

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS

TO THE

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

MADE TO

CONGRESS AND THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

FOR

THE YEAR 1890.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1890.

BOARD OF VISITORS.

JUNE, 1890.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

1. Colonel FRANCIS J. CRILLY.....PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.
2. Colonel LEWIS M. DAYTON.....CINCINNATI, OHIO.
3. General EDWARD BURD GRUBB (*Vice-President*)..EDGEWATER PARK, N. J.
4. Reverend EDWARD EVERETT HALE, D. D.....BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.
5. Hon. CORNELIUS C. JADWIN.....HONESDALE, PENNSYLVANIA.
6. Mr. HUGH McMILLAN.....DETROIT, MICHIGAN.
7. Colonel SCOTT SHIPP.....LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

8. Hon. JOSEPH R. HAWLEY (*President*).....HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.
9. Hon. GEORGE GRAY.....WILMINGTON, DELAWARE.

APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

10. Hon. BYRON M. CUTCHEONMANISTEE, MICHIGAN.
11. Hon. JOSEPH MCKENNASUISUN, CALIFORNIA.
12. Hon. AMOS J. CUMMINGS (*Secretary*).....NEW YORK, NEW YORK.

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.

To the Secretary of War, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives :

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

The Board was appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Statutes of the United States, sections 1327, 1328, and 1329. These provide that every year seven persons shall be appointed by the President, and two Senators and three members of the House of Representatives shall be designated as visitors by the Vice President of the United States or the President *pro tempore* of the Senate and the Speaker of the House respectively, at the session of Congress next preceding the annual examinations. The statutes further provide that it shall be the duty of this Board of Visitors to inquire into the actual state of the discipline, instruction, police administration, fiscal affairs, and other concerns of the Academy.

NAMES OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS.

In accordance with the provisions of the law, the following gentlemen were appointed and requested to convene at the Military Academy on June 2, 1890:

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

1. Col. Francis J. Crilly Philadelphia, Pa.
2. Col. Lewis M. Dayton Cincinnati, Ohio.
3. General Edward Burd Grubb Edgewater Park, N. J.
4. Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D. D. Boston, Mass.
5. Hon. Cornelius C. Jadwin Honesdale, Pa.
6. Mr. Hugh McMillan Detroit, Mich.
7. Col. Scott Shipp Lexington, Va.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

8. Hon. Joseph R. Hawley Hartford, Conn.
9. Hon. George Gray Wilmington, Del.

APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

10. Hon. Byron M. Cutcheon Manistee, Mich.
11. Hon. Joseph McKenna Suisun, Cal.
12. Hon. Amos J. Cummings New York, N. Y.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD.

The Board organized on June 2 by unanimously electing the Hon. Joseph R. Hawley president, General Edward Burd Grubb vice-president, and the Hon. Amos J. Cummings secretary.

ORDER OF EXAMINATIONS AND EXERCISES.

The Board were informed that the following order of examinations and military exercises had been arranged by the officers of the Academy:

Orders No. 80.]

HEADQUARTERS U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., May 15, 1890.

I. The annual examination will begin on Monday, the 2d proximo, and continue daily, Sundays excepted, from 9 o'clock a. m. till 1 o'clock p. m., and from 2.30 o'clock p. m. till 4.30 o'clock p. m., until finished.

II. The Academic Board will be divided into two committees.

The first committee will be composed of—

The Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy,
The Professor of Mathematics,
The Professor of Law,
The Professor of Civil and Military Engineering, and
The Instructor of Practical Military Engineering.

The second committee will be composed of—

The Professor of Modern Languages,
The Professor of Drawing,
The Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology,
The Professor of History, Geography, and Ethics,
The Commandant of Cadets, and
The Instructor of Ordnance and Gunnery.

The first committee will sit in the library and examine orally—

- (1) The first class in engineering.
- (2) The third class in mathematics.
- (3) The second class in natural and experimental philosophy.
- (4) The first class in law.

And by written examination—

The fourth class in mathematics at 8 a. m., June 3.

The second committee will sit in Room No. 1, Academic building, and examine orally—

- (1) The second class in chemistry, mineralogy, and geology.
- (2) The fourth class in French.
- (3) The first class in ordnance and gunnery.
- (4) The first class in Spanish.
- (5) The third class in French.

And by written examination—

The fourth class in French at 8 a. m., June 2.
The first class in Spanish at 8 a. m., June 4.
The fourth class in English at 8 a. m., June 5.
The third class in French at 8 a. m., June 6.

And by inspection of marks and drawings—

The second and third classes in drawing.

In all the classes the oral examinations will begin with the lowest sections, and the examinations will be so conducted as not to interfere with the usual hours for meals of cadets.

All written examinations will be conducted in Room 23, Academic building.

The superintendent will preside in either committee in which he may be present.

III. As each committee shall complete its labors of examination, its presiding officer will report the fact to these headquarters.

Either committee may, in its discretion, extend its labors not to exceed one hour each day, provided this does not interfere with any of the military exercises directed in Paragraph VI of this order.

IV. First Lieut. Samuel D. Freeman, Tenth Cavalry, and Second Lieut. Benjamin Alvord, Twentieth Infantry, are appointed the secretaries of the first and second committees respectively. The record of each committee will be so kept as to show clearly the length of time occupied in examination by each department of instruction.

At the close of each day's proceedings, the secretaries will report to the adjutant of the Academy the progress of the examination, and they will transmit to the secretary of the Academic Board the records of the proceedings of the committees as soon as they are completed.

V. The instructors will report daily to the heads of their respective departments, and keep themselves informed as to the times when their services will be required.

VI. The following military exercises will take place during the examination :

Exercise.	Subject.	Date.
Infantry	Review	June 2
	School of the battalion	June 4
	Battalion skirmish drill	June 9
Artillery	Mortar battery drill	June 9
	Light battery drill	June 10
	Sea-coast battery drill	June 5
Cavalry	School of the company and battalion	June 3
	School of the soldier mounted	June 6
Practical military engineering	Spar bridge building	June 10
	Ponton bridge building	June 7
	Military signaling	June 11
Small-arms	Use of the sword and bayonet, and military gymnastics.	June 11

This order of exercises may be changed on account of the weather, or for other causes.

VII. The members of the First Class will be graduated June 12, 1890.

By order of Colonel Wilson.

W. C. BROWN,

First Lieutenant First Cavalry, Adjutant.

EVERY FACILITY EXTENDED TO THE BOARD.

The secretary was instructed to invite Col. John M. Wilson, Superintendent of the Military Academy, to make any suggestions that he desired respecting the interests in his charge. This was done. At the second session of the Board the following letter from Colonel Wilson was received :

HEADQUARTERS U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., June 2, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date notifying me of the organization of the Board of Visitors.

I shall be happy to afford the Board every facility for a thorough inspection of the workings of all the departments of the Academy, administrative as well as those of instruction, and in general to do everything possible to assist the Board in its labors.

A programme of the examination has already been furnished each member. Notice will be given from day to day of such military exercises as are ordered for the Board of Visitors.

First Lieut. Frank L. Dodds, Ninth Infantry, Second Lieut. Daniel L. Tate, First Cavalry, Henry C. Hodges, jr., Twenty-second Infantry, and Samuel D. Sturgis, First Artillery, have been detailed to attend upon the Board of Visitors during their stay at the Academy.

I also take occasion to say that I hope the Board will communicate with me freely, both personally and officially, upon any subject connected with the Military Academy which may be of interest to its members in connection with their official visit to West Point.

In conclusion, permit me to say that I desire to call officially upon the Board of Visitors at the hotel at 4.20 o'clock p. m. to-day, with the members of the Academic Board and my military staff, for the purpose of paying our respects to the Board of Visitors, and to conduct them to a review of the Corps of Cadets given in their honor.

At the close of the review it will give me pleasure to receive the members of the Board, their families and friends, at my quarters to meet the officers and ladies of the post.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN M. WILSON,

Colonel of Engineers, Superintendent.

Hon. AMOS J. CUMMINGS,
Secretary Board of Visitors, West Point, N. Y.

WORKING COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

At the third session, on June 3, the Board appointed the following committees:

1. *On buildings, grounds, and police administration.*—Hon. Byron M. Cutcheon, chairman; Hon. George Gray, Hon. Amos J. Cummings, Mr. Hugh McMillan, and Hon. Joseph McKenna.

2. *On discipline and instruction.*—General Edward Burd Grubb, chairman; Col. Lewis M. Dayton, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D. D., and Col. Scott Ship.

3. *On ordnance, armament, and equipment.*—Col. Scott Ship, chairman; Hon. Joseph R. Hawley, Col. Lewis M. Dayton, and General Edward Burd Grubb.

4. *On cadet supply department and expenditures.*—Col. Francis J. Crilly, chairman; Mr. Hugh McMillan, and Hon. Amos J. Cummings.

5. *On fiscal affairs of the Academy.*—Hon. George Gray, chairman; Hon. Cornelius C. Jadwyn, Hon. Joseph R. Hawley, and Col. Francis J. Crilly.

6. *On appointments, examinations, and miscellaneous business.*—Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D. D., chairman; Hon. Cornelius C. Jadwyn, Hon. Joseph McKenna, and Hon. Byron M. Cutcheon.

By order of the Board an official list of the committees was sent to the Superintendent of the Academy. The Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D. D., was selected to deliver the address to the graduating class of cadets on June 12.

THE COMMITTEES AT WORK.

The committees began their work immediately. Every facility was extended by the Superintendent and officers of the Academy. Many of the Board heard the examinations of the classes, while others attended to the various duties assigned to the committees.

At the fourth session of the Board the following letter from the Superintendent of the Academy was received:

HEADQUARTERS U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., June 3, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of to-day's date announcing the subcommittees of the Board of Visitors.

The heads of the various departments of administration and instruction of the Academy have been directed to hold themselves prepared to furnish the Board any information that may be required, and if the Board will make its requests through these headquarters they will receive prompt attention.

I shall be pleased to confer personally with you upon this matter with a view of facilitating, as far as possible, the object of your visit to the Academy.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN M. WILSON,
Colonel of Engineers, Superintendent.

Hon. AMOS J. CUMMINGS,
Secretary Board of Visitors, West Point, N. Y.

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.

At the seventh session of the Board, on June 7, the Hon. Byron M. Cutcheon, of the committee on buildings, grounds, and police administration, reported that he had received the following letter from Col. John M. Wilson, the Superintendent:

HEADQUARTERS U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., June 6, 1890.

DEAR SIR: Replying to your letter of the 5th instant I have the honor to submit the following list of improvements required at this post, estimates for which will be submitted with my annual report for the present fiscal year.

I consider all of the improvements as very necessary, but in preparing the list I have placed them in their order of importance:

No. 1. New tile floor, cadet mess hall.....	\$3,024
No. 2. Repairs and enlargement of quarters for cadet mess-hall cooks, waiters, etc.....	2,193
No. 3. Repairs of present quarters of married enlisted men.....	10,000
No. 4. Two sets of officers' quarters.....	20,000
No. 5. Repairs of Kinsley mansion.....	9,000
No. 6. Twenty sets new quarters for enlisted men.....	24,000
No. 7. Enlargement cadet quartermaster's store-house, and repairing present building.....	11,300
No. 8. Electric light and power plant complete.....	60,000
Current yearly expense of same.....	11,000
No. 9. Increase of size and repairs of building for office of commandant of cadets and his assistants; reception room for persons visiting cadets, and cadet guard-house.....	5,000
No. 10. Entire renovation of cadet sinks and bath-rooms, placing all in one building upon or near present location of sinks.....	28,000
No. 11. Building for storing oil and lime.....	2,500
No. 12. Heating riding-hall and stables, including building for apparatus..	15,000

I have given these items in the order in which I deem them most necessary.

It is probable that other minor items will appear in my annual estimates when I prepare them in August, but the foregoing are all that it appears necessary to place before the Board of Visitors at this time.

I think I have personally explained the necessity in each case to the committee except No. 11, which was presented to me this morning by the quartermaster and the need of which is obvious.

It will give me pleasure to direct the post quartermaster to appear before your committee at any time and to further explain the necessity for the improvements suggested.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN M. WILSON,
Colonel of Engineers, Superintendent.

Hon. B. M. CUTCHEON,
Chairman Committee on Buildings and Grounds,
Board of Visitors, West Point, N. Y.

CONSULTATIONS.

The letter was referred back to the committee for examination and report.

The secretary was instructed to invite Col. John M. Wilson, Superintendent of the Academy; Prof. Peter S. Michie, professor of natural and experimental philosophy, and Col. George L. Andrews, professor of the department of modern languages, to meet the Board for consultation as to matters relating to the Academy. These gentlemen accordingly appeared before the Board and gave the information desired.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

The committees attended to their duties promptly, and their reports were amended and adopted by the Board. The recommendations of the Board are made up from the reports of these committees.

The Board report that the most of the buildings are in very good condition. When the appropriations already made or that are certain to be made at the present session of Congress have been properly expended the post will have all necessary buildings.

WHAT CONGRESS HAS ALREADY APPROPRIATED.

The Fiftieth Congress appropriated \$490,000 for a new academic building and \$100,000 for a gymnasium. The plans for the gymnasium have been made and accepted, and work upon it will begin as soon as the contracts can be made. This Congress has already made the following appropriations for the improvement of buildings and grounds at the post:

Repairs and improvements.....	\$17,500	Stone for roads.....	\$2,090
Gas pipe, fixtures, etc.....	900	Quarters for watchman.....	1,500
Repairing roads and paths, etc.	500	For post cemetery.....	1,200
Continuing breast-high wall ..	500	For quarters superintendent ca-	
Water-works, etc.....	520	det laundry.....	400
Plumbing in cadet hospital.....	2,500	Repairs to cadet barracks.....	3,000
Two sets officers' quarters.....	20,000	For south wharf.....	2,000
Cavalry barracks.....	21,000	Changes in headquarters build-	
Quartermaster's store-house.....	18,000	ing.....	1,350
Practice-room for band.....	3,030	Repairing Kinsley House.....	1,500
Ten sets quarters for enlisted		Total.....	139,400
men.....	12,000		
Hospital for enlisted men.....	30,000		

APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDED.

The aggregate amount of unexpended appropriations for buildings and grounds is nearly \$730,000. The Superintendent of the Academy, Col. John M. Wilson, submitted to the Board a statement and estimate of further improvements deemed by him desirable. It aggregates \$201,017. These improvements are undoubtedly necessary for the perfect equipment of the post and Academy. In view of the very large appropriations now unexpended, however, the Board do not urge upon Congress the appropriation of the entire amount suggested for the coming fiscal year. They call attention to the recommendations that they may receive full consideration. They are informed that the Superintendent will give his reasons for his recommendations in his full report to the Secretary of War. The Board simply emphasize and recommend the appropriation of the following sums:

Repairs, and enlargement of quarters for cadet mess-hall cooks, waiters, etc.	\$2,193
Repairs of present quarters of married enlisted men (estimated)	10,000
Twenty sets quarters for enlisted men	24,000
Two sets officers' quarters	20,000
Enlargement of cadet quartermaster's store (estimated) ..	11,300

OFFICERS' QUARTERS.

Two sets of officers' quarters have been authorized, but not yet constructed. Last year's estimates only called for three sets in all. The enlargement of cadet quartermaster's store was recommended last year, but no appropriation was made for it.

NEW FLOOR IN MESS-HALL.

The Board recommend that provisions be made for a new floor in the cadet mess-hall. The present floor was laid down about seven years ago. While a tile flooring would be a great improvement, it is not an immediate necessity. As the money will not become available until 1891-'92 provision for the new floor ought to be made as soon as possible.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

A year ago the Superintendent of the Academy recommended a plant for lighting the cadet barracks with electricity. It was estimated that it would cost \$9,540. The Superintendent now recommends that provision be made for lighting the entire buildings and grounds with electricity, at an estimated cost of \$60,000, and an annual expense of \$11,000. The Board does not urge the appropriation at this time. It would be better to make it after the erection of the new academic hall and the building for a gymnasium.

NEW SINKS AND BATH-ROOMS.

The Board urge that the sinks used by the cadets be reconstructed. They are insufficient and unsuitable. The bath-rooms are in a separate building. They should be placed in the same building with the sinks. The estimate for the change is \$28,000. The Board recommend an immediate reconstruction of the sinks with a view to the removal of the bath rooms at a subsequent period.

ENLARGEMENT OF COMMANDANT'S OFFICE.

The Board also think that the office of the Commandant of Cadets should be enlarged. More commodious reception-rooms for persons visiting cadets should be provided. If the new academic building is erected upon a site that will permit the preservation of the present building, ample provisions could be made in the old building for such increased accommodations. Unless this is done, an appropriation for the enlargement of the office of the Commandant of Cadets should be made as soon as practicable.

HEATING THE RIDING-HALL AND STABLES.

The last Board of Visitors recommended the establishment of a heating apparatus for the riding-hall and stables at a cost of \$15,000. Congress made no appropriation for this purpose. The recommendation is renewed by the Superintendent of the Academy. The Board of Visitors find that the riding-hall and stables are in very good order. Captain Dorst, the instructor of cavalry tactics, as well as the Superintendent, urges the necessity for this heating apparatus. The Board, therefore, submit their recommendation to the favorable consideration of Congress.

BUILDING FOR STORAGE OF OIL AND LIME.

A small appropriation for a building for storing oil and lime is sought. When the new hospital for enlisted men and the new barracks for cavalry are constructed, the old building will be free for other uses. Temporary buildings for storing lime are undoubtedly required. The Board, however, suggest that the need and location of a permanent building for this purpose can be determined better at a later date.

THE OLD ACADEMIC BUILDING.

The present academic building was carefully examined with a view to its preservation. The structure is about fifty years old. All the exterior walls remain nearly or quite perfect. They are of excellent

material. The cut-stone work is without a flaw. The building is plain, solid, enduring, and commodious. Its architecture is not unsightly, and it possesses a historic interest. Generals of world-wide reputation received their military education here. The Board recommend that this historic building be preserved, if some other suitable site for the new structure can be found. The question is left by law to others to decide. The Board simply direct attention to it at this time. There is no doubt that the old building could be used to great advantage.

THE KINSLEY PURCHASE.

The Superintendent recommends the appropriation of \$9,000 for the repair of the Kinsley House. The Board, however, think that a careful examination ought to be made to determine whether the condition of the house will warrant so large an outlay for its repair. Meantime the \$1,500 already appropriated ought to be sufficient to repair it to such an extent that it will resist further decay.

REMODELING THE LIBRARY.

The Board recommend the remodeling of the library. It ought to be made fire-proof. The Board suggest that a competent architect be employed to examine the building and report a plan for remodeling it.

QUARTERS FOR ENLISTED MEN.

In the reconstruction of quarters for enlisted men or employés of the post, the Board recommend that the present low and unsanitary location be abandoned. They suggest that the new quarters be placed upon a higher and more healthful location. There is plenty of room upon the reservation and consequently no necessity for retaining the quarters in a situation where they lack the free circulation of air and light. This recommendation of the Board is in full accord with the views of the present Superintendent.

HOSPITAL FOR ENLISTED MEN.

The Board find the condition of the hospital for enlisted men excellent. The building is commodious, nearly new, and kept in admirable order. The location, however, is objectionable. If it were not, the expenditure of \$30,000 for a new hospital would be unnecessary.

THE POST CEMETERY.

The small cemetery of the post is in admirable order, and a credit to the officer in charge. It needs enlargement. Congress has already appropriated \$1,200 for this purpose.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the post is excellent and abundant. It comes from the mountains back of West Point. It is adequate for the needs of the fire department, as well as for all other purposes. There are two steam fire-engines, one near the cadet barracks, and the other near the quartermaster's store and cavalry barracks. The Board, however, suggest that portable fire-extinguishers be placed in the more important buildings, such as the library, the academic building, and the cadet barracks.

THE HOTEL.

It has been urged that the hotel on the reservation be enlarged. During a brief period in the summer it is much crowded. Accommodations, however, for the rest of the year are ample. The hotel was built from the proceeds of a post fund. It rents for \$3,500 a year, the lessee covenanting to expend an additional \$500 a year in repairs. This rental is a special contingent fund in the hands of the Superintendent. The Board suggest that a part of this fund might properly be expended in the repair and enlargement of the hotel itself.

THE POLICE ADMINISTRATION.

The police administration of the post is commended. The Board urge the removal of some of the cabins now occupied by enlisted men and of some of the wooden structures under the bluff at the north end of the post as soon as practicable. They are unsightly and unhealthy.

DISCIPLINE.

A careful examination of the system of discipline in the Academy and the methods by which it is administered was made. The Board find them adapted to the best interests of the cadets, and temperately, but firmly, applied.

INSTRUCTION.

The system of instruction was fully shown in the examinations. They indicated careful and thorough work on the part of the professors and diligent and faithful application on the part of the cadets. Many of the recitations in the upper sections of the first and second classes were brilliant. They clearly showed practical education of a very high order.

ROOM FOR MORE CADETS.

With its present accommodations, equipment, and academic staff, the Academy can receive, educate, and graduate nearly one hundred more cadets yearly than are now there. The total annual cost to the country would, of course, be increased, but the per capita cost would be reduced. The Board recommend that some action be taken to keep up the full quota of cadets in the Academy.

ARMAMENT AND EQUIPMENT.

As to the military exercises and parade, the Board report that in every particular the high standard of the Academy was fully sustained.

The Board find that the armament of the Academy has been improved by the addition of a field battery of six 32 inch, breech-loading, rifled steel guns, mounted upon carriages of the new model. In other respects the armament remains unchanged. The siege-guns, however, are not only obsolete in form, but are not in a serviceable condition. Their defects are recognized by all. They will undoubtedly be remedied by the Ordnance Department as soon as new forms are adopted.

The equipments of the infantry are complete and in good condition.

BETTER CAVALRY HORSES NEEDED.

The instructors in cavalry tactics are placed at a great disadvantage because the cadets are forced to use horses employed for draughting purposes in the artillery service. They suggest that this can be remedied by stationing a fully equipped field battery at the post to be used for the instruction of cadets. This would relieve the cavalry horses from artillery service. Such service unfits them for cavalry drill. The Board recommend the suggestion to favorable consideration, provided a field battery can be detailed for duty at the post without entailing additional expenditures for barracks and stables.

A HOTCHKISS GUN.

They also recommend that funds be provided for the purchase of a 3-pounder Hotchkiss rapid-fire gun, estimated to cost \$2,500. The artillery equipment of the Academy can hardly be regarded as complete without one gun to represent a type so important in modern warfare.

The Board recommend that the senior assistant instructor in ordnance be put upon the same footing with regard to pay as the senior assistants in other departments of instruction.

The exhibits as to ordnance, armament, and equipment, published in the report of the Board of Visitors for 1889, are full, minute, and detailed. The conditions all remain unchanged, with the exceptions already noted.

SUPPLIES FOR CADETS.

The Board find the supplies furnished to the cadets in the mess-hall of the best quality, properly cooked, and the diet sufficiently varied by daily changes. The mess department appears to be so satisfactory that no improvement is suggested.

The cadet quartermaster's department has charge of the purchase and issue of all supplies furnished the cadets. Samples of all the articles they furnish were examined. All were found to be of uniformly good quality and the prices reasonable. The report of the Board of Visitors last year gave detailed lists of the articles with prices, and as there is no material change in the cost it is not necessary to repeat it.

THE CADET LAUNDRY.

The Board report that the cadet laundry is carefully and economically managed. The prices charged to the cadets are very moderate, yet sufficient to cover the actual expenses of the laundry.

THE BAND.

The Board recommend an increase of the band at the post to fifty pieces. At the present rate of pay for enlisted musicians it is almost impossible to secure expert instrumentalists. Some arrangement should be made by which the pay of musicians would be increased according to their ability. The rate of pay should be based upon the length of service and skill of the musician.

FISCAL AFFAIRS OF THE ACADEMY.

The fiscal affairs of the Academy were found to be satisfactory after a careful examination. The books of Capt. W. F. Spurgin, treasurer of the Academy, who receives and disburses the pay of the cadets, are well kept and show fullness of detail and clearness of statement. They are audited by a committee of the Academic Board every two months, and are also examined by an official and expert inspector at like intervals.

A condensed statement for the past year, made elsewhere (see Appendix A), illustrates the methods and detail of this important office.

Capt. Charles R. Williams, quartermaster of the post, submitted an explanatory statement of the important matters committed to his charge. The manner in which the large sums for which he is responsible are received and disbursed, and the management of the practical details of his office, reflect great credit on the intelligence and capacity of this officer. Abstracts of receipts and expenditures furnished by him will be found elsewhere. (See Appendix B.)

For the efficient performance of the multifarious duties of treasurer and post commissary, Captain Spurgin deserves especial commendation. The Board, however, are of opinion that the officer charged with these duties should be a paymaster with the rank of major, and that an additional officer should be appointed in that corps for the purpose of this detail. Such an officer so assigned could also perform the duties of the paymaster of the post. This would be economical as compared with the present method of sending a paymaster from New York. And as a bond is required by law from every paymaster, the change proposed would do away with the present anomalous condition of having an unbonded officer charged with such great financial responsibility. The wisdom of this recommendation is confirmed by Captain Spurgin himself, founded upon his long experience in this office.

EXAMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

The statute regulating the number of cadets was passed on March 1, 1843. The section relating to this subject is in the following words:

The corps of cadets shall consist of one from each Congressional district, one from each Territory, one from the District of Columbia, and ten from the United States at large. They shall be appointed by the President, and shall, with the exception of the ten cadets appointed at large, be actual residents of the Congressional or Territorial districts, or of the District of Columbia, respectively, from which they purport to be appointed.

Another section provides that—

Cadets shall be appointed one year in advance of the time of their admission to the Academy, except in cases where by reason of death or other cause, a vacancy occurs which can not be provided for by such appointment in advance.

Another section provides that the age of appointment shall be from seventeen to twenty-two years.

A joint resolution passed by Congress in 1866 provided that—

In all appointments of cadets to the Military Academy after those who enter the present year, the person authorized to nominate shall nominate not less than five cadets for each vacancy, all of whom shall be actual residents of the Congressional district, Territory, or District of Columbia entitled to the appointment, and the selection of one shall be made from the candidates according to their respective merits and qualifications under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of War shall from time to time prescribe.

And in like manner the President of the United States shall be authorized hereafter to nominate fifty at large each year, instead of ten as now provided by law, who shall be examined under like regulations, and of whom the ten who may be reported as most meritorious and best qualified shall be appointed; provided, however, that not more than two of these shall be appointed in any year from one State.

This joint resolution was approved on June 16, 1866, and was repealed in the following year. It seems to have contained the only reference to the established right of members of the House of Representatives to nominate cadets to be appointed. The custom of such nomination, however, existed long before the act of 1843. The number of recommendations recognized by law would give three hundred and forty-five cadets if every place was full. In practice the Secretary of War appoints the persons nominated by members of Congress, and waits for their nomination before he makes such appointment. In fact, however, partly from delays in the appointment, and more often from failures to fill vacancies, the number of cadets present in the Academy is at all times much less than the number directed under the present law. A quarter of the working force is thus lost. The two principal causes for this loss are:

First. That some vacancies are left open by the delay of Representatives in making the nominations to which by long courtesy they have become entitled.

Second. Through vacancies, by far the larger part of which result from the failure of boys nominated and appointed to pass the first examination, or to fill the places to which they have been appointed. In many instances these last failures seem to result from the fact that the preliminary course has not prepared them for the work of the first year.

To meet the first of these difficulties the Board suggest that members of the House be urged to make nominations at or before the time prescribed, which is one year before the nomination, and in all cases to nominate alternates who may be examined on the failure of the first person named.

The Board also report that it would materially add to the ease and regularity of attendance for examination if examinations were held under the direction of the Academic Board at several other places beside West Point. These examinations should be made from the same sets of question papers, on the same day, and might be held at Washington, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, New Orleans, Chicago, St. Paul, Leavenworth, and San Francisco, at the military posts at or near those cities. They could and should be conducted under arrangements made and with regulations and conditions prescribed by them. The admission or rejection of each candidate should be determined by the Academic Board on consideration of his examination papers, just as it is now.

As the candidate receives an appointment from Government, and is instructed to report for examination at a fixed time and place, there seems to be no reason why all candidates, successful or unsuccessful, should not be paid fair traveling expenses to the place of examination.

The September examination brings young men into the lowest class three months after its work has begun. The results are very unfavorable. The Board recommends that it be abolished and that the candidates who are now referred to it be referred to the next annual examination.

With reference to the gap between the requisites for entrance and the first year, the Board recommends that to the examination as now conducted be added an examination in algebra as far as quadratic equations.

The experience of past years warns us that unless more nominations

are made than are now permitted by law the Academy will not be up to the full number of cadets which could be accommodated here to advantage. The Board, therefore, recommend that the President of the United States nominate five persons at large every year, and keep this number filled when any vacancy is created. We also recommend that each Senator be requested to nominate one person under the same conditions as those under which members of the House now make nominations, and that the President appoint the persons thus nominated for examination and admission to the Academy like other candidates.

DRILLS AND EXERCISES.

The Board attended the infantry, artillery, and cavalry drills of the cadets, and witnessed the exercises in practical military engineering and small arms. They found thorough efficiency in each branch. They had much to commend and nothing to condemn.

A MILITARY POST.

West Point should be a post for a representative body of troops. As the many small frontier posts are abandoned, a sufficient number might be brought to West Point to make it a model military post. Its healthfulness, facility for access or transfer of troops, and the cheapness of supplies, make it an excellent spot for maintaining a considerable force. It would be of great advantage, in a military point of view, to have a picked corps of trained soldiers close at hand and under the eyes of the cadets who, sooner or later, are to command them. A full regiment of infantry, a battalion of cavalry, and a horse battery might be stationed there. As the post would be a desirable one, it might be made a prize to be won, from time to time, by troops attaining the highest standard of soldierly bearing.

DISTRIBUTION OF DIPLOMAS.

The graduates of 1889 received their diplomas on June 13, at the hands of the Secretary of War. The Rev. Edward Everett Hale delivered the address to the graduated class. (See Appendix C.) Gen. William T. Sherman also addressed the class.

CONCLUSION.

The Board, in conclusion, find that the Academy under its present superintendent, Col. John M. Wilson, and its military and academic staff, fully maintains and has increased its reputation as a national military school. The education is both practical and theoretical. The cadets not only receive the most thorough military education, but they are imbued with patriotic fervor, and are instilled with honor. The institution reflects credit not only upon its faculty and upon its pupils, but upon the nation.

APPENDIX A.

OFFICE TREASURER OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY,
QUARTERMASTER AND COMMISSARY OF CADETS,
West Point, N. Y., June 9, 1890.

SIR: In compliance with your verbal request, I have the honor to submit the following exhibit of the funds and accounts in my charge May 16, 1889, followed by a consolidated statement of receipts and disbursements appertaining to all accounts in this office, made since then to include May 19, 1890, the date of the last bimonthly settlement of the books of this office:

Statement of the treasurer United States Military Academy, May 16, 1889.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
Assistant treasurer U. S., New York.	\$31,428.15	Cadet laundry	\$4,580.86
Policing barracks	73.39	Cadet quartermaster	5,616.75
Trust funds	20,000.00	Cadet subsistence department	416.62
Cash on hand	1,603.95	Cadet hospital	15.93
		Corps of cadets	14,436.67
		Deposits	213.00
		Dialectic Society	1.92
		Equipment fund	27,652.00
		Gas account	165.90
		Miscellaneous fund	5.84
	53,105.49		53,105.49

Statement of receipts and disbursements made by the treasurer United States Military Academy from May 16, 1889, to May 19, 1890.

Assistant treasurer:		Deposits:	
Checks drawn	\$153,887.33	Receipts	\$15,980.75
Deposited	151,995.30	Disbursements	16,193.75
Balances paid:		Dialectic Society:	
Receipts	13,867.54	Receipts	253.21
Disbursements	13,867.54	Disbursements	234.65
Barber:		Equipment fund:	
Receipts	529.10	Receipts	12,426.00
Disbursements	529.10	Disbursements	10,472.00
Cadet laundry:		Expressage:	
Receipts	9,193.40	Receipts	15.10
Disbursements	9,049.74	Disbursements	15.10
Cadet quartermaster's department:		Gas fund:	
Receipts	73,693.55	Receipts	844.05
Disbursements	71,578.32	Disbursements	1,009.95
Cadet subsistence department:		Hops and german:	
Receipts	57,528.85	Receipts	1,762.53
Disbursements	57,413.98	Disbursements	1,762.53
Cadet hospital:		Miscellaneous fund:	
Receipts	2,621.99	Receipts	23.10
Disbursements	2,637.92	Disbursements	19.24
Cadet cash:		Miscellaneous items:	
Receipts	14,398.40	Receipts	447.10
Disbursements	14,468.40	Disbursements	447.10
Confectioner:		Oaths:	
Receipts	310.15	Receipts	24.05
Disbursements	310.15	Disbursements	24.05
Corps of Cadets:		Paymaster:	
Receipts	174,700.33	Receipts	151,996.75
Disbursements	181,925.79	Disbursements	151,996.75
Damages, ordnance:		Periodicals:	
Receipts	10.25	Receipts	81.97
Disbursements	10.25	Disbursements	81.97
Dancing:		Photographs:	
Receipts	615.00	Receipts	147.75
Disbursements	615.00	Disbursements	147.75
Dentist:		Policing barracks:	
Receipts	821.00	Receipts	5,421.17
Disbursements	821.00	Disbursements	5,347.78

Statement of the treasurer United States Military Academy, May 19, 1890.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
Assistant treasurer	\$29,539.12	Cadet laundry	\$4,724.52
Cadet cash	70.00	Cadet quartermaster	7,751.98
Trust funds	20,000.00	Cadet Subs. Dept	531.49
Cash on hand	231.26	Corps of Cadets	7,211.21
		Dialectic Society	25.48
		Equipment fund	29,606.00
		Miscellaneous fund	9.70
	<hr/>		
	49,840.38		49,840.38

I have the honor to invite attention to published communications from this office having reference to fiscal affairs of the Academy, relating solely to cadets and to matters appertaining to the cadet supply departments, viz:

1. Exhibit E A.—Report of the Board of Visitors, 1887, page 91. "Statement showing how the pay of cadets is drawn from the Treasury, and how disbursed."
2. Exhibit F A.—Report of the Board of Visitors, 1887, page 100. "Statements showing cost of subsisting cadets per capita, and expenses of laundry."
3. Exhibit J.—Report of the Board of Visitors, 1887, page 123. "Statement showing origin of the equipment and other cadet funds, how raised, for what purposes used, etc."
4. Exhibit F.—Report of the Board of Visitors, 1889, pages 75 to 79, inclusive, relative to fiscal affairs, etc.
- 5.—Communications of June 7 and October 17, 1889; report of the Board of Visitors for that year, pages 64 to 69, inclusive, reply to "request for information," etc.
- 6.—Communication of June 8, 1889; report of the Board of Visitors for that year, pages 29 and 30, relative to the cadet quartermaster's department store-house and its enlargement.

All vouchers appertaining to the treasurer's office made on account of purchases of supplies for the different cadet supply departments are inspected every two months by the board of audit as provided for by paragraph 332 Academic Regulations, and in addition thereto the accounts of the treasurer of the Academy are inspected every settlement by an officer of the Army specially detailed for the purpose, who makes his report to the Superintendent of the Academy.

The foregoing enumerated exhibits and communications contain the fullest information relative to cadet financial affairs and the cadet supply departments.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. F. SPURGIN,
Captain, Twenty-first Infantry, Treasurer United States Military Academy, Quartermaster and Commissary of Cadets.

Hon. GEORGE GRAY,
Chairman Committee on Fiscal Affairs of the Academy Board of Visitors.
 [Through the Adjutant U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y.]

APPENDIX B.

Abstract of appropriations made for the support of the Military Academy for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890, disbursed by Capt. Charles W. Williams, assistant quartermaster U. S. Army, disbursing officer U. S. Military Academy.

	Amount received.	Expended to include June 5, 1890.	Unexpended balance on hand.
Current and ordinary expenses	\$54,529.65	\$42,160.36	\$12,369.29
Miscellaneous items and incidental expenses	18,220.00	15,136.53	3,083.47
Buildings and grounds	9,361.96	8,618.36	743.60
New Academy building	500.00		500.00
New gymnasium building	500.00		500.00
Total	<hr/> 83,111.61	<hr/> 65,915.25	<hr/> 17,196.36

I certify that the above abstract is correct, and that the expenditures reported have all been made by the undersigned on vouchers approved by the Superintendent of the Military Academy.

CHAS. W. WILLIAMS,
Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. Army,
Disbursing Officer, U. S. Military Academy.

WEST POINT, N. Y., June 7, 1890.

Abstract of receipts and expenditures pertaining to the special contingent fund, U. S. Military Academy, between July 1, 1889, and June 5, 1890.

On hand July 1, 1889 \$1,416.88

RECEIPTS.

By rent of West Point Hotel	\$3,500.00	
By rent of post-office cottage.....	112.50	
By rent of public stables.....	100.00	
By rent of brick market	112.50	
By sale of hoop poles	26.72	
		3,851.72
Total.....		5,268.60
Expended to include June 5, 1890		4,586.17
Unexpended balance on hand		682.43

I certify that the above abstract is correct, and that the expenditures reported have all been made by the undersigned on vouchers approved by the Superintendent of the U. S. Military Academy.

CHAS. W. WILLIAMS,
*Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. Army,
Treasurer Special Contingent Fund.*

WEST POINT, N. Y., June 5, 1890.

Abstract of receipts and expenditures pertaining to the U. S. Military Academy gas-fund between the 1st day of July, 1889, and June 5, 1890.

RECEIPTS.

From sale of coke.....	\$351.25	
From sale of tar.....	386.57	
From sale of gas to officers.....	1,531.53	
From sale of gas to civilians.....	541.42	
From sale of gas to buildings	102.42	
From sale of gas to cadets	1,009.95	
		3,923.14
On hand July 1, 1889		3,105.26
Total.....		7,028.40
Expended to include June 5, 1890		6,540.35
Unexpended balance on hand		488.05

I certify that the above abstract is correct, and that the expenditures reported have all been made by the undersigned on vouchers approved by the Superintendent of the U. S. Military Academy.

CHAS. W. WILLIAMS,
*Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. Army,
Director of Gas-Works.*

WEST POINT, N. Y., June 5, 1890.

APPENDIX C.

ADDRESS OF THE REV. DR. EDWARD EVERETT HALE TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF THE U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST POINT, N. Y., JUNE 12, 1890.

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRADUATING CLASS: I count this a peculiar good fortune which gives me the privilege of addressing you. Any one might be glad to be remembered in all parts of the country by such young men for many years in connection with a day which ought to be one of the happiest and proudest of your lives. And I am glad to be intrusted by the gentlemen around me with their congratulations. The timid plebe of 1886 is the accomplished officer of 1890. You are grateful to the Academy which has wrought this miracle. And the Academy to-day admits you to the honorable fraternity of her graduates—bids you share their honors, maintain her fame, defend your country, and serve your God.

On the commencement day of all colleges there is a story told, which is very likely a chestnut here. It is of the graduate of the day found musing apart from his fellows, who is asked what he is thinking of. He answers: "I am trying to see how a man feels when he has received the best education which his country can afford." Possibly you have been working on that problem, though I did not see that the question fell to any one in the examinations. It happens that I am instructed by the Board of Visitors to give you some help in making out the answer. Let us look forward a little while we shake hands in our good-bys. What are the duties and the responsibilities which you carry with you on these well-earned holidays, and after they are over, in your new career?

You will hardly find them stated in the European books. The place and the duty of an American soldier are, thank God, far wider and nobler than those of any servant of a feudal State. You serve the People of America; yes, and you belong to and are part of the People whom you serve. The People, which commands President, Congress, Army and Navy, needed this institution and needed you. It has created this institution and educated you. And you are still of this People, bone of its bone, blood of its blood. You are to quicken its life and make its voice to be the voice of God. This duty, this privilege, you share with all other Americans. You stand, therefore, somewhat as a young prince of the blood of Napoleon might have stood the day he left the military school of Saint-Cyr; or as this young Emperor of Germany might have stood the day he received his first real commission. That is, you not only receive orders from your sovereign; you are looking forward, as well, with a high determination that the orders of that sovereign shall always show the dignity of their source, shall be for the nation's honor, and shall be worthy of the kingdom of the living God.

Few men have an opportunity as large as you have, in this duty, present to the mind of every loyal American, of keeping high, strong, and pure, the spirit of this People. For wherever you go, the nation is visibly behind you. What you say, you say in some sort as her representative. What you do, you do in some sort in her name. If the boys in the street watch and follow your example, why, it is because the nation gives you her commission. If a community in doubt turns to you for counsel, it is because the nation has given to you her instructions. You have been in good hands here. The country knew what she wanted. And she got it, as she always does. What follows is that she expects from you what she has given to you. She has other children, and she expects you to carry forward to them what you have received here at her hands.

I do not mean, of course, that in some frontier post you are to stop a half-breed boy in the street and teach him how he is to make a rational expression out of some highly differentiated equation. But I do mean that when you and men like you have established such a post, there may be and ought to be a simpler confidence in law, a more certain punctuality in action, a more evident justice between man and man; in a word, a higher civilization and social order, because you and yours are representing the nation called the United States of America, in the midst of them. It is not instruction in mathematics or tactics of which we speak; no—it is education in manhood, which it is your power and is to be your duty to extend.

I listened with very great interest to the careful definitions which one of your own number gave, on Saturday, to the great words "conduct worthy an officer and a gentleman." I was glad to see that he was quite ready to enter upon the noble sentiment involved. He was willing to pass behind even the statement of words which could be made in the best of text-books. It was clear enough that somebody, in the spirit of the text-books, or in the instruction of the class-room—very likely in the friendly and familiar chat of the mess-room—had gone back to the magnificent language of the New Testament in its definition of the gentleman. You have the authority of an apostle that the officer who is a gentleman is "first pure." He keeps his body in subjection, as did those men who gained the name of Puritan because

they did so. These men—the men who laid the corner-stones of the institutions of the country—were first pure; and because they kept their bodies in subjection they rode down the impure and profligate cavaliers at Naseby and Marston Moor. The gentleman is first pure. Then he is peaceable. He does not seek a quarrel. There is no chip on his shoulder. This man is the gentleman of the Scriptures and of the Articles of War. And he is a man easy to be entreated, while inflexible in his duty. A man who, as an old writer says, is willing to abate something from his right. A man, as the apostle says, without partisanship. He is no slave to sect or prejudice. What he says is the thing which is. His word is his bond.

Gentlemen of that standard, you are going hence now to a frontier post—now to the capital cities of the nation—to make definite and real to those you meet this visible type of manhood. For this duty and privilege you have an opportunity which any of us, set aside to the special business of lifting higher the moral standard of the community, might envy you; perhaps because we are “set aside” for this, men of affairs are quick to pass us by. You are not set aside; you are in the thick of life. The country bids you stand for her in posts of especial difficulty; she girds you, therefore, with special honors. And the words you speak, or the silence you maintain, or the deeds you do in keeping higher the nation's standard of duty and of honor, have special and peculiar value.

You may never have a pupil to instruct. But you can not help yourselves—you will be the educators of the men around you, with whom, for whatever purpose, you have to do. I might be satisfied to take this simple illustration of the physical training of America. You have been taught all that they say the Roman education involved—to swim, to march, to ride. It will be a proud day for America when, of the fifty million of her sons, she can say that same thing, and a prouder thing when she can say it of her fifty million daughters. To show that the student of language or science is not of necessity a puny stripling, this is one of the lessons which West Point has taught in the past and which you are to beat into the heads of the educators of your time: that athletic training is not to be left to contests as absurd as those of the Blues and Greens of the Byzantine Empire. The country wants men who are men and women who are women, strong to act, healthy to resolve, and quick to do. She ought to be able to look confidently to you for help in that matter of bodily education.

And she wants men and women who can clearly observe, can wisely balance testimony, and can rightly determine. The country means that her children's minds, as well as their bodies, shall be trained and in working order.

And I would speak at length of that matter, of the intellectual education of the country, but that I may refer you so easily to the baccalaureate addresses which are delivered in every college of the country at this time. Read them all, young gentlemen—you will find them in the New York papers of this month—and consider them as addressed to yourselves.

The country, in its passion for education, has undoubtedly attempted too much in the way of mental education—I mean too much in a fair perspective and proportion of the claims of the mind, which is but one tool of the infinite soul, to the claims of the body, which is another tool, and the greater claims of the soul herself, which is to be the mistress of both mind and body. You are to regard yourselves as charged to correct this error where it exists, and to see that the education of this country is made simpler and that this matter of the education of the intellect holds its own proper place in the arrangements which are made for the education of the whole man.

And as for religion, gentlemen—as for the education which brings man closer to his God, that he may know his God, and how to approach to Him, and that he may rightly address God—do not think that any men have an advantage over you. All history is full of the services which soldiers have rendered to the religion of the world. Why should it not be so, when the soldier is known everywhere as the man who understands what life is for, and that death is not the greatest of all evils? He knows that

'T is not the whole of life to live,
Nor all of death to die.

And, before the world, the soldier is the living illustration of this truth, which the pulpit can only proclaim in language.

Do not forget that I may give a simple instance in those blessings to the world which were wrought out by the four soldiers of the New Testament. The four soldiers of the New Testament need not be ashamed if they were named in the same breath with the four evangelists. It was a captain in the Roman army who, when he had to take charge of a ship because her crew were cowardly, just as you may have to take charge of some transport in the same condition, saved the life of Paul, so that Paul might preach to Nero.

It is another captain in the Roman army who sent his own orderly a day's journey that he might call the Apostle Peter to open to him the treasures of the Word. To that soldier's decision and determination, under the Providence of God, the world

owed it that the Gentiles were received into the church, which was not left to be a church of Pharisees. Again it was a soldier who stood at the Cross and gave the testimony, which the men of letters of the time were ashamed to give, or afraid to give, in the words which every man remembers: "Truly this was a righteous man." With such examples one does not wonder when he reads that the Saviour of mankind Himself said of another Roman centurion, "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel."

Here are four examples of four deeds of duty well done by four soldiers who took the responsibility in the proper moment. And I would not ask for better examples of what men like you may do in the daily course of common life, in the advancement and promotion of the supreme end of living.

In these illustrations I have spoken to you as I might speak to any well-educated young man just starting upon active life. But there is one great department of the education of the American people where you have opportunities which none of the rest of us have. This country does not know herself. The American People does not know what the American People is or what it can be or can do. The men of the East do not know the power of the West. The new generation of the Pacific does not know the men of the Atlantic. The men of the South do not know the social order of the North. The people of the North do not know the traditions or necessities of the South. We are not as badly off as were those colonists who stood together under Washington. But still we do not know our resources, our possibilities, our difficulties, and our greatness. Gentlemen, it is for trained men like you—here to-day and by the Muir Glacier to-morrow, scanning the horizon from Eastport to-day and next week looking out on the Gulf of California—it is for you to reveal the nation to herself. It is for you to conciliate where you find prejudice. It is for you to teach where you find ignorance. It is for you to give the hint, when Vermont can supply what Idaho requires, or when at Fort Wrangel you see a need which could be answered from Florida. This is what is meant when we say that here at last we have one nation organized from many germs, one country made up from many races, and one People swaying all, directing all, and determined that each and all shall go forward to success.

The country is rich, so rich that she does not know her wealth—her wealth is awful in any estimate which approaches the reality. It is for educated men like you, men who see with your own eyes what is East and what is West, who look upon those upon the Arctic and the Caribbean Seas, upon the Pacific and the Atlantic, it is for you to tell her how her treasures shall be used, not for the good of this nabob, nor of that section, but for the improvement and blessing of all.

I was very much impressed by an anecdote told me of President Grant by one of his companions in his journey around the world. At any place where he was received with such honors as princes dare not claim, he was asking questions, he was using his eyes and his ears, and informing himself as to what there was, or what there was not, which might be useful to America—to the commerce or the manufactures or the social order of the people which he loved and the people which loved him. I was reminded of another story of him which Dr. Sears told me. Dr. Sears was the secretary of the Peabody Board of Education. He knew intimately the details of its wide administration. There came a matter which he thought the President should know, the nominal head of the board, which he thought would not have fallen under his notice in the wide range of the executive duties. So he waited on him at the White House and told his story. The President listened, and took from a file of letters the statement of the same affair made to him by the personal correspondent on whose information in that quarter he relied.

Believe me, gentlemen, there is no danger that you will know too much as to your country, her needs, or her possibilities. They asked Daniel Webster once when he would argue a critical case regarding the national jurisdiction, on which vast interests depended. It was the Ogden Gibbons case. "I will try it now," said he. "But do you not need some time for preparation?" "I made my preparation when I had no briefs to study, and was waiting for my first clients at the cross-roads in Franklin, in New Hampshire."

Give yourselves to your country, gentlemen, in every least detail of present service, or in the great crises which history tries to represent, on which hang the destinies of freedom. Give yourselves to her. You may serve her as Grant served or as Sherman still serves her. You may serve her in some new invention or discovery as Ericsson served her or Eli Whitney. You may serve her in the conciliation and sympathy by which you make friends of those who have been separated, as General Crook served her when he made an Apache baby play with the white man's doll.

Be the detail as it may, from this moment you serve her, you serve her in your obedience to any officer she commands. Always this loving mother is there—it may be behind the curtain—but it is her voice which you obey. The message of her will may come to you in a cramped hand-writing, on a mean bit of yellow paper; it may be given by only a very dirty telegraph boy, and he may be surly as he gives it, but it is your mother's message to you all the same, and your part is to do her will with all a loyal son's devotion.

Your country is to work out the world's problem. In a large measure she will work by your hands. There are duties which require great delicacy of touch and handling. She has made no mistake, we are sure, in intrusting them to you. They will require personal sacrifice; they will require that you shall meet abuse; shall meet danger; maybe shall meet death. But that is what a soldier is for. His life-long prayer, as his life-long duty is, that his country may be happy and true and strong. He dies, perhaps, but she lives.

Let me repeat to you the words which it is said a young naval officer heard from an army lieutenant of the first generation. They were in a boat pulling away from a captured slaver, over which the American flag was flying. "For your country, boy"—and the words rattled in his throat—"and for that flag, never dream a dream but of serving her as she bid you, though the service lead you through a thousand hells. No matter what happens to you, no matter who flatters or abuses you, never look at another flag, never let a night pass but you pray God to bless that flag. Remember, boy, that, behind all these men you have to deal with, behind officers and government and people even, there is the country herself—your country—and that you belong to her as you belong to your own mother. Stand by her, boy, as you would stand by your own mother if those devils yonder had got hold of her to-day."

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