

BULLETIN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

No. 44

ISSUED SEMI-MONTHLY

General Series, No. 8

November 1, 1904

THE PRIDE OF TEXANS AND THEIR
UNIVERSITY

BY

THOS. H. MONTGOMERY, JR., PH. D.,
Professor of Zoology, The University of Texas



PUBLISHED BY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Entered as second-class mail matter at the postoffice at Austin, Texas

PUBLICATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

The various publications which are sent out by the University of Texas are classified into the five series of Bulletins listed below, and are officially designated as "Bulletins of the University of Texas." All of these Bulletins, with the exception of the RECORD, which falls within the general series, are distributed free. Persons wishing to receive any of the series regularly should carefully specify in writing the particular ones desired. Any single Bulletin will be sent upon request. The subscription price of the RECORD is one dollar (\$1) per volume of four numbers.

EDITORIAL STAFF

W. J. BATTLE,	- - - - -	Editor-in-Chief
C. H. HUBERICH,	- - - - -	Humanistic Series
F. W. SIMONDS,	- - - - -	Scientific Series
KILLIS CAMPBELL,	- - - - -	Official Series
H. Y. BENEDICT,	- - - - -	General Series
H. E. BOLTON,	- - - - -	Business Manager

Address all business communications to
HERBERT EUGENE BOLTON,
AUSTIN, TEXAS.

THE PRIDE OF TEXANS AND THEIR UNIVERSITY.

THOS. H. MONTGOMERY, JR., PH. D.,
Professor of Zoology in The University of Texas.

To the traveler from the East in any one of the more prosperous of the Western States, one of the most striking characteristics of the people appears to be the pride in the rapid achievements of their State. This is not mere braggadocio, but springs from honest and deep-rooted convictions of excellence. Texas leads in this, and her people are more outspoken and confident than even the people of Maine, Ohio, North Carolina, or Kentucky. In the older States the people are apt to forget the glories of their history, and in the old Thirteen States the past has come to be looked upon as a matter of fact rather than of interest, to such an extent that only the younger historical associations have begun to awaken some enthusiasm. There, too, State pride often changes to pride in a particular city, as in the case of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Newport, or San Augustine, as being an epitome of all that is best in the State; and this spirit is entering into the newer districts of the country as fast as large cities segregate.

In Texas one is soon asked, not what he thinks of the country, but whether he does not admire it. From judge to cow-puncher to clergyman there is the same attitude, and it is a fine thing to see. It is a most natural feeling, with a past marked by wonderful victories and dominated by strong men; a conquest of a people as well as of a cactus waste. Here is not the place, however, to recall the former glories, but to draw remark to the future.

Lord Clarendon wrote that "birth conveyeth no merit, but much duty to its inheritor," and it is for the present generation of Texans to decide how they should maintain the glory of their forefathers. Surely not by recounting former history, but by adding new

achievements. Surely not, further, by drawing attention to the fact that their State is the largest geographically in the Union; size in itself is of no commendation. Then, perhaps, by her agricultural achievements, the continued increase of the huge acreage of cotton and corn lands, and in the number of live stock. But no one should think these accomplishments are glorious in themselves. They spell material wealth, and that means increase in population and good use of capital; that is merely an outcome of the natural fertility of the soil in a varied topography. Texans have not made this soil fertile, but merely use its resources, so it is simply a means for wealth, and not a proper basis for State pride. Texans would be justified in such pride had they secured good crops from a barren ground, but the soil needs nothing but water and the plough. The great natural resources have drawn the people, and will continue to do so; and the population grows concomitantly and achieves wealth; but to a people of any high ideals this wealth can not be a source of pride.

What illuminates so radiantly the history of Texas? The fortitude of the early settlers and their virility. There were men in those days. They kept in mind high ideals, and lopped off the member that offended in order that they might live. And now that the State government is wisely established, and there is no longer a call for men to exploration and war, Texans must decide what they should do with their wealth to maintain the reputation of their ancestors.

Go to Cambridge or Baltimore or New Haven, and you will find the citizens there have the most pride in the university. These are private institutions, supported without State aid, by the enthusiastic help of their alumni. West of the Mississippi, with one great exception, the strong universities are the State universities, strong because of pride in them by the people, and, therefore, well supported. Look at the much older State universities of Holland, Germany, and France; does not everyone there point to them as great national achievements? They are not considered luxuries, but necessities. The Frenchman speaks with honest pride of the Pasteur Institute, as does the Englishman of the British Museum, or the German of any one of many universities. Talk with the Swiss peasants, and they will tell you that they mean their sons to go to the University of Basel or Zürich, even though after gradua-

tion they should become herdsmen again. And the Russian has his greatest national pride in two things, the Kremlin, and the university of St. Petersburg. Equally with the army, the necessary condition of their independence as an empire, the Germans rank their system of universities.

Why do not Texans take this attitude toward their own State university? Why do they not so support it as to make it the accomplishment of this generation? There is no use hiding the fact that the University of Texas receives much less support than a number of other State universities in the West which are of but little or no greater age; and on this account she is heavily handicapped in her work. The very fact that in all the older countries the universities are regarded as of almost prime importance is sufficient reason to come to her support; and we are fortunately long past the time when it is necessary to argue for the need of higher education.

We laughed over the foundation, some ten or fifteen years ago, of a private university by a man who believed it would return him dividends, and who was much surprised to find that it proved a very expensive venture. The plain matter of fact is that no university, private or State, can ever be self-supporting. A university can always use all the money given her, and can never be quite satisfied. A State government has good uses for much more than the amount of its annual revenues, and a university is in the same position. A great university can be supported by small means only when good professors can be secured and kept by very small salaries; but unless the name of the university is already very high in the estimation of the educational world such men can not be secured on such terms.

The University of Texas is not a completed institution, and never can be, any more than a government or a library, but, if Texans are to take pride in it, it must grow and expand continually and continuously. More buildings are urgently needed at present, and the new ones should be thoroughly fire-proof. Of the first importance is a large fund for the needs of the library. Scientific literature is very vast today, and for the most part scattered through the files of numerous journals, society proceedings, and museum publications; some of it can not be secured for the love of money. Many of these older journals are each year becoming more difficult

to obtain, and now is the time when they may be obtained most cheaply. Texas lacks libraries almost entirely, yet she has the greatest need of them, for her scholars must travel at least as far as Chicago to find a fairly good general library, and to Philadelphia or Cambridge to find a really excellent library in the Natural Sciences. Get a great reference library here, and you will not only keep Texans in Texas, but draw scholars from other States. No one who has done considerable work in some special field can appreciate how large a good library must be, and how much it means. At the University of Texas at the present time in many lines of work one finds practically no literature at all, and this means that there can not be any competent investigation in those subjects. This is not the fault of anyone connected with the library, but of the entirely insufficient fund. The amount of quite \$50,000 ought to be immediately available for putting the library on a working basis; and after that there should be \$10,000 annually for general purchases. It then would become a great library, by no means for specialists alone, but representative in all branches of knowledge. These estimates of expense are not beyond what a number of other State universities are doing. It would be the great library of the South and West, and make Texas better known over the educated world than any amount of increase in the number of cotton bales.

As great is the need to strengthen the instructing staff. This means both an increase in numbers, so that the students can be given much more individual attention than is possible at present; and also an increase in the number of professors who are known by their writings in literature and science, not only through the United States, but also in foreign lands. The faculty make the university; many a famous foreign laboratory is housed in miserable buildings, with poor facilities of equipment, and yet the work that has gone out from it is famous wherever there are thinking men. And the man who is an investigator very frequently makes the best teacher. To get and keep men of this kind, good salaries are necessary; for they are not men who compete for positions, but for whom universities compete. Is Texas to have no adequate representation of men famed in literature and science and art? The name and rank of a university depend just upon the men who compose its faculty, and the kind of work they are doing in their publications, and no university has ever yet gotten fame

simply by number of students or buildings, but at the most, only local repute. And if Texans wish to put it all in that light, they must remember that theoretical advances, that is, pure science, must precede great applications.

Back of the University of Texas is a State whose material resources are second to none. Texans can not plead any lack of means. Let the State pride not linger upon accomplishments of the previous generation; the pioneers broke the ground, and it is for us to plant the seed and harvest it. Use more of her material wealth for upbuilding a great system of State education. If the University becomes what she should be she will stretch out her hands to help the schools. Finally Texans will be able to point to the establishment of a really great university, a center of teaching, of research, and of broad education in all its fields; and will have, in so doing, another reason for pride in the State. In the Texas Declaration of Independence one of the stated grievances against Mexico was that she had failed to provide for educational facilities. That was nearly seventy years ago; have the two succeeding generations done all they might have done? It should be a question of honor for the people out of their great resources to extend and enlarge the work of the University of Texas.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

MAIN UNIVERSITY, AUSTIN
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, GALVESTON

WM. L. PRATHER, LL. D., President

Coeducational. Tuition FREE. Matriculation fee \$30.00 (Payable in Academic and Engineering Departments in three annual installments). Annual expense \$150.00 and upward. Proper credit for work in other institutions.

MAIN UNIVERSITY

Session opens September 28, 1904. Largest and best equipped Libraries, Laboratories, Natural History and Geological Collections, Men's and Women's Dormitories and Gymnasiums in Texas. Board at Cost.

Academic Department: courses of liberal study leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and courses leading to State Teachers' Certificates.

Engineering Department: courses leading to degrees in Civil, Electrical, Mining, and Sanitary Engineering.

Law Department: A three-year course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Shorter special courses for specially equipped students.

For further information and catalogue, address

G. C. F. BUTTE, Registrar,
Main University, Austin, Texas.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Schools of **Medicine, Pharmacy and Nursing.** Session of eight months begins October 1, 1904. Four-year graded course in Medicine; two-year courses in Pharmacy and Nursing. Laboratories thoroughly equipped for practical teaching. Exceptional clinical advantages in the John Sealy Hospital. University Hall provides a comfortable home for women students of Medicine.

For further information and catalogue, address

DR. W. S. CARTER, Dean,
Medical Department, Galveston, Texas.