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GREAT INVENTORS.

CHAPTER I.

WILLIAM CAXTON AND THE ART OF PRINTING.

By the invention of the Art of Printing, the grandest and most influential which was ever conceived by the human intellect and matured by diligence and ingenuity, the world was revolutionized.

In the early ages of mankind the teacher was compelled to get his scholars within the sound of his voice; the poet had to chant his own songs; the romancist to tell his own stories; else very little education and very little mental enjoyment could be had. Books were few, and consequently expensive, and very few people knew how to read. William the Conqueror could not write his own name, and the priests very often had to learn the Church Service by heart as they could not decipher their Prayer-books. To a layman, an old writer tells us, it mattered not whether

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