

the art; and he afterwards (as he himself informed me) eagerly copied such prints as he met with among his father's books, particularly those which were given in the translation of Plutarch's Lives, published by Dryden. But his principal fund of imitation was Jacob Cats' book of Emblems, which his great grandmother by the father's side, a Dutch woman, had brought with her from Holland.—When he was but eight years old, he read with great avidity and pleasure *THE JESUIT'S PERSPECTIVE*, a book which happened to lie on the window-seat of his father's parlour; and made himself so completely master of it, that he never afterwards had occasion to study any other treatise on that subject.⁵ He then attempted to draw the School at Plympton, a building elevated on stone pillars; and he did it so well, that his father said, “Now this exemplifies what the author of the ‘Perspective’ asserts in his Preface,—that, by observing

⁵ From himself in 1786.