

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1902.

SOME FEATURES OF AMERICAN HIGHER
EDUCATION.*

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THE first characteristic, then, of our American system of higher education is the hearty cooperation of state, church and private effort in the work of founding and developing a group of institutions which taken as a whole should supply the need of higher training. And the educational welfare of the country demands that this cooperation shall continue, at least for an indefinite time to come.

We, as a people, cannot afford to let the interest of the state, of the church, or of private individuals in higher education languish or die. It is a striking testimony to the essential oneness of the American people, to the essential soundness of our educational life that all these different institutions are working consciously toward the same ends; that the fundamental qualities of American citizenship are developed in all alike and that the ideals of all these various institutions in this respect are the same. The alert, wide-awake, conscientious, devoted lover of his country and his kind, the prudent, painstaking, truth-loving scholar is the product of all alike. Another peculiarity of American universities distinguishing them from their

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* From the inaugural address of Dr. Edmund J. James as president of Northwestern University, given on October 21, 1902.