

HOUSE....No. 67.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 7, 1850.

The Committee on Education, to whom was referred the petition of the Worcester Medical Institution, for the power of conferring the Degree of Doctor in Medicine, and the Remonstrance of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society against the same, have considered the subject, and ask leave to

R E P O R T :

That it has not been usual, in this Commonwealth, to grant, specifically, the power to confer degrees, of any kind, to collegiate institutions, and that, though there may have been an exception or two, yet the committee are of opinion that the prevailing practice of the Legislature has been founded on substantial reasons, and is the dictate of sound judgment. Degrees or diplomas, when regarded as honors coming from a seminary of education, without any specific legislative sanction, are regarded by the public as having an authority proportioned to the reputation of the institution from which they are derived; and so long as they all have equal legal privileges, which is the case in this Commonwealth, there can be no foundation for any complaint of injustice, favoritism, or prejudice. It would be difficult, if not impossible, for the Legislature to ascertain, by any true criterion, whether applicants for the

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right to confer degrees were possessed of the proper degree of knowledge or not; and, it may safely be left to time and the public, to decide upon the merits of rival institutions, and the relative value of their respective honors. The committee, therefore, report that the petitioners have leave to withdraw their petition.

For the committee,

SAM'L A. ELIOT.