

Johnson himself in an amusing dictate has referred to most of these holidays.

Certain of my scholars were recently numbering among themselves and subjecting to a reckoning first how many weeks remained of the time of their admission, then they drew the same out into days, but the days themselves they so divided into hours that by a kind of skilful computation they descended to the minutes also and the seconds and thirds of the minutes. Having done this, they subtracted from the weeks that part which is given to holiday, from the days Sundays and other holidays, from the hours the nights and those which are devoted to recuperating the body, also those afternoon hours, which although they hang in uncertainty yet are at times to be given to play. After they subtracted all these, how short did they see the time to be which must be spent in learning. As if rejoicing, one of them chanted thus from Homer, "Not for any long time now shall I be away from my dear fatherland, not unless iron chains hold me" (153v).

The boys had vacations, Sundays, and other holidays, together with the various "remedies," regular and irregular. And all these were not enough!