

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS

OF THE

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,

MADE TO

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

FOR

THE YEAR 1873.



WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1873.



# REPORT.

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WEST POINT, *June*, 1873.

SIR: The Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy at West Point have the honor to submit the following report:

The Board was organized at West Point on the 28th day of May, 1873, and proceeded at once to the discharge of the duties enjoined upon them by law. All the members of the Board attended its sessions, which were held daily. The various branches of the inspection were pursued with diligence. Its results, together with the general observations of the Board, are embodied in the following remarks:

The Superintendent, the professors, and all the officers of the Academy furnished every possible facility to enable the Board to make its investigation as thorough as possible. Every place was thrown open to the Board and its committees, and full information given upon all subjects. The scrutiny of the Board into the affairs of the Academy, its discipline, instruction, and general administration, has consequently been very thorough.

On the 3d June the battalion of cadets was reviewed before the Board of Visitors, and on several subsequent days the Board witnessed the drill of the cadets in the battalion, in light artillery, in the squadron, and at the siege-battery and sea-coast battery. They also witnessed in the riding-hall the instruction given in riding and the use of the saber and pistol. The skill, exactness, and beauty of movement which characterized the performance of the cadets in these various drills and exercises, were such as to reflect the very highest credit upon themselves and upon the Commandant of Cadets and other military instructors, whose talents and assiduity have brought the corps to a degree of proficiency which probably has never been surpassed in the history of the Academy. In the various battalion-drills, especially, the facility, the rapidity, and the order with which the various evolutions were performed impressed the Board in the strongest manner with the thoroughness of the instruction which the cadets have received in their military training, and with the complete success which has crowned the efforts of their instructors. No one can witness the military exercises of the corps of cadets without a sentiment of national pride in the institution which produces such perfect results.

The Board of Visitors, having been summoned to West Point a week in advance of the commencement of the annual examinations, were thereby furnished an opportunity of attending the daily recitations of the cadets in their several section-rooms. The members of the Board

availed themselves to the fullest extent of this opportunity to observe the daily routine of instruction in the several departments of the Academy. The result of this observation, continued daily for an entire week, was extremely satisfactory. The ability of the professors and instructors in all the departments, and that of their assistants, and their zeal in the performance of their duties, were very manifest, and afford the most satisfactory assurance that the high reputation of the Academy in these departments is fully maintained at the present time.

The methods of instruction adopted are such as to insure thoroughness in the acquisition of the subjects studied. In imparting instruction it is quite clear that West Point deals with individuals rather than with classes or collections of individuals.

The division of each class for purposes of instruction into small sections, arranged according to merit, each section embracing from eight to twelve cadets, is that feature in the system which may be regarded as the corner-stone of its success. Every cadet in each section is daily called upon to recite. The blackboard is in constant requisition in all the departments, and the cadets are examined both at the blackboard and upon questions propounded by the instructor. The result is that no cadet can go to the section-room unprepared without immediately manifesting his deficiency. A very accurate system of marking each daily recitation by units and tenths of units, indicating the various degrees of proficiency from 0 to 3 or  $\frac{30}{100}$  furnishes a permanent record of the daily recitations of each cadet in every department. These marks and his conduct-report fix his position and standing in the class. Tables containing the marks given to each cadet for his recitations are posted weekly in the hall of the Superintendent's office, and are anxiously consulted by each cadet. The retrospect thus placed periodically before him furnishes an incentive to exertion which would not otherwise exist. If the weekly record is good, he feels a just pride in the degree of success he has attained, and is stimulated to fresh effort. If it is bad, he is reminded by it of the necessity of greater exertion if he would remain at the Academy. He cannot go down hill unconsciously, for his weekly reckoning shows him in black and white exactly his true position.

Everywhere in the section-rooms the Board observed with pleasure the great pains which were taken by the professors and their assistants, not only that the cadet should know his lesson, but that he should understand it, and be able to give the reasons for the several propositions and processes involved in it. The average of proficiency shown in these daily recitations was high. Failures were rare, and the performance of the higher sections often admirable. They were, however, frequently wanting in distinctness of pronunciation, and sometimes in facility of expression, a circumstance tending to confirm the Board in an opinion expressed elsewhere in this report, viz, that it is greatly to be desired that the course of instruction should, if possible, be somewhat enlarged by allowing some time to be given to literary and historical studies and

to exercises in elocution. Very little, it may be said, could be acquired by the cadets in those branches in the limited time which could be spared for them from severer studies. Yet they are subjects in which much can be accomplished in a short time, and in which some instruction would greatly add to the completeness of the present course. We are aware that the object of the Academy is to give a purely military education. But even a purely military education cannot be said at the present day to be complete which omits wholly from its course any instruction in history and letters.

On the 29th May, and on several subsequent days, the Board attended the examination of candidates for admission to the Academy. The examination of the members of the graduating class commenced on the 5th June, and was succeeded in due course by that of the lower classes. The whole examination occupied a period of two weeks, two sessions being held daily, and the examination of different sections of the lower classes proceeding before distinct committees of the Academic Board at the same time. In the public examinations, as in the daily recitations, each section of the various classes was examined by itself.

The graduating class was examined in engineering, mineralogy, and geology, ordnance and gunnery, ethics and law, and in cavalry tactics; in all of which the members of the class, with very few exceptions, acquitted themselves with great credit to themselves and their instructors, and, both by their proficiency in their studies and their soldierly behavior, impressed the Board most favorably with the result of the training which they had received.

On the 13th June the Board had the pleasure of witnessing the interesting ceremonies attending the graduation of the first class, 42 in number—a scene always impressive in its character, and rendered more so than usual on the present occasion by the presence of the President of the United States, who delivered to the graduates their diplomas, and that of the Secretary of War and the General of the Army, both of whom made brief and appropriate addresses to the class.

The Board, as well by careful observation in the section-room as at the public examinations, have made diligent inquiry into the character and quality of the work of education done at West Point. The result of that investigation may be here appropriately summed up under topics distinctly defined.

#### INSTRUCTION.

The object aimed at in all the instruction and discipline of this Academy is one, and simple. It is to give a purely professional education—to train men, at the expense of the nation, for the service of the nation as officers of the Army and directors of military affairs. This fact qualifies the organization and all the arrangements of the school, and must be kept steadily in view in order to form a sound judgment of its processes and results. It also makes an essential difference between this institution and the colleges and universities of the country. The

course of study is, of necessity, somewhat narrowed in its range by this specific aim. Yet this defect is, in a great measure, compensated by the definiteness of the course, which holds the minds of the young men to a more complete discipline in comparatively few subjects of study, and enables them to obtain a more complete mastery of them. Nevertheless, it is desirable, in itself considered, that there should be brought into the course more of liberal culture, especially in English literature, general history, and freedom and power of expression, both in speech and in writing. The Board would not recommend any change in this direction at the expense of letting down in the least the standard of attainment in the essential points of the professional education. The back-bone of the education must be the course of pure mathematics, and the exact sciences in which mathematical principles are directly applied. The advancement of learning in the world is requiring a steady increase rather than diminution of labor in these studies. At the same time it is believed that a readjustment of the course of study in some of its minor and incidental parts may be made so as to give place for some instruction in the branches above named. This Board do, therefore, earnestly renew the recommendation of former Boards of Visitors, for the introduction into the course of a department of rhetoric and English literature. Just how to make a place for this department is a problem of some difficulty. It is best understood and can be best solved by the gentlemen directly engaged in the work of instruction. It is suggested, accordingly, that the present Academic Board be charged with the special duty of considering and reporting on some re-adjustment of the course of study with a view to the accomplishment of this important object by proper legislation.

The requisitions and examinations of candidates for admission to the Academy engaged the particular attention of the Board. By law candidates are required to be between the ages of seventeen and twenty-two years, to have bodies in every respect sound and healthy, and minds of good natural capacity, made by instruction "proficient in reading and writing, including orthography, in the elements of English grammar, in descriptive geography, particularly of our own country, and in the history of the United States. In arithmetic the various operations in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, reduction, simple and compound proportion, and vulgar and decimal fractions, must be thoroughly understood and readily performed." After careful consideration the board are satisfied that this standard of requisition cannot be changed with any advantage. Certainly, in justice to the object of this Academy, it ought not to be lowered. In the present condition of some parts of our country it cannot properly be raised. The faithful carrying out of the conditions required by law is essential to maintain and gradually improve the intellectual character of this institution. In the application of these conditions there is a considerable range within which the terms may be made easy or severe at the discretion of the examiners. The Board have been pleased to observe, however, that in the examinations

of this year a fair medium course has been pursued. The error, if any, has certainly not been on the side of extreme severity. The perfect impartiality of these examinations has also been quite manifest. In all the branches, except arithmetic and reading, the examination was conducted in writing on printed questions and topics, the same being presented to all. The candidates presented themselves, known only by their numbers, to the examiners, and in circumstances as well suited as possible to put them at their ease for doing their best. The fact that of 134 appointees so large a number as 49 were rejected, on the literary examination, was a surprise to the Board, as no doubt it will be to the country. This Board take occasion to say, from their own observation on the spot, that this result is due not to any undue elevation of the standard of admission, nor to any excessive severity in the examination, but in some cases to inconsiderateness in making the appointments, in others to the failure of the appointee to appreciate the honor and duty to which he is called, in a few others to the lack of facilities for preliminary education, and most of all to want of thoroughness in the schools of the country with respect to their primary work. This Academy owes it to itself and to its influence as a national institution on the whole system of popular education to render and publish to the world this honest verdict. If our school-boards and superintendents and teachers in the North and in the South, in the East and in the West, will but heed the verdict and use due diligence to correct this great defect, some abiding good may come from the mortifying experience of this year's examination of candidates for admission to the Academy. There is demanded for a place in this Academy, as in all responsible positions in society, a thorough mastery of those simple elements of knowledge which are indispensable to form an intelligent citizen, an accurate observer, a trustworthy agent, or a sound and judicious leader of men. With the appointment announced a year beforehand, and the intervening time wisely improved, no candidate of ordinary mental capacity need fail to pass the examination here. Some embarrassment, no doubt, arises from the novelty of the situation in which the young and inexperienced lad finds himself when transferred to a scene so new as that which surrounds him here. In order to obviate this, and to afford every opportunity for success, the Board recommend that all candidates be summoned to the Academy one month before the examination, and that instructors be detailed to instruct them daily in the studies upon which they are to be examined.

The methods and quality of the instruction given at the Academy in the section-rooms have been already incidentally referred to. As already stated, the ability and thoroughness of the instructors in all the departments were very plainly evinced. The Academic Board, as is well known, is composed of gentlemen of distinguished ability in their several departments, and eminently worthy of being intrusted with the responsible duties which they discharge. Under their direction, and that of their able assistants, the course of study is pursued intelligently,

faithfully, and successfully. It is evident that no cadet can keep his place in the progressive advancement of his class without some hard work of study. It is equally clear that the teachers strive with much care, discrimination, and personal interest how they may put each individual on his best paces for the required progress.

Considering the object of the Academy, the system of making each recitation in the manner already referred to, and determining rank in the class by the marks, is well adapted to stimulate effort, and to give to real merit its due recognition and reward. In such an institution as this, optional studies cannot, and ought not, to have any place. No student can dispense with any part of the prescribed course, and no one who is faithful to that course can find time for much incidental study in addition to it. The thought has occurred to some members of the Board that, in connection with the study of historical battle-fields in the department of military engineering, the students' attention might be turned with advantage to some study of civil and political history as it gathers around those fixed stakes, and that some exercises in English composition, on subjects related to the military facts, might be profitably assigned to each student from time to time.

The Board of Visitors are gratified to find that the moral and religious culture of the young men in the Academy is provided for and carefully attended to. A high sense of honor, a sacred regard to truth, and a feeling of individual responsibility to God are fostered not only by the direct instructions of the chaplain, but by the personal influence of the instructors in all their various intercourse with those under their charge. Opportunity is also given for voluntary social religious culture of the young men among themselves, of which a considerable number are disposed to avail themselves.

As has been already said, the general line of study in the Academy is necessarily one. Yet the Board have had gratifying proof that the thorough training of the mind in any one direction does expand the whole soul and bring out the general qualities of a noble manhood. Though the first object of the Academy is to form men to be leaders in the military profession, the training for that is a good training also for leadership in the responsible positions of civil life. While many graduates, after a period of military service, turn aside to other professions, the country still has the benefit of the education given here, as their influence goes forth in other directions to serve the state, and they stand ever ready, in the nation's emergencies, at her call to re-enter the service for which they have been specially trained.

The investigations and inquiries of the Board have proved to their satisfaction that the policy now pursued in the department of instruction is keeping the Academy well abreast with the general advancement of science in the world, and with the rising standard and improved methods of education in our land. It needs only that this policy be sustained by the authority of the Government and the sympathies of the people to insure its continued progress, and to keep it even in its char-

acter, and its fruits worthy of the great Republic which it represents and serves.

#### DISCIPLINE.

The Board report the discipline at the Academy to be good. The past year has not been marked by the commission of any flagrant offenses, or by any disturbance creating general dissatisfaction or excitement. The cadets perform their duties with alacrity and cheerfulness, and the relations of preceptor and pupil, officer and cadet, are kindly in a high degree, facts well attested by the manly bearing and proficiency of the graduating class, as well as by the good behavior and commendable progress of the lower classes. The offenses committed are for the most part of a light and trivial nature, deserving but slight punishment. The cases have been in the main satisfactorily disposed of, and without leaving any impression that wrong or injustice had been done. In a few instances, perhaps, the severity of discipline may have been unexpected. Too great care cannot be taken in awarding punishments proportioned to the offenses. Imprisonment for slight offenses and in frequent instances soon loses its disciplinary power, begets a feeling of injustice, and provokes insubordination. So, also, heavy punishments for violation of rules, involving no element of intentional misconduct or moral turpitude, ought to be avoided. It is perhaps a tendency of military habit to look rather, to the end to be accomplished by punishment than to weigh with nice care and discrimination the circumstances and motives of the offense. The maintenance of discipline is of course of the first importance. Punishments necessary for that purpose are not only justifiable, but cannot be dispensed with. Yet great caution is necessary that punishments be not unduly rigorous, that there be no unseemly contrast between the offense and the punishment, and that the natural sense of justice be satisfied as well as the exigencies of military discipline. Cadets should always be made to feel that no injustice is done them in enforcing the regulations of the Academy. When the character or the degree of the punishment is such as to impress them with the conviction that it is wholly disproportioned to the offense, it arouses resentment and engenders a spirit of insubordination rather than of obedience and respect. In all human government undue rigor is as injurious as improper leniency. It is a delicate and oftentimes a most difficult duty to graduate punishments to offenses. This duty, the Board entertain no doubt, has been most conscientiously discharged by the authorities of the Academy, and what has been here said is intended as an expression of the sense of the Board in reference to the great care which should be exercised in the treatment of this subject, and not as a criticism upon the application of discipline in particular cases which have occurred.

X The outrageous practice of "hazing" new cadets has been in a great measure suppressed by the firm and vigilant administration of the present Superintendent. The Board report that efficient progress has been

made, and is still being made, toward the total extermination of this discreditable practice. The petty tyranny formerly exercised toward the inexperienced young men just entering military life, as demoralizing as it is reprehensible, is rapidly disappearing, and no pains, the Board feel assured, are being spared by the Superintendent and his subordinates to eradicate it entirely. It is a practice most injurious in its tendencies and effects. To submit to it willingly begets a spirit that is cringing and unmanly. To resist begets one that is brutal. To yield with the purpose of future revenge is hardening in the extreme. The Board deem it advisable to clothe only those cadets with authority over the newly admitted cadets who have themselves had at least two years' experience in the discipline of the Academy. The old rule, that to learn to obey is the first step toward learning to command, is as applicable here as elsewhere.

The Board inquired carefully into the subject of the division of time in the daily routine of the Academy, the hours devoted to study, drill, relaxation, eating, and sleeping. The time allowed for sleep, especially in the spring and summer, is too short. It amounts to barely seven hours. In the opinion of the Board eight hours at least should be allowed for sleep at all seasons of the year. The mental and bodily strain to which the cadets are subjected by exhausting drills and hard study is not sufficiently compensated by seven hours of sleep. The time allowed for meals is also short. Upon numerous occasions when members of the Board were present the time allowed for dinner was, by the watch twenty minutes. When the large number of cadets is considered, the paucity of the attendance, and the time occupied in distributing the food, it must, we think, be apparent that more than twenty minutes should be allowed. The shortness of the time allowed leads to a habit, quite perceptible to strangers, of eating too rapidly and bolting the food. It was also observed, upon some occasions, that when the cadets were ordered from the mess-hall some of them had not finished their meal. Not less than a full half-hour should be allowed for dinner, and the Board see no reason why the cadets should not be allowed to retire from the table at their pleasure within the allotted time.

#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, POLICE, SUBSISTENCE, BUILDINGS, AND OTHER MATTERS.

The Board report that a scrutiny, protracted in its extent and particular in its details, has convinced them that the affairs of the Academy are administered with efficiency, judgment, and fidelity to the ends of its institution, and they think it due to the Superintendent, who is responsible for the administration of the Academy, that this conviction should be clearly and unequivocally expressed in their official report. Every branch of the administration is characterized by order, vigor, efficiency, foresight, and economy.

A thorough examination by the Board showed the barracks, academic building, chapel, library, hospital, riding-hall, mess-hall, officers' quar-

ters, laundry, offices, stables, gas-works, and out-buildings to be in good condition and well kept. Extreme cleanliness, order, and regularity were everywhere apparent. The grounds, including the plain, the camping-ground, earth-works, gardens, roads, wharves, walks, and the cemetery, are well cared for, and in most excellent condition. Everywhere the assiduous labor and art of man is seen to add to the natural beauty of this picturesque spot, which seems by nature to have been designed for the noble purpose to which it has been appropriated.

Upon the western side of the grounds, in the rear of the houses occupied by the professors, and in some other localities, the drainage is defective. This requires to be remedied by additional drains and a more complete system of sewerage, which can be effected at a moderate expense. Complete drainage is so essential to health that the Board recommend that a sufficient appropriation be at once made by Congress for this purpose.

The Board visited, on several occasions, the mess-hall, kitchens, and store-rooms attached thereto. The food furnished to the cadets is, in general, of good quality and somewhat varied. The cooking might properly be attended to with more care, especially the cooking of meat. The potato, being the staple of the vegetable diet, ought to be selected with more care than were those which were supplied while the Board were there. The other vegetables were good, and generally well cooked. The bread was excellent and the butter fair. The cadets have also upon their table, occasionally, fruits in their season. They have coffee at breakfast and supper, and eggs occasionally. The fare is, on the whole, good, substantial, and healthful. It would be well, perhaps, if the cadets themselves had a certain kind of superintendency over the commissariat; they would in that way acquire some knowledge of matters which would be useful in the field. Breakfast is at 7 o'clock, dinner at 1, and supper at 7. The number of attendants in the mess-hall on the whole number of cadets (varying from 220 to 250) is, at this time, eight, a number which, in the opinion of the Board, is wholly insufficient, and ought to be considerably increased.

The chapel has become inadequate to accommodate the present number of cadets and the professors, assistant professors, instructors, and officers with their families. An addition to the present chapel, which is admirably adapted for the purpose, with some internal changes in the building, could be erected at no great expense. The Board recommend an appropriation for the enlargement of the present chapel rather than the erection of a new building. Increased accommodation is absolutely necessary.

The Board made a careful inspection of the sanitary condition of the Academy. At the time of their visit there were but two cadets in the hospital. One of these was confined by a casualty occurring in cavalry exercise, and the other by a slight indisposition. The health of the corps could not be better. The hospital is well constructed in all its internal arrangements. Everything is in a neat and cleanly condition,

and the arrangements as perfect as the present building permits. The foundation of a new hospital, for which Congress has already made an appropriation, will soon be laid. The plans, specifications, and drawings of this new building were exhibited to the Board. The new hospital will be in a more elevated position, and will, when completed, accommodate twenty-four patients in airy and commodious wards, in addition to rooms for nurses and attendants. The Board recommend that the work be prosecuted with diligence, and that the necessary appropriation be made for its completion according to the proposed plans.

The Board visited the rooms of the cadets in the barracks. They were found to be in a perfectly cleanly condition, well aired, well lighted, with ample arrangements for warming them, and kept in a neat and orderly manner.

The library-building is in good order, and the library well kept. It is extensive, and, in the main, well selected, especially with reference to the course of professional study. But its privileges are, in the opinion of the Board, entirely too much restricted by the present regulations, according to which a cadet is allowed to take out a book on Saturday afternoon only, to be returned on Monday. Under such a regulation the library is of very little benefit. A free use of the library by the cadets is regarded by the Board as a matter of great importance. If it is found that cadets are reading to the exclusion or neglect of their studies, a remedy can readily be applied in cases which require it. The present regulation is, in the judgment of the Board, altogether unreasonable, and renders this fine collection of books of very little use to those for whom it was principally intended. The Board recommend the repeal of this regulation, and that each cadet be allowed to take out at any time at least one volume from the library, to be retained for a week or some other reasonable time.

The police regulations are in general wise and free from objection. Some of them might be advantageously revised. Regulation No. 280 prohibits the cadet, when he has obtained a permit to visit the hotel, from entering any room in the building except the office and the hall and parlors of the first story. Regulation No. 281 prohibits him from taking any meal at the hotel, and from applying for permission to do so. These are very good general rules, but, in the opinion of the Board they should be modified so far as relates to visits of cadets to their parents or guardians. No weighty objection can be urged against allowing a cadet to take a meal with his parents when they visit him, especially as wines and liquors are never permitted at the hotel table. Nor should a parent be deprived of the opportunity of private intercourse and conversation with his son in the seclusion of his own chamber. To compel him to seek it in crowded parlors, in the corners of porches, or in distant outdoor retreats, is an inconvenience and absurdity which is not demanded by any necessity of military discipline.

There exists, in the opinion of the Board, an imperative necessity that some provision be made whereby the children of the officers, pro-

fessors, enlisted men, and employés residing at this post shall be afforded the advantages of a common-school education. These children number from eighty to a hundred. They are excluded from the provisions of the State laws, and are deprived of the usual means and facilities for acquiring such an education. Such deprivation is contrary to the policy of the age in which we live and to the beneficent purposes of the Government. Justice to this class demands that reasonable provision be made to supply this want. The Board recommend that an appropriation of twelve hundred dollars be hereafter annually made by Congress for this purpose, the same to be expended under the direction of the Superintendent of the Academy.

The Military Academy band is well selected, and consists of good musicians; but the music, though good, is altogether deficient in volume, because the band is deficient in numbers. When it is remembered that this is the only military band in the Army which is supported by the Government, and that the post is constantly visited by large numbers of intelligent and distinguished foreigners, as well as by thousands of our own citizens, it would seem clear that the band at West Point should be made a first-class military band, which it certainly is not now, owing to its defect in numbers. The Board recommend that the Military Academy band be increased in numbers so that it shall consist of one teacher of music, who shall be leader of the band, and may be a civilian, and of forty enlisted musicians; that the teacher of music receive the pay and allowances of a second lieutenant of infantry; that ten of the enlisted musicians be paid thirty-four dollars per month each, and the remaining thirty, thirty dollars per month each; that the musicians be enlisted for five years, and have the benefit, as to pay, arising from re-enlistments and length of service applicable to other enlisted men of the Army.

#### FISCAL AFFAIRS.

The fiscal affairs of the Academy are conducted with system and economy. The annual appropriation bill for the support of the Academy specifies with minuteness the heads of appropriation, and the expenditure is carefully limited to the objects named. The pay of the cadets is drawn by the treasurer of the Academy, an officer of the Army detailed for that purpose, and is disbursed for board, clothing, and other necessary expenses, regulated and ascertained by an admirable system of accounts. The Board considered it their duty, in the interest of the cadets, to analyze, not only the mode of keeping the accounts, but the several items which enter into them. The system adopted encourages economy and habits of exactness, and yet leaves the cadet a well-regulated discretion in the expenditure of a portion of his pay. The purchases for the cadet mess are made by a purveyor employed by the Superintendent of the Academy at a salary of \$1,200 per annum, and certain allowances. His accounts enter into the smallest details of purchases, and they are examined every two months by a board of inspect-

ors consisting of three officers appointed by the Superintendent. As the government of the Academy assumes the expenditure of the salary of the cadets, and the cadets have no choice but to eat what is furnished them, the Board felt that it was their duty to inquire whether any abuses occurred or could occur in purchasing supplies, or by which any person connected with the purchasing, preparation, and cooking of the food of the cadets did or could make a profit out of it. The Board are satisfied that the method of purchasing and using supplies is as carefully guarded from corrupt abuse as it is possible to make it. The cadets are supplied with good substantial food for about \$20 a month, varying somewhat with the season. Other expenditures, for clothing, washing, and the like, are so regulated as to secure to each cadet every article essential to his health and comfort, and in such manner that the pay and ration of the cadet are sufficient, and not more than sufficient, to meet his current expenditure.

The annual appropriation for the support of the Military Academy for the year ending June 30, 1874, was \$290,304. This does not include the pay of officers of the Army detailed for duty as instructors or assistant professors, or the cost of ordnance or ordnance-stores used in military instruction and paid out of the appropriation for the support of the Army.

With an estimated allowance for these items properly chargeable to the Academy, the annual cost of the Academy may be safely stated at about \$400,000. With this sum the United States secures the education, annually, of about fifty officers admirably prepared to conduct the military operations of the Government, and, whether in the Army or among the people, of the highest value in disseminating a knowledge of the art of war. The chief value of the Academy consists, not in supplying officers for the Regular Army of the United States, but rather in the fact that it is a normal school for the education of schoolmasters fitted to instruct in military science and the art of war the volunteer forces of the country when called into active service. In this respect alone the Academy is worth more than its annual cost. Our experience during the Mexican war, and in the recent civil war, has proved in a very striking manner the value of this service, and it should secure from Congress such liberal appropriations as will maintain the Academy at the highest standard of excellence and enable it to keep pace with the rapid improvements which are being made in the science of war.

The Board annex to and make part of this report exhibits showing the details of the current and ordinary expenses of the Academy during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873.

After a minute investigation into the affairs of the Academy and a thorough examination of all its departments, the Board are happy to be able to report, as they do, that its present condition is in all respects sound and good, and that it is fulfilling the purposes of its establishment in the most satisfactory manner, reflecting honor upon those who are charged with the responsibility of its administration and verifying

by its progress and by the solid benefits which it confers upon the country the wisdom and foresight of its founders.

From a small and obscure establishment where, in 1802, ten cadets, attached to the Corps of Engineers, with the pay of sixteen dollars per month and two rations per day, were struggling to acquire, under the direction of Major Jonathan Williams and his patriotic associates, and with the meager appliances and scant instruction of that day, the rudiments of martial science, the Military Academy has expanded with a growth which has kept pace with the progress of the country in population and in power, and which well illustrates the difference between the six millions of that day and the forty millions of the present. Its success as one of the great and permanent institutions of the country lies no longer within the domain of conjecture, but is reduced by a long, an honorable, and glorious experience to an existing fact which all men witness and applaud. It has demonstrated the truth that large standing armies can safely be dispensed with as a means of maintaining the liberty and honor of the people in a country which continually educates a limited number of its youth to become the organizers of its strength and the leaders of its hosts in time of war. Its fruits are before the whole world. For seventy years its beneficial influences have gone forth, repaying its debt of gratitude to the country, and making a record which renders it impregnable to all assaults and secure in the confidence, the pride, and the affection of the people of the United States. No longer upon the defensive or requiring the vindication of its friends, its results are written in imperishable history. No longer "a foundling barely existing among the mountains," it presents itself now in the full maturity of its strength and manly vigor, recognized and maintained as the acknowledged and cherished offspring of the nation.

M. RUSSELL THAYER, *of Pennsylvania,*  
*President of the Board.*

A. L. CHAPIN, *of Wisconsin.*

AMOS T. AKERMAN, *of Georgia.*

HENRY B. CURTIS, *of Ohio.*

WILLIAM T. EARLY, *of Virginia.*

J. L. G. MCKOWN, *of Illinois.*

JAMES H. McMULLAN, *of Maine.*

J. W. STEVENSON, *Senator from Kentucky.*

JOHN SHERMAN, *Senator from Ohio.*

JOHN COBURN, *Representative from Indiana.*

L. P. POLAND, *Representative from Vermont.*

S. S. MARSHALL, *Representative from Illinois.*

Hon. WILLIAM W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

EXHIBIT NO. 1.

Statement of balances unexpended and of money received and expended by Colonel Thomas H. Ruger during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873.

Heads of appropriation.	Balances unexpended June 30, 1872.	Appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873.	Total July 1, 1872.	Expended to include May 31, 1873.	Covered into the Treasury of the United States under the act of July 12, 1870.	Total expended and covered into the Treasury of the United States.	Undrawn from the Treasury of the United States.	On deposit with Assistant Treasurer of the United States, New York.	Balances May 31, 1873.
Current and ordinary expenses.....	\$9,545 67	\$63,045 00	\$72,590 67	\$53,459 07	\$4,254 45	\$57,713 22	.....	\$14,877 45	\$814,877 45
Sewers to river from sapper &c. barracks.....	887 91	.....	887 91	.....	887 91	887 91	.....	.....	.....
Ventilating and heating the barracks.....	10,317 34	.....	10,317 34	.....	10,317 34	10,317 34	.....	.....	.....
Models for the department of engineering.....	1,135 37	.....	1,135 37	.....	1,135 37	1,135 37	.....	.....	.....
Removal and enlargement of the gas-works.....	5,139 61	.....	5,139 61	.....	5,139 61	5,139 61	.....	.....	.....
Enlarging, improving and repairing cemetery.....	1,342 58	.....	1,342 58	.....	1,342 58	1,342 58	.....	.....	.....
Expenses of the Board of Visitors.....	9,000 00	.....	9,000 00	.....	2,000 00	2,000 00	.....	.....	.....
Miscellaneous items and incidental expenses.....	3,583 29	15,500 00	24,383 29	15,183 76	3,288 52	18,472 28	.....	3,411 01	5,911 01
Buildings and grounds.....	.....	17,500 00	17,500 00	17,162 41	.....	17,162 41	.....	337 59	337 59
Reimbursing cadets for losses incurred by fire.....	.....	6,818 82	6,818 82	6,816 75	.....	6,816 75	.....	2 07	2 07
Totals.....	38,951 77	103,163 82	142,115 59	92,621 99	28,365 48	120,957 47	2,500 00	18,628 12	21,128 12

(a) Of the amount expended \$1,743.10 was for liabilities incurred previous to close of fiscal year ending June 30, 1872.

(b) Of this balance \$6,548.42 is for appropriations prior to present fiscal year.

(c) Of the amount expended \$2,794.71 was for liabilities incurred previous to close of fiscal year ending June 30, 1872.

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,  
West Point, N. Y., June 3, 1873.

THOS. H. RUGER,  
Colonel Eighteenth Infantry, Superintendent United States Military Academy.

## EXHIBIT No. 2.

Statement showing principal heads of amount of appropriation for current and ordinary expenses, the expenditure to include May 31, and balances available for fiscal year 1872-'73.

Heads of appropriation.	Fiscal year ending June 30, 1873.		
	Appropriated.	Expended.	Available.
Repairs and improvements.....	\$14,500 00	\$13,654 83	\$845 17
Pay of citizen mechanics, &c.....	8,000 00	7,677 55	322 45
Fuel and apparatus.....	14,000 00	13,681 60	318 40
Gas-pipes, gasometers, and retorts, annual repair.....	600 00	592 23	7 77
Fuel for cadets' mess, laundry, and shops.....	3,500 00	3,500 00	-----
Postage and telegrams.....	200 00	193 10	6 90
Stationery.....	500 00	500 00	-----
Transportation of material, cadets discharged, &c.....	1,200 00	1,040 05	159 95
Printing-type, blanks, registers, diplomas, &c.....	700 00	357 31	342 69
Compensation to lithographer and pressman.....	100 00	60 00	40 00
Clerk to disbursing officer and quartermaster.....	1,650 00	1,512 50	137 50
Clerk to adjutant.....	1,500 00	1,375 00	125 00
Clerk to treasurer.....	1,500 00	1,375 00	125 00
Department of mathematics.....	225 00	200 35	24 65
Department of infantry, artillery, and cavalry tactics.....	1,000 00	705 92	294 08
Department of engineering.....	500 00	109 49	390 51
Department of natural and experimental philosophy.....	2,150 00	2,016 71	133 29
Department of drawing.....	230 00	35 01	191 99
Department of law and ethics.....	100 00	50 00	50 00
Department of French.....	50 00	50 00	-----
Department of Spanish.....	50 00	23 00	27 00
Department of chemistry, mineralogy, and geology.....	5,090 00	2,357 81	2,732 19
Department of practical engineering.....	200 00	172 40	27 60
Department of ordnance and gunnery.....	500 00	473 11	26 89
Expenses of the Board of Visitors.....	5,000 00	-----	5,000 00
Total.....	63,045 00	51,715 97	11,329 03

THOS. H. RUGER,

Colonel Eighteenth Infantry, Superintendent United States Military Academy.

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,  
West Point, N. Y., June, 1873.

## EXHIBIT No. 3.

Statement showing principal heads of amount of appropriation for miscellaneous items and incidental expenses, the expenditures to include May 31, and balances available for fiscal year 1872-73.

Heads of appropriation.	Fiscal year ending June 30, 1873.		
	Appropriated.	Expended.	Available.
Gas, coal-oil, &c., for lighting Academy, cadet-barracks, &c .....	\$4,000 00	\$3,279 07	\$720 93
Water-pipes, plumbing, and repairs .....	2,000 00	1,587 61	412 39
Cleaning public buildings, (not quarters) .....	500 00	125 90	434 10
Brooms, brushes, tubs, pails, and cloths .....	200 00	147 90	52 10
Chalk, crayon, sponges, and slates .....	100 00	100 00	-----
Compensation of chapel-organist .....	200 00	150 00	50 00
Compensation of librarian .....	120 00	110 00	10 00
Compensation of non-commissioned officers in charge of mechanics, &c. ....	50 00	37 50	12 50
Compensation of soldier writing in adjutant's office .....	50 00	45 00	5 00
Pay of engineer of heating and ventilating apparatus .....	1,500 00	1,200 00	300 00
Pay of assistant engineer .....	720 00	480 00	240 00
Pay of firemen .....	2,200 00	1,644 00	556 00
Increase and expense of library, books, &c., and binding .....	2,000 00	1,894 84	105 16
Pay of librarian's assistant .....	1,000 00	916 66	83 34
Contingencies for Superintendent of the Academy .....	1,000 00	654 26	345 74
Furniture for cadet-hospital .....	100 00	16 25	83 75
Total .....	15,800 00	12,388 99	3,411 01

THOS. H. RUGER,

Colonel Eighteenth Infantry, Superintendent United States Military Academy.

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,  
West Point, New York, June 6, 1873.

## EXHIBIT No. 4.

Statement showing what is embraced under the head of buildings and grounds, expenditures to include May 31, and balances available.

Heads of appropriation.	Fiscal year ending June 30, 1873.		
	Appropriated.	Expended.	Available.
Repairing and opening roads and paths .....	\$2,500 00	\$2,301 40	\$198 60
Ice-house and additional store and servants' rooms for cadets' mess-hall .....	7,500 00	7,361 01	138 99
Coal-house .....	5,000 00	5,000 00	-----
Recovering south wharf .....	2,500 00	2,500 00	-----
Total .....	17,500 00	17,162 41	337 59

THOS. H. RUGER,

Colonel Eighteenth Infantry, Superintendent United States Military Academy.

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,  
West Point, New York, June 6, 1873.