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of these things, and I was informed that there was a science called arithmetic. I purchased a book of arithmetic, and I learned it. I was told there was another science called geometry; I bought the necessary books, and I learned geometry. By reading, I found that there were good books of these two sciences in Latin: I bought a dictionary, and I learned Latin. I understood also that there were good books of the same kind in French; I bought a dictionary, and I learned French. And this, my Lord, is what I have done: it seems to me that we may learn everything when we know the twenty-four letters of the alphabet."

Under the patronage of the Duke of Argyle, Stone, some years afterwards, published in London a Treatise on Mathematical Instruments, and a Mathematical Dictionary, was chosen a Fellow of the Royal Society, and became a distinguished man of science.

EDUCATION.

School days of Eminent Men in Great-Britain.

By JOHN TIMBS, F. S. A.

(Continued from our last.)

CXVIII.

HOW EDMUND STONE TAUGHT HIMSELF MATHEMATICS.

Stone was born about the year 1700; his father was gardener to the Duke of Argyle, who, walking one day in his garden, observed a Latin copy of Newton's *Principia* lying on the grass, and thinking it had been brought from his own library, called some one to carry it back to its place. Upon this, Stone, who was then in his eighteenth year, claimed the book as his own. "Yours!" replied the Duke; "do you understand geometry, Latin, and Newton?" "I know a little of them," replied the young man. The Duke was surprised; and, having a taste for the sciences, conversed with the young mathematician, and was astonished at the force, the accuracy, and the candour of his answers. "But how," said the Duke, "came you by the knowledge of all these things?" Stone replied: "A servant taught me ten years since to read. Does one need to know anything more than the twenty-four letters in order to learn everything else that one wishes?" The Duke's curiosity redoubled: he sat down on a bank, and requested a detail of the whole process by which he had become so learned.

"I first learned to read," said Stone; "the masons were then at work upon your house. I approached them one day, and observed that the architect used a rule and compasses, and that he made calculations. I inquired what might be the meaning and the use

CXIX.

JOHN WESLEY AT THE CHARTER-HOUSE AND OXFORD.

The founder of the Methodists, John Wesley, was the second, or the second who grew up to manhood, of the sons of the Rev. Samuel Wesley, of Epworth, Lincolnshire, and was born there in (O. S.) 1703. When in his sixth year, he nearly lost his life in a fire which consumed his father's parsonage; and John remembered this providential deliverance through life with the deepest gratitude. In reference to it, he had a house in flames engraved as an emblem under one of his portraits, with these words for the motto, "Is not this a brand plucked out of the burning?" Peculiar care was taken of his religious education by his mother, which, with the habitual and fervent piety of both his parents, and his own surprising preservation, at an age when he was perfectly capable of remembering all the circumstances, combined to foster in the child that disposition which afterwards developed itself with such force, and produced such important effects.

At an early age John was sent to the Charter-house, where he suffered under the tyranny which the elder boys were permitted to exercise. The boys of the higher forms were then in the practice of taking their portion of meat from the younger ones, by the law of the strongest; and during great part of the time that Wesley remained there, a small daily portion of bread was his only food. He strictly performed an injunction of his father's, that he should run round the Charter-house green three times every morning. Here, for his quietness, regularity, and application, he became a favourite with the master, Dr. Walker; and through life he retained so great a predilection for the place, that on his annual visit to London, he made it a custom to walk through the scene of his boyhood.

At the age of seventeen, Wesley proceeded to Christchurch, Oxford. He had previously acquired some knowledge of Hebrew under his brother Samuel's tuition. At college he continued his studies with all diligence, and was noticed there for his attainments, and especially for his skill in logic; no man, indeed, was