

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION,

Upper  Canada.

Vol. IX.

TORONTO: AUGUST, 1856.

No. 8.

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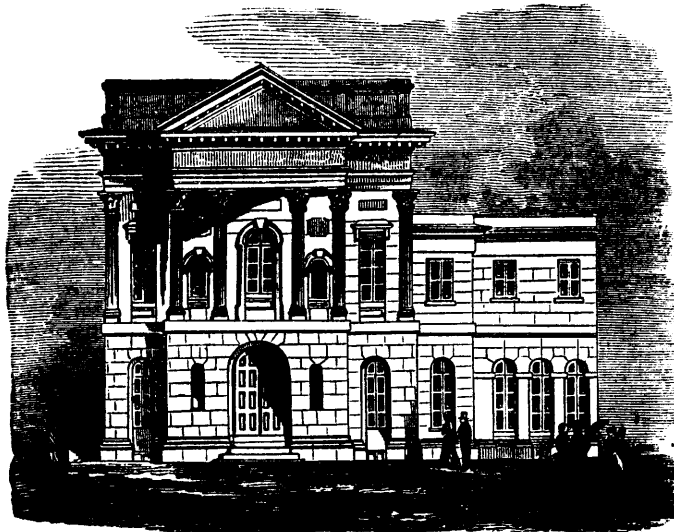
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NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY, ALBANY.

The New York State Library was established by an Act of the Legislature, passed April 21, 1818. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chancellor, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, were constituted a Board of Trustees, charged with the duty of fitting up proper rooms in the capitol and purchasing such books, maps, and other literary publications for the use of the Library, as they might deem expedient. The sum of three thousand dollars was appropriated for such purposes, and five hundred dollars annually thereafter.

By another Act, passed May 4, 1844, the Regents of the University were constituted its Trustees. Under their management it has since continued in very successful operation; the Legislature making annual appropriations for its support and gradual increase. The growth of the Library up to 1844 was very inconsiderable, and, perhaps, amounted to little more than what arose from the constant contributions from the several States, and the purchase of law books.

The Board of Regents has made very vigorous exertions in its behalf, and the position which it now holds in two departments of bibliography, is not below that of any other collection in this country. The most valuable and excellent additions have been made mainly in the departments of Law and American History. Aside from the annual reports of the Trustees, two Catalogues of the Library have appeared, in 1846 and 1850 respectively, and the third is now in the



NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY, ALBANY.

course of preparation. From a recent enumeration of the books, it has been ascertained that the number of volumes will slightly exceed 42,000, being an increase since 1845 of over 30,000. The amount required from the annual appropriations for the increase of the Law Department is such as to leave quite an inconsiderable amount for the support of the General Library—inconsiderable when the high prices demanded for American Historical works, and

scientific journals and such periodicals as are indispensable to any Library, are considered.

The system of international exchange has assisted the growth of this Library in a remarkable degree, the excellent publications of the state having furnished an ample and valuable capital, the distribution of which is constantly reacting upon

the state itself. These accessions consist mainly of costly Governmental works, including particularly statistics and laws. The contributions also from several of the public Libraries of Europe have been both flattering and liberal.

The Legislature of 1851 directed the erection of a new building, and appropriated therefor the sum of \$50,000. The