

HOUSE....No. 293.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 12, 1866.

The Committee on Education, to whom was recommitted the Petition of E. C. Rolfe and others, and also divers other Petitions in support of the same, praying for an investigation of the doings of the corporation of the New England Female Medical College, having heard the parties, have duly considered the subject, and respectfully submit the following

REPORT:

The petitioners presented their charges in the following allegations:—

1. The appropriation for scholarships and building fund, made by the State to the Female Medical College, have been misapplied.

2. The Wade scholarship fund has been misapplied.

3. The funds of the subscribers have been misapplied; in that, when money has been subscribed for specific objects, the money has been taken and devoted to other objects.

4. Bequests and legacies have been misapplied.

5. The institution is not controlled by the trustees according to the provisions of the charter.

6. The standard of education in the institution is so low that the object designed in chartering the college is not accomplished.

The petitioners alleged that they had failed to obtain a hearing before the trustees, and therefore they appealed to the legislature, as the power granting the charter. The trustees replied that they had ever been ready, and still were ready, to

investigate any charges that were properly preferred against the institution. By mutual consent such an investigation before the trustees was made, and the report of that investigation was submitted by the trustees to the Committee, in writing.

To this report the petitioners submitted their objections in writing; and they further claimed that, upon examination of the records, it was found that the trustees now holding office had never been legally chosen.

The Committee did not feel called upon to investigate the general management of the institution, except so far as they were required to do so to determine what action the legislature ought to take in regard to the charter.

The Committee believe that the following points have been established by the petitioners, and are admitted by the trustees.

1. That the money granted by the State to this institution by Resolve, chapter eighty-five of the Acts of 1854, has been spent, although the tuition of the students, received according to the provisions of that Act, does not amount to the sum received of the State. All the students who have applied for scholarships have received them, and the trustees profess themselves to be ready to receive scholars without fees, until the whole amount has been accounted for.

2. The money granted by Resolve, chapter forty-five of the Acts of 1855, has been used for the general purposes of the institution.

3. Four trustees were elected at one meeting by the votes of three members, five trustees only being present; two of the members present being those whose term of office expired by limitation. It is claimed by the petitioners that this election, and other subsequent elections conducted in substantially the same manner, were not legal; because the charter provides that the four trustees to be elected each year shall be chosen by the sixteen trustees remaining in office.

These questions being of strictly a legal character, the Committee on Education ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject, and that the same be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and that they be instructed to report, by Bill or otherwise.

DEWITT C. BATES, *for the Committee.*



