

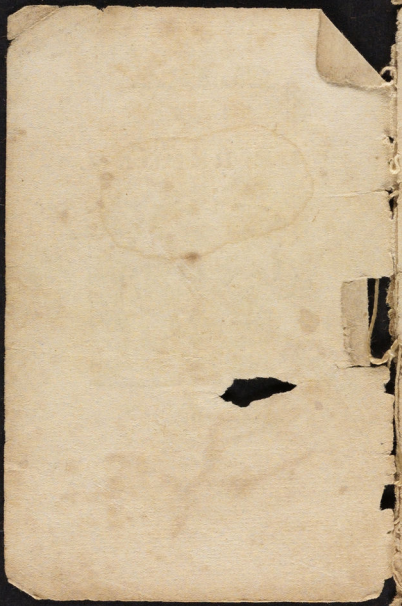
CLARA.
OR
THE REFORM.



NEW-YORK:
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Of whom may be had the greatest variety of Toy
Books Christmas Pieces, and Pamphles,
in the United States.

1828
HBW



Adelia B. Barton.

CLARA



CHAPTER I.

CLARA was the only daughter of Mrs. Philipson, who resided near the Bowling Green, and was beloved, and appeared to be the greatest joy and comfort of her mamma, until about the se-

venth year of her age, when she began to show a most vicious temper—a contradicting spirit—arbitrary and overbearing disposition—which cannot better be described than by the practice of those snarling, barking little curs, that frown incessantly, and seem always ready to run at and bite those that pass by.

If a person touched any of her playthings, though by mistake, she would be out of temper for hours, and go murmur



ing and grumbling about as if she had suffered a great loss. If any person attempted to rebuke her, though in the most gentle manner, she would fly into a rage, equalled only by a madman.

She would take all opportu-

nities to teaze and perplex her little brother, would break his playthings, and then laugh at him, making ugly faces; she would sily enter her elder brother's room when he was absent, and blot his writings, and scatter his books about the room.

Thus every person in the house had some reason for despising so bad a girl as little Clara.

Her mamma saw this unaccountable change with extreme sorrow, for neither she nor any

of the family could bear with her. Indeed, she would sometimes seem sensible of her error, and would often shed tears in private; but an ill habit had got the better of her temper, and she every day grew worse and worse.

CHAPTER II.

ONE evening, which happened to be new year's eve, Clara observed her mamma going towards her room, with a large basket covered with a napkin. Clara followed, but was desired to go back to the parlour. As she returned, she pulled the tables out of their places, and threw about the rooms all the chairs that came in her way. Soon after, Clara was sent for by her mamma; but how great was surprise on entering her



room, to find it lighted up with a number of candles, and the tables covered with the most elegant toys.

Her mamma requested her to read, in a paper which she handed her, for whom those toys were intended; on which she



read the following words in large letters; “ For an amiable little girl, in return for her good behaviour.” Clara looked down, and could not say a word. On her mamma’s asking for whom those toys were intended, she replied, with tears in her eyes,



that they could not be intended for her.

Her mamma then showed her another paper, requesting her to see if that did not concern her.

Clara received it, and read, "For a froward little girl, who



is sensible of her faults, and in beginning a new year, will take pains to amend them." Clara instantly throwing herself into her mamma's arms, and crying, said, "O! this is Clara! that is me!"

Her mamma could not refrain

from tears on so affecting a scene. Come, Clara, said her mamma, after a short pause, take what was intended for you. Clara, however, declined accepting of them, insisting on it that they belonged to the person described in the first paper, and she therefore requested her mamma to keep them until she merited that description. This answer gave her mother much satisfaction, and she immediately put all the toys in a drawer, giving the key to Clara, with

liberty to open it when she thought proper

Several weeks passed without the least complaint against Clara, who had performed wonders on herself. She then went to mamma, threw her arms about her neck, and asked if she thought she had any right to open the drawer. "Yes, my dear, (clasping Clara tenderly in her arms) you are now owner of the toys with great propriety; and pray tell me how you have so well managed as to get

the better of your temper?" Clara said it had occasioned her much trouble and anxiety; but every morning and evening, and indeed almost every hour in the day, she prayed to her Maker to assist her in reforming, and make her a good girl, that she might be beloved by her mamma—gain the affection of her brothers—the respect of the servants—and the friendship of her former acquaintances.

Obedience to Parents.

LET children that would fear the Lord,
Hear what their teachers say ;
With rev'ence hear their parents' word,
And with delight obey

Have you not heard what dreadful plagues
Are threaten'd by the Lord,
To him that breaks his father's law,
Or mocks his mother's word.

What heavy guilt upon him lies,
How cursed is his name !
The ravens shall pick out his eyes,
And eagles eat the same

But those who worship God, and give
Their parents honour due,
Here on this earth they long shall live,
And live hereafter too.

