Early Interest in Natural Resources of Mississippi

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Application of geology to the improvement of agriculture, an idea that surfaced in the state of New York shortly before 1820 (Eaton and Beck, 1820) and appeared again 18 yr later in Massachusetts (Hitchcock, 1838), arose in Mississippi in 1850 (Harper, 1857). That year, the State Legislature appropriated $3000 to the University of Mississippi to “aid in making an agricultural and geo-