

Mr. Peabody's first letter.

the Trustees, in order to encourage and reward merit, should adopt a regulation by which a number of the graduates of the public High Schools of the city, not exceeding fifty of each sex in each year, who shall have obtained, by their proficiency in their studies and their good behavior, certificates of merit from the commissioners or superintending authorities, of the schools to which they may be attached, may, by virtue of such certificates, be entitled, as an honorary mark of distinction, to free admission to the lectures for one term or season after obtaining the certificates.

I also desire, that for the same purpose of encouraging merit, the Trustees shall make suitable provision for an annual grant of twelve hundred dollars; of which five hundred shall be distributed every year, in money prizes, graduated according to merit, of sums of not less than fifty dollars, nor more than one hundred for each prize, to be given to such graduates of the public Male High Schools, now existing or which may hereafter be established, as shall in each year, upon examination and certificate of the School Commissioners, or other persons having the chief superintendence of the same, be adjudged most worthy, from their fidelity to their studies, their attainments, their moral deportment, their personal habits of cleanliness, and propriety of manners; the sum of two hundred dollars to be appropriated to the purchase, in every year, of gold medals of two degrees, of which ten shall be of the value of ten dollars each, and twenty of the value of five dollars each, to be annually distributed to the most meritorious of the graduating classes of the public Female High Schools; these prizes to be adjudged for the same merit, and under the like regulations, as the prizes to be given to the graduates of the Male High Schools; the remaining five hundred dollars to be, in like manner distributed in money prizes, as provided above for the graduates of the Male High School, in the same amounts respectively, to the yearly graduates in the school of Design, attached to the Mechanics Institute of this city.

To render this annual distribution of prizes, effective to the end I have in view, I desire that the Trustees shall digest, propose and adopt, all

such ru-
pendent
stitution
to accom

Third.
brace wi-
ted in t
cultivate
the arts.
furnished
exhibiti
principle
riodical
eminent
trustees
pose to
They wi-
judgmen
of Music
the socie
consider
it may b
admissio
consider
with my
nity; an
propriety
nual me
terms of
should c
the priv
those wh

Fourth
as an au
and, thr
acter of
ment of
Painting
that suc
of the I
provisio
such an
works o
such reg
during s
ly and r
terest in