

of war, she thus gained the confidence of her sister states and inspired them by her example.

Such was the conduct of the Lone Star when adversity cast its baleful mantle over the bright face of our country. This is not intended as a brilliant prelude to extinguish the faults of a mediocre future. While the deeds of statesmen make interesting pages of history, true greatness is denoted by the progress of civilization.

The advance of civilization has been marvelous. Cities containing thousands of inhabitants have sprung up like magic; broad fields, hitherto unknown to the agriculturist, now bear their choicest fruits for the benefit of millions. The census of 1880 gave us a population of 1,591,749, while that of 1890 made it three million in ten years. Of the condition of Texas at the present time it is not necessary to speak. She lies before you—gaze and judge for yourself. Next to the ability and character of the inhabitants the wealth of a country depends on the nature and condition of the soil.

The Lone Star acknowledges no superior either in quality or quantity. Dame Nature, usually so meagre with her gifts, has distributed them here with a lavish hand. She seems to have collected her noblest constituents in one vast spot, erecting an everlasting monument to perpetuate her fame. The Lone Star is situated between the parallels 25 deg., 51 min., and 66 deg., 30 min., north latitude, and the meridians 16 deg., 27 min., and 29 deg., 43 min., west from Washington. It is naturally divided in three sections, which form an ascending slope from the low coast line of the southeast to the high plains and mountains of the northwest. There are the coast plains, Middle Texas or the rolling prairie belt, and high plains and table lands. The climate is remarkably mild and salubrious. It is free from the extremes of heat and cold, though warm enough for the production of