

Syracuse, March 27, 1849.

Dear Sir

Perhaps the Undergraduates can tell you something more of Dr. Webster's mildness than you have yet heard.

When I was in College, it was the regular practice to throw things about Dr. W's lecture room, drop his minerals on the floor, &c. &c., till we fairly pitied him for his meekness. I think I have seen no other Professor bear so much from the students. Indeed it was a common story (and I have no reason to doubt it) that his classes had sometimes made him break up the exercise before the hour, and in tears. I heard this of our own class, I believe, in the Chemistry exercise of their Freshman year — and perhaps, too, of other classes. It was also reported that the Doctor had asked President Everett to excuse him from giving certain lectures, because the students treated him so.

And yet he always told us that he had never "reported" a student to the Faculty, because he wished to get along pleasantly with us! Not every professor can say as much, after 20 years' connections with the College.