

\*\*\*\*\* A N \*\*\*\*\*  
**ORATION**

ON THE ADVANTAGES OF AN EARLY

**EDUCATION,**

DELIVERED AT

**EXETER,**

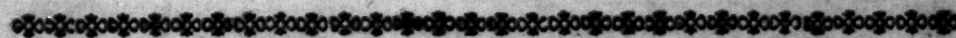
IN THE STATE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE, MAY 1, 1783,

AT THE OPENING OF THE

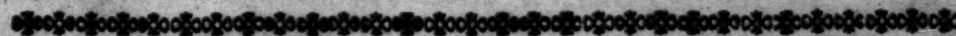
**PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY**

FOUNDED BY THE

**Hon. *John Phillips*, L. L. D.**



By **DAVID M'CLURE, A. M.**  
PASTOR OF THE CHURCH AT NORTH-HAMPTON;  
AND ONE OF THE TRUSTEES OF SAID ACADEMY.



**NEW-HAMPSHIRE :**

PRINTED AND TO BE SOLD AT THE PRINTING-OFFICE  
IN EXETER. M,DCC,LXXXIII.

FOR A T I O N

ON THE ADVANTAGE OF AN EARLY

E D U C A T I O N

IN MUSIC

BY THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

PRINTED BY THE ACADEMY



BY DAVID MORTIMER, M.A.  
PASTOR OF THE CHURCH AT DORCHESTER;  
AND ONE OF THE TUSTERS OF SAID ACADEMY.

NEW HAMPSHIRE :

PRINTED AND TO BE SOLD AT THE PRINTING OFFICE

IN EXETER, 1800



## An O R A T I O N, &c.

RESPECTABLE AUDITORS,

**T**O form the minds of youth to the principles of useful knowledge, and to the esteem and practice of virtue, is at once to communicate the greatest benevolence to mankind, and to receive the most rational satisfaction of which a generous mind is capable.

At the auspicious *Æra* of the birth of an institution, founded here, to promote piety, virtue and literature, permit me to solicit your attention to this pleasing theme----- A theme on which I cannot flatter myself, that I shall offer any thing new, since it has received its deserved Eulogies, from the enlightened of all ages, in which learning has flourished.

Were I to speak of the importance of the good education of youth, in order to their passing through life with decency, reputation and usefulness, and acting their part well on the theatre of the world; or in praise of the various branches of academic science; or of the success which has attended the pious labors of those who have laid the foundations of such institutions, in which the gentle hand of instruction has led the steps of expanding genius, in the path of virtue and of knowledge; or were I to shew  
that

that the virtuous education of the rising generation, lays the sure foundation of that *righteousness which exalteth a nation*; my attempt would be anticipated by the celebrated masters of instruction, not only of *Athens* and of *Rome*, but of these more enlightned days.

But, notwithstanding the subject has not novelty to recommend it, the occasion must apologize for me, generous auditors, while I shall attempt, for your entertainment, to offer a few thoughts on the advantages derived to mankind from the improvement of the understanding in knowledge, and the importance of the virtuous education of youth.

The divine architect, in the creation of the world, has pour'd abroad in rich profusion his benignity among the countless variety of beings, its inhabitants; each representative of his omnipotence, his knowledge, his wisdom and his goodness. To *man*, the favorite of heaven, is given a pre-eminence; in that it hath pleased the sovereign goodness, to endue him with the powers of reason; uniting to the divine workmanship of the body, an immortal spirit, capable of thought and reflection, and of everlasting improvement in knowledge and virtue; and so wisely constituting those, that the animal powers and senses shall be happily subservient to the rational improvement of the mind.

It is by the cultivation of this noble power, that man attains to superior dignity among his fellow men: by this he is brought to the knowledge of his end, and of the wisdom

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dom of that being, to whom, true science teaches him to refer, with unceasing gratitude, the tribute of sublime praise. This is the glorious end of all science, and for which the father of spirits conferred the gift of reason on man.---- The cultivation then, of our rational powers in knowledge and in virtue, is a duty as profitable as it is binding, and as pleasing as it is profitable.

If we confine our prospect to those great characters which have rose to eminence and glory on the stage of life, we shall find that they have attained that greatness by the improvement of their minds in knowledge and virtue, and in the application of their attainments to the public good. I join the esteem and practice of virtue with useful knowledge, because there can be no true greatness without goodness ; and deeds however illustrious that originate not in solid virtue, are but the splendor of false greatness ; it is virtue that gives them consistancy, dignity and merit.

From the dawn of life the mind gradually expands to receive the rays of truth, presented by an endless variety of objects, which, if neglected by salutary instruction, contracts a sordid selfishness, and is absorbed in ignorance ; and by such neglect, deprived of receiving and communicating that rational happiness of which it is capable.

Sensible of the vast importance of education, that the prosperity and happiness of individuals, of families and of nations, depend upon it ; wise legislators, heathen as well

as christian, have paid particular attention to it, and encouraged and supported institutions of learning. They have sought for, and maintained, in this honorable employment, men qualified to guide the youth to knowledge and virtue ; hence colleges and schools of learning have been founded and endowed in early days ; and the encouragement and support of literature and of the arts and sciences interwoven with their systems of government and laws.

This was the case with the wiser heathen of *Greece* and of *Rome* ; and in their public schools were formed those renowned statesmen, patriots, orators, poets, philosophers and heroes ; who by their abilities and generous labours, raised their respective republics to eminence and glory in the history of mankind. They rose to opulence and dominion, more by the aids of superior knowledge, than martial bravery. By informing the minds of their youth with the knowledge of the rights of mankind, and warming them with patriotic virtue, they were animated to such active deeds as rendered them great in the estimation of mankind, and reflected at the same time, the highest honor on the wisdom of their government. Great and good men in all ages, have ever esteemed it their honor and felicity to encourage and support institutions of learning.

Justness of thinking and propriety of reasoning on subjects within the ken of human comprehension, with a suitable application of the principles of knowledge to the great purposes of living, are the happy fruits of a well regulated education :

education : and in this consists the dignity and glory of man.

By learning and virtue the civilized man is distinguished from the savage, and raised as far above the uncultivated part of his species, as they are above the animal. Learning enlarges the mind---frees it from its "native barrenness and rusticity"---collects and strengthens the mental powers-----reduces the passions to a proper subordination to the law of reason, and restores harmony to the soul. It cherishes a manliness of spirit---it flourishes under the shield of virtuous freedom---it is the enemy of slavery---the support and ornament of every profession of the gown, the sword, the bar and the pulpit. It is the delight of our youthful days ; an agreeable and profitable companion in active life ; and the solace of advanced age. \*

To a mind engaged in the search of truth, time imperceptibly passes away-- and is regaled with the repast of angels. On the wings of virtue and knowledge, it soars towards perfection, and with the steadiness of the eagle, enjoys the beams of science, unclouded by prejudice or error.

Learning expands the heart with universal philanthropy--stimulates the soul to a generous emulation-----the good of mankind is the noble rule of its conduct--it is the light of human life. Happy the people whose sons pursue the paths of knowledge and of virtue ! They will attain the purposes of life, by cultivating the arts of peace, manufactures,

\* Cicero.

factures, agriculture and commerce; and by the practice of that righteousness which consists in justice, mercy and truth, reach the summit of human greatness.

On the contrary; ignorance degrades the soul--the man is lost in the uncultivated savage--and the "human form divine" but little superior to the irrational creation. By *ignorance* the mind is not only deprived of *those enlarged* improvements in knowledge, and of that perfection of which it is made capable, but it is the slave of the sensitive passions, and like a ship without a pilot, overwhelmed and lost in the storms of life.

" *Ignorance and vice,*

" In consort foul agree, each heigt'ning each,

" While *virtue* draws from *knowledge*, brighter fire."

The savage tribes of our western wilderness, in their mode of life, exhibit a striking contrast to the advantages and felicity of a civilized people. Destitute of any regular forms of government, life and property are not secure; while no laws restrain the licentious, or protect the peaceable subject. They are the perpetual slaves of fierce and cruel passions and gloomy imaginations; the passive votaries of the *prince of darkness*, who rules uncontrouled in those dark corners of the earth. But, what a happy change even among savages, is made by the introduction of knowledge! Their barbarous tempers are softened by the genial warmth of science; darkness no longer obstructs the mental ray. There, "witchcraft, magic and forcery," and the answers of the oracles



oracles of demons disappear--- to the shades of ignorance they fly---they flourish only in those dark regions of the earth, where the light of science never shines.

To ignorance, as the prolific cause, must be attributed, the complication of miseries which tyranny and persecution have brought upon mankind in the different ages of the world.

Detestable ignorance ! thou, offspring of sin, and fruitful parent of evil ! with foul assiduity thou nourishest blind bigotry, gloomy superstition, unresisting slavery, and bloody persecution ! too long hast thou held mankind in thy chains. Thy charm shall be broken. In thy ruin shall science, liberty and virtue triumph !

The introduction of knowledge opens the minds of a people to comprehend the great purposes of living ; and to pursue the means of attaining happiness. It disposes them to suppress lawless ambition and revenge ; which, among the uncivilized, speedily kindle the flames of war---for mankind, uncultivated, are prone to commence hostilities at every injury ; having little to loose by the ravages of conquest. Far different is the case with those nations with whom manufactures, trade and commerce have made a progress : their interest and happiness are secured by a peaceable conduct. Great indeed have been the changes which have been made among mankind by the introduction of the arts of civil and social life, and the happy system of

evangelical truth---by the lighth of these the nations of *Europe* have emerged from gothic ignorance and barbarism; and rose to greatness and refinement, both in a political and religious view. Hence, the vast difference between the manners of these, and those of the wandering herds of *Tartars*, the plundering tribes of *Arabia* and the savage nations of *America*.

By improving the human understanding, great discoveries have been made, tending to the common utility and happiness of mankind.

Inriched with the knowledge of the ancients, the moderns have excelled them in many valuable arts and manufactures. In profitable branches of science they have also excelled.---As the superior lustre of the sun eclipses the rays of inferior orbs, so shines the genius of a *Newton*, among philosophers of former times. Admitted to pry into the *arcana* of government by which the heavenly bodies are regulated, with a force of penetration peculiar to himself, he has struck out new paths for succeeding geniuses, and reaching the zenith of human science, attained the glorious end, to which all knowledge is directed---to acknowledge and adore the allwise ruler of this stupendious frame! In the contemplation of the universe the mind is enraptured, and anticipates the period which shall disengage it from matter and open a field for everlasting advancement towards perfection.

Great improvements have been made in later days in the  
science

science of geography. The lesser divisions only of the earth were known to the ancients; their geographical knowledge was bounded by *Britain* and the *Ganges*; all besides was to them a *Terra incognita*.

The polar property of the magnet, and its uses in navigation, was to them unknown: hence their knowledge of distant regions and nations was very imperfect, and their ideas of them visionary and romantic: and without this most useful discovery, we must have continued in the same ignorance; and like the ancient *Phœnicians* performed our voyages only along the shores, and by the guidance of the stars. But by the aid of this invention, the skilful mariner can now find his way thro' the pathless deserts of the ocean in storms and darkness, to the wished-for port: by this, trade and commerce, the great sources of national opulence and power, are carried on, the nations spread over the face of the globe become acquainted, and are no longer strangers or enemies, but friends, allies and brethren of one universal family. Commerce gives life and motion to the world; the spirit of industry is hereby excited, the treasures and delicacies of various climates distributed round the earth, and the general happiness promoted. Far different from this, was the intercourse of nations in the darker ages; *then* they fought each other to plunder or destroy; and were known only as victors and vanquished, tyrants and slaves.

Thus, from a few instances, we may discover the happiness derived to mankind from the improvement of the understanding.

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Were we to trace the various and almost endless branches of the arts and manufactures to their source, each of them would afford a pleasing topic of panegyric in favour of learning; since they all owe their origin and perfection to the application of the principles of philosophy and the powers of mechanics: but our time will not indulge a further pursuit of the agreeable theme.

Come we now to speak of the importance of the virtuous education of youth.

From the acknowledged advantages which are enjoyed by those nations who cultivate the arts and sciences, and train up their youth in useful knowledge, and the practice of moral virtue, the necessity of education must strike every mind with conviction: and learning can have no enemies, the "ignorant excepted."\* No man, respected auditor, can be truly great, who is not a friend to learning; since no man can be truly great without an enlightned understanding and a benevolent heart. The importance then of the proposition which I would attempt to illustrate, must, by the wise and good, be universally acknowledged.

As the skill of the Artist gives beauty and lustre to the rude diamond taken from the mine; so does the polish of education discover *the just value of the rational immortal mind.*

• *Reflections on learning.*

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The design of education is to qualify youth for an active, *useful* and *virtuous life*; and to direct them into the path of *piety* and *endless felicity*. These are the great ends for which this institution is founded; which ordains, that the youth be initiated into such branches of human science, as shall lay a foundation for their after improvement; and above all, that such impressions of moral obligation, and the great principles of natural and revealed religion, be made on their minds; as, by the divine blessing, may make them truly good; as well as useful in life.

Youth is a susceptible age; free from prejudice, and eager in the pursuit of knowledge; instruction obtains a welcome admittance to their minds; the heart receives it by an easy transition; and from thence it flows, in all the various actions of riper days.

Those impressions which are made upon the mind in childhood and youth are most lasting; as a new vessel long retains a tincture of the liquor which it first receives: these form the manners, and regulate the temper thro' life; agreeable to the observation of the wisest of men. *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

As education opens the mind to receive the light of revelation, it is the hand-maid of religion; and the merciful parent of the whole family of *Adam*, is pleased to cherish the seeds of pious instruction planted in the youthful

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breast,

breast, with heavenly influence ; and from those families and institutions, in which religion is enforced by examples of goodness, and instructions of early piety, have those persons usually been taken, whom GOD hath honored with distinguished usefulness in the world.

As without application, knowledge is not to be acquired ; and the mind gradually expands to receive it ; the skilful hand of instruction is necessary to rear it to valuable attainments. As the fertile soil by proper cultivation sends forth a rich harvest, but if neglected by the hand of industry, yields nought but weeds and briers ; so the minds of youth, well instructed, will send forth generous and salutary fruit, to reward the labor.

In a public school, youth engaged in the same studies, will be excited by a laudable ambition to excel. The knowledge diffused among the whole, will become in a degree the property of each individual. There the unhappiness of some dispositions will be cured by a constant association with those that are pleasant and amiable---they will polish one another. And, under the direction of the faithful preceptor, the vicious passions will be checked as soon as they appear ; and the laudable, encouraged, protected and rewarded.

Our venerable ancestors, impressed with the importance of improving this early period of life, founded colleges and schools ; by which they have left us a monument of their wisdom,

wisdom, their piety and their patriotism, as lasting as time. This good work of theirs, it hath pleased GOD remarkably to bless ;---into those fountains he has cast the salt of divine grace ; and the salutary streams have made glad the city of GOD. This generous part of that righteousness which consists in a zealous pursuit of duty towards the rising generation, we this day experience the blessed fruits of, from the great father of mankind, whose *gentleness hath made us great.*

Let us bow the knee, my highly favoured auditors, to the GOD of our fathers and of our salvation, with never ceasing gratitude, that it is our happy lot to draw the vital air, and flourish in this land of knowledge, of liberty and public virtue ! That we are individual members of these States, which Heaven has crowned with the blessings of I N D E P E N D E N C E and P E A C E ; and rendered prosperous in population, commerce and wealth, and above all, that we enjoy the light of the gospel of the blessed *Jesus*, in greater purity than any people on *Earth* ! May it be the subject of our daily solicitude---*what shall we render to the Lord for all his benefits !*

In this happy age, and even since the commencement of our successful struggle to be free, we behold a spirit of enquiry on the great subject of the natural rights of mankind, rapidly spreading over the earth ; and the eyes of despotic princes and of their oppressed subjects opening to the conviction of liberty and justice ; national prejudices disappearing  
before

before the dawn of science; error dropping the mask; and dismissing bigotry and persecution from her train; and mankind embracing each other as brethren. No more shall the suspicion of heresy condemn the innocent victim to the torture; the weapons of infernal revenge shall forever sleep; and the blind votaries of delusion receive the glorious light of heavenly P E A C E.

On the wide theatre of this new world, upon the threshold of which we are just entering, what cheering prospects open before us! Here, virtuous freedom crowned with the laurels of victory over opposing ambition, will cherish future geniuses that will arise, to eclipse the glory of former ages! This prodigious continent, extending thro' various climates and regions, luxuriant in soil, will crown the arts and sciences with the productions of her worthy sons.--- Empire having reached the limits of the globe, will probably *here* rest, after it's long travel from the eastern hemisphere; and the arts and sciences attain their last polish of perfection. \*

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\* A growing taste for useful knowledge is an important characteristic of the people of this new world; ---and seems to be the happy effect of that well regulated freedom and equality, enjoyed by them; and a pleasing omen of future advances, to that perfection of knowledge and social happiness, which may be attained by the united exertions of the human powers. This taste for literature has laid the foundations of ten colleges, several of them well endowed, in these thirteen states; in which there are resident, from 800 to 1000 students: besides a number of public academies, which are designed to prepare youth for admittance into those colleges; and to give a good english education, to those whose circumstances may forbid their passing thro' a course of classic learning.

There are also formed, several societies of the *literati*, for advancement



A happy presage of future glorious days, yet to open on this continent, seems afforded, by the rapid progress of population, and of the arts and sciences, in the course of a century and a half past : Long concealed from the knowledge of mankind, and happily sequestered from the old world deluged in ignorance and slavery---may we not indulge the pleasing thought, that Heaven hath reserved it, for the stage, on which the last and most glorious displays of the divine goodness to the children of men, shall be ushered in ---- when, in a sublime and perfect sense, there shall be given to the inhabitants, a pure language---the language of PEACE and everlasting love ! *Paradise*, long lost to the children of Adam, shall be found in this western world ; and become the residence of the favorites of Heaven !

Hail, happy days ! we congratulate you, O ye people, yet unborn, in the joyful prospects, when the wilderness of *America* shall become cultivated ; and the forest which now conceal the murderous Indian, watching for his prey, shall give place to verdant pastures, and fields of grain waving to the harvest ! When populous towns and cities, shall adorn the banks of yonder majestic lakes and rivers ; and the sails of merchantmen, whiten the watery prospect ; and the muses flourish under the protection of FREEDOM and

E PEACE ;

ment of knowledge ; and those institutions have been established under all the disadvantages attending the settlement of a new country ; and several of them, even while our enemies, tho' undesigned by them, were assisting, in laying the foundations of the august edifice of a rising empire, cemented by the blood of our countrymen !

**PEACE**; when schools of virtue, colleges and academies, shall adorn her plains, and temples erected to *Yehovah*, reach the limits of yonder western ocean: the congregations of the saints croud the gates of *Zion*, and the incense of thanksgiving arise, from ten thousand altars, to the throne of **GOD**.

Then shall those glorious events, long purposed in the eternal mind, obtain their full accomplishment! Then shall they adore **HIM** from the *West*; the wilderness blossom as the rose, the waste places smile like *Eden*;---and the deserts of *America* flourish, as the garden of **GOD**.

The enlightned of foreign nations, who have been looking upon *us*, with an ardent curiosity, have been pleased to give us the pre-eminence, in knowledge and virtue, to any people on the earth: and shall I go too far, when I say, *this* we owe to the piety of our fathers? They *wisely* thought, that the most valuable *legacy* they could leave their *children*, was a *virtuous education*. And the happy effects of our contest for **FREEDOM** and **INDEPENDENCE**, under the auspicious smiles of Providence, have been owing to men of superior talents and enlightned genius, who rose to stand foremost in the storm; and by whom our *Republic*, long tost on the warring element, is now moored in the harbour of **PEACE**!

While we revere the character of our illustrious *Chief*, as wise in council, glorious in the field, and amiable in every moral and social virtue, with warmest sentiments of thanksgiving

giving to Heaven, who has honored him, as the father and saviour of his country; we leave it to the future sons of *America*, to do justice to his unrivaled fame. The names and deeds of our worthy patriots, statesmen and heroes, will be handed down, on the faithful page of history, and applauding generations, will water their tombs, with the tears of gratitude and joy!

Nor less illustrious, will be their characters, who at this dawning of American greatness, with pious zeal for their country, have founded academies and schools of learning.

The patrons of learning and of virtue, who with the amiable generosity of *Mæcenæ*, have promoted the means of salutary instruction, have received the noble epithet of *Patres Patriæ*, and benefactors of mankind.

I must ask your indulgence, while on this occasion, I make an address, or two:---and were I permitted, I would honor my discourse, with a public acknowledgment of the generous deed, which has convened us together, by laying the deserved applause, of a grateful public, at the feet of the honorable founder of the *Exeter Academy*. Her future sons will pronounce the *name*, with affectionate and grateful veneration.

May the blessing of thousands, who by means of this generosity, may be rescued from ignorance and qualified for usefulness, rest on the honorable Founder! and the rewards

of a future life be the glorious recompence of his extensive charities, in *this* !

May Heaven crown his generous wishes for the prosperity of *piety*, and literature, with a success, surpassing his warmest hopes ! and the example inspire the like sentiments of *liberality*, *patriotism* and *piety*, in the breasts of those whom Providence blesses with ability !

To you dear Sir, § on whom the eyes of the public are fixed, as the *Preceptor* of the academic youth, allow me to address myself. By a mind enlightned with knowledge, and warmed with the love of virtue, and a generous zeal

\* The honorable Dr. PHILLIPS, has, by repeated donations, largely extended his munificence to *Dartmouth College*, in this State, founded by the late reverend and pious President WHEELOCK, D. D. whose memory will be ever held in grateful and affectionate esteem by the author, as his patron, benefactor and friend. That college promises fair for extensive usefulness to a large territory between the borders of the *New-England States* and *Canada*, increasing, with an accelerated progress in population and the means of subsistence. It now flourishes under the presidency of the son of the founder of it, the hon'ble JOHN WHEELOCK ; who possesses a happy portion of the spirit of his honor'd father.

\* The Founder of *this* Academy is also a Founder of that Academy in *Andover*, in the *Massachusetts*, under the preceptorship of Mr. ELIPHALET PEARSON ; in connection with whom in that generosity, are his brother, the honorable SAMUEL PHILLIPS, Esq; and the son of his brother, the honorable SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. Esq; May Heaven succeed the labors of the honorable family to promote the best interest of mankind !

§ Mr. WILLIAM WOODBRIDGE, son of the reverend Mr. ASH-BEL WOODBRIDGE, of *Glastenbury* in *Connecticut*. He received his academic education at *Yale College* in that State, under the presidency of the learned and venerable EZRA STILES, D. D.

to promote the best interests of the rising generation, the importance of this subject, is readily comprehended. A sacred trust now devolves upon you---the care and direction of youth, into the path of virtuous knowledge. We are happy in the prospect of having the youth placed under one who has such ample testimonials of his qualifications, for the important trust, as are given you, by the learned and the good. Your's dear Sir, is the laborious, yet delightful task,

“ To rear the tender thought,  
 To teach the young idea how to shoot,  
 To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,  
 -----and fix  
 The generous purpose, in the glowing breast.” †

In this we cordially wish you success. In the name of the honorable board of Trustees, and the parents of the youth, allow me to observe, that we place full confidence in your wisdom and fidelity, to discharge the important duties of your office, towards your pupils, as the *Preceptor* and guide of their youth.

You will consider, them as the lambs of the flock, for whom the Saviour shed his blood\* ---that by your instructions, a foundation will be laid, as we hope, in the breasts of very many, not only for their usefulness in this, but for their endless felicity in the future life---and while, with a heart warmed with zeal to promote their happiness, you give them

† *Thompson.*

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\* *Rollin.*

them daily lessons of instruction---that the success depends, upon the blessing that comes from the father of spirits, who alone can speak to the heart. May Heaven crown your faithful labors with success! May you have the joy to see, your *pupils walking in the truth*; and when satisfied with life--a life of honor and of usefulness, may you receive an immortal crown!

To the respectable inhabitants of this Town, I would beg leave to address my discourse:--Allow me, Gentlemen, to observe, that it must afford every friend of virtue, a satisfaction, that we may congratulate you on the birth of this public Institution, and its establishment, by the honorable Legislature of the State; in which, your sons---the rising hope of your declining days, may be placed under promising advantages, for an early education. The success of the instructions which they will receive at the Academy, will greatly depend, on your kind endeavors to co operate with the *Preceptor*, in his faithful labors, for their benefit. Behold the man! respectable parents! who relinquishing his connections in a distant part of the country, embraces the lot, which an all-diposing Providence points out, and becomes the guardian and *Preceptor* of your sons! Your zeal to succeed his labors, will not be wanting;---he will find them lightened by your kind attention to his comfort and usefulness, while directing the studies, and forming the principles, and morals, of your beloved offspring.

The commodious edifice, which you, Gentlemen, have  
erected

erected, is an honorable testimonial of your zeal to promote the laudable Institution. May it be made a rich blessing to our Towns, and to this, in a particular manner !

We humbly *dedicate* and recommend this *Academy* to the *Father* of mercies---to him who hath loved the children of men---and to the enlight'ner of the world ; beseeching Him to take it into his holy protection ; and that it would please him, to preserve it, and long continue it an extensive blessing ; that he would smile on the means of education, and succeed our united efforts, to spread the honors of his name, among mankind, in this, and succeeding generations !

O may a glorious multitude of plants of renown, reared and cultivated in this nursery of knowledge and virtue, after bearing much fruit to bless mankind, be transplanted to a happier soil, and flourish in immortal bloom, in the *Paradise* above ! May the generous Founder there behold the fair fruits of his labors !

May this *Institution* live 'till nature dies !' and *suns* and *stars* and *worlds* are rapt in universal ruin !



## STATE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

*In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one.*

**A N A C T** to incorporate an **ACADEMY** in the Town of **Exeter**, by the name of the **PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY**.

**W**HEREAS the education of youth has ever been considered by the wise and good, as an object of the highest consequence to the safety and happiness of a people; as at an early period in life the mind easily receives and retains impressions; and is most susceptible of the rudiments of useful knowledge: **AND WHEREAS**, the honorable **JOHN PHILLIPS** of Exeter, in the county of **Rockingham**, esquire, is desirous of giving to Trustees herein after to be appointed, certain lands and personal estate, to be by said Trustees forever appropriated and expended for the support of a public **FREE SCHOOL** or **ACADEMY** in the Town of **Exeter**: **AND WHEREAS**, the execution of such an important design, will be attended with very great embarrassments, unless by an Act of incorporation, said Trustees, and their successors shall be authorized to commence and prosecute actions at law, and transact such other matters in a corporate capacity as the interest of the said Academy shall require:

**BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED** by the **COUNCIL** and **HOUSE** of **REPRESENTATIVES** in *General Assembly* convened, and by the authority of the same, That there be, and hereby is established in the Town of **Exeter**, and county of **Rockingham**, an Academy, by the name of the **PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY**, for the purpose of promoting **PIETY** and **VIRTUE**; and for the education of youth in the *English, Latin and Greek Languages*; in *Writing, Arithmetic, Musick, and the Art of Speaking, Practical Geometry,*



*Geometry, Logic and Geography, and such other of the Liberal Arts and Sciences or Languages as opportunity may hereafter permit, and as the Trustees, herein-after provided shall direct.*

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the honorable JOHN PHILLIPS, Esq; DANIEL TILTON, Esq; THOMAS ODIORNE, Esq; and BENJAMIN THURSTON, gentleman, all of Exeter aforesaid, JOHN PICKERING, of Portsmouth, Esq; and the reverend DAVID M'CLURE, of North-Hampton, Clerk, all in the county of Rockingham and State of New-Hampshire, and the honorable SAMUEL PHILLIPS, junr. of Andover, and county of Essex and commonwealth of Massachusetts, Esq; be, and they hereby are nominated and appointed Trustees of said Academy; and they hereby are incorporated into a body-politic, by the name of the Trustees of the PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY; and that they and their successors shall be, and continue, a body-politic and corporate, by the same name forever.*

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Trustees and their successors, shall have one common Seal, which they may make use of in any cause or business that relates to the said office of Trustees of said Academy; and they shall have power and authority to break, change, or renew the said Seal, from time to time, as they shall see fit; and that they may sue and be sued in all actions, real, personal and mixed, and prosecute and defend the same to final judgment and execution, by the name of the Trustees of the PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY.*

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said JOHN PHILLIPS, Esq; and others, the Trustees aforesaid, the longest livers and survivors of them, and their successors, be the true and sole Visitors, Trustees and Governors of the said Academy, in perpetual succession forever;*

ever ; to be continued in the way and manner herein-after specified ; with full power and authority to elect such officers of the said Academy as they shall judge necessary and convenient ; and to make and ordain such laws, orders and rules, for the good government of said Academy, as to them the said Trustees, Governors and Visitors aforesaid, and their successors, shall from time to time, according to the various occasions and circumstances, seem most fit and requisite ; all which shall be observed by the officers, scholars and servants of the said Academy, upon the penalties therein contained : *Provided notwithstanding*, that the said rules, laws and orders be no ways contrary to the laws of this State.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the number of said Trustees and their successors, shall not, at any one time be more than seven, nor less than four ; four of whom shall constitute a quorum for transacting business ; and the major part of the members present, at any legal meeting, shall decide all questions that shall come before them, except in the instances herein-after excepted ; that the principal instructor for the time being shall ever be one of the said Trustees ; that a major part shall be laymen, and respectable freeholders : also, that all elections of the said Trustees shall be so governed in future, that a major part shall consist of men who are *not* inhabitants of the Town where the Academy is situate.

*And to perpetuate the succession of said Trustees :*

*Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That as often as one or more of the Trustees of said Academy shall die or resign, or in the judgment of the major part of the other Trustees, be rendered, by age or otherwise, incapable of discharging the duties of his office ; then, and so often, the Trustees surviving and remaining, or the major part of them, shall elect one or more persons, to supply the vacancy, or vacancies so happening.

*And*

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the Trustees aforesaid, and their successors, be and they hereby are rendered capable in law to take and receive by gift, grant, devise, bequest or otherwise, any lands, tenements or other estate, real and personal; provided that the annual income of the said real estate shall not exceed the sum of *five hundred pounds*: and the annual income of the said personal estate shall not exceed the sum of *two thousand pounds*; both sums to be valued in silver, at the rate of *six shillings and eight-pence* by the ounce; to have and to hold the same to them the said Trustees, and their successors, on such terms, and under such conditions and limitations as may be expressed in any deed or instrument of conveyance which shall be made to them.

*Provided always,* That neither the said Trustees, nor their successors, shall ever hereafter receive any grant or donation, the condition wherof shall require them, or any others concerned, to act, in any respect, counter to the design of the first Grantor. And all deeds and instruments, which the said Trustees shall make, when made in the name of said Trustees, and sign'd and delivered by four of the said Trustees, at least, and sealed with their common seal, shall bind the said Trustees and their successors, and be valid in law.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That if it shall hereafter be judged, upon mature and impartial consideration of all circumstances, by *two thirds* of all the Trustees, that for good and substantial reasons, which at this time do not exist, the true design of this Institution will be better promoted by removing the Academy from the place where it is founded, it shall be in the power of the said Trustees to remove it accordingly; and to establish it in such other place, within this State, as they shall judge to be best calculated for carrying into effectual execution the intention of the Founder.

AND

**AND WHEREAS**, the said Institution may be of very great and general advantage to this State, and deserves every encouragement :

Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all the lands, tenements and personal estate, that shall be given to said Trustees for the use of said Academy, shall be, and hereby are forever exempted from all taxes whatsoever.

STATE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE. } In the House of Representatives,  
March 30th, 1781.

The foregoing BILL having been read a third time, Voted, That it pass to be enacted.

Sent up for concurrence,

JOHN LANGDON, Speaker.

In COUNCIL, April 3d, 1781.

This BILL having been read a third time, Voted, That the same be enacted.

M. WEARE, President.

Copy examined by Joseph Pearson, Deputy Sec'ry.

