

generations. Then came the printing press, of whose blessings too much cannot be said in praise, and a certain degree of learning of learning became the property of the common people.

In this, our country, the desire for knowledge became a passion that could not be quenched. The spark of hope was fanned into a pure and ever-burning flame, in whose clear light the baneful influences of the old idea became apparent. Men were no longer dazzled by the glitter of tinsel, of silver and gold. Their superstitious reverence passed away as the mist is disseminated by the beams of early morning, and they began to doubt that an evil ruler could obtain a right to rule from him who rules aright.

A few brave men, a chosen few whose names shine brighter as the seasons roll, inspired by that patriotism that loves its fellowman and rising to that height sublime whose courage blanches not though danger showed her most appalling form they dared to trace in characters so plain that none could fail to read that one great fundamental principle, "all men are created equal." Upon this corner stone is built the nation to which we are all proud to owe allegiance. Under our form of government not only does the direct welfare of the individual depend upon his education but thereon is based the stability and the perpetuity of the nation.

The two theories are as widely separate as darkness is from day. As it is true, that superstition and ignorance were necessary for the existence of the old idea, so now it is equally apparent that there is one thing absolutely necessary for the perpetuity of a government, based upon the brotherhood of man, and this essential element consists in the education of the people.

The law compels no man to forswear his birthright, and lowly bending render servile homage to another. It touches and treats all men alike from the least to the greatest, and its protecting arm encircles each alike from the greatest even unto the least. Government does not consist in the will of the few, but in the consent of the governed. Those chosen to represent and enforce the wishes of the people, are not their tyrannical masters but their obedient servants? Here each man stands not beneath but sits upon the throne, for here in fact as well as theory the people constitute the government.

Upon arriving at the age of maturity each individual is granted a voice in the affairs of the nation, has an equal share in the framing of her laws. This is a high and solemn duty, and as a complement each individual should be so educated that he will be prepared to act intelligently upon all the great and important questions submitted to him for his determination. The highest interest of the people, and the common welfare, demand that he shall understand the responsibility thus imposed upon him. Among his recent public utterances President Harrison affirmed: "My countrymen, kings may rule over an ignorant people, and, by their iron control, hold them in subjection and in the quietness of tyranny, but a free land rests upon the intelligence of its people and has no other safety than in well rounded education and thorough moral training."

Our government, recognizing "that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" is the priceless inheritance of all men, for the security of which the government itself is established, and that the attainment of this end, and the perpetuity of this government, depends upon the wisdom and intelligence of her citizens, deemed it wise to make provision for their education. To this end, when this our state had attained her majority, and her older sisters had greeted her, and extended to her a welcoming hand to come in with them into

the sacred family circle, on equal footing with themselves, our Uncle Samuel, following out his plan of treating all his children alike, and wishing only their highest good, made her a magnificent present. Not to dispose of as she should choose, but to be used for the grand, noble and patriotic purpose of education. Not only did he do this, but in order to make it hers so surely that no one might have room for doubt, pledging his faith, in which we all possess the highest confidence, he executed, and delivered to her a deed of gift.

But with all his generosity our Uncle Samuel is a cautious fellow, and when this gift was made he well knew that it would operate in behalf of his own best interest. He well knew that Nebraska was a youthful giantess and that the children reared up on her bosom in the presence of her bright stars, breathing her ever moving and untainted atmosphere would be active and brave.

He well knew that ripened grain would wave like billows of golden light upon her extended fields that king corn would pour his yellow kernels into bushels without number, that millions of horses, hogs and cattle would grow and fatten on hillside, plain and valley and that she would become a controlling influence, not only on the destiny of the United States but on the world.

Desiring her to exert this influence aright, not only for herself but for the benefit of all, he made this princely gift.

Let me read you the deed of conveyance:

"Be it enacted, that sections number 16 and 36 in every township, and when such sections have been sold or otherwise disposed of by act of congress, other lands equivalent thereto, in legal subdivisions of not less than one quarter section, and as contiguous as may be, shall be, and are hereby granted to said state for the support of common schools."

I said that it was a princely gift. Think of it, more than 2,700,000 acres! A tract of land over one and one-half times as large as the "state of Custer," of which, I am proud to say, I am a resident.

We read of the throne having granted large tracts of land to support the avarice and extravagant ambition of its retainers, of its having confiscated whole sections of country, dispossessing the ignorant and indigent peasants, and converting the land into a resort for the pleasure of the king and the nobility, but to devote it to the education and consequently to the bettering and ennobling of the common people can only happen in a free country and in a government which holds the welfare of its subjects paramount to every other consideration. But this is not all that the deed contains.

Realizing that in the common schools it would not be possible for them to receive that full, complete and systematic course of training that the energy and welfare of her people should demand, in order to complete the gift another clause was added.

Permit me to read it to you:

"Be it further enacted, that seventy-two other sections of land shall be set apart and reserved for the use and support of a state university, to be selected in manner as aforesaid, and to be appropriated and applied as the legislature of said state may prescribe for the purpose named and for no other purpose."

Afterwards, ninety thousand acres more were granted for the purpose of founding an industrial college, and an annual appropriation of \$15,000, to defray expenses of instruction in agriculture, the mechanic arts, the English language and the related sciences. Is not this munificence on a magnificent scale? This is how it happens I am here to-day. This is how it happens you are all assembled here, about to take advantage of the benefits to be derived from this, our state university. For, our state, in compliance with the terms of the deed, has reared these walls, has spread this roof, and decor