

**THE PARENT'S CABINET
OF AMUSEMENT AND
INSTRUCTION**

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The Parent's Cabinet of Amusement and Instruction by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

**THE PARENT'S CABINET
OF AMUSEMENT AND
INSTRUCTION**



THE
PARENTS' CABINET
OF
AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION.

A NEW EDITION.

LONDON:
SMITH, ELDER AND CO., 65, CORNHILL.

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1859.

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THE PARENTS' CABINET

OF

AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION.

DAVID THE TRAPPER.

ALTHOUGH the sun had but just risen, the larger part of the inhabitants of the little town of F—, upon the Missouri, were already stirring, and preparing for the labours of the day. On every side might be seen workmen with their tools on their shoulders going to their labour; shopkeepers opening their shops, and women cleaning their houses, and sweeping the door-steps.

In the midst of this busy scene, two youths of about eighteen years of age, were standing at the end of the principal street. The tallest was leaning against the wall of a house, with his hands in his pockets, and yawning every other minute in the face of his companion. His ragged and dirty clothes, and slovenly appearance, his uncombed hair and lounging gait, marked him a young man of idle and bad

THE PARENTS' CABINET.

habits. His companion, by name David, was smaller in size, but robust and active. He was dressed in the complete costume of a trapper, and wore a green jacket, long leather gaiters, a brown blanket for a cloak, and had his gun slung at his back. He had just joined a band of beaver-hunters, and was to meet them this very day a little way off, at Fort Osage, upon the Konga, for a journey to the Rocky Mountains.

Along the various streams which flow into the Missouri and Columbia rivers, an immense number of beavers are found; and many hundreds of Redskins and Europeans are employed in collecting the skins as an article of commerce. These hunters are known by the name of Trappers, because of the traps and snares with which they take the beavers. Large parties start every year from one of the frontier States, under the command of a captain appointed by the Fur Company, and cross the vast prairies beyond the Rocky Mountains. It was in one of these troops of adventurers that young David had engaged himself, to the great astonishment of his friend and neighbour, Jonathan. David had tried to persuade Jonathan to accompany him, and quit the idle life he led; but he refused, and only replied by looking stupidly at David, and saying:—

“Then you are really going to run the risks of this savage life?”

DAVID THE TRAPPER.

"Yes, really going," replied David. "The Fur Company offers me more advantages than I can find elsewhere. When I return, after the hunting season is over, if my conduct is reported good, I shall have a small place, as clerk, that will keep me till either the next season, or till I find something better. It is quite time that I began in earnest to get a livelihood."

"Why? cannot you live quietly with your mother?" said Jonathan.

David shook his head. "My mother," said he, "has brought me up, and paid for my food, clothing, and education. It is only right that I should work while I am young and strong, and help to give her some of the comforts an old age will want. Would it not be a shame for a lad of my age to live at the cost of a woman whose hair is already becoming grey?"

Jonathan shrugged his shoulders.

"Ah!" said he, "you may do as you please; but while my aunt has enough for two, she may feed me as long as she likes. I shall not prevent her. One must be mad, David, to leave a good woman who cooks for you, and saves you all sorts of trouble, to go and expose one's self to all the miseries of the life of a trapper. You will have to boil your own soup, and sew on your own buttons, my lad; and, moreover, have no soup to boil." And he uttered a coarse loud laugh as he spoke.

"That is to say," replied David, quietly, "that in