

Nov. 4

Whereas the Anti-Slavery Society & the Coloniza-
tion Society, lately organized in the Seminary,
are considered by this board, ~~as likely, to~~ in
the present state of public excitement on
the subject of Slavery, as tending to enlist
the students in controversies foreign to their
studies, & to stir up among themselves & in
the community, unfriendly feelings, & useless
hostilities, thereby counteracting, ~~the~~ ~~great~~ ~~objects~~
the great objects of the Institution; Therefore,
ordered, that the students be required
to discontinue those societies in the Sem-
inary.

Nov. 5

ordered, that the Executive Committee have
power to dismiss any student from the
Seminary, when they shall think it necessary
so to do; & to make any ~~the~~ rules & regulations
for the admission of students, or for the govern-
ment & management of the Seminary, or any
of its concerns, not inconsistent with the Charter
& the regulations of this Board, which they may
deem expedient.

Nov. 1

Resolved that this Board approve & adopt the
report of the sub-committee of the Executive
committee, "relative to the proceedings among the
students on the subject of Slavery," & the proceedings
of the Executive Committee thereon of the 20th of
August 1834.

Co-secy - Trustees of the Sem.

Standing Rule 1

No. 2 Societies or associations of the students shall not be organized in the Seminary without the approbation of the Faculty; & where such organization shall be desired, the constitution, & the ~~go~~ object & general regulations of such society shall be submitted to the Faculty for their consideration.

Standing rule ^{general}

No. 3 The Students shall not hold ^{general} meetings among themselves, other than those of a religious or devotional character, or for purposes associated with the course of studies; nor deliver public addresses or lectures at the Seminary or elsewhere, ^{in term time} other than those connected with ordinary religious exercises; nor make public addresses or communications to the students when assembled at their meals or on other ordinary occasions; nor be absent from the Seminary in term time - without the approbation of the Faculty, or of such person as they shall designate for that purpose.

Ordered, that the following suggestions be commu-
nicated to the Faculty, by the Recording Secretary,
in connection with the proceedings of the Board
at the present meeting.

No. 6

To guard against misapprehensions,
the Board of Trustees think proper to commu-
nicate to the Faculty some explanation of
their views, in relation to the regulations re-
cently adopted.

The Board are very far from designing
to impose any undue restraints upon discussion &
free enquiry; ^{among the students} nor do they design to interfere with
the Faculty in the details of collegiate govern-
ment: Their object ~~has been~~ ^{is} to secure to the
Faculty a more direct & certain influence
over the conduct of the students, without the ne-
cessity of adopting ~~for themselves~~ severe or arbitrary
regulations. The Board consider, ^{that} the location
of this Seminary, in the vicinity of a large City
& on the borders of a Slave State, calls for some
peculiar cautionary measures in its government,
& that the present state of public sentiment on
some exciting topics, requires ~~some~~ restraints to be
imposed, which under other circumstances, might
be entirely unnecessary.

On the Subject of Slavery, the Board are of opinion
that ~~public~~ ^{public} discussions ought to be excluded from the
Institution. ~~At present~~. So much of excitement & of pas-
sion has already arisen from this source; its
tendencies at this time are so obviously to absorb too
much of the attention, that the minds of the Students
can hardly come in contact with it ^{without injury} ~~with safety~~.
The proceedings of the Students have produced
an impression in community, that the Seminary
is deeply implicated with one particular party and

Another part of the regulations has been adopted with
 reference to the intercourse of the students with the
 city. Considering, that the ~~students~~ ~~will~~ ~~clases~~ will be com-
 posed of at least some diversity of character, will be
 assembled from all parts of the country, some indi-
 viduals but little conversant with men & manners, &
 many of them entirely unacquainted with the pecu-
 liar state of society & public sentiment in the ~~the~~ ^{place},
 it cannot be expected, that ^{all} will ~~all~~ be prepared to mingle
 at once in ^{the} society of ~~the~~ ~~place~~, even to engage in the
 benevolent operations of the day, without some danger of
 evil consequences. They will at best need advice; - to be
 directed in the course & the objects most suited to their
 several capacities; & to be cautioned against indiscretions;
 & some times to be restrained in pursuits, which to them
 would seem laudable. A few instances of indiscretion in
 the inexperienced, repeated & exaggerated as they will be by
 the ill-disposed, will do much injury both to the in-
 dividual & the cause. In this case, also, the Board
 consider, that the ^{safest & the} "mildest" ^{guard against evil} ~~policy~~, is, to bring the stu-
 dents in the first instance in contact with the Faculty
 by way of asking leave of absence.

In the regulations, which they have adopted, the Board
 have had in view the great objects of excluding from the
 Seminary, matters foreign to its legitimate ~~objects~~ purposes;
 securing the greatest prosperity to the Institution, & the greatest
 weight to its religious influence; & guarding the students
 against causes tending to lessen their usefulness in the world.
 They have acted upon the principle, as they will ever consider
 themselves bound to do, that ~~where~~ some regulations in a
 Seminary of learning, must be carefully established, &
 rigidly enforced, with mildness, but with firmness; & that
 pupils, who do not cheerfully acquiesce in such a plan of
 government, will not be deserving ^{or useful} objects of its care.

It is evident to all, who are accustomed to observe the signs of the times, that there is at present in our country among all classes & departments of community, a strong & growing propensity to insubordination, - a disposition to set up ^{independent} ~~private~~ ~~notions~~ ~~or~~ constructions in opposition to lawful authority, - to justify resistance to law by private opinion against its policy or propriety. When such a spirit develops itself in midnight riots, or public rebellion against the laws of the land, we all regard it with horror: Yet it is but the workings of the same spirit, which arrays the students of our colleges in hostility to the regulations established by their constituted rulers. If allowed thus in youth, it may become most pernicious in age; & if indulged at all among the reputable & the educated, what must we not expect among the profligate & the ignorant! If students of a theological Seminary are allowed thus, unconsciously, but most efficiently, to act in alliance with the rioters & unprincipled of the day, we may well despair of the Republic.

Entertaining such views, the board have regarded it as no objection to the ^{now} rules adopted, that they may be met with decided hostility by some indiscreet individuals among the students, or that in practice they may be sensibly felt by the pupils as a continued restraint on their movements. Among the ~~free~~ institutions of our country, where every thing is freedom, there is little danger of too much restraint; all the tendencies are to the opposite extreme; & a course of intellectual & moral discipline, which habituates the mind to ^{implicit} submission to rules, however ~~directly~~, will be greatly useful ~~in its influence on the character.~~ if not ~~essentially~~ necessary, to the proper formation of Character.

the slavery question, & unless this impression can be re-
moved, ~~that~~ the prosperity of the Institution will be much
retarded, & its usefulness ^{greatly} diminished. To avoid these
difficulties, the Board can discover ^{no} ~~the~~ way but to require
the societies referred to, to be discontinued. The Students
themselves, who are sufficiently informed on the subject, &
look upon it dispassionately, cannot object to this
step: & the Board also think it important, that
all societies in the Seminary should be organized
under some sort of supervision on the part of
the Faculty.

Such societies are framed to perpetuate them-
selves, & may exert a great influence upon the opin-
ions & moral characters of many successive classes.
It is due to the Students, & to those who entrust their
children to the care of the Institution, that the door
should not be left open for employing such influ-
ences in a way to counteract the efforts of the
legitimate Instructors. The same consideration is
applicable to the practice of public ~~public~~ addresses &
lectures among the Students. In relation to ^{both} ~~these~~ ^{Matters} the
Board consider, that the best exceptionable mode
of securing to the Faculty their proper control, is to
require leave to be obtained from them in the first
instance. This restriction does not imply any disap-
probation ^{proper occasions} of ~~debates~~, or debates: It merely operates
to bring the ^{subject} ~~at issue~~ before the Faculty in the first in-
stance, before any feelings are excited; & ~~gives~~ ^{provides} a
favorable opportunity for giving advice, pointing out
any objections to the contemplated proceedings, &
suggesting ^{useful} modifications. It will, secure an easy &
genial control over a very important class of moral
& intellectual influences; ^{in the Seminary} & it is with this view a part
of the regulations have been adopted.