

Earl of Somerset.

FRONTISPIECE.



Master *Francis Fairplay*,
going to School.

THE ENTERTAINING
HISTORY
OF

Master Francis Fairplay.

*A very pretty little boy,
Who was his parents only joy;
He lov'd his book, his pen and slate
Which other boys may imitate.*

LONDON:

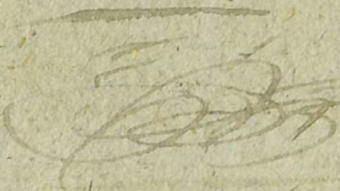
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Martha Tom

her Book

June 12 1803



T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F

Francis Fairplay.

FRANCIS Fairplay was the only son of Mr. Fairplay a country tradesman, who, by honesty, industry, and fair dealing became very rich, which verified the old proverb, ‘*That honesty is the best policy.*’ Knaves, indeed, may thrive for a time, but when their character is known, they are despised by every one, and the loss of reputation cannot be recompensed by riches.

Little Franky was very pretty when he was very young, and was
the

the darling of his father and mother, who was very careful to bring him up in the principles of religion and virtue; and as he increased in years he increased in goodness, so that every body admired and loved him. As soon as he was breeched, he was put to school, and was very fond of his book, and soon learned to read well, which gained him no little favour with his master; and all his school-fellows loved him, he was so good-tempered, if he had fruit, nuts, or gingerbread, he always gave part to his mates so that he never wrangled or cavilled with any of them, and if any of them quarrelled, he used his best endeavours to reconcile them, which was doing a very friendly part, and much to be commended.

He was very early put to writing, and improved so fast, that he gained the silver pen, which his master gave by way of encouragement: here it is.



This indeed, was a feather in his cap, and like other children he was not a little proud of it, yet he had the understanding not to let it be seen too much; as he was told by his papa, that vanity
is

is very unbecoming, yet it is very natural to be pleased when we are praised or rewarded for doing good.

There is an old saying, '*That all work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy*': and it may be supposed that Franky, like other boys, must have his play-time as well as his school-time, which you will allow is nothing but *Fairplay*.



Playing at *Cricket* was his favourite exercise; here he is with

the cricket-ball in his hand, looking as earnestly at his play as he does at his book; for he was always intent on whatever he was about, which is indeed the only way to become a proficient in any thing they undertake.



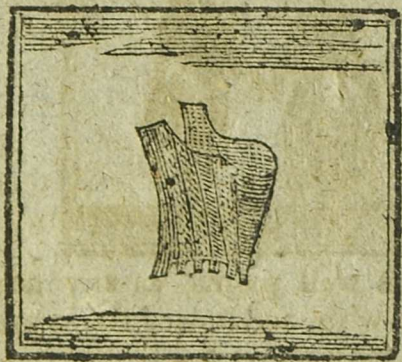
Master Franky had a sister who was likewise a very pretty girl, and very good, her name was *Polly*, and when her brother went to the fair, he brought her

home a doll, which he held in his hand: as you may see.

This was a mark of brotherly affection, and very commendable and she was very well pleased with the present, and was always very kind to him, and did every thing in her power to please him so that they lived as all brothers and sisters should; they never quarrelled as some do about trifles, never were surly, or wished for each other's toys, were contented with what was given them and ready to obey the command of their parents, and were very dutiful; which all children should and remember what they read in the scripture, *Honour thy father and mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*

Miss Polly was now grown a

fine tall girl, very genteel, and very well behaved; so that the beauties of her ~~mind~~ added to the charms of her person, and that her shape might not be spoiled by going too loose, her mamma bought her a new pair of stays of the best fashion : here they are.



Polly you may be sure was not a little pleased at this, as she had learned to dance, and was esteemed for her grace and care in that polite accomplishment ; she was

sometimes permitted to go to a ball with other young people, but always in company with her brother, he was generally her partner, here they are,



and as well paired as any one could wish, and indeed they gave great satisfaction to all the company present, which chiefly consisted of their parents and relations, who came on purpose to see them dance, and admire their innocent amusements.

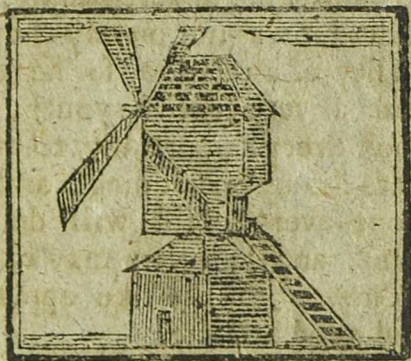
Master *Franky* had an uncle, who lived in the country, who had taken a great liking to him when he came to town on a visit to his brother, and having no child of his own, was determined to leave him all his fortune, and desired to have him in the country with him, this was a request that could not be refused, tho' it was with difficulty complied with, but as his interest was so materially concerned, paternal fondness gave way, and he was accordingly permitted to accompany his uncle, who was not a little pleased with his comrade, as the time passed away very agreeably with his innocent observations on different subjects as they passed along, there was the sign of the hope at the door of an inn, and he asked what it was,

and what was the meaning of the anchor, which his uncle explain-



ed to him ; he told him that the anchor was made use of by sailors to secure the ship in storms and other dangerous situations, on which they depended very much ; and that the figure made use of as the emblem of hope, was always drawn with an anchor ; this subject soon gave way
to

to another, which was a wind-mill, as you may see.



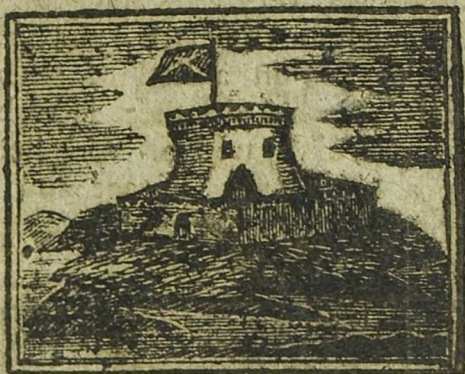
This his uncle told him was a mechanical invention, for grinding corn into flour, to make bread with ; the sails which were made of canvas, caught the wind which forced them into motion, which was the means of grinding with large stones the corn within.

Master *Franky* listened with great attention to this discourse, and

and made such replies and remarks as gave his uncle reason to admire his understanding, and indeed it was not merely the partiality of a relation, for he really was a very sensible youth, and took every opportunity to cultivate his understanding; and we hope every child will do the same, and then they may expect to meet with the like applause, and good fortune.

Thus they proceeded on very cheerfully together, when a castle with a flag on it appeared in view, this was a new subject as he had never seen or heard of before,

He gazed at it for some time, the oddness of its form struck him, as it did not resemble a



house ; he was told that formerly most of the nobility and gentry had castles, which were built for defence against enemies, and generally moated, or had a wide canal of water furrounding them but there were very few remaining, except in ruins : the flag upon this denoted it belonged to the

the King, and was sometimes occupied as a royal palace; the inside was very rich and grand. So much for the castle, and now let us jog on a little further, and see what else there is to be found worthy notice. O? here is a recruiting serjeant and a drummer, beating up for volunteers: as you may see,



What are soldiers for? said master Franky, to fight, replied

his uncle; but why should they fight? because our enemies provoke them to it, said his uncle; what are enemies? said *Franky*, such as are envious of their neighbour's welfare, and wish to rob them of what they possess; for which they would cut their throats, set their houses on fire, and practice every cruelty that the evil minds of men can invent; to guard against which it is necessary to have soldiers to fight, and keep them from putting their wicked purposes into practice, for this end they are enlisted, and wear the King's cloaths which are called regimentals, you see they have cockades in their hats, which is a military decoration. When they enlist a recruit, they give him a guinea, such as on the other side,

'tis a piece of gold, having the King's head on one side, and crown, arms, and sceptre on the reverse; here his uncle pulled



out a guinea which *Franky* looking at, he said you seem to admire it, you may keep it, and now I have enlisted you to be my soldier will you fight for me? yes, said *Franky*, that I will, as well as I am able; that's my good lad, and I will take care to give you what shall be worth your fighting for, but I hope you will have no cause.

Franky thanked his uncle for his kindness, and replied he was never inclined to fighting, nor never should, unless he was very much provoked; and should think it best at any time to part with a trifle, rather than risk his life to preserve it.

His uncle said he thought very right, but it behoved every body to secure their property as well as they could, which was certainly just.

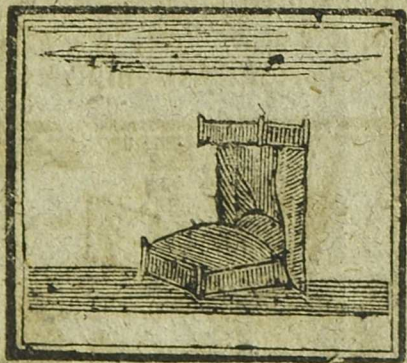
While they went on discouraging in this manner, they came to an inn, and it being nearly dark, they thought it more prudent to stay all night, and ordered a supper: for travelling gets an appetite, and refreshment recruits the strength, to encounter with new fatigues; a roasted rabbit

bit stuffed, was served in, and was a very delicate dish, here it is.



on which they made a hearty meal, and having washed it down with some good liquor, and the old gentleman smoked his pipe by the fire-side, they soon began to grow sleepy, when they were shewed into a very comfortable bed, here it is.

on which they slept undisturbed till morning ; when they arose, fresh as the day ; and having made a good breakfast, mounted their horses and set onward again.



Franky, although arrived, amused with the variety of objects on the road, yet he often cast a look behind, and heaved a sigh, at thinking of his dear father and mother, and sister *Polly*, which was very natural, as he had never

ver been a day from them before and the tenderness of a parent cannot be soon forgot by a sensible child as *Franky* was ; a tear often stole down his cheek, and he sometimes bit his lips, which his uncle observing, was glad of any opportunity to amuse and di-



vert his melancholy ; and soon a subject presented itself : this was a pigeon with a letter in its mouth, flying in the air, this fur-

prized the young gentleman not a little, when his uncle told him it was the nature of that sort of birds to carry messages, and such were often used on particular occasions, as they fly thro' the air with amazing rapidity, and have been known to come above a hundred miles in a very little time; astonishing as this is, it certainly is true, and the pigeon is accordingly called a *Carrier*.

It was now the middle of the day, and rather warm, to stop a while and take the cool of the afternoon to continue their journey in: while they were in the inn, they understood there was a fair in the town, and a number of sights to be seen, and willing to indulge his nephew, the old gentleman took him to see some
of

of them, the productions of nature pleased *Master Franky* most, and an exhibition of wild beasts attracted his notice. The unweildy Elepha it was here,



whose bulk and form is admired by all the world, and who, it is said, to be nearest to man in regard to reason: this animal is amazingly strong, and will carry a vast weight, and are used in battle among the eastern nations, as well as for grandeur: of their

teeth or tusks, they make ivory, which is very useful in a variety of elegant articles.

The next object was a bear, as you may see.



This is an ill shaped beast surly and ravenous, and is found mostly in northern countries; their skins are valuable in the fur trade and their fat, 'tis said, will make the hair grow, they make ham in some parts of their legs, which is esteemed by many as relishing food.

Yet furly and un-toward as they are, those who keep them, have found out a method to make them stand on their hind feet and dance with a pole in his fore paws in which it makes a truly ridiculous figure. The next was an



Ape with his head ornamented in a grotesque manner, and who seemed mighty pleased at playing with a cat, who did not seem so fond of the sport.

Those

Those species of animals in many respects resemble the human race; are very cunning and mischievous, and are not to be trusted by themselves where there is any thing to hurt or destroy. Having seen what they thought was worth while, they returned from the fair, only buying a pair of gloves.



Having again mounted, they set forward, having but one day's journey.

journey to go before they should come to their home, the weather was very fine, and every prospect round was very pleasant, which made it not so tiresome as otherwise it would ; and the next day brought them safe to the place of their destination.

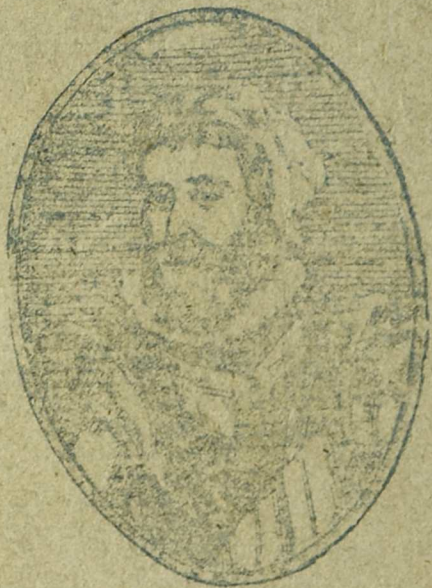
Master *Franky* wrote immediately to his parents to inform them of their safe arrival, as it was his duty. He continued several years with his uncle, and encreased his knowledge in books and arithmetic : was very serviceable and dutiful, and made a very good and honest man : was friendly to all, and beloved by every one, his uncle dying, left him a very good estate, and he married a very agreeable young

lady with a handsome fortune,
with whom he lived very happy
for many years.

*Goodness and virtue who regard,
Will surely gain a just reward.*



37131 048 630 776



Earl of Northumberland.