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METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.

ABSTRACT OF THE INITIAL PROCEEDINGS.

THE movement toward the establishment of the Metropolitan Museum of Art was initiated at the Union League Club of New York in the month of February, 1869.

At that time a memorial from some American citizens in Paris, addressed to the President of the Club, Mr. John Jay, suggested and urged that an effort should be made to establish in New York a permanent Gallery of Art. This paper was referred to the Art Committee of the Club, which consisted at that time of the following-named gentlemen: Messrs. George P. Putnam, J. F. Kensett, J. Q. A. Ward, W. Whittredge, Geo. A. Baker, Vincent Colyer, and Samuel P. Avery.

At a meeting of the Club, held October 14, 1869, a report from this committee was read and adopted. In pursuance of the adoption of this report, the use of the theatre of the Club was granted for a meeting, and Professor George F. Comfort was invited to deliver an address on that occasion. Invitations to attend the meeting were sent to members of the principal literary and artistic associations of the city.

The meeting was held on the 23d of November, 1869. Mr. WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT presided. As Vice-Presidents the following-named gentlemen were elected, as representing, in some respect, the important institutions to which they belonged:

Mr. DANIEL HUNTINGTON, late President of the National Academy of Design;

Mr. R. M. HUNT, President of the N. Y. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects;

Mr. ANDREW H. GREEN, Comptroller of the Central Park ;
 Mr. WM. J. HOPPIN, of the New York Historical Society ;
 Rev. H. W. BELLOWES, D. D., of the Century Association ;
 J. A. P. BARNARD, LL. D., President of Columbia College ;
 Hon. HENRY G. STEBBINS, President of the Central Park
 Commission ;
 Mr. MARSHALL O. ROBERTS, of the Union League Club ;
 Mr. WM. E. DODGE, Jr., President of the Young Men's
 Christian Association.

As Secretaries there were appointed, Mr. SAMUEL P. AVERY, Secretary of the Art Committee of the Union League Club, and Mr. A. J. BLOOR, Secretary of the New York Chapter of the Institute of Architects.

Mr. Bryant, in taking the chair, addressed the meeting at length.

He then introduced to the audience Mr. Geo. F. Comfort, who delivered an address upon the general subject of Museums of Art, and the importance and the possibility of establishing one in New York.

After the close of Mr. Comfort's address, the Chairman called upon several gentlemen, each of whom addressed the meeting briefly, namely : Mr. R. M. Hunt, Hon. H. G. Stebbins, Mr. Russell Sturgis, Jr., Rev. J. P. Thompson, D. D., Mr. C. C. Cole, and Rev. H. W. Bellows, D. D. Letters had been received from Messrs. Wm. J. Hoppin, Marshall O. Roberts, Wm. E. Dodge, Jr., and Geo. W. Curtis.

Mr. Putnam, from the Art Committee of the Union League Club, presented the following resolutions :

Resolved—I. That in the opinion of this meeting, it is expedient and highly desirable that efficient and judicious measures should at once be initiated with reference to the establishment in this city of a Museum of Art, on a scale worthy of this metropolis and of a great nation.

II. That a committee of citizens, properly representing the various organizations and individuals directly or indirectly interested in the object, should at once be appointed ; and that to them the whole subject should be referred, with power to fill vacancies in the committee and to add to their numbers ; to appoint sub-committees ; to prepare a constitution and by-laws ; to apply for a charter, and to adopt such measures as they may find expedient for the accomplishment of the above-named object.

III. That the appointment of fifty gentlemen, as hereinafter named, to serve on such committee, would be, in our opinion, satisfactory to the whole community; and we hereby respectfully request the gentlemen named to take the objects of this meeting into their own hands, and to carry them to successful completion by all such means as they may deem expedient.

IV. That the Secretaries of this meeting be requested to notify the gentlemen thus designated, and to call an early meeting of this provisional committee, viz.:

WILLIAM H. ASPINWALL,
 W. L. ANDREWS,
 S. L. M. BARLOW,
 WILLIAM T. BLODGETT,
 WALTER BROWN,
 CHARLES BUTLER,
 RICHARD BUTLER,
 LEGRAND B. CANNON,
 JOSEPH H. CHOATE,
 F. E. CHURCH,
 JAMES B. COLGATE,
 GEORGE F. COMFORT,
 GEORGE WM. CURTIS,
 GEN. JOHN A. DIX,
 C. E. DETMOLD,
 WM. E. DODGE, JR.,
 BENJ. H. FIELD,
 S. R. GIFFORD,
 ROBERT GORDON,
 ANDREW H. GREEN,
 GEORGE GRISWOLD,
 JOHN H. HALL,
 ROBERT HOE, JR.,
 WM. J. HOPPIN,
 D. HUNTINGTON,
 RICHARD M. HUNT,

JOHN TAYLOR JOHNSTON,
 ROBERT LENOX KENNEDY,
 JOHN LAFARGE,
 A. A. LOW,
 JAMES LENOX,
 HENRY G. MARQUAND,
 FRED. LAW OL MSTED,
 R. M. OLYPHANT,
 HOWARD POTTER,
 W. C. PRIME,
 Prof. O. N. ROOD,
 MARSHALL O. ROBERTS,
 HENRY G. STEBBINS,
 ALEX. T. STEWART,
 D. JACKSON STEWART,
 ROBERT L. STUART,
 ANSON P. STOKES,
 JONATHAN STURGES,
 RUSSELL STURGIS, JR.,
 RUTHERFORD STUYVESANT,
 LUCIUS TUCKERMAN,
 GEN. F. L. VINTON,
 CALVERT VAUX,
 GEO. M. VANDERLIP,
 SAMUEL GRAY WARD,
 THEODORE WESTON.

Before the adjournment of the meeting the resolutions were adopted, and the committee of fifty declared by the chairman to be duly elected.

The committee of fifty held their first meeting on the evening of Dec. 7, 1869, and elected as additional members of their body the members of the Art Committee of the Union League Club, as above named, and other gentlemen.

Repeated meetings were held during the winter of 1869-70, the number of members was increased to one hundred and

sixteen, a provisional constitution was adopted, and, at the meeting of January 31st, 1870, the following officers were elected under that constitution :

President—JOHN TAYLOR JOHNSTON.

Vice-Presidents—WM. CULLEN BRYANT and General JOHN A. DIX.

Trustees—WM. H. ASPINWALL, CHRISTIAN E. DETMOLD, ANDREW H. GREEN, WM. J. HOPPIN, JOHN F. KENSSETT, EDWIN D. MORGAN, HOWARD POTTER, HENRY G. STEBBINS.

Executive Committee—WM. T. BLODGETT, S. L. M. BARLOW, GEORGE F. COMFORT, JOSEPH H. CHOATE, F. E. CHURCH, ROBERT GORDON, R. M. HUNT, ROBERT HOE, JR., EASTMAN JOHNSON, F. L. OLMSTED, G. P. PUTNAM, LUCIUS TUCKERMAN, J. Q. A. WARD.

Treasurer—SAMUEL G. WARD.

Recording Secretary—THEODORE WESTON.

Corresponding Secretary—RUSSELL STURGIS, JR.

The Executive Committee, of which, by terms of the constitution, the two Secretaries and the Treasurer were members *ex officio*, held repeated meetings, obtained a valuable special charter, drew up a permanent constitution, and presented these, together with an elaborate report, at the meeting of the provisional body held May 14, 1870.

The charter was accepted, the report and the constitution adopted.

These documents, together with a list of the officers elected under the permanent constitution, are given in the pamphlet which this statement accompanies.