

COOPER UNION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART.

TRUSTEES.

EDWARD COOPER, PRES'T.

ANDREW CARNEGIE.

ABRAM S. HEWITT, Secy.

R. FULTON CUTTING.

EDWARD R. HEWITT, TREAS.

JOHN E. PARSONS.

L. C. L. JORDAN, Ass't Secy.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19th, 1902.

Dear President Harper.

When I had the pleasure of seeing Prof. Laughlin, I happened to mention incidentally that the Trustees of the Cooper Union were in negotiation with Columbia University for the affiliation of the Cooper Union with the University, in the same manner as it now oversees the operations of the Teachers College and of Barnard College. Since his return to Chicago, he writes to me that, on mentioning ~~the~~ ^{it} ~~matter~~ to you casually, you manifested great interest in the matter, and would be glad to hear from me as to the reasons which control the action of the Trustees of the Cooper Union in seeking this alliance.

As you are aware, the Cooper Union was founded by Mr. Peter Cooper without adequate endowment to carry on the work. For more than forty years I have personally given the necessary supervision to the institution, because it was impossible to provide the salary necessary to secure a competent executive officer. After many years of effort I have at length succeeded in securing an endowment, which will be sufficient to carry on the institution to the full limit of the space which it includes. Heretofore a portion of the building has been rented, but all leases have been cancelled and we are now in occupation of very nearly the entire structure.

With a revenue of about one hundred thousand dollars a year and about three thousand students, the work of the Cooper Institute has increased very largely. Three of the original five Trustees still survive, but they are all old men, who cannot much longer expect to do any active work. My own children have shown a very laudable interest in the Cooper Union, and have contributed ~~out of~~ ^{the} a fund left

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to them by Mr. Cooper about six hundred thousand dollars towards the new endowment.

The present condition of the institution will be apparent from the last annual report, a copy of which I take pleasure in sending to you. After the present generation shall pass away, it is probable that there will be no one with sufficient interest to give the personal attention to the administration of the institution which it now demands, and which will be an increasing responsibility upon those who are to come after us. The Trustees therefore have been very much concerned as to the future management of the educational work, which they have built up and brought to its present successful condition. In surveying the whole field we were unanimous in the conclusion that the University, which is organized expressly for the supervision and administration of educational work, was the proper authority to whom the conduct of the institution could be confided. In fact we do not see any other direction which offers any prospect of such supervision as an educational institution requires.

President Butler takes great interest in the matter, and has sent me a letter, of which I enclose you a copy, in order to show the general basis proposed should the affiliation contemplated be attained. You will observe that the Cooper Union preserves its unity. Its property will continue to be managed by its own Trustees and the ultimate control will remain with them as now. The agreement may be revoked if it is found not to work to the satisfaction of either party. From my own experience however, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Barnard College, I can say that there are no difficulties whatever in the practical administration of the separate institutions by the University. On the contrary, they are made more efficient and more satisfactory to all concerned.

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the Armour Institute. The institution was founded by a single individual and bears his name. His family of course are very tenacious in regard to the preservation of the identity of Mr. Cooper with the institution. They know however that, as time passes, personal interest will die out. It may interest you to know, although it ought not to be published, that the interest ⁱⁿ of the Astor Library, founded by John Jacob Astor, Sr., entirely died out, and the Astor Library fell into a condition of comparative stagnation, because his great grandsons were not willing to give either their time or money for its care and its extension. They were exceedingly glad to get rid of the responsibility, and they turned it over to the City Library, feeling that they had got rid of what they regarded simply as a nuisance. But for this example, with which I am very familiar, I might have hesitated somewhat to make the proposed arrangement for the Cooper Union, although in any event I think it would have been advantageous both to the institution and to the public.

I do not know how the family of Mr. Armour feel on the subject, but I am quite sure the more experience they get, the more they will find the difficulties of management increased, especially after Dr. ~~Gansels~~ shall no longer be able to give the invaluable supervision which heretofore he has exercised. It is extremely difficult to find men suitable for such work. Money will not procure such services. The University however always has many men in its service who feel glad to devote themselves to the spread of knowledge among the masses.

While I have not been able to find any one outside of the University, I know that it can assign two or three men who would do the work with zeal and ability.

I beg to assure you that I am at your service in this matter at any and all times. This statement which I now make is very informal, but I think it meets your desire to have some informa-

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Sincerely yours,

Abram S. Hewitt

President Harper,

Chicago University,

Chicago, Ill.

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Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Wood

President Harper,

Chicago University,

Chicago, Ill.

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