

such chairs as are usual to literary institutions, except there was a professor of agriculture. I trust that I will not be considered as disparaging their successors, to say that this old faculty was a collection of mental giants, strong in personality and individuality and each capable of leadership. With this able faculty there was soon attracted hither many bright young men, and no students ever learned faster or better. So rapid was its growth that at the close of the second year there were eight professors and 341 students, while upon Oct. 2, 1876, the date of its opening, only six students were in attendance. At that time Texas had many excellent colleges, this however was the only state institution. Our University was not then organized and there seemed to be a demand for literary instruction largely and such was the course pursued. Indeed the means for practical instruction in agriculture and the mechanic arts were not provided for by necessary appropriation. The agricultural appliances consisted of a wagon and two mules, which were soon sold upon the ground as alleged by some of the newspapers that none of the professors knew how to harness a team and therefore they could not be used. The meenanical department was also unequipped, except we had a grind stone to grind the axes. It is true that some attention was given to both these branches in the class room and from text books but this was unimportant and unsatisfactory. The authorities of the college and the people of Texas, however, never lost sight of the true purpose for which the institution was founded and the importance to the state of securing its benefits and carrying out that purpose. That is, the establishing of an institution for the training of young men in agriculture and the liberal mechanic arts. Time and effort and means, those great insurers of the success of all great enterprises, were required. It was a new field in Texas, and in fact, in the country at large. Plans were to be matured, methods to be devised and tried and ripened by experience and usage. With these objects in view this institution has traveled along with the progress of the state during the twenty years of its existence. Successive legislatures