

ter at his hands. There is one notable example, however, of his proper use of sarcasm, as popularly regarded, which must not be omitted. An overzealous church warden had ordered the removal of a beautiful cross from the churchyard of St. Mary Redcliff, where it had been the greatest attraction for more than three hundred years. Chatterton wrote a satire upon this act of vandalism to Felix Farley's *Journal*. It is regarded as his first contribution to that paper and was written when he was in his eighth year.

Those who have accused Chatterton of the improper use of his talents at so early an age, should not forget that he deserves much praise for the good use he had also made of them before he left his native Bristol. Besides composing several poems of a high order of merit, he had made himself remarkable for his unremitting application in the acquisition of knowledge. All his spare pocket money, while attending Colton School was spent by him in the purchase of books, such as Chaucer, Spenser, Collins and others. There is no record of any poet who, at his age, had written so much. He was an author of many poems of undoubted merit, at an age which the world's other great poets had left well behind before they had written their maiden efforts.

Before he was quite fifteen years, and after he had been nearly seven years in the school of Colton Hospital, Chatterton was apprenticed as a law clerk to John Lambert, a Bristol attorney. In the lawyer's office he continued his literary efforts, using his spare time when not engaged in the routine of clerical work, in the more congenial employment to which he had devoted himself, as a writer of prose and verse. His love of mystery and secrecy did not evidently abate on his entering upon the matter-of-fact duties of a lawyer's clerk.

It was while in Mr. Lambert's office that he palmed off on a credulous public an article written by him for Felix Farley's *Journal*, as an ancient manuscript. It was signed "Dunelmus Bristolensis," the signature under which he sometimes masqueraded, and was written on the occasion of the opening for traffic of a new bridge over the Avon, the old one, which had been built in the reign of Henry II., having given way to a new structure. The writing purported to be a copied description of the Bristol Mayor's first passing over the old bridge. The identity of the copyist was soon afterwards discovered when he appeared personally in the office of the *Bristol Journal* and submitted another article for publication. It was about then that the rumor became current that Chatterton had transcribed ancient manuscripts