

Why Wage War on the State University?

A Pointed Editorial Copied from the Atlanta Constitution of February 11, 1893.

This question is pertinent and deserves to be pondered by the writers and speakers who seize every opportunity to disparage its methods and hinder its enlargement.

Founded by the fathers of the Commonwealth, who had just emerged from the smoke and din of a seven-years' struggle for independence, it is clearly entitled to respectful recognition, and within just limitations to the fostering care of the people's representatives.

But what must we say of the effort to make the annual appropriation of \$8,000 a downright gratuity when it is a matter of history that it is simply the payment of a debt due to the trustees of the University? To allege this payment as a sufficient reason for withholding any additional appropriation is not only disingenuous but positively dishonest.

It is not so generally understood, but it is nevertheless incontrovertibly true, that during the whole lifetime of the institution the State government has contributed less than \$100,000 to its support, a smaller amount than it has paid in the last ten years to the education of the negroes in a single congressional district.

The University's endowment has not come from legislative appropriations, but from the benefactions of individual citizens and the bounty of the general government.

If for no other reason the long roll of its illustrious

Alumni, which for nearly a century have illustrated Georgia in the field and forum, ought to have commanded better treatment than has been awarded to it, at least by recent legislatures.

The Roman matron, in whose veins flowed the richest blood of the Cornelian *gens*, could not point with a greater pride to the future Gracchus than this venerable Alma Mater points to Tom Cobb at Fredericksburg, Frank Bartow at Manassas and Gordan at Gettysburg, or to Hill, Toombs and Alex Stephens in the halls of congress; or to Jackson, Benning, Nesbit and Linton Stephens on the supreme bench; or to Pierce and Palmer in the pulpit; or to Henry Grady and Albert Lamar in journalism, and more than a hundred others who have been strikingly prominent in church and state.

While the friends of the University are quiet, they are confident that with its present resources its permanency and greater prosperity is assured. In the meantime the sober second thought will demand a larger liberality on the part of their representatives, so that its scope may be widened and its curriculum improved in response to the needs of the age.

We need co-operation not pugnacity in Georgia and throughout the South amongst all the friends of higher education. We trust soon to see the rosy dawn of this era of good feeling.

