

Henry C. Dorr.

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(APPENDIX.)

[NO. 1.]

R. I. State.

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REPORT

ON THE

STATE BENEFICIARIES;

INCLUDING THE DEAF AND DUMB, THE BLIND, AND
THE INSANÈ.

PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
Of Rhode Island,

JANUARY SESSION, A. D. 1863,

BY JOHN R. BARTLETT,
SECRETARY OF STATE.

PROVIDENCE:
ALFRED ANTHONY, PRINTER TO THE STATE.
1863.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

ON THE

STATE BENEFICIARIES.

PROVIDENCE, JANUARY 8TH, 1863.

To His Excellency Governor Sprague :

SIR:— In compliance with your request, I have visited the several Institutions in other States, to which this State has sent its beneficiaries, and now beg leave to make the following report in relation to them.

My first visit was to the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb in Hartford, Connecticut, where the State has, for many years, sent its deaf mutes, and where it had, at the beginning of the present year sixteen beneficiaries of this unfortunate class.

I was kindly received by the Principal of the Institution, the Rev. Wm. W. Turner, who personally conducted me through the building and gave me an opportunity to examine every portion of it. He also presented me to each class, thereby giving me an opportunity to shake hands, and communicate with every pupil from this State. I also had the pleasure of witnessing the proficiency the several pupils and their classes had made in the acquisition of knowledge, and was much gratified with the progress of those from Rhode Island. Most of these I had seen before they were admitted, and can bear testimony of their

state of ignorance of every thing except what they had a visible knowledge of. But even of things visible to them they had but an imperfect knowledge. The world of mind and thought was, to them, a blank. They knew that they existed, and they supposed that existence terminated with death. But that they possessed immortal souls, that there was an existence beyond the grave, or that there was a Supreme Being, the creator and ruler of the Universe, they had formed no conception. Indeed, no ideas of these great truths had ever entered their minds. To witness these unfortunate fellow creatures after the instruction of a few months, and find them able to communicate with their friends in writing; or, after a longer period to be able to receive instruction in all branches of knowledge, and to acquire it with greater facility than those in possession of all their faculties, was a most gratifying spectacle.

On being presented to one of the classes, not the most advanced, a few motions of the fingers and hand from Mr. Turner, made known who their visitor was. I asked if they all understood. A few more motions were made by their instructor, when each of the twenty pupils wrote my name at length, adding to it, Secretary of State, of Rhode Island. Mr. Turner next asked them where Rhode Island was. All replied by writing upon the large slates behind them, "East of Connecticut." "Is Rhode Island a poor or a wealthy State?" asked the teacher. All of them replied, "It is a wealthy State." "What else can you say of Rhode Island?" then asked their teacher. Some said, "It is rich in Manufactures," or "It abounds in cotton and woolen Manufactories." Many said "It is a patriotic State;" others, "A brave and patriotic State." After this reply, a little girl, near whom I stood wrote upon the small slate before her, "Is William Sprague still Governor of Rhode Island?" I replied that he was. "Then," said she, "give my love to him." I beg your Excellency, therefore, to consider this the delivery of the child's message to you.

The American Asylum is the oldest Institution of its kind in the United States, having been forty-five years in existence. Its principal, the Rev. Wm. W. Turner, has been connected with it upwards of forty years, as a teacher or its principal; and several of its other instructors, more than twenty years. The faculty and instructors embrace fifteen persons, in addition to which there are teachers of Articulation, of Drawing and of Penmanship. There are besides an attending physician, two stewards, a matron and two assistants, and three masters in the shops where trades are taught.

Every thing connected with this excellent and useful Institution seems to be conducted in the best manner, both as it regards the education of its pupils, and their instruction in useful trades, whereby they may be enabled to earn their living when they leave. The halls for study and recreation, and for eating and sleeping are large, airy, and well ventilated. Of the two hundred and twenty-two pupils in the Institution at the time of my visit, there was not one in the sick chamber. The number reported from Rhode Island was sixteen when the last report was made. This number has been reduced in consequence of two leaving George Henry Lee, of Burrillville, and James Hogan, of Providence, who had been five years at the Institution, and a third, Patrick Sullivan, of North Providence, who was not permitted by his parents to return, from some cause unknown to me or to Mr. Turner. Two others have been admitted during the year, so that the number now at the Institution, supported by Rhode Island is fifteen. They are as follows:

	Names.	Residence.	Age.	Admitted.
1	Emma M. Smyth.....	Newport.....	12	September, 1857.
2	Anna J. West.....	Hopeville.....	14	" 1857.
3	Alpheus J. Rider.....	Coventry.....	14	" 1857.
4	Charles Campbell.....	Warwick.....	11	" 1858.
5	George O. Sunderland.....	East Greenwich.....	11	" 1859.
6	William H. Butts.....	Barrington.....	18	" 1860.
7	Wm. F. Crandall.....	Newport.....	10	" 1860.
8	Frank C. Tasker.....	Providence.....	12	November, 1860.
9	Agnes McLaughlin.....	North Providence.....	19	September, 1861.
10	George Miller.....	Providence.....	9	" 1861.
11	James Conley.....	Newport.....	8	" 1861.
12	Mary Ann Makay.....	Warwick.....	13	February, 1862.
13	Eugenia J. Peckham.....	Westerly.....	13	September, 1862.
14	Sylvia D. Rounds.....	Coventry.....	11	" 1862.
15	Hugh McElroy.....	Providence.....	13	February, 1858.

The whole number of deaf and dumb in the State, according to the Census of 1860, is sixty-two, one fourth of whom are at the Hartford Asylum, receiving instruction. It is probable, therefore, that this number embraces all that can be sent there. Those past twenty-five and under ten years would not be fit subjects for the State's bounty, and there are, at least, thirty who have had all the benefits of the Institution, most, if not all of whom are now enabled to earn their living.

The first three named in this list having been reported as very good scholars, who would be greatly benefitted by their remaining one or two years longer, you gave them permission to remain, much to their

joy. I learned that in no instance does a pupil wish to leave, but all desire to continue longer, even when the period for which they were sent has expired. The ages of these three pupils are from twelve to fourteen years. It will be evident that deaf mutes, at these early ages, cannot have completed their education; indeed, my visit to them convinced me of this. If youths with all their senses perfect, and with all the appliances of modern schools, do not leave them until they are eighteen or twenty years of age, it must be evident that the unfortunate class in question, who are deprived of the senses of speech and hearing, cannot complete their education at the early ages of twelve and fourteen. It is after the age of fourteen that young people acquire most useful knowledge at school, and Mr. Turner did not hesitate to express his opinion, that deaf mutes would be greatly benefitted by remaining a few years after the latter age. As the State sends its beneficiaries for five years, and at the most seven, a child should not be sent to this Institution until it is ten or twelve years of age, unless the parents or friends of the pupils will continue them there a year or two after they have ceased to enjoy the bounty of the State, at their own expense. This, I am happy to add, has been the case in several instances.

As an evidence of the great facility with which deaf mutes acquire knowledge, I will remark, that one of the boys who was sent to the Institution four years since, who had not previously been at school or received any instruction, was found upon returning to be far in advance of all his playmates and associates, who had been several years longer at school, and who had had the benefit of all of their faculties. This fact was stated to me by the mother of the boy.

The trades taught at the American Asylum are,—cabinet making, shoe-making and tailoring. With such a knowledge of these as may be obtained at the Institution, boys are generally enabled to earn their living. But there are pupils who, possessing superior knowledge, rise above these occupations and fit themselves for places in counting rooms, lawyer's offices, banks and public offices. Several of this class now fill offices under the Government at Washington and elsewhere. Others are in responsible places in Boston. Being generally excellent writers, they make good copyists—more correct, it is said, than those possessed of all their senses—as no sounds interrupt them. In making indexes, too, they are very expert.

In the first part of this report I have said that the deaf mutes, before entering the American Asylum for instruction, had no knowledge of a

Supreme Being. This has been one of the most interesting subjects of enquiry by their instructors. It has equally interested the metaphysician and the theologian; and the result of all investigations shows that neither as innate, nor as the result of a process of a unassisted reasoning, have they any idea of a Supreme Being, the Creator and Ruler of the Universe; of their own souls; of a future state; or of the design of religious worship. These several points have been investigated, and the result made known in the early reports of the American Asylum. The evidence there exhibited, is sufficient to convince any candid mind that the deaf mutes have no such ideas unless directly communicated to them by other persons.

“When the deaf and dumb,” say the Directors in their last report, “are brought to us for instruction, their mental faculties are but little developed. This results from the fact, that they have no medium of communication with persons around them. With the exception of a few simple signs, expressive of their more urgent desires and wants, and of directions which their parents are obliged to give them concerning their ordinary employment, they have no common language. In general they are wholly unacquainted with every thing outside of the field of their own observation. In fact, they do not know that there is anything beyond their sensible horizon. Of the news of the day; of events transpiring in the families of their immediate neighborhood; of the more important affairs of the State, of the Nation, of foreign countries,—information which other children gain from the conversation of older persons,—they are entirely ignorant. Their small stock of knowledge has been acquired by observation. Hence we find that their perceptive faculties are pretty well developed, while those of reasoning and reflection have been but partially called into exercise.

“If little progress has been made in intellectual improvement, there has been still less in moral culture. With the same bias to evil and self-indulgence as other children, they are not influenced by the restraints of public sentiment, of law and moral obligation in an equal degree, because they know nothing of law or a law-giver. After a careful examination of the most intelligent of our pupils, made under favorable circumstances and at different times, during a period of more than forty years, not one has been found who had attained to the knowledge of a Supreme Being; of the immortality of the soul and of a future retribution by any process of reasoning, or by any innate sense or impression on the mind.”

“They were equally ignorant,” says Mr. Weld, the late Principal of the Asylum, in his report of 1838, “of the existence of their own souls and all other spiritual beings, as appeared from replies made when questioned. “I did not know that I had a soul.” “I had not any idea of my own soul, nor of any spirit whatever.” “I knew nothing about my own soul from my infancy.” “I had not any idea of spirit till my admission into the Asylum.” “I never conceived such a thing as a soul, nor was I ever conscious that my mind had faculties and operations different and distinct from those of my body.” Such were the replies of the deaf mutes.

Their notions respecting death and a future state were equally unsatisfactory. They all said that they had the greatest horror of death, previous to their receiving instruction. They thought it strange that man should die. The idea, they said, was melancholy and terrible to them to be laid in the cold ground, and there sleep eternally as beasts do.

In reply to the question as to their views of religious worship, they all said that they did not know for what purpose persons engaged in religious worship. They did not know that it was to worship God; but, as there were churches everywhere, which people attended, they supposed it simply to be a custom.

The Principals of the several Institutions for the deaf and dumb in this country, have taken pains to ascertain the views of the more intelligent and best educated of their pupils upon these points, and all agree in opinion, from the result of repeated experiments, that no deaf mute has any idea of his moral accountability or the existence of a Supreme Being. Mr. Turner, the present Principal of the Asylum, at Hartford, makes the following statement: “I have never seen a deaf and dumb person who had originated the idea of the Creator, the soul, the beginning of things, or who had any correct notions of death or of religious worship. All whom I have instructed, were, at the time of their being admitted into the Asylum, profoundly ignorant of these truths.”

I cannot refrain from adding a short extract upon this subject from the “System of Doctrines” of the Rev. Dr. Samuel Hopkins, a distinguished theological writer of Newport, published in 1792:

“There have been instances of persons who have been deaf from their birth and consequently dumb; and after they have arrived to adult or middle age, have been able to hear and speak. And though before this, they attended public worship with others, and appeared

very devout, and often made those signs which persons with whom they conversed in this way thought were expressions of their belief of the being of a God and of their piety; yet, when they came to hear and speak, they declared that they never had a thought that there was a God, until they could hear, and were by that means informed. And there never has been an instance of any such person’s declaring that he had any belief or thought of the existence of a God before he could hear and speak.”

The system of education adopted at the Hartford Institution is that which accomplishes the best results. The letters and compositions of the pupils, which are published in the annual reports of the institution, furnish the best evidence of this. “The general information they gain and the knowledge of books they acquire,” says the late report of the Directors, “are not confined to matters of history, art and science, or to their social and civil relations merely. Their moral and religious obligations are included. The duties they owe to God and their fellow-men are well understood, and they clearly comprehend the requirements of the Divine law and the way of salvation.

I consider it a most fortunate thing for Rhode Island, that its people have the privilege of sending its unfortunate children, who are deprived of hearing and speech, to so excellent an institution, and at such a moderate cost. The American Asylum, under the careful management of its Board of Directors, has, chiefly by public grants, and well invested monies, accumulated a large fund, the income of which is applied to the support of the institution; thereby greatly lessening the cost of education. Of this fund, Rhode Island enjoys the same advantages as the pupils from Connecticut. The actual cost of boarding, educating and teaching trades to each pupil, is one hundred and eighty dollars per year, or about \$3,50 per week, which cannot be called high when we take into account the large corps of instructors necessary to teach the deaf and dumb. But the income from the invested fund, so much reduces the expenses of the institution, that the charge for pupils is but one hundred dollars a year; a cost so moderate, that it is the duty of every town in the State to see that this class of its children is educated, and thereby enabled to earn their own living. Without this they must become burdens to society, besides being deprived of the great blessings which attend an education. The State, by law, appropriates \$2,500 a year, and can only support twenty-five beneficiaries at the various institutions for the blind, the deaf and dumb, and the feeble-minded. This number is generally

full. To show you to what extent the American Asylum is supported in New England, I annex the following summary of its pupils, as per its last report.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Supported by friends.....	12	12	24
“ “ Maine.....	27	16	43
“ “ New Hampshire.....	8	5	13
“ “ Vermont.....	13	10	23
“ “ Massachusetts.....	55	41	96
“ “ Rhode Island.....	12	4	16
“ “ Connecticut.....	25	17	42
	152	105	257
Whole number within the year.....			257
Greatest number in attendance at any time.....			222
Average attendance through the year.....			219

The number of schools for deaf and dumb has been rapidly increasing of late years. Thirty years ago, the number of European Institutions for the deaf and dumb was about one hundred and eighteen, containing, at most thirty-three hundred pupils. Ten years ago, the number was estimated at one hundred and eighty, and the pupils at six thousand. Of European Institutions, there are now about eighty, mostly small ones, in Germany; forty-five in France; and twenty-two in the British isles. There are also two or three schools in British America.

The number of American Institutions has also steadily increased. The American Asylum, as I have before observed, is the oldest, having been opened in 1817. The New York Institution was opened in the same year, and that in Pennsylvania in 1820. That in Kentucky in 1823; that of Ohio in 1829; and that of Virginia in 1839. In the latter year, the six Institutions contained four hundred and sixty-six pupils, with thirty-four teachers. In 1860, according to the Census, there were twenty-two institutions, having one hundred and thirty teachers and two thousand pupils.

The New York Institution is the largest in the country, and probably in the world, having three hundred and ten pupils. Next to this ranks the American Asylum, in Hartford, with two hundred and twenty-five pupils. The Southern Institutions are comparatively small. The Texas Institution may, at some future time become a prominent one, as it has been endowed by its Legislature with a grant of 100,000 acres of land. I have elsewhere stated that all the New England States sent their beneficiaries to Hartford. New Jersey sends her's to New York and Philadelphia; Maryland and Delaware send their's to Philadelphia, or to the Institution at Washington.

From Hartford, I went to Brattleboro', to visit the Vermont Asylum for the Insane, where the State has twenty-six beneficiaries. Dr. Rockwell, the Superintendent, conducted me personally through the spacious buildings appertaining to the Institution, and gave me an opportunity to inspect every portion of it. Its arrangements are upon the most approved plan for the comfort of its numerous inmates. By the direction of Dr. Rockwell, I was enabled to see all the beneficiaries from Rhode Island, who appeared as well as such unfortunates could, under the circumstances. All is done for their well-being that is possible.

The Vermont Asylum stands in the skirts of the beautiful town of Brattleboro', surrounded by extensive grounds, and enclosed in an amphitheatre of hills. The inmates are permitted to ride or walk within these grounds, where they are quite secluded from the public gaze. A more healthy spot is not to be found in New England, and I believe the number of patients cured or improved is as large as at any similar Institution in the country. It is on a very extensive scale, and is capable of receiving five hundred patients. The following is a list of the beneficiaries from Rhode Island at the Vermont Asylum:

Names.	Residence.	Admitted.
Margaret McMullen.....	Warren.....	May 11, 1857
Tillinghast A. Place.....	Glocester.....	July 9, 1857
Margaret McGwin.....	Scituate.....	October, 27, 1858
Manton W. Mowry.....	Smithfield.....	May 23, 1859
James Wild.....	“.....	“ “ 1859
Seth Luther.....	“.....	October, 1859
Hugh Gallagher.....	Providence.....	“ 1859
Thomas Morrissy.....	“.....	“ 1859
George Mathews.....	“.....	“ 1859
Mary Hayes.....	“.....	“ 1859
Charlotte B. Jenckes.....	“.....	“ 1859
Jane Kendrick.....	North Kingstown.....	“ 1859
William H. Martin.....	Providence.....	“ 1859
John Grimes.....	“.....	“ 1859
Mary Hannegan.....	“.....	“ 1859
Maria Dempsey.....	“.....	“ 1859
George Charnley.....	“.....	“ 1859
Thomas Peterson.....	“.....	“ 1859
George W. Darling.....	Glocester.....	“ 1859
Albert H. Hewitt.....	Providence.....	June 19, 1860
Catherine Tobin.....	“.....	“ “ 1860
Eric Smith.....	Glocester.....	“ 27, 1860
Catherine Drake.....	Providence.....	April 1, 1862
Mary Fanning.....	“.....	“ “ 1862
Edward D. Leveck.....	“.....	August 19, 1862
John Patten.....	“.....
Timothy Riley.....	“.....

Two have died during the year, viz: Bridget Murphy, sent from the Butler Hospital, in 1858, and Eric Smith, of Glocester.

Several of the foregoing were taken from the Butler Hospital, that Institution being full. Of these, some are set down to Providence, who really belong to other towns. The number at the Vermont Asylum, is large, which is owing to the low rate at which they are supported. A few weeks ago, and since my visit to the Brattleboro' Hospital, a portion of its buildings have been burned. By a letter lately received from the Superintendent, I learn that the patients, though somewhat crowded, are very comfortable, and that the buildings will be restored at the earliest possible day.

At the State Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, the State has the following beneficiaries :

Catherine Madder,.....Smithfield,.....admitted Sept. 10, 1861.
James D. Barnard,.....Coventry,..... " " 10, 1861.

I paid a visit to this Institution a few weeks since in company with one of the visitors of the Butler Hospital. We were, by the Superintendent, conducted through the building, where we found everything in the finest possible condition. It is one of the oldest in New England, and like the Vermont Asylum, is upon an extensive scale, having accommodations for nearly five hundred patients. I saw the beneficiaries from Rhode Island, as well as those who are supported by their friends, of which there are several.

Besides the Insane supported by the State at the Institutions mentioned, there are two who are taken care of by their friends or others in the State, who receive one hundred dollars a year for their support, being the same amount that is paid to the Butler Hospital, and the Institutions at Brattleboro' and Worcester. The following are the names of the persons so supported :

Israel A. Greene, of Burrillville, supported there since April 18th, 1858.
Lydia Holloway, " " " " " Dec. 2d, 1859.

It is proper here to remark, that the inmates of the Insane Hospitals at Brattleboro' and Worcester, as well as the two above named individuals, belong to the class known as Insane paupers, whose support is chargeable to the towns in which they belong. These paupers have been placed at the Institutions named, upon the certificates of the Overseers of the Poor of their respective towns, made under oath, that their families or friends are unable to support them.

At the Butler Hospital for the Insane, seventy-nine receive assistance from the State. The patients here are chiefly Insane paupers, placed there by the Overseers of the Poor of the various cities and towns in the State. These persons are admitted upon warrants issued

by the Governor, after the Overseers of Poor have stated, on oath, that their families or friends are unable to support them. It is hardly necessary for me to enter into any particulars regarding this excellent Institution. It is among us, and receives weekly visits from regularly appointed boards of visitors, who visit every room, see every patient, and thoroughly inspect the buildings. Annual reports are also made, so that the public are made fully acquainted with the condition of its inmates. The following is a list of the inmates for whose support the State contributes. The first ten are beneficiaries, being supported partly by the State and partly by their friends. The remainder are paupers, for whose support the State pays one hundred dollars a year; the balance being paid by the cities or towns to which they belong.

NAMES.	From what town.	When admitted.
Mary B. Tefft.....		
Susan B. Wyatt.....		
Polly Darling.....		
Mary Eagleston.....		
Emma Stuart.....	Newport	
S. K. Whipple.....		
Sarah Atkinson.....	Newport	
Sophia Williams.....	Cranston	
Sarah Tewell.....		
Charles H. Briggs.....	Providence	January 1, 1861.
Samuel Burr.....	"	
Haile Childs.....	"	
John Congdon.....	"	July 29, 1860.
Bridget Duvine.....	"	May 20, 1861.
Daniel Gilbert.....	"	
Rebecca Gladding.....	"	
Minerva Greene.....	"	
Mary Hayes.....	"	
Charles Humphreys.....	"	
Asel Horton.....	"	
Thomas Mckenna.....	"	
Maria Newbauer.....	"	
Joseph Nightingale.....	"	
George T. Olney.....	"	
Mary Pendergrast.....	"	
Edward R. Potter.....	"	
Caroline Price.....	"	
Benjamin Searle.....	"	
David B. Slack.....	"	
John P. Williams.....	"	
Peter Brown.....	Newport	
Eliza Gifford.....	"	
Mary W. Hudson.....	"	
Mary Hurley.....	"	
Mary Krimer.....	"	March 25, 1861.
Eunice M. Gowan.....	"	October 1, 1861.
James O'Brien.....	"	
Eben Sherman.....	"	
Catharine Walsh.....	"	

NAMES.	From what town.	When admitted.
Sarah J. Barker.....	Newport.....	Oct. 11, 1861.
W. Bartlett.....	Burrillville.....	June 3, 1861.
Eleazer Bellows.....	".....	".....
Mary Kennedy.....	".....	".....
Sarah Marrigan.....	Cranston.....	August 12, 1862.
Sarah O'Rourke.....	".....	".....
Alice O'Mara.....	".....	".....
Betsey Sprague.....	Westerly.....	".....
Ray G. Burdick.....	".....	".....
Abby Gavitt.....	Warwick.....	previous to 1859.
George R. Havens.....	".....	" " 1859.
Betsey Rice.....	Coventry.....	July 18, 1861.
Warren Bissell.....	".....	previous to 1859.
Eras. Mattison.....	".....	" " 1859.
Olive Whitman.....	Warren.....	" " 1859.
Betsey Ayres.....	Smithfield.....	".....
Samuel Halliwell.....	".....	Nov. 15, 1862.
Alice Doran.....	Cumberland.....	".....
Bridget Corcoran.....	".....	".....
Catharine Greene.....	".....	".....
Horace G. Newell.....	".....	".....
Mary O'Neil.....	Johnston.....	".....
James Lee.....	".....	".....
George Waterman.....	Richmond.....	".....
Benjamin B. Tefft.....	Little Compton.....	".....
Ezra S. Brownell.....	Jamestown.....	".....
Benjamin Carr.....	West Greenwich.....	".....
Andrew J. Nichols.....	Scituate.....	Sept. 21, 1861.
Nancy Lees.....	".....	previous to 1859.
Richard K. Thomas.....	North Providence.....	January 1, 1861.
Joseph Albro.....	".....	previous to 1859.
Daniel J. Kennedy.....	Bristol.....	Oct. 11, 1860.
Joseph F. Burrows.....	".....	June 5, 1861.
Susan C. Fitts.....	Barrington.....	".....
Matilda Brown.....	".....	".....
Sally Luther.....	North Kingstown.....	Oct. 4, 1861.
Daniel Smith.....	Portsmouth.....	".....
John C. Sullivan.....	East Providence.....	June 24, 1862.
Isabella Shields.....	".....	".....
Daniel G. Browning.....	".....	".....

The total number of Insane in the State, according to the late Census, is 288. Of these there are in the Butler Hospital, partially

Supported by the State.....	79
In the Vermont Asylum.....	27
In the Worcester Hospital.....	2
Provided for in towns.....	2
	<hr/>
Total receiving the State's bounty.....	110

leaving one hundred and seventy-eight which are provided for by their friends either at their homes, or at public institutions both in and out of the State.

The Beneficiaries of the State at other Institutions, are as follows:

At the Barre Institution for the Feeble Minded and Idiotic Youth, J. M. Brooks, of Newport.

At the Perkins Institution for the Blind, South Boston, Massachusetts, John Penno, of Providence, admitted March 1st, 1860.

Thomas Mulligan.

The beneficiaries here have always been greatly benefitted by the education they receive. They are not only taught to read, but trades are taught them by which they are enabled to support themselves in part, if not entirely. Doct. Howe, the Superintendent, in his report on these pupils, says the sum of one hundred dollars paid by the State, is entirely inadequate to defray their annual expenses, and asks that the State may increase the sum to one hundred and fifty dollars. Since 1855, eight pupils, beneficiaries from this State, have graduated from the Perkins Institution.

According to the late Census, there are in the State of Rhode Island eighty-five persons who are blind. This being the fact, our people have greatly neglected this most unfortunate portion of our community, in providing for the education of but ten, even when the State is willing to contribute so liberally towards it. The proportion of blind to our population is one in every two thousand and fifty-four inhabitants, which is about the same average as in the States of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee. In North and South Carolina and Kentucky, the average is greater, while in the Western States it is much less. This may be accounted for by the fact that emigrants to new countries do not take the blind with them. The average of blind in the whole United States, is one in every 2,470 inhabitants.

JOHN R. BARTLETT,
Secretary of State.