	782.08		360.00	292.00	30.12	682.12	

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CLASS	DEPARTMENT	SECTION	NAME OF INSTRUCTOR	
1st	Fortification, Mil. Art, & Civil Engineering.	1st 2nd	Prof. Douglas. Ast. Prof. Courtenay.	Gay De Vernon's Science of War, Fortifications, Sganzius Treatise on Civil Engineering, Perspective Shades and Shadows.
	Geography, History, Ethics, & National Law.	1st 2nd	Prof. Picton. " "	Morse's Geography, Tytler's History, Paley's Moral Philosophy, Vattel's Law of Nations.
	Tactics.	1st 2nd	Maj. Worth. " "	Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Manœuvres of Infantry, Lallemand's Treatise on Artillery.
	Chemistry and Mineralogy.	1st 2nd	Doctor Percival	Caveau's Mineralogy.
2nd	Philosophy.	1st 2nd	Prof. Mansfield.	Gregory's Mechanics, Newton's Principia, Enfield's Philosophy and Astronomy.
		3rd	Lieut. Smith. Lieut. Mordecai.	Bridges' Mechanics, Enfield's Phil'y and Astron'y. Hutton & Enfield's Mechanics, Enfield's Philosophy and Astronomy, and Hutton's Philosophy.
	Chemistry.	1st 2nd 3rd	Lieut. Prescott. " " Cadet J. W. A. Smith.	Henry's Chemistry.
Drawing.	Whole Class	Mr. Gimbrede, Teacher. Cadet Catlin, Ast. Teacher.	Landscape and Topography. " "	
3rd	Mathematics.	1st	Prof. Davis.	Surveying, Descriptive Geometry, Perspective Shades and Shadows, Conic Sections, Biot's Analytical Geometry, Lacroix's Fluxions.
		2nd	Lieut. Webster.	Surveying, Descriptive Geometry, Perspective Shades and Shadows, Conic Sections, Biot's Analytical Geometry, Hutton's Fluxions.
		3rd	Lieut. Green.	Surveying, Descriptive Geometry, Perspective Shades and Shadows, Conic Sections, Lacroix's Analytical Geometry.
French.	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Mr. Berard. " " " Du Commun.	Wouostrocht's Grammar, Berard's Lecons Francais, Gil Blas, Charles 12th.	
Drawing.	1st 2nd	Mr. Gimbrede, Teacher. Cadet Mackay, Ast. Teacher.	Human Figure.	
4th	Mathematics.	1st	Cadet Mahan.	Legendre's Geometry, Lacroix's Analytical Plane and Spherical Trigonometry, Descriptive Geometry.
		2nd	" Parrott.	Legendre's Geometry, Lacroix's Analytical Plane and Spherical Trigonometry.
		3rd	" Bache.	Legendre's Geometry, Lacroix's Analytical Plane and Spherical Trigonometry.
		4th 5th	" McMartin. " McGhee.	Legendre's Geometry, Lacroix's Algebra. Legendre's Geometry, Lacroix's Algebra.
	French.	1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th	Mr. Berard. " " " Du Commun. " " Cadet Findlay.	Wouostrocht's Grammar, Berard's Lecons Francais, 1st Vol. of Gil Blas.

STATEMENT OF PAYMENT MADE BY LT. THOMAS LESLIE, TREASURER ON ACCOUNT OF
CADETS, FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH AND APRIL, 1824.

No.	Names.	Book Fund.	Stoppages for Damages of Public Property.	Band Fund.	S. Spencer, for Clothing, Shoes, &c.	Washing.	W. B. Cozzens, for Board.	Mrs. Thompson, for Board.	Mr. Longfield, Shoemaker.	S. Wilton, Tailor.	Thos. Ketchum, for Postage.	Jno. Lane, for Sawing Wood.	Cash on Account.	Balance of Cash.	Jno. Dewitt, Store Keeper.	Total Amount.
1	Allston, Samuel R..	\$4.00	\$.00	\$.50	\$1.14	\$4.00	\$20.00	\$.00	\$2.63	\$10.16	\$.00	\$1.00	\$11.49	\$.00	\$1.48	\$56.40
2	Anderson, Robert...	4.00	.25	.50	1.45	4.00	20.00	.00	4.88	19.85	.47	1.00	.00	.00	.00	56.40
3	Anderson, James J..	4.00	.00	.50	1.19	4.00	20.00	.00	5.00	10.67	.10	1.00	8.00	.00	1.94	56.40
4	Allen, James J.	4.00	.00	.50	1.45	4.00	20.00	.00	4.63	.75	.20	1.00	.00	16.68	3.19	56.40
5	Allison, James.	4.00	.00	.50	.97	4.00	.40	23.60	2.26	.00	.00	1.00	4.00	4.04	11.63	56.40
6	Archer, John.	4.00	.12	.50	1.29	4.00	20.00	.00	3.44	6.99	.20	1.00	.00	.00	14.86	56.40
7	Armstrong, Thomas	4.00	.00	.50	1.43	4.00	20.00	.00	3.00	17.40	.22	1.00	.00	.00	4.85	56.40
8	Asquith, William E.	4.00	.00	.50	1.14	4.00	20.00	.00	4.50	17.84	.42	1.00	3.00	.00	.00	56.40
9	Anderson, Pierce B.	4.00	.00	.50	1.25	4.00	20.00	.00	2.50	19.60	1.20	1.00	.00	.00	2.33	56.40
10	Austin, James J.	4.00	.00	.50	1.14	4.00	20.00	.00	3.69	4.75	.80	1.00	6.00	.00	13.52	56.40
11	Bloodgood, William	4.00	.00	.50	.90	4.00	20.00	.00	.00	.50	.13	1.00	.00	.00	25.37	56.40
		44.00	.37	5.50	13.35	44.00	200.40	23.60	36.53	115.51	3.74	11.00	32.49	20.72	79.16	620.40

RECAPITULATION OF PAYMENTS MADE BY LT. THOMAS LESLIE, TREASURER ON ACCOUNT OF CADETS, FROM 1ST DAY OF MARCH TO 30TH APRIL, 1824.

To Capt. Aeneas Mackay.....	Book Fund, U. S. M. A.....	\$ 916 00
“ “ “	Stoppages for Damages of Public Property ..	24 69
Band Fund.....	Subscription for the Corps of Cadets.....	113 75
Samuel Spencer.....	Barber, Shoe-black, &c.....	263 16
Sundry Persons.....	For Washing.....	860 83
William B. Cozzens.....	Board of Cadets.....	4,143 79
Mrs. Amelia Thompson.....	“	287 00
William Longfield.....	Shoemaker.....	764 87
Samuel Wilton.....	Tailor	1,517 13
Thomas Ketchum.....	Post Master	55 24
John H. Lane.....	Sawing Wood.....	224 25
Corps of Cadets.....	Cash paid them.....	2,165 20
Jno. Dewitt.....	Storekeeper.....	1,549 77
		\$12,885 68

APPARATUS REQUIRED FOR THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

Pneumatic Apparatus.

Electrical Machine with its accompanying apparatus.
Six Mountain Barometers.
Rain and Wind Gauges and Hygrometer.
Air Pump with its accompanying apparatus.
Lestres Differential Thermometer.

Magnetic Apparatus.

Galvanic Apparatus.

Mechanical Apparatus.

Atwoods Machine.
Apparatus for the collision of bodies.
Pendulum Apparatus.

Instruments of Surveying.

Pentographs.

Set of levelling Instruments.

Optical Apparatus.

Two Repeating Circles.

Three of Hadley's Sextants graduated to ten seconds.

A Mural Quadrant.

Orrery and Planetarium.

Instruments to illustrate Horology and Dialing.

Portable Equatorial Instruments.

Camera Obscura.

Hydrostatick Apparatus.

Full sets of Models for Hydrodynamic's Hydrometers.

Models to illustrate the construction of Canals, Locks and Sluices.

Models for Arches and the different modes of centering.

Models to illustrate the strength of various Materials.

Models to illustrate the friction of wheel carriages.

Chemical Apparatus.

A Hydro-Pneumatic apparatus with Gas holder, Receivers, Deflagrating jars, &c., complete.

Apparatus for submitting Gases to the action of electricity, (see plate 9th, fig. 84, Henry's Chemistry).

Apparatus for procuring Gases without the possibility of their escaping into the room (see plate 2nd, fig. 17, Henry).

Four Galvanic Troughs in addition to the two now belonging to the Academy, or Hare's Calometer and Deflagrator.

Leslie's Photometer.

An oval Copper Boiler for exhibiting the most important facts respecting latent Caloric (see plate 5, fig. 46th, Henry's).

An Oxygen and Hydrogen blow-pipe.

Wedgewood Pyrometer.

(Copy).

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

July 1st, 1824.

Major Gen'l E. P. GAINES,

President of the Board of Visitors

of the Military Academy.

SIR:

I have received and read, with much satisfaction, the report of the Board of Visitors on the last general examination of the Cadets of the Military Academy, and on the organization, administration, and police of the Institution. While the report, founded as it is on minute examination and inspection of every department of the Institution, furnishes the most satisfactory evidence of its excellent condition, it, at the same time,

affords conclusive proof of the zeal and intelligence with which the gentlemen, composing the Board, have fulfilled the object which the Government had in view in inviting their attendance at the examination.

I avail myself of this occasion of making, through you, my acknowledgments to the gentlemen constituting the Board for the time and labour which they have gratuitously bestowed, at the request of the Department, on this important National Institution; and of expressing the satisfaction which I have experienced in learning from so authentic a source that it has completely attained the object which the Legislature had in view in its establishment.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed)

J. C. CALHOUN.

I thank you, Dear General, for your letter of the 1st of this month. I had delayed answering you in the expectation, that after dispatching the business with which I found my Bureau crowded on my return from West Point, I should be at leisure to say many things to you on two or three subjects scarcely touched upon in the report, but every day brings new duties to discharge, and it may be some weeks yet, before I can take up and do justice to the subject on which I think of writing to you. The object of this is merely to thank you for your frank communication, and to enclose a correct copy of our letter accompanying the report.

I am, Dear Sir, with great respect and esteem your friend,

(Signed)

E. P. GAINES.

Governors Island, New York,

July 15, 1824.

U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,

West Point, 20th June, 1824.

To the Secretary of War.

SIR:

In compliance with your invitation, the undersigned, acting as a Board of Visitors, have attended the examination of this Institution, and have now the honour to report their proceedings which will be found in the annexed Journal; and to which they add the following remarks.

1st. The position of the U. S. Military Academy combines advantages possessed by few, if any other place, for the preservation of health, enforcement of subordination, and the attainment and diffusion of knowledge in the elementary and higher branches of fixed and Moral Science, all important to our Civil Institutions, Military Defence, and National Character. The Cadets, coming from every section of the country, contribute much in the mutual and united efforts in the pursuits of this knowledge, to the extirpation of local prejudices and sectional antipathies; and they carry with them, in return, feelings and principles of enlarged patriotism, with habits of temperance and industry, added to an education the most useful to themselves and to the Republic for whose service they are destined.

2nd. The examination, generally, has been conducted with a patient minuteness that has given to each Cadet ample means to develop the character and extent of his acquirements in the various branches of study. Every individual of the First and Second, and most of the Third Class (the Board not having attended the examination of the Fourth Class) afforded undoubted evidence of previous application, and approved progress in their studies and other duties assigned to them respectively.

The Cadets not only afford satisfactory evidence of their accurate knowledge of the most important branches of the fixed Sciences, upon which they were extensively examined, but many of them exhibited, moreover, a facility and perspicuity of expression and illustration, manifesting the most promising traits of a rich elocution. Among the Cadets belonging to the upper classes the shades of difference in their attainments, and by which their relative rank is fixed, appear, in many cases, to be so slight as to render it difficult for the Board of Visitors to settle the question of rank; they, however, concur in the opinion that the arrangement of each Class in the accompanying catalogue is substantially correct.

3rd. The course of instruction in the French language appears to have resulted in giving the several Classes a good knowledge of its grammar, and a facility in rendering the sentences into English sufficient to enable them to pursue their Military studies, without inconvenience, in that language.

4th. In the Drawing School, the Board has examined numerous and very satisfactory examples of Proficiency in Topography, Landscape, and Plan Drawing.

5th. The important advantages arising from the connection of Mathematical Science and Military Education being universally acknowledged, it is a cause of peculiar satisfaction to the Board of Visitors to be enabled to state, that in every branch of Mathematical knowledge which has occupied the attention of the Cadets, the most satisfactory proofs have been afforded; that their attainments reflect honour upon themselves and the Institution in which their education is received. An accurate and familiar acquaintance, with this essential part of the course of education, is not merely derived from the immediate examination of the abstract Mathematics, but the inference is also forcibly and conclusively deduced from the readiness and facility with which they have been applied to the various branches of Natural Philosophy. In the pure Mathematicks the evidence of their advances are derivable from the accuracy and rapidity of their operation upon the black board; the ease with which the various substitutions, arising out of the different values in the calculations, have been effected; the variety of expression necessary to be employed; the methodical arrangement in the demonstrations of the propositions; the correctness of the results; and the intelligence evinced in assigning the rationale for every step of the operation. A close atten-

tion to the examinations has convinced the Board that the Cadets are familiarly acquainted with a considerable portion of the Differential and Integral Calculus; the application of Algebra to Geometry; the two Trigonometries, Descriptive Geometry, and the other parts of Elementary Mathematicks. If it were necessary to refer to any particular portion of the Mathematical course, we would, with satisfaction, allude to the discussion of curved lines, and transformation of rectilinear co-ordinates; the general discussion of the equations to the three distinct classes of Curves of the second order; to the fine Theory of Curved Surfaces, and to Transcendental Curves; and that of Integral Calculus to the Quadrature of Curves, and their rectification; to Curved Surfaces, and the measurement of their volumes.

The ready application of Mathematical knowledge in every section of Natural Philosophy—to Military and Civil Engineering—has afforded the most ample proofs that the means of deriving practical utilities from Physical Science are possessed by the Cadets of the Institution. The variety, range and difficulty of the question proposed by the examiners; the general correctness and judgement in the answers; the evident ease and facility of reply, connected with a logical precision which could only be attained by patient and intense application of the mental powers, are accurate tests that the different sections of this important branch of the course have been conducted with skill and perseverance. Where so much excellence has been apparent, it is perhaps unnecessary to allude to any particular department of the Physical course. We will, however, presume to affirm that the proposition relating to accelerated and retarded motion, to the Theory of projectiles, strength of materials, theory of Arches, spouting of Fluids, oscillation of floating bodies, and physical Astronomy, were illustrated and demonstrated under circumstances of peculiar excellence. The propositions relating to the attraction of solids from Newton's Principia, were demonstrated with much ability.

It accords with the sentiments of the Board to state, that the attainments witnessed in the Mathematical and Physical Classes were, if possible, discovered in a higher order in the section of Military and Civil Engineering. It was satisfactorily exhibited, by the diversity of questions proposed, that the very essential knowledge relating to Mortars, cements, use of wood, its defects, construction of Arches, and determination of the Voussoirs on the principles of Descriptive Geometry, to the mode of constructing Roads, head-gates of Dams, Locks and canals, uses and relative strengths of the different kinds of Iron, classification of soils in regard to foundations, and the operation of piling, had been acquired. It will, perhaps, assist in forming conceptions of the acquirements of the Class, by stating a few propositions, to whose constructions the Board gave the strictest attention.

In Civil Engineering.—To explain the *appareil* of a *groin*, formed by the intersection of an *annular* vault, with a radiant vault; to explain the

appareil of the common groin, and of the cloistered ceiling; to explain the *appareil* of an oblique rampant vault.

In Military Engineering.—To explain the Defilement of a Fortified front on irregular ground; to explain Mouzé's System of Mines, and the Theory of Mines generally; to explain the Construction of Noizet's Front in Fortification.

In all the Demonstrations and Elucidations of Civil and Military Engineering, the evident and important advantages arising from the course of Descriptive Geometry adopted in the Academy were forcibly exposed. In this branch, the profound attainments possessed by the Cadets were exhibited in a high degree of perfection by the constructions performed on the black board. The precision in drawing the lines by hand, without the assistance of rulers, and the correct relative proportions of the parts of the figures, are proofs of judgment and much industry.

6th. The exhibition which the Class of Engineering has made before the Board of the general principles of Theoretic Military Defence, and Civil and Military Constructions, has been highly satisfactory. The course of instruction in this Class embraces,

1st. A development of the theory of that description of the Science of War, which depends upon the selection of proper positions for defence by fortifications, and upon the planning and adaption of these works to the positions, including the estimates of the expense of the construction called Engineering.

2nd. An illustration of the maxims of Military Defence and Offence.

3rd. A Theoretic Explanation of the Construction of Fortifications, and of Civil Constructions, embracing Canals, Roads, Bridges, and public edifices.

4th. The graphic execution of the various systems of plans for these constructions, and for ornamental architecture; in the demonstration of which we have seen the application of Descriptive Geometry, and modern simplification of Perspective and Plane Drawing, and of resolving Solids and their Sections to planes. In the course of the examination of this Class, the large majority have discovered an intimate acquaintance with the theories as laid down in the text books, or explained by the Professor and Assistant.

This course is the first step of application of the Mathematical theory to that description of practice which is essential to a just arrangement in the minds of Students in the theory of Engineering to practical use; and when we consider the rising demand in our country for Civil Engineers, we must admit that the full endowment of this branch of study would be a great National economy. We therefore would advise that to this course there should be added the mechanical execution of models in Stone-cutting, and carpentry, and machine making; to effect which it would be necessary to provide a workshop, Tools, materials, a Teacher in machine

draughting, and a master model-maker; two Assistant Teachers of Engineering, and a Drawing Table and a modelling room, both to receive light from the Ceiling.

We are of the opinion that the grade of merit in the Academic scale of this branch is too low to excite a proper degree of emulation in the whole graduating Class to obtain eminence in the minute parts of the course, especially when it is considered that this is the peculiarly professional branch for which the Institution was first intended; and also that eminence in attainment in this department fixes the Cadet's particular pursuit in life. We would also observe that it does not appear to us as desirable to continue the practice of taking Cadets in this course for Assistant Teachers in other branches; such employment deprives the best of them of the time to give an undivided attention to the course. It were better, as a general rule, to offer sufficient inducements to graduates to take the stations of Assistant Teachers.

In the course of Natural and Experimental Philosophy, the Theory of Mechanicks, and of Astronomy, and of Physicks generally have been ably illustrated, by the class pursuing this branch, at the black board. But, it appears to us that more attention should be paid to the practical illustration of this course, especially in Astronomy to which desirable end a further endowment of the professorate is requisite in an increased number of Instruments and Apparatus, such as one exhibited upon an accompanying memorandum of those now in the Academy, and such also as we conceive to be necessary to add to the present collection.

In the department of History, Moral Science and Geography, the Board observe that the students have acquired a commendable collection of facts; but the Board feel it a duty to state, that the minds of these young men do not appear to have been sufficiently directed to a philosophical view of the branches of History and Moral Science. For the more convenient accommodation of the Professors of Chemistry and Philosophy, in giving instruction to their Classes, the Board deem it desirable to have two rooms constructed and added to the present Academy, of about 40 by 30 feet each, the expense of which would be about \$4000.

Comfortable quarters are wanting for the Professor of Chemistry, and for the officer of the Staff connected with the supplies, transportation, and keeping the academick property. Such quarters could be erected for about \$6,000.

7th. The *discipline* of this Institution is of the first order. Its excellence is demonstrated. 1st. By an exemplary *Police*, pervading every department, from the kitchen to the barracks, from the necessary refreshments of the table to the highest vocations of the Military and Academic Staff. 2nd. By the various courses of instruction, as well moral as scientific and military; both theoretical and practical; affording conclusive evidence of zeal, vigilance, and superior qualifications on the part of the Superintendent and great industry, subordination and promise on the part of the Cadets.

The Drill.—The position of the Cadets under Arms, and their movement in company and battalion exercise were found to be strictly conformable to the regulations governing them, and to present an aspect of regular tactical knowledge on the part of the Cadets, unequalled by any troops the Board of Visitors have ever seen. The evolutions of the line were performed with all the accuracy and professional ability that the very limited number of Cadets could possibly admit. The Field Artillery, as well as the rifle exercise, were likewise performed in a manner highly creditable to the Institution.

We have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servants,

(Signed),
 EDMUND P. GAINES,
 J. S. JOHNSTON,
 JOHN CHESTER,
 A. S. H. BURGESS,
 J. G. SWIFT,
 HENRY B. WARFIELD,
 N. TOWSON,
 J. T. AUSTIN,
 W. H. SUMNER,
 THOMAS C. LEVINS.

PROFESSOR J. D. KINSLEY'S
 REPORT AS ONE OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS AT WEST POINT
 JUNE, 1824.

NEW HAVEN, June 16th, 1824.

DEAR SIR:

I visited West Point, at the time mentioned in the notice I received from the War Department, but was informed by Col. Thayer, the Superintendent, that the examination of the Cadets would not commence until the seventh inst. As it would be inconvenient for me, for the reason mentioned in my former letter, to be absent from New Haven another week, I determined to make use of such opportunities, as I then had, of becoming acquainted with the circumstances of the Military School. The gentlemen of the establishment afforded me every facility for my object, and I was able, perhaps to see some things to more advantage, than I could have been, if I had been there during the examination. Besides visiting the various apartments in the building, I attended several private recitations of the Cadets, in the different stages of their course, and saw the method pursued by the Professors in their daily instruction.

I was much gratified with what I witnessed in every Department of the Academy. I am satisfied that Mathematicks are taught at West Point with an exactness and success, which can hardly be surpassed. The application of Mathematical principles to the several branches of Military

Science, to Mechanicks and to Natural Philosophy generally, I have no doubt is taught equally well.

Whether any change could be made in the system of study so as to introduce a few exercises more strictly literary, than any which are now allowed, I am not sufficiently acquainted with the state of the establishment, and the views of the government, to determine. Some change of this kind, if not inconsistent with what certainly ought to be the first object of attention in a Military School, seems desirable.

I would add only, that I was treated with great civility by the Superintendent and the other Officers and Professors at West Point. Though I have not seen the establishment at the time of the examination yet I have seen it when I could easily judge of its prosperity. This School both in its plan and in the execution of the plan, certainly does great honour to the Government of the United States.

I am, Sir, with great respect

Your o'bt. servant,

(Signed) J. D. KINSLEY.

To Hon. J. C. CALHOUN, }
Secretary of War. }

DOCTOR WILLIAM STAUGHTON'S
REPORT RESPECTING HIS VISIT TO WEST POINT, JUNE, 1824.

COLLEGE HILL, June 18th, 1824.

DEAR SIR:

On Tuesday, the 27th of last month, I left Washington on my way to West Point, where I arrived the Monday following, accompanied from New York by Prof. Kinsley from Yale College.

On reaching the Point we both found that a slight error had been introduced into the letters we had received; the first day of June being inserted instead of the first Monday.

I resolved on returning to New York, spending a few days with my friends, and then going back to West Point; but while in the city I was attacked with a bilious disease which wholly defeated my intentions. This was, to me, a circumstance of real and deep regret.

Permit me to say that while I was at the Institution I was delighted with the fine system of discipline there maintained. In the gentlemanly and respectful appearance of the Cadets it were easy to trace the future præsidium descusque of our country. I was equally pleased with the superior talents of the Professors so far as they were elicited in familiar conversation, and with those especially of Col. Thayer, who seems eminently formed by nature and by science for his important situation.

Will you pardon me, sir, if I express one point in which I conceive an improvement may be made. The American people are, on the whole, a religious people, and as far as the intelligence might reach them, would,

I am persuaded, be gratified to learn that *drilling* on *Sundays* had been dispensed with. The public veneration of the day would seem to demand the measure. Its influence would probably be propitious to the young men, and the multiplied exercises of the week seem to indicate that the existing arrangement to which I refer is scarcely necessary.

With the largest wishes for your happiness, and with sentiments of the highest consideration,

I am, dear sir,

your ob't humble servant,

(Signed)

WILLIAM STAUGHTON.

To the Hon. J. C. CALHOUN, }
Secretary of War. }

Perhaps it may not be unacceptable that I state the direct expenses incurred.

From Washington to Baltimore...	\$ 4.00
Baltimore to Philadelphia...	7.00
Philadelphia to New York...	4.00
New York to West Point....	2.50
	<hr/>
	\$17.50
Returning.....	17.50
	<hr/>
	\$35.00