

## HOUSE. . . . No. 299.

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### Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 31, 1871.

The Committee on Education to whom was referred that portion of the address of His Excellency the governor, which relates to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, have visited that institution, given a public hearing upon the question of granting State aid, and received written testimony upon the subject.

The proportion of private gifts to the State aid, during the past twelve years, has been about as three to two, and there is every reason to believe that this proportion will be maintained hereafter.

The Museum is open to the public and is constantly visited by teachers of the public schools, and by their pupils; whole schools sometimes coming from a distance to visit it.

The special pupils of the Museum exert a wide influence, after graduation, upon scientific studies in other institutions, holding in many instances chairs of instruction.

The studies thus fostered in the Museum, as they can be fostered nowhere else, have a direct bearing upon the pecuniary interests of those who produce and those who consume the products of the mine, the farm, the forests and the seas. The pecuniary benefit is not always susceptible of direct measurement, but the instance of fish and oyster propagation show how far it outweighs the money cost of the Museum.

The cost of taking out of their hiding places the invaluable collections now crowded in kegs, barrels and boxes in the cel-

lars, attics, and exhibition and working rooms of the Museum, and of properly arranging them for use and show in the new part of the building, will be very great.

No other man among the living, or among those likely to appear within our lifetime, is able to do this work of arranging and displaying these treasures, so well as the present Director. But the advancing years and failing strength of this great benefactor to Massachusetts, and to the world, warn us that if we would avail ourselves of his services we must act promptly.

To the truth and importance of the last two paragraphs the Committee have, in reply to letters of inquiry, received emphatic written testimony from seven professors and teachers of the natural sciences in different colleges and institutions; and similar emphatic testimony has been given to the Committee under the signatures of each and every member of the board of trustees (of whom a majority are trustees in behalf of the Commonwealth).

Another consideration which urges immediate and liberal aid, is the fact that among the assistants now at the Museum there are several European professors of the highest reputation, drawn hither by the attraction of the Director's presence, whose stay in the country will be necessarily short, and whose assistance in arranging the collections in the new building will be worth more than any other assistance that could be obtained.

The Committee therefore report the accompanying Resolve.

Per order,

THOMAS HILL.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 18, 1871.

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the Resolve in favor of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, report the same ought to pass.

MOSES KIMBALL, *Chairman*.

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-One.

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### R E S O L V E

In favor of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.

*Resolved,* That there be allowed and paid from the treasury of the Commonwealth, to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars, to be expended under the direction of the trustees of said institution for the purposes thereof.

