

HOUSE No. 375.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 7, 1869.

The Committee on Education, to whom was referred the petition of the Trustees of Bradford Academy for State aid, have considered said petition, and

R E P O R T :

That Bradford Academy was incorporated in the year 1804 ; that it was started and maintained in its infancy principally by the enterprising liberality of citizens of Bradford, and has never received any aid from the Commonwealth ; that the school has always been prosperous and eminently successful, and as early as the year 1815 it became widely known, and through the influence of a variety of causes, and particularly by the fame of several of its female pupils, its tendency was to a female school ; that at this period the female department came under the strong influence of Miss A. C. Hasseltine, who was its distinguished principal for many years, with a widely extended reputation, and who may justly be regarded as one of the pioneers in female education in this country ; that the male department, which had been successfully managed by Benjamin Greenleaf, the mathematician, was discontinued in 1836, and the academy

became a female institution, and has been eminently successful to the present time.

Your Committee further report that a variety of causes have united to move the friends of this institution, and of female education, to make an effort to place it on a basis of more enlarged usefulness, prominent among which are the following:—

1st. In the advance of improvements, the boarding-house became antiquated, and not in keeping with the growing wants and reputation of the school, suggesting the necessity of some changes at no distant day.

2d. A beautiful lot of about nine acres of land contiguous to the old premises, and overlooking the Merrimac River, the town of Haverhill, and in fact the whole surrounding country for a great distance in every direction, was in the market for sale.

3d. A growing feeling among the friends of female education, that the wants of the community, especially in Eastern Massachusetts, demand a school for young ladies, of the highest grade,—a school which shall take equal rank with our colleges for males which have been so liberally endowed by the Commonwealth.

Moved by these and other kindred considerations, the trustees had a meeting with several distinguished men of Boston and vicinity interested in female education, and it was agreed that there was no locality superior, if equal to Bradford, having special reference to the facility of access by railroad, not only from distant points, but from a large and populous region in the valley of the Merrimac, embracing the cities of Lowell, Lawrence, Haverhill and Newburyport, and other smaller towns, as well as the city of Boston; and upon a careful examination, it was believed that it was better to make Bradford Academy into such an institution, thus securing for it the prestige of its past history, and the interest of its former pupils, numbering more than five thousand, and having a lively interest in their *Alma Mater*.

Moved by these considerations, and having full faith in the practicability as well as importance of the object, a few individuals purchased the beautiful site referred to, and gave a deed of the same to Bradford Academy, and during the past year about fifty thousand dollars have been given by indi-

viduals towards erecting a suitable building on the same. The building has been erected and completed outside, including partition walls, flooring timbers and under floors—the material, brick with granite base and trimmings. The studding, furring and plastering are rapidly approaching completion, and will probably be finished by the last of May. The whole cost of the building will require about \$100,000, and when finished will be a model building for such an institution. While nothing has been expended for any mere useless ornament or decoration, nothing has been spared to secure every substantial feature which should appertain to such an institution, both as to facilities for education, and the health and comfort of the inmates. Some \$50,000 more than has already been subscribed will be required to complete the building. The trustees have confidence that they can raise \$25,000 by private subscription in addition to what has already been raised, and are desirous of receiving aid from the State coupled with that condition. But without some aid from the Commonwealth they apprehend delay and embarrassment, which if not fatal will work great prejudice and injury. With aid from the State to the extent of \$25,000, the Committee are satisfied that the building will go on to rapid completion, and the school be transferred to it, on a higher grade and with an enlarged sphere, during the present season.

In view of all these facts, the Committee are satisfied that a case is presented of an emergency, in which the Commonwealth is properly called upon to stretch out a helping hand, in behalf of female education, and submit the accompanying Resolve, and also a Bill authorizing Bradford Academy to hold additional real and personal estate.

Per order,

HENRY CHASE.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Nine.

R E S O L V E

In favor of Bradford Academy.

Resolved, That there be allowed and paid out of the treasury of the Commonwealth the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars to Bradford Academy, to aid in the erection of a new building for the same, which has been commenced, and is now partially completed: *provided*, that a like sum shall be raised by private subscription for the same purpose; and that the said twenty-five thousand dollars shall not be paid until the treasurer of said academy shall have deposited a sworn statement with the auditor of the Commonwealth that the said private subscription (in addition to what has already been subscribed) of twenty-five thousand dollars has been paid.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-
Nine.

AN ACT

To authorize Bradford Academy to hold additional Real
and Personal Estate.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of
the same, as follows :—*

1 SECT. 1. The Bradford Academy is hereby author-
2 ized to take and hold, by gift, grant, devise or other-
3 wise, for the purposes of education, real and personal
4 estate, the annual income whereof shall not exceed
5 thirty thousand dollars, including what they are now
6 allowed by law to hold.

1 SECT. 2. This act shall take effect upon its
2 passage.

