

President Wright's talk to the students of East Carolina
Teachers Training School on the death of Thomas, J. Jarvis, ~~June~~ 19, 1915.

I regret exceedingly that the first time I have an opportunity to talk to the students of this Summer Term that I must talk to you of the death of one of our State's ^{greatest} ~~grandest~~ men. I have often said to the student-body, "There will come a time when you will not have the privilege of seeing and knowing in person THE GRAND OLD MAN of North Carolina, Hon. Thomas J. Jarvis. This time has come and you are the students of this school who are first deprived of this privilege.

On the 18 of January, 1915, this school gave Governor Jarvis a birth-day dinner. He was then seventy-nine years old. Some of the students of the school gave reviews of his life and then I called upon Governor Jarvis to make a short talk. When he got up he said in substance, "While these young ladies were talking I was sitting here thinking what has been the real motive in my life that has prompted me to do what I have done, and I believe I can truthfully say to you this ~~morning~~ ^{evening} ~~that~~ that the moving spirit in my life has been to be of some service to the people of North Carolina."

I believe, young ladies, that Governor Jarvis clearly demonstrated the fact that the central desire of his life was to be of service. The State has honored Governor Jarvis in many ways. He was Speaker of the House of Representatives, Lieutenant Governor, Governor, United States Senator, Minister to Brazil, and at all times a devout christian. In each of the positions he held his moving impulse seemed to be to serve his people. He gave the latter years of his life to the building of this institution, and we can truthfully say that for the buildings and equipment you have here you owe more to Governor Jarvis than to any other one person.

When this school was founded Governor Jarvis was made a member of the Board of Trustees. He was elected chairman of the

Executive Committee and from that time until his death he was a member of the Board of Trustees, ~~and~~ Chairman of the Executive Committee. He gave his time unstintingly to this school, and when I say he gave his time I mean that literally for he never let the school pay him anything for his services.

On one occasion Governor Jarvis said to me, "When you get three hundred girls in that school I will go over there and take them and march them over town and have their pictures taken. We have enrolled this summer over three hundred students. It is fitting, therefore, that you should go to his funeral in a body. We have a committee of the faculty and they will direct you on to-morrow. You will assemble in this Hall and go in body to Cherry Hill Cemetery and there take up your positions from the gate around the grave."

Governor Jarvis was intensely interested in everything that concerned this school, even during his last illness when we were afraid that he would not live through our commencement. Of course I went each day to see him and as long as he could talk he asked me about the commencement, even making inquiry as to the number of people who attended each of the religious services on Sunday, and the number who were present on commencement day, and when he could ~~not~~ ^{no longer} talk at all, ~~one~~ ^{and} ~~time~~ when I went to see him he took me by the hand and listened with keen interest to my report of our most successful commencement, showing clearly that he understood all I said and that he was very much gratified to know we had had a good commencement.

I mention this to you, young ladies, that you may thoroughly understand that even up to the last of his life his heart and soul seemed to be in the welfare of this institution. In his death the school has lost one of its strongest supports, and our State has lost her first citizen.

GOVERNOR BOND