

a volume and force such as the world has never had to contend with before. How can we do this unless you, representatives of the people, determine solemnly that sound education shall prevail, and that we shall not be behind in this grand old Commonwealth, where Franklin one hundred and fifty years ago laid the lines of such a broad, progressive system of state education, that had they been followed, we would now be far in advance of any of our sister commonwealths.

I feel that it is impossible to let such a day as this pass without some word of tribute, such as I as an outsider might fitly speak, of what President Atherton has done for this place, and for the people of Pennsylvania. Twelve years ago, in 1882, State College had thirty-four students in the college classes, one building on this campus, and a very unsavory reputation. To-day, after twelve short years of vigorous administration, we see this fine group of buildings, we know that there are three hundred students in attendance, that the curriculum has been enlarged and the standard greatly raised, and that all over the State, thoughtful men and women are turning their eyes to this college as one where excellent educational results are secured. Quite recently I approached one of the richest men in Philadelphia, with the request, such as in my time I have preferred to many men and women, for a substantial contribution to the University of Pennsylvania. He agreed with me that the time had come when he should give some expression of his faith in the cause of education; but he added "I have been disposed to think that when I gave to this purpose the considerable sum I propose, I should select the State College as the recipient." It is important that we should demonstrate here the fact that State appropriations to an institution do not check the stream of private benefactions. I call upon the liberal and progressive policy of President Atherton to secure a recognition of this truth. I do not of course mean that President Atherton has been the sole cause of this great progress. Probably it has not been he so much as it has

been the faculty; and probably it has not been the faculty so much as it has been the young men and women who have gone out from the institution so trained that each of them has been an apostle for State College. But whether it were Paul or Apollos, they have so watered and it has so grown that to-day I assert, and I challenge any contradiction of the assertion, that this institution is becoming deeply rooted in the good opinion of our people, that it is developing as vigorously as any educational institution in our country, and that there is none in this or any other state which has a stronger or more righteous claim upon the Legislature for even more liberal treatment than it has yet received.

It seems to me that if we cannot afford to give to every boy and girl in this Commonwealth a good grammar school education, and then the chance of a good high school education, and then the chance of a good college or university education, we are poor indeed. Not only poor in resources, but poor in ambition, and in our conception of life. No one would wish to force it upon those who did not desire it, or who have not shown themselves well-fitted to profit by it; but I hope the time is coming when the taxpayers will approve of the principle that every child of this community shall have the opportunity to rise by his or her own efforts from whatever position birth and circumstances may assign, to the acquisition of the highest scientific or literary attainments, so as to have the chance of enjoying the honor and emoluments that attend them. For my own part I can think of no way in which it would be wiser and more fruitful to expend a part, and it would require only a small part, of the current revenues of the State. I should not look forward to any pauperizing influence; nor to any degradation of education. I do not believe it would result in the creation of a class of so-called educated men and women, who would be in reality unfitted for the practical work of life. There would, of course, be nothing in a plan which offered a certain number of prize scholar-