

The Secretary of the Committee was ordered to examine & compare with the prepared inventories the property of the Normal School.

Messrs. Hawley & Campbell were appointed a committee to order the repairs necessary to be done at the School Building during the coming vacation.

Mr. Morgan was appointed to procure a speaker for the closing exercises of the present term of the school.

Albany July 7. 1851.

The Committee met at the Office of the Secretary of State at 4 P. M.

Present, Messrs. Morgan, Hawley, Austin, Beck & Campbell.

Mr. Morgan in the chair.

The minutes were read & approved.

The following letter was received from Professor John P. Norton, declining the appointment tendered to him, & it was ordered to be entered on the minutes

New Haven June 30, 1851

Dr. Wm. H. Campbell

Albany,

Sir, On my return to this city I found your letter of June 25<sup>th</sup> awaiting me. I take the earliest opportunity of assuring you that I appreciate the honor which the Executive Committee of the Normal School has conferred upon me. It is necessary to say however that my present plans & engagements here, are such that I cannot now entertain a proposition which would render a change of residence unavoidable. My

acceptance of an appointment in the new ~~Univ~~  
versity will only involve a few months' stay  
in winter, at least for several years to come,  
& that is all the time that I can spare from  
my ~~studies~~ <sup>duties</sup> here without declining them alto-  
gether. For these reasons I cannot accept the  
appointment of which you have notified me.

I feel a great degree of interest in the  
prosperity of your institution & particularly  
that instruction in Scientific Agriculture  
should find a somewhat prominent place  
on your list of studies. From both of these  
motives & also in pursuance of some con-  
versation that I have had with your Principal,  
Prof. Perkins, I venture to recommend Mr.  
Johnson, at present an assistant in my labo-  
ratory here, as a person remarkably adapted  
for the duties of this situation.

He has been with me two years, & has made  
great progress in the various departments of  
Chemistry Agricultural & Elementary. Before  
coming here he taught Natural Philosophy,  
for a part of two years, with good success. He is  
a religious man, highly industrious & persevering,  
quiet & inoffensive in his manners, but deter-  
mined, resolute & successful, in accomplishing  
what he undertakes.

I know of no person that I could so safely  
& strongly recommend to you. His appoint-  
ment would of course give me a direct interest  
in the department, & I should be happy to aid  
or advise him at all times. Prof. Dana of  
Yale College writes with me in this recommen-  
dation. I am Sir, Yours very Respectfully,  
John P. Norton.

Resolved: That the Secretary write to Prof. Norton, request-  
ing Mr. Johnson to come to Albany & have an inter-  
view with the Committee

Adjourned.