

take refuge in the Dismal Swamp which would protect them a short time.

## THE ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

While the citizens of this village are neglecting the higher departments of learning, and are sustaining no institution for general education, a Seminary has sprung up of a novel character, but of elevated aims. The splendid building at Buffalo Bridge, a most convenient college edifice, is occupied by 40 young men, pursuing an extensive course of literature and science, who defray their expences by employing their hours of relaxation in mechanical labor.

As many of our readers wish to learn in what respect the Institute differs from other schools, several short numbers on its internal regulations will appear. We solicit our readers to give them special attention.

### ROCHESTER INSTITUTE—No. 1.

**THE MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE GOVERN THEMSELVES.**—The Directors have not prepared a code of regulations, nor has the Principal dictated any. As rules were found necessary, the students counselling for their own good, either together, or by committees, adopted rules concerning labor, board, devotion, and study, and all subjects of common interest. Officers of their own appointment carry these rules into operation. Thuo republican principles are practically applied.—Manual labor with moral truth does in fact elevate the character, and call forth the energies of the soul. Idle, vicious and ignorant young men surrounded by temptations are incapable of *self-government, and of course, of the benefits of the Institute.*

**PRACTICAL EDUCATION.**—This title does not mean that Professors are to turn off their pupils to the care of Monitors, nor to dismiss as remote from practical use, the higher departments of science. It has respect to the great result and design of education, in the words of the constitution of the Institute, "to qualify the students for the highest possible degree of usefulness in the practical duties of life, and every thing which contributes to this end, either in the moral, intellectual or physical discipline, shall receive a share of attention, and be made a matter of direct instruction." The word has respect also to a method of communicating instruction in which the learner acquires the power to direct his own researches, and forms the best habits of conducting the studies of others.—Natural science is no longer expected to be taught in the abstract dead letter form. Why should others? The student of chemistry must be in the laboratory. The American citizen should, as a branch of popular education, examine the political institutions of our country. His liberties require him to an a eqble public spear, and to behold the pen of a ready writer. Several regulations of the Institute, show how constantly this subject is kept in view. Tuesday evening is assigned for public debate—each member in a speech not exceeding fifteen minutes, gives his views on some

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important subject, or cancels the reasonings of others. A person accustomed to debating societies can scarcely form an estimate of the order, politeness and exemption from levity and strife of words, which mark the discussions of the Institute. Many of the daily recitations are conducted with special reference to public speaking. The student gives, in his best manner, a full narration, description, explanation, or analysis of the subject before the class. Mathematics furnish a constant exercise for deliberate speaking. Evidence well arranged and clearly announced, is the foundation of eloquence. Translations from other languages whether oral or written furnish a constant exercise in composition and criticism. On Thursday evening every student reads before his class, an original essay, and on Saturday pronounces a committed address, either extracted, or original.—It is expected that anniversary and quarterly examinations will furnish suitable occasions for cultivating this important branch of *practical education*.

**THE HISTORY OF A SINGLE DAY.**—The students rise at 4 o'clock—they spend 15 minutes in preparing their persons and rooms for study. Near 30 minutes are spent in the Chapel in reading the word of God, singing and prayer. Before 5 they retire to their rooms for study. Their meals are at 6, 12 and 6. Three minutes are allowed from the stroke of the bell, for assembling for any public exercise. Each student studies 10 hours and labors 3. For want of room in the mechanics shop they are arranged into three divisions. The first division labors from breakfast till 10 o'clock, and recites at 11 and 5. The second from 10 to 3, and recite at 8 and 5. The third from 3 to 6, and recite at 9 and 1. Lectures addressed to all the students are before 6 A. M. or after meals. Several evenings are occupied each week in public exercises; otherwise the time till 9, is spent in study. The only time at the discretion of the student is from meals till the next hour, and this is usually occupied with special duties.

**FORMATION OF CHARACTER.**—This greatly depends on the views entertained, the feelings cherished, and habits formed. Truth brought to bear steadily on the understanding moulds the character. Unkind and nervous feelings aggravated by the neglect of exercise, and the use of Tea and other narcotic articles are the bane of College, and often render life wretched. Habits include every thing—Mental habits are even more obstinate than others.

A celebrated Philosopher required pupils from other schools to pay double, as it was more difficult to unlearn, than learn. That correct views of truth, a right state of the feelings, and good habits may rapidly combine in the formation of character, the students, resident in the village as well as from all parts of the country, live in the same edifice, all board at the same table, rely on their own industry for support, and enjoy the same privilege. Two results are visible; an unusual degree of kind, and paternal feeling and happiness prevail—and students distinguished by virtue, exert great influence over their fellow students, while those whose defects are prominent, appear rather useless than injurious. The intercourse of the students with the town is confined principally to the house of worship, on the Sabbath. The Institute by every method unites Literature and Science with the formation of estimable character.