JIMMY’S CRUISE IN THE PINAFORE, VOL. 5 OF AUNT JO’S SCRAP-BAG (1879)
“Aunt Jo” has again dipped her hand into her “Scrapbag,” and the result is a delightful volume of sketches, the leading one of which, “Jimmy’s Cruise in the Pinafore,” has already been made familiar to many readers through the pages of last month’s St. Nicholas. Beside this one there are twelve others, every bit as entertaining. Among their titles are “Seven Black Cats,” “How They Camped Out,” “What a Shawl Did,” “Kitty’s Cattle Show,” “Rosa’s Tale,” and others which our young readers will find out fast enough. The volume is brought out in Roberts Brothers’ best style, uniform with Miss Alcott’s former books, and has all the “Pinafore” illustrations.

This is No. 5 of that wonderful scrap-bag collection. It tells of the Pinafore, and a dozen other amusing things that the little people will be glad enough to read, and tells them as only the author of “Little Women” can.

There are thirteen of these stories, and they will all find warm endorsement from the little folks. It is a book to sell by the thousands, and each possessor may account himself lucky. The title-story is illustrated by eight pictures of “Pinafore” characters, and is very cheery in itself.

Miss Alcott’s volume is a collection of children’s stories from the more youthful magazines, to which the first story, “Jimmy’s Cruise on the Pinafore,” furnishes a title. They are in her best manner, and the book is eagerly read by those for whom it is designed. Miss Alcott is now engaged on a larger work, which will soon begin to appear serially.

Miss Alcott’s latest volume in “Aunt Jo’s Scrap Bag” series, is Jimmy’s Cruise in the Pinafore, with a dozen other short stories, many of which have already delighted the children in St. Nicholas. It is only necessary to announce one of Miss Alcott’s books, for all the children know their friend.
Thirteen sketches to be added to the many pleasures for which in the name of all the children we thank the author, who knows so well how to do these things. Yet while the fun of Pinafore is of an innocent sort, parents must grow sober over the question whether it is best to multiply the attractions which make it so hard to hold the young in these times to any sort of study or work, and which threaten the still greater evil of making any serious conception of life impossible.

Miss Alcott is on hand once more with her Scrap-bag for the coming holidays. Children will be delighted when they learn that the leading story relates the adventures of a little Boston boy, who sang in the famous Pinafore, in which youthful actors at the Boston Museum won great renown. There are twelve other stories, full of fun, adventure and jolly good times, while at the same time they show that the young folks are the happiest who try to make others happy, and that those who learn to control their tempers have gained the victory in a great battle. The volume is a treasure house of amusement and good advice, given in the bright and cheerful style which makes the author always acceptable to legions of readers.

There can be no pleasanter announcement for little folks than that of a new volume, the fifth, of Aunt Jo's Scrap Bag. It contains a baker's dozen of short stories, including "Jimmy's Cruise in the Pinafore," and all of them told in the style the children love, and of which Miss Alcott is a master.

For children of the same age [as the audience for Eyebright], or those a little older, may be named Miss Alcott's latest collection, headed by "Jimmy's Cruise in the Pinafore," and including a baker's dozen of short stories. They are all characterized by Miss Alcott's good nature, and if life seen through them looks rosy, there is no harmful distortion. Nevertheless, we think children old enough to read these stories would not get more than a passing entertainment out of them, with one or two hints of helpfulness. But there are times when pleasure, even more than instruction, is necessary for a child, and the interest of Miss Alcott's books does not seem to be impaired, even by her noticeable carelessness of style.
These stories are good enough as suggestions, but are too slight to merit a long notice. The one to which the book owes its name turns the craze for *Pinafore* to account.

The fifth volume of Miss Alcott’s “Aunt Jo’s Scrap-Bag” (Roberts Bros.) consists of short stories that have, apparently, appeared elsewhere in juvenile periodicals. They are of the class which confirm our distrust of such publications as wholesome family reading. Against the unreal and sentimental writing in them the child has no protection from month to month. Gathered into a volume the judicious parent can avert it – when it is too late.

Jimmy is a little boy who turns an honest penny in company with other children by acting *Pinafore* – an idea which has been taken hold of by a London company, and is to be one of the rival attractions to the pantomime. The story is a short one; but there are several much better ones in the volume, which is full of proofs that Miss Alcott’s charm of writing has not diminished. The stories are not all for children, though they would understand most of them; but their elders may learn a good lesson from “What a Shovel Did,” and old and young will both like “What Becomes of the Pins.”

When you buy books for your girls and boys select those which will both interest and instruct, and there are authors who have the gift of being able to do this without the appearance of preaching. A writer says of Miss Alcott’s books: “In all of them, underlying the main story and never thrust into a disagreeable prominence, burns the one great keynote of success, *self-reliance*, and clustered around it are purity, kindness, faith, and endeavor.” . . . Miss Alcott’s new book for this autumn is “Jimmy’s Cruise in the Pinafore” and other stories.
is a Boston boy who, with his widowed mother, works hard to support the family, and especially to send for sea air an invalid sister. He is fortunate enough to get engaged as a sailor-boy, for the performance of H. M. S. Pinafore [sic], at a Boston theatre, for which he gets ten dollars a week. Miss Alcott's stories are all full of right feeling, and are attractive and good reading.

Checklist of Additional Reviews and Notices

