

**CONVERSATIONS ON THE
HISTORY OF ENGLAND,
FOR THE USE OF CHILDREN**

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Conversations on the History of England, for the Use of Children by Mrs. Marcet

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MRS. MARCET

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For the Use of Children.

BY
MRS. MARCET.

IN CONTINUATION.

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CONVERSATIONS
ON THE
HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

CONVERSATION THIRTY-SIXTH.

AN EXCURSION.

THE lessons of English History were interrupted for some time by an excursion which Mrs. B. and her family made to the sea-coast. On their road toward Dover, Sophy was delighted at the sight of the number of ships sailing up and down the river Thames.

“What large ships they are!” cried she: “but I hope they are not men-of-war?”

“No,” replied her mother; “they are all merchantmen.”

“I am very glad of that,” said Sophy; “for they do good instead of harm. I wonder what merchandise they have on board?”

“They contain a great variety of goods,” answered her mother. “Those which sail down the river toward the sea, are laden with English merchandise to be sold in foreign countries: those which are sailing up the river toward London, bring cargoes of foreign goods to our market.”

“Look at that large vessel yonder, mamma; I wonder what merchandise it brings, for it is sailing up the river.”

“It brings goods from the West Indies; that is, sugar, coffee, and tobacco. There is another there, not far distant from it, which comes from Turkey, and brings us carpets, figs, currants, raisins, and rhubarb.”

“ I hope you do not call rhubarb goods, mamma; its taste is so very bad.”

“ True; but it is good for you when you are ill. Goods means merchandise of all descriptions; and there is no merchandise which is not good for some purpose or other.”

“ No, certainly,” said Sophy; “ nobody would buy things that were good for nothing; and we should not be so foolish as to send ships a great way off to fetch merchandise that nobody would buy. But yet, mamma,” said she, smiling, “ I like the goods best which taste good, such as oranges: are not some of those ships full of oranges?”

“ Very probably; those come from Spain or Portugal, and may bring also wine; so their cargo consists of oranges and wine.”

“ Does cargo mean all the goods the ship holds?” inquired Sophy.

“ Yes ; a merchantman is laden with a cargo of goods : now you know all the proper terms.”

“ What a number of things we must send abroad in exchange for all these goods ! ” observed Sophy.

“ It is that,” replied her mother, “ which sets so many people to work in our manufactories : if they had only their own countrymen to work for, they would not have nearly so much to do as they have now ; for, beside making what we want at home, they make much of what is wanted in foreign countries, and bring back all these foreign goods in exchange.”

“ But, mamma, is there always money enough to pay so great a number of workmen ? For, I remember you once said, there was never want of work to employ workmen, unless there was a want of money to pay them.”

“ The more goods we send abroad, the more goods we shall receive in