



Sir Humphry Davy as a Child Displaying Some of His Devices to Show the Properties of Light to a Young Admirer.

at the Grammar-School in Penzance, under the Rev. J. C. Coryton; and whilst his father resided at Varfell, he lived with Mr. Tonkin, except during the holidays, which he always spent with his parents.

“. . . From Penzance school he went to Truro, in the year 1793, and finished his education under the Rev. Dr. Cardew, a gentleman who is distinguished by the number of eminent scholars with which he has graced his country.

“That he was quick and industrious in his school exercises, may be inferred from an anecdote related by his sister, that ‘on being removed to Truro, Dr. Cardew found him very deficient in the qualifications for the class of his age, but on observing his aptitude for learning, he did not place him in a lower form, telling him that by industry and attention he trusted he might be entitled to keep the place assigned to him; which,’ his sister

says, ‘he did, to the entire satisfaction of his master.’

“In 1794, Mr. Davy died. . . . In the year following the decease of her husband, Mrs. Davy, who had again taken up her residence in Penzance, apprenticed her son, by the advice of her long-valued friend, Mr. Tonkin, to Mr. John Bingham Borlase, at that time a surgeon and apothecary, but who afterwards obtained a diploma, and became an eminent physician at Penzance. Davy, however, for the most part continued to pursue his own plans of study; for although his friend Mr. Tonkin, without doubt, intended him for a general practitioner in his native town, yet he himself always looked forward to graduation at Edinburgh, as a preliminary measure to his practising in the higher walk of his profession. . . .

“While with Mr. Borlase, it was his