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The Duty of Texas to Develop Higher Education Now.

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Practically every word in my subject is important save three. Each might be taken tonight as a subject for an address. Each is suggestive of much.

There are three sources of higher education in America:

1. Schools supported by private endowment.
2. Schools supported and controlled by denominations of Christians.
3. State Schools supported by taxation.

A liberal interpretation of my subject would allow a discussion of all of these, for in the history of our country each has had much to do with the training of our citizens and each in spite of its origin or control is a public institution. A strict construction of my subject, however, evidently means to discuss the development of higher education as it is done by the state, and this is my purpose.

There are no private higher schools in Texas worthy of the name as here discussed. We therefore cannot depend upon them to meet the requirements of the State of Texas. Even if we had them, they would be too spasmodic as to origin, number, and location.

Denominational Colleges and Universities have not in the past met all the needs of higher education of all the people in Texas, and therefore cannot be depended upon solely for the future. By making this statement, I presume I shall not be regarded as untrue to denominational institutions, one of which I have the honor to represent. It may be here stated in confidence that throughout the early part of the history of Texas all the higher education there was, came through such institutions as were owned and controlled by denominations of Christians. They will have their regard. Practically all the early public men of Texas received their education from these institutions, for there was no State University until 1883. By making this reference of the lack of ultimate utility in denominational institutions, I do not lose confidence in the efficiency and the rightful defence that may be made for their existence. I speak with assurance because I know that there are many people who have never patronized them and many more who never will. Hence, particularly in

the light of the lack of full support of the denominations that controlled the early higher institutions in Texas and in the light of constantly increasing population, it is clear to any thinking mind that the state of Texas was wise when it promoted its University of Texas, and is wiser every year by as much as liberal contributions are made for its enlargement and development. The state cannot shift its responsibility. In my judgement, it unwisely shifted it too long. It now must do and do well the work it has undertaken.

In my judgement, notwithstanding the wisdom of our fathers in setting apart a large landed estate and in constitutional provision for maintaining the support of the Texas University, they were not wholly wise, for with all their forethought they have not built big enough for Texas. Instead of this one building with chapel and library and recitation and laboratory rooms all under one roof, it were far better if a larger sum of money had been spent for architectural designs and millions more had been spent in the fulfillment of larger plans, through the erection of buildings here and there, each well fitted for its own purposes. With the boundless resources of Texas and the millions of people now here and coming, the present plant and equipment are infinitely too small to meet the future growth of this state.

The word development in my subject needs no enlargement before this audience, except to call attention to the fact that however high our system has come, it must not be allowed to lag in growth. The word higher suggests that however high now, it must be higher in the future. The word now involves us in no doubt as to our urging the legislature to immediate action and not for any indefinite future time.

The ear-marks of civilization are culture. Much more than dollars and cents, houses and lands, herds and farms, is the possession of citizens whose minds and hearts are trained in unison with right purposes, keen thinking, and high living. Monarchies may get on without much culture of the ordinary citizen; the bureaucrats do the thinking. Democracies cannot live without an educated citizenship; the units of the democracy do the thinking. The wildest aggregation of persons that ever get together may be made up of units each of whom is a democrat, but each of whom is without ability to lead or to follow. The strongest aggregation and the best type of government in the evolution of affairs is a democracy where each man is well trained,

each is able to lead, and each is wise enough to follow.

Let us in our higher educational institutions foster culture in freedom and in restraint. I would have more freedom than can be found in West Point and more restraint than can be found in Harvard. Whatever of good the experience of the ages brings to us, let us adopt it for this institution. Let this school grow and enlarge. Let us have here, for example, a School of Forestry from whose walls may go out men not only to protect the vast receding forests now in the Southern and Eastern part of our state, but make the trees to grow upon the highways and plains of the North and the West. Let me speak with confidence and assurance, perhaps unbecoming in a member of the Faculty of the University of Texas. Let me speak as a citizen when I call upon the next legislature to use no niggardly policy in the expenditure of money for the promotion of this institution.

Let us all work together, now and forever. Let the Denominational colleges know, as they have not always known, that however much the State University may grow, its growth will be but a stimulus to the former. Let them know that however much the University may grow, there need not be any conflict or overtopping of each other. Let the State University know, as it has not always known, that through all the years of the growth of the Denominational Colleges and Universities in Texas, they have constantly helped to develop a loftier public sentiment for higher education and in every way have helped the cause of higher State institutions. We are all citizens of one state; we are all striving for purer citizenship; we will all be untrue to each other unless we work constantly together.

This is my plea; this is my speech. I thank you.

