

1  
On an occasion of this kind  
it seems to me well that the  
Speaker should leave with you  
a few thoughts worth your  
while. You should not come  
here and go away without some  
thought that is worth while.

Being teachers and having  
asked me to talk to you I take it  
for granted that you are interested  
especially in the great problem  
of public education. I am  
therefore going to talk to you  
about The American Public  
School - Its Place in Our  
Civic Life.

To one interested in the growth  
of our nation - its Constitution  
history and its economic history -  
to one interested in the growth  
and development of our insti-  
tutions there is nothing more  
fascinating than to trace the  
growth and <sup>evolution</sup> development of  
our public school systems;  
for this growth and development

is peculiar to our own nation.

Many educators would have us believe our public schools have been developed from European systems. This statement is not based upon the facts of history.

Many sections are trying to claim priority in the establishment of the public school of to-day. To all such let me say

"Oh what a tangled web we weave  
when first we practice to deceive"

The truth is our system is not fully developed to day; for we are now undergoing the first stage of metamorphosis. But what we have has been a slow but steady evolution of the public consciousness for the need of universal education as the real foundation for our institutional stability.

When <sup>this new</sup> ~~our~~ Nation <sup>sprung</sup> ~~came~~ into existence July 4, 1776, it is true as stated in the immortal

Declaration of Independence  
 that governments as instituted  
 among men did derive their  
 powers from the consent of  
 the governed. But as the idea  
 then for the first time given  
 a national birth, the idea of  
 political liberty grew and develop-  
 ed, we no longer believe govern-  
 ments derive their just powers  
 from the consent of the  
 governed but from the  
will of the governed. In  
 America it is not a matter  
 of what we will consent to  
 but a <sup>matter of</sup> ~~matter~~ of what we  
 wish done. The Government  
 is not a ~~matter~~ <sup>thing</sup> apart from  
 our life, but our life is an  
 integral part of the Government.  
 This is well illustrated by  
 the following incident.  
 Some years ago when all the  
 nations had their ships at one of  
 our eastern ports. Eng. Fr. Ger.  
 Span. & American citizens what they

said about the war vessels as they passed).

It is a noticeable fact in the history of civilization that people have political liberty in proportion to public intelligence. Educate the masses and you eliminate the classes in government. Education is the tyrant's greatest enemy and the people's warmest friend. As a nation we are beginning to realize that in a civilization like the one in which we live, in a nation like ours where the government rests upon the heads of an intelligent citizenship, not only the government itself but the very civilization depends in no small measure upon public education. Our nation, our state, or our county will prosper in just the proportion that public education is fostered. We may believe this or not, but it is as true as fate;

for it is a natural step in  
our evolution. (185-8)

Mark here in our <sup>State's</sup>  
history how our people  
have been so wide awake as  
to the needs of our people  
educationally. A few  
years ago it was not  
hard to find communities  
in Eastern N.C. where  
good citizens honestly  
questioned the advisability  
of spending public funds  
for public education. It  
was indeed a question  
in the minds of many  
whether the State could  
with justice to the taxpayer  
spend the money raised  
by taxes for the education  
of all the children in  
the State. To-day we

we find our leaders  
 advocating larger and  
 ever larger appropriations  
 from the state treasury  
 for the education of  
 our children. Yes, the  
 question now is shall  
 we as a state not only  
 furnish the money  
 but force the parent  
 to send the child to  
 school. Why this great  
 change in so short a  
 time? Simply because  
 our people realize  
 that ignorance is a  
 blight upon our civi-  
 lization. They realize that  
 the unlettered man has  
 an almost <sup>impossible</sup> ~~unmountable~~  
 handicap in the great

pace of life. Also, that the safety as well as the progress of the State is dependent upon the education of our young citizenship.

Educate a boy, truly educate him and ~~then let him set his~~ <sup>then will impart</sup> sails to the winds of actual life and he will steer his course straight to the harbor of success.

Remove the handicap of ignorance from the next generation and the material wealth and civic happiness of our State will know no bounds. Indeed this

part of our dear old  
 State will become ~~one~~  
 of the garden spots of the  
 world. In the

In the last twelve  
 months I have been thro  
 our Country to Mass. in  
 the N. E. to the west of  
 Wisconsin in the N. W.

All thro the Southern  
 States to beyond the Miss.  
 and I can truthfully  
 say to you I have not  
 seen a section with  
 greater possibilities than  
 we have here at home.

I see no reason why  
 we should not have  
 here as prosperous, as happy  
 a people as the earth  
 in all of her fullness  
 can produce.



9.

Our Climate for the 12 months is as fine as can be found, our soil is rich or lends itself to ~~improvement~~ the native ability of all people is as great as any to be found.

The Key to Success for us is Education spelled in Capitals. We are about the most homogeneous people on the American Continent, and we will remain so if we awake to our ~~all~~ opportunities. But if we do not awake to our opportunities struggling humanity in less favored localities will straggle in and

and take possession by degrees and our sons and daughters will gradually <sup>sell</sup> ~~move~~ from their birthrights for a mess of pottage.

Friends, let me insist upon it the safeguard of our liberties and the key to our prosperity is Education.

But our people will never be properly educated until the teachers have been properly trained for this most serious civil duty. It is because of a conscious realization of this fact that our State has established and is maintaining the

School at Gossumville.

You may call me an enthusiast, a crank if you will but the burden of my life, yes my life itself is in this work.

I care not for riches or honor but I do care for that little child who is soon to assume the stern responsibilities of life. I want him to be able to face those responsibilities with the preparation that will enable him to cope ~~see~~ with them successfully.

Fellow teachers do you not see the responsibilities resting upon your shoulders? Are you prepared to meet those responsibilities as they

Should he meet? If you  
 are not what are you  
 doing to fit yourself? I  
 am not making this  
~~at all~~ to get you to  
 go to Gornville, God  
 forbid that I should  
 be so base but I do  
 appeal to you from  
 a conscious realization  
 of the responsibility resting  
 upon you to make all  
 the preparation you can  
 to meet with success  
 the noble work you  
 are now undertaking  
 and I don't care where  
 you get your preparation  
 just so you get it.

The hope of our State  
 is in the education of its  
 youth and the hope of this

education is in the  
trained teacher.

Get the knowledge necessary  
and couple with that  
knowledge a high, a noble  
purpose and your efforts  
will be crowned with  
success. Let me tell you  
a story you Jarvis told  
to the Summer School  
last year as it clearly  
shows what the teacher's  
spirit should be.

In Rio there is a  
round mountain 3000 ft  
high.

Gardens 1000 ft. up

Park 2000 ft up

Devils fence beyond

Top. Organ-pts. painting  
spires to heaven.

Sunset, Moon, Southern cross.