

## SENATE . . . . No. 264.

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### Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, }  
May 25, 1867. }

*To the Honorable the Senate.*

I have the honor to transmit herewith a Communication from Mr. L. B. Schwabe, who proposes to present to the Commonwealth his gallery of portraits of soldiers and sailors of the Union, principally from Massachusetts, who have fallen during the recent war of the rebellion. I commend Mr. Schwabe's offer to the consideration of the general court.

ALEXANDER H. BULLOCK.

To His Excellency ALEXANDER H. BULLOCK, *Governor*, and to  
*the honorable General Court of Massachusetts.*

I, the undersigned, L. B. Schwabe, of Germany, having caused to be painted portraits of meritorious soldiers and sailors of all ranks, of various parts of the loyal States, who have fallen in all the American wars, but principally sons of Massachusetts who have given their lives to their country during the late rebellion, a large proportion of them having been painted at my own expense, and others having been contributed to, through my exertions, by the friends of the deceased, desire to present this gallery a free gift to the State of Massachusetts.

These portraits belong to what is termed "The Schwabe National Gallery of Fallen Heroes." All the incidental expenses, which have been very great, such as clerks, rent, fire, light, travelling, printing, stationery, postage, expressage, and others, too numerous to mention, have been defrayed entirely from my private means. There are now painted and nearly finished two hundred and more oil paintings by first-class artists; and the rooms at the City Hall are more than full. All that are in the City Hall are fully paid for; and many of the portraits in process of painting at various studios are also entirely paid for. I had intended to wait a year or two before opening this gallery to the public, but, for various reasons, I desire to open it this summer; and as my attachment to the State of Massachusetts has always been and continues to be deep, I have the pleasure of offering the gallery to the State, to be opened forever free to the public, with the exception of six or seven portraits, which I may for the present desire to retain, and with the suggestion that for a year or two a small admittance fee be charged to prevent disorderly persons from entering, the proceeds to be appropriated to form a fund for a further increase of the gallery. I shall be also gratified, if the committee of distinguished citizens of Boston and other places whom I designated in connec-

tion with the gallery in April, 1866, may continue to exist for the present.

If the State has now no building in which to place the gallery, I will open it temporarily in some convenient place, and continue to superintend it until the gallery shall be completed to my satisfaction. Meanwhile I shall only ask the State to supply me with the incidental expenses for the present of keeping up the gallery.

In conclusion, I have to say that I shall be most happy to exhibit the gallery to His Excellency the governor and to your honorable bodies, or to such committees as you may be pleased to designate, to explain all the details of my gift, and to give all the information you may desire. I shall also be ready to make such deeds of conveyance of the gallery to the State as may be acceptable and fitting. I shall desire no compensation whatsoever, now or hereafter, for the portraits or my labor or past expenses, but shall accompany the gallery with some simple conditions as to the entrance of portraits and its maintenance.

L. B. SCHWABE.

BOSTON, May 24, 1867.

