1867

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY,
Washington, October 15, 1867.

SIR: The following report relative to the Military Academy is respectfully submitted:

The academy is organized and officered as shown in my last year's report.

On the 1st September, 1866, the corps of cadets consisted of sixty-three in the first class, fifty-eight in the second class, fifty-five in the third class, and seventy-nine in the fourth class. In June last the annual examination took place, when sixty-three cadets having been found proficient in the prescribed academic course, graduated and were commissioned in the army.

The report of the Board of Visitors, herewith submitted, exhibits the condition of the institution in all the affairs, of which an unusual degree of interest was manifested by the members, as I myself had an opportunity of observing. Nothing seemed too trivial for their patient examination. All seemed eager to ascertain if there existed any faults or errors of administration which militated against the welfare of the institution. As far as possible, and when there is no legal obstacle, it will be the aim of the academic authorities to profit by and carry out such suggestions of the board as, after proper examination, it is believed will be beneficial to the academy.

Some of the more important recommendations of the board, requiring legislative action, are enumerated by me, for the purpose of calling your particular attention to them with a view to obtaining the favorable consideration of Congress.

The board says: "The increase in the population of the country suggests and requires (in accordance with the recommendations of former boards of visitors) that the number of cadets should be increased." In the last report of the inspector, among other reasons given for concurrence in the recommendation of the board of 1866, it was stated that the number of graduates now sent out will afford but one to each regiment of the army every other year, after the usual number for the staff corps is taken out. The requirements of the army in this respect are now four times what they were twenty years ago, and yet the number of cadets remains the same as then.

No more powerful argument can be adduced for the increase. The government has the means of educating an adequate number of young men for the army, and not to avail of it seems to be an inexcusable indifference to the well-being of the service. No one is really fit to serve as an officer unless he is reasonably acquainted with at least the rudiments of his profession. No matter how good the *personnel* of the rank and file may be, if not well officered, troops cannot be efficient. On the other hand, good, competent officers will make servicable troops, even if the rank and file be indifferent in quality. Experience in our army in past years demonstrates this.

Without education the officer cannot instruct his men; without having been subjected to discipline himself, he cannot enforce it judiciously among those under his command. Widely scattered as are the companies of our army, there is scarcely an officer of whatever grade who is not called on for the performance of important duties, involving, at once, the interests of the government, the well-being and comfort of the soldiers under him, and his own professional reputation. Of these he cannot be expected to acquit himself even tolerably well by simply having his name on the Army Register, and wearing a uniform dress. The profession of arms must be learned, like any other profession, before it can be respectably practiced.

"The board of visitors earnestly recommends that the pay and emoluments of the superintendent should be not less than those of a brigadier general," and gives as reasons therefor that he is particularly subjected to the expenses of

hospitality and is called upon to administer the country's courtesies in an extraordinary degree—more so, it is not doubted, than any officer of the army. The board rightly says that "the continuous and increasing visits of official persons from abroad and from our own country exact expenditures which ought not to be permitted by a generous people any longer to diminish his income."

There never was a greater truth. If to it be added the fact that either the superintendent must fail to perform what may be regarded in the light of an official duty and abstain from extending even the most limited hospitality to persons entitled to it, or that he must embarrass himself with debts from which, perhaps, he can never extricate himself, to the great and lasting injury of his family, it is believed that Congress, on a proper representation, will make a fit provision for this exceptional case. I cannot urge it too strongly, both on the ground of common justice and because the office of superintendent is one of very great responsibility and labor, requiring the undivided attention of the incumbent in season and out of season.

"The public records and archives of the academy are in constant peril from fire. Such a calamity happened in 1838. Congress appropriated fifteen thousand dollars for a fire-proof building, which sum is a fraction of the amount required." For reasons which will occur to any one, and to supply the deficiency, fifteen thousand dollars additional are asked for this year. A building properly constructed of the character designed will last for all time, and I hope the sum may be appropriated.

The board makes other recommendations calling for appropriations in which I heartily concur; but I have abstained from submitting estimates therefor, because of a desire to administer the institution in the economical manner, when it can be done with a proper regard for the public interest, which has always characterized its management. A few items, such as for the reconstruction of the north wharf, on which are landed all the heavy ordnance and materials and supplies for the post, and for the erection of a stable and forage-house for the draught animals, are introduced into the estimates because they are regarded absolutely necessary.

Its utility to the country at large and the great advantage it is to the army in every sense alike commend the Military Academy to the fostering care of the government. Its reputation for the exact learning of its graduates, and for the useful and desirable education which is imparted to them, is wide-spread. It is therefore greatly to be desired that its advantages should be continued, and that they should be enjoyed by an increased number of the youths of the republic, who, in time of need, whether they serve in the army or not, will return to the government and the country many times what they may derive from the public munificence.

Respectfully submitted:

ED. SCHRIVER,
Brevet Major General, Inspector.

Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

WEST POINT, *June*, 1867.

SIR: The Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy hereby present to you their report of "the actual state of discipline, instruction, police, administration, and other concerns of the institution," which the President of the United States, through your letter of appointment, empowered them to investigate.

Some members of the board arrived at West Point on Saturday, June 1, and, after their temporary organization, were honored by the superintendent by a review of the battalion of cadets, and by a munificent hospitality. On Monday, June 3, the majority of the members being present, the board was duly organized by the election of a president and secretary, and by the appointment of sub-committees on the several subjects embraced in your letter.

The reports of these sub-committees, herewith transmitted, will furnish the material of this report of the Board of Visitors.

INSTRUCTION.

The committee on instruction was composed of the whole Board of Visitors, divided into two sections, in accordance with the arrangements of the academic board.

In the examination of the first class, the committee sat together. In the examination of the junior classes, the sections of the committee attended to the respective duties assigned them.

The result of these examinations evinced the high attainment of both teachers and pupils.

The examination of the first class, consisting of sixty three members, occupied nine days.

The problems in military engineering were mastered at the black-board, with accuracy and promptitude. The strategic plans of battles, ancient and modern, were analyzed.

The important movements of the army of the United States in the late war of the rebellion were explained and discussed. The whole subject of the military art was evolved with peculiar brilliancy; while various topics in civil engineering received subordinate but due attention.

The eminent professor of engineering, whose fame is continental, and whose works are standard in Europe and America, displayed his fidelity in the knowledge of the cadets and in the precision of his examination.

The examination in ethics and constitutional law was thorough and satisfactory.

The great questions in this department were freely discussed at the black-board, and the examination manifested maturity of thought in the cadets and untiring assiduity in the reverend professor and his distinguished assistant. This examination evoked the special encomiums of the Board of Visitors.

Mineralogy and geology are taught at the black board and in the laboratory.

The cadets were examined accordingly. Minerals, never before handled by them, were tested, at extempore tables, before the Board of Visitors, and the nature and properties of the mineral were announced and discussed. Considering the small proportion of time allotted to these studies, the attainments of the cadets were highly creditable to them and to their instructors.

The vast national interest in the mines of the country and the rapid advancement already made in mineralogy and geology, as well as in its cognate science of chemistry, demand that corresponding facility should at once be furnished to the academy, to enable the cadets to keep pace with the fresh discoveries and analyses of the age, so as to furnish them with ability to satisfy the just expectation of their countrymen and to contribute to the progress of these most important sciences, to the reflex credit of this institution.

The Spanish language is becoming more and more a necessity in the mental equipment of the accomplished soldier. The proximity of territory peopled from Spain to our expanding country, and the needful intercourse of our army officers with people who speak only the Spanish language, make it expedient to devote more time to Spanish and to increase its relative rank among the studies. It should be elevated at least to the rank of French; while both languages ought to be so taught as to be spoken and understood in writing and conversation.

These recommendations are among the propositions of the sub-committee, adopted nearly unanimously by the Board of Visitors.

The cadets of the first class displayed a tolerable proficiency in the Spanish tongue, considering the limited opportunities which the exigencies of other branches of learning furnished to them.

Ordnance and gunnery being a specialty at the Military Academy, the board were not surprised at the theoretical and practical proficiency of the cadets. The examination was thorough, precise and satisfying.

Cavalry tactics formed an interesting exhibition, both at the black-board and on the field and in the riding hall. The bold and skilful rider and the prompt movements of the drill were exemplified in the wonderful exercises of the cadets. This arm of service is becoming more and more important, as shown in the operations of the army in the late rebellion and in the threatened aggressions of the Indians on our frontiers.

The country may be assured of the soldierly qualities of the graduates of this academy; as in all other, so likewise in the department of cavalry service.

Philosophy, mechanical and theoretical, is a fundamental science in the art of war. It is accordingly pursued to its high flights of investigation and experiment. The renowned professor and his able assistants verified their fame and evinced their assiduity in the attainments of their pupils.

The board were favored with a practical exhibition of the instruments and apparatus in the philosophical rooms, and were permitted to examine the heavens through the telescope in the observatory. Nothing is wanting in this department but the studious application of the cadet to furnish the graduate with the foundation principles of philosophy, qualifying him for any special application of them in the various exigencies of his profession.

Mathematics is the prime basis and corner-stone of the sciences. It is therefore the first and the last of the studies of the Military Academy. The examination of the first section of the fourth class was brilliant and in several instances perfect. The accomplished professor displayed his scrupulous exactness, both in his questions and in the cadets' distinct and accurate demonstrations. The lower sections in mathematics, under the tuition of their competent instructors, exhibited the thorough training of the cadet in mathematics at the very start in their career.

The French language constitutes a portion of the course of instruction sufficient to enable the cadet to read any scientific work on the military art. This end is the chief purpose of the study of the French in the academy; but it would add to the accomplishments of the soldier if French, as well as Spanish, were required to be spoken in the recitations of the higher sections.

In practical military engineering, the board enjoyed the opportunity of witnessing the construction of the pontoon bridge.

The drawing hall evinced the progress of the cadets in this necessary accomplishment of the educated soldier. The board deplored the sickness of the gifted professor; but the influence of his teaching and his genius was perceptible in the style of the illustrations displayed on the walls.

Infantry and artillery tactics are among the specialties of the United States Military Academy. It is no wonder, therefore, that the exhibitions in this department of the school of the soldier were superior and attractive.

The martial aspect and soldierly qualities of the commandant of the corps and instructor of tactics constitute a living pattern of the excellence to be attained under military discipline.

The drills and evolutions of the battalion, in each branch of tactics, commanded the spontaneous admiration of the Board of Visitors.

Presiding over all the departments of learning at the Military Academy, the superintendent is the exemplar of the faithful public servant and the accomplished man. We would not readily yield to the impulse of eulogy, yet we cannot refrain from bearing testimony to the kindness, the assiduity, and the strictness with which every regulation is enforced. The rigor of military discipline is sweetly tempered with the gentleness of paternal care, so as to infuse the cadet with the spirit of subordination to law, through the consent of his unforced will. The

country may implicitly confide her sons to the government of the superintendent at this academy, in the faith of their welfare under his benignant rule.

The adjutant of the post, and all the subordinate officers, rival each other in their devotion to their respective duties.

The board was honored by the presence of the General of the army, and the Inspector General of the army and of the Military Academy, who gave lustre to the crowning ceremony of the delivery of the academic diplomas to the graduating class.

This interesting occasion was magnified and made memorable by the public ceremonies on the plain. Heretofore the diploma has been bestowed in comparative indifference to the real value of this testimonial of merit; but on the present occasion, the cadets were taught, by the estimate which the General put on their credentials, that a diploma from West Point is the reward of martial and academic virtues that the soldier and the scholar may earnestly covet and ardently cherish.

In this review of the course of instruction, the board has expressed only the just appreciation which the examination warrants; yet there are shades and shadows in the sphere of their observation.

In the progress of the examination in each class of cadets, the Board of Visitors remarked a great disparity in ability and attainments between the higher and lower sections. The difference was so striking as to suggest inquiry into its probable cause; and after long and anxious consideration, the Board of Visitors pronounced the unanimous verdict that the cause of the failure of cadets is mainly owing to the careless manner of their appointment.

Nominated by the caprice or favor of a member of Congress, the selection of cadets for appointments is a sort of hap-hazard process. Many candidates for admission accordingly appear, every year, who are found deficient at the preliminary examination; many are dismissed at the January (semi-annual) examination, and a few, in the lower sections, graduate with the minimum qualifications of the accomplished soldier.

The United States Military Academy is not an institution for the benefit of a favored few; nor should it be an experimental arena of the youth of our country. It belongs to the nation, and is supported for the nation's welfare.

The nation is entitled to the highest order of intellect to be found in each congressional district; and to this cardinal end the Board of Visitors, unanimously and most respectfully, recommends to all members of Congress the adoption of the measures already pursued by some of them of competitive examinations, presenting to the youth of each district a cadetship, as a prize to be contended for, and to be awarded by a commission of the best men in their respective neighborhoods.

This mode of appointing cadets is congenial with our institutions. It is democratic. It is favorable equally to the sons of the rich and the poor. It will offer to young men all over our land a specific reward to stimulate industry and to crown success.

The competitive plan will fill the Military Academy with the *élite* of the youth of our country. And even to the unsuccessful aspirant the competition will be beneficial, for the efforts he has made shall furnish him with knowledge and familiarize him with studious habits that cannot fail him in the future battle of life.

The Board of Visitors has inquired into the internal facilities of the academy to qualify the cadets with a familiarity with literature, and to bring the officers of the army into a closer sympathy with the educated mind of the country.

The board would recommend that the library be annually supplied with the best books of the current year, touching the military art, and with history and other subjects of general literature, and that the standard volumes of foregone times be gradually added, as need may require. They would also recommend the fostering of the old literary society among the cadets, and the establishment by them of a rival society, so as to provoke emulation voluntarily, during leisure hours, in the dialectic employments.

The power of the instruction of this institution is nobly illustrated in the high tone of honor and integrity which adorns the character of the graduates. This is the best instruction which could be given. It is the influence that pervades all classes in the academy and all its officers in the army. The board would earnestly call attention to an argument of its committee, grounded on this fact, for the more munificent endowment of the United States Military Academy:

"The moral qualifications of the graduates of West Point are illustrated by one fact. While fraud, peculation, and corruption in civil life are matters of daily occurrence and notority in all parts of the land, the Army Register gives us the pointed, positive intelligence that of 1,449 graduates on the official register from 1802 to 1849 only eighteen were dismissed and five cashiered, this enumeration embracing every offence known to strict military law. A similar analysis of the register of the army to this present date will verify the roll of honor. With this evidence of fidelity to pecuniary trust among officers of the army, whose moral qualities have received their impress here, it may well be lettered on the rocks around West Point, where Washington once commanded, that integrity of character is here an essential part of military education.

"Again, the disbursing officers of the United States army receive no pecuniary commissions, while merchants and civilians charge one-half of one per cent. By a comparison of the appropriations of Congress for a series of years from 1855 to 1867, it will be seen that the average annual cost of the United States Military Academy, including the pay of cadets and professors and annual appropriations, is about $375,000. If this sum, which is equal to one-half per cent. of $75,000,000, should be credited to an 'United States Military Academy fund,' as a saving of commission of one-half per cent. on this amount of disbursements of public money by officers of the army, in the quartermasters' and commissary departments, and by other disbursing officers who have graduated at West Point, (and who receive no commissions,) every sum of $75,000,000 disbursed by them would furnish the government with an amount equal to the annual cost of the institution. And, inasmuch as more than a hundred millions are annually disbursed by the officers of the army without any commission thereon, the saving to the government in employing graduates as disbursing officers more than pays the annual expenses of the United States Military Academy.

"In this point of view the academy is an economical institution, the support of which is a most profitable investment of public money. To enlarge its influence would be the best and most prudent policy of Congress. Add to these considerations the almost uniform integrity of the disbursing officers of the army, before referred to, and we have an irresistible argument for the most munificent appropriations to West Point."

POLICE AND DISCIPLINE.

The board are impressed with the exactness and impartiality practiced by those in authority, and particularly by the commandant of cadets, in enforcing the discipline of the Military Academy.

The regulations are evidently framed after careful observation and reflection. They are well adapted to secure good order and proper subordination, without undue interference with the just rights and reasonable privileges of the cadet.

The police is satisfactory. The health and comfort of the cadets and the claims of prudent economy are well adjusted and carefully promoted.

The cadet's mess is well conducted: the quality of the food is good; the cooking is done in superior ranges of improved pattern; the service at table is prompt, though it might be improved in delicacy of action. There is a deficiency of early vegetables, so grateful and so healthful to all, in spring and summer. The defect is owing to the want of skilful cultivation of the cadets' garden. With the abundance of manure from the stables of a hundred horses, a sufficiency of which ought to be applied to the soil, the cadets' garden, with

diligent culture, would furnish esculents for the corps, and might rival the private gardens in its neighborhood. The personal observation of members of the Board of Visitors detected, as they think, unwarrantable neglect in the care of the cadets' garden. The board recommends that the responsible person should be held to his accountability for an improved horticulture. It is also recommended that butter should not be purchased in such large quantities as to endanger its excellence, or should be so protected under brine as to preserve its sweetness.

The officers' quarters and cadet barracks and baths are in good order. The barracks are amply spacious to accommodate a battalion of four hundred cadets.

The board earnestly recommends the immediate building of new quarters for the post band. The existing houses are decayed and worthless wooden structures, erected in 1839.

The board also advises the delivery of a course of lectures by the surgeon of the post, to the first or second class, on physiology and hygiene. It must often happen with small commands in remote districts, without a surgeon, that the men must rely on their officers in case of casualties and sickness.

The chapel is entirely inadequate for the use of the cadets and the families of those connected with the post The private soldier is necessarily crowded out, with others who would attend divine worship. A proper reverence for God ought to secure to this whole post the opportunity and conveniences which Christian people provide for themselves and their families. A church, with its furniture, in modest ecclesiastical style and of sufficient dimensions, would afford the means of grace to all, and would be a monitor of religious duties as well as a nurturer of home-like, fraternal affections. The charities of home and of brotherhood ought not to be supplanted, but fostered by the discipline of this academy. The present chapel is needed as the depository of trophies, to which purpose it is now partially devoted. The room in the academic building where the ever-increasing wealth of trophies is chiefly collected is required for academic uses, while the memorials it contains are crowded and huddled together, so as to conceal their significance.

The board respectfully asks of Congress an appropriation for a new chapel, with a contiguous house for the chaplain, and for the conversion of the present chapel into a chamber of trophies.

In connection with the subject of religious discipline, the board joins in the recommendation of its predecessors, in advising the separation of the office of chaplain from that of professor of ethics. It is believed that the incumbent of this chair would better administer his sacred office by giving to it his untaxed and exclusive labors. It would be a cheering and beautiful spectacle to see the cadets both worthy communicants at the Lord's table as soldiers of the Cross and replete in the excellence of the soldiers of their country.

The cavalry stables are in good order. The horses used for cavalry exercises are, for want of others, forced to perform the additional labor of artillery horses. This severity unfits them for cavalry service and jeopards the lives and limbs of the cadets who are obliged to ride them. A sufficient number of horses should be furnished for exclusive use in a battery of light artillery.

The hospital is capacious, well situated, ventilated, and warmed. It is neatly kept, and furnished with appliances and means for the comfort of the sick.

FISCAL AFFAIRS.

The system of accountability in fiscal affairs at the United States Military Academy is worthy of all praise.

The rank, pay, and emoluments of all the officers and employés of the academy are set forth in the schedule marked A. It will be seen that the pay and emoluments of the superintendent are those of colonel of engineers, and the pay and emoluments of the commandant of cadets are those of lieutenant colonel.

The board recommends that the pay and emoluments of both these officers be increased.

The chief officers of West Point are particularly subjected to the expenses of hospitality. They administer the country's courtesies in an extraordinary degree. The continuous and increasing visits of official persons from abroad and from our own country exact of them expenditures which ought not to be permitted by a generous people any longer to diminish their income. An ample provision should be made by Congress to supply the exigencies of hospitality at this national school.

The Board of Visitors, therefore, earnestly and unanimously recommend that the pay and emoluments of the superintendent should be not less than the pay and emoluments of a brigadier general, and those of the commandant of cadets should be not less than the pay and emoluments of a colonel of cavalry. The pay and rank of the adjutant of the post is that of a lieutenant and adjutant of cavalry. His duties are equivalent to those of an adjutant general of the lowest grade of the army. The board accordingly recommends that he receive the pay and emoluments and the rank of major. The quartermaster's clerk, adjutant's clerk, and treasurer's clerk have been many years in their offices, and have performed labors equal to those of a first-class clerk in the departments at Washington, on a pay fixed many years ago and not at all commensurate with the value of their services.

The board recommends the increase of the pay of these clerks to $1,500 per annum. The assistant librarian has received, for twenty years, only the pay of an enlisted soldier. His services are indispensable. The board earnestly hopes that this faithful servant may hereafter receive not less than $1,000 per annum.

The funds available and disbursements for the current year will be seen in schedule C.

The appropriation by Congress is	$141,900 00
Balance unexpended on July 1, 1866	75,357 47
Received from sales of property	962 00
Total available funds	218,219 47
Disbursed to June 7, 1867	98,293 78
Total available for the remainder of the year	119,925 69

The public records and archives of the academy are in constant peril from fire. Such a calamity happened in 1833.

Congress has appropriated the sum of $15,000 for a fire-proof building, which sum is a fraction of the amount required.

The board recommends an additional appropriation of at least $35,000.

The board also calls your special attention to the decayed and dilapidated condition of the north wharf, built in the year 1839. All the ordnance and heavy freight are landed on that wharf. A derrick has been provided for in an appropriation by Congress of $2,500, but it has been deemed unsafe to erect the derrick on the wharf until renovated and made strong.

The board, therefore, is of opinion that the public service demands immediate action in building a substantial and permanent stone wharf at a cost of $———, for which they ask an appropriation from Congress.

The sums paid for boarding, clothing, books, and all other necessaries furnished to the cadets by order of the superintendent, for the year ending April 30, 1867, and the average amount applicable to each cadet for the year for one month, are arranged in schedule marked B.

By this statement the whole amount paid for the year was	$134,096 26
Average for each cadet	565 81
Average for each cadet for one month	47 15

A provision for the outfit of the cadets on graduating is secured by a continuous economy of his pay throughout his course, averaging this year about $100 to each cadet.

The commissary department furnishes clothing, books, and other articles (except food) used by the cadets. Heretofore a small percentage was charged, which has accumulated to the estimated value of the stock on hand, $17,000, and cash in hand, $8,000, which accumulations enable the department now to furnish all to the cadets at cost.

The purveyor purchases the materials for food, which are duly inspected before being received into the mess hall. He is an officer of much skill and experience.

The system of checks to prevent fraud or mistake is efficient and satisfactory.

The management of the financial affairs of the corps is highly creditable to the superintendent and his subordinates.

The administration of discipline, finance, police, and all other concerns of the institution in its manifold relations to the government and to the country, as well as to the officers and cadets, and soldiers and citizens resident at West Point, is confided by law to the superintendent.

The board is gratified in bearing testimony to the administrative talents and devotion of the superintendent, Brigadier General Pitcher, under whose care the United States Military Academy has maintained its reputation, and in some particulars has won added laurels of confidence and fame. In these arduous duties of administration the superintendent has been most efficiently seconded by the academic and military staff. The board would express its admiration of the soldierly qualities which adorn these gentlemen, and its appreciation of the courtesy which they uniformly evince.

The Board of Visitors is unanimous in commending the administration of the affairs of the academy. There are defects, however, in the rules regulating the rank and classification of studies.

These defects are chiefly the consequence of the change in the importance of the sciences in their relation to the discoveries and developments of our age. The present scale of "relative merit" was fixed many years ago, and has not been materially modified. During that period some of the subjects have acquired new importance and dignity. These ought to be classified accordingly.

The maximum of aggregate excellence in "general merit" is represented by the number 2075.

Military and civil engineering and science of war being	300
Natural and experimental philosophy	300
Mathematics	300
Ethics and law	150
Mineralogy and geology	75
Ordnance and gunnery	75
Infantry tactics	50
Artillery tactics	50
Cavalry tactics	50
Drawing	100
French language	100
Spanish language	75
Conduct and discipline	300
	2075

The disproportion is so great between the low numbers of some of these studies and the highest, that the cadet will be naturally induced to devote himself chiefly to that study which counts most, and to neglect the others. Yet, as before intimated, in view of our extended frontier to the confines of Mexico, and the discovery of mines, the advancement in geology and mineralogy, and the astonish-

ing results of magnetism and electricity, some of these branches of study above enumerated should be elevated to a higher rank corresponding to their worth.

The board therefore recommends that the Secretary of War appoint a commission of literary and scientific men, not connected with the academy, to consider the whole subject, and, after consulting with the superintendent and other officers of the institution, to so rearrange the scale of merit as to satisfy the demand of the age and to conform with the progress of our country.

The increase of the population of the country suggests and requires (in accordance with the recommendations of former boards of visitors) that the number of cadets should be likewise increased.

The barracks, as before stated, will accommodate four hundred cadets. The corps should be augmented accordingly. And the board would advise a law giving to the President of the United States the privilege of appointing "at large" twenty cadets, to be selected by him from the army and navy, and from among other worthy fellow-citizens who are not intimately associated with the members of Congress, so as to give to such youths the enjoyment of equal rights in this national academy.

The Board of Visitors has had under consideration a paper presented to it, issued as a circular by Special Orders No. 59 from the War Department, proposing a law of Congress to establish a bureau of military education and the appointment of a director general, with the object of creating military schools in certain colleges, and furnishing them with buildings, instructors, and books, at the expense of the general government.

After most mature deliberation and discussion, which the novelty and gravity of the proposition demanded, the board resolved that the plan is highly inexpedient, as a calamity to the country, as burdening the United States treasury, and as fatal to the prosperity of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

In conclusion, the Board of Visitors has observed, with unfeigned satisfaction, the general subordination of all interests at West Point to the academic department, the end and object being the education and training of cadets to become accomplished in the military art and to be thoroughly furnished for the exigencies of the military service, whether in war or in peace.

All of which is respectfully submitted:

FRANCIS VINTON, *of New York, President of the Board.*
E. H. ANGAMAR, *of Louisiana, Secretary of the Board.*
HENRY H. SIBLEY, *of Minnesota.*
HEZEKIAH G. WELLS, *of Michigan.*
JAS. B. CAMPBELL, *of South Carolina.*
NEWELL A. THOMPSON, *of Massachusetts.*
RICH. CHENERY, *of California.*
JOS. W. McCORKLE, *of Nevada.*
JOHN KENDRICK, *of Ohio.*
HENRY SLICER, *of Maryland.*
JOSHUA HILL, *of Georgia.*
GEORGE W. BURLEIGH, *of N. Hampshire.*
THOMAS M. HARRIS, *of West Virginia.*
W. C. KERR, *of North Carolina.*

WEST POINT, *New York, June*, 1867.

REPORT OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL.

WAR DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF MILITARY JUSTICE,
October 1, 1867.

GENERAL: In compliance with the directions of the Secretary of War, as communicated in the circular addressed by you to the chiefs of bureaus of this depart-