

I WAS introduced to an acquaintance with the English Alphabet by Dame Chapman, a School-mistress of the vicinity; and as soon as I had learned to read, the Catechism of the Westminster Divines was put into my hands. This is a compendium of the Calvinistic doctrines then generally held in New-England: and this I repeated periodically to our Pastor in the Meeting-house, with other children of the Society. The peace of 1783 re-opened the Episcopal Churches; and we had for our new Incumbent, the late Reverend Nathaniel Fisher, a very able Preacher, as is sufficiently evinced by the posthumous volume of his Sermons.

AFTER attending a few preparatory Schools, in January 1782, I was admitted into Phillips' Academy at Andover. This Institution was then in high reputation, and under the care and tuition of the Reverend Eliphalet Pearson, a learned scholar, and a rigid disciplinarian.—Kind and indulgent to the industrious Student; to delinquents his look of displeasure was petrification.

ALTHOUGH Religion mingled with many of our academical exercises, hitherto I had experienced no very serious impressions of this nature. While at Andover I met with *Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress*. This was well calculated to inflame a youthful imagination like mine. *Hervey's Meditations* also fell in my way, and charmed me with their glitter of style and pious enthusiasm.

I soon afterward met with a work which has never since been out of my reach—*Young's Night Thoughts*—to the reading of which I was recommended by the advice and example of my maternal grandmother, with whom “the Poet of the Tombs” was a favourite and daily companion. The perusal of this admirable volume impressed