

HOUSE.....

.....No. 57.

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REPORT AND RESOLVES

RELATIVE TO

QUALIFYING TEACHERS

OF

COMMON SCHOOLS.

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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 22 March, 1838.

The Joint Committee, to whom were referred the communication of Hon. Horace Mann, Secretary of the Board of Education, relative to a fund for the promotion of the cause of popular education in this Commonwealth, and also the memorial of the Nantucket County Association, for the promotion of education, and the improvement of schools, and also the petition and memorial of the inhabitants of the town of Nantucket, on the same subject, having duly considered the matters therein embraced, respectively

**R E P O R T :**

That the highest interest in Massachusetts is, and will always continue to be, the just and equal instruction of all her citizens, so far as the circumstances of each individual will permit it to be imparted ; that her chief glory, for two hundred years, has been the extent in which this instruction was diffused, the result of the provident legislation, to promote the common cause, and secure the perpetuity of the common interest ; that, for many years,

a well-grounded apprehension has been entertained, of the neglect of our common town schools by large portions of our community, and of the comparative degradation to which these institutions might fall from such neglect; that the friends of universal education, have long looked to the Legislature, for the establishment of one or more seminaries devoted to the purpose of supplying qualified teachers, for the town and district schools, by whose action alone, other judicious provisions of law could be carried into full effect; that at various times, the deliberation of both branches of the General Court, has been bestowed upon this, among other subjects, most intimately relating to the benefit of the rising generation and of all generations to come after us, particularly when the provision for instruction of school teachers was specially urged on their consideration, in 1827, by the message of the Governor, and a report thereupon, accompanied by a bill, was submitted by the chairman, now a member of the Congress of the United States, following out to their fair conclusions, the suggestion of the Executive, and the forcible essays of a distinguished advocate of this institution at great length, published and widely promulgated; that, although much has been done within two or three years, for encouragement of our town schools by positive enactment, and more by the liberal spirit, newly awakened, in our several communities, yet the number of competent teachers is found, by universal experience, so far inadequate to supply the demand for them, as to be the principal obstacle to improvement, and the greatest deficiency of our republic; that we can hardly expect, as in the memorials from Nantucket is suggested, to remove this deficiency even in a partial degree, much less to realize the completion of the felicitous system of our free schools, without adopting

means for more uniform modes of tuition and government in them, without better observing the rules of prudence in selection of our common books, the unlimited diversity of which is complained of throughout the state, and that these benefits may reasonably be expected to follow from no other course than a well devised scheme in full operation, for the education of teachers; that the announcement, in the communication recently received from the Secretary of the Board of Education, of that private munificence, which offers ten thousand dollars to this Commonwealth, for removal of this general want, at least in the adoption of initiatory measures of remedy, is received by us, with peculiar pleasure; and, in order that the General Court may consummate this good, by carrying forward the benevolent object of the unknown benefactor, the committee conclude, with recommending the passage of the subjoined resolutions.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JAMES SAVAGE, *per order.*



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**

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

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**R E S O L V E S**

Relative to qualifying Teachers for Common Schools.

Whereas, by letter from the Honorable Horace Mann, Secretary of the Board of Education, addressed, on 12 March current, to the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, it appears, that private munificence has placed at his disposal, the sum of ten thousand dollars, to promote the cause of popular education in Massachusetts, on condition that the Commonwealth will contribute, from unappropriated funds, the same amount in aid of the same cause, the two sums to be drawn upon equally from time to time, as needed, and to be disbursed under the direction of the board of education in qualifying teachers for our common schools; therefore,

*Resolved*, That his excellency the governor be, and he is hereby authorized and requested, by and with the advice and consent of the council, to draw his warrant upon the treasurer of the Commonwealth, in favor of the board of education, for the sum of ten thousand dollars, in such instalments, and at such times, as said board may request : *provided*, said board, in their request, shall certify, that the secretary of said board has placed at their disposal an amount equal to that for which such application may by them be made ; both sums to be expended, under the direction of said board, in qualifying teachers for the common schools in Massachusetts.

*Resolved*, That the board of education shall render an annual account of the manner in which said monies have been by them expended.

RESOLVES

Relative to qualifying Teachers for Common Schools.

Whereas by letter from the Honorable Horace Mann, Secretary of the Board of Education, addressed on 12 March current, to the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, it appears that private moneys have been placed at his disposal, the sum of ten thousand dollars, to purchase the issue of paper, station in Massachusetts, on condition that the Commonwealth will contribute, from unappropriated funds, the same amount in aid of the same cause, the two sums to be drawn upon equally from time to time, as needed, and to be disbursed under the direction of the board of education in qualifying teachers for our common schools ; therefore