

**THE PASTIME OF
LEARNING,
WITH SKETCHES
OF RURAL SCENES**

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The pastime of learning, with sketches of rural scenes by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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WITH
SKETCHES OF RURAL SCENES.

"I love the society of children. I love to mark the germs of affection rising into character; the young idea putting forth its shoots; and the embryos of a thousand nameless feelings unfolding themselves to view."

Boston:
COTTONS AND BARNARD,
184 WASHINGTON STREET.
1831.

District of Massachusetts, to wit:

DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE.

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the twenty-fifth day of December, A. D. 1830, in the fifty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America, COTTONS & BARNARD, of the said District, have deposited in this Office the title of a book the right whereof they claim as Proprietors, in the words following, to wit:—

“The Pastime of Learning, with Sketches of Rural Scenes. I love the society of children. I love to mark the germs of affection rising into character; the young idea putting forth its shoots; and the embryos of a thousand nameless feelings unfolding themselves to view.”

In Conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled “An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of such Copies, during the times therein mentioned;” and also to an Act entitled “An Act supplementary to an Act, entitled, An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books to the Authors and Proprietors of such Copies during the times therein mentioned; and extending the benefits thereof to the Arts of Designing, Engraving and Etching Historical and other Prints.”

JOHN W. DAVIS,
Clerk of the District of Massachusetts.

PREFACE.

THE following pages are designed to impart, in a simple manner, and by familiar conversation, some preliminary knowledge upon Botany ; a subject regarded by many as beyond the capacity of the youthful mind, or not sufficiently interesting—and unimportant as a branch of female education.

Of the fallacy of these sentiments I am fully convinced, as far as observation has afforded me an opportunity of judging,—having seldom known children unwilling to relinquish less intellectual sports for a walk to collect specimens of this nature, with a view to the pleasure of investigating them.

The UTILITY of this pursuit will not be doubted, when it is considered that everything which tends to fix the attention expands the mind ; and that as the Physical powers are invigorated by a pleasant ramble, the Intellectual are strengthened, and the taste improved and elevated to a perception of the Beauties of Nature, which may ultimately lead to the most important of all pursuits—the Knowledge, Love and Reverence of their DIVINE CREATOR.

THE
PASTIME OF LEARNING.

CHAPTER I.

"They will not blush, who have a parent's heart,
To take in youthful play a youthful part."

"MOTHER," said Caroline, as she entered Mrs. G.'s apartment, "we are all in readiness for our Botanical Excursion."

"I am pleased at your being so punctual to the hour," returned Mrs. G. ; "but may I be assured that you were correct in your exercises to-day?"

"Yes, mother, I rose an hour earlier than usual this morning, that I might finish my studies and recitations in season for our walk,

with a view to commencing the study of Botany this evening. Sister Anne said that as I was so correct with my lessons, and as there was sufficient time, she would then give me a little instruction."

"Of course you will not be at a loss for an answer, I hope, when your father again questions you upon your studies."

"I think," said Caroline, "I should have answered more readily last evening, had I not staid so late, and laughed and talked so much with Mary and Ellen Neville, that put everything I had learned out of my head."

"Perhaps," said Mrs. G., "you so much anticipated the visit, as to direct your thoughts more to that than to your studies. This divided your attention; and though it might not have prevented your gaining sufficient knowledge of the subject for recitation at the moment, rendered it too superficial for your memory to retain.—Where is Anne, that she is not here to walk with us? She

is always so punctual she may with propriety be called clock-work."

Emma just then entered, saying "Anne wished her mother to excuse her detaining them, as a friend of hers had sent some greenhouse plants, with the request that she would write their names and—something else, but I do not recollect what it was."

"The classes and orders, I suppose," said Caroline.

"Oh yes, those were the words; what did she mean, mother? I wish I could know everything."

"With patience and perseverance, my dear child, you will acquire, I trust, much useful knowledge. It is a good omen in one of your age to feel a desire to be taught. To explain to you the meaning of classes and orders, I must ask if you recollect the China asters that grew in our garden last summer."

"Those large flowers, some blue and some pink, that the frost killed?"

"It is to those I allude," replied Mrs.