

Ladies & Gentlemen-

Jackson

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Voluntary speeches are generally recognized as more incense offered upon the altar of vanity or self interest, - and for this reason I have heretofore made no remarks in the presence of this community upon the subject of Education. But for ten months have I labored in your midst, - and now disclaiming the possession of any vain feeling, to gratify, and disdaining selfishness as being but another name for meanness I think I can safely submit a few reflections, hastily penned, upon a subject so weighty in its import and so momentous in its consequences. Nor am I so conceited as to suppose for a moment - that anything that I might say will arouse those who are apathetic into action or awaken this community to a proper sense of the almost overwhelming responsibility resting upon them. But were I longer to remain silent, I should be travelling without the pale of duty, but I would be recreant to the interest of the young, and uneducated around me, who call loudly for their birthright - a heritage, far more valuable than golden patrimony - a heritage that will add to them blessings here, and prepare them for the enjoyment of bliss hereafter. (In presenting this subject (so often treated of), I possess no patented system that will ensure success and lead us triumphantly to the temple of knowledge, nor will I beat of the drum, but rather answer the query who shall be educated?)

That the subject which we propose has in all time arrested and engaged the attention of the wisest and the best we know; - that good has been the result of their efforts to unfold and develop the human intellect is equally certain, and as unmindful as we may be of the fact. <sup>the</sup> Blessings we now enjoy, have those that come directly from the hand of a beneficent Providence, are the manifest fruits of educated minds. Multiplied and various systems have been employed to bring about the desired end, and were we disposed to speak of the plan, rather than the thing to be accomplished, we could with profit to ourselves, if not to the edification of this audience review that system which beat the knee of Aristotle at the feet of Plato for twenty long years, making him the man, you know the philosopher of his age. We might review Athens the ancient mistress of science and of art, scramble through her scholastic groves, mount the rugged steps that lead to the Acropolis and there from Sages themselves learn their system that created the wise and world renowned Council, and that system which enveloped it in wantonness and licentiousness and ultimately caused its ruin.

We might with profit to ourselves dig deep into those mines that dowered the Mantuan Swain with flowing verse and made Homer the father of immortal song; or with delight <sup>the</sup> admire that Cleopatra found that <sup>the</sup> ~~greatest~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~greatest~~ Cully, whose powerful eloquence awhile, restrained the paper's fork of rushing Rome; nor would we slight those systems that gave birth in more modern times to a Mickliffe, a Hup and a Luther, men who defied danger and braved death that the latent susceptibility of mind might be developed, <sup>that</sup> and the holy fire of Christianity, long slumbering beneath the oppressive weight of ignorance and superstition, might burst forth a beautiful flame to enlighten and illumine a world. Upon this occasion we will not attempt a review of the many systems of the past or of the present - nor will we propose one of our own that will ensure success and lead us triumphantly to the temple of knowledge, for we wish not to beat so much of the drum, but rather answer the query who should be educated?

Upon this question then I would plead the cause of the Multitude, and in answer to the query I would say all should be educated without reference to or distinction of rank, sex, or condition in life, and <sup>let me assure you</sup> gentlemen this declaration is no political demagoguism, it is no vote catching machine; I am actuated by no sordid interest; and I would scorn to make the declaration merely because you hold the "balanced power" and are able to sustain or crush the cause at your will; ~~there~~ <sup>there</sup> a far nobler sentiment prevails with me - we are all human beings, endowed with gifts and graces from on high, talents <sup>have been bestowed</sup> which we are not at liberty to bury, and when we reflect that happiness here and hereafter is proportionate to the development of our mental and moral attributes, who can remain lukewarm and inactive upon a subject of such infinite value, or who would countenance the position we have taken that all should be educated, a position the propriety of which cannot fail to address itself to the minds of all persons.

There are persons who hold to the doctrine and practice upon it too that it is all suf-



scient - ~~that~~ man possesses practical intelligence enough to calculate well the interest - due him or be enabled to pass through life without being robbed by his neighbors, unless persuaded he should wish to move in the higher circles of the learned professions and then they agree that he should be educated accordingly. I must confess this Utilitarian doctrine has never met with my approbation, nor am I willing to recognize as right - a view of the subject so erroneous, a system as I think must without doubt subvert all true happiness.

Education should never be recognized nor sought after as a mere means by which unholy and selfish ~~purposes~~ <sup>ends</sup> may be accomplished, nor for purposes of mere practical utility, and really I ~~was~~ almost persuaded that it had better not be sought at all unless as a glorious end in which is found jewels of inestimable worth.

This method of dispensing knowledge as you would ration, just enough to sustain life is not only unwise but supremely unjust - by it you would rob them forth of the human family of their birthright - God ~~created man with~~ <sup>has bestowed on man</sup> faculties which are paramount to mere animal instinct and he will claim at your hands an education and expansion of those powers coextensive with their capacities to receive it. I would not have man educated not ~~because he is to be a doctor of Law physics or to make~~ <sup>to make him</sup> because he should be made a lawyer or doctor or be prepared to minister in holy things, but because he is a man, fresh from the hands of his maker a dignified specimen of finite divinity - not because parental regard, parental pride or lucrative prospects may lure him to this or that profession; but because his all-wise Creator has so formed him that knowledge is the natural aliment for his constitution, and without it his soul cannot be fed ~~its energies~~ <sup>its energies</sup> ~~crushed~~ from their right - he stalks through life a miserable shadow of a ~~mere~~ intellect - rather than the elevated, soul possessing reality of dignified intelligence.

Society is organized with such diversity of trades occupations and professions that we necessarily must learn different things; but it is a ~~fatal~~ <sup>dangerous</sup> error to argue because of this, that a man should know nothing beyond what his calling demands. I say dangerous because it is fatal, for nothing has contributed so much as this in giving ignorance and consequently ~~vice~~ <sup>vice</sup> the ascendancy and making virtue and intelligence so rare a commodity.

I therefore place the claims of Education upon a ground common to all. If we are not all born with the same capacity, we are born unquestionably with the same right; and must because we cannot all become ~~philosophers~~ <sup>philosophers</sup> is no reason why we should not try to be Johnsons, or ~~if we fail~~ <sup>because</sup> to philosophy as a Newton a Bacon or a Franklin is no reason why we should ~~not~~ <sup>hold our place and defend</sup> philosophy at all. We are very beautifully taught in the twenty fifth chapter of Matthew that it is as fatal to bury ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> talent as ten.

Is then a father parent who is bending his every energy for the education of some favorite child who has given token of decided genius, to the utter neglect and exclusion of other children less talented perhaps but possessing equal rights? - If there is allow me to say such a course is not only wrong but contrary to the best promptings of humanity for certainly he who is least able to help himself, deserves most help of others - then change your plan lay out up for yourself a day of wrath, excite not the just indignation Heaven, for nothing is more offensive in the eyes of our Great Creator than robbing the poor to feed the rich!! Let us not forget the obligations resting upon us as Fathers Brothers and Sisters - let our children be educated and be ourselves improved - let us not forget our conformation, let the physical man be strengthened and the mental man elevated neither at the expense of the other, and the moral man purified to cherish both, then will our threefold nature become the golden chords to the harp of life, and touched by a master hand, happiness will no longer be a thing hoped for, but under the propitious smile of favoring Heaven we may sit ~~under~~ <sup>beneath</sup> the trees of life and knowledge pluck the fruit and eat it unforbore.

There are other considerations connected with our subject which we think call loudly upon the patriot and Christian to use their ceaseless efforts to promote the cause which we advocate this right. For the patriot it will be well to remember that the history of other times bears abundant record of the fact that republican institutions cannot long exist unless virtue and intelligence be the main pillars to support the fabric. The projections



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great pioneers in freedom's cause.

of our government, ~~men~~ men of strong and well cultivated intellects, governed and controlled by high moral sentiment;—men too who spent their lives in turmoil and strife that we might live in security and peace—men who will risk surrender of all and made themselves poor that for the proud satisfaction of knowing that we might through their poverty, <sup>might</sup> become rich.

Do we wish to preserve in their pristine purity and coolness those republican principles that were signed and sealed with the blood of our Fathers and committed to our charge that we might hand them down to future generations unimpaired? Do we wish to fully demonstrate to the crowding millions of stamped royalty the principles that men is capable of self government? If we do, then must the masses be educated that they may appreciate the blessings guaranteed by our Constitution. Ignorance and the despising prejudice must be banished from the land, and Order and intelligence <sup>acknowledged</sup> ~~granted~~ by all as sovereigns <sup>and the only true and</sup> ~~superior~~.

No one can for a moment doubt but that a republican form of government is the best ever yet devised, when based upon the union of Law and liberty, and guided and properly directed by reason. The patriot who is ever watchful and sees the alternate tide and ebb in our political affairs, must be filled with a lively sense of apprehension and fear as to our fate. We look around us and see too often the ship of state entrusted to weak and incompetent hands—too often is it the case that our integrity, <sup>character</sup> ~~moral~~ worth and bright intelligence sacrificed to glut the morbid appetite of parties and factions, that curse rather than bless. Our ballot box the great rendezvous of the public will is too often invaded by the unhallowed footsteps of the designing self aggrandizing politicians who are ever ready to learn the plow to throw around them the shroud of office that they may strike a blow for sunbeam, but alas! how few Cincinnatus like would disinterestedly <sup>smile on death to save the fatherland</sup> ~~barter an arm~~ for the good of Rome. These things are true though by no means flattering to our pride and vanity. ~~Many~~ <sup>Some</sup> persons having persons, who fatten themselves by flattering our whims and caprices and by catering to the most contemptible of our prejudices unblushingly assert that it is ~~too late~~ <sup>too late</sup> unphilosophical and perfectly absurd to attempt a reformation upon this subject. Be that as it may—history speaks to us in thunder tones that if we suffer ignorance to hang upon us, licentiousness and wild confusion will be bred in our midst; our country will be rent asunder by discord and anarchy and neither the spirit stirring eloquence of a Cicero, the inflexible firmness of a Cato nor the benevolent goodness of our own Immortal Washington can save us from that ~~Chaos~~ <sup>Chaos</sup> of vice which has engulfed many or that ~~Chaos~~ <sup>Chaos</sup> of faction upon which <sup>so many</sup> have foundered. But let the rising generation be educated let the people take a greater interest in the universal diffusion of knowledge—let the goodness of Liberty be joined with intelligence in holy union she'll need no ~~brave~~ <sup>brave</sup> knight—no stronger arm to protect her borders, blessed and happy in so virtuous an alliance her progeny will <sup>ever</sup> ~~always~~ wear the rose of youth.

Do not Christians too often forget that the success of every enterprise not even excepting Christianity itself depends upon the efforts of its supporters. Do Christians of the present day suppose that the work of God will go on without their co-operation? That a world will be regenerated without high and holy motives are (by them) brought to bear, and convincing arguments are used. Have not the Christians of the present day been culpably sleeping—They have stood in listless inactivity while the unbelieving skeptical world around them have marched in solid column on in the paths of knowledge science delving every where into the hidden treasures of Nature for new discoveries with which to support their Atheistic dogmas—affright the moral world and if possible drag God himself from Heaven. More necessary than in the language of another that the stone houses of Christianity should gather and ~~thus~~ <sup>thus</sup> ~~de~~ <sup>de</sup> ~~ce~~ <sup>ce</sup> ~~ptle~~ <sup>ptle</sup> appropriate the facts of Science as well as theology. For God is the God of the natural as well as the moral world, and she is legitimately entitled to all the harvests which cultivated mind may reap from these luxuriant fields. The church cannot vacillate and stupidly witness the astonishing developments of the present century; and while the age is rife with atheism she must arise buckle on her armor, expand her powers, prepare herself for conflict <sup>overcome</sup> ~~meet the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~champions~~ <sup>champions</sup> of Infidelity and restore to God what is truly his.



