

CHAPTER III.

Early * Teaching.

WESTOVER SCHOOL, 1877.

THE junior division of this school was the next scene of her labors. It was there that the writer made her acquaintance for the first time. The manner in which her pupils acquitted themselves at the examination held at the end of the winter term made so favorable an impression that in a few remarks, which he, along with others, was called to make at the close, he took occasion to refer to her work in terms of kindly commendation, which he considered as justly deserved. Her early teaching days gave promise of the future, which promise was more than fulfilled, as all her subsequent teaching abundantly testifies. That meeting laid the foundation of a friendship that deepened and widened as the years went by. In connexion with her work in Westover the following extracts from letters to her sister may prove interesting and instructive. The first bears date March 7, 1877, and has reference to the death and burial of the pastor of her early years at Strabane :

“ Much has happened since I wrote last. Mr. McLean’s death and burial, which I never realized until I entered the church and saw before me his vacant pulpit, draped ominously in black ; saw a stranger ascend the very steps which he so often trod ; heard the church proclaimed ‘ vacant,’ and his flock likened to sheep without a shepherd. Then, indeed, I realized I would see him no more upon earth. I never before saw a case of death in which our mission is so clearly revealed as his. Just when he grew unable for the work he was called away. The fact that his last whis-