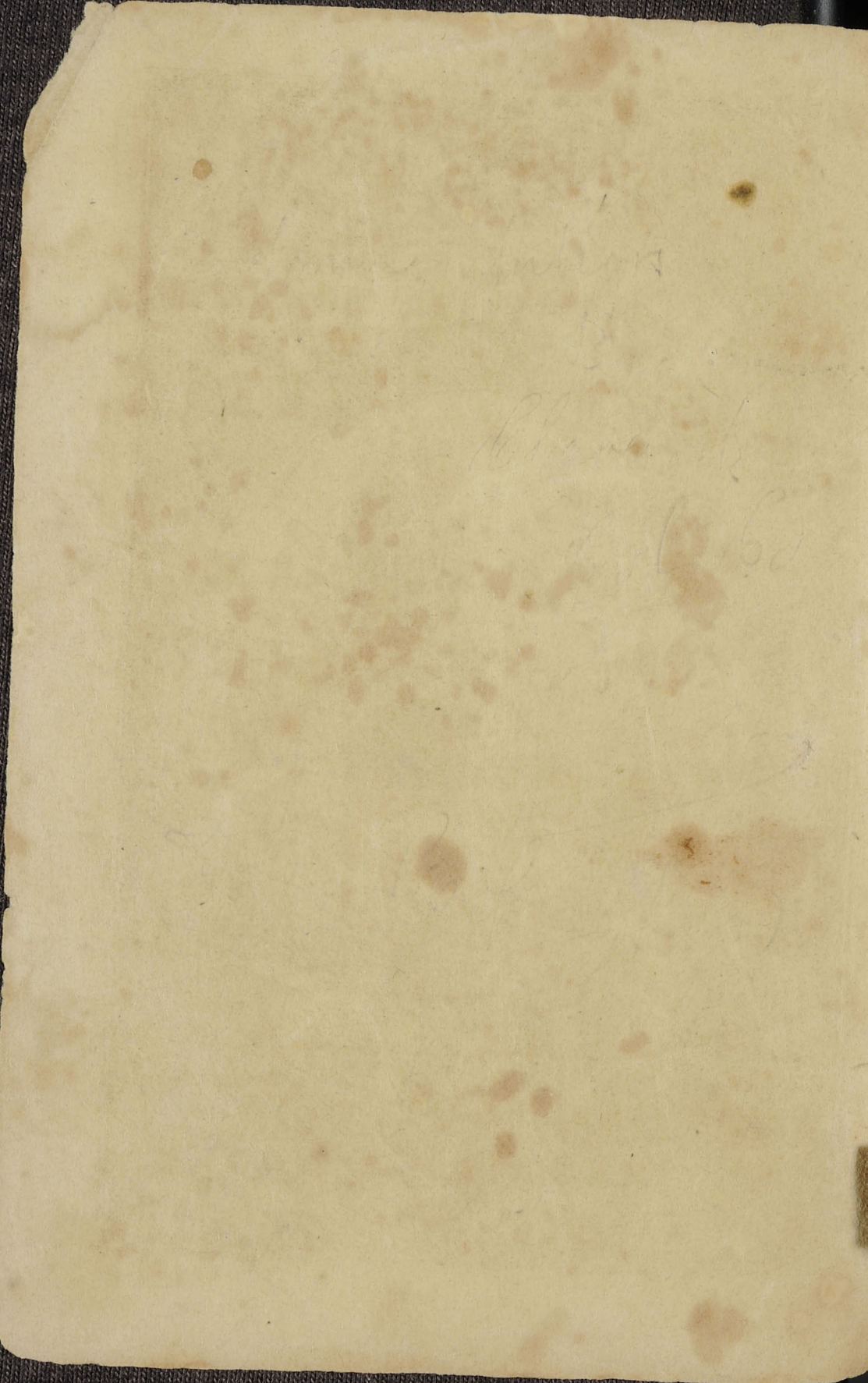


MASTER HENRY'S



VISIT.



MASTER HENRY'S  
VISIT  
AT MRS. GREEN'S,  
AND  
HIS RETURN.



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MASTER HENRY'S VISIT.

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**H**ENRY MILNER'S uncle, Mr. Dalben, had once told the little boy about the different class-

es of animals, reptiles and insects, and Master Henry had been interested in trying to find a specimen of each class; and one morning immediately after family prayers, just as his uncle had sat down to breakfast, and Mrs. Kitty sat in her room making a doll for her niece who was on a visit to her, Henry disappeared and shortly afterwards returned, holding a large earth-worm in the palm of his hand, which elegant creature he contrived to drop upon the table-cloth as he was holding it forth triumphantly for Mr. Dalben's inspection, exclaiming with eagerness, "There, uncle! there it is, the largest I could find under the stone, and there are many more, but I thought one would be sufficient."

"Yes, my dear boy," said Mr. Dalben, quietly, "quite sufficient; and now my little man, carry the gentle

man back to his abode under this wonderful stone, and do not disturb any more of the family at present."

Henry obeyed, and presently returning, Mr. Dalben, whose appetite for his breakfast was not greatly improved by the sight of little Henry Milner's specimen of the sixth class of animals, took this opportunity to give his pupil some general ideas upon the subject of the sixth class.

"The sixth class of animals," said Mr. Dalben, "consists of worms, leeches, slugs or snails, sea-anemones, cuttle-fish, star-fish, shell-fish of all sorts, and animal plants, such as corals, sponges, and polypes; besides which we must add those little animalcula which are found in vinegar and corrupt water, in sour paste, and other decaying bodies.

"All those creatures, with the exception of shell-fish, are for the most

part," continued Mr. Dalben, "very disgusting in their appearance; and some of them, such as corals, sponges, and polypusses, have apparently little more life or understanding than the herbs of the field, though they are known to be living animals; some of these talk root upon rocks near the sea, and grow up into hard and solid branches; others are, however, soft, and show that they are endowed with life, because they shrink from the touch. But though these creatures may seem to us of little use, we should never despise the meanest thing that God has made."

Henry looked grave, and said, "Uncle, I think I never shall despise these creatures again, so much as I have done."

By this time breakfast was finished, and Henry was called to his lessons. When the little boy was con-



cluding his last task, Mrs. Kitty who had finished the doll for her niece, and gathered a basket of flowers for her to carry home, came into the



study and asked her master's leave to go in the afternoon to see her sister, who lived about a mile distant, and to take Master Henry with her.

"You have my leave to go yourself, Kitty," said Mr. Dalben; "but

as to taking Henry, I am afraid that he will do you no credit; his spirits will rise, he will begin to chatter, and I fear that you will not check him as you ought to do."

"Indeed I will, Sir," said Mrs. Kitty; "I always do speak to him when he is rude."

"And I will be very good," said Henry.

"And I will keep him out of all mischief, Sir," said Kitty.

"And I will do every thing which Mrs. Kitty bids me," rejoined Henry.

"And I am sure little master will be good," added Mrs. Kitty.

"And so I suppose I must give my permission," said Mr. Dalben; "but I trust to you, Kitty, if he does not behave well, that you will never ask leave to take him out again."

Thus the matter was settled; and as soon as dinner was over, Master

Henry took leave of his uncle, and walked off with Mrs. Kitty over the fields towards Malvern, it being on that side of the country where Mrs. Green, Kitty's sister, lived.

Their way lay, first through a long field; where they saw a cruel boy climbing a tree to get a nest of young birds, he having first killed their



mother; after which they entered a little grove, where Henry amused

himself in looking for flowers; at length they came out into a hop-yard, where the people were busy in dressing the hops.

At the end of the hop-yard was Mrs. Green's cottage, standing in a garden surrounded by a thick hedge; the cottage was low and thatched, and the garden was curiously arranged in beds of flowers, straight green walks, and a variety of fruit trees and vegetables.



MASTER HENRY AT MRS.  
GREEN'S.

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**M**RS. GREEN, who expected her sister, was dressed in her best flowered gown and lawn apron; and her two daughters, were also

set forth in their best. At sight of Henry and Mrs. Kitty, they came out to the door, and received them with a hearty welcome.

“And so, Master Milner,” said Mrs. Green, “this is very kind of you to come so far to see us poor folks.

“Nay, sister,” said Mrs. Kitty in a whisper, “do not be making too much of the child, he will grow troublesome upon it, and master will blame me.”

It was in vain for Mrs. Kitty to expostulate; Mrs. Green and her daughters continued to compliment Master Henry, serving him with the first and best at tea, till the young gentleman by degrees, grew very pert, and began to chatter at no small rate, and with no great degree of discretion.

After having talked at random for some time, whilst the party were

assembled round the tea-table, a large frog appeared sprawling over the little narrow walk, which ran from the house door to the gate.

“Ah,” said Kitty, “look at that frightful creature: sister Green, I wonder you don’t clear your garden of those frogs; I would as soon meet a thief in the dark as a frog.”

Mrs. Green laughed, and said, “O, they do no harm: why should you be afraid of them?”

Here Master Henry took upon himself to show off. “Those creatures do no harm, Mrs. Kitty,” said the young gentleman; “they are of the class amphibia; that is, of the third class; some of that class are indeed very mischievous; but frogs never hurt any one.”

“Amphibia,” said Mrs. Kitty, “what a word is that, Master Henry! how can you use such words?”

“It is not English, Mrs. Kitty,” said Henry, “you don’t understand it I know, *but I do*; it means the creatures who live half on land and half in water, as frogs and toads do.”

Mrs. Green looked with admiration at her sister, and said, “Dear me, but to hear how he talks!”

Mrs. Kitty was pleased, that Henry should be able to do himself so much credit before Mrs. Green; however, she had prudence enough to say, “You know sister, that he does not find out these things of his own head, but that it is master who teaches him; and then you know, it is no wonder if he knows more than we do.”

“Oh! but,” said Mrs. Green, “it is a wonder how such a young creature should be able to keep all these things in his head, and speak them so properly as he does.”

By this time, the young gentleman had become so conceited, that he



could not sit still; so, having eaten and drank as much as he could con



veniently swallow, he got up, stalked about the room, and then went out a short distance into the field, where he found a man gathering apples; he was soon called back, and received an injunction not to go beyond the hedge. Then little master, being in a manner let loose, knew not what to be about next, in order to spend his spirits. The first thing he did was, to pursue Mrs. Green's ducks round the house, calling out, "Quack, quack, quack," as they waddled before him, until they made their escape through the hedge into the next field: he then espied a very old owl hid in a very old tree; this owl was a pet of Miss Dolly, Mrs. Green's younger daughter.

As soon as Master Henry observed this owl in the tree, he began to call to him, making a low bow and saying "Your servant, old gentle-



man ; your wig is well powdered, and your nose is exactly fit for a pair of spectacles." The owl, however, being well accustomed to the human voice took no manner of notice of Henry ; whereupon he began picking up sods to throw at him, which was very cruel sport, as he might have severely hurt the poor creature by so doing : however, as he did not aim very exactly, the sods did not reach the owl ; so, being soon tired of this fruitless sport, he looked round again for something

to amuse him; and seeing a ladder set against the side of the house, he climbed up it, and scrambling along the sloping thatch, he reached the very highest part of the roof, astride of which he set himself, and trying to fancy that the house was an elephant, he pretended to be urging it forward, as if it were actually moving.

In this manner the evening passed away, and Mrs. Kitty preparing to go home, bethought herself of Henry, and sent her nieces to call him. And now, Master Henry, being mounted at the top of the house, had the pleasure of hearing himself called for, and saw Miss Betty and Miss Dolly running here and there in quest of him; neither of them thinking of looking for him where he really was. This pleased Master Henry mightily, and he kicked his elephant, and rode away famously in his own conceit.

When Mrs. Green's daughters returned to the house, they excited such an alarm, that out came Mrs. Kitty and Mrs. Green, calling Master Henry so loud, that they might be heard a quarter of a mile distant.

In answer to which noise, Henry joined crying, "O! O! Henry Milner, where are you? Where are you, Sir? Don't you hear the people call you?" At the sound of his voice, the women all looked up together, and Mrs. Kitty exclaimed, "O Master Milner! you little rogue! how you have frightened us; and how did you get up there? and how are you to get down, you naughty boy? I declare you have frightened me almost out of my life."

Master Henry, however, did not find much trouble in getting down; and Mrs. Kitty, having brushed the bits of dry thatch off from his coat,

they set off towards home, Mrs. Green and her daughters accompanying them part of the way.

Mrs. Green proposed to Mrs. Kitty that they should return by a different path from that by which they had come; and accordingly, they turned down a long narrow lane, where they saw an old gentleman picking grapes, with a boy and two little girls with



him; at the end of the lane was a little brook, which they were to cross by a narrow wooden bridge. Master Henry was as rude in the lane as

you please, though Mrs. Kitty continued from time to time calling to him to remember himself, and to behave himself, saying that she would be sure to tell his uncle how rude he had been.

There is, however, a kind of inefficient scolding, which is sure to do more harm than good; and this was precisely the kind of scolding which Mrs. Kitty practised on this occasion; in consequence of which, the young gentleman became so very rude, that Mrs. Kitty at length grew angry, and attempting to catch hold of the naughty boy, he ran down the lane, got upon the wooden bridge before mentioned, and stood jumping upon it with all his might: on seeing this, Mrs. Green screamed, Mrs. Kitty scolded, Miss Betty called, and Miss Dolly ran forward with all speed; nevertheless, all their efforts to pre-

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vent mischief proved vain ; the plank broke in the very centre, and Master Milner came tumbling into the brook, bringing the bridge down with him. The water was not indeed very deep, but there was enough of it to wet the little boy to his knees as he stood up ; but as he fell with the bridge, though not otherwise hurt, he was covered with mud and water up to his very shoulders.

Mrs. Kitty was now thoroughly vexed and frightened ; however, she and her nieces soon contrived to pull the little boy out of the water, and passing over the brook as well as they could, Mrs. Green and her party made the best of their way back, while Mrs. Kitty led Master Henry home, earnestly trying to convince him that he had made a sad return for her kindness in taking him to visit Mrs. Green.



Mr. Dalben was walking in his garden, when Mrs. Kitty appeared, leading Master Henry. The whole party were handsomely bedaubed with mud, and Mrs. Kitty was looking not a little disconcerted, neither was Master Milner altogether in quite such high spirits, as when explaining his six classes to Mrs. Green and her daughters.

“Why, Kitty,” said Mr. Dalben,



“what is the matter? Where have you all been? Henry, my boy, what can you possibly have been about? have you been improving your acquaintance with the *amphibia*?”

“O Sir!” said Mrs. Kitty, “Master Henry would not mind what I said to him; and he broke down the bridge, Sir; and he has been in the brook.”

“Well, well,” said Mr. Dalben, “you must not blame me; I told you how it would be: but make all possible haste now; get his clothes off, and his bed warmed, and I will come in a few minutes with a drink for him.”

Mr. Dalben soon returned with a bitter drink; Henry did not refuse to receive it, but swallowed it without hesitation; for he was conscious that he had behaved ill and deserved punishment. After he had taken it, Mr. Dalben sat down by his bed-

side, and entered into discourse with him.

“Henry,” said Mr. Dalben, “you have behaved ill to-day; I expected it would be so, because, when you set out, you were very conceited, very full of yourself, and perfectly assured that you should do well.”

“Uncle,” said Henry, “I will not ask to go out without you, another time. Indeed, uncle, I am always most happy when I am with you, and when I never leave your side. Dear uncle, do not give me leave,” continued the little boy, “to go out without you again.” So saying, he burst into tears, and lifting himself up in bed, he put his arms round Mr. Dalben’s neck, and sobbed aloud.

Mr. Dalben then left Henry, having first offered a prayer by the side of his bed, and the little boy soon after fell asleep.

Mr. Dalben,

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