

beauty and force by one who cannot analyze a complex sentence, or to solve the higher problems of mathematics by one who has not mastered the elementary processes of Algebra and Geometry, is as absurd as it is futile, and as futile as it is presumptuous. Such a student is every day in the fog. He cannot see his way. He cannot understand the discussion in class, and consequently he cannot assimilate the knowledge sought to be imparted. The result is, he not only lacks the pleasure born of intellectual insight, but loses interest in study, and, discouraged by conscious failure, he is apt to drift into indolence and mental inertia. Any person thus unprepared, who by any means whatsoever, works his way into college to take the full course, makes, in most cases, a serious mistake, while the college that admits him injures the student, and compromises its own record. A standard or syllabus of matriculation in a college is supposed, except in the case of special students, to be the test of admission to its ranks. That test to be just and efficient should be, for any particular college, uniform and without any sliding scale of requirement. When the study of Latin from two to four years is required by most colleges for matriculation, the admission of students who have little or no Latin to the Latin Course of the Freshman year is open to serious question. Who will pretend that a student, however clever, can translate and construe the Odes of Horace, while ignorant of Latin forms and rules? The lament of graduates who entered college unprepared and who in consequence came out weak justifies some emphasis upon the scope and thoroughness of the preparatory course. Experience we believe has shown that the student who hoped after entrance to college to complete his unmastered matriculation studies has not been able satisfactorily so to do and at the same time to carry on his necessarily difficult college work. If, as before intimated, it is beyond his power satisfactorily to carry his regular college studies, it is surely unreasonable to expect him to compass additional matriculation work. Moreover, the student who finds it necessary to hurry into college requires his vacation to earn needed funds and will be likely to do so rather than study up back work; hence the desirability, on the part of the authorities, of avoiding any course in relation to him that may promote his failure. If pressure of circumstances necessitates absence from class work during any part of a student's career, he can afford such indulgence during his college, rather than during his preparatory course. The existence of so many well equipped County Academies and public High Schools, in addition to our own efficient Collegiate Academy, affords less excuse to our students for inadequate preparatory training than when the public Academies were so few. To admit