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## VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

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The A. and M. College as a Factor in  
the Development of the  
State.

No fact has been more evident to the world or more gratifying to the native Texan than the recent rapid progress made by the Lone Star State along the lines of industrial development. This advancement, which is as yet practically in its infancy, is all the more deserving of note when we reflect that this state, almost boundless in its extent and limitless in its natural wealth, has so recently become a member of the union.

In the great struggle for freedom from the Mexican yoke, when the grim walls of the sacred Alamo were stained with the martyred blood of such heroes as Bowie and Crockett, there was exemplified that same spirit of indomitable courage and determination which has ever characterized the citizens of Texas in the upbuilding of the commonwealth, first as a republic and later as a state. Out of almost impassable forests have been carved cities of importance in the industrial world—cities resounding with the din of foundries, machine shops and manufactories. From these bustling centers of trade have emanated enterprises which have fostered the growth and improvement of the surrounding regions.

Upon the completion of the Nicaraguan canal the ports of the gulf coast bid fair to become veritable emporiums of trade between the United States and the Orient. This increase in the commerce of the coast cities will give an impetus to harbor improvements and the building of railway extensions forming a vast network of lines for the transportation of products between the ports and inland marts. This railway construction, in which Texas today ranks among the foremost of the union, fosters the growth of towns and cities and opens up to exploration and improvement vast regions of hitherto unknown wealth.

The mining regions which have as yet been superficially worked remain for the enterprising young engineer to develop to the full extent of their unfathomed treasure.

The advancement made in the oil regions has been a marked one in recent years and with increase in the number of fields being operated, a stimulus has been given to manufacturing industries because of the cheapness of oil fuel as compared to other fuels.