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THE OLD SCHOOLMASTER.

CHAPTER VIII.

If man's the means, the system is the end,
The former guide, the latter guidance meet ;
True destiny is his that finds at once his friend
The master and the system aggregate.

In keeping my promise with my friend the schoolmistress, as soon as we had been comfortably settled around the tea-table so liberally provided for by my sister, I seemed for the moment to be also keeping my promise with my readers, as I proceeded to give her an account of my early school-days. In the remote country district, where I was born and brought up, there were but few school advantages, and when the news came out our way that a young medical student from the city was about to open school in the village about two miles distant from our homestead, a family council, after seriously discussing the question of "ways and means," decided that I should be placed under his care. The prospect was one of adventure to me, the opening of a new era beyond the horizon of the first six years of my life, and well do I remember the day on which I set out with my mother for the village school-house, not so much from anything unusual that happened on the road which was more or