

The More Things Change...

Group 2 Sources

Thomas Jefferson to Littleton W. Tazewell, 5 January 1805

“From Thomas Jefferson to Littleton W. Tazewell, 5 January 1805,” Founders Online, National Archives (<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/99-01-02-0958>, ver. 2014-05-09).

no one can be more rejoiced at the information that the legislature of Virginia are likely at length to institute an University on a liberal plan. convinced that the people are the only safe depositories of their own liberty, & that they are not safe unless enlightened to a certain degree, I have looked on our present state of liberty as a short-lived possession, unless the mass of the people could be informed to a certain degree. this requires two grades of education. first some institution where science in all it's branches is taught, and in the highest degree to which the human mind has carried it. this would prepare a few subjects in every state, to whom nature has given minds of the first order. secondly such a degree of learning given to every member of the society as will enable him to read, to judge & to vote understandingly on what is passing. this would be the object of township schools. I understand from your letter that the first of these only is under present contemplation. let us recieve with contentment what the legislature is now ready to give. the other branch will be incorporated into the system at some more favorable moment.

Thomas Jefferson to Joseph Carrington Cabell, 22 January 1820

“From Thomas Jefferson to Joseph Carrington Cabell, 22 January 1820,” Founders Online, National Archives (<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/98-01-02-1031>, ver. 2014-05-09).

if our legislature does not heartily push our University, we must send our children for education to Kentucky or Cambridge. if however we are to go a begging any where for our education, I would rather it should be to Kentucky than any other state, because she has more of the flavor of the old cask than any other. all the states but our own are sensible that knolege is power. the Missouri question is for power. the efforts now generally making thro' the states to advance their science is for power, while we are sinking into the barbarism of our Indian aborigines, and expect like them to oppose by ignorance the overwhelming mass of light & science by which we shall be surrounded. it is a comfort that I am not to live to see this.

Thomas Jefferson to John Holmes, 22 April 1820

“From Thomas Jefferson to John Holmes, 22 April 1820,” Founders Online, National Archives (<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/98-01-02-1234>, ver. 2014-05-09).

I thank you, Dear Sir, for the copy you have been so kind as to send me of the letter to your constituents on the Missouri question. it is a perfect justification to them. I had for a long time ceased to read newspapers or pay any attention to public affairs, confident they were in good hands, and content to be a passenger in our bark to the shore from which I am not

distant. but this mementous question, like a fire bell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as the knell of the Union. it is hushed indeed for the moment. but this is a reprieve only, not a final sentence. a geographical line, coinciding with a marked principle, moral and political, once conceived and held up to the angry passions of men, will never be obliterated; and every new irritation will mark it deeper and deeper. I can say with conscious truth that there is not a man on earth who would sacrifice more than I would, to relieve us from this heavy reproach, in any practicable way. the cession of that kind of property, for it is so misnamed, is a bagatelle which would not cost me a second thought, if, in that way, a general emancipation and expatriation could be effected: and, gradually, and with due sacrifices, I think it might be. but, as it is, we have the wolf by the ear, and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go. justice is in one scale, and self-preservation in the other. . . .

I regret that I am now to die in the belief that the useless sacrifice of themselves, by the generation of '76. to acquire self government and happiness to their country, is to be thrown away by the unwise and unworthy passions of their sons, and that my only consolation is to be that I live not to weep over it.

Thomas Jefferson to Joseph Carrington Cabell, 31 January 1821

“From Thomas Jefferson to Joseph Carrington Cabell, 31 January 1821,” Founders Online, National Archives (<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/98-01-02-1814>, ver. 2014-05-09).

my individual opinion is that we had better not open the institution until the buildings, Library & all, are finished, and our funds cleared of incumbrance. these buildings, once erected, will secure the full object infallibly at the end of 13. years, and as much earlier as an enlightened legislature shall happen to come into place. and if we were to begin sooner, with half funds only, it would satisfy the common mind, prevent their aid beyond that point & our institution remaining at that forever would be no more than the paltry academies we now have. even with the whole funds we shall be reduced to 6. professors, while Harvard will still prime it over us with her 20. professors. how many of our youths she now has, learning the lessons of anti-Missourianism, I know not; but a gentleman lately from Princeton told me he saw there the list of the students at that place, and that more than half were Virginians. these will return home, no doubt, deeply impressed with the sacred principles of our Holy alliance of Restrictionists.

Thomas Jefferson to John Taylor, 14 February 1821

“From Thomas Jefferson to John Taylor, 14 February 1821,” Founders Online, National Archives (<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/98-01-02-1836>, ver. 2014-05-09).

Our University labors hard to come into existence. I am surprised it finds enemies in the Colleges & Academies & private classical schools throughout the state as if inimical to them. but it becomes in truth their foundation, not their rival. it leaves to them the field of classical preparation, not proposing to turn itself into a grammar school. it leaves to them that middle degree of instruction in geography, surveying, grammer E^tc which will be called for by the

great body of those who cannot afford or who do not wish an University education. we shall receive only those subjects who desire the highest degree of instruction for which they now go to Harvard, to Princeton, N. York & Philadelphia. these seminaries are no longer proper for Southern or Western students. the signs of the times admonish us to call them home. if knowledge is power we should look to its advancement at home, where no resource of power will be wanting.

Edmund Wilcox Hubbard to Robert Thruston Hubbard, ca. 8 November 1825

“Edmund Wilcox Hubbard to Robert Thruston Hubbard.” *Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series Digital Library, Thomas Jefferson Foundation*. <http://retirementseries.dataformat.com/Document.aspx?doc=150952062> (accessed July 31, 2014).

To Robert.

—On the manners and ways of the Students—

—First, and the worst class—

People would not be apt to think at a place so much spoken of as this, and founded by one of the most learned, as well as worthy sages of this Country, that there was such a vast difference in the character &c, of the Students—but it is no stranger, than true. We have some of all ranks, from the highest to the lowest, both in birth and reputation Some who come to this place for the purpose of prosecuting their literary pursuits, seem entirely either to have forgotten what was their intention, in coming to this Institution, or to have made a very great mistake in attempting to acquire knowledge. Instead of attending to their Books they are sauntering about from one days end to another in all kind of rascality, and mischief. Whenever they enter into any kind of amusement with their Comrades, they always avail themselves of every opportunity to cheat them . . .

Notes on [University of Virginia] Student Examinations Regarding Knowledge of Students Gambling and Drinking with Hotelkeepers, ca. 27 December 1826

“Notes on Student Examinations Regarding Knowledge of Students Gambling and Drinking with Hotelkeepers.” *Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series Digital Library, Thomas Jefferson Foundation*. <http://retirementseries.dataformat.com/Document.aspx?doc=150952964> (accessed July 31, 2014).

Edmund Drummond, never heard of any Hotel keeper playing with students at Cards—last session before last not last session saw he thinks a hotel keeper drinking in dormitory with students—

Chapman—Has heard that students have played with Hotel keepers—There were Students a few days ago here who he supposes knew or could give information—James A. Clarke & Paul A. Clay—The rumour was that there were two of the Hotel Keepers—perhaps three—M^r Minor not one—The playing was in Dormitories—and perhaps a little way out of University—Hotel keepers almost every one of them perhaps have drank with students

accidentally in Dormitories—It has been said that Card playing was very common among the students—and hotel keepers played with them—very common reports—Has seen one Hotel keeper or more playing with students last session as well as this—Has never seen Minor or Gray play—doesn't think he has seen M^r Conway play—is positive he has seen the other two playing with students—in dormitories—Upton Beall can give information—so can M^r Baylor—M^r Beall would not probably know of the occurrence as to which M^r Baylor could give information—they were different occasions—Did not see either Beall or Baylor playing—is certain playing was going on—Saw a gentle man one of the Swanns coming out of the room—enquired if gaming was going on & was told there was