

# THE A. & M. C. OF TEXAS.



An Address Delivered on A. & M. C. Day at the San Antonio and International Fair.

AS HAS just been said by our Mayor in his welcome to you, higher education was early thought of and provided for by the Texas pioneers. Returning victors with independence won, they had scarcely put off their swords and set down their muskets before they began to discuss an educational system for the splendid territory their courage had just won.

The great republic at their north, from which many of them came, had given renown to constitutional government, the chief cornerstone of which was the intelligence of its people, and had already, by private and public means, given much attention to education. This discussion soon led to legislation by our Texas forefathers, of the broadest view and of infinite foresight, and looking to a general system. Dealing not alone with the present, but reaching into the purple rim of the future and planning the greatness of days to come. Interwoven with the history of the Republic and the state, sharing adversity as well as prosperity, is the story of the founding of our educational fabric. It to-day reaches to all classes, and to all corners of the state. The widow, residing upon our furthest frontier, can find a public school near her door for the curly headed boy playing around her. When he is grown older, if he is energetic and ambitious, although poor, he may walk the ways of higher education at one of our State institutions, and from there perchance

ascend the mountains of fame and gather its very cliff flowers. Our Mayor has well called attention to the landed donation for the University. This is a gratifying fact to all. The whole educational system is alike endowed. It comprises an area larger than many of the pretentious kingdoms and principalities of the earth. It has furnished, and still is furnishing, at small cost homes to thousands of Texans. The purchase money constitutes a permanent and available fund to educate the purchaser's children, and the children of his neighbor. Munificent as is this endowment, the people of Texas have not been satisfied with it, and a small tax is cheerfully paid in further maintenance and support. No state in the Union can present a more consistent and splendid advocacy and support of public education. There may be differences in details, but there is not and cannot be any difference as to principle. With the history of our school system, its landed endowment, not purchased with gold, its organization and its achievements in the higher line, as well as in the public free schools, may we not well claim that it is to the glory of our state, and to the renown of Constitutional government.

We have with us to-day representatives of two of the component parts of our educational system. The Fair Management names this day in their honor, and in doing so does courtesy to the entire people of this State; for there