

as competent to speak on this point as those who speak merely from hearsay.

But it may be said there are many poor young men who do not go there. When this objection is lifted it amounts only to this, that all persons do not share the benefits of the College in the shape of education.

This is true, and yet I deny that there is any citizen of the State who has not shared its benefits in the increase of property of his rights of person and property, caused by the increased intelligence which this institution has diffused, and in the fact that it is always ready to receive with hearty welcome, for the highest cultivation, the child of genius, be that child born in the palaces of the rich or the humble cottages of the poor.

True, all men in the State cannot spare, as they may think, the money necessary to send their sons there; neither can all men, for whose benefit the free school provision was made, spare, as they may think, the services of their children long enough to avail themselves of the bounty of the State.

In one of the neighboring districts I have been credibly informed there is a surplus of twelve hundred dollars of school money, arising from the failure of parents entitled to help from the State to send their children to school.

Many of these delinquent parents, probably not, if not all, of them, think they cannot afford to send their children on account of leaving their services at home. Like examples, more or fewer, occur in all the districts, and yet nobody would tolerate an effort to break down the Free School system on this account.

But follow this principle a little further and see where it leads. The State annually appropriates several hundred thousand dollars for the education of destitute children. This is raised by taxation of property.

Those entitled to its benefits are those who have no property, and therefore pay no taxes, and vice versa; those who help to make up this fund, are, of necessity, excluded from all participation in its benefit.

If the objection to the college which we have been considering has any truth, it will apply with tenfold more power to every existing and prospective plan of Free and Common Schools.

Once put in practice the logic that the State ought not to aid in education in any way that would not return to all tax payers an equal benefit in the shape of education, and we may bid farewell to all State aid in the great, benevolent, patriotic and glorious cause of education.

The man who aims a blow at the State College is making war upon the very principle that support all free or common school progress. The Free School system, the State Academies and State College all rest on the same foundation, and should all be guarded with equal jealousy.

They are but the different parts of one grand whole. Like the different members of the natural body, so the different parts of our educational system perform their appropriate functions.

And as in the case of the natural body, so in the matter of our educational system, it will become the advocate of any one member to make war upon any other member. And whether the present system of Free School education shall be improved, developed and perfected, or a new common school system be adopted, either must be founded (as regards its benefits to a portion of our citizens) upon exactly the same basis as the South Carolina College, which is the epitome of the arch.

Some persons, who do not comprehend the proportions of our educational system, imagine that the different parts are in opposition to each other. I have heard of some such, who have endeavored to show that the State gives over one hundred dollars to the education of the rich man's son at the State College, while she gives only some four or five dollars to the education of the Free School scholar.

These subtle distinctions do not seem to remember that the State aid given the College is for the College, and the College is open to all, rich and poor, who will go there. They seem not to remember that according to their own mode of reasoning, which we have just been considering, they would take from the Free School scholars—even from the helpless and destitute orphan—the little pittance, which, though small in itself, may yet learn them to read, and thus open to them an illimitable range of knowledge, and introduce them to the Holy Scriptures.

But do those who make the objection to the College, that it is a tax on all for the benefit of a few, really believe it? If so, why are they silent in regard to the State Academies? These, better known as the Military Academies—one in Columbia and the other in Charleston—are supported by the State at an annual cost of twenty-five to thirty thousand dollars.

The number of young men annually educated in these State Academies is not as large, by at least one-fourth, as the number educated in the College. Why do we hear no outcry against the State Academies? It is in vain for those who object to the College to say that the Academies give the public an equivalent in their education, free of charge, two young men from each District for, be it remembered, they are cut off from this, by their own mode of reasoning, which immediately suggests the question, what benefit is the education of two young men from each district to the tax payers generally? I appeal to candid men for the reason of this inconsistency?

But if the principle on which the College is sustained is so radically wrong as some say, how does it happen to be so generally adopted by other States? To go only among our neighbors, there are Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, each with her own State Institution, supported by the State and that too when several of these States have each several denominational colleges founded and ended by private enterprise. The Virginia University was founded by the State of Virginia—"the mother of States and Statesmen"—after there, in its original operation, within her limits, three, if not four, different denominational colleges. The principle involved in this opposition to the South Carolina College has not only been endorsed by the States as mentioned, but also by some of the purest patriots and most eminent statesmen that this land of the free ever produced.

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of American Independence, first conceived and set on foot the project of the Virginia University. In his efforts to establish this institution Mr. Jefferson was warmly and liberally aided by James Madison, whose noble services in framing and pushing through to adoption the Constitution of these United States was for him the proud title of "the Father of the Constitution." These men were also assisted by James Monroe, who was universally ranked among the most distinguished fathers of the Republic.

The opinion which John C. Calhoun had of the principle of the College may be judged from his course in reference to the United States Military Academy at West Point. This institution, designed for military education, receives and educates annually one young man from each Congressional District in the Union—the institution is supported out of the public Treasury, at an annual cost of about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars—last year it cost one hundred and sixty-seven thousand. When an effort was made during Mr. Calhoun's life to reduce the number of students in this institution, which was regarded as in fact the entering wedge for its destruction, Mr. Calhoun, distinguished as he ever was no less for his devotion to than his

perception of principle, threw his whole energies into its defense, and, in conjunction with Mr. Fur-lyth, successfully resisted the effort. I apprehend a man is not far wrong when he stands on a principle which has thus received the concurrent and cumulative endorsements of such men as Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, and lastly, but not least, John C. Calhoun!

I come now to the political influence said to be wielded by the College over the Legislature. I challenge the opponents of the College to produce the measures that have ever been advanced or opposed by the graduates of the College in the Legislature as a class. And I call upon them to produce the "yeas" and "nays" in which those who were and those who were not graduates are not found promiscuously ranged on both sides.

But when asked for proof on this point, we are pointed to the elections before the Legislature. Some persons, it is true, have not been elected to office; wanted from the Legislature, as sometimes happens with men who want offices from the people, and there must of course with many men be some special cause for it. It never occurs to some men that they are better because they do not get votes enough. And those who do not graduates find it about as easy to throw the blame of their defeat on the College as on anything else.

That the being in College in Columbia, as elsewhere, with young men from different sections of the State, gives an acquaintance that is advantageous in after life, who desires promotion, I do not deny. This is true of the State College, and will be true of every other that shall have been established long enough for its graduates to get actively-into public life.

If the throwing men together in Spartanburg causes them to become acquaintances and friends, the same cause would naturally produce the same effect in all colleges—whether State or denominational. And if all other men, in choosing between candidates whose qualifications are equal, prefer him whom they know as a friend to him who is a stranger, it would be strange, that those educated in an institution founded and fostered by the Legislature and people of South Carolina, should still the emotions of friendship and trample on the noblest feelings of the heart!

The man who, under such circumstances, could be indifferent, would deserve to be held as an outlaw by society and a libel on humanity. The only question, however, material to the subject in hand is, whether the Legislature, in electing their officers, have chosen those who have discharged their duty to the country? If they have, then it does not matter whether a man is a graduate of this or that college, or whether he is a graduate of any. And I have never yet heard any change of the State having suffered from the Legislature putting into some of the State offices men who were graduates of the State College.

There are some who say that they are not opposed to the College, but merely to its being supported by the State and such say who cannot the institution sustain like other colleges? I answer, neither Mr. Wadsworth nor Mr. Calhoun, nor Reskin, nor Franklin College, nor Davidson, nor the North Carolina, nor the Virginia, nor Harvard University, nor any other of which I have any knowledge, sustains itself. Female institutions of learning, which generally support themselves, are not in the case of the State College, and fifty to five hundred dollars for tuition, when once established, can not only support themselves, but earn, sometimes, handsome profits.

But male colleges, which never charge more than about fifty dollars a month, never do support themselves—at least, if there is such an one anywhere. I have never heard of it. All colleges for males are endowed either by States in the case of State institutions, or by private enterprise, or bequeathances, as in the case of Emory and Furman, or of Wolfenden in the case of the State of Virginia. If a man has never heard of it, all colleges for males are endowed either by States in the case of State institutions, or by private enterprise, or bequeathances, as in the case of Emory and Furman, or of Wolfenden in the case of the State of Virginia.

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A half-down average can never make a right; and it is wrong in the State to aid her own College, which is directly under the control of the people through their representatives—who belong to the people and the whole people—which the people may alter, amend, or entirely destroy at will. I say it is wrong to give the people's money to the people's college, how much more wrong is it to give the people's money to colleges—which belong to and under the control of particular sects, and with the vested rights which no power on earth—no court—no Legislature—no people, even in their sovereign capacity—can ever interfere. The State College is of necessity the people's college—they can alter or destroy it at will. A sect's college, when once established, asks no favors of any one—it may do right or wrong—it may teach philosophy and art, or it may teach anything else—it may teach religion or it may teach heretical bigotry. A sect's college, being established, being a kind of influence, may become rotten to the core—a moral and religious execration—and yet there be no relief against it. But in the case of the State College—the people's college, just as some propose now—there can at any time sweep it away, and there are always amenable directly to public opinion. Do not understand me as objecting to denominational colleges. I am only showing the glaring inconsistency of those who would divide the people into a hostility against the State College under the pretense of acting for the good of the people, while really their object is to further the interests of private institutions. It strikes me that those who wish to divide the State's patronage between sectarian colleges can hardly claim much credit for their would be benefactions to the people. I suppose their scheme were to be adopted—would it leave in the treasury a dollar of the twenty-five thousand dollars now appropriated to the people's college? The sectarian colleges already in the State would consume the whole sum. This would be the beginning. How many more colleges might soon be added to the present number, nobody can say. When the cry of those reformers, who would destroy the State College, through their self-interest in behalf of their poor sects, is remembered that the deepest injuries to the interests of the people have sometimes been inflicted amidst the wildest hazards to liberty, and the most corrupt, unjust, and oppressive system of squandering the public funds may be introduced under the garb of public economy. If you deem the subject of the State college one that should regulate your votes, look well to it that while you think you are freeing yourself from one tyranny—your own master, in the shape of the State college—you are not establishing in place of it one a multitude of others in sectarian institutions. I repeat, I am not opposed to denominational colleges, but I am opposed to giving them the people's money. And so far from their seeing the necessity of a sectarian college, I would rather see the State funds used for the benefit of the people, without regard to State lines or sectarian creeds, than see the State funds used for the benefit of the people, without regard to State lines or sectarian creeds, than see the State funds used for the benefit of the people, without regard to State lines or sectarian creeds.

With this statement of my views, my position can be understood by any sagacious man, as far as there is any room for reticence and economy in the College affairs I will be behind none of those who are so loud in their denunciations. I would throw open the doors of the institution to any and every individual that any body desires. And if true friends of the State College are to oppose any investigation which may be demanded. A free examination it is found that the College can be sustained without injury, on a smaller sum, no man will more cheerfully than I would in reducing the present sum. But let us not be misled by the cry of those who would break down the institution, or cripple or curtail its legitimate success and usefulness, may my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I should fail, with the lights now before me, to do my best for the State College, and my fellow citizens. I am free to say, as I may be abused about the College that may be remedied. Believing this, I could only have answered that I was opposed to "continuing the present large sum." But I do not do so, as my real position and views would have been made manifest to me. I desire to meet the inquiry of the public mind as well as the query in the paper. I have not desired any political agitation—nor do I desire any party to be excited. I was content to oppose any investigation which may be demanded. A free examination it is found that the College can be sustained without injury, on a smaller sum, no man will more cheerfully than I would in reducing the present sum. But let us not be misled by the cry of those who would break down the institution, or cripple or curtail its legitimate success and usefulness, may my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I should fail, with the lights now before me, to do my best for the State College, and my fellow citizens. I am free to say, as I may be abused about the College that may be remedied. 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