The nature of the study has given it a just title to the first and
most regular course of education. For it is calculated to train the
young mind and impart to it that strength which will, enable it
to plunge with the more facility into the abstruse regions of science.
If then you would be able to acquire a knowledge of Mathematic
with ease, if in short you would be called accurate
scholarly, you who are in the first class of College are ad
vised to pay diligent attention to the study of the Language.
The practical use of Arithmetic and Geography gives them
unexhaustible sanction and demands strict attention. But
the noble study of Mathematics is far from finding universal ap
preciation. Of a subject to some branches of this study that they
shall the mind into a habit of dull formality and take from
the Orator much of the force and reminiscence of natural elo-
quence, while they afford little or no assistance in any practical
business in life. But if the study of Mathematics does in many
ways restrain that wild fire in the Orator which plays upon
suspense, it undoubtedly makes more than double compensation by
introducing systematic correction in the discourse of the speaker
which gives strength to the memory and information to the judge-
ment of the audience. Also it is true that many of the alge-
braic operations and Mathematicable demonstrations will never
come into actual use as absolutely necessary to the performance
of mechanical business, or to the discharge of any professional
or official duty, yet these studies are of high importance, and are
well calculated to impart strength and discipline to the mind.
They afford mutual exercise to all the mental faculties by calling
into action at the same time the memory, the judgment and
the power of reason. Hence the great utility of the Mathematic
causes us to look to them for the growing
of the mind which enables us to reason truly, judge accurately
and decide correctly upon such subjects as fall under
our investigation. Then you who members of the Junior Class