

which would be of service to him in days to come. As he reviewed his life, brief though it had been, he might apply to himself the substance of the words which were uttered a few years later by the genius of another land.

"Who breaks his birth's invidious bar,
And grasps the skirts of happy chance,
And breasts the blows of circumstance
And grapples with his evil star."

Induced possibly by his powers of oratory, Webster undertook the study of law. At that time the profession of law afforded greater opportunity for eloquence than in our day. In due time he was called to the bar, where he achieved great success. Native ability, aptitude for public speaking, and tireless application carried all before him. Perhaps his finest effort as a pleader was made in the defence of Dartmouth College, against the State Legislature. On this occasion, Webster is said to have had the case so at his command, that scarcely looking at his brief, he went on, hour after hour, with a flood of words, simple and strong, that seemed to bear his audience irresistibly along, more by reason than eloquence. Although