

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS

TO THE

United States Military Academy

MADE TO

Congress and the Secretary of War,

FOR

THE YEAR 1825.

1825.

JOURNAL OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE UNITED STATES
MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, JUNE, 1825.

WEST POINT, June 6th, 1825.

Board of Visitors. Present, Col. Eustis and Mr. E. Everett. The organization of the Board was delayed 'till a quorum should be assembled. It was ordered, meantime, that a minute of the proceedings of the Visitors present should be kept.

At 8 o'clock A. M. The examination commenced in the presence of the Board of Visitors and of the Academic Board. The third and fourth sections of the Fourth Class of Cadets were examined in the first of Gil Blas. The examination was conducted by M. du Commun.

At half past eleven A. M. the examination was adjourned, and resumed at 12 o'clock in the same department. The fifth section of the Fourth Class was examined by Cadet C. J. Ridgely, Assistant Teacher of the French language:

The Board adjourned at one o'clock P. M.

The examination was recommenced at 3 o'clock. The second section of the Third Class was examined by Professor Davies in Perspective, Shades and Shadows.

The examination was accompanied with demonstrations given from diagrams, drawn by the cadets on the black board, and a series of Drawings, in the branch under examination, was also submitted by each cadet. The examination was adjoined at 6 P. M.

Tuesday, June 7th, 5 o'clock A. M. Board of Visitors. Present Col. Eustis, Mr. Bancroft, Mr. Everett.

The Battalion of Cadets was exercised, under the direction of Major Worth, in Military manœuvres and evolutions.

At 8 o'clock, the members of the Board present at the Point assembled in the Library. It was resolved to delay the choice of a President and Secretary, till a fuller Board could be convened. Mr. Everett was requested in the mean time to discharge the duty of Secretary.

At quarter past 8, the examination was resumed. The second section of the Third Class of Cadets was examined by Professor Davies in Perspective, Shades and Shadows. The examination of this section finished at 9 o'clock A. M.

A copy of the Roll of Cadets reported for good behavior and offences, during the past year, was, at this time, submitted to the Board of Visitors.

At 10 o'clock, the examination recommenced. The third section of the Third Class was examined by Professor Davies in Plane and Spherical Trigonometry, Conic Sections and Descriptive Geometry.

The Register of Merit, the Register of Delinquencies and the Description Book, were, at this session, submitted to the inspection of the Board.

The examination was adjourned at 1 o'clock P. M. At half past 2 o'clock, the Board proceeded, with the Superintendent to the Drawing Room, and examined the drawings of the Second and Third Classes of Cadets, made under the direction of Mr. Gimbrede.

At 3 o'clock the examination of the remainder of the Third Class, second section began, in the branches above mentioned and was closed at 6 o'clock P. M., when the Board adjourned.

Wednesday, June 8th, 5 o'clock A. M. The Board assembled on the parade. Present Hon. J. Hamilton, Jun'r, Col. Eustis, Mr. Bancroft, Mr. Everett.

The Cadets, under command of Major Worth, were exercised in Military manœuvres and evolutions.

At 8 o'clock A. M. The examination was continued with the second section of the Fourth Class, in Geometry. The examination was conducted by Cadet Bowman, Assistant Teacher. The Board adjourned at a quarter before one o'clock.

At 3 o'clock P. M., the examination was resumed with the third section of the Fourth Class, by Professor Davies, in Geometry.

At half past 5 o'clock the Board of Visitors and Academic Board adjourned, in consequence of the arrival at West Point of the Honourable Secretary of War.

At half past 9 P. M., the Board met. Present Hon. Mr. Hamilton, Col. Eustis, Mr. Skinner, Rev'd Mr. Brown, Mr. Bancroft, Mr. Everett; being a quorum of the Board.

The proceedings of the members of the Board having been read, it was voted to proceed to a choice of a President by ballot, whereupon Hon. J. Hamilton was unanimously chosen.

It was then voted to proceed to the choice of a Secretary, whereupon Mr. E. Everett was unanimously chosen.

Voted, that the minutes of the proceeding of the Board hitherto be adopted as a part of the Journal of the Board.

Voted, that for the convenience of attending on the examinations, the Board breakfast at 7 o'clock, dine at half past one, and take tea immediately after evening parade.

Voted, that when the Board adjourns it adjourn to meet at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Thursday, June 9th, at 8 o'clock A. M. The Board assembled in the Library; present, as before.

Voted, that the President and Secretary be requested to confer with the Superintendent on the order in which the examination should proceed.

At 9 o'clock A. M. the Board adjourned to accompany the Hon'bl. Secretary of War in the Review of the Battalion of Cadets and the Company of Artillery, and in visiting and inspecting the public rooms and barracks.

At 3 o'clock P. M. the second section of the Second Class was examined by Lieut. Smith in Mechanics. The examination was attended by the Hon'l. Secretary of War.

The examination was adjourned at ten minutes before seven.

Friday, June 10th. At 8 o'clock A. M. the Board of Visitors proceeded to the examination room. Present, Hon'bl. J. Hamilton, Junr., Col. Wallbach, Col. Eustis, Rev'd M. Brown, J. S. Skinner, Esq., Mr. Bancroft and Mr. Everett.

The first section of the First Class was examined by Captain Douglass in Civil Engineering.

A series of plans and drawings in this branch, executed by the Cadets under examination, was submitted to the Board with a program of the course.

After a recess, the examination was resumed at 11 o'clock, and continued till 1 o'clock P. M.

At 3 o'clock P. M. the first section of the Second Class was examined in Chemistry by Professor Torrey and Lieut. Prescott.

The examinations this day were attended by the Hon'b'l. Secretary of War.

At 6 o'clock the Board adjourned to witness the exercise of the Cadets in firing with cannon at a target.

Saturday, June 11th, A. M. The Board assembled to witness the performance of the Artillery movements and exercise.

At 8 o'clock the examination of the first section of the Second Class was continued and finished in Chemistry by Professor Torrey and Lieut. Prescott.

At half-past 9 A. M. the Board convened at their quarters. Present, as before.

Voted, that Col. Eustis and Col. Wallbach and Mr. Skinner be a committee to enquire into the Police, Military Administration, and Military Instruction of the Academy and report thereon to the Board.

Voted, that Mr. Everett, Mr. Bancroft, and Mr. Brown be a committee to enquire into the course of Scientific and Literary Instruction and into the state of the Library, Cabinet, and other apparatus, and report thereon to the Board.

Voted, that Mr. Skinner, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Everett be a Committee to enquire into the Civil Economy of the Academy in all its branches, and report thereon to the Board.

Voted, that an extract be made from the journal containing the foregoing provisions and furnished to Col. Thayer, Superintendent of the Academy, and that he be requested to submit to the Chairmen of the several committees above mentioned such information and documents as he may possess towards facilitating their enquiries.

The Superintendent then attended the Board and proposed to them an order of proceedings in the remainder of the examination, which was adopted.

At 12 o'clock the Board attended in the Chapel when an address was delivered to the Cadets by the Hon'l. Secretary of War.

Monday, June 13th. At 8 o'clock the Board assembled; Col. Hugh Mercer of Virginia appeared and took his seat.

The second section of the Fourth Class was examined in French, in the first Vol. of Gil Blas, by Mr. Berard.

After a recess the examination was resumed, and the first section of the Fourth Class was examined in the same branch by Mr. Berard.

At 3 P. M. The examination was resumed in French. The fourth and part of the first section of the Third Class were examined in that department by Mr. Berard.

The Board adjourned at 6 P. M. Tuesday, June 14th. The Board assembled in the examination room at 8 A. M. The Hon. Mr. Parrott of N. H., appeared and took his seat.

The remainder of the first section of the Third Class was examined, by Mr. Berard in French.

After a recess at 10 o'clock, the second section of the First Class was introduced and examined by Lieut. Mordecai, Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering.

The Board adjourned at 1 o'clock. At 3 P. M. The examination of the second section of the First Class in Civil Engineering, was resumed and finished. After a recess, at 5 o'clock P. M., the first section of the First Class was introduced. Four of the Cadets whose examination in Civil Engineering had been necessarily omitted on the 10th, were examined in that department; and a commencement was made also in the examination of the same section in Military Engineering by Captain Douglass.

The Board adjourned at a quarter before 7.

Wednesday, June 15th. At 15 minutes after 8 the examination began in the first section of the First Class in Military Engineering, and was continued, with the usual recess and adjournment at noon, 'till twenty minutes past seven in the evening, at which time the examination of the First Class in that department was closed. The examination of the first section was conducted by Capt. Douglass; and that of the section, by Lieut. Mordecai. A series of drawings, executed by the Cadets, with a program of the course, was laid upon the table.

Thursday, June 16th. At 8 A. M. the Board assembled in the Examination Room. Professor Dewey appeared and took his seat.