

THE INDIA CABINET.

It will be a great while before we come to the India cabinet. First, there are arrangements for several journeys to be made. Whoever has a clear head for these things, and who can understand, at first hearing it told, how various people intend to go and to come, and to meet upon the road, may, if they please, read the following page. Others had better skip it, because they certainly will not understand it.

Rosamond's father was at this time absent. He was gone to place Orlando at a public school, and he had taken Godfrey with him, that he might have the pleasure of the journey with his brother.

But Godfrey was not to be left at the school, as he was not yet sufficiently prepared for it. He was to return with his father; and his father, on his way home, was to call at his sister's house to bring back Laura.

She had been some time with her aunt, who had not been well.

Rosamond's mother, in the meantime, determined to go to Egerton Grove, to see the lady of the black bonnet; and Rosamond was now eager to accompany her.

Mrs. Egerton for that was the name of the lady of the black bonnet, had also invited Rosamond's father and sister to Egerton Grove, and they were to meet Rosamond and her mother there, on their way home.

Rosamond, with her mother, arrived at Mrs. Egerton's.

With feelings very different from those with which she had seen Mrs. Egerton the first time, Rosamond now saw this lady; and quite forgetting whether her bonnet was

black or white, was struck with the old lady's benevolent countenance and good-natured smile.

Mrs. Egerton introduced her to her granddaughter, Helen, the little girl who had been so much burnt.

Rosamond, as soon as she had an opportunity, began to talk to Helen about that accident; and Helen told her the whole history of it over again, adding many little circumstances of her grandmother's kindness and patience, which increased Rosamond's present disposition to admire and love her. Not a day, and scarcely an hour passed, but Rosamond liked her better and better! and with good reason, for not a day or hour passed without Rosamond's hearing something instructive or entertaining from this old lady, who was particularly fond of children; and who knew how to please and amuse without flattering or spoiling them.

One morning Mrs. Egerton took Rosamond into her dressing-room, where there was a large India cabinet. She opened the doors of this cabinet, and told Rosamond that she might look at all the contents of the twelve drawers of this cabinet.

The first drawer which Rosamond opened was full of shells; and the first shell which caught Rosamond's attention was one which looked, as she said, like a monstrously large snail shell, about eight inches across or as wide as the breadth of a sheet of paper. As she laid it down upon a sheet of letter paper which was on the table, it nearly covered the whole breadth of it. The shell looked as if it was made of thin, transparent, white paper. It was a little broken so that she could see the inside, which was divided into a number of partitions or distinct shells. Of these she counted about forty, and through each there was a hole large enough, as Rosamond thought, to admit a pencil or a pen.

Mrs. Egerton told her that this was the shell of the nautilus.

"Ha!" cried Rosamond, "how glad I am to see the nautilus."

"Learn of the little nautilus to sail,
Spread the thin oar, and catch the driving gale!"

"But how does the nautilus sail? Where is the thin



oar? I do not see here anything at all like oars or sails."

Mrs. Egerton told her that what the poet calls the sails and the oars belong to the fish itself, and not to the shell. "You can read an account of the nautilus, my dear, in