

Educational Exhibit

of the

State of New York

ALBANY

GIRLS ACADEMY



New Building.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

THE year 1814 was marked in the educational history of Albany by the founding of the FEMALE ACADEMY, at first known as the Union School, and established in a small two-story frame building on Montgomery Street.

Mrs. Ebenezer Foot, desiring for her daughters the same excellent facilities for a thorough education which already existed for her sons, influenced her husband to begin the task of obtaining the signatures of prominent gentlemen who were willing to unite in a new enterprise.

Considering the circumstances of the city, and indeed of the whole country, at this stage of the war with England, it seemed an inopportune season and beset with pecuniary difficulties, but the result was most satisfactory, and the school was opened at the date fixed in the contract. Mr. Foot paid it a weekly visit till his death the following July.

Prominent among those associated with Mr. Foot were Chancellor Kent, John V. Henry, Isaac Hutton, Thomas Gould, Dr. John Stearns, Dr. Ely, Thomas and Joseph Russell, Asa Center, and Nathaniel Davis. The first teacher Mr. Horace Goodrich, of Milton, was unable from ill health to continue longer than one year and was succeeded by Mr. Lebbeus Booth, whose successor after two years was Dr. Edwin James.

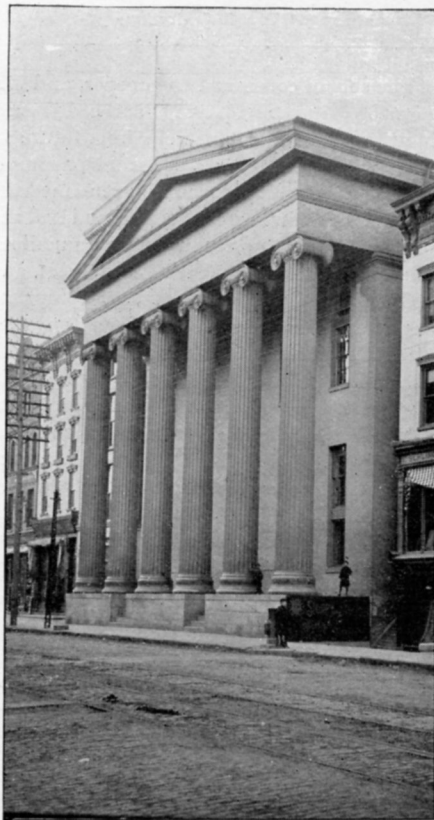
Before the close of 1820 the "Little Seminary" as it was called, had become so well established, so necessary to the city, and financially so prosperous, as to warrant an act of incorporation, drawn by Hon. Gideon Hawley, Secretary of the Board of Regents, and passed on the 16th of February, 1821, the school taking its present title.

The first Board of Trustees consisted of the following members: James Kent, John Chester, Joseph Russell, John V. Henry, Asa H. Center, Gideon Hawley, William Van Vechten, Peter Boyd.

The new building was completed in November, 1821, and with the furniture cost \$3,000.96, affording accommodation for 120 pupils.

The school continued to prosper, and Mr. Alonzo Crittenton having succeeded Mr. Matthews, the fourth principal, its future in every department was assured. For almost a score of years Mr. Crittenton remained the head of the now famous school, and had the pleasure of seeing a new and commodious structure erected on North Pearl Street, and dedicated May 12, 1834, with appropriate exercises. In 1845, Mr. Crittenton was called to Packer Institute, Brooklyn, and after a few years under the charge of Mr. L. Sprague Parsons, the school was so fortunate as to have Rev. Eben S. Stearns secured as principal. His brilliant success in the Normal School at West Newton, Mass., enabled him to begin his educational work with the prestige which gave a new impulse to the prosperity of the Academy. A boarding-school had been connected with the Academy in Prof. Parsons' time, and was continued while Dr. Stearns remained its principal.

Miss Greely, formerly a teacher with Mr. Stearns, became his successor, and seems to have left the Academy at the end of her first year in as good a condition as it had been



Old Building.

left to her, so that when Miss Louisa Ostrom was called from the Normal School to assume the duties of principal she had a flourishing institution committed to her care.

The trustees manifested the utmost confidence in Miss Ostrom, and the large classes graduated during her administration attested the continued confidence of the public in the educational advantages of the institution.

Especially prominent in the Board of Trustees at this time was Mr. Thomas W. Olcott, whose name had appeared in the minutes of that body for a period covering all the history of the present Academy edifice, always associated with a policy at once conservative and broad, and standing as a guaranty of financial soundness united with a liberal provision for the educational demands of the age. Early in the history of Miss Ostrom's connection with the Academy Mr. Olcott bought up most of the stock, and in this way rendered it impossible for a denominational school to supplant the unsectarian institution in which he took a just pride, and whose doors had ever been open wide to the representatives of every creed.

Miss Ostrom's retirement from educational work compelled the trustees to look for a successor, and at length Mr. Olcott's wish to unite with the Academy the private school on North Pearl Street, opposite Clinton Square, known as Miss Plympton's School for Young Ladies, led to the appointment of a committee to ascertain the practicability of such a union. After such consultation and consideration as the case demanded, an agreement was entered into by which the two schools should go on in the Academy to the end of the school year, each with its separate corps of teachers, its text books, and hours of recitation, under the conduct of Miss Plympton as principal.

Accordingly, on the morning of February 16, 1880, the two schools met for the first time at morning prayers in the chapel of the Academy. Soon after the nominal union of the schools, the death of Mr. Thomas W. Olcott removed from the Academy its oldest friend, and the only survivor of the trustees composing the Board when the present edifice was erected. As an appropriate observance of his funeral the school was closed for that day.

Fortunately for future prospects, more than sixty pupils had come with the new principal, expecting to remain as pupils of the Academy.

Generous provision was made for the ensuing year, amply justified by the numbers who on the opening of the autumn session availed themselves of the advantages of a revised course of study under teachers whose ability and success had already commended them to public esteem.

Early in the spring of 1880 Mr. Henry F. Durant, the founder of Wellesley College, proposed to accept the certificate of the Academy in place of entrance examinations on the part of those students who should prepare at the Academy to enter that college. This proposition was thoroughly appreciated and accepted without delay, and from that date to the present time graduates of the Academy in the College Preparatory Course have entered this College on the Academy certificate.

In January, 1892, the school was removed from the classic building on North Pearl Street, to its present location 155 Washington Avenue; it was still necessary however,

to use the laboratory in the old edifice and to store the large old library there. The trustees having purchased this property, will erect on the ample grounds in the rear of the mansion a spacious and thoroughly equipped edifice to be known as The Academy Hall, while the mansion itself will be fitted up and furnished for the accommodation of an increased number of boarding pupils under the name of The Academy Home. The two buildings will be practically detached in order to admit light and air, but a covered passage will allow the house pupils to pass to and from the Hall without exposure.

The Alumnae have recently taken action in connection with the trustees, for the raising of money to aid them in carrying out their plans for new buildings and new equipments, and to some of the active members of their association will be largely due the greater prosperity of their alma mater in her new location.

Many of the prominent citizens of Albany have in recent, as in past years, given their services on the Board of Trustees, and several since the death of Mr. Thomas W. Olcott

have been called to "join the innumerable throng," of those whose life was too full of demands upon their sympathies and strength to allow them to reach the Scriptural limit. For the first time in many years there is a full Board, as may be seen in the catalogue of officers, and once more under the wise management of its trustees the Academy has entered upon a new era of its existence.

Besides the principals whose names may be read at pleasure, the Academy has numbered among its instructors some now known to fame, Hon. Stephen J. Field, Prof. E. N. Horsford, the father of Bret Harte, one of the artist brothers Hart, Mr. George Boughton, Mr. Edward Gay, and others of less wide celebrity, while a host of noble women whose names would at once be recognized with pleasure by former pupils from all quarters of the globe, have taught in this oldest of schools for the higher education of girls.

The graduates of the Academy, numbering many more than a thousand, have been women of unusual strength and excellence of character as well as intellectual ability.

Some names are well known in the world; among educators, Mrs. Sylvanus Reed needs no introduction; among authors, Mrs. Botta ranks with the best writers on the History of Literature. The Alumnae Association has sometime since celebrated its semi-centennial anniversary. The Semper Fidelis Society for purely literary and musical culture, has kept its standard high from the beginning, and seems now as full of vigor and enthusiasm as in its earliest years.

Permanent alumnae classes in modern languages and literature are largely composed of the busy women who are first in every good word and work in the city, but who take time to indulge in such intellectual labors as recreations.

CIRCULAR

SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION.

There are four departments exclusive of the Post-Graduate.

SUB-PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Girls of about six years of age are received in this department in which elementary instruction from books is combined with kindergarten exercises and modes of teaching.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Pupils remain in this department until they are wholly prepared for the next in order, except in case of ill health, when they are allowed to take one or more preparatory studies during the extra year required to fit them for full promotion, in which case they form a Sub-Preparatory class.

PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT

Pupils must be able to pass a thorough examination in all the studies of Primary

department in order to enter the Preparatory.

During the years prescribed for this portion of the course of study, as in the preceding, most careful attention is given to accuracy of thought and expression, both in oral and written exercises.

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

All candidates for this department are required to pass examinations in the studies of the Preparatory, and only such as are recorded as passed in all the studies of their course will be graduated. Optional pupils are received, but no class standing is accorded them.

COLLEGE PREPARATORY CLASS

Such students as have pursued the required studies in the regular Academic classes are given supplementary instruction in separate classes, and fitted in this way for any college for women.

The Academy certificate enters the holder at Wellesley College without further examination.

POST-GRADUATE CLASSES

Will be formed whenever a sufficient number make application, and any branch pursued at the college may be pursued in the Academy.

ALUMNÆ CLASSES

Are formed in any department of study pursued in the Academy, and separate hours assigned them.

Course of Study

ENGLISH COURSE

SUB-PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Mental Arithmetic, taught as far as practicable by object lessons, Reading, Spelling, Writing in tracing books, Oral Lessons on general subjects. Hours, from nine o'clock, A. M., to twelve o'clock, M.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Mental and Written Arithmetic, Primary Geography, Oral Language Lessons with Oral Exercises, Natural History, Catechism of Common Things, Reading, Spelling, Drawing, Penmanship.

Last Year

Practical Arithmetic to Decimals, Harper's School Geography through South America, Reading, Spelling, Drawing, Penmanship, Language Lessons with Written Exercises, Natural History, Catechism of Common Things.

PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT

First Year

Arithmetic, Geography completed, English Grammar, History of the United States, Reading, Spelling, Penmanship, Drawing.

Second Year

Arithmetic completed, Physical Geography, English Grammar and Analysis, English History, Reading, Spelling, Penmanship, Drawing.

A text-book of Mythology will be read instead of the usual reading lessons during a part or all of this year.

Particular attention will be paid to English Composition.

The classes will be so arranged that no pupil will recite daily in more than three studies, besides Reading and Spelling.

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

First Year

FIRST SESSION

Algebra, Physiology, Rhetoric, Elocution, Spelling, Penmanship, Ancient Geography.

SECOND SESSION

Algebra, Rhetoric, with daily exercises in composition and criticism, Botany, Ancient History, with exercises in Ancient Geography, Elocution, Spelling, Penmanship.

Second Year

FIRST SESSION

Geometry, Botany, Mediæval History, Trench's Study of Words, Elocution, Spelling, Penmanship.

SECOND SESSION

Geometry, Zoölogy, Modern History, Trench's Study of Words, Elocution, Spelling, Penmanship.

Third Year

FIRST SESSION

Physics, English Literature, History of Fine Arts, Cast Drawing (optional), Elocution, Spelling, Penmanship, Literary Criticism.

SECOND SESSION

Physics, English Literature, History of Fine Arts, Cast Drawing (optional), Elocution, Spelling, Literary Criticism.

Fourth Year

FIRST SESSION

Political Economy, Astronomy, History of Literature, Logic, Psychology, Painting (optional).

SECOND SESSION

Principles of Ethics, Geology, History of

Literature, Mental Philosophy, Painting (optional).

If it should be found desirable to do so, a member of the senior class will be permitted in this course to pursue in the regular class one study belonging in another year.

Exercises in English Composition throughout the Course.

Elocution and Spelling throughout the Course. The study of the Bible begins in the lowest department and is continued throughout the Course. Pupils will be graded and examined in this as in the other classes.

Quarterly Reports will be sent to parents and guardians throughout the Course.

The English Course requires *four years* in the Academic Department.

Taking the English Course as a basis, one additional year is required for graduation in either the English and Latin, or English and Modern Language Course.

TERMS FOR BOARDING STUDENTS

Boarding and tuition for the year, including Calisthenics, Class Instruction in Latin, French and the English branches, four hundred and ten dollars.

TERMS FOR DAY STUDENTS AT THE ACADEMY

PER YEAR

Sub-Primary Class, for girls between the ages of six and eight years....	\$35 00
Primary Department, First Year....	40 00
Primary Department, Second Year..	50 00
Sub-Preparatory Class.....	60 00
Preparatory Department.....	75 00
Academic Department.....	100 00

PER QUARTER

French, German, or any other branch of Study pursued in Classes.....	\$10 00
Vocal Culture, two (one-half hour) lessons per week.....	20 00
Piano, two (three-quarter hour) lessons per week.....	20 00

PER QUARTER

Use of Piano three (one-half hour) periods daily.....	\$ 5 00
Drawing.....	10 00
Painting in any style taught.....	12 00
Private lessons in any study, per lesson.....	1 00
Alumnae Classes, ten (one and one-half hour) lessons	20 00

CALENDAR, 1893-94.

Preliminary Examinations begin	Sept. 19, 1893.
Recitations of the First Session begin	Sept. 20, 1893.
Holiday recess begins	Dec. 20, 1893
Holiday recess ends	Jan. 3, 1894
Second Session begins	Jan. 31, 1894
Spring recess of one week	at Easter
Second Session ends	June 12, 1894

For further information and catalogue, application should be made to the Principal.

LUCY A. PLYMPTON.

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