

**JOHN GAY; OR, WORK
FOR BOYS.
WORK FOR SPRING.
IN FOUR VOLUMES**

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John Gay; Or, Work for Boys. Work for Spring. In Four Volumes by Jacob Abbott & H. W. Herrick

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JACOB ABBOTT & H. W. HERRICK

**JOHN GAY; OR, WORK
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IN FOUR VOLUMES**



POPOCATAPETL. *Frontispiece.*

JOHN GAY; OR, WORK FOR BOYS.

By JACOB ABBOTT.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

ILLUSTRATED BY H. W. HERRICK.

WORK FOR SPRING.



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 - II. WORK FOR SPRING.
 - III. WORK FOR SUMMER.
 - IV. WORK FOR AUTUMN.

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JOHN GAY'S WORK IN SPRING.

CHAPTER I.

EBENEZER.

AFTER the days began to grow warm and pleasant in the spring, the snow was still deep upon the ground in the part of the country where John and Benny lived. The snow was very hard, however, having become indurated by repeated thawings and freezings, so that now the boys could walk upon the surface of it, over the fields and everywhere, and slide upon their sleds wherever they came to a hill, or to any piece of descending ground.

The boys called walking on this hardened snow walking on *the crust*, but properly speaking there was no crust, that is, there was no special hardening of the snow upon the surface. It was hardened throughout, from top to bottom, even where the snow was several feet in depth.

One morning John and Benny, with their cousin Mary, who was a girl of about John's age, immediately after breakfast, and before the sun was warm enough to melt the snow, set off to make an excursion together.

John and Benny took their sleds. Mary proposed to take Benny's black kitten Mungo with her, as if the kitten had been a little dog.

"But she won't go with you," said Benny. "I can never make her follow me away from the house anywhere. She will follow me about ~~is~~ the house, wherever I go, but she won't go away with me."

"Ah! but I will carry her in my arms," said Mary, "until the house is out of sight, and then she will go the rest of the way, I am sure."

So Mary took Mungo in her arms, and the party set off together. They went through the garden, and at the back of the garden they stepped over the top of a small gate which led into a field. The snow came up so near to the top of the gate that it was quite easy stepping over it.

The kitten went along very peaceably thus far, but here, finding everything look