

The South must be educated

Never in the history of nations has there been a time in which it was more necessary for a full development of the intellectual resources of a people, than at the present time with the people of the South. The circumstances by which we are surrounded, our future prospects ~~and~~ while the bitter lessons of the past, admonish us to give our earnest attention to the education of the youth of the South. We, as a people, have a greater work to accomplish and perhaps more numerous and far greater difficulties ^{to overcome} ~~to oppose~~ than any other nation ever had: yet it does seem that we have become perfectly indifferent to our situation. All that is said or written ~~on~~ on the importance of mental culture seems only to lull us into a deeper lethargy. A Historian, divine, human, and profane might be consulted in vain for a parallel to the conduct of the Southern people at this time. The old sea worn craft, the Republic, is floundering in the Boisterous Sea of ^{Bankruptcy} ~~Bankruptcy~~ ^{Disunion} ~~Disunion~~; her commanders are bound and thrown into the hatchway: the black flag of the mutineers is flaunting from the mast head: her cargo of constitutional liberty has been hauled over board: and all the while the few survivors of the crew are with Pagan zeal bowing to idols. This is not an exaggerated picture of our condition for while we are financially ruined our leaders proscribed, not a vestige of our former tribute remaining, and while the turf is hardly formed over the mounds of graves of our martyred dead, we with unhesitating devotion are bearing health, happiness, and even honor, and sacrifices at the shrine of Fashion. Yet we boast ourselves on being patriots and republicans, away with the patriotism that allows us so soon to forget our cause and our country, away with the principles of republicanism that permits us to basely surrender ourselves all to that most cruel despot Queen Fashion. The time has come for us to arouse from this indolence

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If we ever expect to overcome the misfortune that have befallen us we must allow our selves no longer to be the blind devotees of fashion, nor the disciples of Epicurus. In short we must educate. We can by abandoning our false notions of pleasure, and giving a proper attention to education, rise superior to all adversity; and while our enemies are reveling in their ill gotten wealth, satiated with pleasure, drunken with victory, and thus traveling at rapid rate down the well beaten road to destruction, we will be slowly and safely climbing the hill of prosperity; and will in the end be the victors.

Education is our star of hope. It will be to us the flaming cloud in the heavens to guide us from Egyptian bondage safely beyond the Red sea of revolution. It is the beacon that will enable us to stir clear of the sands of ignorance and the breakers of party spirit. The people of the South should bear in mind that they are, ~~as it were~~, ^{in the} pursuing a new existence.

They have undergone an entire revolution, both politically and socially. They are under the necessity of adapting themselves to new customs, and new rules of action; and, in this Herculean task, they have no few obstacles to surmount. It is therefore becomes us, instead of permitting ourselves to sink into an enactive indolence, and allowing the chains which bind us to be riveted tighter, to awaken to our real situation; and to use every exertion to rise above all our misfortunes. Every year proves more clearly the truth of the ^{prediction} ~~words~~ ^{we} that we must educate or we will perish. It is impossible for a republic to exist with an ignorant populace.

Mexico, whose streams crimson the oceans waves with the blood of contending ^{armies}, tells the sad fate of a republic struggling for existence while ignorance holds the scepter. Shall ours be a like fate? In addition to our present misfortunes shall the scenes of Mexico be reenacted in our land? Will we live to see a system of espionage established, and party spirit, which ever finds devoted followers in the ranks of ignorance

reigning triumphant? Shall our land become the home of lawless
 banditti? Shall our legislative halls be the scene of midnight
 revels? And when once was heard the thrilling strains of eloquence
 in behalf of justice, shall we only hear the lusty voices of
 the debauchees? Shall the dagger take the place of the emblem
 of justice. Forbid it Heaven! Six of the largest states in the
 (so called) United States, containing the most valuable territory
 in North America; and with commercial advantages equal to
 any in the world, can not in this age fall a prey to
 ignorance. The blood of human victims sacrificed on the altar
 of fanaticism can not here be made the fulcrum of midnight
 revels. If we prove ourselves unworthy to indolent to preserve the
 great trust placed to our care; other nations will take it upon
 themselves to see that this garden spot of the world is properly
 cared for. Europe is even now looking with longing eyes to the
 fertile valleys of the South. The great undeveloped resources of our
 own states are already beginning to attract the attention of the
 world. The enterprising Englishmen will ere long be reaping
 the rich harvest which might with the proper industry have been
 ours. The mildness of the climate, the fertility of the soil, and the
 many other advantages which this country possesses over any other
 part of the world, make it so valuable that it takes no prophetic
 eye to see that it is destined at no distant period, to be the seat of
 one of the greatest nations of the earth. And if we prove
 ourselves unworthy to be that nation we will have to give place
 to others. They will not conquer us by force of arms, but by
 that intellectual superiority before which the ranks of ignorance
 will vanish as the snow in the summer sun. We will gradually
 sink to insignificance, and will find our level with the
 criminals of society. Can it ^{be} that ten millions of people will
 lose their national existence? Can it be that the people
 who have so long prided themselves on going to America
 for Presidents, for Statesmen, and for Generals, shall not
 be dropped from the list of illustrious nations, and consigned to

allow. Will we permit it to be so? Will we suffer ours to be the fate
 of Greece or Spain; or even of Præe or Rome? Let us use our own
 intellectual might and burst the bonds that fetter us: disregard
 the edicts of Fashion; and do away with the common law of Custom, and
 the world will crown us the victors; & while our enemies will remain a
 "Lost cause". This Subject especially concerns the people of Texas; for the
 Lone Star State is fast rushing into line to begin the march in
 advance. The State so long noted for its Prustange, Comanches
 and "Texas Rangers", has at last caught the spirit of improvement,
 and is alidly on the march to the front. A few years will bring about
 a great change in Texas. Soon these extensive Prairies where the strolling
 Herdsman leads an amiable life will be changed with men of
 industry. The whistle and rattle of the car will be heard when ^{an awful}
~~not~~ silence reigns supreme: and then a most fortunate will be
 the person who has educated himself even at a sacrifice of wealth:
 for then men of qualification ^{are} capable of attending to business of any
 kind in that educated men will be in demand. Not their ^{own} ~~own~~
 will business be intrusted to since of ^{your} ~~your~~ ^{needs} ~~needs~~ ^{expect} ~~expect~~
 that the course Texas will be to us a passport which will open the gates
 of public favor and secure to us a passage by the scrutiny of the business
 world and to the very store rooms of wealth: but this passport ^{afforded}
 by education will ensure us the confidence of the public and then
 smooth will be the road to success: Texas will select her future leaders
 from among those who now qualify themselves. The first places ⁱⁿ the
 commercial line will be theirs: as well as all places of honor and trust
 in the government. Then in view of these facts let the golden opportunity
 afforded them be embraced with eagerness at any and every
 pecuniary sacrifice. For I can say with all modesty, yet equal certainty
 that the youth of this country never before had equal advantages
 for becoming practical scholars. No one need say she is not able to
 educate himself, only let a tithe of what is spent at grog shops, gaming-
 houses, and many ways in which money is worse than ^{scarcely}
 expended, be appropriated to the acquiring some useful knowledge and
 no one will have any cause of being dissatisfied with the result. Then let us