

12-18-1779

At a convocation of the visitors of the college of William and Mary, on the 4th day of December 1779, a statute was passed, of which the following is an extract

College of William & Mary

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At a convocation of the visitors of the college of William and Mary, on the 25th day of December 1779, a statute was passed, of which the following is an extract.

THE funds of the college being no longer compe-
tent to support so extensive an institution, as that
which the charter recommends; and when science at
large cannot be cultivated, that scheme of education
being most proper, which is more immediately su-
bordinate to the leading objects of society:

The scanty stipend lately paid by each scholar for
commons, having occasioned a considerable expen-
se.

It being just, that students inducted into the feve-
ral scholarships should be equally affected by the de-
preciation of money, with the college, since the
original donations on which they were founded, can-
not be now disposed of, but at a depreciated rate.

Experience having proved that the rarer parts of
science have been obstructed in their progress by the
maintenance of a grammar school within the same;
the learning of which may be acquired elsewhere, in
a much shorter time.

And the necessity of the college rendering it ex-
pedient to multiply the sources of revenue by every
possible means,

Let there be therefore six professorships; the first
of which shall be, Law and Police; the second, Ana-
tomy and Medicine; the third, Natural Philosophy
and Mathematics; the fourth, Moral Philosophy, the
Laws of Nature and of Nations, and the Fine Arts;
the fifth, Modern Languages; and the sixth for
Brafferton.

The particular method of instruction, to be pre-
sented in each school, shall be subject to the control
of the President and Professors, with a committee
six of the visitors, conferring and voting togeth-
er from time to time on that subject; their meetings to
be called by the President, or by a majority of the
said committee.

Each Professor, except the master of Brafferton,
shall receive from every student who attends him one
thousand pounds of tobacco annually.

Commons shall cease at college. The President and
Professors shall allow to some sober and discreet male
person the use of the college kitchen and garden. They
shall also hire to him the negroes accustomed to la-
bour in the same, taking bond with security. He
shall furnish the several students with the different
meals, at such price as the President and Professors
shall establish from time to time, to be paid by the
students themselves.

Such students as have been, or shall be, inducted
into scholarships created on private donations actu-
ally paid or established by the General Assembly,
shall receive, while they remain at college, the inter-
est of the original sum, at the rate of five per centum
per annum, and no more; and scholarships, founded
on donations not yet paid, shall be admitted on the
same conditions only.

The grammar school shall be discontinued.

A sufficient number of slaves shall be reserved for
cleaning the college; and if any remain after such
reservation, and hiring of the slaves belonging to the
garden and kitchen as aforesaid, they shall be hired
out at public auction.

This statute shall commence in force on the twenty
fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord one
thousand seven hundred and seventy nine.

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