

endowment fund of this institution and the starting point of its rise and the germ of its growth.

This state taking this beginning has by successive stages of development, and after many years of "trials and tribulations" established and builded an institution that is in the true sense of the term, a great one.

In 1871 the Texas legislature passed an act establishing the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas in pursuance of the act of congress and made an appropriation of \$75,000 for the erection of suitable buildings. The act provided for the selection, by the commissioners appointed by the governor, a location. This point was selected the next year and this has become a Mecca towards which many a young Texan has already, and more will hereafter turn their faces and band their steps in search of knowledge, and what is more it has and will be found here. It has become a great gateway through which young men of the state yearly pass into active life armed and equipped for life's demands and opportunities. After those preliminary mishaps and adventures, that peculiarly beset and befall public institutions, buildings were erected and ready for occupancy in the fall of 1876. These were the Main College building, the Mess Hall and five professors' residences. In the mean time the interest of the college and its well being were safely imbedded in our new constitution by the people, in that it was made a branch of the University for instruction in agriculture, the mechanic arts and the natural sciences connected therewith, and also the right to levy taxes for its support and maintenance was expressly conferred. When ready for organization the presidency of the college was tendered to a man beloved by all Texas and known throughout the globe, Mr. Jefferson Davis. His health did not permit him to accept. It may be a coincidence worth mentioning to recall that the act of congress was signed by Mr. Lincoln and became a law at a time when Mr. Davis was the president of the Confederate States of America. Courageous blood ran high and flowed freely and the civilized world watched the mighty and Titanic contest between the North and South. When this was all over and