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29th CONGRESS,
2d Session.

[SENATE.]

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1847
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

REPORT

FROM

THE BOARD OF REGENTS,

SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS,

Of the operations, expenditures, and condition of the Smithsonian Institution.

MARCH 3, 1847.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States :

In obedience to the act of Congress "to establish the Smithsonian Institution for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men," the Board of Regents submit to Congress a report of the "operations, expenditures, and condition of the institution."

On the day prescribed by the act creating the institution, the Regents assembled in the city of Washington, and proceeded to the execution of the duties assigned to them. For an account of their organization, and the measures thereafter adopted by the Board of Regents to give effect to the provisions of the act of their creation, and to the intentions of the Testator, they submit the following, (being all the material portions of the journal of their proceedings,) as the best and fullest exposition of their transactions, and of the present condition of the institution.

G. M. DALLAS, *Chancellor.*

JOSEPH HENRY, *Secretary.*

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Journal of proceedings of the regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

At a meeting of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, held at the city of Washington, on Monday, the 7th day of September, anno Domini 1846, present—

Hon. George M. Dallas, Vice President of the United States ;
 Hon. R. B. Taney, Chief Justice ;
 Hon. Wm. W. Seaton, Mayor of the city of Washington ;
 Hon. George Evans, Senator ;
 Hon. Isaac S. Pennybacker, Senator ;
 Hon. Robert Dale Owen, Representative ;
 Hon. Wm. J. Hough, Representative ;
 Hon. Henry W. Hilliard, Representative ;
 Hon. Rufus Choate, of Mass., Citizen at large ;
 Gideon Hawley, LL.D., of New York, Citizen at large ;
 Hon. Richard Rush, of Penn., Citizen at large ;
 Alexander Dallas Bache, LL.D., National Institute ;
 Col. Joseph G. Totten, National Institute.

For the purpose of a preliminary organization of said board, Hon. George M. Dallas was appointed President, and Hon. Wm. J. Hough Secretary.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the President appoint a suitable person doorkeeper, who shall also act as messenger of said board during the present session.

Whereupon, the President appointed William McPeak doorkeeper and messenger.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Rules and Orders of the Senate of the United States be adopted as the Rules and Orders for the government of this board, until others shall be adopted in their stead.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Secretary of this institution, hereafter to be elected, procure from the Department of State a copy of the joint resolution of the two houses of Congress by which a portion of the regents of this institution were appointed; and that he also procure from the Secretary of the Senate and from the Clerk of the House of Representatives, respectively, a certificate of the appointment of the regents from their respective houses, and file the same in the office of the Secretary of said institution.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That all further action of this board in relation to the election of officers be postponed until to-morrow.

On motion, the board adjourned to to-morrow.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1846.

The Board of Regents met pursuant to adjournment.

Present, the same regents named in yesterday's proceedings, except Mr. Totten, who is absent in consequence of sickness.

On motion, the board then proceeded to the election of a Chancellor, by ballot; and, upon counting the ballots, it appeared that Hon. George M. Dallas was unanimously elected.

On motion, the board then proceeded to elect a member thereof Secretary of said Board of Regents and of the Smithsonian Institution; and, upon counting the ballots, it appeared that William J. Hough was elected.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Secretary do now prepare six ballots, on two of which the word "two" shall be written, on two others the word "four," and on the remaining two the word "six;" and that each of the regents appointed by joint resolution of Congress of the 10th August, 1846, draw one of said ballots; and the regents who draw the ballots with the word "two" thereon shall hold their offices of regents for the term of two years; the regents who draw the ballots with the word "four" thereon shall hold their offices for the term of four years; and the regents who draw the ballots with the word "six" thereon shall hold their offices for the term of six years, in conformity with the act to establish the "Smithsonian Institution for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men," approved August 10, 1846.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Chancellor draw the ballot for any regent who is not present.

The ballots were prepared and drawn, as provided in the foregoing resolutions, and resulted as follows:

- Mr. Choate drew for two years;
- Mr. Hawley drew for two years;
- Mr. Rush drew for four years;
- Mr. Totten drew for four years;
- Mr. Bache drew for six years;
- Mr. Preston drew for six years.

The board then proceeded to the election of an Executive Committee, by ballot; and, upon counting the ballots, it appeared that Mr. Owen, Mr. Seaton, and Mr. Totten were elected.

It was then

Resolved, That William W. Seaton be, and he is hereby, appointed chairman of said Executive Committee.

It was further

Resolved, That the chairman of the Executive Committee be the disbursing officer, for the payment of the expenses of the regents, and other contingent and incidental expenses of the sessions of the board, and be authorized to receive from the proper officer of the Treasury Department whatever sum may be certified by the Chancellor and Secretary to be necessary for that purpose.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Secretary be authorized to employ a recording clerk, as an assistant in the discharge of his duties, whose compensation shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

[In compliance with the seventh section of the act of Congress establishing the Smithsonian Institution, and with the foregoing resolution, the Secretary appointed Benjamin B. French, esq., Assistant Secretary and Recording Clerk of the institution.]

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Secretary be authorized to procure a book, in which the proceedings of the board shall be recorded; and a description of the

site selected by the board, set out by metes and bounds, shall be made and signed by the regents present, and shall have also appended the assent of the President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Commissioner of the Patent Office, to the same. And the Secretary shall also record in the same the will of James Smithson; the original act of Congress accepting the trust; the law establishing the existing institution; the resolution of Congress appointing regents of the Smithsonian Institution; also, the certificates of the Secretary of the Senate and of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, respectively, as to the regents appointed from their respective houses.

On motion,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chancellor, from the members of the board, to digest a plan to carry out the provisions of the act to establish the Smithsonian Institution, and that they report the same to the next meeting of the board.

Whereupon, the Chancellor appointed Mr. Owen, Mr. Hilliard, and Mr. Bache said committee.

The following preamble and resolution were offered and agreed to:

Whereas the act to establish the Smithsonian Institution prescribes an appropriation, not exceeding an average of twenty-five thousand dollars annually, for the gradual formation of a library, composed of valuable books pertaining to all departments of human knowledge: Therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed, to prepare a report upon the subject of the formation of such a library, indicating its general character and the modes of proceeding to accumulate it; and to present such report at the next regular meeting of the board.

Whereupon, the Chancellor appointed Mr. Choate, Mr. Hawley, and Mr. Rush said committee.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1846.

The board met pursuant to adjournment.

Present, the same regents as yesterday.

Mr. Owen presented to the board, in behalf of David D. Owen, M. D., of Indiana, a plan, drawings, and specifications of a building for said institution.

Mr. Owen also presented a plan and drawings for the same from Mr. Robert Mills, architect, of Washington.

On motion,

Resolved, That the Chancellor and Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents be, and they are hereby, authorized and instructed to take such measures as may be deemed by them most proper to obtain plans for the erection of buildings, fulfilling all the conditions in reference to them contained in the law organizing this institution, and that said committee report such plan as they may approve to this board, at its next meeting; and further, that said committee specially report in regard to the best material for said buildings, and to the best modes of warming, lighting, and ventilating the same, with estimates of the cost when constructed of different mate-

rials; and that they further report in regard to such other matters as they may consider important in the premises.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this board be offered to David Dale Owen, M. D., of Indiana, for the plans of buildings for the Smithsonian Institution, presented on his behalf; and that said plans, with the correspondence explanatory of the same, and any other plans which may be presented to this board, be referred to the committee just named.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the committee appointed to report at the next session are authorized to purchase such works, per account of the board, on architecture, bibliography, and the like, as they may deem necessary to enable them to perform the duties of their appointment; to visit any structures and collections in this country; and also to avail themselves of the suggestions of other skilful persons, and to offer therefor, if necessary, such remuneration as the regents may choose subsequently to make.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the regular meetings of the Board of Regents shall be on the second Wednesday of December and the third Wednesday of February in each year; and on the first Wednesday of June in each alternate year, commencing with the first Wednesday of June in the year 1848.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That Mr. Rush be a committee to ascertain, through the solicitors formerly employed by him on behalf of the United States in the suit to obtain the Smithsonian bequest, or otherwise, whether Madam De la Batut still survives; and if not, what steps are necessary to be taken to obtain the fund reverting to the United States at her death; being a portion of the original property of James Smithson retained by the English court of chancery, in order to furnish, in the shape of interest, an annuity to the said Madam De la Batut. And further, in case the said Madam De la Batut survives, to adopt measures by which her decease may be communicated to the board whenever that event may occur. And that Mr. Rush report to the Executive Committee the legal charge thus incurred, which the said committee is hereby authorized to pay.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the subject of the selection of a site be referred to the committee on the buildings constituted at this meeting, to report at an adjourned meeting of this board.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That when this board adjourn, it adjourn to meet at the Vice President's room, in the Capitol, on the last Monday of November next, at 12 o'clock, noon.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That Mr. Choate and Mr. Pennybacker be added to the committee appointed yesterday to digest a plan to carry out the provisions of the act establishing the Smithsonian Institution.

It was

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested, without unnecessary delay, to collect, on behalf of the institution, all the documents, Congressional and others, connected with the history of the Smithsonian bequest, and

of its legislation, and cause them to be substantially bound, as a commencement of its library.

William Archer, architect, of the city of Washington, presented to the board a plan and drawings for a building for the institution, together with specifications and estimates of cost, &c.; which were referred to the Committee on Buildings.

And then the board adjourned until the last Monday in November next.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1846.

Agreeably to their adjournment on the 9th day of September last, a meeting of the regents of the Smithsonian Institution was held at the room of the Vice President of the United States, in the Capitol.

George M. Dallas, the Chancellor, (and one of the regents,) and the following regents, appeared, viz: William W. Seaton, Isaac S. Pennybacker, Sidney Breese, Robert Dale Owen, William J. Hough, Henry W. Hilliard, Richard Rush, Gideon Hawley, Alexander Dallas Bache, and Joseph G. Totten.

Messrs. Hough, Seaton, Totten, Rush, and the Chancellor, each presented sundry letters, recommendations, &c., relative to applications for the office of secretary of the institution; which were severally placed upon file for future consideration.

The Chancellor, from the committee appointed at the last session of the Board of Regents "to obtain plans for the erection of buildings," to consider as to materials, the warming and lighting the buildings, &c., made the following report, accompanied by sundry letters from Mr. David Dale Owen and Professors Silliman and Fowler, in relation to the selection of material for the erection of the institution building.

The undersigned, a committee appointed by the board at its session on the 9th of September last, respectfully report:

In order "to obtain plans for the erection of buildings," to form some judgment "in regard to the best material for said buildings," and to ascertain "the best modes of warming, lighting, and ventilating the same," the committee took the following measures.

With a view to give, as extensively and rapidly as possible, notice to the architects of the country of the objects and duties of the committee, the resolution by which they were constituted was published in the newspapers of this city on the 22d day of September, 1846.

The shortness of time, however, rendering it probable that no satisfactory communications would be received from architects before the present meeting of the board, the committee entered upon a tour of personal inspection, hoping to accumulate information that might guide the board in the choice of a plan for building; and Mr. Owen, Mr. Hough, and Col. Totten visited our principal cities, examined many if not all of their most noted structures, had conferences with several of their architects eminent for science and success, collected specimens of the best stone material, and obtained data upon which to "estimate the cost of the contemplated building when constructed of different materials."

At the city of Philadelphia, the Girard College, the Eastern Penitentiary, the House of Refuge, the hall of the Mercantile Library Company, the Exchange, the Custom-house, (formerly the Bank of the United States,) and the Athenæum, now being built, were visited.

Mr. Strickland and Mr. Walter were called upon, but were unfortunately absent from the city. Mr. Haviland was also called upon; but not being seen, all necessary information was sent to him through his son. Mr. Notman was seen and repeatedly conversed with.

At the city of Trenton, the State Lunatic Asylum, and the old but renovated State-house, were visited.

In examining these edifices, advantage was derived from the constant presence and intelligent remarks of Mr. Notman.

At the city of New York, Grace Church, Calvary Church, the Church of the Puritans, the Tombs, Trinity Church, the University, Dr. Potts's Church, the Muhlenburg Church, Mr. Bellows's Church, the Church of the Pilgrims, and several other churches, were visited. Much valuable information was obtained at consultations with Mr. Renwick, accompanied by his father, Professor Renwick; Mr. Upjohn, Mr. Warren, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Mountain, Mr. Wells, Mr. Arnot, and Mr. Jewett. Mr. Hough took occasion to visit also the marble quarry at Hastings, and several other quarries in the vicinity of New York.

At the city of Boston, the Masonic Temple, the Howard Street Athenæum, the new Custom-house, the Merchants' Exchange, the new Theatre, and other structures, were visited. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Young were the architects conferred with.

At the city of Cincinnati, interviews were had with Mr. Daniels and Mr. Walter.

During the visits thus briefly sketched, a series of letters were written by Mr. Owen to Mr. Seaton, embodying the fruits of each day's exertion, and communicating very many details of great interest. These are best submitted to the board in their original form: the committee therefore annex them to this report.

Valuable letters have been received from David Dale Owen, Professor Silliman, and Professor Fowler, in relation specially to the comparative merits of marble and sandstone: these also are annexed, for the inspection of the board.

In order still further to assist the judgment of the board on the important point of the choice of material for the building, the committee have caused several sample walls of different stone to be thrown up for their examination.

It will be perceived, by the correspondence of Mr. Owen, that the architects with whom he conferred are required to transmit their several plans to the board by the 25th of December next. Until they are received, no definite choice can be made; and as "*the best material*," and "*the best modes of lighting and ventilating*," together with "*estimates of the cost*," could, in the opinion of the committee, only be safely determined by reference to the plan finally adopted, they have abstained from treating those points further than they are touched upon in the annexed correspondence.

"The selection of a site" is a subject also referred to this committee; but as it was made a matter of personal examination by the whole board at their last meeting, the committee respectfully confine themselves to reporting the following resolution:

Resolved, That the regents of the Smithsonian Institution do select and adopt as the site for their buildings so much of the Mall, in the city of Washington, as lies between Seventh street and the river Potomac, if

the consent of the persons named in the fourth section of the act to establish the Smithsonian Institution for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men be obtained thereto; and that upon such consent being obtained in due form, the Secretary is hereby instructed to cause the said ground so selected to be set out by proper metes and bounds.

All which is submitted by

G. M. DALLAS, *Chairman.*
 WM. J. HOUGH.
 ROBERT DALE OWEN.
 JOS. G. TOTTEN.
 W. W. SEATON.

WASHINGTON, *November 30, 1846.*

It remains to state that the committee of five appointed to "obtain plans for the erection of buildings," &c., unanimously selected, out of thirteen that were submitted to them by some of the principal architects throughout the country, two by Mr. James Renwick, jr., of New York city, the architect of Grace Church, the Church of the Puritans, Calvary Church, and other structures in and near New York; and they recommended to the board for adoption one of these, being a design in the later Norman, or, as it may with more strict propriety be called, the Lombard style, as it prevailed in Germany, Normandy, and in southern Europe, in the twelfth century. The design comprises a centre building, with two wings, connected with the main building by low ranges and a cloister. The entire front is 421 feet, and the extreme depth in the centre, including the carriage porch, 153 feet. The height of the principal tower is 145 feet, and that of the main building, to the summit of the battlement, 58 feet. The design includes all the accommodations demanded by the charter, to wit: a museum, 200 feet by 50; a library, 90 feet by 50; a gallery of art, in the form of a T, 125 feet long; two lecture rooms, one of which is capable of containing from 800 to 1,000 persons, and the other is connected with the chemical laboratory; a committee room for the Board of Regents; a Secretary's room; a room for the effects of Mr. Smithson; a Janitor's room, &c.

The contracts are not yet made; but the building committee hope to complete the structure, and to fit up and furnish the same, not only without encroachment on the capital of the institution, which by the act organizing the institution is expressly forbidden, but so as to leave a considerable portion of the amount specially set apart by that act for building unexpended.

The material for the exterior of the building has not yet been selected. The board has authorized the publication, by the building committee, of a small volume, which will give to the public the design of the building, and all important particulars regarding materials, &c.

The resolution accompanying the report was taken up for consideration; and pending the question on the adoption thereof,

The board adjourned until to morrow, at 12 o'clock, meridian.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1846.

Mr. Evans, one of the regents, appeared.

The Chancellor laid before the board the following letter from Chief Justice Taney, a regent of the institution:

BALTIMORE, November 28, 1846.

DEAR SIR: I regret that it will not be in my power to attend the meeting of the regents of the Smithsonian Institution on Monday next. The circuit court for the district of Maryland has been in session since the beginning of this month, and must continue in session all of next week, in order to dispose of the business before it. Be good enough to mention to the board the cause of my absence, and believe me to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

R. B. TANEY.

GEORGE M. DALLAS,
Vice President of the United States, Washington.

Mr. Breese presented sundry letters and recommendations relative to applications for office, agencies for the purchase of books, &c., which were placed on file for future consideration.

Mr. Rush, from the committee appointed to ascertain whether Madam De la Batut still survives, and if not, what steps are necessary to obtain the remainder of the Smithsonian fund reverting to the United States at her death, and if she is still living, what steps are necessary to obtain the fund at her death, made a report thereon in part, stating that he had written to Messrs. Clarke, Fynmore, and Fladgate, solicitors, residing in London, making the proper inquiries, but had received no answer.

Mr. Owen, from the Committee on the Organization of the Institution, made a report, accompanied by a series of resolutions, which were read.

The board proceeded to the consideration of the resolution pending yesterday when the board adjourned.

Mr. Seaton proposed that the same be amended, by inserting after the word "Potomac" the following:

"Intending to authorize the erection of a monument to George Washington, by the Washington Monument Association, on a part of the said site, which lies between Fourteenth street and the river."

Mr. Evans moved that the said amendment be amended by substituting therefor the following: "subject to the power of Congress to grant any portion of the same west of Fourteenth street to the Washington Monument Society, for the purpose of erecting a monument thereon;" which Mr. Seaton accepted.

The amendment was then agreed to, and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

And so it was

Resolved, That the regents of the Smithsonian Institution do select and adopt, as the site for their buildings, so much of the Mall, in the city of Washington, as lies between Seventh street and the river Potomac, subject to the power of Congress to grant any portion of the same west of Fourteenth street to the Washington Monument Society, for the purpose of erecting a monument thereon, if the consent of the persons named in the fourth section of the act to establish the Smithsonian Institution for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men be obtained thereto; and that, upon such consent being obtained in due form, the Secretary is hereby instructed to cause the said ground so selected to be set out by proper metes and bounds.

On motion of Mr. Evans,

Ordered, That the committee on the selection of a site be instructed

to wait upon the President of the United States, and lay before him a certified copy of said resolution; and that the Secretary communicate a copy of the same to each of the officers mentioned in the act of Congress establishing the institution.

On motion of Mr. Evans,

Ordered, That the Chancellor and each chairman of a committee be a committee to prepare "a report of the operations, expenditures, and condition of the institution," for submission to Congress, agreeably to the third section of the act establishing the same.

The board adjourned until to-morrow, at 12 o'clock, meridian.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1846.

Mr. Choate, one of the regents, appeared.

A motion was made by Mr. Breese to reconsider the vote by which the board yesterday adopted the resolution selecting and adopting a site for their buildings.

After debate,

The motion of Mr. Breese was postponed until to-morrow.

The resolutions reported yesterday by Mr. Owen, from the Committee on Organization, came up in order for consideration.

At the suggestion of Mr. Choate that he wished to examine the report accompanying them,

On motion of Mr. Owen, they were further postponed until to-morrow.

Mr. Breese laid on the table the following resolution:

Resolved, That at one o'clock, p. m., to-morrow, the board will proceed to the election of a secretary of the institution.

The board adjourned until to-morrow, at 12 o'clock, meridian.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1846.

Mr. Choate, from the committee appointed at the meeting of the regents in September in relation to the formation of a library, made a report, which was read and laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Owen, the resolutions accompanying the report made by him from the Committee on Organization were taken up for consideration.

Mr. Owen moved that the board proceed to consider the resolution relative to the qualifications of secretary, and numbered 13;

Which motion was agreed to.

The said resolution was then read, as follows:

[No. 13] *Resolved*, That it is essential, for the advancement of the proper interests of the trust, that the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution be a man possessing weight of character, and a high grade of talent; and that it is further desirable that he possess eminent scientific and general acquirements; that he be a man capable of advancing science and promoting letters by original research and effort, well qualified to act as a respected channel of communication between the institution and scientific and literary individuals and societies in this and foreign countries; and, in a word, a man worthy to represent before the world of science and of letters the institution over which this board presides.

And the question being put on agreeing to the same,
It was decided in the affirmative.

The remainder of the resolutions were then postponed for the present.

On motion of Mr. Owen,

The board then proceeded to elect a secretary by ballot, when it appeared that there were twelve votes cast, of which Professor Joseph Henry, of Princeton, New Jersey, had a majority, and was declared by the Chancellor duly elected Secretary of the institution.

The board proceeded to the consideration of the motion made by Mr. Breese yesterday, that the vote by which the resolution adopting a site for the buildings of the institution be reconsidered.

And the question being put, Will the board reconsider the said vote?
It was decided in the negative.

So the said resolution stands adopted.

The board adjourned until 10 o'clock, a. m., to-morrow.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1846.

The board proceeded to the consideration of the resolutions accompanying the report of the Committee on Organization; when

The following of the said resolutions (numbered as they were reported) were read and agreed to, viz :

[No. 3.] *Resolved*, That the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, of War, and of the Navy of the United States, be respectfully invited to furnish to consuls and other public officers, in this and foreign countries, under their respective departments, such suggestions as they may deem proper in regard to the procurement, as opportunity offers, of additions to the museum of the institution, especially to its ethnological department; that three hundred copies of this report, when printed, be placed at the disposal of each of the above named Secretaries, as an explanation to these public functionaries of the views of the institution in regard to a museum; and that five hundred dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of the accruing interests, to pay transportation or other expenses connected with the transmission from foreign parts to Washington of any collections thus made; and to such contributions, when placed in the museum, the name of the officer obtaining and forwarding the same shall in all cases be appended.

[No. 4.] *Resolved*, That the Secretary of War be respectfully invited to furnish to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs such suggestions as he may deem proper regarding the procurement from the Indian country of collections for the museum of the Smithsonian Institution, illustrating the natural history of the country, and more especially the physical history, manners and customs, of the various tribes of aborigines on the North American continent; that one hundred copies of this report, when printed, be placed at his disposal, as a means of informing the various Indian agents of the special character of the collections desired; and that the sum of five hundred dollars be, and the same is hereby, annually appropriated, out of the accruing interests of the Smithsonian Institution, for the procurement and transportation of such Indian collections; and, when placed in the museum, there shall be appended to each the name of the agent through whom the same may be procured.

[No. 5.] *Resolved*, That the public generally be invited to furnish con-

tributions to the museum of the Smithsonian Institution; and that all such contributions, when considered worthy of a place, shall be labelled with the name of the donor.

[No. 6.] *Resolved*, That ten copies of the report accompanying these resolutions be furnished to each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, and each member be respectfully requested to transmit these to newspapers and to individuals, in his district or elsewhere, who may be likely to take an interest in the proceedings of the institution.

[No. 12.] *Resolved*, That for the year eighteen hundred and forty-seven the sum of one thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated for laying out the grounds of the institution, and for the purchase, transplantation, and temporary fencing of the trees therein; to be expended under the direction of the Executive Committee.

[No. 15.] *Resolved*, That of this report, in such form as it may be ultimately adopted, five thousand copies be printed, under the direction of the Secretary; and that he be required to transmit a copy of the same to each of the principal scientific and literary societies both in this and in other countries; and also to such individuals, of scientific or literary reputation, as he may judge likely to find interest in the proceedings of the institution.

The board proceeded to the consideration of the following resolution:

[No. 1.] *Resolved*, That for the present, out of the interest accruing to the institution, the sum of twenty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated for the purchase of books and the gradual fitting up of a library, and all other incidental expenses relating to the library, except the salaries of the librarian or librarians; the said appropriation to commence from the first of January, eighteen hundred and forty-eight.

A motion was made by Mr. Hough that the same be amended, by striking out "twenty thousand dollars," and inserting "*twelve thousand dollars*;"

Which motion was disagreed to.

Mr. Rush moved that "twenty thousand dollars" be stricken out, and "fifteen thousand dollars" inserted;

Which motion was disagreed to.

The question was then put, Will the board agree to the resolution?

And was decided in the affirmative.

The following resolution was then read and agreed to, viz:

[No. 2.] *Resolved*, That the portion of the building to be for the present set apart for a library be of sufficient capacity to contain not less than one hundred thousand volumes; and that it is desirable that the plan should be such as to render an extension practicable if hereafter desired.

The following resolution was then read and agreed to, viz:

[No. 11.] *Resolved*, That for the present the sum of four thousand dollars, out of the interest accruing to the institution, be appropriated for the purchase of philosophical and chemical apparatus, models, &c.; the said appropriation to commence on the first day of January next.

The following resolutions, Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, and 14, were read; and, upon suggestions that it was desirable that the Secretary elect should be consulted before their adoption, they were postponed until the next meeting of the Board of Regents.

[No. 7.] *Resolved*, That it is expedient to include ultimately in the plan of the institution popular lectures on useful subjects—as on agriculture

and its latest improvements ; on the productive arts of life ; on the sciences, and the aid they bring to labor ; on common school instruction, including the proper construction of school rooms, the most improved apparatus for teaching, and most judicious management, moral and intellectual, of children in common schools ; also, if suitable lecturers be found, on history, natural and civil, including the physical history of the various races of men, and the gradual advance of each to its present state of civilization ; on political economy, in its practical connexion with the every-day business of life ; and generally on any department of useful knowledge not strictly professional.

[No. 8.] *Resolved, further,* That if the funds of the institution permit, it is desirable that such lectures should be delivered not only at Washington, but gradually and successively at different points in all the States in the Union, either by permanent professors or temporary lecturers, engaged on behalf of the institution.

[No. 9.] *Resolved,* That, if the funds of the institution permit, there may be properly included in the plan the publication, periodically or otherwise, of popular tracts on the above subjects.

[No. 10.] *Resolved,* That, as one of the most effectual means of increasing knowledge among men, it shall be made a part of the duty of one or more of the officers who may be engaged by the institution to institute original researches in the branch of science to which he may be devoted ; and that it shall be the duty of the Secretary, when such researches eventuate successfully, to communicate the results to other scientific societies throughout the world ; and to invite, in return, communications of a similar character from them.

[No. 14.] *Resolved,* That, in case of the organization of a board of professors, the said Secretary shall be *ex officio* president of the said board of professors, with the usual rights and powers of the president of a Faculty ; and, as president of said board, it shall be his privilege, when thereto authorized by said board, to make, on their behalf, any statement or representation to the Board of Regents, either written or verbal ; and if any debate or discussion arise thereupon in the Board of Regents, he shall have the right to join therein ; but in all cases without a vote in said Board of Regents.

The board proceeded to the consideration of the resolutions reported yesterday by Mr. Choate, from the committee on the formation of a library, which were read and agreed to, as follows :

[No. 1.] *Resolved,* That it be recommended to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution forthwith to employ, subject to the approval of the Board of Regents, an assistant secretary, well qualified to discharge the duties of librarian.

[No. 2.] *Resolved,* That a committee be appointed, in conjunction with the Secretary, to prepare and submit to this board extended lists of books, in the different departments of learning ; proper to be first purchased, according to the general principles of this report ; and, for this purpose, that they be authorized to request the aid of the librarian, and of other persons competent to afford it, and to engage to such person the honor of the board for discretionary remuneration of such aid.

Mr. Choate, Mr. Hilliard, and Mr. Rush were appointed the said committee.

On motion of Mr. Owen,

Resolved, That the salary of the Secretary, appointed under the 13th resolution reported by the Committee on Organization, and adopted by the board on the 3d instant, be three thousand five hundred dollars per annum, to commence from the date of his acceptance of the office.

Resolved, That, until a permanent residence be provided for the Secretary in the buildings to be erected, a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars annually be appropriated to pay the rent of his residence.

The board adjourned until to-morrow, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1846.

Mr. Owen offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and agreed to, viz :

Resolved, That the Assistant Secretary cause one thousand copies of the journal of the Board of Regents, from the commencement of its organization to the close of this meeting, to be printed in the same form as the pamphlet already printed by this board, and that he forward twenty-five copies thereof to each of the regents.

Mr. Totten offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and agreed to unanimously :

Whereas the present meeting of the board may probably be the last at which the services of Mr. Hough, regent from New York, as Secretary, will be required,

Resolved, That the thanks of the board are respectfully offered to that gentleman for the prompt, valuable, and disinterested service he has rendered as Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Bache,

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be authorized to arrange with the Secretary the time and manner of the discharge of the duties enjoined on him by law, and by the resolutions of the regents.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chancellor to procure the introduction, if they deem it expedient, of a bill amendatory of the act establishing this institution.

Mr. Owen, Mr. Hough, and Mr. Evans were appointed the said committee.

On motion of Mr. Owen,

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution be entitled to participate in the deliberations of the Board of Regents, but without vote.

On motion of Mr. Evans,

Ordered, That when this board adjourn to-day, it adjourn to meet on the second Wednesday of this month, at the room of the Vice President of the United States, in the Capitol, at 11 o'clock, a. m.

The board then adjourned accordingly.

Journal of proceedings of the Smithsonian Institution at their second meeting.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1846.

This being the second Wednesday of December, the Board of Regents met, pursuant to their resolution of the 9th day of September last, fixing their regular meetings.

Present, George M. Dallas, Chancellor; William W. Seaton, George Evans, Robert Dale Owen, William J. Hough, Richard Rush, A. D. Bache, Joseph Totten.

The number fixed by the act establishing the Smithsonian Institution as a quorum being five, a quorum was in attendance.

At 11 o'clock, a. m., the Chancellor took the chair and called the board to order.

Mr. Hough, from the committee appointed to wait on the President of the United States and the other persons named in the fourth section of the act to establish the Smithsonian Institution, and obtain their written consent to the selection and appropriation of the public reservation called the "Mall," west of Seventh street west, in the city of Washington, by the regents, as a site for the necessary buildings for said institution, reported:

That on the fifth day of December instant he called upon the President of the United States and the other persons named in said fourth section of the act establishing said institution, and solicited their assent to the selection and appropriation by said regents of all that portion of said reservation lying west of Seventh street west, in said city, as a site for the necessary buildings for said institution, pursuant to the resolution of the Board of Regents heretofore passed making such selection and appropriation, but that he was unable to obtain the consent of all of said persons, although a portion of them signified their readiness to give such consent; and that inasmuch as it seemed necessary that the assent of each and all of said persons be obtained to the validity of such selection and appropriation, the committee did not deem it of importance to obtain the written consent of such of said persons as signified their willingness to the same, not being able to procure the whole. The committee, therefore, submit the following resolution for the consideration of the regents, and recommend the passage thereof.

The said resolution was then read and adopted, as follows:

Whereas the consent of all the persons named in the fourth section of the act to establish the Smithsonian Institution has not been obtained to the selection and appropriation of the public reservation called the "Mall," west of Seventh street west, in the city of Washington, by the regents, as a site for the necessary buildings of said institution: Therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chancellor to confer with the President of the United States and the other persons named in the fourth section of said act, and ask their consent to the selection by said regents of that portion of said reservation lying between Seventh and Twelfth streets west, in said city, as the site for the necessary buildings of said institution; and, if such consent be given,

It is further resolved, That said buildings be located thereon, and at least two hundred and fifty feet south of the centre thereof.

Mr. Hough, Mr. Owen, and Mr. Evans were appointed the said committee.

Mr. Seaton presented a communication from Mr. George Catlin, accompanied by a printed catalogue of his Indian Gallery, offering his collection of Indian memorials to the Smithsonian Institution, which was referred to the committee on the formation of a library.

On motion of Mr. Owen,

Ordered, That when this board adjourn to-day, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

And then, on motion of Mr. Evans,
The board adjourned until Monday next, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1846.

The Chancellor laid before the board a letter from Professor Henry, accepting the appointment of Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Hough, from the committee appointed on the 9th instant to confer with the President of the United States and the other persons named in the fourth section of the act establishing the institution, made a verbal report, stating that the committee had had an interview with the President and the persons mentioned, but had come to no final conclusion as to the matter for which they were appointed.

And then the board adjourned until Monday next, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1846.

Chief Justice Taney, one of the regents, appeared.

Joseph Henry, the Secretary elect of the Board of Regents and of the Smithsonian Institution, appeared, and entered upon the duties of his office.

Mr. Owen, from the committee appointed on the 9th instant to confer with the President of the United States and the other persons mentioned in the fourth section of the act of Congress establishing the Smithsonian Institution, in relation to the location of the buildings of the institution, reported verbally that the committee had had an interview with those persons, but had not yet received their final decision upon the subject.

On motion of Mr. Owen,

Resolved, That the report made by Mr. Owen, on the 1st day of December instant, from the Committee on the Organization of the Institution, together with the resolutions accompanying the same, which have not been agreed to by the board, be recommitted to said committee.

The board adjourned until Wednesday next, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1846.

Mr. Hough, from the committee appointed on the 9th instant to confer with the President of the United States and the other persons named in the fourth section of the act establishing the Smithsonian Institution, and to ask their consent to the selection by said regents of that portion of the public reservation called the "Mall," lying between Seventh and Twelfth streets, in the city of Washington, as the site for the necessary buildings of said institution, made a verbal report, accompanied by a copy of the preamble and resolutions adopted on the 9th instant, endorsed as follows, viz :

"The consent of all the persons named in the fourth section of the act to establish the Smithsonian Institution is not given to the site herein selected.

"JAMES K. POLK."

On motion of Mr. Owen,

Resolved, That the regents of the Smithsonian Institution do select and appropriate, as the site for their building, the south half of so much

of the "Mall," in the city of Washington, as lies between Ninth and Twelfth streets, if the consent of the persons named in the fourth section of the act of Congress establishing said institution be obtained thereto; and the said ground so selected shall be set out by proper metes and bounds, and a description of the same shall be made, and recorded in the book of records of the proceedings of the Board of Regents, and signed by the regents.

On motion, Mr. Hough, Mr. Owen, and Mr. Evans were appointed a committee to communicate the said resolution to the President of the United States and the other persons named in the fourth section of the act establishing the Smithsonian Institution.

And then the board adjourned until Wednesday, the 20th day of January next, then to meet at the Vice President's room, in the Capitol, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1847.

The Board of Regents met pursuant to their resolution of adjournment, adopted on the 23d day of December last.

Hon. Lewis Cass, one of the regents, appeared.

The committee appointed relative to the selection of a site for the building of the Smithsonian Institution made a report thereon, communicating the consent of the President of the United States, and the other persons named in the act establishing the institution, to the selection and appropriation of the site selected by the regents.

The Chancellor presented a letter from the Assistant Secretary and librarian *pro tempore*, containing a list of books presented to the Smithsonian Institution, in compliance with the tenth section of the act of Congress establishing the institution.

The following resolutions, reported by the committee appointed on the 9th day of September last to select a plan for a building for the institution, were taken up and agreed to :

Resolved, That the Norman plan of a building for the Smithsonian Institution, furnished by James Renwick, jr., of New York, substantially as amended agreeably to the suggestions of the committee, is approved and adopted by this board.

Resolved, That, as testimonials of the high sense entertained by this board of the scientific merit and skill displayed in their respective plans, the following premiums be awarded to the gentlemen named :

To Messrs. Wells and Arnot	-	-	-	\$250
Mr. John Notman	-	-	-	250
Mr. John Haviland	-	-	-	250
Mr. Owen J. Warren	-	-	-	250

and that one thousand dollars be appropriated for that purpose.

Resolved, That a committee of three members of the board, as provided for in the fifth section of the act of Congress, be appointed, who shall be empowered, on behalf of the Smithsonian Institution, to enter into contracts for the completion of the buildings, and to take security for their being finished according to the plan adopted by the board, and within the time that may be stipulated; and that said committee have authority to employ one or more persons to superintend the erection of the buildings and the fitting up the rooms of the institution.

Mr. Seaton offered the following resolution, which was read and agreed to :

Resolved, That all the architects who have presented plans for the consideration of the building committee be informed that the Board of Regents will hear any explanations they may desire to make in relation to their respective designs, to-morrow at 10 o'clock, a. m.

The board adjourned until to-morrow, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1847.

Mr. Evans offered the following resolutions, accompanying them with remarks suitable to the occasion :

Resolved, That the regents of the Smithsonian Institution have learned with profound sensibility that since their last meeting, the Honorable Isaac S. Pennybacker, late a member of this board, has departed this life.

Resolved, That in testimony of their high respect for the memory of their late associate, the members of this board will wear the customary badge of mourning for the period of thirty days.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered upon the journal, and a copy of them be transmitted to the widow of the deceased.

The resolutions being read, were agreed to unanimously.

The board adjourned until to-morrow, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1847.

The sitting this and the following day was occupied in hearing the explanations of Messrs. Arnot, Notman, Haviland, Rogers, Mills, Renwick, and Archer, of their respective plans.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1847.

The Committee on Organization, to which was recommitted, on the 21st December last, the report made by Mr. Owen on the 1st December last, together with the resolutions accompanying the same, which had not been agreed to by the board, reported back the same in an amended form, accompanied by sundry resolutions ; which report and resolutions were laid upon the table.

The said report is as follows :

“For the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men,” were the words of Smithson’s will—words used by a man accustomed to the strict nomenclature of exact science. They inform us that a plan of organization, to carry into effect the intention of the testator, must embrace two objects : one, the calling forth of new knowledge by original research ; and the other, the dissemination of knowledge already in existence.

Smithson’s words, liberal and comprehensive, exclude no branch of human knowledge ; nor is there any restrictive clause in the charter under which we act. That charter indicates a few items chiefly relating to one of the above objects, and leaves the rest of the plan, under the general provision of the bequest, to the discretion of the board.

First. It sets forth, as one of the objects of the institution, a library, that shall contain valuable works in all departments of human knowledge.

Second. It requires that there be provided in the buildings of the institution a hall, or halls, suitable for a museum capable of containing, on a liberal scale, collections of natural history, including geology and mineralogy, and objects of foreign and curious research; the large collection now in the Patent Office being transferred to the institution.

Third. It requires that there be included in said building a chemical laboratory.

Fourth. The building is to contain, also, "the necessary lecture rooms." And,

Fifth. A gallery of art.

These items, with the exception, perhaps, of the laboratory, relate to the diffusion of knowledge only. They render necessary an annual appropriation to collect and support a library; another to maintain a museum; and indicate an intention that a portion of the annual interest should be applied to the advancement of physical science and the arts, in part, by lectures.

But, after enumerating these items, the framers of the charter added a clause of plenary powers authorizing the board, as to all funds not required for the above special purposes, to make of them "such disposal as they shall deem best suited for the promotion of the purpose of the testator."

In obedience to the requirements of the charter, which leaves little discretion in regard to the extent of accommodations to be provided, your committee recommend that there be included in the building a museum of liberal size, fitted up to receive the collections destined for the institution; and that library room sufficient for a hundred thousand volumes be provided. They further recommend that the lecture rooms required by the act shall not exceed two in number, of which one of a small size should adjoin the laboratory, and another might be large enough to receive an audience of a thousand persons.

As important as the cabinets of natural history by the charter required to be included in the museum, your committee regard its ethnological portion, including all collections that may supply items in the physical history of our species, and illustrate the manners, customs, religions, and progressive advance, of the various nations of the world; as, for example, collections of skulls, skeletons, portraits, dresses, implements, weapons, idols, antiquities, of the various races of men.

In the accumulation of these collections, the institution has at command great facilities. The collections of the exploring expedition, which already belong to its museum, furnish an ample commencement, especially as regards Polynesia. Through the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the various agencies under his control, the North American race can be reached; and at small expense the collection of Indian curiosities, already begun at the Patent Office, may be rapidly extended. So, through our army and navy officers, and our consuls in foreign nations, European and South American collections (the latter so recently enriched by modern discovery) might be gradually brought together.

In this connexion, your committee recommend the passage of resolutions asking the co-operation of certain public functionaries, and of the public generally, in furtherance of the above objects.

Your committee are further of opinion that in the museum, if the funds of the institution permit, might judiciously be included various series

of models illustrating the progress of some of the most useful inventions ; such, for example, as the steam engine, from its earliest and rudest form to its present most improved state ; but this they propose only so far as it may not encroach on ground already covered by the numerous models in the Patent Office.

Specimens of staple materials, of their gradual manufacture, and of the finished products of manufactures and the arts, may also, your committee think, be usefully introduced. This would supply opportunity to examine samples of the best manufactured articles our country affords, and to judge her gradual progress in arts and manufactures.

As chemistry was the favorite study of Smithson's life, of which a considerable portion was spent in his own laboratory, and as it is, without doubt, one of the most comprehensive and important of the natural sciences, your committee recommend that this department be fitted up in as complete a manner as modern science can suggest. And for the purpose of encouraging in the young men of our country original research in the same branch of science in which Smithson himself successfully labored ; and inasmuch as many are now compelled, in order to complete their studies as practical chemists, to resort to Paris or Germany, your committee further recommend that there be included in the building a working laboratory, somewhat, perhaps, after the model of that instituted by one of the ablest of German chemists, the celebrated Liebig ; to be opened under proper regulations and supervision, without charge to those who may desire to institute experiments and prosecute researches for themselves in that science.

The gallery of art, your committee think, should include both paintings and sculpture, as well as engravings and architectural designs ; and it is desirable to have in connexion with it one or more studios, in which young artists might copy without interruption, being admitted under such regulations as the board may prescribe. Your committee also think that as the collection of paintings and sculpture will probably accumulate slowly, the room destined for a gallery of art might properly and usefully meanwhile be occupied during the session of Congress as an exhibition room for the works of artists generally ; and the extent and general usefulness of such an exhibition might probably be increased, if an arrangement could be effected with the Academy of Design, the Arts Union, the Artists' Fund Society, and other associations of similar character, so as to concentrate at the metropolis, for a certain portion of each winter, the best results of talent in the fine arts.

The charter provides that the Secretary of the institution may, with the consent of the board, employ assistants ; and the items above enumerated, touching a library, museum, and laboratory, seem to demand at the proper time the appointment of not less than three such assistants ; one as librarian, one as curator of the museum, and one as chemist. After a careful review of the means of the institution, and the annual demands upon it necessitated by the objects specially required in the charter, your committee are not prepared, with the present endowment only at command, to recommend a greater extension than these named of permanent offices requiring scientific or literary qualifications ; and they think that the appointments of curator and chemist may be postponed until the time, or nearly the time, when the building is likely to be completed.

In these various recommendations your committee have been guided

chiefly by the words and specific recommendations of the charter. They are of opinion, however, that the task assigned them would be ill performed if they stopped short here, and neglected to avail themselves of the authority—liberally and wisely, your committee think—conferred upon the board, after providing for the above special objects to such extent as they may consider necessary and proper, to dispose of the remaining funds annually accruing in such manner as “they shall deem best suited for the promotion of the purpose of the testator.”

“Increase and diffusion of knowledge,” your committee beg leave to report, was that purpose.

How can knowledge be increased ?

By original research throughout its various fields ; yielding, when successfully prosecuted, positive additions to the sum of what had heretofore been known.

For this there is no provision in the items specifically enumerated in the bill, and above provided for, except it may be in the chemical department, where the chemist or others engaging in experiment and investigation may furnish actual contributions to the science of chemistry.

But how may original researches generally be encouraged and called forth ?

First, by premiums, your committee think, annually offered for original papers on such subjects as may be selected ; it being a strict condition that each paper accepted and obtaining a premium shall contain a specific addition to the sum of human knowledge, resting upon original investigations, and not mere unverified hypotheses. The accepted paper may be published in the successive numbers of Transactions, which may be entitled “Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge,” and which your committee recommend to be issued periodically or occasionally, as materials present themselves. The names of the competitors for premiums should in all cases remain unknown until the award is made.

A liberal price might also be paid for other papers that may be considered worthy of a place in the Transactions.

Again : as an additional means of promoting increase of knowledge, special appropriations may occasionally be made to institute definite lines of research, under the direction of competent persons ; after the manner, perhaps, of the British Association. Such appropriations, however, your committee think should be made with great care, for important objects only, and where there is fair promise of speedy result ; and it might be advisable, as an additional guarantee, that in deciding the kind of research and the amount of money to be appropriated the board avail itself of the suggestions of a council of scientific men.

In the prosecution of researches undertaken at the instance of the institution, and requiring the aid of valuable apparatus, the use of that belonging to the institution might, under proper regulations, be granted.

This stimulating and cherishing of research in unexplored fields seems to your committee the more necessary and proper in a country like ours, where but few have at command that easy leisure common in older countries, and there permitting the prosecution of researches throughout years, or a lifetime, without expectation or necessity of pecuniary return.

Your committee are aware that the researches here recommended, no matter how intrinsically important—demanded as they are, too, by the wording of the bequest which endowed our institution—will be likely, in

their inception and first publication, to interest a comparatively small circle only. The Transactions of the Institution can be expected to obtain but a limited circulation. Not that the discoveries there to be presented are of little intrinsic importance, and bear no practical fruit: the reverse is true. Some may be immediately productive; others will include investigations unproductive in themselves for the time, yet the necessary preliminaries to the actual discovery of modes and forms that become, in every-day life, productive and profitable; for invention is but the practical application of scientific results. But the severe investigations in physics which ultimately resulted in the steam engine and the magnetic telegraph—inventions that are now revolutionizing the world— attracted in their original form the attention only of the strictly scientific. To reach the people generally, other and further means must be employed. And this brings your committee to speak of the testator's second object—

The *diffusion* of knowledge among men.

In connexion with this branch of Mr. Smithson's purpose, your committee are reminded of the widespread and beneficent influence, reaching to the remotest hamlet and the humblest hearth, exerted not in England alone, but in other and distant countries, by the British "Society for the Diffusion of Knowledge," its Scientific Tracts, and its Penny Magazine.

This example indicates the most effectual mode of reaching the popular mind of the world. Influenced by the results of such experience, your committee recommend the issuing, to such extent as the funds of the institution permit, of publications, in brief and popular form, on subjects of general interest. They advise, also, that courses of free lectures be delivered during the session of Congress, in the lecture rooms of the institution, by its officers, or by able men, in the different branches of knowledge, who should be invited for the purpose, and paid out of the funds of the institution. It should also, your committee think, be made the duty of the Secretary and his assistants to exhibit in these lecture rooms, at stated periods, experimental illustrations of new discoveries in science, and interesting and important inventions in the arts.

And if now, or hereafter, the funds of the institution permit, they think it desirable that such lectures should not be restricted to Washington, but should be given, by lecturers selected by the institution, throughout the United States.

The difficulty in this latter recommendation is the great expense that must be incurred to procure the delivery of such lectures by men of suitable ability, throughout every section of the Union, without preference or omission.

Though neither the bequest nor the charter restrict the subjects that may be treated in publication and lecture, yet, as the funds of the institution are limited, and some selection from the vast range of human subjects of inquiry must be made, your committee recommend that, in the first place, the efforts of the institution be chiefly directed to the diffusion of knowledge in the physical sciences, in the useful arts, and the theory and practice of public education. They suggest that the lectures and popular publications of the institution may usefully treat of agriculture and its latest improvements; of the productive arts of life; of the sciences, and the aid they bring to labor; of common school instruction, including the proper construction of school-rooms, the most improved ap-

paratus for teaching, and the most judicious management, moral and intellectual, of children in common schools. They might also, if suitable talent can be enlisted, treat of history, natural and civil, including the physical history of the various races of men, and the gradual advance of each to its present state of civilization; of political economy in its practical connexion with the every-day business of life, and generally touch upon any department of useful knowledge not strictly professional.

By such means, we may reasonably expect gradually to stir up a love of science among those in whose minds, for lack of an awakening word, it now lies dormant; and, by directing the attention of the people generally to the rich sources of knowledge that everywhere exist around them and beneath their feet, by degrees to substitute, for the deleterious excitements sought in haunts of dissipation, the healthful and humanizing interest to be found in scientific research. The inestimable importance of common school education, and the practical means of increasing and improving it, might thus also be pressed home upon those whose children have often no other means of instruction or improvement.

As an additional means of diffusing knowledge, your committee suggest the publication of a series of reports, to be published annually, or oftener, containing a concise record of progress in the different branches of knowledge, compiled from the journals of all languages, and the transactions of scientific and learned societies throughout the world. The matter of these reports may be furnished by collaborators eminent in their respective branches; and these should be supplied with all the works necessary to a proper execution of their task, and paid in proportion to their respective labors. Copies of these Smithsonian Reports may be furnished to the principal libraries and scientific societies of the country free of expense, and sold to individuals at a small price.

Your committee beg leave here to remark, that with the limited annual income of the institution, charged as it is with extensive collections, to maintain which will prove a considerable yearly drain on its funds, they do not imagine or propose that all the recommendations here set down should be carried out, at least simultaneously. These are put forward as objects which your committee consider desirable and strictly within the purpose of the bequest. Such as may seem to the board the most important may be first attempted. Other portions of the plan may follow in their turn. And experience will gradually sift out whatever is most judicious and effective.

Your committee are of opinion that it does not come properly within the scope of our institution to impart professional education; and therefore they recommend no school of any of the learned professions, nor any professorships of ancient languages, or others of similar character. It is not, however, their purpose to exclude lectures of a general character on subjects connected with any of these professions, but only to shut out those courses of lectures which treat of them in professional detail. The studies referred to are already provided for in numerous institutions throughout the United States; and it has been the endeavor of your committee not only in this instance, but throughout the entire plan here submitted, to occupy, so far as may be, ground hitherto untenanted, and rather to step in where it comes not within the province of other institutions, learned or literary, to extend their efforts, than to compete with them in fields of labor peculiarly their own.

The party politics of the day, on which men differ so widely and so warmly, should not, your committee think, enter among the subjects treated of in any lecture or publication put forth under the sanction of the institution. And they would deeply regret to see party tests and party wranglings obtrude themselves on the neutral ground of science and education; jeoparding, as such intrusion surely would, the tranquillity of the institution, disturbing the even tenor of its action, perhaps assailing its welfare, certainly contracting the sphere of its usefulness.

Your committee think it important that the institution, at the time it is first opened, should have already in its library a collection of such valuable works of reference as, in the prosecution of its plan, may be required. In order to attain that object, your committee recommend that, for the present, twenty thousand dollars be set aside for the purchase of books and filling up of the library.

An additional reason which has induced your committee to recommend, out of the accrued interest, so large an appropriation at the outset, is, that large annual appropriations from the accruing interest, after the institution is under way, are thereby rendered the less necessary.

In proposing that, in the building about to be erected, there should be provided library room sufficient to receive a hundred thousand volumes, your committee yielded rather to what seemed a fair concession to the spirit of the eighth section of our charter, than to their own deliberate conviction that a library of more than half that size could, with the present means of our institution, advantageously be purchased.

But, without a vast accumulation of books in this metropolis, your committee conceive that a librarian of the Smithsonian Institution may, under a proper system, become a centre of literary and bibliographical reference for our entire country. Your committee recommend that the librarian be instructed to procure catalogues, written or printed, of all important public libraries in the United States; and also, in proportion as they can be obtained, printed catalogues of the principal libraries in Europe, and the more important works on bibliography. With these beside him, he may be consulted by the scholar, the student, the author, the historian, from every section of the Union, and will be prepared to inform them whether any works they may desire to examine are to be found in the United States; and if so, in what library; or if in Europe only, in what country of Europe they must be sought.

Informed by these catalogues, it will be easy, and your committee think desirable, for those who may be charged with the selection of books to make the Smithsonian library chiefly a supplemental one; to purchase, for the most part, valuable works which are not to be found elsewhere in the Union; thus carrying out the principle to which your committee has already alluded as influencing all their recommendations—that it is expedient, as far as may be, to occupy untenanted ground.

Exceptions to this rule must here, of course, be made; as in the case of standard works of reference required for the immediate purposes of the institution, and also of the very numerous works, many of current science, which, by a proper system of exchanges, we may procure without purchase. In this latter connexion, the transactions and reports of the Institution will obtain for us valuable returns.

In following out this mode of collecting a library for the institution, whenever a particular class of works of importance is found to be spe-

cially deficient in the libraries of our country, the vacancy may be filled. The librarian might also procure, by entering into correspondence with the librarians of other countries, any special extracts or items of information required by students.

Your committee consider it inexpedient to commence the regular purchase of books until about a year before the time when the building is prepared to receive them. Meanwhile, lists and catalogues should be procured.

For the procurement of chemical and philosophical apparatus, models, &c., your committee recommend, for the present, an appropriation of four thousand dollars. If the funds permit, four thousand dollars more, your committee think, might profitably be appropriated for this object before the opening of the institution.

Inasmuch as the Chancellor of the Smithsonian Institution, being a regent, can receive no salary for his services, it results, almost necessarily, that the Secretary should become its chief executive officer. The charter seems to have intended that he should occupy a very responsible position; granting as it does to the Secretary, in conjunction with the Chancellor, the power to determine the necessity and the amount of appropriations made for the purposes of the Institution.

The office of Secretary must, in the opinion of your committee, be regarded not as one to be filled by any man capable to act as recording clerk, or to receive with politeness the visitors of the Institution, or to reply, with mechanical propriety, to its correspondents, but as an office on the due administration of which the executive efficiency of our institution at home and its reputation abroad mainly depend; an office, then, demanding, in its incumbent, weight of character and a high grade of talent.

To secure such stamp of talent as your committee consider essential in a Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, it may be necessary to attach to the office a considerable salary. The best talent, in any country, ever commands a high remuneration; and though money cannot always command talent, it is, as a general rule, one of the elements necessary to obtain it. Inadequate character and qualifications are not worth purchasing at any rate, no matter how low. The money spent to procure them is utterly cast away.

Your committee think it would be an advantage if a competent Secretary could be found, combining also the qualifications of a professor of the highest standing in some branch of science. If to these be added efficiency as an executive officer and a knowledge of the world, we may hope to see filling this distinguished post a man who, when brought into communication with distinguished men and societies in this and other countries, shall be capable, as representative of the Smithsonian Institution, to reflect honor on the office, not requiring to borrow distinction from it.

Your committee will not withhold their opinion, that upon the choice of this single officer, more probably than on any one other act of the board, will depend the future good name, and success and usefulness, of the Smithsonian Institution.

A similar view, your committee believe, has been taken of this matter by the principal scientific societies throughout the world. Newton disdained not to answer, at much length, the friendly and able criticisms on

some of his theories, addressed to him by Oldenburg, first secretary of the London Royal Society; and the name of Arago, secretary of the Academy of Sciences, of Paris, is known and honored wherever science extends her sway.

All which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT DALE OWEN,
Chairman.

The board adjourned until to-morrow, at 12 o'clock, meridian.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1847.

The board proceeded to the consideration of the series of resolutions offered from the Committee on Organization, yesterday; and, after debate, they were agreed to, the series of resolutions being as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That it is expedient, and demanded by the will of the testator, that in our plan of organization the increase of knowledge by original research should form an essential feature; that in furtherance of this object, premiums be offered, at such times and to such amounts as the board may hereafter decide, for original papers, containing positive additions to the sum of human knowledge; and that these, together with other suitable papers, be published in transactions of the institution, to be entitled "Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge," and to be issued periodically or occasionally, in quarto form, as materials may be obtained.

2. *Resolved*, That it is within the strict purpose of the trust, and may materially advance its legitimate objects, occasionally to make specific appropriations for definite lines of research, the results to be published as above.

3. *Resolved*, That, with a view to the diffusion of knowledge, there may be included in the plan of organization the issuing of publications, in brief and popular form, on subjects of general interest.

4. *Resolved*, That, with a similar object, there may also properly be included in the plan of organization the issuing of periodical reports containing records of the progress of knowledge in its different branches.

5. *Resolved*, That there may also properly be included in the plan free lectures, to be delivered by competent persons, on useful subjects; and that it may advantageously be made a part of the duty of the Secretary and his assistants to give in the lecture rooms of the institution, at stated periods, illustrations of discoveries in science and important inventions in the arts.

6. *Resolved*, That it is the intention of the act of Congress establishing the institution, and in accordance with the design of Mr. Smithson, as expressed in his will, that one of the principal modes of executing the act and the trust is the accumulation of collections of specimens and objects of natural history and of elegant art, and the gradual formation of a library of valuable works pertaining to all departments of human knowledge, to the end that a copious storehouse of materials of science, literature, and art may be provided, which shall excite and diffuse the love of learning among men, and shall assist the original investigations and efforts of those who may devote themselves to the pursuit of any branch of knowledge.

7. *Resolved*, That for the purpose of carrying into effect the two principal modes of executing the act and trust pointed out in the resolutions herewith submitted, the permanent appropriations out of the accruing interest shall, so soon as the buildings are completed, be annually as follows; that is to say:

First, for the formation of a library composed of valuable works pertaining to all departments of useful knowledge, and for the procuring, arranging, and preserving of the various collections of the institution, as well of natural history and objects of foreign and curious research and of elegant art as others, including salaries and all other general expenses connected with the same, excepting those of the first complete arrangement of all such collections and objects as now belong to the United States in the museum of the institution, when completed, together with one-half of the salary of the Secretary, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars.

Secondly, for the preparation and publication of transactions, reports, and all other publications of the institution, including appropriations for original researches and premiums for original papers; for the delivery of all lectures and payment of all lecturers, and for all general expenses connected with said lectures and publications, together with one-half of the salary of the Secretary, the remainder of the annually accruing interest; it being understood that all general and incidental expenses not specially connected with either of the above two great divisions of the plan of the institution shall be equally divided between them.

Mr. Bache offered the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and agreed to:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution be instructed to present to the Committee on Organization a plan for executing the resolutions relating to Smithsonian contributions, to annual reports and other publications, to premiums, and to original researches.

Resolved, That said committee, in conjunction with the Secretary, be authorized to publish in quarto form a number of the Smithsonian contributions to science, as soon as suitable materials are collected for the same, of which the Secretary and committee shall judge, provided that the expense thereof shall not exceed one thousand dollars; which sum is hereby appropriated to that object from the income of the institution for the year 1847.

Resolved, That the Chancellor of the Smithsonian Institution be requested to prepare a biographical notice of Mr. Smithson for the first number of the contributions.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution be requested to continue his researches in physical science, and to present such facts and principles as may be developed, for publication in the Smithsonian contributions.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution be authorized and requested to communicate with men eminent in science and literature, and to ask their advice, in behalf of the institution, in regard to the subjects for which premiums shall be offered, and upon which reports and essays shall be prepared.

Resolved, That the Committee on Organization present, for the approval of the board at its next meeting, the details of the plans which they may recommend, in pursuance of the foregoing, for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.

Mr. Hilliard offered the following resolutions, which were read, and, after debate, were agreed to :

Resolved, That the salary of the Assistant Secretary, acting as librarian, shall be two thousand dollars.

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested now to nominate to the board an assistant, who shall be the librarian, and whose salary shall commence whenever the building is ready for the reception of the library.

Resolved, That for any services rendered from this time, in collecting books, making catalogues, &c., he shall receive such compensation as the Executive Committee may deem reasonable.

Whereupon the Secretary remarked, that, understanding Professor Charles C. Jewett, of Brown University, to be the preference of a majority of the board, he therefore nominated Charles C. Jewett for Assistant Secretary, acting as librarian, of the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Evans offered the following resolution, which was read and agreed to :

Resolved, That this board do approve the nomination of Charles C. Jewett, and consent to his employment as an Assistant Secretary, to act as librarian.

The board then adjourned.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1847.

Mr. Owen offered the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and agreed to :

Resolved, That the Norman plan of a building for the Smithsonian Institution, furnished by James Renwick, jr., of New York, substantially as amended and reduced agreeably to the suggestions of the committee, is approved by the board.

Resolved, That a building committee of three members of the board, as provided in the fifth section of the act of Congress, be appointed, who are hereby authorized and empowered, on behalf of the Smithsonian Institution, to enter into contracts for the completion of the building; and that said committee have power to employ one or more persons to superintend the erection of the building and the fitting up of the rooms of the institution; and that the work shall be done to the entire satisfaction of the said superintendent or superintendents; and the said superintendent or superintendents shall have power, and shall be required, to reject any of the material proposed to be employed, and also to object to inferior or insufficient work, and to direct its change, at his or their discretion.

Resolved, That in the performance of the duty intrusted to them, the building committee of three hereinbefore referred to shall give the contracts to the lowest bidder of reputation, who shall give unexceptionable security, to the entire satisfaction of the committee, for the performance of said contracts; and such security shall in all cases be taken. No advance shall in any case be made; and fifteen per cent. of all payments shall be retained until the faithful performance of the work.

Resolved, That the building committee, after taking counsel with the Secretary, shall carefully revise the specifications of the plan furnished to this board by the architect, before entering into any contract; and if, after such examination, they shall be of opinion that any modifications of the said plan and specifications are necessary for the safety, durability, or

better adaptation of the structure, they may incorporate these in the said specifications; but no addition to the dimensions of the building shall be made, nor any ornament of any kind be added; and the said modifications shall have sole reference to the safety, durability, and adaptation of the building. And the whole amount of the contract for the said building, including the modifications above provided for, shall, under no circumstances, exceed the amount of the original estimates of the architect, to wit: the sum of two hundred and ten thousand dollars, with a percentage not exceeding ten per cent. on the said sum.

Resolved, That the building committee be also authorized to contract for the warming and lighting of the building; provided that the contract for the above objects shall not exceed five thousand dollars.

Resolved, That the building committee be also authorized to contract for the fitting up and furnishing of the buildings of the institution; provided that the contract for the same shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars.

Resolved, That the building committee be also authorized to contract for a permanent fence around the grounds belonging to the institution; provided the contract for the same shall not amount to more than ten thousand dollars.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the institution be authorized to contract for the necessary chemical and philosophical apparatus, for which an appropriation of four thousand dollars has heretofore been made.

Resolved, That the building committee be authorized to contract for the grading, laying out, and planting of the grounds of the institution; and that three thousand dollars, in addition to the one thousand dollars heretofore appropriated, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated for that purpose.

And it being on the one hand desirable that a portion of the buildings to be erected by the institution be ready for use at an early day, and it being on the other essential to the solidity and durability of a structure of the size required to embrace all the objects specified in the act of Congress, that its erection be gradual and not too rapidly hastened forward: Therefore,

Resolved, That the building committee be instructed to arrange the contracts for the buildings of the institution so that the wings of said building may be completed in two years from the present time, and the whole to be completed in five years.

Mr. Owen also offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee certify to the Chancellor and Secretary of the board the total amount of debts incurred, contracts entered into, and contracts authorized by the board; and that the Chancellor and Secretary, after examination and approval of the same, certify the same to the proper officer of the treasury for payment.

The said resolution was read; when

Mr. Evans moved to amend the same by adding thereto the following, as an additional resolution:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be authorized to receive said payment in treasury notes payable to the order of the Chancellor of the Smithsonian Institution in one year from date, bearing an interest of six per cent. per annum; and that they be further authorized to exchange one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of said notes as soon as practicable.

for an equal amount of six per cent. stock of the United States, payable in twenty years, which stock shall also be payable to the Chancellor of the institution; which said notes and stock shall be deposited for safe keeping only with the Treasurer of the United States, or such other person as they may deem proper, to be drawn out only upon checks or warrants signed by the Chancellor, the Secretary, and chairman of the Executive Committee.

The said amendment was read; and the question being put, Will the board agree thereto?

It was decided in the affirmative.

Then the said resolution as amended was agreed to by the board.

Mr. Owen offered the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and agreed to:

Resolved, That it is the opinion and intention of the board that, in the appropriation for the objects of the institution of any surplus of accrued interest which may remain after the completion of the buildings of the institution, an equal division shall be made between the two great branches; that is to say, one-half shall be appropriated to the library and museum fund, and the other half to the fund for original research, publications, and lectures; and that, in regard to all other funds hereafter to accrue to the institution, the same division be made.

Resolved, That the building committee be instructed, in the arrangement of the buildings, to extend the gallery of art throughout the western range and western wing; and to arrange two lecture rooms, and no more, in the building. Temporary arrangements shall be made to receive in the west wing of the building the library of the institution until the library proper be completed.

Mr. Seaton offered the following resolutions, which were read:

Resolved, That the building committee invite separate proposals for the principal descriptions of work requisite for the erection of the building, to wit: the masonry, carpentry, plastering, painting and glazing, and enter into contract with different persons for these several branches of work, requiring the proper security from each contractor, so that the responsibility for the erection of the whole building shall not be committed to one person.

Resolved, That the building committee invite proposals for the construction of the exterior walls of the building of upper Potomac sandstone, of marble, of granite, and of blue gneiss, respectively, and adopt that one of these four named materials which shall be deemed to combine the requisites of cheapness, beauty, and durability.

The question was put, Shall the first of the said resolutions pass? and decided in the negative.

The question was then put, Shall the second of the said resolutions pass? and decided in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. Hough,

The Board of Regents proceeded to the consideration of the second of the resolutions of the committee on the plan of the building, submitted on the 20th instant.

And after debate, the question was put, Shall the resolution pass? and decided in the affirmative.

The board proceeded to the consideration of the third resolution submitted by the said committee; and, after debate, the same was agreed to.

The board adjourned until Saturday, at 10 o'clock.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1847.

Mr. Evans offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That it is expedient that an assistant to the Secretary be appointed, who shall also be the clerk of the building and Executive committees, who shall take charge of the rooms which may be obtained for the use of the institution ; who shall assist the Secretary in keeping of the records of the regents, keep accounts and papers of the Secretary and of the building committee ; who shall be competent to prepare all public advertisements, draw all contracts, keep all accounts of disbursements, and prepare all accounts for settlement at the treasury, and discharge such duties generally connected with the institution as may be required of him by the Secretary or the building committee ; and who shall receive such compensation as shall hereafter be fixed upon by the board.

The resolution being read, the further consideration thereof was postponed for the present.

The board adjourned to Friday next, at 10 o'clock.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1847.

Mr. Bache offered, as an amendment of a previous one of Mr. Owen, the following resolution, which was read and agreed to :

Resolved, That the building committee, in conjunction with the Secretary, be authorized to publish, in such form as they may deem most appropriate, one thousand copies of a brief treatise, to be entitled "Hints on Public Architecture," and to be illustrated with designs of the plan of the buildings adopted for the Smithsonian Institution, and, at the option of the committee, with any other designs that are the property of the institution, provided that the cost of the same shall not exceed one thousand dollars, which sum is hereby appropriated for that purpose.

Mr. Owen offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and agreed to :

Resolved, That the Secretary add to the report of the organization committee, when printed, a copy of the will of the testator, of the act accepting the bequest, and of the act organizing the institution.

On motion of Mr. Evans,

The board proceeded to the consideration of the resolution offered by him on the 30th of January last, to appoint an assistant to the Secretary ; When the said resolution was read and agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Evans,

The board proceeded to the appointment of the "committee of three," in accordance with the fifth section of the act organizing the institution.

Messrs. J. G. Totten, Robert Dale Owen, and William W. Seaton, were appointed the said committee.

On motion of Mr. Hilliard,

Ordered, That Mr. A. D. Bache be appointed temporarily in the place of Mr. J. G. Totten on the Executive Committee, who is now in Mexico.

Ordered, That Mr. Hough be appointed temporarily in the place of J. G. Totten on the building committee.

On motion of Mr. Evans,

Resolved, That in the absence of any member of any one of the committees, the remaining members thereof be authorized to appoint one temporarily in his stead.

On motion of Mr. Evans,
The Board of Regents adjourned *sine die*.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1847.

The Board of Regents met at 10 o'clock, a. m., pursuant to the resolution of organization.

Present, Mr. Dallas, (Chancellor,) Mr. Seaton, Mr. Hough, Mr. Owen, Mr. Bache, Mr. Hilliard, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Rush.

The Secretary presented a letter from C. C. Jewett, accepting the appointment of Assistant Secretary, to act as librarian; which was read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. Owen offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were read, considered, and agreed to :

Whereas a bill has been introduced into the Senate of the United States, relative to the site of the Smithsonian Institution,

Resolved, That if, in virtue of the provisions of said bill, any change in the present site of the institution be made, all the contracts heretofore authorized by the board in regard to building, laying out the grounds, fencing, &c., shall be and remain in full force, and shall apply to any new site that may be selected, in the same manner as the same now apply to the site in the possession of the institution.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolution be forthwith communicated by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

On motion of Mr. Hough,

Ordered, That the board adjourn until Saturday next, at 10 o'clock, a. m. Thereupon, the board adjourned.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1847.

The following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars be paid by the Executive Committee to Mr. Isaiah Rogers, architect, Boston, in full remuneration for plans submitted by him to the board.

On motion, the board adjourned to meet on Wednesday next, the 24th instant, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1847.

The committee appointed on the 5th December last, to "procure the introduction, if they deem it expedient, of a bill amendatory of the act establishing this institution," submit, as the best explanation of their proceedings, the following communication addressed by them to the editor of the "Union," and published in that paper of the 15th February :

TO THE EDITORS.

SIR: The undersigned, appointed by the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution a committee to "procure the introduction into Congress, if they deem it expedient, of a bill amendatory of the act organizing the institution," have, in discharging the duty assigned them,

had brought under their consideration the subject treated of in an editorial published in the Union of February 11. And they beg leave to offer, in reply, a few remarks and a brief statement of their intentions in the premises.

The building committee of the Smithsonian Institution have already exonerated the board from all responsibility connected with the selection of a site on the Mall in preference to one in the populous portion of the city; no choice being in fact left to the board, since no suitable unoccupied square is to be found on the entire plan of the city this side of the canal; and, with no other powers than those contained in the act organizing the institution, no site already occupied could be purchased by the institution.

There is a site the most eligible, probably, in the city, for our institution—that of the present City Hall. It has been represented to the undersigned that it would be most desirable, on the score of public convenience, if it could be procured. They concur in this opinion. In the immediate vicinity of the principal hotels and boarding houses, comprising an eminence whence the ground gradually falls off in all directions, in a healthy portion of the city, utility and appearance would be equally consulted in selecting it. But it is in the occupation of the city, and, while the present building remains upon it, it can properly receive no other public edifice. Without the concurrent action of Congress and of the City Corporation it cannot be obtained as a site for the Smithsonian Institution.

The undersigned, however, having had their attention called to this subject not only by the article to which they are replying, but by other similar representations, after maturely considering the subject, have resolved to endeavor to obtain such concurrent action. They examined the plan of the present City Hall, the same of which a model now stands in the corridor of that hall, and of which the building now erected is but a small part; and that, too, unfinished, inconvenient, and unsightly. They ascertained that this fraction of the plan, bald and gloomy as it is, adapted to receive expensive porticoes and steps on three of its sides, (no portions of which, during the quarter of a century it has stood, have been attempted,) has cost ninety thousand dollars; and they found the estimate for its completion to be three hundred and ten thousand dollars more. That it will ever be completed, no one believes. Congress will not, and the city cannot, furnish the means. To give even to the fraction that now stands a decent or reputable finish, would cost fifty or sixty thousand dollars; and though its present dilapidated condition—most discreditable both to the city and the government—may seem loudly to demand some action, yet it is doubtful whether Congress will ever expend that amount on so unpromising and expensive an object.

Nor is the present shell, great as has been its cost, profitable any more than ornamental. It brings little or no revenue to the city. In view of these circumstances, the undersigned came to the conclusion that a sum, say of fifty thousand dollars, would probably be a sufficient inducement to the city authorities to abandon a building they can never hope to complete, and which, unfinished as it stands, is an eyesore and a reproach; inasmuch as with that sum they could put up, on the Centre Market space, a plain building sufficient to afford, in its upper story, the accommodations required as well by the United States circuit court

and its officers, as by the city authorities, while its lower story might furnish market stalls and stores that would rent for many thousand dollars annually.

The undersigned were also of opinion that, considering the advantages of the City Hall site to the Smithsonian Institution, so far as regards its usefulness in connexion with its library, its collections, and its lectures, the institution might properly and prudently give for the materials of the City Hall their full value—say fifteen thousand dollars.

If these views be correct, the only remaining difficulty regards the thirty-five thousand dollars necessary to make up to the city the full sum of fifty thousand dollars. And this sum the undersigned believe it to be just and expedient that Congress should appropriate, provided the corporation will bind itself to furnish in their new building sufficient accommodation for the United States circuit court, its officers and records; just, because the general government has already, for the sum of ten thousand dollars only, (which it paid to the city twenty-five years ago,) had the use of nearly half the City Hall for its courts throughout all that term of years, and therefore ought now to furnish further means to procure the accommodation necessary for that purpose; and expedient, because the present City Hall, which cannot, for very shame, be left without some repair or finish much longer, will, from the necessity of the case, while it stands, remain a permanent ground of claim on the government; and because any repairs worth making on it at all would exceed the sum here proposed to be appropriated. The cheapest thing that can be done with the City Hall, both as regards the city and the government, is, the undersigned believe, to get rid of it. And if on its site a building arise, reputable even, to say nothing of architectural beauty, and commenced with funds and upon a scale that insures its speedy completion, it should count for something, if only on the score of appearance and national reputation, that a gloomy and meaningless and slovenly pile has been replaced by an object that will strike pleasantly on the eye of the traveller as he approaches this metropolis.

Governed by considerations such as these, the undersigned, in view of the fact that whatever is done in this matter must be done at this session of Congress, have decided, in discharge of the duty assigned them by the board, to introduce into Congress without delay a bill of which the following is a copy:

AN ACT to authorize the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to purchase, for the use of said institution, of the corporation of the city of Washington, the City Hall, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted, &c., That the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution be, and they are hereby, authorized to purchase of the corporation of the city of Washington all the right, title, and interest of the said corporation in and to the City Hall of the said city; subject, however, to the conditions and provisions hereinafter specified: *Provided*, That the corporation shall, on or before the tenth day of March next, enter into bond, with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the Attorney General of the United States, that they will erect on the Market Space, between 7th and 9th streets west, and between Pennsylvania avenue and B street north, a suitable and commodious building, in which there shall be included such apartments as may be necessary for the accommodation of the circuit

court of the United States for the county of Washington, in the District of Columbia, for the use of the grand and petit jurors of the said county, for the offices of the clerk of the said court and the marshal of said District, and for the preservation and security of the books, papers, and records of the said court; and that they will complete the said building, or so much of the same as may contain the apartments and accommodations aforesaid, and shall prepare the same for the said courts and offices, on or before the tenth day of March, 1848. And, upon such purchase being completed, the said corporation shall release and forever quit claim unto the said Smithsonian Institution all the right and title of the said corporation unto the said City Hall, and unto the possession and occupation of the lot or square on which the same now stands.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That so soon as the said bond and release shall be executed by the said corporation, and sufficient evidence thereof be laid before the President of the United States, the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to grant unto the said corporation the right to occupy and improve, for public purposes, all or any portion of that lot or square of ground in the city of Washington, including the Market Space, lying between Seventh and Ninth streets west, and bounded on the north by the south line of Pennsylvania avenue, and on the south by the north line of B street north. And then, and in that case, there shall also be paid to the corporation, towards the erection of the building, as provided in the first section of this act, the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars, which sum is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated; and the said sum of thirty-five thousand dollars is hereby declared to be in full of the apartments and accommodations specified in the first section of this act; and the said apartments and accommodations shall forever remain subject to the occupation of the courts and their offices aforesaid.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That in case of the execution, by the said corporation, of the bond and release aforesaid, the regents of the Smithsonian Institution be, and they are hereby authorized, by resolution of the Board of Regents, to retrocede to the United States that certain building site in the city of Washington, and in the public reservation commonly called the Mall, which, according to the provisions of the act organizing said institution, approved August 10, 1846, has become the property of the said institution; and, upon proper evidence being adduced, to the satisfaction of the President of the United States, of said retrocession, the President shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to convey to the Smithsonian Institution, by metes and bounds, so much of that public reservation in the city of Washington, commonly called the Judiciary Square, as lies south of the extension of the south line of E street north, being the same lot or square on which the City Hall now stands; and the said conveyance by the President shall be received in evidence in all courts of the extent and boundaries of the lot or square of land which, by virtue of this act, may become the property of the said Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Commissioner of Public Buildings in the city of Washington be, and he is hereby, authorized and required to provide temporary accommodations in some suitable building for the circuit court of the United States for the county of Washington, and for its offices and records, until the tenth day of March, 1848. And for the purpose of procuring said accommodations, the sum of one thou-

sand dollars, or so much of the same as may be required for that object, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

It will be observed that this bill leaves the matter wholly at the discretion, first, of the corporation, and, secondly, of the Board of Regents. Unless both concur to accept its provisions, it will be inoperative. The undersigned do not know that either will accept them; but that they will, and that they ought to do so, they have given their reasons for believing.

GEO. EVANS,
WM. J. HOUGH,
ROBT. DALE OWEN, } *Committee.*

WASHINGTON, *February 13, 1847.*

Since the publication of the above, and the introduction into the Senate by one of your committee of the bill referred to, the common council of Washington, during their session of February 22, passed, by a vote of 17 to 3, a resolution to the effect "that it is the deliberate opinion of the two boards that the proposed change would not comport with the interests of the city."

This vote, your committee think, shuts out all prospect of carrying out the plan contemplated in the proposed bill; and for that reason, though after reflection has but confirmed the conviction of the propriety and utility of that plan, they have abandoned it, and have ceased to urge through Congress the passage of the bill in question.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. EVANS.
WM. J. HOUGH.
ROBT. DALE OWEN.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Seaton, and agreed to by the board :

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be authorized to procure a suitable seal for the institution, to comprehend the medallion head of Smithson, surrounded by the words "Smithsonian Institution."

The board adjourned, to meet on Saturday next, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1847.

On motion of Mr. Owen,

Resolved, That the Secretary be authorized to cause to be instituted a series of experiments to determine the economical value of the different building materials used in the United States.

Adjourned until Monday, at 10 o'clock.

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1847.

Mr. Preston appeared, and took his seat in the board.

Mr. Owen offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the sum of five hundred dollars, or so much of the same as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated towards the expenses of the experiments heretofore authorized to be instituted to determine the economical value of the different building materials used in the United States.

Mr. Hough offered the following resolution, of which he gave notice at the last meeting :

Resolved, That it being understood Mr. George Catlin is about to return to this country with his collection of Indian paintings, &c., he be requested to deposite the same in one of the galleries of the Smithsonian Institution, as soon as the building shall be ready for its reception, provided he will do so without charge to the institution ; and that upon such deposite being made, said institution will properly arrange and prepare said collection for exhibition.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Hough also proposed the following, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the Secretary inform Mr. Catlin of the adoption of the above resolution, and of the probable time the building will be ready for the reception of the collection.

The Board of Regents then adjourned *sine die*.

The Board of Regents have drawn from the treasury, for the current expenses of the institution, the sum of - - \$7,584 07

The disbursements from this fund have been as follows :

Expenses of regents in attending meetings of the board - - - - -	\$2,525 10	
For materials and erection of specimen walls, and superintendence thereof - - - - -	343 53	
For compensation to architects for designs, &c. - - - - -	1,025 00	
For books purchased - - - - -	479 49	
For services of assistant secretary - - - - -	200 00	
For recording journal and documents, and sundry incidental expenses - - - - -	193 25	
For services of messenger - - - - -	73 50	
Postage - - - - -	5 03	
	<hr/>	4,844 90
Leaving a balance in hand of - - - - -	- - - - -	<u><u>2,739 17</u></u>

WASHINGTON, *March 1, 1847.*

