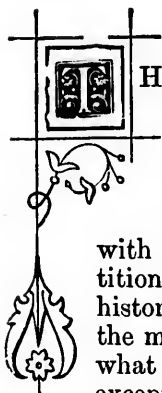




CHAPTER II.

LITERARY EDUCATION.



THE parochial school which I attended was open six days in the week, with one exception of a half-day's play on Saturday. It was opened and closed daily with prayer, not read, but free, and suitable and short. Three hours on Saturday found us occupied with class readings in the Holy Scriptures; repetitions of the Shorter Catechism, miscellaneous historical questions and appropriate advices by the master, closed with devotional exercises somewhat enlarged. Six hours each day, Saturdays excepted, were devoted to the ordinary lessons belonging to the usual arrangements of such seminaries in Scotland—English reading, orthography and recitation, arithmetic as far as the cube root, book-keeping, navigation, Latin, Greek, and, to a limited extent and on occasions only, French. In the system of those days, the chief error lay in the department of classics, where the whole of the six hours were rigidly devoted to elemen-