

But I have deeply regretted the omission, since I have been able to understand how important and valuable it would have been to know that formulary, and especially to have committed to memory the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed. The result of the omission was, I had to commit them to memory after I began to prepare for the ministry.

Before I dismiss the subject of "my schools and school-masters," to use a phrase of Hugh Miller's, I must not forget, in the interests of correct history, to tell that up to my ninth year, I never attended a school where geography (at least with maps) and grammar were taught; "the three Rs" constituted the curriculum, and the first R, so far, was all that I had learned. American books were largely used; for we had then no national ones of our own, nor for long afterwards. Webster's was our spelling-book, which displaced old English Dilworth, with his n-a, na; t-i, nati; on-nation. Something at which my "Britisher" father was furious, denouncing the tion *shuns*, in no moderate terms. The American Selections also largely displaced the noble English Reader of Lindley Murray as a reading-book. Selections to read and declaim on special occasions, from one or other of these books, constituted all the elocutionary training given, which did not leave any of us very finished elocutionists.

With the close of Castle's school, in the winter of 1817-18, at the age of nine and a half, my school-going almost wholly ended, until at the age of seventeen, I

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