

In Memoriam

Professor Joseph A. Gillet, A. B.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF THE TEACHING
STAFF OF THE NORMAL COLLEGE, FEBRUARY
FIFTH, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHT.

WE, the teaching staff of the Normal College, desire to unite in expressing our deep grief for the loss of our dear and honored Acting President, Joseph A. Gillet. We would record our admiration of his character,—his winning modesty, his unvarying kindness, and his perfect sincerity; our gratitude for his inspiring example as a devoted worker; and our recognition of the remarkable ability with which, at a critical time, he ordered the affairs of the college. His steady judgment, his unusual command of detail, and his union of firmness with gentleness, made his administration at all points successful; and though he never aimed to impress on others his own individuality, he unconsciously encouraged in the whole teaching body the spirit of enthusiastic service. Believing that "What is excellent, as God lives, is permanent," we trust that his influence will abide in the institution to which he gave the unselfish labor of more than half a lifetime.

Joseph A. Gillet -- acting president, 1906 - 1908

A graduate of Harvard and "senior professor" of mathematics and physics, Dr. Gillet was connected with the Normal College throughout its entire history, a span of almost forty years. Although himself was planning to retire -- he was sixty-eight when he accepted the acting presidency -- he agreed to serve until the "executive committee" could agree on a replacement for President Hunter. Dr. Gillet died in office, after an operation for appendicitis.