thoughts in a proper manner—a richness and chasteness of diction, a fluency and address in delivery, and a quickness and facility in reply. And it is to be hoped that while you properly appreciate them, you will not pervert the improvement to be derived from them, by a cold and reluctant performance; but that you will use that diligence in preparation and zeal in the discharge of them, which shall create and cherish in the bosom of each one, a laudable emulation to excel. It is also to be hoped that you will act with that gravity and dignity which is due to that house—that you will refrain from indulging in that species of wit and sarcasm which has hitherto been practiced to so great an extent—that in giving and receiving corrections you will endeavour to avoid that dictatorial manner which is sometimes indulged in and exercised towards each other—a mutual forbearance and reciprocity of good feeling. It is by acting in that manner, that you will the better obtain the noble object for which you met; and instead of becoming wearied with the round of duties here, will regard the time spent in the performance of them, at the happiest and most precious hours of your college life; and your frequent meetings will serve to strengthen and brighten those sister cords of affection by which you are now so happily linked.  

Rufus W. Pickens