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A Brief Summary of Facts Concerning Mayo and His College

James Marcus Bledsoe

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Easter Greetings

1938

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A BRIEF SUMMARY

OF

FACTS CONCERNING

Mayo and His College

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By J. M. BLEDSOE

Commerce, Texas

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A BRIEF SUMMARY OF FACTS
PERTAINING TO
WILLIAM LEONIDAS MAYO
AND
THE EAST TEXAS NORMAL
COLLEGE

Established At
Cooper, Texas, September 2, 1889

Re-established At
Commerce, Texas, September 3, 1894

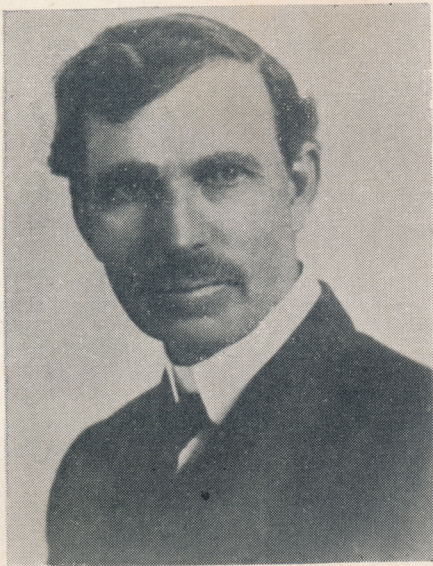
Years: 1889-1917 Inclusive (28 Years)

By JAMES MARCUS BLEDSOE
Professor of Mathematics

EAST TEXAS STATE TEACHERS
COLLEGE

Commerce, Hunt County, Texas

Opened as a State Institution
Tuesday Morning
October 16, 1917



PRESIDENT W. L. MAYO
Founder of
THE EAST TEXAS NORMAL COLLEGE

COLLEGE MOTTO

CEASELESS INDUSTRY,
FEARLESS INVESTIGATION,
UNFETTERED THOUGHT.

A FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

*"Seest thou a man diligent
in his business? he shall
stand before kings; he shall
not stand before mean men."*

HAPPY GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

Easter Sunday, April 17, 1938

Dear Friend and Fellow-Alumnus:

Let me send to you Happy Greetings of the Season in the form of fond memories of the past, and remind you of our sacred obligation to assist in helping to preserve and to transmit to future generations the inspiration and wisdom bequeathed to us by our common friend and benefactor, W. L. Mayo.

Since the death of President Mayo at 3:30 P. M., Wednesday, March 14, 1917, I have been constantly on the alert in trying to locate and to collect as completely as possible all the facts, stories, pictures, and printed materials of every kind, such as catalogues, College Journals, Normal Guides, various forms of inspirational and advertising materials, personal letters, testimonials, memoirs of former students, graduates, and friends of the institution, with the hope that some time a fairly complete history of Mayo and his college might be written which would form not only a distinct, but an important link in the history of education in the South, and especially in Texas.

If you have any materials such as I have just suggested which might help to make this history more complete, accurate, and authentic, I should be very glad to borrow them long enough to make typewritten copies. I am especially anxious to secure copies of some of the later catalogues, Normal Guides, and College Journals. After typewritten copies have been made, I shall return the original materials to you at your request, or deposit them in the College Museum to your credit.

In this little folder, my Greetings to you for Easter Sunday, 1938, I have attempted briefly to summarize only a few facts which will be included, but in much more extended and complete form, in The History of Mayo and The East Texas Normal College. Much of the manuscript has been prepared during the few leisure hours that I have found possible to utilize for that purpose. I mention only a few chapter titles as follows: Biographical Sketch of President Mayo, The Beginnings of the College, The Campus and Its Buildings, Disastrous Fires, Curricula of the College (including a complete copy of the first catalogue issued at Cooper, Texas), Complete Minutes of the Alumna Association (1890 to 1917, inclusive), Literary Societies of the College, Memoirs of Alumni and Friends, Chapel Incidents, Transfer of the College to the State, etc.

It is my purpose to compile just as full, complete, accurate, and authentic a history as possible, largely from original documents. Since completing the undertaking of collecting and accumulating approximately \$4,000. in cash for the purchase and erection of the beautiful and enduring monument which now marks the last and favorite resting place of the founder of this great private college, it is now my desire to complete this other task. When completed in manuscript form, I hope to see it published; however, such an undertaking will involve a larger financial outlay than one individual can afford to assume, as there will be sufficient materials for two or three volumes of 500 pages each. Nothing could please me more than to see sufficient interest aroused among the former students, graduates, and friends of Mayo and the college, to make possible the publication of such a work.

*With every good wish to you and yours, I am
Sincerely your friend,*

J. M. BLEDSOE.

WILLIAM LEONIDAS MAYO
AND
THE EAST TEXAS NORMAL
COLLEGE,

By J. M. BLEDSOE

Biographical and Historical

On Tuesday, November 3, 1863, William Leonidas Mayo was born in the little village of Prestonburg, Kentucky; died at Commerce, Texas, 3:30 P. M., Wednesday, March 14, 1917.

He spent his early boyhood years and attended the common schools in the community of his birth. Later, he attended Central Normal College, Danville, Indiana, and was graduated from that institution in early manhood.

Coming to Texas in the early spring of 1887, he landed in Pecan Gap, Delta County. He went to work immediately, and after helping to lay by the crops, he taught a subscription school during the summer months. Making good in his summer school, he was employed to teach the public session for the following year, and with Dr. J. L. Allred as his first assistant, taught the Pecan Gap school for the following two years.

His success was so marked that his reputation spread to the surrounding communities; so the school board of Cooper, Delta County, employed him as superintendent of the Cooper public schools, and he began his first session at Cooper on Monday morning, September 2, 1889.

With the larger opportunity and the widespread demand for college work offered by the Cooper and surrounding territory, he established The East Texas Normal College in connection with the Cooper public schools, having purchased the public school property in July, 1889. The college was chartered and its first session opened in September of the same year.

Establishment of the College

The college department grew rapidly in numbers and in reputation from the beginning, and during the five years of its history in Cooper the foundations were laid for the greatest private college in the South. Notwithstanding its wonderful growth and influence, and the encouraging prospect of expansion and development, during the early spring of 1894 the college building and most of the library and equipment were destroyed by the first disastrous fire of the institution.

There being no railroad at Cooper then, and the further fact that the citizens of Commerce, Texas, made Mayo an offer of ten (10) acres of land and about \$10,000.00 in cash for the erection of the first college building, he decided to re-locate The East Texas Normal College in Commerce. He married Miss Etta Booth of Cooper in 1893, the talented and well educated musician, daughter of the Rev. H. C. Booth of the Christian Church.

Commerce was a small town of 1,200 to 1,500 population when the college opened. There were more saloons in the town at that time than grocery and dry goods stores combined. Many interesting incidents of that early period will be contained in the complete history. People of today who say that more liquor is sold and consumed in Commerce now than when we had open saloons indicate either their ignorance or an effort to mislead the ignorant.

Exactly at eight o'clock on Monday morning, September 3, 1894, The East Texas Normal College was re-opened in Commerce, Texas. The writer of this brief summary was one of about thirty-five (35) students to enroll for work the first session of the institution in Commerce. The incident is as vivid in my memory as though it had happened yesterday.

(6)

The new college building, first on the campus, was not finished until January 1, 1895, so the college was opened and classes were conducted in one of the brick business buildings until after Christmas of the first year. The building was located just east of the present First National Bank building, on the ground now occupied by the R. P. Pratt Grocery Store. Incidentally, it might be mentioned that the First National Bank is the only business institution, except the post-office, now operating which existed at the time of the opening of the college, September 3, 1894, forty-four years ago the coming September 3, 1938.

Growth of the College

From an original enrollment of about thirty-five (35) students the first day, with only two teachers, President Mayo and his wife, the college had a most remarkable growth as indicated by the following figures showing total enrollments for the twenty-three (23) years of the history of The East Texas Normal College in Commerce:

College Year	Long Session	Summer Session	Yearly Totals
1894-'95	88	....	88
1895-'96	132	92	223
1896-'97	151	....	151
1897-'98	212	128	340
1898-'99	255	....	255
1899-'00	296	142	438
1900-'01	324	....	324
1901-'02	373	184	557
1902-'03	410	....	410
1903-'04	472	241	713
1904-'05	542	268	810
1905-'06	638	370	1,008
1906-'07	782	401	1,083
1907-'08	874	805	1,779
1908-'09	1,150	911	2,061
1909-'10	1,380	1,165	2,545
1910-'11	1,432	1,020	2,452
1911-'12	1,328	1,018	2,346
1912-'13	1,486	1,124	2,610
1913-'14	1,518	1,232	2,750
1914-'15	1,586	1,364	2,950
1915-'16	1,598	1,457	3,055
1916-'17(?)	1,350	1,050(?)	2,400(?)

(7)

The above enrollment figures were compiled by President Mayo himself, with the exception of the last named items for the year 1916-1917, and formed a part of the permanent and published records of the college.

As will be noted, the summer enrollments are shown for alternate years only for the first ten years of the college. Most of the teachers' certificates during those years were secured by taking state examinations. Summer normals were authorized by the State Department of Education, and the college was granted permission to hold summer normals once every two years during the first ten years of its history, or until the year 1904 and thereafter.

The enrollment figures for the year 1916-'17 are very conservative estimates of the attendance for that year, as President Mayo died on March 14, 1917, a few months before the close of the long session and the beginning of the summer session. The rolls were always made up and completed by the president himself, the total enrollment for the year being determined by the number of separate names, both for the long and summer sessions, i. e., no names for the summer session were repeated of those who were in attendance during the long session.

As a matter of fact, the actual attendance during the summer sessions was often much larger than the enrollment figures above indicate. One instance may be cited. During the summer session of the year 1909, the Hon. F. M. Bralley of the State Department of Education at Austin, visited the school and delivered an address. He expressed himself as anxious to know the number in attendance. After a careful check on the number, it was found that more than 1,500 were enrolled, while the summer enrollment compiled by President Mayo shows 911.

The total numbers in attendance during several different summers reached 1,700 or above. It is a fact that the summer school enrollments during the last ten (10) years of Mayo's life exceeded the enrollments in any other Texas college, the University of Texas not excepted.

The following table of figures also shows unmistakable proof of the growth and service of The East Texas Normal College in comparison with other institutions at the time:

SUMMER NORMAL RECORDS—TEN YEARS

Number of Applicants for Teachers' Certificates

Year	Canyon	Commerce	Denton	Huntsville	San Marcos
1907	....	201	190	49	67
1908	....	448	199	53	95
1909	....	611	241	78	135
1910	....	896	231	66	165
1911	316	844	667	197	215
1912	330	612	397	137	311
1913	481	700	445	202	447
1914	336	693	563	214	273
1915	352	982	716	319	502
1916	453	864	865	325	446
TOTALS					
10 years	2,268	6,851	4,514	1,140	2,656

IN COUNTY EXAMINATIONS

June, 1915	160
April, 1916	105
June, 1916	207
September, 1916	62
December, 1916	77

The above Summer Normal and County Examination figures were on file in the State Department of Education at Austin, and were carefully compiled and checked by Mr. E. G. Grafton and myself who were working in the Department at the time when the Bill for converting The East Texas Normal College into a state institution was pending. These figures were used during all the long and laborious fight to persuade the Legislature to pass the Bill. There was stubborn opposition during all the way from beginning to end, even from many people who should have been our faithful and loyal friends.

No argument was ever offered to the Legislature in behalf of the Bill except that of actual merit,—twenty-eight (28) years of service without cost to the State in the training of more teachers than any other single institution, and in helping to educate more than thirty thousand (30,000) of her young men and women. Never would there have been any East Texas State Teachers College in Commerce, Texas, without this rich and convincing background of abundant and unselfish service of this great private college.

Faculty Members

The faculty for the first year of the college, 1894-1895, consisted of the following members: President W. L. Mayo and Mrs. Etta Booth Mayo, his wife, were the only two members of the faculty at the time of opening and during the first few weeks. After the first week or so, President Mayo's brother, Dr. M. J. Mayo, now of Harris Teachers College, St. Louis, Missouri, came, and in the spring of 1895, Professor L. G. Allen was added after he had closed his school at Windom, Fannin County, Texas. Following is a partial list of names of people who served as members of the faculty of The East Texas Normal College during the twenty-eight (28) years of its history, 1889-1917 inclusive:

- PRESIDENT WILLIAM LEONIDAS MAYO, who founded the college.
- DR. MARION J. MAYO, who was more nearly a specialist in all departments of the college than any other person who ever served, now Professor of Education, Harris Teachers College, St. Louis, Mo.
- MRS. ETTA BOOTH MAYO, the President's wife, head of Music Department, now deceased.
- PROFESSOR E. L. EGGER, later served for several years as minister and Presiding Elder of the Methodist Church, now deceased.
- PROFESSOR S. H. PICKENS, later in business in Cooper and Paris, deceased.
- PROFESSOR L. G. ALLEN, taught several years in public schools, six years member of E. T. N. C. faculty, head of Mathematics Department, West Texas State Teachers College from its beginning in September, 1910, now Emeritus Professor and Dean of that institution.

- JUDGE J. F. HOLMES, lawyer and County Judge, Delta County.
- PROFESSOR C. L. HAYLES, Pen Art Department at Cooper, Texas.
- PROFESSOR A. D. AYDELOT, History and Philosophy, Cooper, Texas.
- PROFESSOR D. E. SLOUGH, Librarian at Cooper, Texas.
- PROFESSOR J. H. HICKS, Natural Sciences, now a leading physician in East Texas.
- PROFESSOR H. E. ELHUFF, Sciences and History, deceased.
- DR. J. ANDREW DRUSHEL, Business Administration and Foreign Languages, now Professor of Education, New York University.
- DR. B. L. PHIPPS, Philosophy and Literature, later taught in Women's College of Oklahoma.
- PROFESSOR W. ALBERT THOMAS, Foreign Languages and Literature, now Collector Internal Revenue, Dallas, Texas.
- PROFESSOR M. LEE MOORE, Business Administration, later entered business in Corsicana, Texas.
- PROFESSOR J. A. THOMAS, Ancient Languages and Education, later County Superintendent, Hunt County, deceased.
- PROFESSOR OTHO FOWLER, Natural Sciences, Greek and Latin.
- PROFESSOR E. P. DOWNING, Literature and Modern Languages, now teaching in Oklahoma.
- PROFESSOR R. N. SMITH, History and Government, later entered business in Commerce, Texas.
- PROFESSOR E. P. MANGUM, Literature and Education, later a member of the Legislature, now a business man in Greenville, Texas.
- PROFESSOR H. P. EASTMAN, English Grammar and Literature, later served as Superintendent of Woodville Public Schools, deceased.
- DR. J. W. BOWLUS, the Natural Sciences and public lecturer.
- MRS. E. G. BURROUGHS, Primary Specialist, deceased.
- PROFESSOR C. M. WRIGHT, Pen Art Department.
- DR. E. M. CLARK, Advanced Mathematics, now Professor of English in The University of Texas.
- DR. D. L. CLARK, History and English, now Professor of English in The University of Texas.
- DR. WILLIAM E. TWENHOFEL, Sciences and Mathematics, now head of the Department of Geology, The University of Wisconsin.
- DR. W. E. BOYD, Natural Sciences, now Government Geological Survey Service.
- PROFESSOR SETH E. GREEN, English and Latin, now Texas representative of The John C. Winston Publishing Company.
- PROFESSOR WILLIAM B. STONE, Social Sciences and Latin, now head of the Social Science Department, E. T. S. T. C.
- PROFESSOR A. M. SAWYER, head of the Department of Natural Sciences.

PROFESSOR A. H. COWLING, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, now Professor of Mathematics, E. T. S. T. C.

PROFESSOR E. M. GEORGE, the Department of Foreign Languages.

PROFESSOR B. H. MILLER, Education and Literature, later Superintendent of Public Schools, Eagle Pass, Texas, from 1917 to the time of his death in 1936.

PROFESSOR C. M. LUTZ, Natural Sciences, now head of the Department of Chemistry, E. T. S. T. C.

PROFESSOR JAMES M. BLEDSOE, History and English, now head of the Department of Mathematics, E. T. S. T. C.

PROFESSOR H. H. J. FLING, English and Education, now head of the Department of Education, E. T. S. T. C.

PROFESSOR R. M. PARKER, Department of Mathematics, later Superintendent of Public Schools, Polytechnic Heights, Fort Worth, Texas.

Buildings on the Campus

First. The main college building, a two-story wooden structure, 6 class rooms, 2 offices, 1 library room, and 1 auditorium. This building was later enlarged and made into a three-story brick veneered building, which burned in January, 1907, and was replaced by the citizens of Commerce, who were ever faithful and loyal to the financial limit of their ability, by the present main building on the same ground.

Second. A small 5-room cottage, home for the President, just west of the present old I-Hall.

Third. A three-story wooden dormitory for both men and women, including dining hall, where the present old I-Hall now stands.

Fourth. The present Main Building, a three-story brick building with substantial concrete base, containing 15 classrooms, 2 business offices, several small teachers offices, and an auditorium.

Fifth. A three-story brick veneered dormitory just across the street north from the present old I-Hall.

Sixth. A three-story brick veneered dormitory just south of the present old I-Hall, making three large 3-story brick dormitories in a row from south to north. These three dormitories, when filled to capacity, would accommodate between 650 and 700 students.

Seventh. The Old East Dormitory, a three-story wooden structure built for roomers and light house-keepers, located just north of the present Men's Dormitory; later converted into the first Demonstration School of the new East Texas State Teachers College.

Eighth. The Old Science Hall, a three-story brick building, containing two large classrooms and wide hallway on each floor, located about mid-way between the present Main Building and the new Library Building.

Ninth. The Boys' Dormitory, a three-story brick building, with rooms to accommodate 140 boys, two to the room. This building and the ground on which it stands were furnished by the ever faithful and loyal citizens of Commerce. It is doubtful if there were ever a more willing community of citizens to shoulder their

heavy load of moral and financial responsibility to the utmost limit of their ability, than was demonstrated during the dark hours of the early struggles of the man and institution in whom they had implicit confidence and undying love and admiration.

Tenth. Wooden buildings for the Agriculture and Manual Training work and store shops, located southwest of the present Education Building.

Disastrous Fires

First. The College Building, Library, and Equipment at Cooper, Texas, during the early spring of 1894.

Second. As stated above, the first Main College Building was a 2-story wooden structure. It was later enlarged and converted into a large 3-story brick veneered building. This enlarged building burned during the month of January, 1907, and was replaced by the present Main Building on the same ground, and financed by the citizens of Commerce.

Third. During the early spring of 1910, when everything was dry and a strong south wind was blowing, fire originated in the south dormitory of the three in a row, and in a very short time all three buildings and their contents lay in heaps of smoldering ruins. Congressman Hatton W. Sumners of Dallas, Texas, was delivering an address at Chapel Exercises, 8:00 to 9:00 A. M., when the fire started. He returned a few years later to see, as he said, just what Mayo would do with that heap of ruins, and was amazed beyond expression at what he saw.

The First Degree Class

During the early years of the college, the number of advanced students was small, and the number to receive degrees was quite limited. Professor Mayo had succeeded, however, in inspiring a group of young people at Cooper with the ambition to secure a college degree. Ten of these enthusiastic students followed him to Commerce, and constituted the Bachelor of Science Degree Class for the first year of the college in Commerce, Texas. The names of these ten were: Lucy Chapman (now Mrs. W. W. Sherrill), R. A. Chestnut, Fannie Crowder, G. W. Falkner, Mollie E. Lester, Montie T. Sharp, E. A. Watson, E. B. Wheat, W. A. Wilson, Hugh D. Wynn. One member of this class was expelled during the year. Mention of the incident will be made later.

Three literary societies were organized at the beginning of the college in Commerce, 1894. These three societies continued to grow in numbers and in influence during the twenty-three years of history of the college at Commerce. They attracted the attention, maintained the respect, and wielded a great influence in the development and training of the young men and women of the college. The names of these early literary societies were: *The Philomathean*, for young men of the more advanced scholastic standing; *The Lightfoot* (named for Judge Lightfoot of Paris, Texas), for lower classmen in general; *The Amothernian*, for young women. Later, *The Excelsior Society* for young men and *The Philharmonic* for young women were organized. All of these societies were active and enthusiastic, and had a great influence for good. Their annual rivalries in debate, declamations, and orations, were occasions for unusual enthusiasm in team work and friendly contests.

The Alumna Banquets were great annual occasions. Many former students returned, felt perfectly at home, and enjoyed the association and fellowship of friends and former schoolmates at these great reunions. The program of the Alumna Association consisted of two parts: The literary program which was open to the general public, and the banquet and symposium (entirely devoid of the drinking). It was the custom to elect The Alumna Speaker each year to deliver the Alumna Address the following year. At the program in the summer of 1900, the young man who is now the distinguished Majority Leader in the Congress of the United States, The Honorable Sam Rayburn, and the author of this brief summary were the nominees for Speaker. The result of the election placed upon me the responsibility of delivering the Annual Address at the next meeting in 1901. Sam delivered the address at a later meeting.

The 50-minute Chapel Service at 8:00 A. M. every school day during the entire year, was the most characteristic and influential factor of the college for the discipline and development of high ideals, and furnished not only valuable and wholesome instruction, but was fondly cherished in the heart and life of every student who came under its influence. Chapel attendance was not compulsory, but the students were there, for they felt that it would be a great loss to miss one.

Many of the greatest men and women of the nation,—educators, ministers, doctors, congressmen, musicians, artists, sculptors, editors, lawyers, poets, senators, and entertainers of every class,—delivered addresses at these chapel exercises.

Not every morning did we have some distinguished visitor; however, President Mayo and different members of the regular faculty each had his morning to conduct the devotional and speak to the student body on some important topic which he saw fit to discuss. These talks were not only inspirational and instructive for the students, but they furnished appropriate and effective occasions for the growth and development of faculty members.

Never during the entire twenty-eight years in the history of the institution, 1889-1917 inclusive, did President Mayo display any disposition or attitude of jealousy towards any member of his faculty. So unselfish and devoted was he to the cause of learning, and so magnanimous and anxious was he concerning the welfare and development of every student and instructor of the institution that he not only lent every encouragement, but deliberately planned occasions to be utilized by each faculty member or worthy student to develop and to improve the best talents within him. The atmosphere of the entire institution was such as to make it really easy and

pleasant to do right and to be an A-student, and both difficult and unpleasant as well as unpopular to do wrong, to waste time, and be a scalawag among the student body; for every one knew that decent and worthy accomplishments would receive the highest awards of commendation and approval of the college.

As mentioned above, one of the members of the First Graduating Class of the college in Commerce, was expelled. This young man and his roommate, both members of prominent East Texas families, had slipped off one Saturday night from their boarding house over to Sulphur Springs for a spree and a big time. The boys got bruised up in their rounds, so it was an easy matter to catch up with their infraction of the college rules. On the following Monday morning at Chapel Exercises, President Mayo spoke for at least two hours when he expelled these boys. It was the most powerful and impressive speech that I had ever heard up to that time; in fact, I have never heard to this good day a more impressive one.

When some noted educator or distinguished visitor spoke at Chapel, the address was reviewed at some subsequent Chapel period, usually the following morning. President Mayo would call on students to mention and discuss briefly important points of the address. Students were always encouraged and urged to bring their notebooks with them to Chapel and keep records of what took place, and points of information that they learned. It was this emphasis that caused me to form the permanent habit of keeping a diary of principal events and incidents in my life's experiences since the year 1894-'95. I have today several notebooks in my files filled with interesting happenings at these early Chapel exercises.

One morning at Chapel, about the year 1912, two very rude boys were seated in the rear of the auditorium, and were disturbing those near-

by. President Mayo stopped his lecture, pointed his finger towards the boys, and requested that they come to the front and take seats. They failed to respond promptly, so he leaped down from the rostrum, ran down the aisle, boxed their faces right and left, grabbed each one by the ear, led them down to the front, shoved both of them into seats, gave them another good boxing, and told them to sit there quietly, which they did for the remainder of the period. Prof. Mayo then returned to the rostrum, and finished his morning lecture as though nothing had happened.

The incident just related had a rather electrical effect on the crowd present, for as is usually the case, in some demonstration of rowdyish or uncalled for disturbance, the entire audience showed unmistakable approval of Mayo's action. Everything in the auditorium was as quiet as death, and every one present experienced a visible and convincing justification of the righteous indignation of the Master when He drove the gamblers and money changers from the temple with the whipcords of His uncompromising disapproval and withering denunciation. Mayo was no skeptic when confronted with any question of moral integrity; and while he was one of the most patient, tender hearted, sympathetic, and loving friends to every individual actuated by pure motives and honest intentions to do the right, yet every one knew that he would ever be found standing four-square and uncompromising for what he believed to be the right. That really was the great secret of his marvelous influence and power. He was actuated and inspired with the ideal that one in the armor of justice can chase a thousand, and two can put ten thousand to flight.

Discussion had gone on for some time as to the correct pronunciation of such words as "revolution," "evolution," "solution," "convolution," "resolution," etc., so the matter was settled once

and for all time one morning at Chapel by Prof. S. E. Green, who is one of the very best authorities on correct pronunciation. He left no doubt in any body's mind, and the dispute was completely ended, for he went into the complete history and scientific study of the principles and rules of pronunciation of the English language.

Prof. Mayo and Prof. Eastman were both grammarians, each had written a textbook in English Grammar. As is generally true with authors of textbooks, especially in English Grammar, they differed on certain technical points of the subject. One morning at Chapel, some discussion was precipitated between these two grammarians. Prof. Mayo made some remark which Prof. Eastman construed to mean that Mayo insinuated that he (Eastman) was deficient in information. This made Prof. Eastman furious, and he rather vehemently exclaimed: "Don't accuse me of being ignorant; you may accuse me of anything else in the world, even of larceny or dishonesty, but never accuse me of ignorance."

Personal Characteristics of Mayo

President Mayo was never known to be idle. He did all kinds of work,—cut weeds from the campus, mowed grass, washed dishes, cooked, served as secretary and bookkeeper and business manager all combined, used the plow and spade, supervised the dormitories, taught classes, delivered lectures, did much carpenter work on the buildings, kept up with all the details of the entire college plant, and looked after the financial burdens of the institution. The beautiful well-proportioned campus just east of the Main Building was at one time ugly and marred by a deep irregular gully. Prof. Mayo handled the scraper with his own hands to put this part of the campus in nice, smooth shape, for as he remarked to a friend while the work was in progress, so his successor would not have to labor so hard. He loved and cherished holy things. He

carried with him from Pecan Gap to Cooper, and from Cooper to Commerce the old black-board and bell which were used in his first teaching experience in Texas. These are still precious and honored relics.

Organized athletics were never introduced into the college until the later years of its life as a private institution. Notwithstanding the widespread belief that a great college cannot be developed and maintained without a winning athletic team, it is nevertheless a fact that The East Texas Normal College grew and flourished, and outstripped all other colleges of its day and section without organized athletics; and that in spite of the fact that it had absolutely no source of definite financial income for its support except from the meager tuition fees of the students (from \$3 to \$4 a month), and a very small marginal profit on the students who stayed at the dormitories (\$110 for 10 months when paid in advance).

There was absolute certainty that Prof. Mayo would never be swept off his feet by every silly fad or frill in any realm of human thought or endeavor. With him, the words "new" and "untried" were not considered symptoms of "progress." He was ever cautious when confronted with the thought of "removing the ancient landmarks," for he was inspired with an abiding faith and reverence for the ideals which had been wrought out and accumulated through the centuries of experience and wisdom of all the great and noble minds of all the past. While he was just as ready and anxious to lay aside any weak or ineffective method or device for a better one, yet he was never numbered among the spineless liberals who, without seasoned knowledge, sound judgment, or personal conviction, are ever ready to throw overboard everything regardless of its merit, and trust to chance or luck to usher in the New Millennium where it is hoped every one will bask in perennial delight, feasting at the

tables of kings, made possible by the ceaseless and inexhaustible streams of revenues from the government's coffers, with nothing to do, and never a ripple to disturb the mind in its peaceful rest and glorious satisfaction.

President Mayo believed in and vigorously emphasized the absolute necessity and importance of wholesome discipline and character building in any sound system of education. Regardless of the zealous insistence of others that new moral standards of thought and conduct should supplant those established and approved through the experience and wisdom of the ages, yet he steadfastly adhered to the uncompromising conviction that it is still wrong to lie, to steal, to murder, to commit adultery, to disobey authority, to dishonor God. Not only did he believe in these high and eternal ideals, but he proclaimed with convincing eloquence in words and in his daily life that the supreme virtues to be coveted earnestly in the development of strong and noble character for successful and worthwhile leadership and service are honesty, industry, reverence, patience, self-denial, temperance, frugality, virtue, purity, courage, persistence, fortitude, and loyalty; and insisted that these ideals are just as essential and necessary today as ever in the history of the past, and will continue so throughout all eternity as the shining diadems to bedeck the crown of every truly great and noble life.

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