

piece of Spartan education ; of which a townsman has told me he was strongly reminded when boarding, on one occasion, under cover of a well-sustained discharge of musketry, the vessel of an enemy that had been stranded on the shores of Berbice.

The parish schoolmaster was a scholar and an honest man, and if a boy really wished to learn, *he* certainly could teach him. He had attended the classes at Aberdeen during the same sessions as the late Dr. Mearns, and in mathematics and the languages had disputed the prize with the Doctor ; but he had failed to get on equally well in the world ; and now, in middle life, though a licentiate of the Church, he had settled down to be what he subsequently remained,—the teacher of a parish school. There were usually a few grown-up lads under his tuition,—careful sailors, that had staid ashore during the winter quarter to study navigation as a science,—or tall fellows happy in the patronage of the great, who, in the hope of being made excisemen, had come to school to be initiated in the mysteries of gauging,—or grown young men, who, on second thoughts, and somewhat late in the day, had recognized the Church as their proper vocation ; and these used to speak of the master's acquirements and teaching ability in the very highest terms. He himself, too, could appeal to the fact that no teacher in the north had ever sent more students to college, and that his better scholars almost always got on well in life. But then, on the other hand, the pupils who wished to do nothing,—a description of individuals that comprised fully two-thirds of all the younger ones,—were not required to do much more than they wished ; and parents and guardians were loud in their complaints that he was no suitable schoolmaster for them ; though the boys themselves usually thought him quite suitable enough.

He was in the habit of advising the parents or relations of those he deemed his clever lads, to give them a classical education ; and meeting one day with Uncle James, he urged that I should be put on Latin. I was a great reader, he said ; and he found that when I missed a word in my English tasks, I