

# The Technology Review

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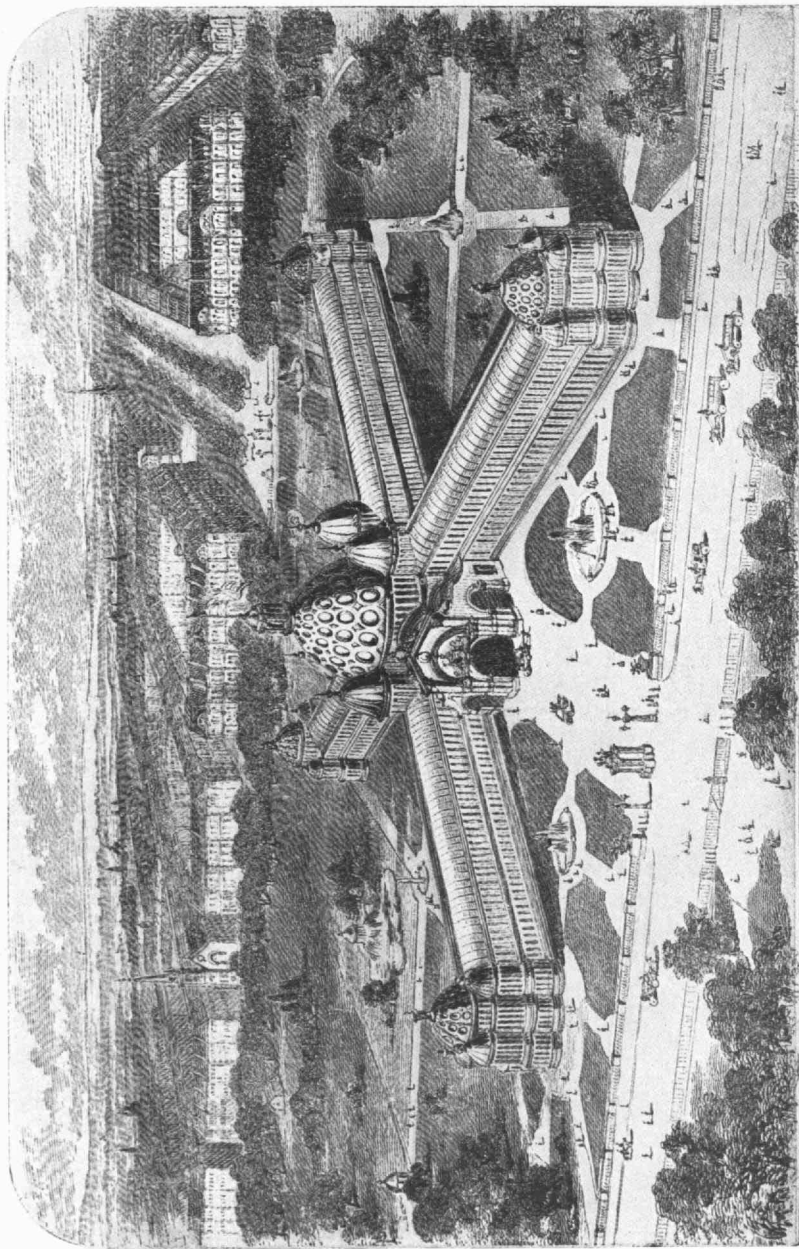
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# Proposed Massachusetts Conservatory of Art, Science, and Historical Relics.

WM. WAUD, ARCHITECT, FROM SUGGESTIONS BY WM. E. BAKER.

# The Technology Review

VOL. IV.

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## THE CONSERVATORY JOURNAL

It has been customary to refer to *The Spectrum*, published by the students of the Institute of Technology in 1873, as the first of that honorable line of Institute periodicals of which the REVIEW is the latest that has appeared. Priority may be justly claimed, however, for the *Conservatory Journal*, a weekly newspaper issued at fortnightly intervals in 1859. The Institute had then no being: nevertheless, this paper supported as vigorously its projected *Conservatory of Art and Science* as does the REVIEW the established Massachusetts Institute of Technology of to-day.

The first number of the *Conservatory Journal*, which was a four-page sheet, twenty-four inches by eighteen inches in size, appeared on April 9, 1859, and was followed by No. 2, on April 23; Nos. 3 and 4, on May 7; No. 5, on May 21; No. 6, on June 4; and No. 7, on June 18, No. 7 being, it is believed, the last issue of this journal to be published.

A short life, even for a newspaper established for the promotion of a special end, yet a life full of excitement and doubtless of expense to its author and publisher. The title:

# CONSERVATORY JOURNAL.

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DEVOTED TO ESTABLISHING A

Massachusetts Conservatory of Art, Science, and Historical Relics.

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VOL. I.

BOSTON, APRIL 9, 1859.

NO. 1.

*"Alere flamam ; non nobis solum sed omnibus."*

To feed the flame; not for ourselves only, but for all.

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announced the aim of the Periodical, which was somewhat more fully set forth in the editorial column of the first issue by the "Editor, Proprietor and Publisher," as follows:—

With hope of aiding the cause in which we have enlisted, we—the editor, proprietor and publisher—offer this Journal of Proceedings to establish a Massachusetts Conservatory of Art and Science. Journalists will please understand that we do not pretend to enter the ranks of the editorial fraternity; we confess ourselves driven to this course by our ardent desire to aid in establishing this great Educational Institution. Our work is endorsed by the names of near ten thousand signers of memorials to the Legislature in aid of this plan, the greater portion of whose names will be found herein. Every one of these signers has thus signified and declared his or her readiness to co-operate in the work. Ladies and gentlemen, we hold you to your promise; you have endorsed a note upon the sympathies and pockets of all your friends for the entire success of the plan. We expect to have an early report of the result of your individual influence. Not one of you can with any honor free yourself from your written obligation. Some of you can obtain consent of those having relics of great historical value, articles of stone, wood, iron, or other

metals and inventions, to forego the selfishness of individual enjoyment, and agree to deposit them in a fire-proof structure that will be erected for the Conservatory of Art, Science, and Historical Relics. Some have portraits, old paintings, records, and other articles, which are of great value as family relics; may not such as are of public interest be deposited where hundreds, yea thousands, can observe and study the characteristics of the past? Some have coins, minerals and curiosities of the animal and vegetable kingdom; will not such signify their willingness to deposit them where others may see, study and admire? Many have coins and bank-notes that would be very useful in erecting an imposing structure to contain the really priceless relics; is there not a much greater pleasure in appropriating these for the benefit of all, than in burying the talents in the pocket? Diogenes had no need of turning his lantern toward a man who kept his hands in his pockets. Ten thousand signatures represent ten thousand pockets, and a kind of compound influence over portemonnaies, pocket-books, and bank accounts. Thus we must hasten to adopt some plan for a structure. We have artists hard at work, and hope to present the plan of a structure, that we think would be suitable for such purposes, in our second edition, which we expect to issue on the 15th inst.

May we not expect the aid of every man and woman throughout the State in establishing this Conservatory of Art, Science, and Historical Relics, that will grow to be even more national than State in its influence? . . .

We need, then, a Polytechnic Institute, where the advancement of the useful arts may be noticed and practically described. Where may be properly organized a school of design to increase our supremacy as a manufacturing State. Wherein could be opened a *Conversazione* which would tend to disseminate useful knowledge upon subjects of every day life, upon domestic and political economy, etc. How and where to build a house, so as to be free from obnoxious miasma arising from certain soils which are so injurious to health, and which so insidiously,

yet surely, shorten life. How to light, heat, and ventilate a house, and the chemical analysis of atmospheres, are yet to be made subjects of popular consideration.

We need liberal accommodations for the display of specimens of Natural History, of the implements of Agriculture and Horticulture, the Fine Arts, and other articles pertaining to the history of our State. Other wants we would much like to suggest in detail, but must leave to the imagination, by reason of the continued and somewhat perplexing cry of "More copy — time's up!"

The meeting at which the memorials referred to were authorized was held Feb. 18, 1859.\* The memorial itself was as follows:—

#### MEMORIAL

To the Legislature of Massachusetts in Relation to a Conservatory of Art and Science.

The undersigned, a Committee appointed by citizens of the Commonwealth, at a meeting held Feb. 18th, 1859, in the rooms of the Boston Society of Natural History, composed of individuals representing Associations of Agriculture, Horticulture, Art, Science, and various Industrial, Educational and Moral Interests of the State, were instructed to prepare a Memorial to your Honorable Body, in concert with a Committee representing the Boston Society of Natural History, setting forth the wishes of the various Associations represented at this meeting, as well as to confer with others not present, in a general plan of co-operation, and to second and aid in carrying out the wise and liberal suggestion of his Excellency, the Governor, in his Address alluding to the propriety of appropriating for Educational purposes the proceeds of Sales of the Back Bay Lands belonging to the Commonwealth, lying near the Public Garden in the City of Boston. The said Committee respectfully represent to your Honorable Body, that in

\* See the TECHNOLOGY REVIEW, iii. 401.

our opinion a most effective method of making those Lands available in promoting education, as well as directly developing the wealth of the State, would be for the Legislature to pass a *Resolve* reserving from sale a portion of said lands, and dedicating them as a space to be used in all coming time, for the erection of a building or buildings, by various Institutions for public benefit, which in the aggregate would constitute and might be known as the Massachusetts Conservatory of Art and Science.

The Committee, without undertaking to specify in detail the extent of space to be reserved, or the specific purposes to which it should be dedicated, would simply suggest the character of a few leading Institutions, which, if once established on the ground, would form a nucleus around which would cluster kindred Associations of immense value to the people of the State. Taking the Commissioners' Plan of the Lands as a basis for illustration, we would suggest the reservation of as much as four squares for this purpose:

Section No. 1, might be devoted to collections of Implements, Models, and other objects pertaining to Agriculture, Horticulture, and Pomology.

Section No. 2, to Natural History, Practical Geology, and Chemistry, with ample room for museums of specimens.

Section No. 3, to those Institutions devoted to the development of Mechanics, Manufactures and Commerce.

Section No. 4, to Fine Arts, History, and Ethnology.

The space reserved for each section should be ample for these and all Institutions of a kindred character, which the future progress of the State may develop. By associating such Institutions in one locality, they would be reciprocally benefited by means of a free and ready interchange and use of their respective collections of specimens, and thus avoid the inconvenience of having the same objects in several collections; each one could confine its



operations to a specialty. A still greater advantage would result by having these established at one point and in the metropolis, where they would be accessible to all the people of the State instead of being elsewhere, or scattered, as must necessarily be the case, unless we secure this rare opportunity to bring them together. It is not proposed to merge the different Institutions in one,—the perfect individuality of each being retained in every respect, having nothing necessarily in common but the general fostering care of the State, in granting the use of the land, in return for which the people will have a common interest in the advantages to be derived.

It is not proposed that the legal title to the land be conveyed, but the fee to remain in the State, the various Institutions enjoying only a grant of land for their respective specific purposes, subject to its reversion to the State whenever the grantees cease to use it for the object specified in the grant.

The Committee have reason to believe that there are now existing several well-established Institutions, which will avail themselves of the privilege under the reservation, if made, and will erect a building or buildings thereon for their respective uses as soon as the land can be put in readiness for occupation.

It is also known to the Committee that there are at this time large collections of specimens of Natural History, Fine Arts, Models, and Designs of great public value in the possession of private individuals, and now not accessible to the public, which could be congregated here without purchase, provided suitable buildings were erected for their reception.

In conclusion, the Committee, while heartily sympathizing with the efforts now in progress to form a Museum of Natural History and Comparative Zoölogy, under the auspices of Professor Agassiz, at Cambridge, for the development of abstract science, desire to co-operate with such labors in the building up of Institutions of a more directly practical character, which will enable the masses of the

people, engaged in industrial occupations, more effectually to avail themselves of the advantages to be derived from the labors of those who are wholly devoted to purely scientific research.

MARSHALL P. WILDER, GEO. W. PRATT, SAM'L H. GOOKIN, ALFRED ORDWAY, WM. E. BAKER, B. F. EDMANDS, M. D. ROSS,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
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BOSTON, March 9th, 1859.

The history of this Memorial subsequent to the meeting of February 18 and prior to the issue of the first number of the *Conservatory Journal*, sufficiently appears in the following extracts from that publication:—

The Committee appointed by the Boston Society of Natural History, who had presented a memorial to the Legislature for the reservation of land for these general purposes, and the general Committee of seven above mentioned, had a hearing before the Committee on Back Bay lands at the State House on March 10, 1859. . . .

At a second meeting of gentlemen interested in the proposed Conservatory of Art and Science, held at the Library of the Boston Society of Natural History, on Friday, March 11, at 7 1-2 o'clock, Hon. Marshall P. Wilder in the chair; the Committee appointed at the first meeting made a report of their doings since Feb. 18.

On motion of Wm. E. Baker, eight gentlemen were added to the original Committee of seven—making the Committee consist of Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, George W. Pratt, Sam'l H. Gookin, Alfred Ordway, Wm. E. Baker, B. F. Edmands, M. D. Ross, E. S. Tobey, James M. Beebe, B. S. Rotch, Dr. S. Cabot, Jr., Amos Binney, Dr. S. Kneeland, Jr., Charles L. Flint, and J. D. Philbrick. . . .