



BY DUFF GREEN.

PILOT AND TRANSCRIPT.

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- DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES.—FRENCH, by M. Leconte de Lisle, and by M. Arcauville, who, as French Government, the conversational department is particularly assigned.
- SPANISH, by Sr. Pizarro.
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- DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC.—Vocal Music, by Mrs. Wallace, (late Mrs. Turner), Instrumental Music, including Harp, Piano, Guitar, &c., by Messrs. Nennin, Dielman, Mrs. Wallace, &c.
- DRAWING, by Mr. Darocher.
- In the Modern languages, the lessons are given daily, three times a week as usual, a course in French, in the opinion of the principal, to the proper management of the pupils. In French the recitations are from an hour and twenty, to an hour and forty minutes, daily, independently of the conversational exercises, and of the social intercourse, and to add to facilities, there will be at regular intervals, French Conversations, for the benefit of the pupils whose parents are respectively.
- The school opens its classes, Mr. D. will continue to exercise a supervising care over all the branches of study, examining the scholars, and seeing that the pupils are diligent, and that the school is well managed, and that the pupils are well instructed.
- The school opens its classes on the first of September, and continues until the first of June, and is divided into four equal terms. Pupils are not received for a term less than a year, and the school will be withdrawn at the end of a current full term.
- THE TERMS ARE AS FOLLOWS:  
Board, per academic year, \$300 00  
Board, or table, and this enjoying the benefit of French conversation at table, per academic year, 60 00  
English instruction, in all 18 branches, per single term, or continued up to the time of the summer recess, 60 00  
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Musical, per term 1 00  
Use, including Harp and Guitar, at instruction, per term, 3 00  
Drawing and Painting, at instructors' prices.  
Board, at instructors' prices, 5 00  
Board, at table, per term, 3 00  
For the convenience of such as may not know Mr. D. the following references are given.
- REFERENCES.  
Richard B. Magruder, Hon. James Carroll, J. Merriam, Esq., Samuel Noble, Esq., Nicholas Rice, J. Stewart, Esq., Alexander Nisbet, D. Stewart, Esq., W. G. Worthington, Esq., C. F. Mayer, Esq., Clement Dorney, John Scott, Esq., Louis McLane, Dr. Potter, Dr. Alexander, Dr. T. E. Bond, Dr. John, Dr. R. S. Stewart, Dr. McKim, Jr., Esq., Dr. G. G. Catlett, Esq., Dr. W. Evans, Esq., James Swan, Esq., Thomas, Esq., Samuel Smith, Esq., Howard, Esq., John McVahly, Esq., W. W. Patterson, Esq., John Prentiss, Esq., W. King, Esq., James W. Lucas, Jr., Esq., W. Jones, Esq., I. Donaldson, Esq., Gordon, Esq., Fielding Lucas, Jr., Esq., Hoffmann, Esq., Joseph Cushing, Esq., &c.

THE PILOT.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.  
WAR DEPARTMENT, DEC. 5, 1840.  
SIR: Since my report of the last year on the several branches of the public service committed to my charge, the Army has been actively and profitably employed in Florida and in the Northern and Western frontiers.  
The design entertained by the Department, of keeping the regiments entire, and concentrating the troops whenever it is practicable to do so, has been persevered in with the most beneficial results. A commencement has likewise been made in establishing depots for the reception of the recruits of each separate regiment, where they may be drilled and disciplined before they are sent off to their respective regiments in garrison or in the field. The recruit ought never to be sent to join his company on service until he is thoroughly taught the duty of the soldier, and this instruction will be bestowed in garrison at all general depots. By dividing each regiment into two bodies, in the manner proposed, every important station in the country may be occupied, either as a place of depot or a rendezvous of the regiment; and by a proper distribution of the latter, the intermediate forts may be temporarily occupied by partial detachments, without injury to the discipline of the whole corps. I cannot too strongly urge the adoption of this method of distributing our little Army in time of peace. To divide it into its efficiency and its discipline, and, in the event of war, to expose the posts to be captured and the whole regular force of the country to be uselessly sacrificed. Apart from that natural and well-grounded jealousy entertained against the existence of a large standing army in our country, sound policy and a due regard for economy render such an establishment altogether inadvisable; and it becomes necessary, therefore, to provide other means of defending our Northern and maritime frontiers against the dangers to which they would be exposed at the commencement of a war. None other occur to me than those I have already recommended, viz. Central positions for the regular forces, from which they could move upon any point of attack or defence; and such an organization of the volunteer or militia forces as would enable them to maintain the posts intrusted to their charge until relieved by the regular troops—a system which ought to be matured in time of peace.  
For the Western frontiers, posts garrisoned by regular troops cannot be dispensed with. They need not be very large; but they ought to be constructed of fire-proof materials, and in such a manner as to be defensible by a small garrison against any number of men not provided with artillery. A plan which will effect this object perfectly has been devised by the Chief Engineer, and been adopted. The quarters for the men ought, likewise, to be built of durable materials and be permanently furnished with iron single beds in lieu of the double and treble wooden bunks now in use. This change, for obvious reasons, should be introduced into all the barracks in the United States.  
The chief and best position for the concentration of troops, independently of the regimental rendezvous, is, for the Northern frontier, near Albany, in the State of New York; and near St. Louis, in Missouri, for the Western—points from which easy communications radiate to every part of those extensive lines of defence, and whence troops may be transported with certainty and rapidly whenever their presence may be required. For the maritime frontier of the Gulf of Mexico, I would recommend, in addition to the permanent fortifications now in progress, and now being erected, the establishment of a depot, somewhere between the falls of the Ohio, for armed sea steam-vessels. This would seem to furnish the best means of bringing the vast power of the upper country to the defence of the coast, and of using it, when there, in the most efficient manner. A certain number of vessels of war might be kept in constant readiness, strong enough to carry a good battery, and light enough to descend the river at all seasons, and to cross the bars of the Mississippi. The vessels ought to be of iron, combining lightness, strength, and durability; and might be constructed of the requisite size for about fifty thousand dollars each. Materials should be collected for the construction of boats to be built of wood, and stored until wanted; when, with the vast resources in workshops and mechanics along the shores of the Ohio, they might be put together in a very short time, and a fleet, equipped and manned with the hardy boatmen of the Western waters and a few able-bodied seamen, might be floated to the ocean, fully equal, with the existing and contemplated fortifications, to protect the whole Gulf frontier. The very nature of the defences of the country, made by a board of distinguished officers, and submitted to Congress during the last session, proves conclusively the absolute necessity of preserving and continuing our system of permanent maritime works of defence, and exhibits in the clearest manner their superiority over floating batteries of any and every description. In this view of the subject I fully concur, and even think that the facility with which our coasts and harbors may be approached and entered by steam-vessels of war renders strong permanent works more necessary. The projectiles which will be used in future wars will, from their size and description, prove destructive to any wooden battery, and give an immense advantage to stone walls over any fabric that can be penetrated by shells. It may be proper here to remark, that the capture of the castle of San Juan de Ulea, at Vera Cruz, has led many persons to suppose that stone revetments might be destroyed by shells. This is incorrect. After that event, I caused experiments to be made at Old Point Comfort, by firing, at point-blank range, against a stone wall erected for the purpose; the shells broke against it, making a great noise, but did not penetrate. No doubt, therefore, need be entertained of the ability of our existing works to resist hollow shot. I do not think, however, that the permanent works should be the only defences relied upon, but regard movable steam-batteries as essential auxiliaries. These ought not, in my opinion, to be large vessels, but of light draught of water, capable of carrying two guns for throwing shells of eight or ten inches diameter, and so constructed as to present a small surface to the fire of an enemy. These steam-batteries should be manned by artillerymen, and be under the command of the officer charged with the defence of the harbor fortifications, so as to secure harmony of action. In order to test the practicability of making bomb-cannon of the calibre of ten inches, the Chief of the Ordnance, Colonel Bomford, was sent to Boston, where he has conducted a series of experiments with the most satisfactory results. I recommend that those guns be adopted into the service, and form part of the armament of our fortifications, and of our steam floating batteries. Some successful experiments have, likewise, been made with war rockets; and a machine constructed for

preparing them appears to answer the purpose perfectly.  
The great amount of property vested by the Government in arms, amounting to several millions of dollars, no less than the risk to the national safety by adopting any new inventions without being convinced of their superiority by long tried experiments in the field, has induced me, generally, to discountenance any attempt to increase the rapidity of firing, such as facilitating the loading by opening the breech, or by multiplying the chambers of the gun, will fail, as they have hitherto done, after involving the Government in great expense. There is, however, one improvement, which has been fairly tested in the field by the armies of Europe, and which presents in many decided and ascertained advantages, that I am constrained to recommend its adoption into our service—I mean the substitution of percussion for flint locks. The alteration may be made on the muskets now in the arsenals, and measures ought to be adopted to construct all new arms, whether rifles or muskets, with percussion locks.  
Having repeatedly recommended, without effect, the establishment of a national foundry—and having reason to fear the most serious consequences to the service from the want of proper regulations to govern the contracts with private establishments—with your consent, I sent to Europe the board of officers who had been for some time employed in fixing the patterns, forms, and dimensions of the artillery, in order that they might acquire such information as would enable the Department permanently to regulate this important branch of the service. I am happy to state that, wherever they have been, the national establishments have been thrown open to them, and, with praiseworthy liberality, every facility afforded to their researches. They have returned home, after having attained all the advantages which were expected from their investigations; and the knowledge they have acquired will be applied to the practical improvement of our ordnance. A concise report of their proceedings while in Europe is herewith transmitted, in connexion with that of the officer in charge of the Ordnance Department.  
In the expectation that Congress would sanction the creation of a corps of sappers and miners (an addition to the Army, not only necessary and economical), I sent an officer of the engineer corps to the school for sappers and miners in France, to obtain that practical information of the art which is not possessed, and cannot be acquired, here. The French Government, with its accustomed liberality and kindness, permitted, in every instance, officers to attend its schools of practice, and afforded to them equal means with its own to pursue their studies there, allowing them privileges not generally granted to foreigners; thereby evincing, as the Minister of War is pleased to remark, the friendly disposition of his Majesty's Government towards the United States. This feeling, you have authorized me to say, is reciprocated, and the liberality of the French Government is fully appreciated. The officers sent to the school of cavalry at Saumur have returned, after a twelvemonth's instruction, and are now employed in a manner which I trust will enable the Department very much to improve the cavalry service.  
The advantages of separating the staff officers from the line of the Army, and the very serious inconvenience to the services from the present system, have been before brought to your view, but cannot be too strongly or too frequently urged. The present organization of the army does not allow a single supernumerary officer in a regiment, and the companies are rendered inefficient from the absence of those officers who are on staff duty. The discipline of the troops is most injuriously affected by this arrangement; and, if they are opposed in the field to regular forces, such a deficiency would be fatal. I beg leave to bring to your notice once more the expediency of extending the law of March 2, 1837, which provides for the enlistment of boys for the naval service, so as to embrace the Army and ordnance corps. Its effect would be equally beneficial to the class of people to whom the boys belong and to the Army. It would secure to the sons of the former a comfortable subsistence, proper moral restraint, and a good practical education, while it would provide for the Army well-instructed non-commissioned officers, so difficult to be procured by enlistment, and without which an army cannot be efficient.  
I am happy to state that experience has proved the correctness of the opinion formerly advanced, that the increase and proper organization of the staff department would produce a more economical administration of its different branches. In the expenditures of the Quartermaster's Department, especially, a very considerable reduction has been made during the last year; in some measure produced by the fall of prices, but arising in a much greater degree from the increased efficiency and better administration of the department, in consequence of the number of officers under the present organization bearing a more due relation to the laborious duties and high responsibilities of this important branch of the military service.  
In consequence of the suspension of the application of funds appropriated for the prosecution of the works under the supervision of the Quartermaster General's office during the season for active operation, little progress has been made in them since my last report. I now recommend that the following works should be recommenced and completed as soon as practicable: Fort Gibson, Fort Wayne, and Fort Smith, the two fortresses on Fort Leavenworth, at Taber creek, on the Missouri, below the mouth of Platte river. To connect this last post with Fort Snelling, a fort ought to be constructed at or near the forks of the Des Moines. From the information I have received, I believe the erection of any works at the western extremity of Lake Superior to be unnecessary; and, for the present, advise that Fort Snelling remain the most northern post.  
During your administration nearly forty-one thousand Indians have been added to those already residing near the western boundary, while the additional securities to the border States have not been commensurate to the additional dangers to which such an increase of warlike and discontented neighbors exposes them. In the act of replacing the Indians there, by which the interior States are so largely benefited, the Government has contracted a solemn obligation, not only to defend that people when attacked, but to anticipate the danger by erecting such works as will ensure their safety, and inspire them with confidence in the means employed for their protection.  
It affords me great gratification to be able to report that the Canada frontier has been free

from any disturbance since I had last the honor to address you on that subject. Your advice to our fellow-citizens on that border appears to have produced the most salutary effect, and the excitement which existed there has, I am happy to think, entirely subsided; and no further apprehension need be entertained of a violation on their part of our neutral obligations.  
Owing to the expenditure of the appropriations for fortifications having been suspended, the works on this frontier have not been much advanced, but they will, it is expected, be completed during the next season. In addition to those already authorized, I earnestly recommended the erection of barracks at Spring Wells, near Detroit, and at a position between Buffalo and Black Rock, in the State of New York; and also a strong work at the outlet of Lake Champlain.  
On the Northern frontier, until the boundary question is settled, I would advise that the works be confined to the erection of barracks at the junction of the Mattawanee and Penobscot rivers. During the past year, the works on the maritime frontier have been carried on slowly, and they still remain in an unfinished state. In relation to the defence of our Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and of our harbors and dock yards, I beg leave to refer to my report of last year, and to that made during the last session of Congress, in reply to a call of the Senate for information on these subjects. Their condition remains unaltered, and the expediency of providing for their completion under the whole of the coast from Passamaquoddy bay to the Sabine river is exposed, on every point not defended by Nature, to be invaded with impunity; and, in the event of war, the expenses of attempting to protect this long line by troops for one year only, would cost more than to erect the works which have been planned, and which are deemed sufficient to defend the several points of attack along the whole coast. It is true that an enemy could retain possession of any portion of our territory only for a short period. But to defend an unfortified point of attack, or to drive an enemy from a position he might occupy, would be attended with great expense of blood and treasure, and while I feel confident that the stout arms and brave hearts of our fellow-citizens would ultimately prevail, and drive any enemy from our soil, I cannot approve the policy which would expose the best and bravest of our artisans and workmen to encounter, without discipline and without the cover of fortifications, the trains of bands of mercenary soldiers they would be opposed to. When we take into consideration the character of our people, and the paucity of our population, and the extent of our soil, it is not wise to rely altogether for our defence on numbers and untaught valor. The battalions that must fight our battles are composed of soldiers taken from every class of the community, and the issue of every contest must necessarily deprive the country of some of its best and worthiest citizens. Every effort ought, therefore, to be made to furnish them the means of protection, and to instruct them to defend themselves; so that the loss we must suffer on such occasions may be as light as possible.  
No appropriation having been made at the last session of Congress for the works of internal improvement which were under the superintendence of this Department, they have, for the most part, ceased. I adhere to the opinion expressed in my last report, that the system requires to be revised, both with regard to the principle upon which such improvements ought to be authorized, and the manner in which they ought to be authorized.  
The report of the Chief of the Topographical Engineers, submitted to Congress at its last session, contains an elaborate statement of the history and progress of all the works of internal improvement carried on by the orders of Government, to which I beg leave to refer. It is to be regretted that Congress neglected, at its last session, to appropriate the small amount asked for clearing away the timber lately accumulated at the Red river raft, which obstructs the navigation of that stream. The expenditure necessary for this purpose is perfectly legitimate, and the necessary supplies for the troops stationed at Fort Towson are transported up this river; and the measure is recommended by its economy, the additional cost of transportation by land for one year, when this navigation is obstructed, being greater than the amount required to defray the necessary expense of removing the drift timber. It is recommended that provision be made for the employment of a few laborers and a boat for a short time every season; and it is believed that in a few years the necessity for such a precaution will cease, and this portion of the river remain permanently open.  
The survey spoken of in my last report has been completed, and a map constructed, which embraces that portion of the territory of the United States lying between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, from their confluence to our northern boundary, and limited by the parallels of latitude 39 and 49 north, and the meridians 90 and 100 west of Greenwich. It is based upon numerous astronomical observations, (not less than two hundred and forty five,) on actual surveys, and on the best information which the exploring party could procure of such small portions of the Indian territory as they were prevented from examining by the inevitable dangers attending the attempt, or from want of means and time. A very extensive series of barometrical observations were also made, and the zealous co-operation of men of science, occupying stations in the several States, who observed at the same periods of time, has enabled Mr. Nicollet to compare his own with those of others in different quarters of the Union, and thus accurately to determine the relative level of the whole region represented by the map, as well as its elevation above the ocean, thereby indicating the climate and the nature of the country. The map will be accompanied by a report calculated to give an accurate knowledge of that distant country; and it is believed that the results of this survey will be useful both to the Government and to the people, and prove an acceptable accession to geography. It will serve, likewise, to exhibit the manner in which future surveys of the country are to be made, if it is hoped, they should be authorized by Congress. It appears to be very desirable that those remote regions of our country should be known; and the surveys ought, in my opinion, to be extended by degrees to the sources of the Missouri, and Oregon. Nor ought that portion of our country which is nearer and more accessible to the West, and the forms of the magnificent chain of lakes which stretch along our northern border, are yet to be truly defined. The interest of the rising commerce of the West require hydrographic surveys of these inland seas and great avenues of trade should be made without delay. A small annual appropriation will enable the Government to effect this important object, through the agency of the topographical corps, which is composed of officers fully capable of performing this duty. No survey of

any description should be made, in future, without being accompanied with astronomical and barometrical observations. In this manner a series of positions may be determined, and the means gradually furnished of acquiring a more perfect knowledge of the geography of our country; and thus of constructing an accurate map of the United States—objects of vast importance to the interest of their navigation and commerce.  
The Military Academy has been conducted in a manner highly creditable to the superintendent, and satisfactory to this Department. Every effort has been made to enforce discipline, and instill into the minds of the cadets a love of order and a high sense of their moral and religious duties; and it is believed that the standard of discipline, morality, and religion at this institution, is equal to that of any other college or academy in the United States; while the mathematical and military studies, as far as the theory is concerned, are as complete as those taught in any school in America or Europe. 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