

terminated the struggle and gained the victory when he graduated at Dartmouth College ; and after the closing exercises and in the presence of his class-mates tore into many pieces his diploma of Bachelor of Arts, exclaiming that his industry might make him a great man but the miserable parchment never.

Webster is said to have been as quick at repartee in his youth as when in middle age he was recognized as one of the greatest of debaters. It is related that he and his brother having retired to bed became engaged in a discussion in the course of which a scuffle over the possession of a school-book occurred. During the disturbance the bed-clothes were ignited but were fortunately saved from any extensive injury. On being questioned in the morning as to the origin of the fire Daniel replied that they had been in search of light and had only found more than they wanted.

Thus far Webster's efforts had been crowned with success. He had left the wild New Hampshire farm, and having manfully fought his way had obtained an education