

and would also, by dredging and walling James creek, furnish increased facilities for supplying the arsenal with many articles used there.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. B. DYER,

Brevet Major General, Chief of Ordnance.

Hon. JOHN M. SCHOFIELD,
Secretary of War.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY,
Washington, October 20, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my third annual report of the operations of the Military Academy.

The corps of cadets, on the 1st June last, numbered 210 members, divided into four classes, each pursuing their appropriate course of study and practical instruction, under the care and direction of a superintendent, 8 professors, and 32 officers of the army.

The first class, numbering 55 members, with one exception, was graduated on the 15th June, after a critical examination by the academic board, in presence of the board of visitors; the graduates being subsequently appointed into the army, as provided by law; eight being assigned to the corps of engineers, one to the ordnance corps, eighteen to the cavalry arm, fifteen to the artillery, and twelve to the infantry; a distribution as nearly in accordance with the preferences of the graduates as the interests of the service would permit. The one member of the first class who failed to graduate was also appointed to the infantry arm, upon the recommendation of the academic board.

The public presentation of their diplomas to the graduates, first adopted last year, was repeated this present year; the General of the army presiding over the ceremonies, as before, and an oration, by a member of the board of visitors and former graduate of the academy, being again a feature of the ceremony.

Examinations of the second, third, and fourth classes (as well as of the first class) were held in January and June. At the former examination, ten cadets, being found deficient, were discharged the service, and thirteen were continued with their classes, upon the recommendation of the academic board, for further consideration in June. At the latter examination, five cadets, found deficient, were discharged, and eight, upon the recommendation of the academic board, were turned back, to commence anew the studies and course of instruction upon which they had been engaged the preceding year.

During the academic year ending in June last, eight cadets resigned their appointments and left the academy; one was honorably discharged on account of physical disability, and one died of disease.

Between the 1st and 10th days of June last, 71 candidates, duly appointed, presented themselves for examination; of whom 51 were admitted and 20 rejected. Six candidates failed to present themselves for examination.

Since the above-mentioned dates, 25 candidates have been admitted upon examination, and 17 rejected; 10 of the latter being appointees from the lately admitted States, who, for want of time, had no opportu-

nity for preparation. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, eight candidates from these States passed a successful examination, and were admitted into the academy. Five other appointees failed to report, and one declined examination.

The number of cadets now at the academy is 225. When all the southern States shall be admitted to representation, the number authorized by existing law will be 290, including those appointed "at large." I deem it proper again to ask attention to the frequent recommendations of successive boards of visitors, and to the earnest recommendations of the General of the army, while Secretary of War *ad interim*, for an increase in the number of cadets. The Military Academy, at this time, can educate four hundred cadets, with no additional expense beyond their support. The necessity for an increased number of specially educated officers is admitted by all familiar with the subject. This necessity will not diminish in the future. Various schemes, designed in part to supply this need, are proposed and even received with favor. These schemes are all more expensive, and more or less remote and uncertain in their value to the nation. In view of the foregoing considerations it is an imperative duty to make known to the government the means it already has at its disposal for supplying its wants with greater certainty and at much less cost than can be effected by any new method, however attractive it may at first appear. It is earnestly advised that some legislative action on this matter be had at an early day.

The board of visitors, which, under the provisions of the law of 1842, had gradually increased in number to eighteen, by a recent enactment and from motives of economy, has been restricted to seven members.

The great value and importance of the examination of the school of the nation, by a board selected from eminent citizens, should not be overlooked. The certain knowledge by its officers that the recurrence of each year brings to West Point a body of intelligent men, unbiassed, at least, in their opinions, if not sometimes really prejudiced against the institution; prepared to judge of everything just as it appears, rather than as they would have it appear, and with no motives of personal feeling or interest influencing them to report otherwise than faithfully upon what they have observed, cannot fail to have a most salutary effect upon the administration of the affairs of the academy. On the other hand it may be reasonably expected that the exposition of the institution's necessities and claims to public favor, made to the government by its chosen agents, should, under the circumstances, meet with more prompt and efficacious recognition than if disclosed through a less impartial medium.

The report of the board of visitors for 1868 is also submitted herewith. Though less extended than previous reports, the investigation made into the "state of the discipline, instruction, police, administration, fiscal affairs, and other concerns of the institution," as required by law, was none the less patient and searching.

The proficiency of the first, or graduating class, in the several branches of engineering and the science of war, ethics and law, mineralogy and geology, ordnance and gunnery, and cavalry tactics; of the second class in natural and experimental philosophy, chemistry, tactics and drawing; of the third class in mathematics, French and drawing, and of the fourth class in mathematics and French, is highly commended, as is also their proficiency in the various military manoeuvres and exercises. The board comment favorably upon the gradual and judicious relaxation of the former rigid and severe discipline maintained at the academy, and the enlargement of the privileges accorded to deserving cadets; also, upon

the faithful performance of their several duties by the professors and their assistants; upon the neatness and order maintained at the post, even in the smallest details; upon the able administration of its affairs by the superintendent of the academy, aided by the commandant of cadets, the adjutant, and the quartermaster, and upon the careful manner in which the accounts are kept and the fiscal affairs conducted.

Appropriations of \$5,000 for rebuilding the north wharf, now too small, old, and insecure for the safe and convenient landing of guns, ordnance, and other heavy stores; of \$10,000 for a building and sheds for the storage of fuel; of \$15,000 for a storehouse for wagons, carts, implements, and materials of the quartermasters' department; and of \$35,000 for a fire-proof building for public offices and the preservation of the public records, (once destroyed by fire,) are recommended.

The board close their report with their unqualified and unanimous testimony as to the value of our great military school, which gives to the country numbers of educated and high-toned men, eminent and useful in all departments of life—advantages secured to the nation at very moderate cost. They ask for the academy a generous support and all needed appropriations to preserve and increase its usefulness.

Following upon the investigation of the board of visitors are the semi-annual inspections made, in pursuance of the regulations, by the inspector of the Military Academy, which also are minute and critical, extending to many subjects that do not fall within the sphere of observation of the board. At these inspections personal conferences are had with the officers and professors of the academy, and needed and desirable improvements in the economical and efficient direction of its affairs, both at West Point and in the War Department, are devised, agreed upon, and put into operation.

From this it will be seen that the executive, as well as the legislative, branch of the government has made suitable provisions for exercising a constant supervision of the academy, and to this, in connection with the able management of the local officers, may be attributed the uniformly favorable reports of the boards of visitors to Congress.

The inspector is glad to add his personal testimony to that of the late board of visitors as to the satisfactory condition in which everything was found, and to the utter absence of cause for unfavorable criticism upon the manner in which the public interests have been cared for by those having them in charge.

During the year an addition has been made to the course at the academy in the adoption of a system of instruction in signalling and field telegraphy. The academy is the first of the schools for military education, at home or abroad, it is believed, to introduce this subject as a branch of study, so useful in military operations. Though the time allotted to it has been necessarily short, satisfactory progress has been made therein by the cadets, who have manifested much interest in the subject.

Until recently, erroneous opinions prevailed as to the alleged extravagant cost of the Military Academy, its so-called aristocratic associations and tendencies, and the disloyalty of its graduates; but it is gratifying to the friends of the institution to know that such misconceptions have, in the main, passed away, the favorable change in public sentiment being wrought by a presentation, from time to time, of facts and arguments, a few of which are hereinafter briefly stated.

The total cost of the Military Academy from its foundation to the present time, inclusive of *every* expense attendant upon its establishment and

maintenance, has been \$8,236,326 70, a large proportion of which is still, and will continue to be, available in the grounds purchased and improved, the permanent buildings and works erected, and the valuable books, instruments, and apparatus collected—all of which have been paid for out of the above named sum.

The total number of cadets admitted, including those of the present year, has been 4,969. Of these, 2,273, up to the present date, have been graduated, 224 are now at the academy, and 2,472 have been separated from it before graduation, by sundry unavoidable causes, after various periods spent there at the expense of the government—not causing it a total loss, however, as many subsequently carried into the army, the militia, and the volunteers, or other branches of the public service, or the walks of private life, such portion of the beneficial training peculiar to the institution as they had acquired during their sojourn.

The charge of exclusiveness is best refuted by referring to the mode in which cadets are appointed; that is, upon the nomination of the representatives in Congress, on whom such imputations will scarcely be laid. Their selection is left entirely uncontrolled, except by certain requirements as to physical and mental qualifications, both of which are fixed by law at the very lowest standard consistent with the public interests. If it were true that the wealthy and influential were permitted to monopolize the advantages of the academy, the fault would lie with the people's representatives; but an examination of the reports annually made to the War Department as to the pecuniary circumstances of the parents and guardians of the cadets shows that, without the aid afforded by the government through the Military Academy, not one-eighteenth of them could have obtained for themselves more than an humble education. What is charged as exclusiveness is really but the adoption and maintenance of a high standard of truth and integrity, which makes of the cadets honest and faithful public servants, and causes them to be esteemed and respected in private life. A special culture engrafted upon this elevation of character produces that professional pride and military tone which are sometimes not sufficiently appreciated, but which are indispensable, nevertheless, to the formation of the perfect soldier.

The especially unjust charge of disloyalty, most persistently adhered to, and due, it is believed, to the absence of accessible and authoritative information, has been effectually disproved by the recent work of General Cullum, of the corps of engineers, which contains information, derived from the public records, that leaves no ground for such unfair accusation in future. The loyalty of the West Point graduates is thus attested: Of the whole number of living graduates in and out of the service at the beginning of the rebellion, more than *three-fourths* remained loyal to the Union. Of the whole number of graduates in service appointed from or born in southern States, *one-half* remained loyal. Of the graduates belonging to the States which actually seceded, more than *one-fourth* remained loyal. Where else can such a record be found? Of the graduates who served against the rebellion more than *one-third* were wounded, and *one in every five* lost his life!

An institution owing its origin to the great Father of his Country, which has, in three important wars and numberless conflicts on the frontier, produced skilled, devoted, and successful leaders, and which in the recent struggle for the national existence sent forth names pre-eminent henceforth among the soldiers of the world, may well expect to receive the fostering care of the nation.

With a history so marked with results, with a rank among similar

institutions abroad flattering to the national pride, with a capacity greater than ever, what a career of future usefulness may not be hoped and expected for our distinguished national school!

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ED. SCHRIVER,

Inspector of the Military Academy.

The Honorable SECRETARY OF WAR.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS.

WEST POINT, NEW YORK, *June 16, 1868.*

The board of visitors to the United States Military Academy met, pursuant to the instructions contained in the letter of appointment of the President of the United States. Present, all the members, viz:

1. Major General William B. Franklin, Connecticut.
2. General Leslie Combs, Kentucky.
3. Henry Coppée, LL. D., Pennsylvania.
4. Professor William G. Peck, LL. D., New York.
5. Hon. H. M. Watterson, Tennessee.
6. N. G. Edwards, esq., Illinois.
7. D. W. Maxon, Esq., Wisconsin.

The board was organized on Tuesday, the 2d of June, by the appointment of General Franklin as president, and Dr. Coppée as secretary. At 11 o'clock the superintendent, General T. G. Pitcher, accompanied by the entire academic staff, made an official visit to the board at the hotel, and immediately afterwards escorted them in making a general inspection of the public buildings, including the library and rooms containing the philosophical apparatus, the chapel, the academic building, the cadets' mess hall, and the barracks, with the out-buildings, one of which contains the apparatus for heating the barracks and the academic hall. At half past one the board received a review of the corps of cadets, which was eminently satisfactory; after which they were handsomely entertained by the superintendent at his quarters, where they were introduced to the members of the graduating class.

On this day the board also received a communication from General Pitcher, the superintendent, informing them that all officers under his command had been directed to give freely all desired information, and authorizing the freest conference with them; and it may here be stated that all inquiries of the board throughout their visit were responded to in the fullest and promptest manner.

By the printed programme it was announced that from 9 a. m. until 3 p. m. of each day, (Sundays excepted,) the examination would take place in the library; the first class to be examined by the whole academic board, and the other classes by committees. In accordance with this programme, the board of visitors attended, without intermission, the examination of the first class in all their subjects of study, and a portion of that of the other classes.

First in order was the examination of the first class in engineering and the science of war. The topics principally discussed were: the mechanics of engineering, fortification, and a consideration of the great campaigns and actions in history from the earliest times. Among those actually recited on were the battle of Zama, Leuthen, and other campaigns of Frederick, several of Napoleon, and, in the recent war, Antietam, Gettysburg, Nashville, the siege of Fort Wagner, the great campaign from the

Rapidan to the surrender of Appomattox, and a general discussion of the defences of the Atlantic coast. The members of the board were unanimous in expressing their approbation of the subjects chosen, the completeness of the instruction, and the intelligence, readiness, and accuracy of the cadets. The board lay great stress upon the importance of discussing these great campaigns, especially those of Napoleon, because they establish principles which are of the greatest value to the military student, and show how conformity to these principles leads to success, while a violation of them must end in disaster.

The examination of the first class in ethics and law was also very satisfactory. The board note with pleasure that the subject of military law is made an important part of this course, and that the cadets are taught the articles of war, the organization and regulations of the army, and the subject of courts-martial.

The first class also passed an excellent examination in mineralogy and geology. Besides the discussion of special topics at the black-board, several cadets in each section, selected by lot, were required to present and describe specimens of minerals, of which a large number were arranged on tables. This was remarked as a most excellent feature in the instruction by the present professor, who has brought his department up to the demands of science at this day.

The examination of the first class in Spanish showed commendable progress, especially when the short time devoted to that branch is considered. The board were very much interested and pleased at the examination in ordnance and gunnery. These branches have made such marvellous progress within a few years that constant assiduity and labor on the part of the instructors are necessary to keep pace with their development; which seem to have been faithfully performed by the department at West Point.

The cadets displayed commendable proficiency in their examination in cavalry tactics, which was the concluding branch in the list of studies of the first class.

The small number of the board of visitors, and the necessary departure of some of them, precluded a constant attendance throughout the examination of the other classes. Members of the board, however, attended them, and were equally outspoken in the expression of their satisfaction at the methods of instruction, and the proficiency of the cadets:

The second class was examined in natural and experimental philosophy, in chemical physics and chemistry, infantry and artillery tactics, and drawing. The third class in mathematics, French, and drawing, and the fourth class in mathematics and French.

In all these departments the board found the same thoroughness of instruction and excellent progress of the cadets.

Having thus given a general statement of the examination on subjects taught in the section room, we turn to consider the military exercises, which shared a portion of each day with these. The afternoons, after 5 o'clock, were devoted to these military displays in presence of the board. The exercises were either specially requested by the board, or suggested by the superintendent.

On Wednesday, June 3, there was a special drill of the corps as a battalion of infantry, conducted by Colonel H. M. Black, commandant of cadets. The manœuvres were exceedingly well executed, and the board were very favorably impressed with the excellence of the new tactics, (Upton's), which join, with great simplicity of commands, variety and celerity of movement and ease of combination.

On Thursday, June 4, there was a special artillery drill and practice at a battery of siege guns, commanded by Major Egan; the chiefs of pieces were from the first class, and the cannoneers from the second class. The battery consisted of two 20-pounders and two 30-pounders of Parrott guns, and two 30-pounder ordnance guns—all rifled. The firing was with cylindrical shot and shell at a target 1,000 yards distant, on the right bank of the river. The aims were remarkably accurate, the great majority of the projectiles striking the target, and many of them the bull's eye. The target was afterwards brought to the hotel for the inspection of the board.

On Friday, June 5, the board attended a cavalry drill on the plain, to illustrate the school of the squadron, the troopers being selected from the first class. Major Arnold was in command. The manœuvres were skillfully made, and the charges in line and as "foragers" were very spirited.

On Saturday, June 6, in accordance with orders from the headquarters of the army, all academic exercises were suspended in honor to the memory of ex-President James Buchanan. A salute of 13 guns was fired at reveille, and half-hour guns during the day; and the flags were displayed at half-mast. At 10 o'clock a. m., the corps was paraded to hear the order read. At 11 o'clock the board accompanied the superintendent in a visit to the batteries, at north wharf, and the boat-house of the cadets, the soldiers' barracks, and the cemetery.

On Sunday, June 7, the board attended divine service in the cadets' chapel, at half past 10 a. m., when the reverend chaplain and professor of ethics, Dr. French, officiated. The attendance of the cadets at this service is required. There is also an afternoon service, the attendance upon which is voluntary.

On Monday afternoon, June 8, there was, by permission of the superintendent, a very skilful boat race, in which the prize was competed for by the shell-boats of the first, second, and third classes. The board are unanimous in expressing their conviction of the good effect of this and other relaxations granted by the superintendent to the cadets. Both the manliness and the cheerfulness of the corps are thereby greatly increased. The race, one mile and return, was won by the boat of the graduating class. The skill and strength of the rowers, the beauty of the boats, and the excellent time made, prove that the cadets have availed themselves fully of the privileges granted them.

On Tuesday afternoon, June 9, there was a drill of a portion of the first class in the exercise of the trooper, at the riding hall. The riding was particularly good, and consisted of practice with and without stirrups, and on the bare back, and in taking the ring, firing with pistols, and cutting at heads on posts and on the ground. The instruction in this department, given by Major Arnold, calls for the commendation of the board.

On Wednesday, June 10, there was a light artillery drill and practice by a battery of six pieces, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Piper. The drill was excellent; the evolutions were accurate and rapid, the dismounting of the pieces and carriages was very quickly done, and the firing was effective.

On Saturday, June 13, the corps was reviewed and inspected by Brevet Major General Schriver, inspector of the academy.

On Monday the 15th, three ships, forming the practice fleet of the United States Naval Academy—the Macedonian, the Savannah, and the Dale—were off the south wharf under the command of Captain Luce, commandant of midshipmen. The midshipmen, about 300 in number,

were received by the battalion of cadets at half past 2 p. m. and conducted to the plain. At 3 o'clock both battalions of cadets and midshipmen being paraded, the diplomas were presented to the graduating class of cadets by General U. S. Grant, General of the army; after which an address was delivered, at the request of the class, by Henry Coppée, LL.D., secretary of the board of visitors.

From the foregoing statement of the observations of the board, during which they received every facility from the superintendent and all the professors and officers, they now proceed to make the following digest upon the special subjects proposed in their letter of appointment.

Discipline.—Having had full opportunity of observing the discipline of the corps, they are of opinion that it is in an excellent condition; so far as their knowledge goes, it has never been better. It is observed that the rigor and severity of the former system, long considered by the friends of the academy to be the best, have been in some degree relaxed, by giving numerous privileges to the deserving. The result has been, in the judgment of the board, excellent. Well behaved cadets are allowed greater liberty in communicating with friends and visitors, and all make it more a point of honor than ever to take no advantage of the privileges granted them.

Instruction.—Careful attendance at the examinations in most of the departments has led the board to form the judgment that the duties of the professors and their assistants are faithfully performed, that the cadets are well instructed, and that the courses of study and instruction have been kept up, in most respects, to the progress of science and learning at the present day.

The board have noticed with regret that one-half the time formerly allotted to drawing in the second class has been taken from that branch. They recommend that this time be restored, and that more of the time given to drawing be employed in industrial drawing and in out-door sketching from nature—branches which are of the most important practical utility to an officer of the army.

The board repeat the recommendation, so often made, that the department of ethics and law be dissociated from the chaplaincy. The duties are not, in most respects, cognate, and neither function is benefited by the union. There is, in the judgment of the board, enough work for a professor of ethics, &c., and quite enough separate work for a chaplain.

Police.—After careful examination, the board find the police as good as it can be, owing to the judicious care of the superintendent, with the means at his disposal. The persons and rooms of the cadets evince that they are fully possessed of those habits of neatness, order, and punctuality which will be of such value to them in life. All parts of the post and garrison testify likewise to the excellence of the police. The watchful eye of the government and the ready and skilful hand of the superintendent have added greatly to the comfort of the post by the increase of plain and tasteful quarters for officers and for enlisted men. The first thing that strikes the eye of the visitor is the extreme neatness and order, even in the minutest details.

Administration.—It is apparent, from what has already been said, that the administration is excellent. While the choice of a superintendent is now made from the whole army, and not from the engineers alone, the board are satisfied that the present incumbent is as good a selection as could have been made. Earnest, thoughtful, sympathetic, yet firm in discipline, his rule is mild and yet perfectly assured. Among his subordinates, Colonel Black, the commandant of cadets, Major Boynton, adjutant, and Major Sinclair, quartermaster, are experienced officers,

whose manner of discharging their duties called forth the unanimous approval of the board.

Fiscal affairs.—The board find the accounts of the academy carefully kept, according to regulations, and can best display the condition of the fiscal affairs of the institution by presenting the accompanying documents, (marked respectively A, B, and C,) which were prepared by the superintendent at the request of the board, and which are appended as a part of this report.

The first (A) presents a statement of money received and expended under each appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, and to include March 31, 1868.

The second (B) gives the authorized amounts paid by the treasurer of the United States Military Academy, exhibiting the annual total amounts for the year ending 30th of April, 1868, and the average amounts applicable to each cadet for the year and for one month.

The third (C) gives the authorized prices charged to cadets for clothing, &c., by the commissary department.* The board request that these papers be published as an appendix to the report.

Under this general head, the board recommend an increase of pay to the superintendent of the academy. He is obliged to entertain freely and constantly, for the honor of the government and of the institution, and for this purpose his present pay is entirely insufficient. It is, therefore, recommended that his pay be that of a full brigadier general, and that West Point be placed upon the list of double-rationed posts, if such action is legal. Similar reasons lead the board to urge also a corresponding increase of pay to the commandant of cadets and the adjutant.

The board are of opinion that, for convenience and safety in landing ordnance and other heavy stores, the present north wharf is inadequate. It is too small, old, and insecure. They therefore recommend an appropriation of \$5,000 for building a proper one.

They also recommend an appropriation of \$10,000 for the erection of a house and sheds for the storage and preservation of fuel for the post.

Also an appropriation of \$15,000 to erect a proper building at the quartermaster's stables for storing wagons, carts, and other quartermaster's implements and materials.

Also, an appropriation of \$35,000, additional to one of \$15,000 already made, with which to erect a fire-proof building for the public offices and for preservation of the records. This building is much needed, as the public offices now occupy a portion of the library building, which is greatly wanted by the department of natural and experimental philosophy.

The board also recommend a liberal appropriation, according to the estimate of the superintendent, for enlarging and improving the cemetery.

Miscellaneous.—The board visited the cadets' hospital, which is under the charge of Dr. John F. Head, (surgeon,) and found it in excellent order. They also report that the mess hall was in good condition, the kitchens clean, adequate and convenient, the food excellent, and the table furniture neat and tasteful.

It is particularly recommended by the board that an engineer officer of experience be stationed at West Point, to have charge, under the orders and direction of the superintendent, of the construction and repairs of buildings, reservoirs, wharves, &c. These duties will require all of the attention of a good engineer officer of varied experience.

The board cannot close their report without offering their unanimous and unqualified testimony of the inestimable value of our great national

* Omitted from appendix, not being of general interest.

military school. It challenges competition with similar schools in Europe; it gives to the army and to the country, yearly, numbers of highly educated and high-toned young men, who become eminent and useful in all departments of active life; and these advantages are secured at a very moderate cost to the nation. The board ask for it a generous support and all needed appropriations to secure and increase its usefulness.

Respectfully submitted:

W. B. FRANKLIN, *President.*
 HENRY COPPÉE, *Secretary.*
 LESLIE COMBS.
 W. G. PECK.
 H. M. WATERSON.
 N. W. EDWARDS.
 D. W. MAXON.

REPORT OF THE ORGANIZATION AND PROGRESS OF THE ARTILLERY SCHOOL UNITED STATES ARMY.

HEADQUARTERS ARTILLERY SCHOOL U. S. A.,
Fort Monroe, Virginia, October 28, 1868.

GENERAL: In compliance with instructions from the War Department, under date of October 27, 1868, I have the honor to make the following report of the organization and progress of the artillery school of the United States army, for the information of the honorable the Secretary of War, in the preparation of his annual report.

The school was organized during the last weeks of the year 1867 by the order of the General-in-chief; and, in compliance with the provisions of General Order No. 99, headquarters of the army, series of 1867, I was assigned to its command. Brevet Brigadier General Roberts, lieutenant colonel 4th artillery, and Brevet Brigadier General Hays, major 5th artillery, were assigned as field officers; and batteries G, 1st artillery, K, 2d artillery, A, 3d artillery, F, 4th artillery, and C, 5th artillery, (one from each of the five artillery regiments,) were ordered to the school as the instruction batteries for the first year.

The delays incident to the assembly of the instruction batteries, and the preparation of the code of regulations and details of the course of instruction rendered it necessary to defer the opening of the school until April 1, when the practical portion of the course of instruction was entered upon. This portion of the course has been sedulously pursued until October 15, 1868, when, as required by the regulations of the school, the semi-annual examination of the proficiency of the officers in the practical portion of the course was commenced. This examination was in progress when an order was received from the Adjutant General's Office detailing three of the five instruction batteries for temporary detached service. The examination of one of these batteries had been completed at the moment of the reception of this order, and that of the two remaining batteries has been completed since; leaving two batteries yet to be examined.

On the 1st November, proximo, the theoretical portion of instruction will be begun, and will continue until March 15, when the final examination of the officers and non-commissioned officers will be had.

The practical portion of the course has comprised tactical instruction in all the different kinds of guns, howitzers, and mortars used in the field,