

THE FIRST
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA,
TO THE
COUNCIL AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
1852

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TO THE HONORABLE THE COUNCIL
and HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
of MINNESOTA:-

In accordance with chapter 28, section 16, of the Revised Statutes of Minnesota, the undersigned has the honor of presenting to your honorable bodies, the first annual report of the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota.

The first meeting of the Board of Regents was held pursuant to notice, at the St. Charles Hotel, in St. Anthony, May 31st, 1852. The Board organized by the choice of the following persons as officers, viz:

FRANKLIN STEELE, President.

ISAAC ATWATER, Secretary.

J. W. NORTH, Treasurer.

WM. R. MARSHALL, Librarian.

A committee was appointed to draft rules for the government of the Board, and of the Preparatory Department of the University.

At this meeting it was unanimously

RESOLVED, That the Board of Regents deem it expedient to take steps for the immediate erection of a building for a Preparatory Department, connected with the University, and that subscriptions be circulated for that purpose,

At a subsequent meeting of the Board, held at the same place, on the 14th day of June last, rules for the government of the Board of Regents, and the Preparatory Department, were reported and adopted. A committee was also appointed, consisting of his Excellency, Governor Ramsey, Hon. H. H. Sibley and A. Van Vorhes, Esq., to correspond with the Secretary

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of the Interior, on the subject of the grant of lands made by Congress, at its last session, to the University of Minnesota, and to adopt measures to bring about, without unnecessary delay, the location of the townships granted, in order that the same might be brought under the control, and inure to the benefit and advantage of the University of Minnesota.

The Board of Regents then proceeded, personally, to examine the different pieces of ground which had been offered as sites for the erection of University buildings. Several liberal offers of land had been made for this purpose, by landholders in the immediate vicinity of the village of St. Anthony. After a careful survey of the different locations, and a comparison of their advantages, the Board decided upon the ground offered by Franklin Steele, Esq., situated near the center of the village of St. Anthony, and consisting of the ground reserved for a public square, and six lots adjacent thereto, comprising an area of near four acres of ground. It is a most eligible situation on the bluff, just above the mills, fronting Main street and the river, and commanding one of the most beautiful prospects in the Territory.

In pursuance of a resolution passed by the Board of Regents, for the erection of a Preparatory Department, connected with the University, Wm. R. Marshall and Isaac Atwater were appointed a committee on behalf of the Board, to proceed with the erection of such building. By a resolution of the Board, the committee were limited in the cost of the building to an amount not exceeding \$2,500. The amount of the cost was required also to be raised by private subscription only, and no part of the property belonging to the University proper was to be applied to the erection of this Academy.

The committee have erected an Academy building on the grounds selected for the University. It is thirty by fifty feet, of wood, and three stories in height, or two stories with a basement, sufficiently high and commodious to be used as recitation rooms. No part of the building is yet entirely finished, but

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two rooms are in a condition to be conveniently used. A comparatively small additional expense will finish these two rooms, with two others, including the large hall, which will be sufficient to meet the wants of the Institution for the present.

The cost of the building, in its present condition, has been about \$2,200. Of this amount, between three and four hundred is still due. To meet this, and finish the remainder of the building, a second subscription is now in circulation, by which it is hoped sufficient may be raised to accomplish the object.

The Institution opened about the first of December last, under the superintendence of Prof. Merrill, Principal. There have been about forty students in attendance the present term; several of whom are pursuing the study of the languages, mathematics, and the higher English branches. Prof. Merrill has the highest testimonials as a teacher of experience and ability, and gives general satisfaction.

A valuable donation to the Library has been made by the Smithsonian Institute, consisting of six volumes of the Annals of Congress, previous to 1800. Also books and pamphlets from the Hon. H. H. Sibley.

In conclusion, the undersigned would beg leave to state, that the Institution has commenced under the most flattering auspices, and promises to realize the most sanguine expectations of its friends. The Board of Regents, comprised of gentlemen residing in different parts of the Territory, it is believed unanimously concur in regarding St. Anthony as the proper location for the University. They are desirous that the infant Institution should receive, not only the liberal support of the citizens of Minnesota but also the fostering care of the Legislature. The present is the hour of need. The munificent donation of public lands made by Congress at the last session, will furnish the University with a liberal endowment

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as soon as they shall be available. Let the people of Minnesota extend to this school a generous patronage, not regarding it as a local, but a Territorial enterprise, and an institution will soon be built up which will be to Minnesota what Harvard and Yale are to New England, the cherished mother of her noblest sons.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I. ATWATER,

Secretary Board of Regents.

St. Anthony, February 7, 1852.