

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF VISITERS

OF THE

MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST POINT, NEW YORK.

MILITARY ACADEMY.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF VISITERS.

To the Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

WEST POINT, June 21, 1833.

SIR: The Board of Visitors convened at your request to attend the examinations of the Cadets of the Military Academy at West Point, beg leave to present the following report:

That, in order to accomplish more effectually the object of their mission, namely, to make "a full and free investigation of the military and scientific instruction of the Cadets, and of the internal police and discipline, and fiscal concerns of the Institution," they have arranged themselves into committees, instructed to enquire especially into such subjects as would most comprehensively embrace all the desired information. The reports of the Committees containing the result of their observations, and their suggestions, in which the Board of Visitors have concurred, are herewith transmitted. But the Board, as a body, would submit to your consideration the following engrossed statement of the actual condition of the Institution:

The course of instruction prescribed by the regulations of the Academy, is comprised under the following heads: 1st, Infantry Tactics, and Military Police; 2d, Mathematics; 3d, The French Language; 4th, Drawing; 5th, Natural Philosophy; 6th, Chemistry and Mineralogy; 7th, Artillery Tactics, the Science of Gunnery, and the duties of a Military Laboratory; 8th, Engineering and Science of War; 9th, Rhetoric and Moral and Political Science; and 10th, The use of the Sword. This course of studies is required to be finished in four years.

The examinations which the Board have witnessed, abundantly prove that, in the discharge of their duties, the Academic Staff of the Institution have used that zeal and industry which a deep sense of the responsibilities of their stations, an honorable and patriotic desire to serve their country, a laudable ambition to elevate their profession, and an accurate estimate of the value of science must always inspire. The general proficiency of the cadets in the several branches of study, testify to the entire competency of the Professors and their assistants.

In one important department of science alone, Mineralogy, the studies have remained incomplete, owing to the insufficient number of assistants assigned to the Professor of Chemistry, whose duty it is to impart instruction in this branch also. The importance to a military as well as to a civil engineer, of a familiar acquaintance with Mineralogy, to which should be added the no less useful science of Geology, is so obvious, that, in the opinion of the Board, no pains nor expense should be spared, to provide the Professor with the most ample means of completing and illustrating these portions of his course. To enable him to give a full course of instruction on three branches of the Natural Sciences, so comprehensive and progressive as Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology, it is indispensable that he should be allowed at least one additional assistant, and that he be provided with as complete a series of Mineral and Geological specimens, both foreign and domestic, together with drawings of sections, and other means illustrative of the cognate branch of Geognosy, as can be procured. An appropriation to the latter effect has already been asked for, and it is respectfully solicited that the grant of it be earnestly recommended to Congress. The erection of a new building to replace that which was destroyed by fire

during the last year, the plans of which, it is understood, have been approved of by the Chief Engineer, will provide a suitable apartment for the Mineralogical and Geological cabinets, which, in the course of a few years, might be greatly enlarged, and become extremely valuable, were it enjoined upon the surgeons and officers at the different military posts throughout the Union, to make some exertions to increase it by collecting specimens.

In connexion with this subject, the present Board cheerfully respond to the suggestion of a former one, who in their report have recommended, not only as an act of strict justice, but as conducive to the best interests of the Institution, that the acting Professor of Chemistry should be placed on the same rank with his colleagues. The arduousness of his labors, together with the zeal and ability with which he has hitherto discharged them, would seem fairly to entitle him to this promotion. The Board, therefore, recommend that the department of Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology, be established by law, upon the same footing with the other departments, namely, with a Professor and two assistants, receiving the same emoluments respectively that are received by the Professor of Mathematics and his associates.

The erection of the building already alluded to, the plan and location of which are warmly recommended by the Committee on Public Buildings, will likewise provide for the ample accommodation of the Library, as well as the models and apparatus for the departments of Engineering and Natural Philosophy. Yearly appropriations to these departments have repeatedly been asked for and granted, the indispensable necessity of which is evident, in order to enable the Professors and the Cadets to keep pace with the discoveries in science and with the improvements in those arts that form part of their military education. The unexpended funds appropriated to the departments of Philosophy, Engineering, Drawing, Chemistry, Mathematics, and for the increase of the Library, amounted, at the end of the first quarter of the present year, to upwards of seven thousand dollars, a large portion of which, it is understood, will be forthwith applied, by the Superintendent, to the Engineering department, and the remainder to the other departments, so soon as the necessary buildings recommended for their uses shall have been erected. In regard to the disbursements for the Library, it has been recommended to place them under the charge of a Committee of the Academic staff, elected from and by their own body, whose duty it shall be to select the most useful books appertaining to the several branches of studies that are or may be hereafter taught in the Institution. The Committee on Public Buildings have also called the attention of the Board to the insufficiency of the barracks for the comfortable accommodation of the Cadets, and have suggested some important improvements in their interior police. They recommend, too, an enlargement of the Hospital, which at present contains only six rooms, accommodating 12 patients; and although, so far, these have fortunately been found sufficient, they could hardly be expected to be so in case of an epidemic. They, moreover, recommend the erection of an observatory, or a building to accommodate the large Telescope, Transit Instrument, and Astronomical clock; and the establishment of a swimming school; in all of which the Board of Visitors unanimously concur.

The Committee on the Internal Police of the Institution also remark upon the unfitness of the south barracks to the purposes for which they were designed; and further suggest the propriety of obtain-

ing a legislative enactment from the State of New York, prohibiting the sale of ardent spirits to the Cadets within certain limits of the Military Academy reserve. The latter suggestion is highly approved by the Board. The investigations of this Committee have resulted in an approval of the rules under which a distribution of goods at the "Store" is made; though they have regretted to find that an impression is very prevalent among the corps of Cadets, that they are extravagantly charged for them. Your attention is respectfully invited to this subject.

The Fiscal Committee, after showing that the monetary affairs of the Institution are conducted with system, accuracy, and good faith, propose that the applicants for admission, who are ordered to report themselves for examination, be allowed a mileage sufficient to defray the expense of their transportation to the post. The object of this is to equalize the facilities of admission for the youths of our country, in all conditions, and at the most remote distances; adding thereby to the republican character of the Academy. They also recommend an increase of the salaries of the Superintendent, Professors, and Assistant Professors, in which the Board of Visitors concurred.

The Committee appointed to inquire into the course of military instruction and tactics, at the Academy, are, as will be perceived by their report, quite satisfied with the manner in which it has been conducted, and in reference to the present discipline observed at the post, are of opinion that it is administered with a proper regard to the necessity of a strict enforcement of the prescribed regulations, unaccompanied by any exercise of unnecessary severity on the part of the officers, in the hope of winning, as well as with a view to secure an entire obedience to them. They recommend the erection of a building to shelter certain pieces of ordnance, that have been deposited there for preservation as trophies of the Revolutionary and late wars; an addition to the pieces now used, of at least one of the other kinds of guns now employed in the service; and the substitution of a company of mounted Dragoons for the detachment of Artillery now stationed at the post. In these recommendations the Board likewise unite; and whilst they feel it imperative upon them to add, that the excellent discipline of the Cadets, and the skill displayed in their military evolutions, are due, in a great measure, to the inflexible enforcement of the prescribed discipline by the present commandant of the corps, and to his experience and knowledge as a tactician, they regret that, by the regulations of the Academy, which require, in this department, an officer of higher rank, the permanent services of the present incumbent may be lost to the Institution.

In the branch of instruction embracing Rhetoric and Moral and Political Science, the studies have been found deficient. This subject has been fully investigated by the Committee on the course of Moral and Scientific instruction of the Academy, who have in their report suggested certain modifications of the present course, that are approved of by the Board. Should these suggestions meet with your approbation and that of Congress, and should it be found advisable to grant to the Chaplain an additional clerical assistant, more time would necessarily be had, and more opportunities present themselves, of attending in a more especial manner than is practicable under the present arrangements, to the religious instruction of the Cadets. The Board are far from implying, by this, any deficiency on the part of the venerable clergyman now at the head of the Ethical Department, but, on the contrary, were pleased to discover that, on retiring from a situation which he has filled so honorably for upwards of ten years, he has received from his pupils gratifying testimonials of their respect and affection.

For further details concerning the actual condition of the Academy in its various departments, the

Board must refer to the reports of the several committees, at the same time that they rejoice, as Americans, to have it in their power to bear testimony to the signal ability with which it is conducted. No one, how inveterate soever his prejudices may have been, can approach the Institution without a lively admiration of the fitness of its location, and will hardly be expected to leave it without a conviction of its utility. Surrounded by so many recollections of the glorious struggle of our forefathers in the cause of liberty, in sight of the monuments that commemorate them, the American youth cannot fail to imbibe strong feelings of patriotism, and a love of country, which form the best security for the maintenance of our independence. Every one must perceive an order and regularity in the service of the post, which bespeak the existence of an excellent system, faithfully pursued; and in the manly bearing, the elastic movement of limb, and the neat attire of the Cadets, there is seen the result of a course of education admirably calculated to develop and improve alike his moral and physical capabilities. Entertaining these views, the Board of Visitors cannot hesitate to recommend the Military Academy at West Point, as an institution well worthy of the fostering patronage of Government. They see nothing in its continuance that conflicts with the republican character which all our public institutions should possess. Admittance to it is opened to every condition of fortune and of birth; no favoritism is known to have been practised in gaining admission into it; and the greatest impartiality is apparent in the administration of its justice, as well as in the award of its privileges.

In a national point of view, it will tend to disseminate over the whole country knowledge of a peculiar description, which is daily becoming more and more required; will improve the condition of the militia; will elevate the moral as well as scientific character of the army; will furnish means for the security of our frontiers; and, above all, will cement the bond of Union between the States, by establishing a community of feeling and a concert of action among men on whom the nation will ere long have accustomed itself to look with pride, as its surest reliance amidst the difficulties of a war.

In conclusion, the Board acknowledge, with unfeigned thanks, the polite attentions of the Superintendent and Military staff, of the Academic staff, and the Assistant Professors, whom they have ever found ready and willing to aid them in their necessary investigations.

J. T. DUCATEL, Maryland,
President of Board of Visitors.

B. F. MORRIS, Illinois.
JNO. C. PLUMMER, Pennsylvania.

JOHN B. ARD, do.

H. W. ELLIS, Alabama.

DECOUDRAY HOLSTEIN, N. Y.

JOSEPH D. HOLT, Mississippi.

C. F. McCOY, Georgia.

J. E. HOLBROOK, South Carolina.

JAMES JONES, Kentucky.

JAMES SHEA, New York.

EVAN M. JOHNSON, do.

FRANCIS LIEBER.

JOHN E. PAGE, Virginia.

THOMAS ROSS, Pennsylvania.

JOHN L. SMITH,

Major Corps of Engineers.

J. S. CONWAY, Arkansas.

THOS. B. McELWEE, Pennsylvania.

JAS. TAYLOR, Newport, Ken.

J. PAGE.

D. MURRAY, Maryland.

WM. R. GRIFFITH, Kentucky.

W. H. RUSSELL, Missouri.

Z. PITCHER, of Michigan,
Secretary of Board of Visitors.

I concur in the above report, except so much as commends the system of moral instruction; recommends that a "company" of Dragoons be stationed here, and the appointment of an Assistant Professor, who must be a clergyman. J. D. WESTON, Ohio.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

To the President of the Board of Visitors, the Committee on Public Buildings respectfully

REPORT:

That as soon as your Committee had informed Col. De Russy, the Superintendent of the Military Academy, of their organization, he appointed a committee consisting of three members of the Staff—Professor Bartlett, Surgeon Wheaton, and Lieut. Swartwout, to accompany your Committee during their inspection of the Public Buildings belonging to this post. They have attentively examined them, and beg leave to lay the following remarks before your honorable Board.

The large building called the Exercise Hall, and now in the course of completion, will be of very great advantage to this important institution. The recitation rooms in the same are spacious and admit full light; the walls are so constructed that the transmission of ordinary sound from one room to another is effectually prevented—three points of much importance in all school architecture. The same building contains the quarters for unmarried officers attached to the Academy. By their removal, and that of the recitation rooms from the barracks, considerable space will be gained for the accommodation of the Cadets, a matter of moment in the opinion of your Committee. At present there are four, five, and at times even six Cadets in one room, with the adjacent dormitory—a number inconsistent with the proper pursuit of study. There is likewise a large Drilling Hall in this building, so that in future neither rain, excessive heat, nor the inclemency of winter, need interrupt the drilling of the cadets.

Drilling, if thoroughly taught, affords a fine gymnastic exercise, and your Committee make free in stating that every one must be struck with the manly carriage, healthful developments of chest and limb of the Cadets, and the general fine appearance of their frames, which promises well to support the fatigues of life to which all of them will be more or less exposed. Drilling, moreover, is not without its moral effect. The close attention to the words of command, and the exactness with which all movements are instantly to be executed, teach a rapidity and promptness of volition, a readiness of execution which can be obtained in an equal degree but by few if any other means.

Your Committee recommend the establishment of a swimming school, on the plan of those adopted in France, Prussia, and other countries, both for the army and for colleges; or on that of a similar establishment formed a few years ago in Boston, Massachusetts. The whole expense for the necessary buildings would not exceed one hundred and fifty dollars; and at this trifling cost hundreds of youths would acquire a skill which is of equal importance to the soldier and to the citizen, an amusement that is always greatly relished by the young, and, indeed, by all who enjoy good health, and one that can be practised at a season when the prevailing heat hardly allows of any other gymnastic exercise. It strengthens the chest, extremities, and muscular system generally, is eminently healthful, and contributes to manliness of character. Swimming might be made to relieve the monotony of life when the Cadets are encamped, and perfect safety would be insured if the systematic teaching of this art, as introduced elsewhere, were adopted here. The Cadets, when commissioned, would introduce it into the army, where, it is believed, it would not be without advantage to the health of the soldier.

Your honorable Board are aware of the fact, that in

the month of February last, the building which contained the library, chemical laboratory, philosophical apparatus, and models for engineering, was destroyed by fire. Fortunately the library, apparatus, and models were saved. The Superintendent of the Academy has submitted to the Secretary of War a plan for the erection of suitable buildings, to replace that which was destroyed. Since our arrival here this plan has been sent for and placed before your Committee, who unanimously express the opinion that it combines in a high degree safety, commodiousness, and unpretending taste. They propose to your Board to urge with the utmost earnestness upon the Hon. Secretary of War the necessity of its prompt execution. The plan offers several prominent features, and among others that, should it be adopted, the library will be entirely detached from the chemical laboratory, and in this way removed from the danger of fire or other injuries arising from too close a proximity to it. These buildings also provide for a convenient apartment for the library, a matter of much importance in an institution of the character of this Academy. A library ought not only to be arranged so that it can be consulted with facility, but it should actually invite students by affording what might be termed a degree of literary comfort. Your Committee believe that all persons acquainted with this subject will readily agree with them that this is necessary, not only as affording a literary luxury, but securing the true usefulness of a library.

The plan of Col. De Russy also provides that the members of the chemical class may be accommodated in the laboratory, so as to be enabled to go through its manipulations and perform the necessary experiments, so that their study of chemistry shall not remain a passive reception of verbal knowledge; but shall equally consist in practical application, especially and undeniably important to the military scholar. The same plan has long been adopted in the Polytechnic School of Paris.

The valuable library, which it is supposed could not be replaced for a sum less than \$50,000, and the fine philosophical apparatus have been placed temporarily in some of the rooms of the hotel, at present, however, unoccupied. It is clear that both the library and apparatus can be of no use so long as they remain in their present position. In adopting the plan of the Superintendent, the additional advantage would be gained, that any changes of the old buildings which may become necessary, could be made to agree in relative position with the projected buildings, and that thus the beautiful plain in front of the houses would be greatly improved.

The Committee take this opportunity of expressing their high satisfaction at the improvement which has of late taken place in various parts of this post. Among the architectural improvements they consider the erection of the chapel the most prominent. It is an edifice which recommends itself by its simplicity and taste.

Your Committee recommend likewise to urge upon the Government the appropriation of a sum sufficient to build an observatory at this place. It is believed that one thousand dollars will be adequate for the present, and your committee cannot but remind the Board, that of the five or six most civilized nations of the earth, we are actually the only one destitute of an observatory, though really we constitute the second in commercial importance. In this particular we are daily receiving the benefits of the noble labors of other nations without fairly contributing our share to the great common stock of knowledge, and without affording to our own people all those advantages which can only be obtained and diffused by a domestic observatory. Your committee do not hesitate in frankly confessing this is a species of true and genuine glory of which they do not wish to see their own beloved country any longer, and as they conceive unnecessarily, deprived. All civilized nations are but

members of one vast community—a church universal of civilization; all stand in need of one another, of free and constant interchange of ideas; and it is thus that we too have our sacred debts to pay on the score of knowledge and science. This academy is possessed of an excellent telescope, an astronomical clock, and a transit instrument. They are costly, and, your Committee understand, of high order; yet useless, or nearly, so for want of a proper place.

Your Committee are decidedly of the opinion that the barracks are not as they well might be. The rooms, especially of the South Barrack, are far too narrow for the number of Cadets occupying them. The want of room makes it necessary for the Cadets to sleep on mattresses placed upon the floor. As soon as the Cadet rises in the morning, the mattresses are rolled up, without time for sufficient airing. The atmosphere of the rooms is thus perceptibly deprived of that degree of purity which is frequently observed in barracks where from fifteen hundred to two thousand men are quartered, and whose bedsteads are so arranged that, when not in use, they can be placed one upon the other, yet so that the mattress of the one does not touch those of the others.

The Surgeon of the post has earnestly represented to your Committee that the basement story of the hospital building, used for the accommodation of the matrons and nurses employed in the hospital, is so damp that they suffer seriously in consequence of it—an inconvenience which might be readily obviated by the erection of an additional story.

All which is respectfully submitted.

FRANCIS LIEBER, *Chairman.*

WEST POINT, June 16, 1838.

REPORT OF THE FISCAL COMMITTEE.

WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY,
June, 1838.

The Committee to which was assigned the duty of examining the fiscal concerns of the Military Academy at West Point, beg leave to Report: That having been furnished by the Superintendent with the necessary information as to the departments where the accounts were kept, and a deputation of officers assigned to assist them in their investigation, they proceeded in the first place to the office of the Quartermaster, where the general disbursements under the direction of the Superintendent are made, the books of which department were submitted to their inspection. The vouchers for the disbursements in this Bureau are receipts taken in duplicate, one of which is filed in this office, and the other forwarded to the accounting officer of the Treasury Department of the General Government at Washington, thus assuming the responsibility of the disbursing officer to the proper authority. The Committee take pleasure in certifying to the neatness and accuracy manifested in this office, in all matters of account. After such examination as was thought necessary there, the Committee proceeded to the Paymaster's office, where the accounts of the cadets are kept with great accuracy and neatness. It appears manifest to the Committee that the strictest care is taken of the interest of the Cadets, and there can be no possible injustice done to them in the expenditure of their pay, if the board of officers acting as inspectors do their duty.

Each Cadet is furnished with a check book in which must appear the sanction of the Superintendent before he can receive from the store such articles as he may require, and these are charged at a price fixed by a Board of officers, and which is not to exceed a certain per cent on the first cost. The Cadet is enabled to keep his own accounts, and learns to economise his little funds.

The mess arrangements are made with the strictest regard to economy which is compatible with a due supply of plain, wholesome diet. This is now done by the employment of a steward, whose duty it is to provide for the whole corps, as one mess; and whose

bills (as well as the fare provided) are inspected and passed upon by a Board of Officers, appointed for that purpose, and by whom the whole amount is then apportioned between the Cadets equally. This amounts, at present, to about eleven dollars per month, but must vary with the price of provisions.

The Committee refer to the accompanying tabular statement to show the amount of funds required for the use of this Institution, for the present year, the whole of which is so small in comparison with the amount of good resulting from it to the country, that it is hoped the necessary appropriation will be cheerfully and promptly made.

The value of this school is beginning to be known generally through the country, in the way best calculated to make it favorably regarded, that is by the sound, practical, useful men who are annually sent abroad from it into the different States, and enter immediately into active life, in both civil and military employment. These gentlemen are found to possess a thorough knowledge of all they have been taught in this institution, and are able instantly to apply it in practice, and are, in a remarkable degree, *business men*, and we know that many are now repaying the country for its beneficence to them, by their gallantry in the field of battle, where some of the best and bravest of the pupils of West Point have fallen covered with glory, and where all who are now sharing the hardships and dangers of war evince the chivalrous gallantry of youth tempered with the coolness of veteran discipline.

Your Committee recommend that the applicants for admission into the Military Academy, who are ordered to report themselves for examination, be allowed by the Government a mileage sufficient to defray the necessary expenses of their transportation to West Point. Under the present system each applicant is compelled to report himself at his own expense, which, from the extent of our territory, is, in many instances, very great. It should continue to be, as it always has been, the object of our Government to afford equal facilities for obtaining admission into this Institution to the sons of all classes of the community. The present regulation, your Committee conceive, does not afford all the facility which is required, because it must necessarily exclude from the Academy many young men, residing in distant sections of the Union, whose parents or friends are unable to incur the expense of sending them to West Point. Your Committee have been informed that when a Cadet is dismissed he is allowed the usual mileage for his transportation home, and they can perceive no good reason for not allowing the same mileage to the applicant who reports himself at this post, in obedience to the orders of the Secretary of War. On the contrary, they think it would add still more to the republican character of the Academy, and extend its usefulness more generally among all classes of citizens residing in remote sections of the Union.

Your Committee have had occasion to observe that the Superintendent of this Institution is, from his official station, subject to very great expense not common to other officers of his rank. All public characters and distinguished foreigners who visit the post are thrown upon his hospitality, and, as the representative of his country, bound to sustain its dignity and character, he cannot evade this tax upon his purse; and your Committee cannot but think that he ought to have such increase of pay as will enable him suitably to meet it; and they respectfully recommend such increase to the consideration of Congress; and your Committee further concur in the reports of former Boards of Visitors, recommending an increase of the Salaries of the Professors and assistant Professors.

The annexed documents, marked No. 1, 2, and 3, are those referred to in the foregoing Report—all which is respectfully submitted.

D. MURRAY, *Chairman.*

No. 1.—Statement of Disbursements on account of the U. S. Military Academy, in the year 1837, by Lieut. Col. R. E. De Russy, of the Corps of Engineers, and Superintendent of the Academy.

HEADS OF APPROPRIATION.	Overrun of former appropriations.	Unexpended former appropriations.	Appropriated for 1837.	Expended in the 1st quarter.	Expended in the 2d quarter.	Expended in the 3d quarter.	Expended in the 4th quarter.	Total amt expended.	Remaining unexpended.
For defraying the expenses of the Board of Visitors, fuel, forage, stationery, printing, transportation & postage repairs and improvements, - - - - -	-	12,390 73	2,000 00	5,920 41	1,998 04	1,577 36	5,331 95	14,628 30	1 96
pay of Adjutant's and Quartermaster's Clerks, the department of philosophy, - - - - -	-	1,708 39	8,000 00	741 30	1,797 18	1,725 53	3,119 87	7,995 07	5,763 83
departments of drawing, chemistry and mathematics, purchase and repair of instruments for the band, department of artillery, - - - - -	-	1,769 72	950 00	15 00	2,411 87	237 50	350 00	950 07	3,888 47
increase and expense of the library, - - - - -	-	2,774 69	300 00	2,069 72	125 00	60 00	85 79	110 70	1,955 93
miscellaneous and incidental expenses, - - - - -	-	2,253 46	850 00	3,103 46	124 57	13 80	188 56	523 40	3,074 69
completing the chapel, - - - - -	-	113 64	300 00	61 75	4 87	47 02	113 64	309 21	2,550 06
the building for military and other exercises, - - - - -	-	1,440 17	600 00	13 50	24 65	18 80	33 34	309 21	209 71
the department of mineralogy and sword exercise, compensation to acting Professor of Chemistry, - - - - -	-	380 89	1,777 50	21 12	194 40	1,066 07	42 00	1,323 59	716 58
the building to contain the public stores, - - - - -	-	254 17	1,253 35	62 31	150 17	230 75	291 89	735 12	1,423 27
the preparation of a yard & construction of artificers' shops, new barracks for the Military Academy detachment, - - - - -	-	2,948 48	30,000 00	1,494 53	7,627 03	11,526 50	11,947 12	32,592 18	353 30
the painting room for Teacher of Drawing, - - - - -	-	1,763 03	300 00	74 00	33 00	11 75	300 00	187 55	1,644 28
grading grounds about the drill house, - - - - -	-	300 00	300 00	600 00	300 00	300 00	300 00	300 00	300 00
			5,000 00	5,000 00	246 31	387 12	583 43	8,000 00	8,000 00
			4,000 00	4,000 00	800 00	800 00	800 00	4,000 00	4,000 00
			300 00	300 00	350 00	800 00	800 00	800 00	350 00
	7 84	28,097 27	71,466 94	10,335 41	14,578 33	17,651 48	21,869 50	64,374 72	35,181 65

No. 2.—STATEMENT of disbursements on account of the U. S. Military Academy in the first quarter of 1838, by Lieut. Col. R. E. De Russy, of the Corps of Engineers, and Superintendent of the Academy.

HEADS OF APPROPRIATION.	Unexpended of former appropriations.	Expended in the first quarter.	Remaining unexpended.	Overrun of former appropriations.
For defraying the expenses of the Board of Visitors, fuel, forage, stationery, printing, transportation, and postage, repairs and improvements, - - - - -	5,763 83	1,871 58	4,192 25	1 96
the pay of Quartermaster's and Adjutant's clerks, department of Philosophy, - - - - -	3,888 47	1,137 93	2,750 49	237 50
do. Engineering, - - - - -	1,958 93	30 64	1,928 29	30 64
departments of Chemistry, Drawing, and Mathematics, department of Artillery, - - - - -	3,074 69	12 00	3,062 69	12 00
increase and expense of Library, - - - - -	2,580 06	774 66	1,805 40	774 66
miscellaneous and incidental expenses, - - - - -	209 71	13 50	196 21	209 71
the buildings for military and other exercises, Mineralogy and the Sword exercise, - - - - -	716 58	71 50	645 08	716 58
compensation to the acting Professor of Chemistry, the building to contain the public stores, - - - - -	1,423 27	63 31	1,359 96	1,423 27
preparation of yard, and construction of artificers' shops, new Barracks for the United States Military Academy detachments, grading grounds about the building for military and other exercises, - - - - -	1,644 28	4,778 55	1,644 28	4,425 55
	353 30	63 31	300 00	300 00
	300 00	916 57	916 57	916 57
	8,000 00	8,000 00	8,000 00	8,000 00
	4,000 00	4,000 00	4,000 00	4,000 00
	350 00	350 00	350 00	350 00
	35,181 65	8,691 52	31,153 18	4,663 05

No. 3.

General estimate of funds for the service of the United States Military Academy for the year 1838.

1. Travelling expenses and accommodation of the Board of Visitors, - - - - -	\$1,998 04
2. General repairs, - - - - -	7,257 50
3. Fuel, - - - - -	7,900 00
4. Forage for 1837, no appropriation having been made for that year, \$1,875 00 for 1838, - - - - -	1,875 00
	<u>3,750 00</u>
5. Stationery, - - - - -	645 00
6. Printing, - - - - -	750 00
7. Postage, - - - - -	150 00
8. Transportation of discharged Cadets, and of officers' baggage, - - - - -	2,100 00
9. Clerks, Quartermaster's, - - - - -	600 00
Adjutant's, - - - - -	500 00
	<u>1,100 00</u>
10. Miscellaneous and incidental expenses, - - - - -	1,577 50
11. Increase and expenses of the Library, - - - - -	800 00

12. Completion of the building for military and other exercises, - - -	18,254 60
13. Barn and public stables, - - -	1,000 00
14. Compensation to the acting Professor of Chemistry, - - -	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$47,582 64

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL POLICE.

U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., June 18, 1838. }

To the President of the Board of Visitors.

The Committee on "Internal Police," to whom certain duties were assigned in the apportionment of labor among the members of the Board, respectfully

REPORT :

That in the discharge of those duties, they directed their attention especially to the following subjects :

To the state of the hospital and the means at the disposal of the Medical Staff for ministering to the wants of the Cadets while on the sick report.

To the size and arrangement of the rooms and dormitories occupied by the Cadets.

To the "bill of fare," the quality of the food, and the terms on which it is furnished.

To the means adopted by the constituted authorities to guard the Cadet against the effects of that improvidence which is almost always the characteristic of his age, and to secure to him, at a just valuation, such articles as are indispensable. With this view the regulations for the government of the Military Academy were carefully examined, and the accounts of the "Storekeeper," and the proceedings of the "Board of Clothing Inspectors," were made subjects of our inspection. Interrogatories were also put to the officers and to the Cadets themselves, calculated to inform the Committee on the subjects embraced within the scope of their inquiries.

In the prosecution of this investigation into the condition of the several departments of the Institution, the Committee have had every facility afforded them, that they desired, both by the Superintendent and the officers under his command.

The Committee have, with much unanimity, arrived at the conclusion that the Cadet is well provided for and kindly treated when sick; that he is furnished with wholesome food and at a reasonable price; that the regulations, if duly observed and carried into effect, are well calculated to shield the Cadet from imposition on the part of those with whom he has to deal; that they deem it unnecessary to dwell in detail upon these points severally, yet it is due to the Cadets to state, that it is a prevalent opinion throughout the whole corps, that the "Storekeeper" charges them an extravagant price for the articles which they are by the regulations compelled to purchase of him.

The Committee, however, desire to call the attention of the Board to one subject which has repeatedly been made the topic of remark by former Boards of Visitors. They allude to the building called the South Barracks. This has, on several occasions, been represented to the Secretary of War as unfit for the habitation of Cadets. In this opinion the Committee fully concur, and beg leave, for particulars, to refer to former reports. Your Committee have been pained to learn that certain of the citizens of the State of New York, have established, at no great distance from the military reserve and within the jurisdiction of the State, both licensed and unlicensed groceries for the sale of ardent spirits. With a view to remove from the Cadet so fatal a source of temptation, they suggest the propriety of recommending to the Secretary of War, to apply to the Legislature of this State for the passage of a law which shall, by penal enactments, prohibit the sale of ardent spirits to any Cadet of the U. S. Military Academy.

The discipline of the Academy is so nearly allied to those subjects which it has been the duty of this

Committee to consider, that they cannot refrain from giving their testimony to its permanent importance in the attainment of the end for which the Military Academy was established.

If no extraneous impediments are interposed to prevent it, they feel perfectly confident that the authorized agents of the Government, will rigorously, but justly administer the laws and regulations of the Institution.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your Committee.

THOS. JAMES, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND MORAL INSTRUCTION.

To the President of the Board of Visitors of the U. S. Military Academy.

WEST POINT, June 16, 1838.

The Committee on the course of Scientific and Moral Instruction of the Cadets, beg leave most respectfully to report :

That, after having attended to the examination of the Cadets in the various subjects which are included under the very general designation given to the Committee, the opinion is deliberately formed, and hereby unanimously expressed, that the Superintendent, Professors, and Assistant Professors, in these Departments, have discharged their duties with great fidelity. Unless the most careful attention had been given to their instruction and morals, the young gentlemen whom we have examined would not have been enabled to have exhibited such accuracy and demonstration in Mathematics, and its kindred studies, such correct, and, in general, well formed opinions on moral obligation and constitutional law, and such gentlemanlike and manly deportment in their intercourse with the Visitors and others, as we have great pleasure in reporting to have fallen under our observation. The examination has been conducted with strictness and impartiality, from which, and from enquiry and observation, this Committee have come to the following conclusions :

That pure Mathematics, Chemistry, Natural and Experimental Philosophy, and Engineering, have been most ably taught, with special reference to the new and improved methods of demonstration, and as applicable to practices and useful information connected with the art of War, and with Civil Engineering. Considering that some of the most valuable of the works on Military Science, which have been published of late, are written in the French language; that many of the technical terms in use are of French origin; that, in the military service on the northern and southern frontiers, occasions do happen when its knowledge is indispensable; this Committee have been pleased to find that very respectable progress has been made by the Cadets in acquiring this almost universal language.

In pursuance of the wish expressed by the honorable Secretary of War in his official notification of our appointment as Visitors, and in virtue of our selection as members of this Committee, we beg leave to suggest, for consideration, what we think to be defects in the course of education as here conducted.

Geography, History, and the Practice of Composition, are wholly omitted.

If the first be not made a regular study, there should therein be such occasional examinations, that the knowledge previously acquired be not lost.

The reading of *History*, especially military history, seems to be highly important. From no sources is it possible to derive more salutary lessons of that inexhaustible perseverance in adversity, boldness of action in misfortune, caution in success and victory, and unrelaxing devotedness to our country, than from military history, which, at the same time, gives practical illustrations of the theories which the Cadets learn in the course of their studies, or shows the

facts from which the rules they learn, as theory, have been derived. Military History, especially that of free countries fighting for their independence, such as Greece, the Netherlands, Switzerland, &c., has a most powerful and improving moral effect upon young men educating for the defence of their free country. In the French and German military schools, this branch is always taught.

It is absolutely and indispensably necessary that instruction be given in the practice of *Composition*. This, we understand has hitherto been neglected. Called upon, as these Cadets must necessarily be, to correspond with the officers of Government; to draw up reports on the state and condition of public works; to write instructions to others; to give written opinions upon the expediency, probable cost, and benefits of rail roads, canals, and other improvements; in view of this the Committee would urge that it be made, in future, one of the stated exercises of the Academy, from the very *beginning* to the *end* of the whole course of instruction.

It may be said, in many instances, these branches of study have received attention before admission. This may be true, as they are not required absolutely, many cases to the contrary do occur. It is possible that an individual may pass through this Institution with a very complete knowledge of Mathematics, correct in his deportment as a soldier, ingenious as a draftsman, who has little knowledge of the relative positions of the nations of the earth; their manners, customs, and institutions, as existing heretofore, or at present; and who has little ability to communicate in writing his own views of subjects in which he is conversant, with correctness and propriety.

The Committee would suggest, whether it would not be well to raise the standard for admission, and to establish a school or schools for the instruction in these primary branches of the children of those, whether officers or soldiers, who have died in the service of our common country, and for no others; with a special view to their admission as Cadets, with the enlarged acquirements. At all events, the Committee recommend that the present requirements for admission be most rigidly enforced in the largest sense, to wit, "to read and write well, to perform with facility and accuracy the various operations of the four ground rules of arithmetic, of reduction, of simple and compound proportion, and of vulgar and decimal fractions."

Rhetoric, Moral and Political Science, are under the direction of the Chaplain, who is also, nominally, Professor of Geography, History, and Ethics. He is aided in his department by a temporary assistant.

Under this head, the regulations of the Academy prescribe Grammar, the Philosophy of Language, Composition, Elocution, &c., Mental and Moral Philosophy, Evidences of Revelation and Practical Ethics, Foundation of Civil Society, History of Governments, Constitution of the United States, and the Law of Nations.

The present requisitions of the Regulations are not carried into effect, as already observed; the only books at present made use of, being Blair's Rhetoric, Paley's Moral Philosophy, Kent's Lectures on the Law of Nations, and Bayard's Exposition of the Constitution.

This defect is owing to the want of a sufficient number of instructors, and to the arrangement of the course of studies.

The *first* year of the Cadets is exclusively occupied with pure Mathematics and French.

The *second* year embraces only those two studies and Drawing.

In the *third* year the branches are Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and Drawing, exclusively.

It is only in the *fourth* year that any time is al-

lotted to Rhetoric and Moral Sciences, and of this year but *two hours a day* to those branches.

It is recommended by the Committee that there be introduced, into the course of instruction, during the first year of the Cadets in the Academy,

1st. Elementary text books in English Grammar and Rhetoric.

2d. A compendious text book in Geography.

3d. A compendium of Universal History, and that a course of reading in History, especially *Military History*, be recommended.

In the second year of the course the Committee will introduce,

1st. The study of Moral Philosophy.

2d. Some elementary work on Logic and the intellectual powers.

To effect this change, the Committee recommend, 1st. That some portion of the studies in pure Mathematics of the first and second years be postponed until a later period in the course.

2d. That the Chaplain, in addition to his duties as such, have charge only of the Department of Moral Philosophy.

3d. That a permanent Professor and Assistant Professor of Rhetoric, History, and Political Science, be added to the list of instructors.

The Committee think that the literary and moral branches recommended, are indispensable to a good and thorough education. They are suited to the early age of the younger Cadets, while the more severe branches of pure Mathematics may be studied to better advantage at a later period in the course.

The Committee would further recommend that if time cannot be found, during the *four* years, for these additional studies, without causing neglect of branches, which are now most thoroughly taught, and which seem essential, and should it be thought inexpedient to establish a preparatory school, and raise the standard of acquirements for admission, that *another year* be added to those already prescribed, in which to complete the course of instruction.

All which is respectfully submitted.

EVAN M. JOHNSON, *Chairman*.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MILITARY INSTRUCTION.

The Military Committee, appointed by the Board of Visitors, beg leave to present their Report upon Engineering, Artillery, Tactics, and Discipline; these being, as has been understood, the subjects usually attended to by the Military Committee.

The courses of instruction in Engineering include Permanent and Field Fortifications, Military Communications, and the Science of War: besides Civil Engineering and Architecture. The instruction is conveyed by text books and lectures, and by models and drawings illustrative of the subjects taught. Some of the text books have been compiled and arranged by the Professor. The courses of instruction are adapted to the progressive developments of science and the arts, and have been extended, in a slight degree, by their introduction. The courses will be further extended and the teaching of them facilitated when suitable models and recent publications upon subjects relating to them shall be obtained. The former have not been procured heretofore, because there was no building in which they could be placed. This difficulty will shortly be removed, and it is understood they are to be procured without delay.

The examination in Engineering was strict and very thorough, and displayed proficiency highly creditable to the Professor as well as the class.

This remark is equally applicable to the examinations in Artillery and Tactics.

The course of Artillery Instruction has been gradually extended—is now as full as the time that may be allowed to it would justify. It may be improved by introducing artillery models, such as are used for

illustration in the schools of Europe. These models should represent every species of gun and carriage, as well as the various machines used for artillery purposes, and also models for Congreve rockets. The apparatus requisite for preparing these rockets should also be obtained. A text book more simple and practical than that now used, is in the course of preparation by a Board of officers, including the Instructor of Artillery and two others, who have been selected by the Superintendent for that purpose.

Much expertness was displayed in the field manœuvres, notwithstanding the inconvenience arising from the want of horses. This inconvenience might be obviated if a company of mounted dragoons were stationed at West Point. Flying artillery is peculiarly adapted to the localities of our country, and would be more relied on in time of war than the ordinary field service. Horses are indispensable for it, whether for actual service or practice.

Many good shots were made in the target firing. Uniform accuracy was not to be expected, as most of the guns were old and out of order. The shells were thrown with much accuracy, and generally exploded at the proper time. A carcass was lodged within a few feet of the target, from a distance of more than — yards.

The duties in the Laboratory were performed with skill and intelligence, displaying expertness that could not have been obtained without careful instruction and diligent application.

A Gunhouse, a Laboratory, and a Magazine, are the buildings provided for ordnance and ordnance stores. The Gunhouse is large enough to shelter a Field Battery only. A building of the same size would be required in addition to it, to afford needful shelter to other pieces of ordnance, including the trophies of the Revolution and the late war that have been sent to West Point for preservation.

A portion of the ordnance is new and in good order; the remainder is old and injured by use; yet still fit for the purposes of instruction. There is an adequate supply of 10-inch mortars—of 24-pr. howitzers, and of 24, 12, and 6-pr. guns. In addition to these it would be advantageous to have one at least of each of the other kinds of guns used in the service.

The examination in Infantry Tactics, and the exercises depending upon them, was, in all respects, highly interesting. General Scott's late work on

tactics has been the text book for the last year. Questions concerning the most difficult manœuvres and evolutions were answered with clearness and without hesitation. The illustrations on the black board were also made with accuracy and explained with much intelligence. But it was the battalion and other exercises of the Cadets that afforded the highest degree of interest. Their appearance, whether on parade, in marching, or in the performance of the most difficult evolutions, was, in the highest degree, imposing. The accuracy of their movements was striking. They resembled compact masses operated upon by machinery.

Such precision and accuracy, the result as it were of simultaneous volition, indicate a degree of excellence that could hardly be expected from mere mechanical training. But it is easily accounted for by reference to the admirable system of discipline which is now established at the Military Academy, and the effect which such a system cannot fail to produce upon the character and habits of the Cadets.

The power to control being unquestioned, justice and consistency are sufficient to uphold authority. This, at least, is the theory of the system followed here. A government of fixed rules, applicable alike to the governing and the governed, is easily administered, and none certainly is more mild in its operation, as none can be more just. It is in the power of those in authority to perpetuate the advantages that are daily flowing from this system, by a rigid and systematic adherence to its principles.

A detachment of Artillery is now stationed at West Point. It performs service that cannot be dispensed with. This service could be as well performed by dragoons. The establishment of a company of mounted dragoons at West Point, as has been suggested, would, therefore, involve no material change in the existing arrangements for securing the services of soldiers at the post, while it would afford the advantage of providing horses for flying artillery practice, as has been mentioned, and also provide the means of introducing a course of instruction in cavalry tactics, the importance of which is universally admitted.

WEST POINT, June 18, 1838.

Respectfully Submitted

W. H. D. HOLSTEIN, *Chairman.*