

mer season, he assisted his father to work his farm and mill, and in the winter months availed himself of the means of education that then lay within his reach, and trudged through the deep eastern snows to a distant school. But straightened circumstances did not allow of higher advantages then, and here we have an instance of the noble resolution possessed by the youth. The saw in his father's mill took about ten minutes to cleave a log, and Webster, having set the mill going, would spend these moments in reading. Thus the youthful sawyer laid the foundation of his future statesmanship. At fourteen he attended a somewhat advanced academy, and there commenced to study with great avidity the Latin and Greek writers and orators. It was there he made his first attempt at public speaking, making a complete failure. Timidity excitement and a conscious inability to give utterance to his feelings were no doubt the causes of his ill success. He is said to have wept bitterly over his failure, but three years after, while a student at Dartmouth, he made a different figure, and, by his oration, 4th of July, 1800, won at one step a high place as a public speaker. At eighteen, Webster graduated at Dartmouth, after a career which shows that in his classes he was resolved to hold the first place. His intentions had been to commence the study of law at once, but the need of money compelled him to teach school. Though his salary was small, he devoted a large part of it to the education of his brother, who afterwards became a distinguished lawyer. In 1804 he was able to enter the office of a Mr. Gore, in Boston, refusing the Clerkship, at a salary of fifteen hundred dollars, of the Court of which his father was a Judge. He had begun to feel his power, and though he knew that he would have to wait and hope before the reward of his profession came to him, he preferred the upward though difficult path to the profitable sinecure.

When thirty, he was sent to Congress, and there he soon