State Normal School: Principal Wilson's Annual Report to the Board of Trustees | A Transition Point in the History of the Institution

Providence Journal
Principal Wilson's Annual Report to the Board of Trustees.

ATTAINMENT POINT IN THE HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTION.

Increase in Attendance in the Past Few Years. The large percentage of Public High School Graduates.-Other Developments.

The following is an abstract of the report of Principal of the Rhode Island Normal School, William E. Wilson, to the Board of Trustees of that institution:

Gentlemen:--This, my sixth annual report, is the 27th annual report of the principal of the Rhode Island Normal School since its reorganization in 1871.

With the close of the present year the school reaches a transitional point in its history. These 27 years will constitute a period well marked off at its end, as at its beginning. In the period of the development of the school and of its establishment as a factor in the intellectual life of the State and the nation, it is a period in which the character and the true life of the school have been formed, and the place which it may hold has been determined.

The history of the school extends farther back than to the date of its reorganization as the present institution in 1871, and in 1839 removed to West Warwick, and in 1857 removed to Providence.

This earliest period is by no means unimportant for the worthy first Principals, Dunn & Colburn, of whom we have spoken before, and later services in the State and elsewhere of their students. Many of them have become good citizens and important in intellectual life, and are important and should be remembered.

The present period now closing began with the opening of the school on May 10, 1871, in the old college building on High Street, still known in the city as the Normal School Building.

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