

LUDGATE HILL.







THE BOX OF TOYS.

BY MISS CORNER.

IN WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE.

EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.



LONDON: DEAN AND SON, 11, LUDGATE IIILL.







AMES was one of those boys who take no care of what they have.

His books were torn, his toys lost, and none of his things in the place where they ought to be. If his mam-ma said, "James, where is such or such a thing?" he was sure to

say—"I do not know, I must look for it;" and then, when he did look, it was not to be found; or if he did find it, ten to one that it was on the floor and spoilt.

One day, he went out with his mam-ma, and saw a box of toys in a shop, that he thought he should like to have, so he said, "Mam-ma, I wish you would buy me that box of toys." "I should like to buy it for you, my dear," said his mam-ma, "if I thought you would take care of it; but I fear you would soon spoil it, like all the rest of your things." "Oh, mam-ma, I would not," said James; "do buy it for me, and you shall see how well I will keep it."

His mam-ma thought for a short time, and then said: "Well, James, I will try you once more, and if I find you do not keep your word, I shall buy you no more toys at all: so you know what you have to trust to, for I mean what I say."



James said he was sure he would take care of it; so they went in the shop, and the box was bought. I do

not know how much it cost, but I dare say it was a great deal, for it was a large box full of nice smooth red bricks, to build a house with, there were two doors, and slate tiles



for the roof, and all the things that one wants to make a fine large house.



Well, James was quite glad he had got it,—"Let us make haste

home, mamma," said he; "and I will first give my rab-bits their food, and then can try to build up my new house."



He then set to work, and soon a grand house was built, James said it was fit for a king to live in; but, grand as it was, it must have been but a small king that

could live in such a house as that; don't you think so?



At night, when it was time to go to bed, James put all his bricks in the box, and shut it up with great care; but the next night he did not count his bricks, and the next time he went

to build his house, there were three of them lost. He went down stairs to ask the maids if they saw them



on the floor when they swept the room, but they said they did not see them, and that if they were left on the floor they might be swept out



with the dust, and thrown in the dust-bin, or in the fire, they could

not tell: they said, he ought to take more care of them.

One would have thought that this loss would have made James count his bricks at night when he put them in the box; but no such thing,



he put them in eight or ten times and did not count them, and each time some were left on the floor, so that in a few days, not more than

half of them were left. One of the doors was lost too, and all the slatetiles but two, so that he could not make a roof or a house at all, and as he could not build but a dove cote now, for want of the bricks that were lost, the toy was quite spoilt.

His mam-ma did not say a word to this, till one day, when a man came to the door with two large fine ships to sell, and she bought one of them. This ship had sails, and a



mast with a red and white flag at the top of it. James thought it was for him, so he said: "Oh mamma, I am so glad you have bought

me that nice ship, how I shall like to swim it in the pond at the back of our house; what good fun it will be !" "I dare say you would like to swim it, my dear, and I have no doubt it would be good fun, but I have not bought it for you."

"Oh dear, why not; who is it for, then ?"

"I have bought it for Fred. Lyne. he takes more care of his toys than you do. The last time I was at his house, I saw a map that I gave him in a box last year, and it was as good as new; there was not one piece of it lost, so I shall give him this ship."

"If you will give it to me, mamma, I will take great care of it," said James.

"So you said of the box of bricks, my dear, and you did not keep your word. 1 told you then it was the last time I should try you, and though you break your word, I do not mean to break mine. When you learn to take care of things, you shall have new toys, but not till then."



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