

**THE BOY'S OWN TOY-MAKER: A
PRACTICAL ILLUSTRATED GUIDE
TO THE USEFUL EMPLOYMENT
OF LEISURE HOURS**

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The Boy's Own Toy-Maker: A Practical Illustrated Guide to the Useful Employment of Leisure Hours by E. Landells

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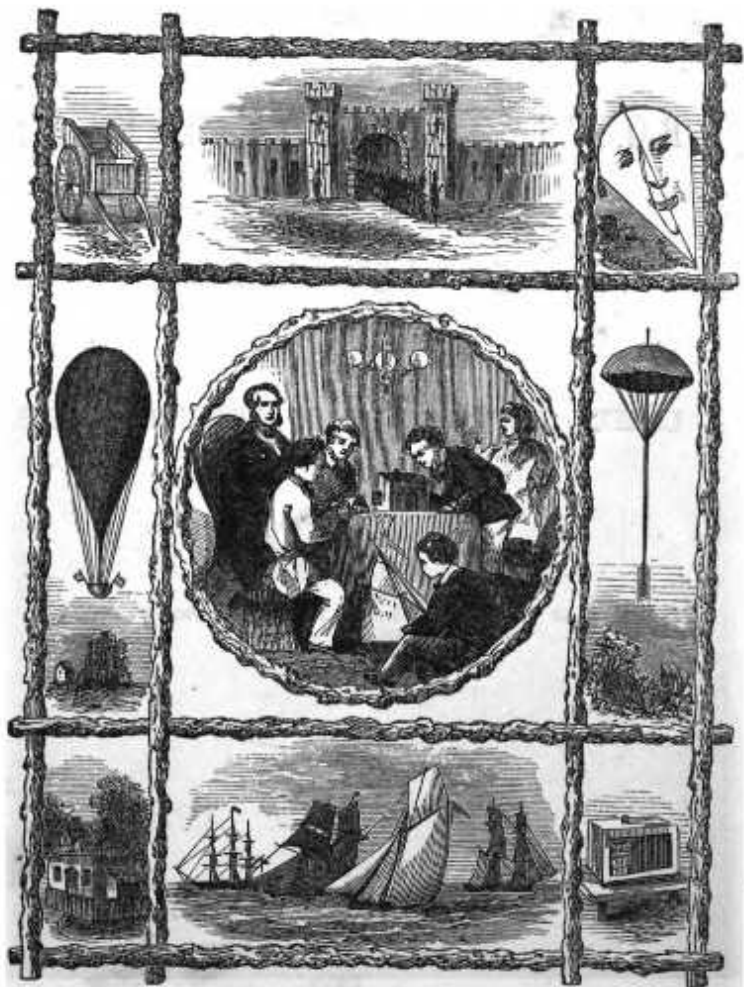
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E. LANDELLS

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THE
BOY'S OWN TOY-MAKER:

Practical Illustrated Guide

TO THE
USEFUL EMPLOYMENT OF LEISURE HOURS.

BY
E. LANDELLS,
AUTHOR OF "HOME PASTIME; OR, THE CHILD'S OWN TOY-MAKER."



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PREFACE.

THIS is a boy's book, in which the author has tried, with his pen and pencil, to teach some useful things for the pleasant time of play-hours. It is a plain book, which he hopes will be easily understood by any boy old enough to be trusted with such common tools as a penknife or a pair of scissors, and still be equally suited for the pastime of those who, of riper age, aspire to manlier amusement.

It is commonly supposed that the trade of the toy-maker is a frivolous pursuit, that has no right to be classed in the useful labors of life; and grave men have shaken their heads at the poor toy-maker, not because he often and justly may be blamed for a great deal of childish work, but by reason that his labors can only end in the amusement of children. The author thinks differently, and would even venture to hint that if the maker of toys would follow the good example of those for whom he makes them, and go to school to learn, his trade would stand higher amongst the useful and dignified callings, and he himself might perhaps in time be joined as a helper to the schoolmaster. He will become less frivolous the more that grave men look kindly on the labors that endeavor to unite instruction with the

amusements of the juvenile circle. Ours is an attempt in this direction, and not an aimless one at book-making.

Many of our young friends have no doubt heard their parents join in the lament, that has been made by some clever men, on the general want of knowledge of "common things." Grown men, who could talk with Virgil or Homer in their own tongues, are ignorant of many things of every-day life, which very little children are now taught in play, and learn with scarcely an effort. It must not be imagined that we think lightly of the graver labors of the school-hours when boys come to learn Greek and Latin, and the other branches of knowledge so necessary to fit them to take a place in society as educated men; we would only illustrate the aim of this little book as a teacher for the play-hours by putting a question: Who would be the more useful person of two cast on Robinson Crusoe's desert island — the man who could only speak Greek and Latin, or the boy who, in hour of need, would erect a little hut or even construct a boat from the lessons learnt in play-hours?

The boyish days of many of the great men who have enlightened the world by their discoveries and inventions have been remarkable for the practical bias their minds have taken. James Watt when a boy first discerned the power of steam by watching the spout of a common tea-