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## AMBITIOUS GIRLS.

SOME GREAT WOMEN WHO WERE PRECOCIOUS CHILDREN.

Some Notable Examples Which Go to Prove That Ability Is Apt to Reveal Itself as Early With Girls as With Boys-Some of Them Had to Struggle.

"I wonder if most famous women were as ambitions and gave signs of future greatness A their early youth as famous men?" asked a thoughtful looking girl, dropping her book, "The Lives of the Great Musicians," in which with delight she had been reading of the boy Mozart.

"Most great women have been precocious," answered her aunt, whose busy brain possessed the charming faculty of storing up all manner of interesting information against a rain of questions from her clever niece. "Let us go back to that sweetest character in English history, Lady Jane Grey, and we will find she was only 13 years old at The Tribune office, when that learned scholar and fine gentleman, Roger Ascham, found her reading Plato's 'Phædon' in the original Greek while the rest of the family were off on a hunting party. But it was not with a knowledge of Greek little Lady Jane was satisfied. She spoke French, Latin and Italian fluently, writing them also, and translated easily from Hebrew, Chaldee and Arabic. When her father took her to court, they found with astonishment that this demure country bred girl was a far finer scholar than young Edward VI, then a clever boy under the first tutors in England. Yet with all her knowledge of literature and languages Lady Jane embroidered charmingly, sang to several instruments that she played very well, danced and wrote easily and gracefully.

"Felicia Hemans published her first collection of poems when she was only

"Angelica Kaufman, the beautiful woman and gifted artist, who painted the portraits of royalties, when only 11 used her brush far better than her father, who was an artist by profession. "Mme. Roland never remembered when she learned to read, for at 4 years of age she was greedily perusing any books that came to her hand. Dancing and music she readily acquired, but geography and Latin were her favorite studies. As a girl of 7 she would eagerly rise at 5 o'clock in the morning to get to her books, and so dearly did she love reading she carried her volume of 'Plutarch's Lives' to church when she was 11 years old and secretly read it during the long prayers. "There is not a more touching story of a child's quick mind starved of its proper food than Caroline Herschel. Her mother was a stupid woman, who kept her daughter purposely so busy about household work she could neither study nor practice on her violin she dearly loved and in which her father wished to instruct her. It was with an aching heart and tearful eyes Caroline plied her needle, while her father and his sons held their little family concerts in which the girl longed to join. She begged to be allowed to study French with her brother, and dancing also, but this her mother forbade, though her gentle, clever father was anxious his Caroline should have a good education. It was not until later in life, when her beloved brother William, the great astronomer, sent for her to join him in England, she had any opportunity to exercise her fine mind. "Mary Somerville says that as a little girl she had a very bad memory, and at 10 years of age was sent to a boarding school, where the chief lesson for each day was a page of Johnson's Dictionary committed to memory. She never excelled at school, and yet at home no one sympathized a little later with her desire to study Latin except an uncle, who gave her some valuable instruction. She was very much interested in two celestial globes the village schoolmaster taught her to use, and yet, on the whole, she was rather in awe of the big constellations, whose brightness reminded her of lightning, of which she was desperately afraid. At length she persuaded her brother's tutor to buy her an algebra and Euclid, which she studied at night until her mother, in horror at the idea of a girl wasting time on studies meant for boys, deprived her of a candle to read by, and her father feared she might go crazy. It was long after that she really found the courage and sympathy to take up her great studies in earnest. "It was as a pianist George Eliot was noted at her school, and with the most amazing ease she acquired languages, yet as a very little girl she showed no great promise, much preferring a romp with her brother to her books. "Fannie Burney, who is also known as Mme. d'Arblay, published her first and cleverest novel when she was only 15, and yet she was 8 years old before learning her alphabet and scarcely received any regular education at all. "Rachol, you must remember, was a girl just turned into her teens when she borrowed a volume of Racine from a Jewish peddler in old clothes. On reading the great French tragedies she demided to become an actress, and this poor, pretty little Jewess, the youngest of seven children, who had begun life as a street singer, on her second appearance on the French stage was greeted as a great genius. So, you see, my dear,

ability is apt to reveal itself as early with

# What is



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