





THE Little Rambler in Pursuit of
Natural Objects.

T H E

Flights of a Lady-Bird ;

O R, T H E

H I S T O R Y

O F T H E

WINGED RAMBLER.

EMBELLISHED WITH CUTS.

D U B L I N :

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X Y Z.

T O T H E

Little Misses and Masters

O F

I R E L A N D,

This HISTORY of the

WINGED RAMBLER,

Is humbly inscribed

By their constant Friend,

And sincere Well-wisher,

J. R.

T H E

Flights of a LADY-BIRD.

C H A P. I.

THAT a Lady-bird is a sweet creature, is what I am sure every one of my pretty little readers will readily allow. Its pretty wings, and the red coat that covers them, sprinkled with spots of black, are too curious to escape the notice of any little naturalist, either Miss or Master. But my Lady-bird is not only pretty to look at, but more pleasing to hear talk; for though it

is but a short-lived creature, it has a great deal of knowledge, has seen a great deal of the world, and will give you the characters of several little Misses and Masters.

It is much to be wished, that every little maid and bachelor would imitate my Winged Rambler, and lose no part of their time in idle conversation, or in the employment of those things which do not at all contribute to the improvement of their minds; or the expansion of their little hearts. My Lady-Bird was no sooner able to fly, than abroad it wandered in quest of knowledge; and in the course of its flight, observing a pretty little Miss sit at a window, down she flew, and rested upon her pretty little arm, as you here see.

My



My Lady-bird was no sooner rested upon this lilly white arm, than it became acquainted with the character, temper, and disposition of Miss Nancy. This little lady was of a sweet temper, and consequently caressed by every one. She said her

prayers every morning and evening, was perfectly obedient to her parents, and loved her brother Tommy, though he frequently behaved very rudely to her. She gave no unnecessary trouble to servants, and asked very prettily for what she had at any time an occasion for.

Her brother Tommy was of a different character. He was very fretful, and always wanted to have his own way. He was always for getting what he could of his play-fellows; but would never part with any thing in return. He was a continual torment to the servants, over whom he heftored and domineered, and gave them a great deal of unnecessary trouble. His sister loved him tenderly, in return for which he took every opportunity to teize and vex

vex her. Hence it is no wonder if he were shunned and despised by every one.

Now, my dear little readers, would you not rather imitate Miss Nancy, than her brother Tommy? It surely must be very pleasing and agreeable to be beloved and respected by every one; but what pleasure can be received from seeing ourselves slighted and shunned by all the world; and talked of as children, that are more to be pitied for the badness of their temper, than admired for any good quality?

As soon as the Lady-bird had rested upon Miss Nancy's arm, she called out to her brother, "My dear Tommy, only come and see what a sweet little Lady-bird has rested on my arm! How fine and beau-

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beautiful are its wings! how pretty its red coat, and how elegant it is speckled with black! Surely nothing can be prettier!”

As our Winged Rambler knew that its life would be in danger, if it waited for Tommy's approach, took to its wings, and flew about the



room.

room. This naughty lad instantly pursued it, and endeavoured to knock it down with his hat; while his pretty tender hearted sister did every thing in her power to preserve it.

“What harm has this pretty animal done you, (said Miss Nancy) that you should thus wish to take away its life? It is the height of cowardice to oppose your strength to so weak and defenceless an animal, who has given you no cause to be angry with it. You ought rather to look on it with admiration and pleasure, it being the handy work of the great Creator of all things.”

“I want none of your preaching (replied the naughty Tommy) I will kill him because you like him, and that will be to me the best fun

in the world. Strip him of his fine dress, and he will be nothing more or less than a common maggot. Indeed, strip you of your ribbands gauzes, and such flippery, and what will you then be better than a maggot?

It is natural to suppose that Miss Nancy was not a little angry at being thus compared to a maggot accompanied with such a fly stroke at her ribbands and gauzes. "Strip you of your cloths (replied Miss Nancy) and you will not be so good as a maggot. The same God that gave you life, gave life also to the little animal, who does no harm to any one; but, for aught we know is designed for some good purpose. But be that as it will, the Lady-bird seems never to be guilty of murder

ing others without any provocation.
—Poor little harmless thing!”

“Murder! (exclaims Tommy) only think of that! to call killing a maggot murder! Well, then, if that be murder, I will soon be guilty of it.” So saying, he sprang away from his sister, who had hitherto held him, and looked about for the Lady-Bird, which had rested upon one of the pictures.

Our Winged Rambler now took flight again, and after several turns round the room, pursued in vain by naughty Tommy, it rested for a moment on the cheek of Miss Nancy, and then darted out of the window. This so enraged Tommy, that he sprang after him to the window, with such force, and reached so far out of it, that he lost his balance,
and