

**SET ABOUT IT AT  
ONCE; OR, COUSIN  
KATE'S STORY**

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Set About It at Once; Or, Cousin Kate's Story by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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FIG. 2. 18.

SET ABOUT IT AT ONCE;

OR,

COUSIN KATE'S STORY.



EDINBURGH:

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GLASGOW: D. BRYCE.

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DUBLIN: W. CURRY JUN. & CO.

1847.

## SET ABOUT IT AT ONCE.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### HARRY'S PLAN.

"How very late papa is this forenoon," exclaimed Allen Graham, as he sat with his brothers and sisters in their father's study, waiting for his joining them, to begin the lessons of the day.

"So he is, Allen," said Mr Graham, who just then came into the room; "and what makes the matter worse, I shall be obliged to dismiss you at twelve o'clock to-day. Plenty of time, Georgie," he continued, smiling, to a quiet-looking little boy who sat near his chair,

“ plenty of time to see the little rabbits before going to your formidable dinner party.”

“ Oh papa,” said Eleanor eagerly, “ it is such a beautiful day ; and when we are to go out so early, we would like very much if you and mama would take a nice long walk with us.”

“ I would like it very much too, Eleanor ; but the only reason for my dismissing you earlier than usual, is to allow mama and me to go to M——, and be back in time for dinner. But now we must all be very busy, and get as much done as possible.”

All the children were very industrious and attentive ; and when twelve o'clock struck, and Mr Graham gave the signal to close their books, he said he was both surprised and pleased to find how much had been accomplished. Books, atlases, slates, &c. having been put in their respective places, and luncheon over, the party separated. Georgie and Lewis, who were engaged to dine that day with an old lady in the neighbourhood, ran down to the court-yard to see a young family of rabbits which their old ones had that morning presented them with. Allen



went to play on the lawn with little Gracie, the pet of the family ; while Harry paced up and down the hall, waiting for the girls to come down stairs. Never a very patient young gentleman, he was even more impatient than usual this day, because he had a grand plan in his head, and was in a great hurry to communicate it to the others. He began to knock a stick against the bannisters of the stairs, and to call to them to make haste, when a door up stairs opened, and he heard some one coming down ; it was only his mama : " Harry," she said smiling, " I do not think that disagreeable noise will at all help the girls to get ready, and you are chipping the paint off the stairs. Do try to be a little more reasonable ; they have not had time to put on their bonnets yet."

" You are ready, mama, and they went up stairs as soon as you did."

" Yes, but they have been assisting me ; however, here they are ; so away you go, and enjoy this very fine day."

Even Harry, with all his impatience, agreed that the first thing to be done was to see their

rabbits; but when they had coaxed the mother to come off her nest to feed, and had all peeped at the little ones; and when Eleanor had comforted Georgie, who, being very shy, was a good deal distressed at going out to dinner; then he thought they should set out on their walk directly, and have a long talk about his fine scheme. The girls and Allen, however, decided that it was absolutely necessary to go first to their garden, and repair any mischief that might have been done by the high wind of the preceding night. They generally paid a visit to it in the morning before breakfast, but this morning the agreeable surprise of finding a family of young rabbits had made them forget it altogether. Karnford, where my young friends lived, was a very beautiful place; and the children's garden was in the prettiest part of the grounds. It was on a bank sloping down to the south, and at the bottom, between it and the house, there was a beautiful stream, which, though scarcely broad enough to be called a river, was yet too deep and strong to be termed a burn. Its name was the Karn; and whether we call

it river or burn, it was a very beautiful object in many parts of the grounds, and nowhere more beautiful than at their garden. Although Harry had followed the others somewhat unwillingly, yet he was well pleased they had gone, when he found a tall lily of some new species, which had been given to him, and which was just going to flower for the first time, was blown over. The stem was not at all broken, however, nor the forming flower injured; and when they had propped it up with stronger sticks, and had gone all over their little domain, they were quite ready to follow Harry and listen to his plan. He led them a little farther down the river side, and into the foot-path leading into the wood. This was a very favourite walk. The wood was very extensive, stretching up the hill; and every now and then there were little openings, giving peeps of the valley below. It was to one of these openings, pretty far up the hill, that Harry led his party, and there disclosed his plan. It was to ask papa to give them the whole plot of ground, and they would build a house and make a gar-