city and judgment strengthen the mind and enable us to withstand the assaults of sophistry and deception. The study of Rhetoric is absolutely necessary to form taste and direct genius. The studies of Natural philosophy is perhaps the most important part in science from the magnitude of its subject and the valuable information which it imparts. Moral Philosophy, explains the nature and obligation of our duties to God and man, and amply discusses the principles of politics and jurisprudence, with which, unquestionably, every public character ought to be profoundly conversant.

I have thus concisely stated to you the principal studies of college with their evident advantages; I deem it tedious and altogether unnecessary to particularize further as in a short time they will demand your immediate consideration.

 Permit me now to call your attention to a branch of improvement unconnected with the college requisitions, and in which I flatter myself we shall concur in opinion, I mean reading. We live at a peculiarly fortunate era, for which peril the benevolence of providence has reserved us. Blerde with a republican government, where liberty and equality are the chief characteristics, all the other blessings of heaven shower down upon us with a perennial hand; one would think that the measure of our felicity was filled up. But these are not the only blessings bestowed on us; those who lived at an earlier period of the world, were necessitated to form principles and devise regulations for their public and private conduct