

Now when these Trustees their appearance first made,  
Fore whom we must pass in review,  
Over-awed by their presence, our confidence fled,  
And vanished the little we knew.

But inspired by the teacher, our courage returned,  
And bravely we sprang to our places,  
While fired by ambition our youthful hearts burned,  
And "Excelsior" was marked in our faces.

Then commenced the fierce struggle to see who would spell,  
Till all having missed should sit down,  
For to him who thus conquered 'twas known very well  
Would come prizes and fame through the town.

You will doubtless be able to call to your mind  
The match between Joel and me—  
A taller than Joel you scarcely would find,  
While I scarcely reached to his knee.

It ill becomes me to record of the two  
Which finally got the last word,  
But David, you know, great Goliath once slew,  
And from this may the fact be inferred.

And then what a shouting and stamping of feet  
Shook the walls and the ceilings and floors,  
And the boys from the house made a hasty retreat  
To give vent to their feelings out-doors.

Jake Reed caught me up in a transport of joy,  
And carried me all round the yard,  
While my school-mates declared me a brave little boy,  
And otherwise showed their regard.

Even Joel himself withheld not his praise,  
For though beaten, he still felt a pride  
That his precocious brother might one of these days  
The summit of knowledge bestride!

But a precocious child, as we very well know,  
For the fact we've observed more than once,  
On arriving at manhood is too apt to grow  
To be either a fool or a dunce.

The boys were called in, and a class to define  
Was the next ordered up on the floor,  
When we formed in a long semi-circular line,  
And the contest commenced as before.