

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NAUTICAL SCHOOL.

To the Honorable Board of Education :

GENTLEMEN—The sixth year of the existence of the New York Nautical School having expired, I respectfully make report of its operations since January 1st, last.

During the winter months the pupils were instructed according to the programme in their school branches, at the same time their seamanship exercises were continued.

The annual examination by Mr. Jasper, Superintendent of the Public Schools of the City, was held on April 12th, after which preparations were made for sea.

The ship was docked, and such repairs as were found necessary were put upon her. We left New York on the 17th of May, for the summer's cruise, having on board 136 boys. Cruised in Long Island Sound to acquaint the boys with the ropes, and handling ship, &c., until the 23d of the month when we took our departure for sea. In crossing the Atlantic we experienced the rough weather usually found during the spring months, thus giving the boys an opportunity of handling sails, and reefing in bad weather.

The passage to Lisbon was made in twenty-three days. We then went to Cadiz, Spain; Funchal, Madeira, returning to the United States on the 23d of August. The ship then cruised in Long Island Sound, Block Island Sound and Narraganset Bay, visiting several ports, until the 11th of October when she returned to New York.

On the 13th of the month the examination by the Council of the Chamber of Commerce and Board of Seamen Experts, was held. The boys were thoroughly exercised in their presence, and their handiwork in everything appertaining to their profession shown, particularly in the drafting and making of sails, fitting ship's gear with both wire and hemp rope. The graduating class were then examined in navigation, examples in working out time sights by both Sun and Moon; meridian altitudes, and star observations, also in adjusting the compass.

There were present a large number of gentlemen interested in American shipping. These graduates are given employment on board of vessels belonging to the best of our mercantile firms. We have record of forty of the graduates from this school being officers of vessels at sea. The graduating class this year numbered forty-six. The desire of lads, after being on board here one year, to get to sea, and under pay, is so great, that twenty-four boys who should have graduated this year left to find such employment. The prejudices against the school are fast disappearing, and it is gaining in popularity with those interested in shipping, as it becomes better known.

The number of boys in attendance per month during the year has been..... 105

Graduating class for this year	46
Number of boys on board, December 31, 1880.....	89

The *St. Marys* is in good condition in hull and spars, requiring only some slight repairs in the spring, also a few sails to fit her for the annual summer's cruise.

I, herewith append the reports of the Council of the Nautical School of the Chamber of Commerce of New York, marked A.

Also a report of the expenses of the School marked B.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY ERBEN,

Captain U. S. Navy,

Superintendent.

A.

To the Chamber of Commerce :

The Council of the Nautical School of the Port of New York respectfully beg to submit the following report :

The annual examination was held on Wednesday, the 13th of October, and your Council were assisted in the work by Captains E. Spicer, Jr., J. H. Winchester and M. P. Smith, who kindly consented, at the request of the Council, to serve as the Committee of Experts. Their report, which is printed in connection with the report of your Council, will show in detail the method of conducting the examination and inspection, which does not differ materially from that followed in the previous years. Your Council were as usual satisfied with the condition of the ship and with the neatness, order and discipline maintained. The health of the boys has been very good, as is shown by the report of Surgeon J. W. Ross, which is appended hereto.

During the year there has been under instruction a monthly average of 105 boys. The graduating class this year numbers 46. Of these, 20 have either gone to sea, or obtained employment on vessels soon to leave, and the rest are in a fair way of being provided for.

The concluding exercises this year were attended by many ladies and gentlemen, and addresses were made by President Walker, of the Board of Education, Mr. Jackson S. Schultz, Gen. Alexander Webb, Ex-Mayor Hunter, of Brooklyn, and others.

Prizes were presented on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce by Mr. George W. Lane, Vice-President, and the recipients were as follows :

CHARLES FILLEY..... Silver Medal.
JOHN V. FANN..... Bronze Medal.
ALFRED DECKER..... Second Bronze Medal.

Mr. Charles H. Marshall presented, on behalf of the Board of Education, a marine glass to William N. Milner, for excellence in seamanship ; and, on behalf of School Commissioner Henry E. Pellew, the following money prizes :

\$10 to JOHN B. PRICE, for general excellence.
\$10 to CHARLES FILLEY, for the best journal of the cruise.
\$5 to FRANCIS H. HAMMOND, for neatness.

To Theodore W. Osterheld, a copy of Luce's Work on Seamanship was given by the officers of the ship, for general excellence and scholarship.

To Mortimer H. Rogers, a copy of Bowditch's Navigator was awarded (the gift of Mr. George W. Blunt), by the unanimous vote of the class, who were in this way permitted to express their choice of the most popular member.

There has been no change in the command of the *St. Marys* since the last report. The list is as follows :

Commander Henry Erben, U. S. N., Superintendent ; Lieutenant Jno. J. Hunker, Executive Officer ; Lieutenant Arthur P. Osborn and Lieutenant George A. Norris, Instructors ; Jno. W. Ross, Surgeon.

To these gentlemen great credit is due for their energy and untiring pains in maintaining the high character of the School, and in preparing the scholars for the nautical profession.

It may be interesting to refer briefly to the annual cruise of the ship, which took place during the past summer. The *St. Mary's* left New York on the 12th of May, visited Glen Cove and New London, and thence proceeded to Lisbon, Cadiz and Madeira, returning to New York by the way of Newport on the 11th of October, after a voyage of nearly 8,000 miles.

During the cruise the boys were instructed in every branch of their profession, and were made familiar with practical work on shipboard, particularly sail-making and rigging. Their appearance and deportment attracted general attention, and they were everywhere regarded as favorable specimens of young American sailors.

The usefulness of the school can be best shown by the fact, that there are at this time over 40 graduates who are now officers of ships. The Council trust that this work of educating young men for the mercantile marine may not only be continued but enlarged.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES H. MARSHALL, <i>Chairman,</i>	} <i>Council of the Nautical School.</i>
THOMAS P. BALL,	
JOHN S. BARNES,	

NEW YORK, November 30, 1880.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS.

To the Council of the Nautical School of the Port of New York :

GENTLEMEN—Having at your request, examined the School Ship *St. Marys*, on the 13th inst., your Committee beg to state, that the vessel is well adapted for the purpose of a "School Ship," especially in having good, roomy decks and quarters. Particular attention appears to be given to ventilation and cleanliness, and the sanitary conditions are all that could be desired.

The health of the boys seems excellent, owing in large part no doubt to the life on shipboard. The discipline is highly to be commended, and a good understanding appears to exist between the officers and boys, for which the former are deserving of great credit.

The examination of the lads in navigation showed that they understood thoroughly the different methods of obtaining the latitude and longitude, and the variations of the compass, and were acquainted, not alone with the theory, but with the practical details also.

Their further examination in the various departments of seamanship, such as splicing, knotting, &c. (work usually required to be done on shipboard), showed them to be quite proficient, and would do credit to much older and more experienced sailors; also in making and repairing sails, the result was very satisfactory, and some individual specimens were exceptionally good.

They were exercised by their officers in making and taking

in sail, which was done in a very seamanlike and expeditious manner.

In conclusion, your Committee beg to say, that they were very much pleased with the ability displayed by the boys in all departments; and they congratulate the Commander Captain Erben, and his officers on the efficient state of their ship throughout. They feel that the City of New York is doing a good work in this enterprise, and only wish there were more *St. Marys*."

Yours very respectfully,

(Signed,) E. SPICER, Jr.,
J. H. WINCHESTER,
M. P. SMITH.

October 15, 1880.

TO CHARLES H. MARSHALL, *Chairman*, }
JOHN S. BARNES, } *Council.*
THOS. P. BALL, }

REPORT OF SURGEON.

NEW YORK NAUTICAL SCHOOL SHIP "*St. Mary's*," }
NEW YORK CITY, 1st Dec., 1880. }

SIR—The excellent sanitary condition of this vessel, set forth in my report of December 1, 1879, has been maintained up to the present time.

During the last spring and summer an epidemic of mumps prevailed among the boys. There were forty-one cases, all terminating in entire recovery. It is somewhat singular that the first case made its appearance at sea, more than three weeks after our departure from New London, in a boy who did not remember having undergone any exposure to the disease for several months prior to his attack.

The daily average number of persons on board for the past twelve months has been one hundred and forty-four.

I would call attention to the remarkable fact, that during the six years the *St. Marys* has been on her present duty, not a single death, either from disease or accident, has occurred among her inmates. Than this no more satisfactory evidence could be desired that she is a healthy and lucky ship.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed,) J. W. ROSS,

P. A. Surgeon, U. S. N.

Captain HENRY ERBEN, U. S. N.,

Commanding *St. Marys*.

B.

*Statement of amount expended for the support of the Nautical
School for the year 1880.*

For Salaries and Wages.....	\$13,322 49
" Provisions.....	6,531 91
" Drugs.....	186 40
" Ship Chandlery.....	1,229 76
" Repairs.....	2,846 87
" Towing and Pilotage.....	234 50
" Oil.....	220 08
" Stationery.....	32 16
" Sundries on Summer Cruise.....	1,535 73
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	\$26,139 90
" Fuel.....	301 07
" Books, Slates, &c., for Pupils.....	111 59
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Total.....	<u>\$26,552 56</u>

NEW YORK, Dec. 31, 1880.