

HOUSE....No. 54.

[Reported by the Committee on Education.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-one.

AN ACT

To establish a Medical College in the City of Lowell.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

1 SEC. 1. Elisha Huntington, John O. Green, John
2 C. Dalton, Gilman Kimball, and Seth Ames, their
3 associates and successors, are hereby made a corpora-
4 tion, by the name of the "Lowell Medical College,"
5 to be established in the city of Lowell, and county
6 of Middlesex, for the promotion of medical educa-
7 tion; and for this purpose shall have all the powers
8 and privileges, and be subject to all the duties, restric-
9 tions and liabilities, set forth in the forty-fourth chap-
10 ter of the Revised Statutes.

1 SEC. 2. All medical degrees conferred upon the
2 students in the Lowell Medical College, may be con-
3 ferred by the president, trustees, and faculty, under
4 the same rules and restrictions as are adopted and
5 recognized in conferring degrees of the same nature
6 by Harvard College; and the said faculty shall be
7 established by the said trustees, and shall consist of
8 not less than five competent teachers and professors of
9 medical science and chemistry.

1 SEC. 3. Any person who shall be graduated a
2 doctor in medicine, in the Lowell Medical College,
3 shall be entitled to all the rights, privileges, and
4 immunities, granted to the medical graduates of Har-
5 vard College.

1 SEC. 4. The said corporation shall appoint a board
2 of twelve trustees, who, together with the president
3 and secretaries of the Massachusetts Medical Society,
4 the counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society,
5 for the third medical department, and the following
6 persons, and their successors, to be chosen as herein-
7 after provided,—Lemuel Porter, Thomas B. Thayer,
8 John Clark, Samuel Chandler, Samuel Hoar, Hobart
9 Clark, Abel L. Pierson, Enoch Hale, Woodbridge
10 Strong, James H. Duncan, Thomas Kinnicut, Daniel
11 P. King, William J. Walker, and Eben Hobbs, shall
12 constitute a board of overseers, which board shall
13 meet each year at the annual commencement of said
14 college, and at such other times and upon such notice
15 as they may prescribe, and ten members of said board
16 shall constitute a quorum.

1 SEC. 5. The said board of overseers shall have
2 the same power and authority, in relation to said col-
3 lege, as belong to the overseers of Harvard College in

4 relation to the said college; and any vacancy that
5 may occur therein, by the death or resignation of
6 members, not designated by their office, shall be filled
7 at any legal meeting thereof, by the board: provided,
8 that in such election, the trustees of the said college
9 shall not be entitled to vote.

1 SEC. 6. The said corporation may hold real and
2 personal estate to the amount of twenty thousand
3 dollars, to be devoted exclusively to the purposes of
4 medical education.

REMONSTRANCE

OF

HARVARD COLLEGE.

*To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives,
of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court
assembled :*

The remonstrance of the President and Fellows of Harvard College, against the petition of Elisha Huntington and others, for the establishment of a Medical School at Lowell, respectfully showeth,—

That the remonstrants, actuated solely by a sense of duty to the institution over which they preside, and the general interests of medical education, present for consideration the following reasons why, as they humbly submit, the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

The Legislature, with the wise design of securing the means of sound and extensive learning, united with practical experience in the medical profession, so essential to the preservation of life and health ; and of raising the standard of education, requisite to entitle practitioners to public confidence, have heretofore established a medical school, as a branch of Harvard College, and endowed it with funds ; by means of which arrangement its students have the benefit of an ample and convenient building in the city of Boston, with regular access to the General Hospital there situated ; and the apparatus and library of the University ; together with the advantage of daily

lectures and teachings by the Professors of the University, of distinguished abilities and acquirements, and other means of acquiring knowledge by practical observation and experiment, which can only be obtained in a large city, and in connexion with such an institution.

And the objects of this arrangement have been, as the remonstrants are informed and believe, in great measure accomplished in the practical and enlightened education of the young men who have resorted to this school for instruction, and gone forth under its auspices and recommendation.

That its means are abundant for the wants of all those who may be disposed to seek its advantages; and the expenses of the students are on a scale as moderate as is possible, consistently with the attainment of such a scientific medical education as the welfare of the whole community imperatively demands.

That the number of students who now resort to this establishment is not more than sufficient for its support. That no other school can be established elsewhere in this Commonwealth, or in New England, which can compete, in advantages and means of usefulness, with this ancient and comparatively well endowed institution. And that the inevitable tendency, (as the remonstrants believe,) of multiplying medical schools must be to reduce the standard of education, and thereby depreciate the qualifications requisite for members of the medical profession; and thus to expose the people to the danger of comparatively ill educated and irresponsible practitioners;—and thereby defeat the purpose for which this was established, and the funds for its endowment were given.

Wherefore your remonstrants humbly pray that the prayer of the said petition may not be granted.

In behalf of the Corporation of Harvard College.

JOSIAH QUINCY,
CHARLES G. LORING,
J. A. LOWELL,

Committee.

REMONSTRANCE

OF THE

BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled :

The remonstrance of the Trustees of the Berkshire Medical Institution, against the petition of Elisha Huntington and others, for the incorporation of a Medical College, to be located at Lowell.

And first, they would respectfully state, that believing the two medical colleges,—the one in Boston and the other in Pittsfield—the one a town and the other a country school—are amply sufficient for all the wants of the State, so far as medical institutions are concerned,—we deem it unnecessary and prejudicial to the interests of the community, that another medical college should be incorporated, as the success of a new school in Massachusetts would be at the expense of those already established.

And second, that the undue multiplication of medical schools operates injuriously to the interests of the profession and of the State, by dividing the patronage of each to such an extent as effectually to deprive all of the advantages of the talents and labors of the most eminent of the faculty, for want of adequate remuneration.

And third, that the recent establishment of medical schools in the Southern and Western States, has already had the effect

greatly to diminish the number of medical students in New England, and few, comparatively, in future, will be educated in the old States to supply the demands of the new.

And fourth, that while there are permanent medical schools in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York, which are barely sustained by their present patronage, from the causes above stated, and no prospect of an increased support, we deem it a suicidal policy to incorporate new medical colleges, with authority to confer medical degrees.

And fifth, that whereas the State of Massachusetts has, by her grants of money to the two medical schools now established, given her sanction to their support, it can hardly be expected she should now adopt a policy, and that without obvious necessity, which must prove injurious if not ruinous to all the medical schools in the State.

And sixth, that the medical schools of Massachusetts are State institutions, the government having a control over them, and we would humbly suggest, that to improve the old, and, if necessary, make changes, would be a preferable policy to that of incorporating new institutions.

Per order of the Board of Trustees,

H. H. CHILDS, *President.*

Pittsfield, Feb. 16, 1841.

