

mon use now, led me to recall some of the books which young men in the colleges and academies of New England read and about which they talked in my early years. The list as it now occurs to me is not short. The student of that time found reading enough, but most of the books that claimed his attention then are seldom opened now.

History was then a much less prominent subject of study than it has become in later years. But every student in college was expected to read at least portions of the Histories of Gibbon and Robertson, the earlier volumes of Bancroft and the volumes of Prescott. Translations from some French works were read by the more industrious student. The list of authors in Philosophy was short. Dugald Stewart was supreme in *Intellectual Philosophy*, Payley and Wayland were best known to the young as authors in *Moral Philosophy*. Though the book is seldom opened now, in those days every college student was expected to read Butler's *Analogy*. As Mr Gladstone has recently prepared a new edition of this work with elaborate notes, he must regard it as still deserving of study. In science the names were few,—Hitchcock in Geology, Fowne and Silliman in Chemistry, Olmsted in Physics, Day and Davies in Mathematics. These works are probably never taken from the shelf now, but they prepared the way for their successors.

In Literature the list was more extended. Of the early English writers Shakespeare and Milton were frequently named; but preference was given to Milton as being of a superior moral strain. Burns and Byron were read, but one felt that it was not wise to appear to be very familiar with these poets. An apt quotation from the writings of Samuel Johnson was evidence that one had passed his time in good company. The novels and poetry of Walter Scott were read and quoted by school-boys. Cooper's novels were read very generally but not so much talked about as Scott's. Irving was popular and his volumes were well worn. Festus was read and condemned. Tupper's *Proverbial Philosophy* was considered safe reading. Young's *Night Thoughts*, in spite of its artificiality, was frequently seen. The effusions of Kirke white appealed to sentimental youths. Copious extracts from Cowper and Thomson were found in the school-readers. Wordsworth was not unknown. A few professors endeavored to awaken interest in his poems, but they spoke for the most part to ears that could not hear. Longfellow of course was acknowledged, but his best works came at a later date. The witchery of Hawthorne