"Ours are the plans of fair delightful peace, unwarp'd by party rage, to live like brothers."

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EXTRACTS

FRO'M Mr. SHEPARD'S ADDRESS,

Before the two Literary Societies of the University of North Carolina, on Commencement Day.

Gentlemen of the Philanthropic and Dialectic Societies :

Upon this occasion, in renewing my acquaintance with you, as members of the two Literary Societies of the University of my native State, it is impossible for me to repress the feelings of old associations, or the recollection of times, though long since past, yet still fresh in the memory. In lingering amidst these scenes, " I can ne'er forget though here I am forgot," imagination forcibly recals the joys and sorrows,

he friends and the follies of the sunny season of life. Let me pay a passing tribute of remembrance to the absent, while acknowledge with much gratification, the greeable associations of the present. The scenes of a College life leave per-

haps a deeper and more agreeable impression upon our minds, than any thing in prerious or future years. It is there the vista of ife first opens upon us, exhibiting its alluring rospects, its animating scenes, and its enicing variety. We bound from its restraints like the well trained courser panting for the goal, and whether we have missed or gained the prize, we look back amidst the petty strifes and low ambition of after life, to our residence here, as embracing the purest and happiest days of our ex-

Within the College walls, the first aspirations after fame of the elastic and vigorous spirit of youth, are breathed forth, and whether they are mocked or realized, we revisit the place of their birth with feelings which, although of a melancholy nature, yet abound in pleasant recollections.

We linger with delight amidst groves consecrated to genius and to science, where

Not a leaf but trembling teems With youthful visions and romantic dreams.

n his career of hope or anticipation.

oyed the blessings of education, you will sword." hereafter estimate this mental luxury as one of its richest treasures, the distingush-Bent and departed friends.

ure. I have thought however with Ausohius, that what Cæsar judged I was equal to, I might perform.

Cur me posse negem, posse qued ille putat?

Duly impressed with the difficulty of anwering your flattering summons, and conscious that

Nil dictu fordum visuque hoec limina tanget

I have endeavored, at humble distance, in imitate those sages of old, who purified their minds before they approached the sacred altars.

There are few subjects which more vifamiliar acquantance with Classical Litera- ingroot and flourishing among us. devoted by the Students of our Universities | hood, and without its vigour.

molested pursue the deer upon the moun- should be avoided: in fact, that search and and which each attempts to describe. The ture of Greece has been cultivated, a we are extremely deficient. of 334 per cent. will be made from the regular refinement and the polish of society.

> cattle, and the only question for the consid- is great. things are just, whatsoever things are pure, of more immediate utility. whatsoever are lovely, whatsoever things has placed in social relations. * *

It is a melancholy reflection, that in our respectable quarter, that the study of Ancient Literature was a waste of time. In quaintance with Classical Literature. The since ceased, and the mutinous spirits, by common consent, have returned to their althe illustrious dead.

In our young and ambitious country, where we seem to think that we are, by instinct, all that man ever was, or ever can be, lingering doubts are yet sturdily mainfew querulous disputants.

tice to suppose that you have been such much to be regretted, that we import along We are reminded at each step of some ungrateful recipients of the bounties of your with Manchester Cottons and Sheffield almost forgotten tale of youthful rivalry, Alma Mater, as to partake of these doubts, Cutlery, her literary dicta, which scarcely or perhaps the remembrance rushes upon or that any thing I can say can add to your endure as long as the fashions she sends us, of some young friend suddenly arrested | conviction of the importance of a knowl- us. edge of this interesting subject. I could not, As Students, you are familiar with these however, resist the temptation of adding British criticism over American Literature, workings of the fancy; detached by your my feeble testimony, which several years that we are told by one of our most sucoccupations from the cares and pursuits of experience in the world has tended to con- cessful authors (Mr. Cooper,) who at the le, you can exist for a time in the regions firm, of its indispensable importance in eye- some time is the most national in his feel- our literary men, as well as statesmen, or country should venture into the list to the purity and existence of our instituof the imagination; you can look beyond ry branch of the liberal professions, and of ings, that our literary men hold their repu- for clothing the simplest ideas in such of fair and honorable competition. the indulgence of the appetites, for those its necessity to any thing approaching excel- tations at the mercy of the British press .- a multitude of words, that it requires "Tis not the space between Babyce pure and ethereal pleasures which emanate lence, in that arena where it is the hope of Our boldest and most redoubted critics great labour and perseverance to hunt and Chacion which alone produces entirely from the mind, that living fountain most aspiring American youths, at some tremble for their decisions, until they hear of the beauteous and sublime. Having en- period of their lives, "to flesh the maiden they are endorsed on the other side of the

It is true, we have in the history of our description of Echo, country many bright examples of the triing pre-eminence of the intellectual man, umph of unassisted intellect; rare, however, The imprimatur of one of our most learned over the grovelling son of earth-a possess- are the instances, and few are the minds Universities, would be considered in those ion which enables us to escape for a period which can rise superior to the disatvantages beyond the reach of power, pain, or poverty, of fortune. On the contrary, what exalted and while it creates for us a world of our mental excellence might not these individuown, enables us to people it with our ab- als have reached, if they had been fully pos- Quarterly Reviews. sessed with the rich stores of experience of Coming, Gentlemen, as I so recently those who had gone before them? And have, from those pursuits, which are un- moreover, few even of these gifted persons, Priests, so our candidates for Literary or understanding of others, it certainly which drew from its own resources alone, to fortunately now conducted in such a man- great in their generation as they undoubted. Honors present themselves before the A- becomes a matter of primary impor- account for all the operations of nature; ner, as merely to excite the more selfish by were, have made any permanent impres- merican public qualified by a London puff, tance, that they should be clothed in hypothesis succeed hypothesis, paradox feelings of the human heart, it was with sion upon the age in which they lived .some reluctance and misgiving, that I ac- They appear among us as those freaks of countrymen. We shall never escape from would strike the mind, and not exhaust was inextricably confounded by its own incepted your invitation to deliver an address nature, the brilliant Northern Lights, shed- this disgraceful vassalage, until some great that attention it was intended to rouse terminable jargon. It was the glory of within these walls, sacred to the investiga- ding around their own paths a bright but literary Washington shall arise, whose in and stimulate. Can we suppose that Bacon to have rescued philosophy from the the ultimate objects of Science and Litera fixed stars in the firmament. No coning the ultimate objects of Science and Litera- fixed stars in the firmament. No genius, cient to achieve their mental independence. des would have received such plaudits her to the world without. This natural like wise to however bright, no mental powers, however acute, can ever reach their due grade in this intellectual age, unless they are fully country to noble exertions, by pointing out possessed of the recorded wisdom of those to them the monuments of antiquity, and remotest posterity, models for imitation, contrary opinion is a pernicious heresy in fame, by telling them, as the French Solthe education of our youth, which has too diers were told amidst the sands of the des- ans almost to madness, had they have of life, without rudder to guide or sails to impel their onward course. * * * * *

one of our Philosophical Societies, that "the Literature. To do such a subject justice suring literature by its length, is mar- faculties vastly superior to all other created ancient languages will perish under the mass of knowledge destined to occupy the huy contribute to the judicious education man mind," we find every fantastic concep- your consideration, the crude conceptions the youth of our country, nor any tion, every ridiculous extravagance of the of one who has been scarcely permitted to aich I conceive more interesting to this morbid literature of England, where the assembly, than the relative importance of a idol of to-day is the jest of to-morrow. tak-

ture. It is much to be regretted, that, in Our country is in its infancy : let us guard by its waste of waters; but who has had Our country particularly, such learning is that infancy with great care and jealously, neither the skill or the courage to launch requently undervalued, and we too often lest it exhibit itself in the dress of age, his bark upon its wide and limitless extent, lear it asserted in conversation, that the time without the formality and decorum of man-either to explore its known wonders, or to tion, by its noble example, than any allied with the one to which I have en- Which men and nations use, when ear they speak

to the study of the dead languages, is Infancy is prone to imitation; it is a It requires, however, but a very superfi- | youthful votaries energetic ideas, and which I cannot resist the temptation of se thrown away, or could be more valuably law of nature which cannot be obviated. cial acquaintance with the ancients to ap- that practical common sense not to be suitable an opportunity, of making a few employed in the acquirement of some art Let us then select for our models those preciate their distinguishing traits. If the met with in the feivolous literature of passing remarks. I allude to a system of or mystery; which more immediately con- works which by the concurrent testimo- observation is correct, and I see no reason the day, which enervates the underduces to the comfort or well-being of socie- ny of all ages, have been acknowledged to doubt its truth, "nothing can please If this assertion were strictly true, there mean that slavish copying, which, at apish tions of general nature," there can be no would be an end of the discussion. In distance, affects the faults, more than the doubt of the superiority of the ancient over what consists the perfection of our species, beauties of its author. I mean that frequent the modern School. is a very debateable question; the roam-study and critical examination which is The distinction between the classic and tions, bowed before the civilization of ing and untutored savage firmly believes, necessary to imbue the mind with the spi- the modern or romantic style of Literature, Grecce, and became a captive to her ted. But of those incipient primary schools, that so long as the face of nature is opened it of the author; which teaches us what is is as vast as the different aspects of that slave. The history of the world at- which should carry mental aliment to the to his wanderings, so long as he can un- worthy of admiration, and that which nature from which each one draws its stores, tests the fact, that wherever the litera- door of the poorest citizen of the republic. tain top, or supply the few wants of a pre- scrutiny which is necessary to find the one represents her when she is in her usual high state of civilization has been procarious existence, with the natural fruits of road to excellence, which serves to indicate attire, calm, sunny, refreshed by the genial duced. It was its influence which rolled ordinary experiment in Government, an exthe valley, he fully complies with the end its steep and thorny path, as well as its breeze, abundance and pleasure joyous in back the torrent of Gothic ignorance periment which gives to numbers the en-

dreaming away a life of ease and sensual tal activity, in direct contact with older na- by the occasional flood. gratification, believes he fulfils his destiny, tions, who have passed through the various The one is conversant with objects grand so long as all his personal wants are ade- gradations assigned for the human mind, and beautiful in themselves, needing no quately supplied. In our mechanical and we must take care, least, excited by fashion, trick or disguise to impose them upon the utilitarian age, we hear it boldly asserted, or depressed by ridicule, we permit our mind, but striking the most unsophisticated by the study of the exact and severer that all is vanity which contributes to the selves to be led astray by some temporary understanding as agreeable to the ordinary sciences; but among those nations civiidol of the day, or deterred from the path course of events; the other, drawing its lization trembled as a star, and never What is Society? Is it the mere aggre- of reason by the sneers of our contempora- images almost exclusively from the imagin- showed forth with meridian splendour. gation of individuals, where numbers alone ries. Our youths have the spirit of the ation, shocks us with its unnatural distor- Their highest aspirations were the rude constitute merit? Where the human spe- high blooded courser: let their training be tions, and compels us to lash our fancy to efforts of barbaric pomp, or the cum- be called into the service of his country.cies are to be enumerated like a drove of severe, for the race is long, and the prize its wildest mood, before we can appreciate brows magnificence of a rich but taste-

eration of the Philosopher is, how many | Among those persons who repudiate the can the fruits of the earth be made to main- study of the ancient languages, yet who do stage, they speak an intelligible language, terify, and a monument of the coarse is it not more absurd to expect order, sotain? Or rather is it not the Corinthian not consider Latin and Greek as absolutely they reason as mortals of a large growth; and uncouth labour of its people, trudis briefy of deportment, and all the virtues of Capital which should adorn the solid col- a species of black art, a sort of magic, to be the romantic school introduces us to beings, ums of sound existence? Is it not the shunned by all well disposed people-are whose end and object we cannot comprecharmed circle of civilization, where the to be found many, who, while they admit hend: lights and shadows of life are collected to a the necessity of some system of study, focus, " where whatsoever things are true, give a decided preference to the literature whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever of England, as best adapted to our age, and

Fashion, caprice, and party spirit have such | blossom for the fruit. * * * * * * direct influence upon our taste, and the century, we should hear it asserted in any universal consent, time is regarded as the only just arbiter. Should we adopt as our model the decisions of English taste and Europe, at this day, no man who values English criticism, we would surrender our his reputation for sanity, would venture to judgment to the whims and prejudices of intimate a doubt of the importance of an ac. an arbiter, whose opinions are as capricious as the fluctuations of her own stock excontroversy upon that subject, which once change. We would imbibe all the faults disturbed the literary world, has there long and conceits of a Literature, which is now solely occupied in imagining new enjoyments and new excitements, for the sated legiance, and acknowledged their fealty to appetites of a voluptuous community, enhonors most lavishly to the fortunate ad- limbs, or grace to the motions," and venturer who can contrive for it a new

Closely connected as we are in language, tained upon this important subject by a feelings and old associations with our parent stock, and unrivalled as her Literature I will not, Gentlemen, do you the injus- undoubtedly is among the moderns, it is yet

> Such is the despotic power exercised by water. They remind us forcibly of Ovid's

Nec loqui prius ipsa didicit nec otiare loquenti. parts of the Union, where learning is most regarded, as literary treason, if it were received with a sneer by the Edinburg or

As the ancient Greeks formerly travelled into Egypt to gather the learning of the written, is to operate upon the feelings to receive the applause of their obedient language whose matter and manner was piled upon paradox, until the intellect

In the mean time, however, you may do much; you can rouse the youth of our

upon the shore, or floating upon the ocean sand centuries are regarding their actions. ing excellence, and announced to that peace and war. Let this wise injunction While we are told in the lucubrations of the relative merits of ancient and mouern ject?" This monkish taste for mea- image of his creator, endowed with various stand upon the vast ocean of Science, oceasionally picking up upon its beach, some of those beautiful productions cast ashore seek its hidden treasures.

to be excellent. By imitation, I do not many and please long, but just representa-

and aim of his existence. The indolent pleasant retreats and delightful prospects. her train; the other represents her freaks Turk, reposing upon the lap of luxury, Placed as we are in an age of great men- when she is disturbed by storms, or deluged

its beauties, or comprehend its object.

So withered and so wild in their attire, That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth,

Were the merits of the two Literatures un- at the expense of the other faculties of the which is necessary to polish and refine way, that of artifice and chicane is sucare of good report, if there be any virtue, doubtedly equal, the bare fact that one is mind, and if by any sudden concussion, the our coarse natures. The universal ceeding; the race is no longer to the swift, if there be any praise in them," they should the production of a living language upon dreamy votary of fancy ahould be aroused burst of indignant sympathy which per- nor the battle to the strong; let the underbe collected for the ornament and embellish- which time has not fixed the stamp of fate, from his mental stupor, he will discover vailed the civilized world, in the late standings of the people, by which alone ment of a race which the disposer of events should make us pause in its selection .- perhaps too late, that he has mistaken the contest of Greece for freedom, was a they can be effectually controlled, be cor-

grade of society, until it embraced the charity for oppressed brethren, that nation. The name of a Roman Citizen roused the succour of Europe and Awas the prondest as well as the most merica; it was the recollection of her consideration of this people, whose discipline for their youth likewise "comprehended every thing that could add ervated by luxury, and offering wealth and strength to the body, activity to the grope our way amidst the intrigues and venality of Courts, where

> In soldier, churchman, patriot, man in power, "Tis avarice all, ambition is no more.

Apart from those examples of individradicate a delect in our national taste, our travels and our rural retreats." which threatens to become permanent

out the grain of wheat amidst the mass brave men; but wherever the youth are of chaff. The study of that terseness ashamed of what is base, resolute in a and simple elegance of style, which good cause, and more inclined to avoid may be said to be almost peculiar to disgrace than danger, there are the the ancients, which makes the sound an | men who are terrible to their enemies." echo to the sense, would do much to banish from among us that barren and voluminous taste "which evaporates in a folio the spirit that would scarcely suffice for an epigram." If the object of all mental efforts, as well oral as from the assembled multitudes at the Olympic Games, or lived down to the sages who have gone before them. The stimulating their exertions to rival their or that Demosthenes could have raised the courage of the degenerate Athenioften left them as gallant barks stranded ert, that from their lofty summits a thou- used the American formula for achiev-It is very foreign from my intention, to spiritual multitude, that they were a- be fulfiled, let education become the handattempt any thing like a comparison of bout to go "at length into the subwould require a learning to which I make ring its influence and narrowing the no pretensions. I can barely throw out for sphere of its exertions, and in our State beautious mind," apon the apex of this documents and business papers is an magnificent creation, with an intellect erect waste of time. It is by no means extravagant to say, that the study of clasthe understanding, to chasten the taste, which was designed for a familiar address.

standing, by keeping the imagination constantly and injuriously excited,

Proud and turbulent Rome, the terror of mankind, the invincible of naand barbarism, which, during the mid. tire and almost exclusive centrol over the ille ages, covered the fairest portion of lives, the property, and the well being of Europe, and at one time, threatened to envelope the world in darkness. Arabia and Egypt have benefitted mankind. less splendour. The Pyramid of Egypt ground with care, before he entrusts to it When Homer brings his Gods upon the will stand an object of wonder to pas- his seed, or before he expects a product. indigestaque moles.' Without being ac- a good citizen, where every wild passion; cused of depreciating the exact sciences, every vicious propensity, engendered by I trust I may be permitted to remark, pride and fostered by ignorance, have been that their exclusive study produces an permitted to take root, and choke by their unsocial feeling, and abstracts the mind The one cultivates the imaginative powers too much from that attrition in society, The age of power and force is passing asincere tribute of deep-felt respect for rectly cultivated, and our fair land will no In Rome, the love of liberty was not her departed greatness. It was not longer be convulsed by those scenes of turcountry, near the middle of the nineteenth judgment of our contemporaries, that by confined to a few individuals who made disgust at Turkish barbarity, it was bulence and violence, which threaten dispolitics a trade; it penetrated every not simply a pure spirit of Christian grace, if not destruction to our institutions. respected title throughout the world; sages, and the renown of her heroes; the capacity of the people for self-governthe intensity of the feeling was height- it was the spirit of her brighter days, ment, or which fears the impulse which ened to a passion; it absorbed all other | imbibed in our youth, which called upon | considerations. Shall we turn from the us, with a parent's claim, to defend our munity. Those qualities which ennoble greatest benefactor. We felt indignant our natures, do not shine aloft like constelthat the " clime of battle and of song" should be trod by the savage and the ly to attract an idle gaze; an all bountiful stranger. I cannot, Gentlemen, better and beneficent Creator has scattered them compensate you for the time I am con- at the feet of man, like flowers, needing onsuming, than by urging this subject ly his culture, that they may spring up to upon your attention, in the spirit, if adora the humble cottage as well as the not-in the language of one of the most illustrious men of autiquity: "These studies (says Cicero) are the food of ual and great moral excellence, which youth, and the consolation of age; they continually attract our admiration in adorn prosperity, and are the comfort the earlier annals of the Roman com- and refuge of adversity; they are pleamonwealth, the study of the Greek and sant at home, and no incumbrance a- While our social relations are embittered, Latin languages si best calculated to e- broad; they accompany us at night, in and the recesses of the domestic circle daily

Until the genius of Bacon had taught mankind, by the slow but sure process of inductive reasoning, to go abroad into the world and explore the mysteries of nature, the mind of man, trammelled by fancies and conceits, endeavored by a vain philosophy order and connexion extends likewise to our moral being, whose judicious cultivation is essential to the complete symmetry & perfection of the whole plan of creation .-I call, says Milton, a complete and gener ous education, that which fits a man to perform justly, skilfully and magnanimously, all the offices, both public and private, of maid of nature, and man, fashioned in the beings, will stand an "emanation of the all intolerable grievance as well as a great and looking heavenward as the body that much longer upon your attention, lest I become liable to the charge which I have resical literature does more to invigorate probated, and swell into a dessertation, that to elevate the tone of honorable ambi- There is, however, another subject closely other mental pursuit. It imparts to its deavored to call your attention, and upon of Truth and Justice.

popular education. It must be apparent to the most superficial observer, that the entire Southern Country is deplorably deficient in the means of disseminating education generally among the people. Of Colleges, we have an abundance, where those persons who have the means can be educa-

We are trying in this Country an extra-

ucation, to exercise these delicate and important trusts? Lycurgus, the wisest of lawyers, when he undertook the reformation of the morals of Sparta, laid the foundation of his system in the education of every citizen who might by any possibility, The simplest husbandman prepares his I cannot for a moment suppose that the apathy which exists in the South, upon this vitally important subject, arises from that cold and selfish philosophy which doubts general education would give to the comlations, the possession of a gifted few, merelordly palace. The neglect of general education, which prevails in the South, is not only a reproach to our legislation, but a gross abandenment of those principles of equality, we so strenuously profess; for it is a ridiculous mockery to talk of an equality between ignorance and knowledge.penetrated by the angry disputes engen-Be not discouraged by any difficul- dered by the evanescent and frivolous polities; and do not for a moment permit tical topics of the hour, it is melancholy to I allude to that propensity among yourselves to doubt whether our age reflect that those subjects vitally essential North Carolina has laboured under peculiar disadvantages upon this subject. The Revolution found her just issuing from a recent internal contest, like wise bleeding from the privations and sufferings of an Indian war, maintained nearly single handed by a sparse population, with exhausted resources; she yet went heroically through that severe struggle without a murmur.

At the close of the war of the Revolution, she, with other Southern States, with a liberality unequalled in history, surrendered to the General Government not only the most profitable sources of revenue, but an immense Western domain, for which she had so dearly paid. Sheared thus voluntarily of her strength, she has been left friendless and unaided, to struggle with exhausted resources. Happily, by great industry and economy, contending with extreme difficulties, she has come out from the crucible of the Revolution, with her honour untouched; and she can now perceive a brighter future through the dreary past. You, Gentlemen, blessed with all the advantages of education, are about going forth into the world, many of you, doubtless, to occupy stations in life, where your example and your exertions may exercise vast influence upon your countrymen. Do not forget that to your residence here; to the sources of knowledge which have been here amply displayed before you, must be attributed the larger part of all your future success and happiness in life. Seek, then, to render these blessings universal; labour to bestow upon your less fortunate fellow-citizens the advantages you have enjoyed.

Wherever the cause of literature and education is involved, be found their firm friends their steady and unyielding advocates; and rest assured, in doing so, you will do more to advance the cause of virtuous freedom, and to benefit your country, than by ages of barren and idle declamation about liberand equality:

For Earth 18 sick, And Heaven is weary of the hellow sounds