

"As it was the constant practice in my father's family that one should read and the rest hear,—when the book was in a foreign language, it fell to his lot always to be the reader. Often have I listened with pleasure to hear him read the Commentaries of Cæsar from the Latin text, which he did with great facility. He became early attached to mathematics and astronomy, in which he had early made some proficiency, owing perhaps to a constant cause always operating with him—that was an entire absence of desire to engage the mind in the ordinary amusements that too often draw the mind from the matter in hand. I think it may with literal truth be said of him, that from two years of age he was never known to cry and seldom to laugh. I never saw him angry, and seldom much elated. With an even temperament he pursued whatever he undertook until it was accomplished. About the year 1790 or 1791 my father was furnished by Governor Wentworth with a complete set of the botanical works of Linnæus.

"From this time until I left home, much of the flowering season of the year was devoted to botanical studies, of which his father also was passionately fond

"From that period onwards for more than half a century I have no personal knowledge of his progress; but what may not the mind of man accomplish when the key to knowledge is obtained and the storehouse unlocked, and nature's works are placed in view of an eye that is not diverted or drawn aside by the countless trifles that beset us on every side. Titus had in early childhood lived a few years in the City of Newhaven; while in that city the most of those who visited his father's house were men of letters, and disputations on religious subjects were common.

"From this place his father removed to Long Island on the Sound, nearly opposite the city of New York, and soon after into the city. You enquire as to scenery, and the habits of those with whom his early life was passed. There is nothing remarkable in the surrounding scenery of either of the places of his early residence, neither was he made for a painter or poet.

"Matters of fact—things of real life, and not of imaginary, claimed the greatest share of his attention.

"He was always liberal, setting no very great value on wealth, except so much as was necessary to supply the ordinary wants of life. He thought but little of high birth or titles of honour; I think he only valued men by their knowledge and goodness. I regret that it is not in my power to give you more information, and you will also perceive that much that I have written is from imperfect memory. Only my dates may be wrong, but the story is near the truth. Should anything else occur to you in which I can render service, you have but to make your wishes known. Be pleased to present my kind regards to the family.

"I am, Sir, very respectfully,

"your obedient servant,

"WILLIAM SMITH."