

Voluntary speeches are generally recognized as mere incenses 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 profession 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 this hereafter. In presenting this subject (so often treated of) I propose no patented system that will ensure success and lead us triumphantly to the Temple of Knowledge, nor will I treat the hows, but rather answer the query Who should be educated?

That the subject which we propose has in all time assisted 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, the blessings

we now enjoy, save those that come directly from the hand of a beneficent Providence, are the manifest fruits of educated mind. 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 the audience review that system which bent the knee of Aristotle at the feet of Plato for seventy long years, making him the man, yes more the philosopher of his age. We might revisit Athens the ancient mistress of science and of art, ramble through her scholastic groves, mount the rugged steps that lead to the Arcopagus and these from sages themselves because the system that created the wise and world renown 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 donned the Mantuan Swain with flowing sense and made Homer the father of immortal song; or with delight admire that classic fount that (gave birth) the genius of a Tully whose powerful eloquence awhile restrained the rapid fate of rushing Rome. Nor would we slight those systems that gave birth in more modern times to a Wickliffe, a Huss, and a Luther, men who defied danger and braved death that the latent susceptibility of mind might be developed and that 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 and 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 treat so much the how, 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 let me assure you gentleman this declaration is no political demagogueism, it is no vote catching machine. I am actuated by no sordid interest, and I would scorn to make a declaration merely because you hold the "balance power" and are able to sustain or crush the cause at your will; I hope a far nobler sentiment prevails with me. We are all human beings endowed with gifts and graces from on high, talents have been commissioned to us 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 the subject of such infinite value, or who would controvert the position we have taken that all should be educated, a position the prosperity of which cannot fail to address itself to the minds of all present.

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

efficient if 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 perchance he should choose 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 recognise as right a view of the subject (system) so erroneous, a system as I think must without doubt subvert all true happiness

Education should never be recognised nor sought after as a mere means by which unholy and selfish ends may be accomplished nor for purposes of mere practical utility, and really I am almost persuaded that it had better not be sought at all unless as a glorious end in which is found jewels of inexpressible worth. This method of dispensing knowledge as you would rations, just enough to sustain life is not only unwise but supremely unjust. By it you would rob three fourths of the human family of its birthright. God has bestowed on man 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 have man educated not {because he is to be a doctor of law physic or to make} 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 allwise creator has so formed him that knowledge is the natural aliment for his constitution, and without it his soul cannot be fed its energies wasted from sheer neglect he stalks through life a miserable shadow {of a meagre intellect} rather than the elevated, soul possessing reality of dignified intelligence. A Society is organized with such diversity of trades occupations and professions that we necessarily must learn different things; but it is a dangerous error to argue because of this, that a man should know nothing beyond what his calling demands. I say dangerous yes more it is fatal, for nothing has contributed so much as this in giving ignorance and consequently vice the ascendancy and making virtue and intelligence so rare a commodity

I would therefore place the claims of Education on grounds common to all. If we are not all born with the same capacity, we are born unquestionably with the same right and merely because we cannot all become Shakespeares is no reason why we should not try to be Johnsons. Or because we fail to philosophise as a Newton, a Bacon, or a Franklin is no reason why we should {hold our peace and refuse} to philosophise at all. We are very beautifully taught in

the seventy fifth chapter of Matthew that it is as fatal to bury our talent as sin.

Is there a father present who is lending his every energy for the education of some favorite child who has given tokens 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 not up for yourself a day of wrath, incite not the just indignation of 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 Fathers and Mothers sisters and brothers. Let our children be educated and we 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 chasten both, then will our three fold 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 beneath the trees of life and knowledge pluck the ripened fruit and eat it unforbidden.

There are other considerations connected with our subject which we think call loudly upon patriot and Christian to use their ceaseless efforts to promote the cause which we advocate this night: 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 projectors ,

Are Christians fully alive to this work
great pioneers in freedom's cause
of our government were men of strong and well cultivated intellects governed and controlled by high toned
moral sentiment, men too who spent their lives in turmoil and strife that we might rest
in security and peace. Men who well nigh surrendered their all and made themselves poor that
for the proud satisfaction of knowing that we might through their poverty become rich
Do we wish to preserve in this pristine purity and loveliness 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 freely demonstrate
to the croaking minions of pampered royalty the principle that man 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 her offspring prejudice
must be banished from the land, and virtue and intelligence acknowledged by all as {the only} sovereign,
{true and} supreme.

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, 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 likely(?) 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 impotent hands. Too often is it the case that we see standing integrity, 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 designing self aggrandizing
politicians, who are ever ready to leave the plow to throw around them the shield of office that
they may strike a blow for buncomb; but alas: how few Cincinnatus like would
disinterestedly {smile on death to raise the fate of sinking} raise an arm for the good of Rome. These things
are true though by no
means flattering to our pride and vanity. (??) starving(?) 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 unphilosophical and perfectly
absurd to attempt a reformation upon this subject. Be that as it may - history speaks
to us in thunder tones the warning 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 - shining eloquence of a Cicero, the inflexible firmness of a Cato
or the benevolent goodness of our own immortal Washington can save us from
that charybdis of vice which has engulfed many or that scylla of fashion upon
which so many {others} have foundered. But let the rising generation be educated. Let the
people take a greater interest in the universal diffusion of knowledge. Let the
goddess of liberty be joined with intelligence in holy union. She'll need no braver knight.
no stronger arm to protect her borders, blessed and happy in so virtuous an alliance
her progeny will ever wear the rosy hues 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 cooperation? That a world will
be regenerated without high and holy motives are (by them) brought to bear, and convincing argum-
ents are used. Have not the Christians of the present day been culpably supine. They
have stood in listless inactivity while the unbelieving skeptical world around them have
marched in solid column or in the paths of (knowledge) science delving everywhere into
the hidden treasures of nature for new discoveries with which to support their atheistical dogma,
affright the moral world; and if possible drag God himself from Heaven. Here(?) necessary
then in the language of another that the store houses of Christianity should garner and her di-
ciples appropriate the facts of science as well as theology. Her 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 vacant
stare and stupidly witness the astounding 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, overcome the champions of Infidelity and restore to God what is truly his.
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Before closing our remarks we wish to say a few things upon the subject of female Education. It is the most interesting but at the same time the most difficult to treat of part

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of our subject. It is difficult not because we know not her nature or what position to assign her in the grand drama of life, nor is it because we are ignorant of that system which is best adapted to her wants; but because in all our ideas of female education we have to combat common prejudices and run counter to a system, prevalent and with many followers, replete with injuries that blight the happiness of woman making her weak vain and ignorant, the slave of fashion pride and envy; rather than the pure, faithful sympathizing companion, emphatically "Heaven's last, best gift to man". Time has wrought many changes upon this subject. The time was when woman was looked upon

merely as a necessary domestic appendage, well fitted for cooking dinners, darning stockings, and mending pants. This was downright barbarism. Again {on the other hand} she has been clothed in habiliments of spotless

white {purity} and worshiped as a deity, this was equally bad {sinful} for it was worse than paganism {idolatry}. It

would be well for us to keep in mind that she is neither animal nor an angel; nor is she intended to be the light flippant plaything of an hour: she is neither above man nor below him; but his equal in every way; created by the same hand with the same faculties, for the same end; formed to the "Companion of man's calmest, happiest hours,

Dear partner of his home-felt joys and cares, and that she may afix this her proper sphere and enjoy all her immunities as one of God's bright intelligences she should be thoroughly and completely educated. As to the manner in which this education should be accomplished there is some {much} diversity of opinion; but those who have studied the subject most

extensively are agreed that nothing short of solid substantial instruction as a basis will ever prove beneficial to herself or in the least degree creditable to man. I am sorry to say, however, that there are persons engaged in the high vocation of teaching, with all the mighty responsibilities resting upon them, who for selfish purposes reject this idea and lead a pupils hastily over the vast fields of literature and sciences scarcely giving her a superficial smattering of either. They carry her through the gilded circle of accomplishments. Teach her the most horrible and excruciating French, while her english is quite as bad. Learn her

to draw and paint, dance and waltz; languish and faint; affect sentiment and feign sensibility though her every thought is absorbed in self. Thus is she palmed(?) upon society as an educated woman! She has no knowledge of anything but fashion, her mind sleeping in the darkest shades of night. No fondness for any thing save show. Proud, vain and ignorant. Her mind sleeping in the darkest shade of night. She is announced as marriageable and stands a fit subject for some cashless dandy who for the sake of PaPa's dimes(?) would be willing to take a woman without either head or heart. This representation is a genuine synopsis of the course pursued by many in female education. How widely different the disposition and character of one properly trained. Between the Parent and teacher there is a trusty cooperation; at home and at school moral truths are impressed, and solid instruction imparted and by this means a foundation is laid upon which a lasting and permanent superstructure may be reared. Entering in as part and parcel of this mighty framework, cheerfulness, purity, patience, meekness, frankness, kindheartedness, and a benevolence that breathes an ardor of love on those around can all converge in " A perfect woman nobly formed".

Many men have been skeptical as to the propriety of educating females. Is not this unbelief suicidal? Need we argue that where women are there will be men also. Then man must contribute his power to elevate women or return to degradation himself ; although he may seem to wander

far above and away from her, yet like the needle that may by force of circumstances change its position will when left to itself assuredly turn to the north pole. But independent of so selfish a consideration as this, she has always, even uneducated, shown herself willing to probe the very depths of self sacrifice to alleviate our sorrows; or soar above the topmost heights of joy to gather for us bliss shall man then prove so ungrateful and refuse a boon which she has a right to demand to prepare her for her immortal destiny.