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WILLIAM MAYNARD'S PRIZE.

(Concluded.)

This grammar school, of which Dr. Barton was principal, was the oldest school in Bridgeboro', and enjoyed certain rights and privileges beyond those of like establishments in the town. The majority of the scholars were the children of well-to-do parents; but occasionally there were poorer boys admitted under provisions of the foundation, which afforded to the sons of freemen certain advantages by way of nominal school fees not to be had elsewhere. It happened that William Maynard was the only boy then attending the school who ranked as a foundation boy; and at no time had the position of free scholarship in Bridgeboro' Grammar School been an enviable one. The Maynard family had for many generations occupied a good position in the town, but it had fallen to decay of late years, owing to the bankruptcy of William's father, who had embarked in speculations of a uniformly disastrous character, and had died after a tedious illness, which completely drained their small resources. With the help of some friends, Mrs. Maynard was enabled to let lodgings, and, being a woman of superior qualities, she found no difficulty in keeping her apartments full. She was very anxious that her son's education should not be neglected, and the advantages to be derived from the grammar school were too valuable to be overlooked; so that, in spite of the many drawbacks, and the natural stigma of poverty which