

AUNT EMMA

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Aunt Emma by Elizabeth Spooner

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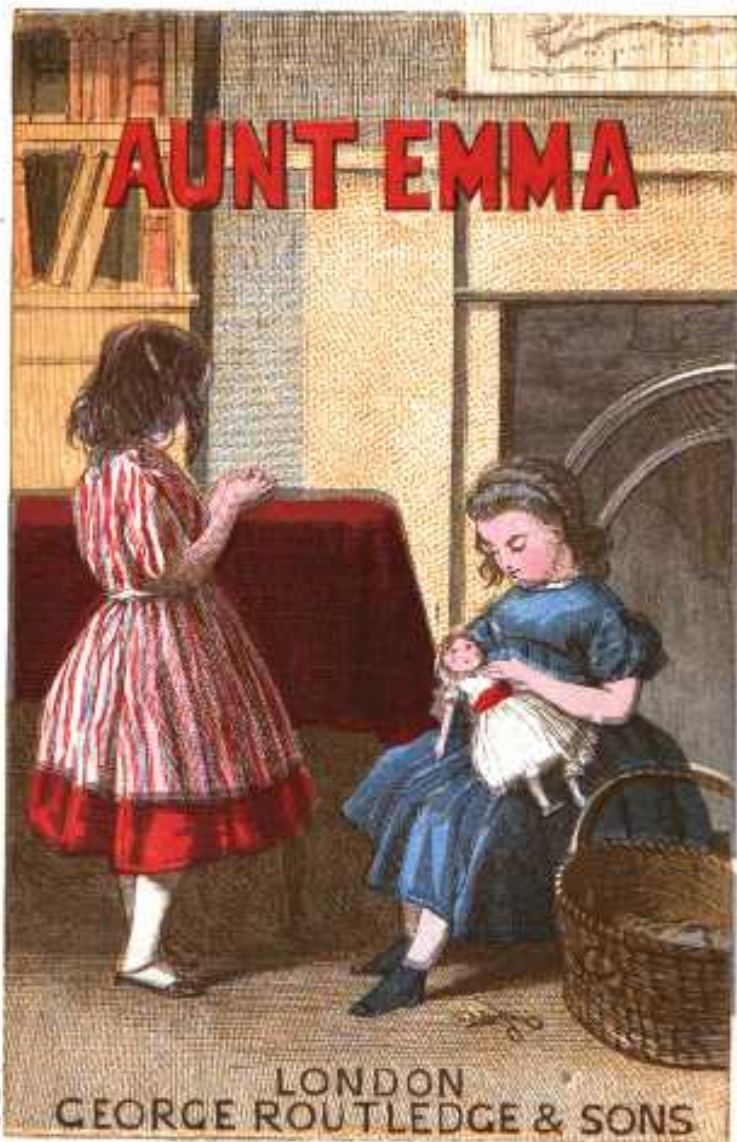
AUNT EMMA.



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[Front.]

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AUNT EMMA.

BY

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By Mrs. Elizabeth

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CHAPTER I.

IT was March—cold, bleak, and dreary. The east wind was whistling away, and flakes of snow were falling, and the sky looked dull and leaden, and there certainly was nothing to attract any one out of the house who could stay in, and keep warm and comfortable by a cheerful fire.

But it so chanced that this cold chilling day was Lucy Campbell's birthday, and as the Dean and Mrs. Campbell were absent from home, Aunt Emma had asked leave for her and Edith to come up and spend the day with Rose and Kate, and so about twelve o'clock they arrived.

This was the very first time that Lucy had been allowed to leave home for a day since her accident. She had been kept on the sofa and lying still, and even now the pain was not quite gone. She felt it in her thigh rather badly at times, but she was much better, and in a fair way, the doctor told her, to get

well, if she would take care and not be too wild and impetuous when she was playing. Now Lucy was very impetuous by nature, and liked to do just as she wished, so that it was very hard work for her to be quiet, and her mother had to say over and over again, "Now, dear Lucy, do keep yourself still; don't be so eager, and so restless. You will certainly bring back the pain in your thigh and ankle again." And for a little time Lucy would lie still; then perhaps Edith, or one of her brothers, would excite her, or do something that did not please her, and up she would jump again, and forget all mamma's exhortations, and all her own good resolutions to be quiet.

Aunt Emma knew this, and it had made her afraid of asking Lucy up to the Hall, especially in her mother's absence, but Mrs. Campbell had written to say that if they were asked they might go, and as soon as Aunt Emma knew about this permission, she did ask them, to the great delight of all the children.

It was just twelve o'clock when the brougham from the Deanery drove up to the door, and in the brougham were Lucy and Edith, little Agnes, and old Nurse; for Nurse would not hear of Lucy coming without her, for fear her high spirits should carry her away, and she should do too much; and as Nurse came, little Agnes came too.

And oh, how pleased Kate and Rose were to see them! how they did kiss and hug Agnes, and dance about the hall, wild with joy.