

CHAPTER IV.

Later * Teaching.

ABINGDON SCHOOL, 1879-82.

AFTER leaving Westover she attended the Hamilton Collegiate Institute. Here her literary taste, as yet almost unopened, blossomed into flower under Mr. T. C. L. Armstrong, then Master of Literature there. Each line of Scott's "Lady of the Lake" and Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" revealed to her a depth of meaning heretofore unknown and awakened in her soul a passionate fondness for metaphorical language and beauty of expression, which ever afterward left its impress on her teaching and characterized her writing. Often she referred to Mr. Armstrong's teaching, and said, "I have much to thank him for." In after years when she read his closing address on leaving that institution, she said, "Listen! it is like a bouquet of flowers." She read till she came to the words, "Preserve the ideals of your youth." A new thought seemed to take possession of her, and in fancy the vanished ideals of more youthful days flitted before her. The words had touched a tender vein, and with a new determination she returned to her school to engrave on the impressionable soil there the sacred duty of cherishing the pure ideals and fancies of early years.

At the close of her term at Hamilton she obtained a higher certificate, and after summer vacation attended the Normal School at Ottawa, and at the beginning of the year took charge of the school in Abingdon.

The following extracts, taken from the pen of the Rev. Mr. S. G. Harris, give an account of her work :

"The situation in Abingdon was not altogether pleasant for