

Comfont, George Fick, educator, author, art critic;
born at Berkshire, Tioga Co., N.Y., September 20,
1833; son of Rev. Silas C. (D.D.) and Electa (Smith) C.;
was graduated from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Ct.,
1857; L.H.D., University of the State of New York, 1888;
~~L.L.D., Syracuse University, 1893~~; travelled and
studied art, history, philosophy and philology in
Europe and the Orient, 1860-5, two years at the
university and academy of fine arts in Berlin; ~~was~~
~~professor of aesthetics and modern languages and~~
~~literature in Allegheny~~ travelled and studied in Europe
in 1879, 1887 and 1891; was professor of Aesthetics
(the first in America) and modern languages and literature
in Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., 1865-8; lecturer
on Christian art and archeology in the Drew Theological
Seminary, Madison, N.J., 1868-74; ^{one of the} founders of the
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 1869-72, lecturer
in the same 1898; organized the American Philological
Association, 1869 (its secretary 1869-74); elected professor
of Aesthetics and modern languages in Syracuse University, 1871;
~~originated and organized~~ ^(in 1873) in this university the
College of Fine Arts, coordinate with the colleges of liberal
Arts throughout the country, with curricula of four years ^(length) each
in the different branches of fine arts, being the first college of
its kind in America, and in some respects the first ^(of its kind) in the
world; dean of this college 1873-93; originated for its
graduates scholastic degrees in the fine arts, architecture,
painting, sculpture and music; organized, in 1896, the

Cyrcus Museum of Fine Arts (on the same plan as the Metropolitan Museum of Art), of which he has been the director since its beginning; organized, in 1901, the Central New York Society of Artists, which holds annual exhibitions in the Cyrcus Museum of Fine Arts. Author: Art Museums in America, Modern Language in Education; a series of textbooks for the study of the German language and literature; has contributed many articles upon art, history and criticism to encyclopedias and periodicals; art editor of the Northern Christian Advocate, 1872-93. Corresponding member of the Archeological Institutes of Rome, Berlin and Paris; member of the Society of Arts London; Honorary Fellow for Life of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and of the Cyrcus Museum of Fine Arts; Honorary member of the American Anthropological Society and of the Texas Historical Society; member of the National Arts Club, the Society of American Authors, the American Philological Association, the National Art Theater Society, the Municipal Art Society of New York, the Cyrcus ~~University~~ University Society and the Onondaga County Historical Society. Married Dr. Anna Manning (q. v.) Jan 19, 1871. Residence, Empire House, Cyrcus, N.Y.