

W.B.R. - Shortly after 1828

Reflections on Literary Subjects, Comments, Criticisms & other
Remarks, made in the Course of Disultatory Reading

I choose these papers as the depository of my occasional thoughts on literary topics - for the sake of the various pleasing & sad recollections connected with them. They formed part of an account book of my revered father used by him while a practicing Physician, and when his chief & favourite employment in the intervals of business was the instruction of James, Henry & myself. Henry was then too young to be sent to school -; at least so my father thought. ~~but~~ On this subject his views were peculiar, & ~~which~~ I have ever regarded them not only as benevolent but wise. The same anxiety ~~that~~ that led him to postpone more book instruction, to the natural development of the physical & intellectual powers in Henry's case, caused him to restrict our attendance on school, at a later period, to half days. So that with the exception of a short ^{period} during which ~~both~~ James & myself ~~had~~ the habit of walking about 2 miles to B- College to receive instructions in Latin, we never spent any of our afternoon hours in school. Henry, I am sure, was exempt during the whole of his school life from attendance in the afternoon.

It thus happened that our education was conducted in great part at home & by the daily personal attention of our kind & judicious father; and to this cause I may justly ascribe the thoroughness of our knowledge on all the subjects which we studied, & in the apparent extent of our attainments we were by no means in advance of our playmates trained in ^{the} ordinary system of school and sery, & confined to their books for the greater part of the day.

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WBR.
On his father's influence