

University of the State of New York.

THE
THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FACULTY

OF THE
College of the City of New York

TO THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

DECEMBER, 1882.

NEW YORK:
WYNKOOP & HALLENBECK, PRINTERS, 121 FULTON STREET.

1882.

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FACULTY

OF THE

College of the City of New York

TO THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 1, 1882.

To the Board of Trustees of the College of the City of New York:

The Committee appointed to prepare the Annual Report to the Trustees of this College, respectfully submit the following for the consideration of the Faculty, and unanimously recommend its adoption.

CHARLES G. HERBERMANN, SOLOMON WOOLF, JAMES WEIR MASON,	} Committee of the Faculty.
---	--------------------------------

On motion, the Report was adopted, and the President and Secretary were directed to sign and transmit the same to the Board of Trustees.

ADOLPH WERNER,

Secretary to the Faculty.

REPORT.

To the Board of Trustees of the College of the City of New York :

GENTLEMEN—In compliance with section 19 of the Manual of the College, the Faculty herewith submit their report for the year ending June 30, 1882.

On Commencement Day, June 29, 1881, there were on the rolls of the College 882 students, classified as follows :

In the Senior Class.....	47
“ Junior “	68
“ Sophomore Class.....	123
“ Freshman “	171
“ Sub-Freshman Class { Coll., 285 } { One year, 188 }	473
	<hr/>
	882

During the first term, ending January 27th, 1882, there left, or were dismissed—

From the Senior Class.....	2
“ Junior “	15
“ Sophomore Class.....	24
“ Freshman “	26
“ Sub-Freshman Class { Coll. 17 } { One year, 28 }	45
	<hr/>
Total.....	112

During the second term, ending in June, there left, or were dismissed—

From the Senior Class,	0
“ Junior “	1
“ Sophomore Class,	10
“ Freshman “	14
“ Introductory “ Coll. 27 } Com. 47 }	74
	<hr/>
Total,	99

The examination for admission took place June 5th, and June 6th, and June 7th. Of the 870 applicants, 401 were admitted on probation to the Sub-Freshman Class.

The examination for advancement was held from May 31st to June 2d, and from June 12th to 16th inclusive. When the results had been ascertained and collated, 44 members of the Senior Class were recommended to your Board for graduation. Of the

Junior Class 42 were advanced.

Sophomore Class 67 “ “

Freshman “ 79 “ “

Introductory “ 154 “ “ and

43 left from the Commercial division, receiving certificates that they had completed the prescribed course to the satisfaction of the Faculty.

To-day the 44 Seniors recommended by the Faculty were graduated. There are left on the rolls of the College 874 students, viz. :

In the Senior Class		45
“ Junior “		71
“ Sophomore Class		93
“ Freshman “		198
“ Introductory “	Coll. 308 { Com. 159 }	467
Total,		874

For the names of the Students admitted, as required by the Manual, the Faculty respectfully refer you to the Thirty-fourth Annual Register of the College of the City of New York.

The Faculty begs leave to invite your consideration of the last two Merit Rolls of the College. You will find therein ample proof that the students in the upper classes continue to attain a high degree of scholarship, and to do credit to their Alma Mater and the gentlemen intrusted with her government. The members of the graduating class deserve especial mention, and, like their predecessors, will no doubt do honor to the College in the calling which they may choose.

The Faculty regrets, however, that there is a falling off in scholarship in the Sub-Freshman class for the past two years. This appears from Exhibit A, herewith submitted. The classes are composed of the candidates admitted under the system of examination ordered by your Board in June, 1880, and 1881. Former classes were admitted under rules established by the Faculty, and based upon long years of experience. The decline spoken of may seem strange, for many are under the impression that by the change of rules the standard of admission was raised from 50 to 75 per cent. This supposition, however, is not in ac-

cordance with the facts. Before 1880 admission did not depend on any percentage of the average of all the marks received by the candidate at the examination. Those who received less than 50 per cent in three subjects out of seven were rejected, no matter how high their standing in other branches or how high their general average. If any candidate received less than 45 per cent in two subjects, or less than 35 per cent in any, he was not admitted. Experience has shown that a candidate may receive 75 per cent of the general average, and still fall below 45 per cent in the essential studies.

These rules were based on the view that the purpose of the examination for admission is to determine, as far as possible, whether the candidate is able or not to pursue the College course successfully. The Faculty has been thoroughly convinced that all subjects of study do not deserve equal weight in deciding this question. For instance, drawing and writing, however valuable in their own way, are hardly proof of a clear judgment or a retentive memory, or of power of verbal expression. Many great men have been notoriously bad spellers. Failure in history and geography, if due to lack of memory, should cause rejection, but lads with very excellent memories often fail in these studies because they rely too much on their good memory. Besides, neither history nor geography is studied in the higher classes of the Grammar Schools except by way of review for the College examination. Success in arithmetic, algebra or grammar, is a proof not only of a fair memory, but also of the intelligence and judgment so indispensable for the higher studies in College. Moreover, these branches are respectively the basis of the mathematical and linguistic studies pursued in College. A poor arith-

metician will probably break down in his mathematics; a poor grammarian is almost certain to fail in his linguistic studies. If these views be founded in reason, they explain the falling off in scholarship of the last two classes. For a candidate may be very weak in arithmetic and grammar, and still secure an average of 75 per cent in all the subjects, if he chance to receive high marks in drawing, spelling, and the memory studies. On the other hand, a lad with a high record in arithmetic and grammar may fail to receive the required 75 per cent if he be a bad draughtsman and should have only medium marks in other studies.

Since these views have been confirmed by experience and observation, the Faculty has deemed it to be its duty to lay them before you.

From the foundation of the College the study of the vernacular has always held a very important place in its curriculum. Following out this tradition the Faculty desires to suggest still further improvements in this direction. At present the Seniors and Juniors write only two English compositions annually, the Sophomores three, and the Freshmen four. Practice, all allow, is the chief means of acquiring mastery in the art of composition. Hence the Faculty is of opinion that the number of compositions should be increased, and the students of the before mentioned classes be required to write at least six compositions every year. Of course these compositions should be carefully corrected by a competent instructor, who should also from time to time verbally explain the correction thus made. As it takes at least half an hour to correct a composition thoroughly, and nearly as much more to explain verbally to the student the reasons for the corrections, it will require not less than eighteen hundred hours per

annum to perform the work required by correction and explanation.

Your Honorable Board will readily perceive that this extra amount of labor cannot be performed by the force of instructors at present employed. The faculty therefore feel justified in recommending that additional instructors be appointed for this most necessary work; and as your Honorable Board has always manifested a sincere desire to improve the course of study in the College, the Faculty are confident that this recommendation will meet with your approval.

EXHIBIT A.

Under the Faculty rules in the years

1874-5, 26 % of the Sub-Freshman Class received
more than 80 %; in

1875-6, 24 %; in

1876-7, 19 %; in

1877-8, 20 %; in

1878-9, 20 %; and in

1879-80, 29 %; an

average of..... $\frac{225}{17}$ %.

Under the 75 % rule, in the years

1880-1, 17 % of the same class received more than
80 %; in

1881-2, 17 %; an

average of.....17 %.

Under the Faculty rules in the years

1874-5, 12 % of the Sub-Freshman Class received less than 60 %; in

1875-6, 14 %; in

1876-7, 17 %; in

1877-8, 17 %; in

1878-9, 18 %; in

1879-80, 10 %; an

average of $14\frac{3}{4}$ %.

Under the 75 % rule in the years

1880-81, 14 % received less than 60 %, and in

1881-2, 25 %; an

average of $19\frac{1}{2}$ %.

Hence it appears—

1st. That during the last eight years there were never so few excellent scholars (above 80 per cent) admitted, as during the last two years under the 75 per cent rule.

2d. That during the same period there were never so many poor scholars (below 60 per cent) admitted as in June, 1881, under the 75 per cent rule.

3d. That comparing the average of students who received more than 80 per cent for the last two years with the average of the same students during the previous six years, there is a difference of 6 per cent in favor of candidates who were admitted under the Faculty rules.

4th. That making the same comparison in the case of students

who fall below 60 per cent there is a difference of 5 per cent in favor of the same candidates.

5th. That the method pursued at the examinations in June 1880 and 1881, to determine what students should enter the College does not recommend itself to the Faculty as being the best for ascertaining the fitness of candidates for admission.

ALEX. S. WEBB,
President.

ADOLPH WERNER,
Secretary.