

was graduated in course with his cousin and room-mate, Andrew P. Peabody, in 1826. In his freshman year he was instrumental in the formation of a student's club for mutual instruction and debate, called the *AKPIBOAΘFOY-MENOI*, which held its first meeting April 14, 1823, and which with the "Hermetic Society" of 1813 and the old "Speaking Club" of 1770, were merged, Nov. 15, 1825, into the "Institute of 1770," the constitution of which he drafted. On leaving college he delivered the valedictory class poem. The late Dr. Ray, writing at the time of his death, says :

"After an interval of more than thirty years, my recollection of his mental manifestations calls up some of that 'special wonder' which they excited then . . . The trait which impressed me most was his unquenchable thirst for knowledge, which sought for gratification in every field of human inquiry."

And Dr. Peabody, in the prefatory chapter contributed by him to the volume of "Memoirs, Speeches and Writings of Robert Rantoul, Jr." (Boston, 1854), has said : "His habits of study continued through life on the model on which they were formed in his college days. He studied not books but subjects. Whatever was proposed for his investigation . . . his first care was to bring together all within his reach that had any bearing on the matter in hand ; nor, till he had taken a survey of the whole, did he deem himself authorized to write or speak with any confidence as to any portion or aspect of the subject matter. We have never known a method of study so thoroughly exhaustive as his ; nor was his capacity for using large and heterogeneous masses of material inferior to his skill and industry in collecting them."

Entering the office of Hon. John Pickering of Salem,