

**THE ROLLO
PHILOSOPHY;
PART III, FIRE**

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The Rollo philosophy; Part III, Fire by Jacob Abbott

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JACOB ABBOTT

**THE ROLLO
PHILOSOPHY;
PART III, FIRE**

THE
ROLLO PHILOSOPHY.

PART III.

FIRE.

BY THE

AUTHOR OF THE ROLLO BOOKS.

PHILADELPHIA:
PUBLISHED BY HOGAN AND THOMPSON.

1845.

T.H.

P R E F A C E .

THE main design in view, in the discussions which are offered to the juvenile world, under the title of *THE ROLLO PHILOSOPHY*, relates rather to their effect upon the little reader's habits of thinking, reasoning, and observation, than to the additions they may make to his stock of knowledge. The benefit which the author intends that the reader shall derive from them, is an influence on the cast of his intellectual character, which is receiving its permanent form during the years to which these writings are adapted.

The acquisition of knowledge, however, though in this case a secondary, is by no means an unimportant, object ; and the discussion of the several topics proceeds accordingly, with regularity, upon a certain system of classification. This classification is based upon the more obvious external properties and relations of matter, and less upon those

which, though they are more extensive and general in their nature, and, therefore, more suitable, in a strictly-scientific point of view, for the foundations of a system, are less apparent, and require higher powers of generalization and abstraction; and are, therefore, less in accordance with the genius and spirit of the *Rollo* philosophy

As teachers have, in some cases, done the author the honor to introduce some of the preceding works of this class into their schools, as reading books, &c., considerable reference has been had to this, in the form and manner of the discussion, and questions have been added to facilitate the use of the books in cases where parents or teachers may make the reading of them a regular exercise of instruction.

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THE
ROLLO PHILOSOPHY.

FIRE.

CHAPTER I.

SLOW COMBUSTION.

THE way in which it happened that Rollo's father first began to explain to him something about the nature of fire, was this: It was one evening early in the autumn. Dorothy was going away to visit one of her friends, and Rollo was waiting for Jonas to come out, and see the fire-flies, or lightning-bugs, as he called them, which were flying about the yard. But Jonas did not come as soon as Rollo had expected, and so he went into the kitchen to see what had become of him. He found that, as Dorothy was rather late for her visit, and still had her kitchen fire to cover

up, Jonas was just offering to cover it up for her, so that she could go at once without any further delay. So Rollo came in, and stood by the kitchen hearth, to see Jonas cover up the fire.

The fire had nearly burned out, but it had left quite a large bed of embers, and a few coals among them. Jonas took the long-handled iron shovel, which belonged to the kitchen fire, and with it he drew forward all these coals and embers, so as to leave the back part of the hearth bare. Then he took the tongs, and with the tongs he gathered out from the hot ashes all the coals which he could find among the ashes, and put them back upon the bare place which he had made upon the hearth. He spread them evenly over it in a row against the back of the chimney.

"What are you going to do, Jonas?" said Rollo.

"I am going to cover up a stick of wood," replied Jonas.

So Jonas opened a small door which led to a little wood closet by the side of the fire, and took out a short stick of wood, flat on one side and round on the other. It was a stick which was round first, but Jonas had