

near by—the alma mater of many a great American. 'Tis true also of the majestic and imperial college or university with mighty pillars, towering domes, and the cold and classic grandeur of these surroundings are turned into sunshine by these associations.

Here the impetuosity of business and the attraction of men and varied issues may for a time be laid aside and the heart be allowed to recall bygone images so wholesome, so strong and so universal, and the history and struggles of our college recounted and her future discussed by those who love her. For as some years ago the lines bounding this college campus bounded an empire with its contests and its honors, its ambitions and disappointments. Engaging in active life we have found that it brings on struggles not more earnest, not more important to the individual, and scarcely less important to society than are the efforts made by the college boy to master well his duties, to outstrip in chivalrous contest, the bright faced competitor at his side for college honors and to live that successful school life as is due to himself, his friends and his college.

The years that lie behind us since those days are not many. This college is itself still young and we return to find her well grown in strength and usefulness vastly improved in equipment and resources, more beautiful than ever and with tender hand dispensing the grandest benefaction of practical knowledge, technical learning and literary excellence combined in one symmetrical whole and by her influence and her teachings leading on our civilization and adding daily and hourly to the useful arts, the skill, the culture, the greatness and material prosperity of Texas. It was in the bloody and eventful year of 1862 at a time when our fathers were trying to prevent an influx of visitors to this country from beyond the Potomac and upon the other hand when they were trying to make unceremonious calls in that enterprising country that a bill was passed by the congress of the United States appropriating to each state 30,000 acres of land for each senator and representative for the endowment of colleges in each state, where the leading object should be, without excluding