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Citation:
LETTER FROM WAYMAN CROW TO WILLIAM GREENLEAF ELIOT COLLECTION

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CHARTER AND CONSTITUTION

OF THE

WASHINGTON INSTITUTE,

OF ST. LOUIS:

ORGANIZED UNDER AN ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI.

FEBRUARY 22, 1854.

ST. LOUIS:
CHAMBERS AND KNAPP, PRINTERS.
1854.

OFFICERS.

WM. G. ELIOT, *President.*
WAYMAN CROW, *Vice-President.*
JOHN CAVENDER, *Treasurer.*
WM. GLASGOW, Jr., *Secretary.*
SAMUEL TREAT, *Corresponding Secretary.*

DIRECTORS.

CHRISTOPHER RHODES,
SAMUEL TREAT,
JOHN M. KRUM,
JOHN CAVENDER,
GEORGE PARTRIDGE,
PHOCION R. McCREERY,
GEORGE PEGRAM,
N. J. EATON,
MANN BUTLER,
JAMES SMITH,
WM. G. ELIOT,
JOHN HOW,
WM. GLASGOW, JR.
HUDSON E. BRIDGE,
SAMUEL RUSSELL,
SETH A. RANLETT,
WAYMAN CROW.

Notify for a meeting at the Chapel at 7 1/2 o'clock this evening April 25th 1834

AN ACT

TO INCORPORATE THE

ELIOT SEMINARY.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

SECTION 1. CHRISTOPHER RHODES, SAMUEL TREAT, JOHN M. KRUM, JOHN CAVENDER, GEORGE PARTRIDGE, PHOCION R. MCCREERY, GEORGE PEGRAM, N. J. EATON, JAMES SMITH, SETH A. RANLETT, MANN BUTLER, WILLIAM G. ELIOT, JR., JOHN HOW, HUDSON E. BRIDGE, WILLIAM GLASGOW, JR., SAMUEL RUSSELL, and WAYMAN CROW, and their associates and successors, are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, by the name of "THE ELIOT SEMINARY," and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and be capable of taking and holding, by gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, and of conveying, leasing, or otherwise disposing of any estate, real, personal or mixed, annuities, endowments, franchises and other hereditaments, which may conduce to the support of said Seminary or to the promotion of its objects. All property of said corporation shall be exempt from taxation, and the sixth, seventh, and eighteenth sections of the first article of the act concerning corporations, approved March 19, 1845, shall not apply to this Corporation.

SEC. 2. The management of the affairs of this Corporation shall be vested in a Board of seventeen Directors; the persons herein named shall constitute the first Board of Directors. Vacancies occurring in the Board by resignation, death, or otherwise, shall be filled by the Board.

SEC. 3. The Board of Directors may prescribe the course of instruction in said Seminary, and organize the institution under such regulations, and provide in such way as they may deem proper for the appointment of its professors, teachers, and other officers, and may make such by-laws and rules as they may deem necessary for the management of the Institution.

SEC. 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved, February 22d, 1853.

MISSOURI,

Office of Secretary of State.

I, JOHN M. RICHARDSON, Secretary of State, do certify the foregoing to be a correct and perfect copy of the original roll on file in my office, of an act of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, entitled, "An Act to incorporate the Eliot Seminary."

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said office,

[L. S.] done at the office of Secretary of State, in the City of Jefferson, this 23 February, 1853.

JOHN M. RICHARDSON,

Secretary of State.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

WASHINGTON INSTITUTE,

OF ST. LOUIS.

ARTICLE I.

Title and Object.

This corporation is organized for the purpose of founding an educational institution, under the "Act to incorporate the Eliot Seminary," approved February 22, 1853; which institution shall be known and designated as "THE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE OF ST. LOUIS."

The object of the Washington Institute shall be to provide the means of a thorough and complete education, with particular view to practical usefulness.

ARTICLE II.

Departments.

It shall comprise different Departments, among which shall be a Collegiate Department, a Female Seminary, a Practical and Scientific Department, an Industrial School, and such other Departments as the Board of Directors may determine.

ARTICLE III.

Funds.

All funds or property of every nature and description whatsoever, given, granted, bequeathed, devised, or in any way whatsoever acquired for the use of this corporation, shall be faithfully applied to the general purposes of said Institute, unless donated to said corporation for some specific object, designated at the time.

ARTICLE IV.

Scholarships.

SECTION 1. For every sum of one thousand dollars in value contributed to the general purposes of this corporation, the contributor may found a scholarship for twenty-five years; provided, that at the time of said contribution he so elect; and provided, further, that the whole number of said scholarships shall not, at any one time, exceed fifty, unless two-thirds of the Directors determine to increase said number.

SEC. 2. For every sum of two thousand dollars in value contributed to the general purposes of this corporation, the contributor may found a scholarship for fifty years; provided, that at the time of the said contribution he so elect.

SEC. 3. For every sum of five thousand dollars in value contributed to the general purposes of this corporation, the contributor may found a perpetual scholarship; provided, he so elect at the time of making said contribution.

SEC. 4. Every person founding a scholarship, as above provided, and his heirs and assigns may appoint for each year, one scholar, who shall, for said year, receive all the benefits of the Department to which appointed, free from all charges; provided, further, that the appointees under the perpetual scholarships shall be entitled, free of charge, to all of the benefits of each and every Department of the Institute; and provided, further, that each appointee under a scholarship shall be subject to all of the rules and regulations which the Board of Directors may, from time to time, adopt for the government and control of said Departments, and of the Institute generally.

SEC. 5. Every scholarship shall bear the name of its founder, unless he otherwise direct.

SEC. 6. All funds contributed for scholarships, shall be for the general purposes of the Institute, and shall not be considered as specific endowments of a professorship, or of a particular Department.

SEC. 7. Holders of scholarships may transfer to the Board of Directors the temporary or permanent control of the same, in which case the Board shall fill the seats thus placed at their disposal, so that every scholarship shall be kept in constant use.

ARTICLE V.

Endowment of Professorships.

Any person may endow in whole or in part, a specified professorship in the said Institute; and if, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, said endowment shall be sufficient for the perpetual support of said professorship, said professorship shall bear the name of its founder forever, unless at the time of the endowment he shall otherwise direct.

ARTICLE VI.

Endowment of Departments.

Any person may found, by an adequate endowment, a specific department in said Institute; provided, the plan of its organization and its purposes are approved by the Board of Directors; and if said endowment shall, in the opinion of said Board, be sufficient for the perpetual support of said Department, it shall bear the name of the founder thereof forever, unless he shall otherwise direct at the time of endowing the same.

ARTICLE VII.

Specific Funds.

All funds and property, of whatsoever nature or description, contributed to the endowment or founding of a professorship or Department, shall forever be faithfully applied to the specified purpose for which contributed, and to no other object whatsoever, without the written consent of the donor or founder thereof, or of his heirs or assigns; and also the written consent of two-thirds of the Directors first had and obtained; provided, however, that said funds and property in this Article named, shall never be diverted from the purposes of said Institute.

ARTICLE VIII.

Conditions of Endowment.

No instruction, either sectarian in religion, or partisan in politics, shall be allowed in any Department of the Institute, and no sectarian or partisan test shall be used in the election of professors, teachers, or other officers of the Institute, nor shall any such tests ever be used in said Institute, for any purpose whatsoever. This Article shall be understood as the fundamental condition on which all endowments, of whatever kind, are received.

ARTICLE IX.

Officers.

The officers of the Board shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and such Standing Committees as may be appointed. They shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the Board.

ARTICLE X.

Annual Meeting.

A regular annual meeting of the Board shall be held on the first Tuesday of December. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President, or by any three members. Five members shall constitute a quorum for transaction of ordinary business, but no real estate shall be sold, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated, except by the assent of a majority of the Board.

ARTICLE XI.

Amendments.

This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting, two-thirds of the whole Board assenting; but no alteration with regard to endowments and scholarships shall be retrospective in its action; and the Eighth Article shall not be subject to alteration at any time.

ADDRESS,

Read before the Board of Directors of the Washington Institute of St. Louis, February 22, 1854; by W. G. Eliot.

Gentlemen—In the beginning of every enterprise we should know, as distinctly as possible, what we propose to do, and the means of doing it. When it is a work that will require long-continued exertion, we should also make up our minds with some deliberation, whether it is, upon the whole, worth the doing, and if so, whether it is our part to do it.

The enterprise which we now contemplate, is one of this sort. It is not only the beginning of a great work, capable of indefinite extension, but each step in its progress and the first step in its commencement involve the sacrifice both of time and money. As we have now agreed upon a general plan of action, it may, therefore, be well for us to look at it deliberately, to see if it is a work likely to compensate us for the labor and the cost. Suppose that we succeed, what will be gained? This is the main point to consider; because, if we can see the way clear in this, I am confident that we shall find the ability, and already have the good-will, to accomplish what is proposed. At least, we can accomplish its beginning, which is all that we should expect. We desire to lay the foundation, and to mature some parts of the plan. Those who come after us must finish the work.

Judging by myself, I may say, that we are impelled by three different motives, and expect to attain a three-fold result, in the present undertaking.

First, To educate our own children. We have all felt the need of better and more permanent schools, both for our sons and daughters, than private institutions can afford. So long as the whole work is left to individual enterprise, the

best educational advantages can be obtained only at great expense, if at all. No college or scientific institute can be made strictly self-supporting, if conducted upon a large and liberal plan. The common charges of tuition are too small to justify the expenditure required. We must, therefore, have well endowed institutions in our city, in which, at a moderate rate of tuition, the best advantages may be enjoyed; otherwise, we must remain under the necessity, either of contenting ourselves with an imperfect education for our children, or of sending them to distant schools, where the greater opportunities of learning seldom compensate for the loss of parental influence and home discipline. We need, and if we are faithful to ourselves and families, to our children and our children's children, we must have facilities of education, here, at our own doors, which will remove the unnatural necessity of separating families; which will enable us to keep our children under our own roof-tree, and at the same time give them the best education that teachers and books can afford. I hold this to be not a question of expediency, but our bounden duty. It is among the things, not which we desire to have, but which we must have. It is not a question of greater or less cheapness or cost; it is a question of good, practical, home education for our sons and daughters; and let it cost what it may, we are under an obligation, measured only by our ability. If it costs us a thousand dollars, yearly, for the education of each child, at home, it is money well spent, so long as we have it to spend, and succeed in attaining the object; for, this is the great end of our working, of our "rising early, and sitting up late, and eating the bread of care;" this is the great reward of our industry—to make our children what they ought to be, by giving them advantages of education greater than we ourselves enjoyed. I maintain, therefore, that we have sufficient inducement, by a fair calculation of profit and loss, not only to give time and money, but to incur inconvenience and sacrifice, if need be, in giving them.

SECONDLY, Our interest in the young should not be confined to our own households. We feel it to be our duty to aid others, and there is no method of aiding them so effectually as to give a good practical education to their children. The institution which we propose, therefore, is arranged particularly with this view. We propose to establish an *Industrial School*, in which children will be received and instructed, not only in the common branches of English education, but also in such employments as will enable them to earn a respectable living. I admit that this part of the Institute is experimental. We do not know how much will come of it. Perhaps it will be nothing more than a Charity School, in which destitute children will be taught habits of industry and neatness. Perhaps we can make it the preparatory school of a practical and scientific college, hereafter to be established. But this is a department in which experiments need to be made. We must try first one plan, then another, until we learn the best plan of giving substantial help to those whose parents cannot, or will not, give it. Our first working may be comparatively in the dark, but we shall gradually see in what direction to go. Meanwhile, in progress of the experiment, our funds will not be expended, but invested in such manner that nothing but the interest can be used. With such caution, and employing practical men to do our work, it will not be many years before we shall know what can be done and how to do it.

But the Industrial School is not the only part of our enterprise which deserves the name of benevolent. It is probable that every founder of a scholarship will use it as much for others as for his own family; or, I may at least say, he will use it for others when not needed for his own children. What better kindness can we show to an intelligent and deserving boy, than to say to him, "here is an opportunity of gaining a complete education, in whatever department of life you choose; your accepting it will cost me nothing, for the money is already paid, and so long as your

teachers give a good report of your industry and behavior, your privilege shall not be taken away." Now, suppose that for a thousand dollars expended, one can first educate his own child, from ten years of age to manhood, and still have it in his power to appoint another scholar, from such motives of kindness, to receive the same advantages; I am inclined to think that it would be very difficult to use the same money so as to do a greater good. Considered in this light, every scholarship may become a noble charity. It would put it in our power, at a small cost, to give the best advantages of wealth to the children of those who are in straightened circumstances.

THIRDLY, We propose to found an *Institution* for the public benefit. This, perhaps, considered on a large scale, is the strongest motive by which we are actuated. We live in that part of the United States which will probably give character to the whole country in its future generations. Our city will, probably, be one of the largest and most influential in the Western Valley. The necessity of laying a broad and substantial foundation for educational, religious and philanthropic institutions, is, therefore, strong and imperative. There is no time to be lost, for the growth in population is so rapid that our utmost exertions can scarce keep pace with it. Upon such institutions as the Public Schools, the Mercantile Library Association and the Christian Churches and Sunday Schools, the permanent prosperity, the intellectual, moral and religious growth of society depends. We feel it a duty, therefore, and a privilege, to do our part in the establishment and support of such influences. The greater part of us have lived here so long that our interests are identified with the place. We are not only American citizens, but Western men and citizens of St. Louis. Our prosperity has thus far, with the most of us, kept pace with the growing prosperity of the community in which we live. Our feelings and our sense of duty, therefore, alike impel us to invest a generous part of that which by honest industry we have earned, for the public benefit

We desire to leave the city, in every way, better than we found it. We desire that those who come after us should have greater advantages, both moral and intellectual, than we have enjoyed. Having ourselves felt the want of such advantages, we understand their importance and would supply them, in a never-failing stream, to future generations.

With such general views of our duty, we are now proposing to begin a new Institution, upon a broad and liberal basis. If we can establish it according to our wishes, it will become, perhaps in our own day, one of the strongest agencies for good, not only in this city, but in the whole Western valley. I grant that it begins with an infant's form, but as the little child needs only natural and healthy growth to become a man, so do we begin with this Institute, with a frame work which will admit of indefinite expansion. I think that we are beginning it right and with a right spirit. Let some one Department of it be now placed upon a firm basis, and the future will take care of itself.

There is one view of the WASHINGTON INSTITUTE which I desire to keep particularly prominent—its practical character and tendencies. I hope to see the time when that which we call the Practical and Scientific Department, will stand in the foreground, to give character to all the rest. In what way this can be accomplished, we cannot of course now predict. This will depend, in part, upon those by whom the requisite funds are supplied. But in some way or other, a Practical and Scientific direction must be given to all educational schemes of the present day. Harvard University is, at this time, gaining more credit and accomplishing greater good, by the Lawrence Scientific School than by any other agency. We need just such a school, here. Its effect would be to elevate mechanical, agricultural, and mercantile pursuits, into learned professions. It would annihilate that absurd distinction, by which *three* pursuits, of Law, Medicine, and Theology, are called professions, and everything else, labor or trade. There is no more reason why the Merchant should not be a well-educated man, than

the Physician. The farmer or mechanic, to understand his business, must be a scientific man, and that is the only way to dignify his labor. By all the talking and argument in the world you cannot make labor respectable, until it is done by well educated men. It is the ignorance and not the labor, upon which society looks with contempt; but the ignorance, for the great part, is involuntary, and herein consists the hardship. Give to young mechanics, farmers and merchants, the requisite means and facilities of intellectual improvement, and then, if they do not avail of them, they do not deserve to be respected. But it requires no prophet to declare, that if such facilities are provided, upon a large and generous scale, there will be enongh, in every community, to avail themselves of the privilege; until, by and by, a good education will become a matter of necessity to every young man who wishes to be employed at the work-bench, or to hold the plough.

These suggestions are very general, I acknowledge, and somewhat vague. I know that, as we must begin at the beginning, it may require many years to accomplish the ultimate design. But I cannot help indulging the hope, that among those who are greatly prospering in this community, we may find some of those extraordinary instances of liberality, to which public institutions owe their success. Our Charter is so comprehensive, that we can undertake anything that properly belongs to an Educational Institute, and we require nothing but pecuniary means, to offer as good advantages of education as the country affords. The great question is, can we command the confidence of the community in which we live? I believe that we can, but only in one way, and that is by deserving it. I am confident that we have no private ends to serve, no concealed purpose of making sectarian capital, but that we are beginning in good faith and mean to go on in good faith, with exclusive regard to the interests of sound practical education, to do what we can in this cause, for the public benefit. We expect to derive no advantages from the Institution establish-

ed, except those which every citizen of St. Louis may share. We voluntarily assume the labor and the first costs, while the Institution is an experiment, and this is the only distinction we claim. Beginning with such a purpose, I think we may gradually command the confidence of those who have the means and the disposition to labor in the same cause.

By our Charter, the first Board of Directors is already appointed; but in filling the vacancies which will, from time to time, occur, we should be guided only by the desire to find the best working men, who are willing to work with us. And still more, in selecting Trustees and Managers in each department of the Institute, we are not confined to our own members, but may select permanent Trustees to whom we can give such a degree of discretionary power as may be necessary for the just and liberal direction of its affairs. Thus, as rapidly as each Department is put into such a position as to secure its success, we can free ourselves from a great part of its care, content with giving it the benefit of our Charter and guarding it from sectarian or other abuse.

Above all, it must be our constant endeavor to keep narrow and sectarian influences from every department of this Institute. The Constitution now adopted, guards us against them, and by the eighth article we have placed it beyond our power to introduce any partisan or sectarian test, or to allow any partisan or sectarian instruction. For, as that rule has now become, by our solemn act, unalterable forever, and is made the inviolable basis on which all endowments of whatever kind are received, full power is given to the proper judicial tribunals, to enforce it against all dishonest or other efforts to violate its letter or spirit. The security against sectarian or partisan ends rests, therefore, not only upon the expressed intention of the present Board of Directors, but upon a basis as permanent as our government, whose constitutional provisions guarantee the inviolability of that contract with all who contribute funds in aid of the enterprise.

But as we have voluntarily laid ourselves under this restriction, we shall voluntarily submit to its authority. We believe that the Church and Sunday School, under parental guidance, are the best instructers in religion, and to them the religious training of the young must chiefly be intrusted. The School-room and College are built for a different purpose and have a different work to do.

In conclusion, the name which we have selected, "THE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE OF ST. LOUIS," is itself a pledge of just and patriotic action. It was suggested by the date which our Charter bears—the twenty-second of February—the same on which the Constitution has now been adopted.

Such is our general plan, in the present enterprise. It is a work well worth doing. We undertake it in good faith, and shall not easily be discouraged in its prosecution. To those who labor in a good cause, with a true intent, failure never comes.