

Miscellaneous publications, no. 6.

[Circular No. 3.]



The Geological and Natural History Survey
OF
MINNESOTA.
—
THE MUSEUM.

[Minneapolis
Johnson, Smith & Harrison
1877].

The General Museum

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

This Museum, established by a law of the legislature of 1872, is the State Museum of Minnesota. Its nucleus is the collection of the Geological and Natural History Survey of the state, now in progress under the Board of Regents of the University. It is contained in the Main University Building at Minneapolis, and is open to students and the general public free of charge, throughout the year, unless closed for repairs or other necessary work in the rooms. The rooms are pleasant and commodious, well warmed and ventilated.

The law which established the Museum requires the Board of Regents to "cause proper specimens, skillfully prepared, secured and labeled, of all rocks, soils, ores, coals, fossils, cements, building stones, plants, woods, skins and skeletons of animals, birds, insects and fishes, and other mineral, vegetable and animal substances and organisms discovered or examined in the course of said surveys, to be preserved for public inspection, free of cost, in the University of Minnesota, in rooms convenient of access, and properly warmed, lighted, ventilated and furnished, and in charge of a proper scientific curator."

The Museum thus is charged with a very comprehensive work, and it is destined to become one of the chief interests of the survey now being carried on. If it grows and is properly cared for, as the state grows, it will become the pride not only of the University, but of the whole state, and will delight and instruct the hundreds of students who resort there for instruction, and the citizens of the state and others who may desire to visit it.

The Regents of the University have exercised their discretion, generously aided in some instances by citizens of Minneapolis, in making purchases for the Museum, and have received a great many donations of valuable specimens from individuals. It is hoped that citizens of the state will remember that it is much better to preserve the products of the state, or a fair representation of them, in our own Museum, than to send them off to eastern and foreign institutions where their identity often is lost, by being absorbed in the vast collections into which they enter, and their usefulness, for purposes of illustration and as representatives of Minnesota, is destroyed. Some of the best specimens in eastern museums were derived from the state of Minnesota, which is abundantly able to stock one of the finest Museums in the Northwest. The Regents of the University are determined that no reasonable effort shall be wanting, nor opportunity neglected for making the Museum in their charge a complete exponent of the state in all the departments of science and economical industry covered by the law creating it.

The Museum already contains a fine collection of minerals, samples of rock and building stones from different parts of the state, a good collection of fossils of the Trenton Formation, a collection of soils from different portions of the state, a number of stuffed mammals, a set of Ward's casts of fossils, a collection of marine and fresh water invertebrates, several skeletons of birds, over a hundred bird skins, native to the state, several hundred species of Minnesota plants, and a variety of miscellaneous objects of interest and curiosity. These, however, constitute but a beginning of what is to be done. Most of these even, are not yet on exhibition.

The collections are constantly increasing, by donation, exchange and purchase, as well as by the geological survey of the state. It is hoped that all will take sufficient interest in the University, and the great work it is accomplishing, to contribute to the Museum whatever and whenever any opportunity occurs.

Expenses of transportation will be paid by the University.

Correspondence should be addressed to the curator,

N. H. WINCHELL.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, }
Sept. 3, 1877. }

