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Legislature of North Carolina.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

REMARKS OF MR. POTTER,
On the bill to establish a Political College.

The speech delivered by Mr. Potter, on the 23d ultimo, on the bill introduced by him to establish a Political College in this State, having created great excitement, and led to much conversation, in order to correct misrepresentations, and procure a fair construction of his motives, he has thought proper to submit a copy for publication.

[This bill proposes the establishment of a college, to be situated upon a farm in the county of Wake, to which the counties in the State which pay into the treasury, by way of taxes, less than a thousand dollars, should be entitled to send one apprentice; those paying over a thousand, and less than two thousand, two; and those paying over two thousand, four. The number which would be furnished according to this ratio would be one hundred and seven. It also provides that the State shall have a paramount and indefeasible title to the apprentices, for six years from the day on which they might enter college, during the first three years of which, they are to be carried through a course of discipline and instruction conformable to the rules of the college; and for the remaining three years, they are to be employed in the duty of instructors at such stations in the State, as the rector and visitors of the college may think proper to assign them. The apprentices are directed to be selected from among all the youth of the State who shall be within six months of the age of fifteen years, and the estate of whose fathers shall not exceed in value the sum of a thousand dollars. As a fundamental rule of discipline, the bill directs that the apprentices be divided into five classes, which in turn are at all times to be actively engaged in agricultural labor on the college farm. To effect this, the bill previously directs "that a rector and fifteen visitors, to be chosen as shall hereinafter be directed, be incorporated, under the name and title of the rector and visitors of the Political College of North Carolina." It then directs "that the visitors be chosen by a joint ballot of both Houses of the Legislature, and hold their appointments during the pleasure of a majority of the members of the same; and invests them with authority to appoint a rector, a president and four professors for the college, and prescribe their duties; to select the apprentices agreeably to rules laid down in the bill, to fix upon the time for the commencement of the operations of the college; to make all disbursements necessary for that purpose; and to carry into effect the details of the bill. It invests them, in short, with full powers of legislation, in all matters appertaining to the college, conformably to the provisions of the bill; and, in order to enable them to effect the objects contemplated, directs the Treasurer of the State to borrow and disburse the sum of two hundred and twenty thousand dollars; twenty thousand of which to be appropriated to the purchase of a farm and construction of necessary buildings; and the remaining two hundred thousand dollars, to be vested by the rector and visitors in a permanent fund; the interest of which to ensure forever to the benefit of the college, subject to the management and control of the rector and visitors, under the authority and supervision of the Legislature.]

MR. SPEAKER.—In submitting the proposition contained in that bill, a proposition so novel in its character, and, if adopted, so important in its consequences, I trust I have well borne with me a moment, while I open to them some of the arguments in favor of it, and declare to them the motives which have impelled me to offer it. To say that the object of this measure, is to elevate and dignify the character of North Carolina, and provide for the continuance of her safety, and the enlargement of her faculties, by enlightening and liberalizing the faculties of her people—that its ultimate scope is nothing less than the diffusion of education among the mass of her children, is at once to announce the manifest and palpable object of the measure. If it be that which distinguishes him from the brutes that perish, and almost exalts him to an equality with heaven, then the necessity, by which his mighty attributes are developed and harmonized, is obviously an object of paramount consideration. But forcible and undeniable as is this truth, and agreed upon by us from sources of accurate sagacity, North Carolina seems ever to have remained mostly insensible to it; while many of her sister States have addressed themselves to the subject with a degree of energy and zeal, which indicate their sense of the vitality of its importance; while they have most liberally devoted their best resources to the development of the moral and intellectual energies of their people. North Carolina, in this, as in every other useful improvement, has continued to stagnate and founder on, at a lazy and lagging pace, behind every other member of the Union. Sir, it is time she were disenchanted from this time-worn, and almost fatal, spell. It is time she was brought to a just and full sense of her degradation—it is time that the spell which has so long fettered her energies in death, should be broken, and her thoughts should be raised from the habitual contemplation of low and subordinate objects, and fixed upon her manifold and more exalted interests. Would you ask how this is to be done—would you ask how "a consummation so devoutly to be wished," is to be accomplished? I answer, educate the people—yes, let us open their minds to the light of science, and of truth—confer upon them the sagacity of their thinking—enable them justly to appreciate their relation to their country—their interests, and to understand their rights and interests, and the prevailing instinct of nature will impel them to assert and pursue them. If this proposition, bearing as I conceive, upon its very face the impress of beauty and truth, should yet be deemed to require the sanction of authority, I would direct you to the sentiments of those chief and sage, whose valor won, whose wisdom established our liberties. The man who, when lying, received the homage of all hearts, and whose name like a charm still enchants the world—whose form shadowed forth upon the wall, in the attitude of courtesy, would seem to beckon and persuade you to the adoption of his favorite maxim. "That sainted sage, in the last words addressed by him to his country, in language the most earnest and emphatic, invited her attention to this subject. These are his words: "As substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popu-

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