

REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FREE ACADEMY.

The Executive Committee for the care, management and government of the Free Academy, respectfully report to the Board of Education the results of the recent examinations.

The examination of the students in the institution occupied about two weeks, commencing January 21st, and ending January 31st.

The progress made in the various departments during the past term, is, on the whole, highly satisfactory, both as to extent and accuracy. Nothing could be desired beyond what has been accomplished by a very large number of the pupils. There has been great industry exhibited throughout the term. The students seem to be attached to the institution, and anxious to improve the privileges they have secured to themselves. The discipline has been managed with the utmost vigilance and efficiency, and has resulted in the maintenance of admirable good order.

The advantages of the course that has been adopted, to advance those only who are found fully qualified for promotion, and allow the others to repeat the studies of the term over which they have just passed, have been demonstrated by the results. Those students from the class admitted at the opening of the academy, who were turned back at the July examination, have not shown any symptoms of discouragement, but, on the contrary, have been stimulated to use their best exertions. Some of good minds, who had not received before entering the intellectual discipline requisite for high success, or who, from absences or any other cause, were unable to maintain their position, have, during the second term, taken high rank in their class. They will, by reason of the privilege that has been afforded them, be distinguished throughout their course in the institution; whereas, if they had been promoted *en masse*, they would have occupied a low standing, and derived comparatively little advantage from their subsequent studies. They would, also, have operated as a clog upon the progress of their fellows.

The question whether a student is qualified to be advanced, is not determined solely by the examination at the close of the term, but the merit of the exercises throughout the term is taken into view in connection with the examination.

Class A—the highest class—numbered at the date of the examination sixty-seven, of these forty-two have been advanced and twenty-five will repeat the same course they have been pursuing during the last term, and will join class B.

The following students of class A are reported to the Board as having specially distinguished themselves, and are named in the order of merit:

- No. 1—John Hardy.
- “ 2—Andrew McGlynn.
- “ 3—John Overhiser.
- “ 4—Benjamin Rayner.
- “ 5—Joseph Young.
- “ 6—Stephen Weed.
- “ 7—Joseph Jewett.

The number of students in class B at the date of the examination, was 95. Of these fifty-four have been advanced. Forty have been turned back, and will join class C.

The following six students of class B are reported as having specially distinguished themselves:

- No. 1—Edward Corwin.
- “ 2—Alonzo Crampton.
- “ 3—George Williams.
- “ 4—Ezekiel Ludlum.
- “ 5—George McCartin.
- “ 6—Theodore Irving Husted.

Five students who were turned back at the July examination have now been turned back the second time. No particular rule has been adopted with reference to such cases, and experience may demonstrate that it is not necessary to make any special enactment respecting them.

The third semi-annual examination for the admission of students commenced February 4th, and ter-

minated February 12th. One hundred and twenty-six candidates were presented, of whom seventy-four were rejected, and fifty-two were admitted as having passed a good examination in all the studies prescribed by the rules regulating the admission of pupils. Of those admitted, seventeen are from the public schools, and thirty-five from the ward schools, as follows:

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

	No. Exam'd.	No. Rejected.	No. Admitted.
Public School			
No. 1....	4	1	3
2....	5	4	1
7....	1	0	1
8....	15	13	2
11....	1	1	0
12....	1	1	0
13....	2	2	0
14....	2	1	1
15 ...	9	4	5
16....	9	7	2
17....	4	2	2
	—	—	—
Total.....	53	36	17

WARD SCHOOLS.

	No. Exam'd.	No. Rejected.	No. Admitted.
Ward School			
No. 2....	6	5	1
3....	12	3	9
5....	2	1	1
10....	4	2	2
14....	6	4	2
16....	6	3	3
17....	2	2	0
18....	5	5	0
20....	20	9	11
21....	1	0	1
22....	2	1	1
23....	6	3	3
24....	1	0	1
	—	—	—
Total....	72	38	35

The examination for admission has been conducted strictly—more carefully, perhaps, than at either of the previous examinations. Although the proportion and number admitted do not vary much from the results of the July examination, there is in some particulars a marked improvement noticeable in the preparation of the candidates generally. In comparing the results of the examination of the pupils presented from the various schools, allowances are to be made in respect to several considerations. The admission of a large number from a school affords, of course, indisputable evidence of excellent preparation. The rejection of a large number from any particular school does not always afford certain evidence of the inferiority of said school. The teachers are not at liberty to refuse giving certificates to any who choose to apply for them, and have been in the common schools for the period of twelve months. And thus many candidates are sent forward that the teachers would not have presented for examination, if the matter had been left within their control.

The certificate of the Principal of the Free Academy, giving the names of the pupils found qualified and admitted, is submitted herewith.

The average age of those admitted is fourteen years. The average length of time that they have been pupils in the common schools of this city, as far as can be ascertained from the certificates, is two years and ten months.

The number of students admitted at the July examination was fifty-eight, three of whom did not join the class. The number in the institution at the commencement of the term, was 191. Twenty-nine

having since left, six from class A, and twenty-three from class B; there remained at the close of the term 162. One of those who left went back to school, and entered again at the recent examination, and one or two others left with the same design. Fifty-two new students having been admitted at the recent examination, the whole number now in the institution is two hundred and fourteen. They are classified as follows:

Class A.....			42
Class B.	{	Turned back from Class A.....	25
	{	Advanced	54— 79
Class C.	{	One Advanced in Class B. who chose to repeat the course.....	1
	{	Turned back from Class B.....	40
	{	New students admitted.....	52— 93

The portion of class A who have been pursuing the study of the French language, eleven in number, have been afforded the opportunity of commencing the study of another language, if they desired so to do. They were allowed to select Spanish or German, and have all chosen Spanish. Three of the five language recitations per week will be in French and two in Spanish.

The portion of class A, pursuing the study of the ancient languages, thirty-one in number, have been afforded the opportunity of election between the Greek language and the Spanish or German. Twenty-four have chosen Greek, and seven Spanish. Three of the five language recitations per week to this portion of the class will be in Latin, and two recitations in Greek or Spanish.

The Spanish class consists of eighteen, eleven from the French portion, and seven from the Latin portion of class A, as above stated.

The same unbiassed freedom of choice, as to the study of languages, that has been allowed heretofore, has been presented to the new students. They were requested to consult their parents or guardians, and report whether they would commence the study of Latin or of French, or enter upon an extra course of English studies. The result is similar to what it has been at the two previous admissions. No student has been willing to forego the opportunity of acquiring the knowledge of another language. A single student at first expressed his determination to pursue the extra English course, but reconsidered and changed his purpose the next day. Of the fifty-two new students admitted, thirty-seven have chosen Latin, and fifteen French.

A gold medal, to be paid for from the income of the endowment made by Duncan C. Pell, Esq., will be awarded, at the next examination, to that student, who, during the term, shall have been most distinguished for general scholarship. The committee are informed by the President of the Board, that the fund (five hundred dollars) has been invested by the Trustees in six per cent. Ohio State Stock, payable in 1870.

Hon. James Brooks, member of Congress from the 6th Congressional District, has placed at the disposal of the Principal and Professors of the Free Academy, the selection of a West Point cadet, "from among the scholars whose capacity, qualifications, love of order, and obedience to law, entitle them to aspire to the

honor of serving their country, first in the army, and it may be, hereafter, in the highest departments of civil life." It will be necessary to make the selection about the first of March next. The opportunity will be offered strictly according to the order of their position in the institution, to those students who, as respects age, height, health and other particulars, are admissible under the regulations of the West Point Academy.

The Committee intimated in their report of the result of the July examinations, that it might be found convenient to introduce the study of Book-keeping during the year. As there may be an opportunity of doing so soon, and as it is desirable to introduce the branch at as early a period in the course as practicable, a resolution is submitted to the consideration of the Board, giving authority to engage the services of an Instructor in Book-keeping.

New York, February 20th, 1850.

ROBT KELLY,
 THOMAS DENNY,
 J. S. BOSWORTH,
 SAMUEL A. CRAPO.
 WILLIAM T. PINKNEY.

Executive Committee for the Care, Management and Government of the Free Academy.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Free Academy are hereby authorized to engage the services of an Instructor in Book-keeping, and arrange the terms of his compensation.