early or late, each composition written made the next easier.
Each speech demanded your additional polish to your mover,
each debate disguised acuteness your mind to quick perception,
clear arrangement of your thoughts, ready as well as
convincing replies to erring & sophistical arguments.

Again, gentlemen, let me urge on you the propriety of a better atten-
dance in the duties which you owe to your teaching. A general know-
ledge, at least, of the studies which you are pursuing in your cur-
rent day is absolutely necessary for your advancement. I would
strongly impress the cause at present followed. It is not neces-
sary for you to engage in the contest for distinction although it
would be gratifying - highly gratifying to our society at least equal our
pride in this particular. Mental discipline is the great end of a col-
legiate education, it makes but little difference whether this is atta-
ched by attention to your text books, or the duties of society, although
should you be obliged to neglect one of the two (and I for one do not
see the obligation) I would prefer that the lot should fall on your
text book, because from this general you obtain nothing but rigid
discipline whilst in the other instance you are pursuing yourself on
the frontier of your future life.

To a few gentlemen in this hall I would say that a better attendance
should be observed if we do not recognize the "divine right", doing as
one pleases here. In conclusion, let me entreat you more and more to
change your course of conduct & knowing yourself to be deeply in-
terested in the result of the duties devolving on you with that
which has always heretofore characterized the members of the Dial-
atic Society, or if you find them too arduous I will gladly take the
only honorable alternative, to by withdrawing check that you an