

should be favored at the expense of the modern languages and physical sciences. Merely this is meant, that the classics should not be dropped from its curriculum. It is believed there will always be found among its ingenuous youth some who will be desirous of acquiring a liberal education in the proper sense of these words, and who will seek the highest and most generous culture that can be obtained at any institution of learning. Such will wish to read, in the original, the most perfect and exquisite productions of poetry and eloquence which the world has seen, and these certainly are to be found in the literature of Greece and Rome. Let the university then furnish the amplest and best facilities for the study of the classics for all who may wish to pursue them. True there is danger that popular clamor may drive from the university, for a time, the classics. There is an increasing demand that its course of studies shall be practical: such as will fit men and women for the active duties of life; enable them to build and run railroads, and to carry on the business enterprises of the day. An answer to this utilitarian view of the object of education is at hand, but cannot be given because this digression is already too great. With no intention of disparaging the qualifications of any of the accomplished professors who are now, or who have been connected with the university, it was in my mind merely to observe that Dr. Conover seemed to me specially fitted for an instructor in the classics. In the first place he had a sort of enthusiasm for studying them. This ardor he would naturally communicate to some extent to his pupils. He took great delight in reading Greek and Roman authors, more especially the former. Of course he did not confine himself to the works in the college course, but read a great body of Greek and Latin literature besides. He informed me that he had read all of the Homeric poems. He was also quite familiar with the works of the immortal historians and dramatists of Greece. The awful ideas of fate and retributive justice which pervade the great tragedies seem to have had an irresistible charm for his mind. And so he read the ancient authors constantly, finding in them society in solitude and solace in sorrow. I can but