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It is meek and proper that the portrait of Zebulon Baird Vance, the particular friend of Education, and the first advocate of Normal Schools should decorate the walls of this Institution.

His reputation as the great War Governor ^{of the South}, is only excelled by his efforts to protect and care for defenceless women and children in times of war when their natural protectors were away bearing their breasts to the bullets of the enemy, and in times of

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peace to help the weak & defenceless,
through the medium of state
aid to Education, to ~~the state of~~
~~independence and aid to their~~
~~mother state~~ ^{Wager as} Governor had the
courage of his convictions and
in his message to the Legislature
of 1876 & 7 he recommended an
appropriation sufficient to estab-
lish a school of Normal Instruc-
tion at the University for the
exclusive education of teachers
saying, "that it is impossible to
have an efficient Public
School System without providing
for the education of teachers"

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Until to this time our Teachers were largely obtained without our borders. How is it today? Thanks to Vance's wisdom for the inauguration of this system, Now we have a supply of native Teachers, equal to the demand and in quality ~~not~~ ^{un-} surpassed.

So to Jefferson Baird Vance may be ascribed, at least, the beginning of Normal School Education in N.C.

There are two kinds of greatness -
- The greatness that is written in books & sung in history and
The greatness that is kept

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alive by tradition in the hearts
of the people. Measured by
the latter, Governor Beird Vance
will be recorded as the greatest
North Carolinian