

BABY'S OWN ÆSOP

WALTER CRANE

ROUTLEDGE







W.B. CLARKE & CARLUTH
BOOKSELLERS & STATIONERS
BOSTON

81.

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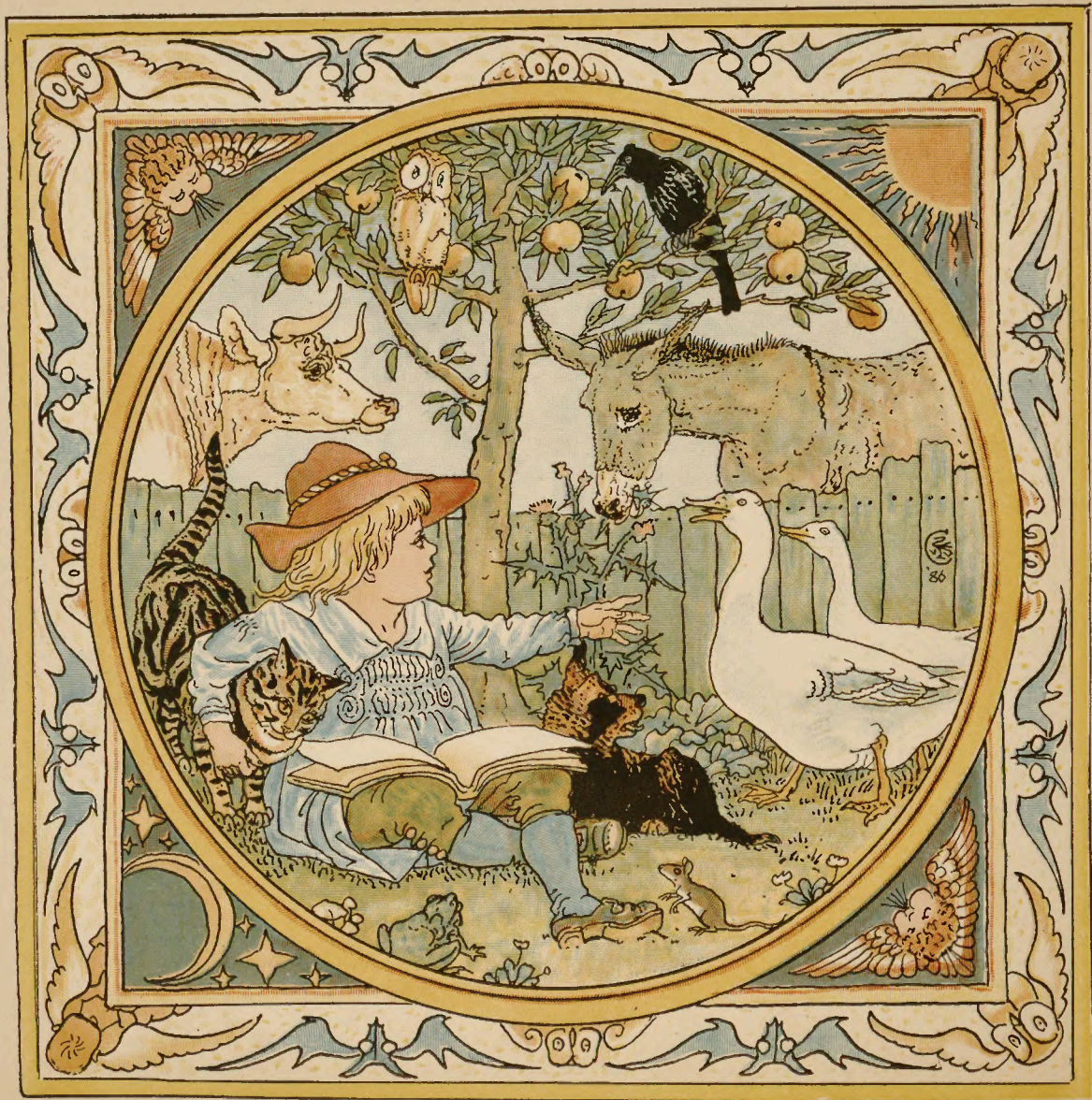
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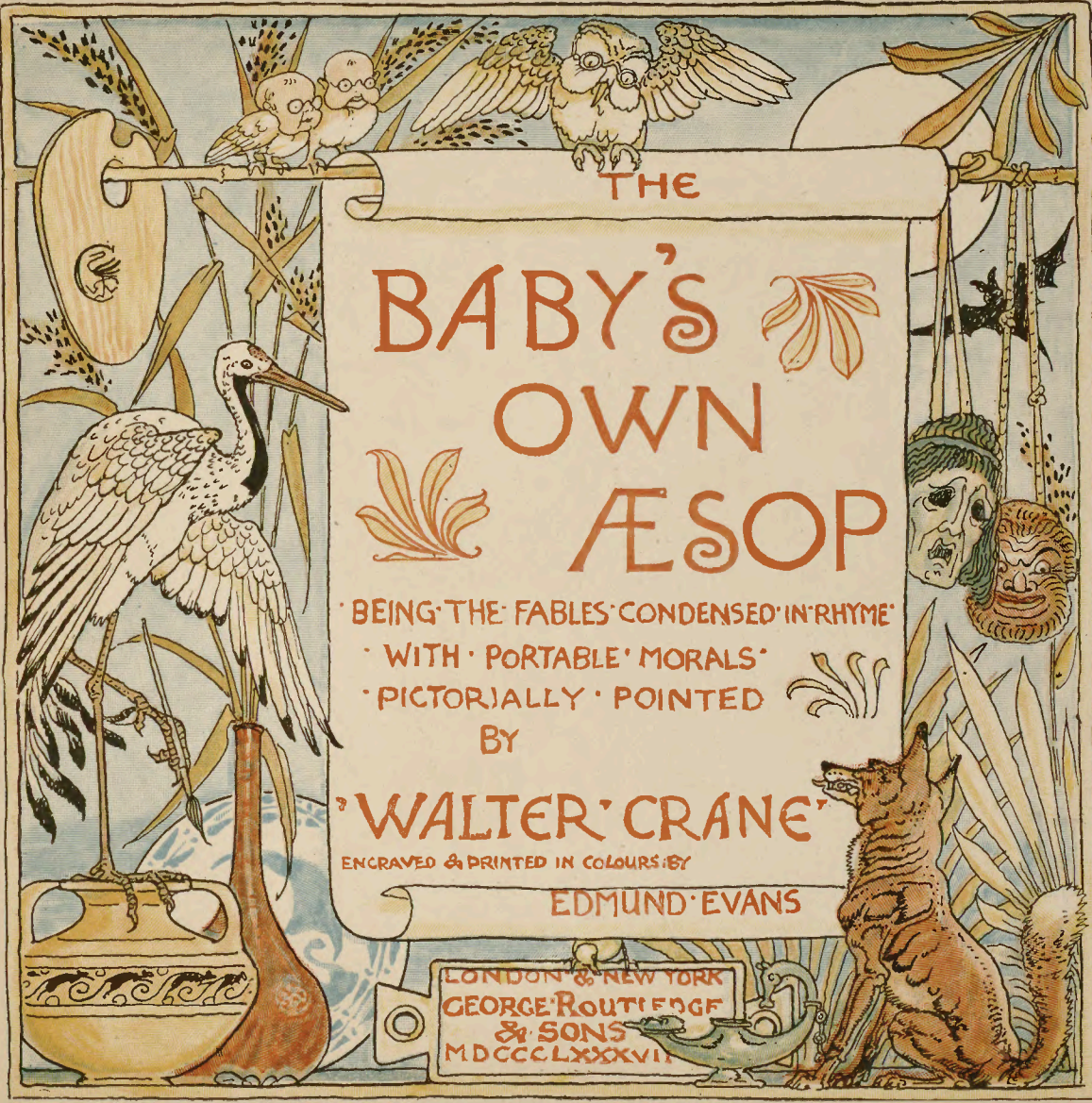
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THE
BABY'S
 OWN
ÆSOP

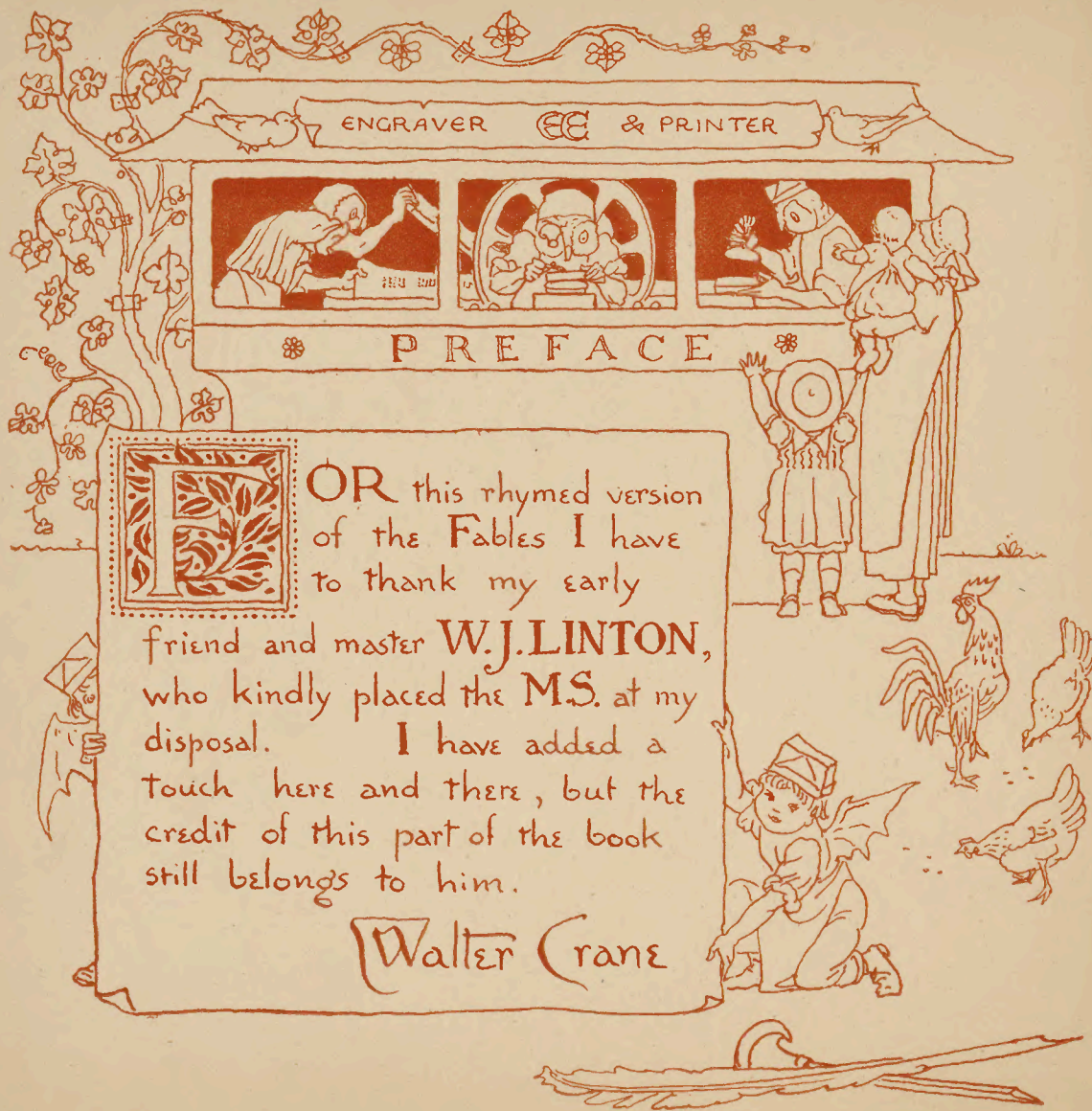
· BEING · THE · FABLES · CONDENSED · IN · RHYME ·
 · WITH · PORTABLE · MORALS ·
 · PICTORJALLY · POINTED ·
 BY

· **WALTER · CRANE** ·

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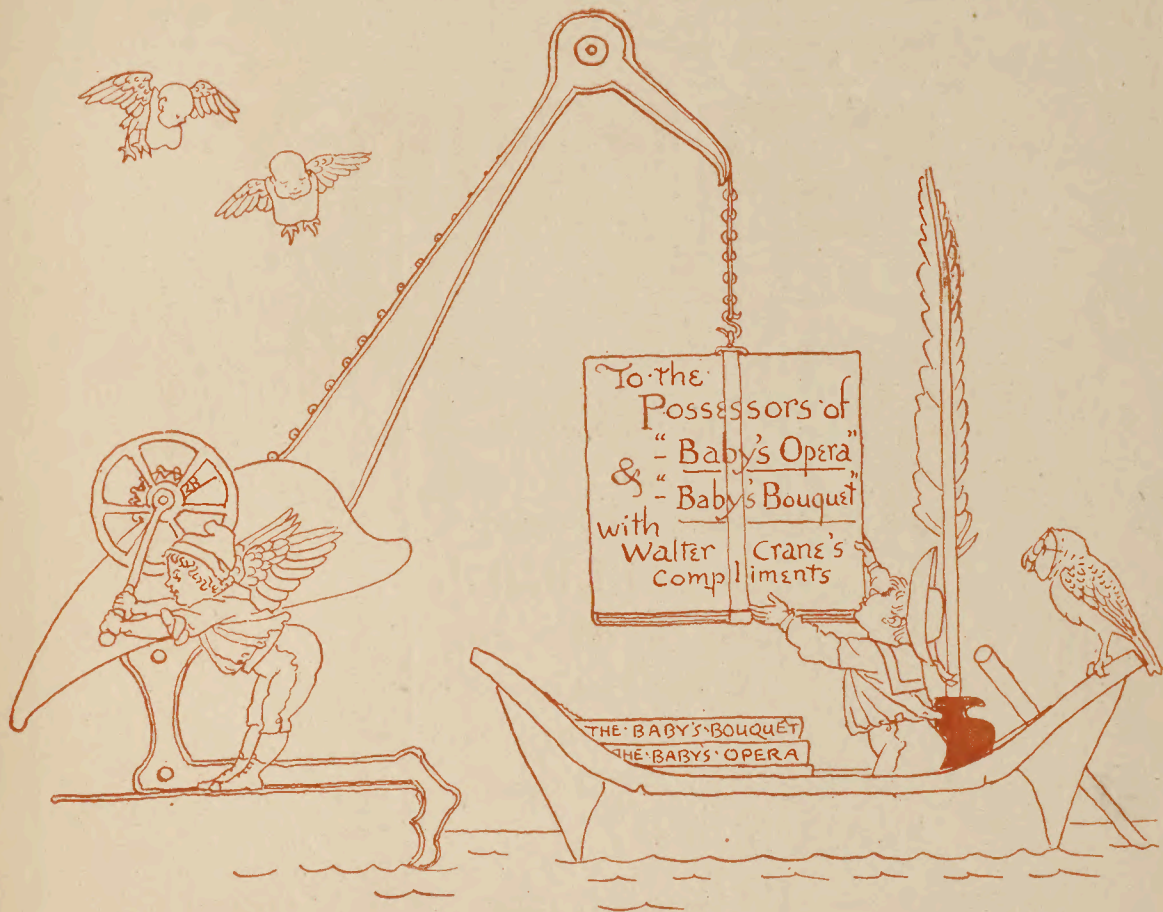


P R E F A C E



OR this rhymed version of the Fables I have to thank my early friend and master W.J. LINTON, who kindly placed the MS. at my disposal. I have added a touch here and there, but the credit of this part of the book still belongs to him.

Walter Crane



To the Possessors of
"Baby's Opera"
& "Baby's Bouquet"
with Walter Crane's
Compliments

THE BABY'S BOUQUET
THE BABY'S OPERA



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HIS Fox has a longing
for grapes,
He jumps, but the bunch still
escapes.
So he goes away sour;
And, 'tis said, to this hour
Declares that he's no taste
for grapes.



'THE GRAPES OF DISAPPOINTMENT ARE ALWAYS SOUR'





THE COCK & THE PEARL

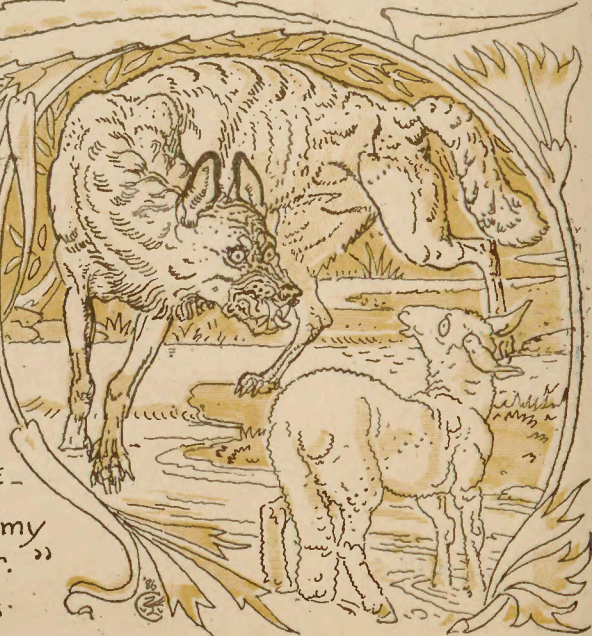
A ROOSTER, while scratching
 for grain,
 Found a Pearl. He just paused to
 explain
 That a jewel's no good
 To a fowl wanting food,
 And then kicked it aside with
 disdain.

"IF HE ASK BREAD WILL YE GIVE HIM A STONE?"

THE WOLF

AND THE LAMB

A WOLF, wanting lamb for his
 dinner,
 Growled out - "Lamb you wronged me,
 you sinner."
 Bleated Lamb - "Nay, not true!"
 Answered Wolf - "Then 't was EWE -
 EWE or lamb, you will serve for my
 dinner."



FRAUD AND VIOLENCE HAVE NO SCRUPLES



THE WIND & THE SUN

THE WIND and the Sun had a bet,
The wayfarers' cloak which should get:
Blew the Wind - the cloak clung:
Shone the Sun - the cloak flung
Showed the Sun had the best of it yet.

TRUE STRENGTH IS NOT BLUSTER


KING LOG & KING STORK

THE FROGS prayed to
Jove for a king:
Not a log, but a livelier
thing."

Jove sent them a Stork,
Who did royal work,
For he gobbled them up, did
their king.

DON'T HAVE KINGS



A detailed illustration of a lion with a large, shaggy mane, roaring with its mouth wide open. The lion is positioned on the left side of the page. In the foreground, a frog is sitting on a lily pad in a pond. The background is filled with various tropical plants, including large palm fronds and other leafy vegetation. The entire scene is rendered in a classic, hand-drawn style with fine lines and a limited color palette of browns, greens, and blues.

THE FRIGHTENED LION:

A BULL FROG, according
to rule,
Sat a-croak in his
usual pool:

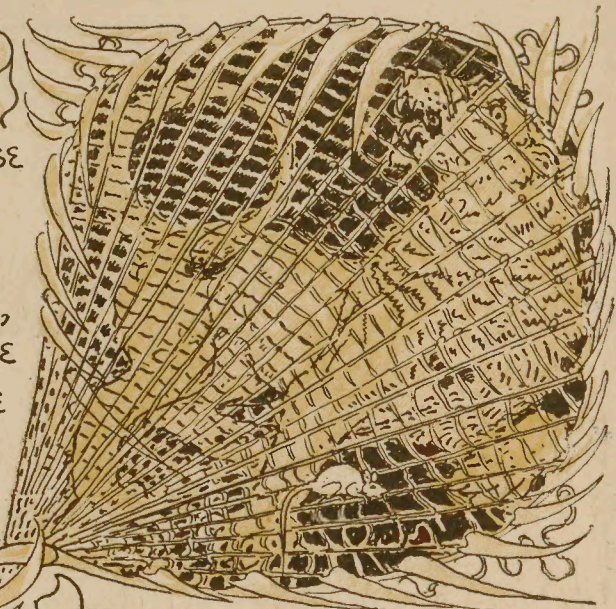
And he laughed in his heart
As a Lion did start
In a fright from the brink
like a fool.

IMAGINARY FEARS ARE THE WORST.

THE MOUSE & THE LION

A POOR thing the Mouse
was, and yet,
When the Lion got
caught in a net,
All his strength was no use
'Twas the poor little Mouse
Who nibbled him out of the
net.

SMALL CAUSES MAY PRODUCE GREAT RESULTS



THE MARRIED MOUSE

SO the Mouse had Miss
Lion for bride;
Very great was his joy and
his pride:
But it chanced that she put
On her husband her foot,
And the weight was too much,
so he died

ONE MAY BE TOO AMBITIOUS

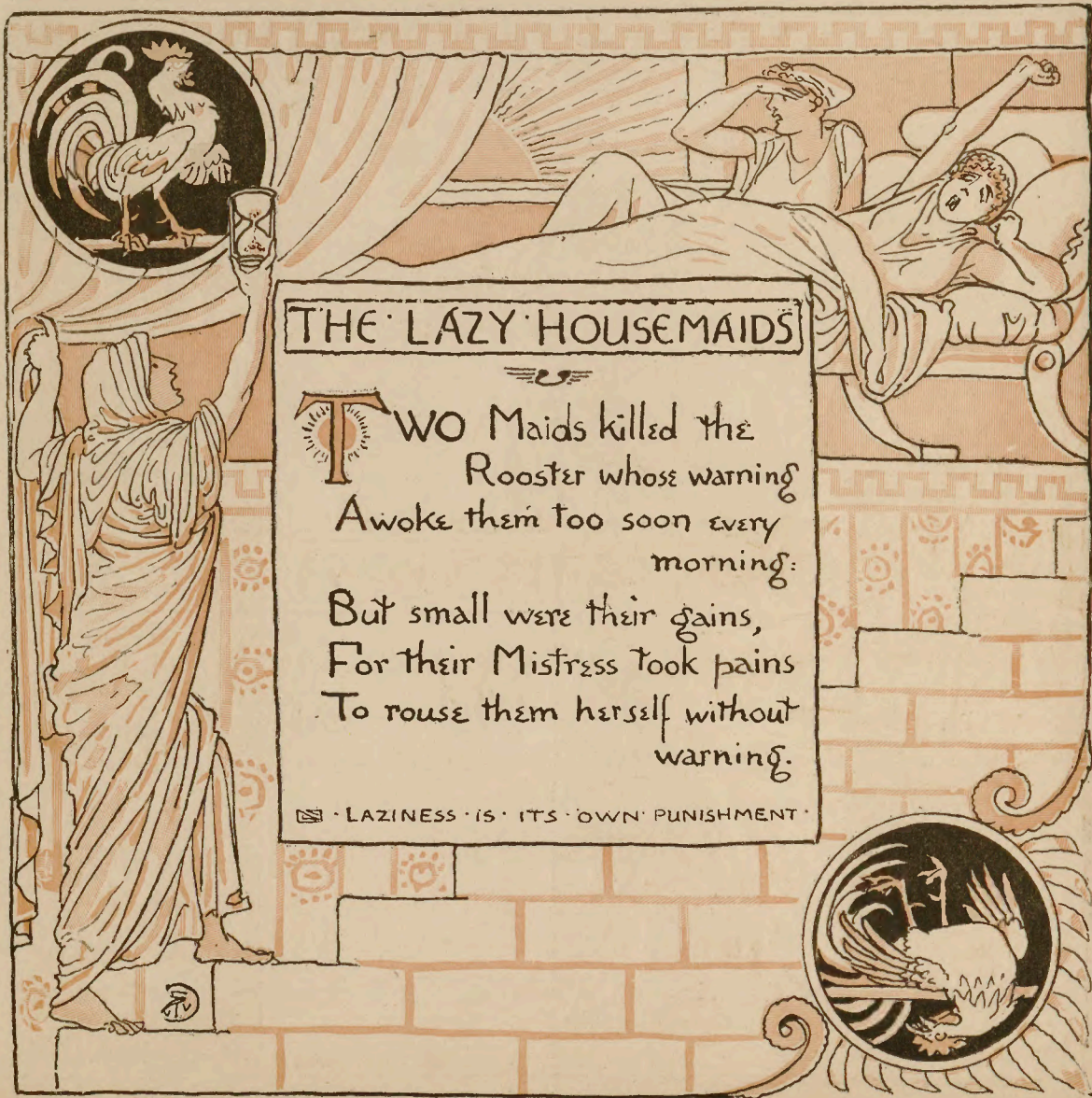




HERCULES & THE WAGGONER

WHEN the God saw the
Waggoner kneel,
Crying, "Hercules! Lift me
my wheel,"
From the mud, where 'tis stuck!
He laughed—"No such luck;
Set your shoulder yourself
To the wheel."

THE GODS HELP THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES



THE LAZY HOUSEMAIDS

TWO Maids killed the
Rooster whose warning
Awoke them too soon every
morning:
But small were their gains,
For their Mistress took pains
To rouse them herself without
warning.

LAZINESS IS ITS OWN PUNISHMENT



THE SNAKE & THE FILE

A SNAKE, in a fix, tried
 a File
 For a dinner. 'Tis not worth
 your while,"
 Said the steel, "don't mistake;
 I'm accustomed to take;
 To give's not the way of
 a File."

WE MAY MEET OUR MATCH

THE FOX & THE CROW

S AID sly Fox to the Crow
 with the cheese,
 "Let me hear your sweet voice,
 now, do please!"
 And this Crow, being weak,
 Caved the bit from her beak.
 "Music charms," said the Fox,
 "and here's cheese!"

BEWARE OF FLATTERERS

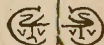




THE DOG IN THE MANGER

A COW sought a mouth-
ful of hay;
But a Dog in the man-
ger there lay,
And he snapped out "how now!"
When, most mildly, the Cow
Adventured a morsel to pray.

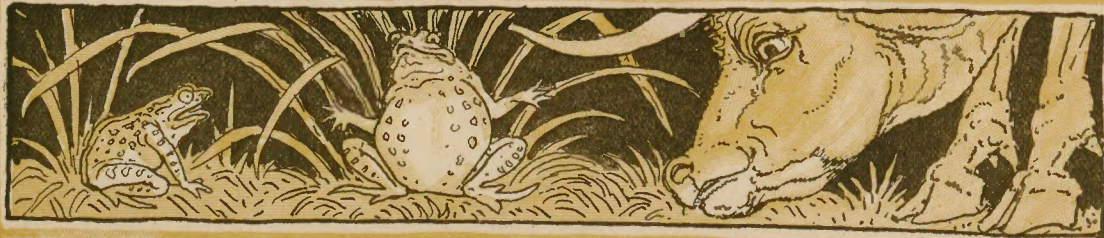
DON'T BE SELFISH



THE FROG & THE BULL

S AID the Frog, quite puffed
up to the eyes,
"Was this Bull about me
as to size?"
"Rather bigger, frog-brother!"
"Puff, puff," said the other,
"A Frog is a Bull if he
tries!"

BRAG IS NOT ALWAYS BELIEF



THE FOX & THE CRANE

YOU have heard how Sir
Fox treated Crane:
With soup in a plate. When again
They dined, a long bottle
Just suited Crane's throttle;
And Sir Fox licked the outside
in vain.

THERE ARE GAMES THAT TWO CAN
PLAY AT.





HORSE AND MAN:

WHEN the Horse first
 took Man on his back,
 To help him the Stag to attack;
 How little his dread,
 As the enemy fled,
 Man would make him his
 slave & his hack.

ADVANTAGES MAY BE DEARLY BOUGHT:


THE ASS & THE ENEMY:

“GET up! let us flee from
 the Foe,”
 Said the Man: but the Ass
 said “Why so?”
 “Will they double my load,
 Or my blows? Then, by goad,
 And by stirrup, I’ve no cause
 to go.”

YOUR REASONS ARE
 NOT MINE:



THE FOX & THE MOSQUITOES

BEING plagued with Mosquitoes
Said old Fox "one day
pray don't send
them away,
For a hungrier swarm
Would work me more harm;"
I had rather the full ones
 should stay."

•THERE WERE POLITICIANS IN ÆSOP'S TIME•



THE FOX & THE LION

THE first time the Fox
had a sight
Of the Lion, he most died
of fright;
When he next met his eye,
Fox felt just a bit shy;
But the next - quite at ease,
& polite.

•FAMILIARITY DESTROYS FEAR•



THE MISER & HIS GOLD

HE buried his Gold in a hole.
 One saw, and the treasure
 he stole.

Said another, "What matter?
 Don't raise such a clatter,
 You can still go & sit by
 The hole."

USE ALONE GIVES VALUE

THE GOLDEN EGGS

A GOLDEN egg, one every
 day,
 That simpleton's Goose
 used to lay;
 So he killed the poor thing,
 Swifter fortune to bring,
 And dined off his fortune
 That day.

GREED OVERREACHES ITSELF





THE MAN THAT PLEASED NONE

THROUGH the town
 this good Man & his Son
 strove to ride as to please every one:
 Self, Son, or both tried,
 Then the Ass had a ride;
 While the world, at their efforts,
 poked fun.

YOU CANNOT HOPE TO PLEASE ALL. DON'T TRY.

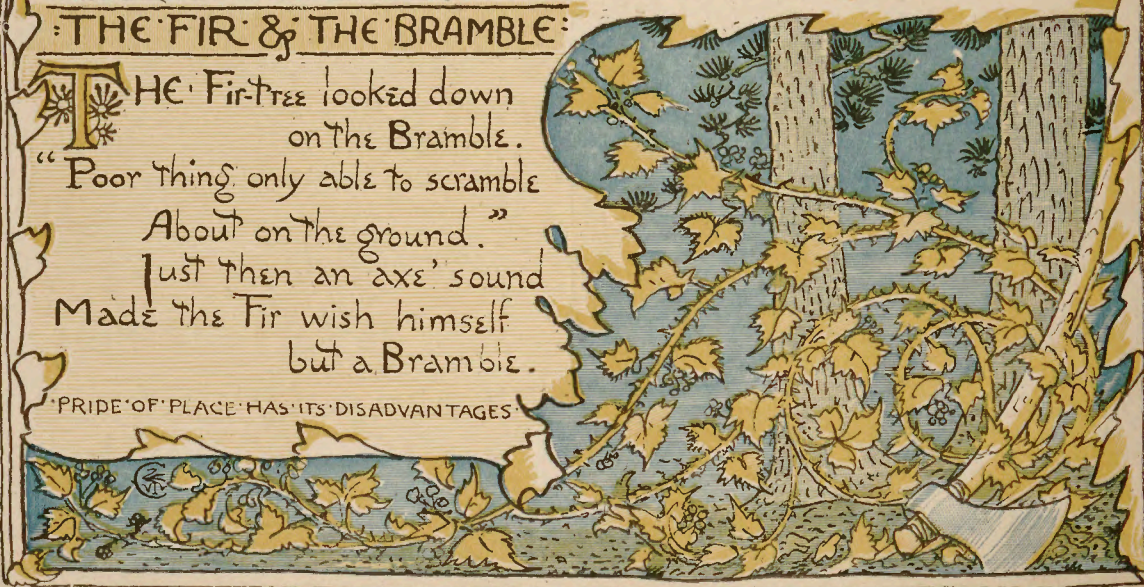


THE OAK & THE REEDS:

GIANT Oak, in his strength & his scorn
Of the winds, by the roots
was upturn:

But slim Reeds at his side,
The fierce gale did outride,
Since, by bending the burden
was borne.

: BEND, NOT BREAK:



THE FIR & THE BRAMBLE:

THE Fir-tree looked down
on the Bramble.
"Poor thing only able to scramble
About on the ground."
Just then an axe' sound
Made the Fir wish himself
but a Bramble.

'PRIDE OF PLACE HAS ITS DISADVANTAGES'

THE TREES & THE
WOODMAN



THE TREES ask of Man
what he lacks;
"One bit, just to handle my axe?"
All he asks - well and good:
But he cuts down the wood,
So well does he handle his axe.

"GIVE ME AN INCH & I'LL TAKE AN
ELL"





THE HART & THE VINE

A Hart by the hunters pursued,
Safely hid in a Vine, till
he chewed
The sweet tender green,
And, through shaking leaves
He was slain by his ingratitude.

SPARE YOUR BENEFACTORS



THE MAN & THE SNAKE

In pity he brought the poor Snake
To be warmed at his fire.
A mistake!
For the ungrateful thing
Wife & children would sting.
I have known some as bad as
the Snake.

BEWARE HOW YOU

ENTERTAIN TRAITORS





THE FOX & THE MASK:

Fox with his
foot on a
Mask,
Thus took the fair semblance
To task;
"You're a real handsome face;
But what part of your case
Are your brains in,
good Sir! let me
ask?"

MASKS ARE THE FACES OF SHAMS:



“THE ASS IN THE LION'S SKIN.”
WHAT pranks I shall play!
“I thought the Ass, In this skin for a Lion to pass;”
But he left one ear out,
And a hiding, no doubt,
“Lion” had - on the skin of an Ass!

· IMPOSTORS ·
· GENERALLY · FORGET ·
· SOMETHING ·



:THE LION & THE STATUE:

ON a Statue - King Lion
dethroned,
Showing conqueror Man -
Lion frowned.
"If a Lion, you know,
Had been sculptor, he'd show
Lion rampant, and Man on the
ground."

THE STORY DEPENDS ON THE TELLER.



· THE · BOASTER ·

IN the house, in the market, the streets,
Everywhere he was boasting his feats;

Till one said, with a sneer,
"Let us see it done here!
What's so oft done with ease, one
repeats"

· DEEDS · NOT · WORDS ·

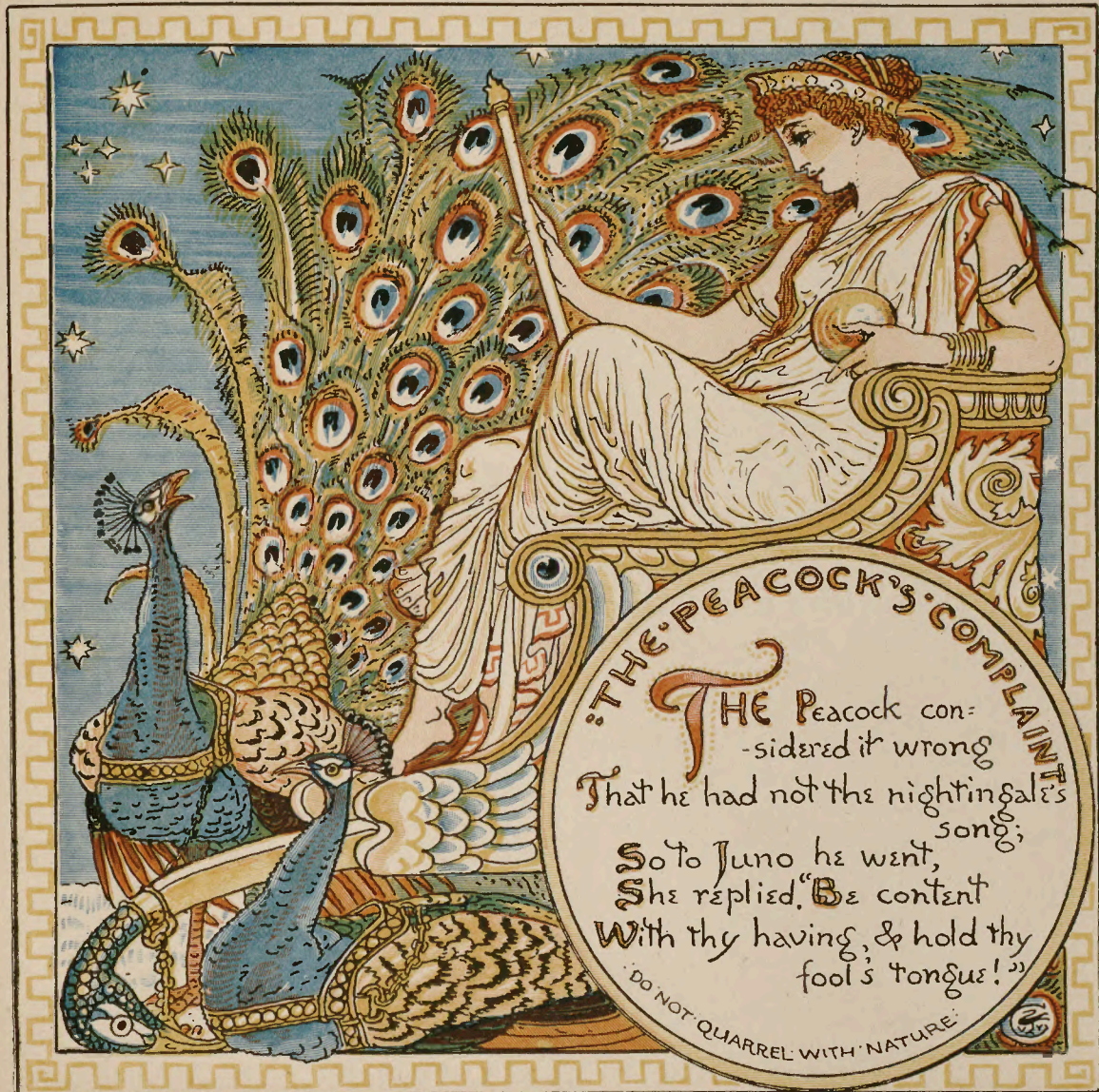




THE VAIN JACKDAW:

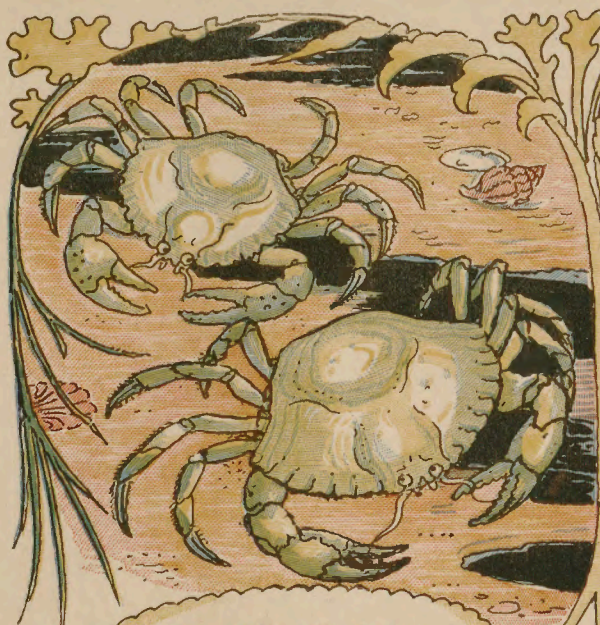
FINE feathers, Jack thought,
"make fine fowls;"
I'll be envied of bats & of owls:
But the peacocks' proud eyes
Saw through his disguise,
And Jack fled the assembly
of fowls.

BORROWED PLUMES
ARE SOON DISCOVERED.



THE PEACOCK'S COMPLAINT
THE Peacock con-
sidered it wrong
That he had not the nightingale's
song;
So to Juno he went,
She replied, "Be content
With thy having, & hold thy
fool's tongue!"

DO NOT QUARREL WITH NATURE.



: THE TWO CRABS:

“O awkward, so shambling
a gait!”
Mrs Crab did her daughter
berate,
Who rejoined, “It is true
I am backward; but you
Needed lessons in walking
quite late.”

: LOOK AT HOME:

: THE TWO JARS:

“NEVER fear!” said the Brass
to the Clay
Of two Jars that the flood
bore away:
“Keep you close to my side!”
But the porcelain replied,
“I’ll be smashed if beside you
I stay.”

: OUR FRIEND OUR ENEMY:





BROTHER & SISTER

TWIN children: The Girl,
she was plain;
The Brother was handsome &
vain;
“Let him brag of his looks,”
Father said; mind your books!
The best beauty is bred in the brain.”

HANDSOME IS AS HANDSOME DOES :



THE FOX WITHOUT A TAIL:

Said Fox, minus tail in a trap,
"My friends! here's a lucky
mishap;
Give your tails a short lease!
- But the foxes were n't geese,
And none followed the fashion
of trap.

: YET SOME FASHIONS HAVE NO
BETTER REASON :



THE DOG & THE SHADOW

HIS image the Dog did not
know,
Or his bone's, in the pond's
"Other dog", so he thought,
"Has got more than he ought,"
So he snapped, & his dinner
saw go!

'GREED IS SOMETIMES

CAUGHT BY ITS
OWN BAIT



THE CROW & THE
PITCHER

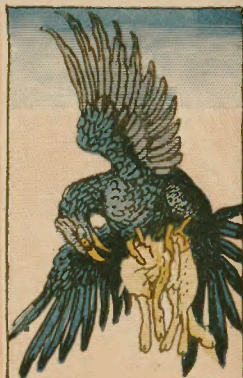
Now the cunning old
Crow got his drink
When 'twas low in the
pitcher, just think!
Don't say that he spilled it!
With pebbles he filled it,
Till the water rose up to
the brink.

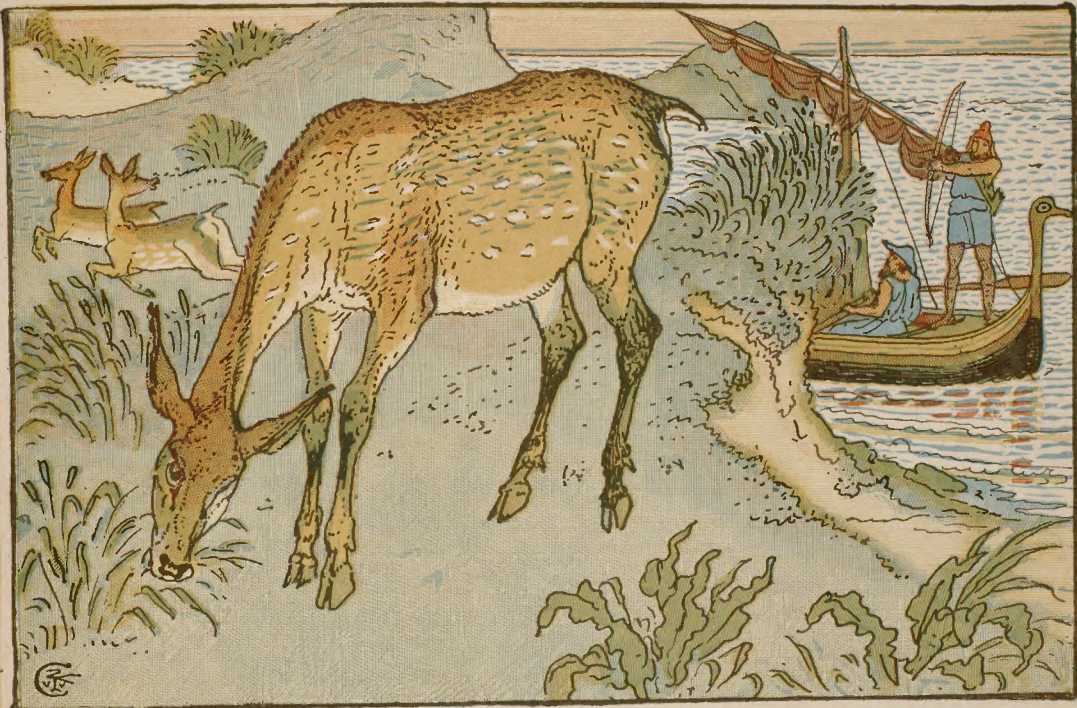
USE YOUR WITS

THE EAGLE AND THE CROW

The Eagle flew off with a lamb;
Then the Crow thought to lift an old ram,
In his eaglish conceit,
The wool tangled his feet,
And the shepherd laid hold of the sham.

BEWARE OF OVERATING YOUR OWN POWERS





THE BLIND DOE

A poor half-blind Doe her one eye
kept shoreward, all danger to spy,
As she fed by the sea,
Poor innocent! she
Was shot from a boat passing by.

: WATCH ON ALL SIDES :

THE GEESE & THE CRANES:

THE Geese joined the Cranes in some wheat;
 All was well, till, disturbed at their treat,
 Light-winged, the Cranes fled,
 But the slow Geese, well fed,
 Couldn't rise, and were caught in retreat.

BEWARE OF ENTERPRIZES WHERE
 THE RISKS ARE NOT EQUAL:





THE TRUMPETER TAKEN PRISONER

♫ Trumpeter, prisoner made,
Hoped his life would be spared
He'd no part in the fight, ^{when he said}
But they answered him "Right,
But what of the music you made?"

SONGS MAY SERVE
A CAUSE AS WELL AS SWORDS



:HOT·AND·COLD:

WHEN to warm his cold fingers
man blew,
And again, but to cool the hot stew;
Simple Satyr, unused
To man's ways, felt confused,
When the same mouth blew hot &
cold too!

:ÆSOP·AIMED·AT·DOUBLE·DEALING:



NEITHER BEAST NOR BIRD:

As **A** Beast he would be, or
a bird,
As might suit, thought the Bat:
but he erred.
When the battle was done,
He found that no one
Would take him for friend at
his word.

BETWEEN TWO STOOLS
YOU MAY COME TO THE GROUND:





THE STAG IN THE OX-STALL | THE DEER & THE LION

SAFE enough lay the poor
 hunted Deer
 In the ox-stall, with nothing
 to fear
 From the careless-eyed men:
 Till the Master came; then
 There was no hiding-place
 for the Deer.

FROM the hounds the swift
 Deer sped away,
 To his cave, where in past times
 he lay
 Well concealed; unaware
 Of a Lion couched there,
 For a spring that soon made
 him his prey.

AN EYE IS
 KEEN IN ITS
 OWN
 INTEREST:

FATE
 CAN MEET
 AS WELL AS
 FOLLOW:

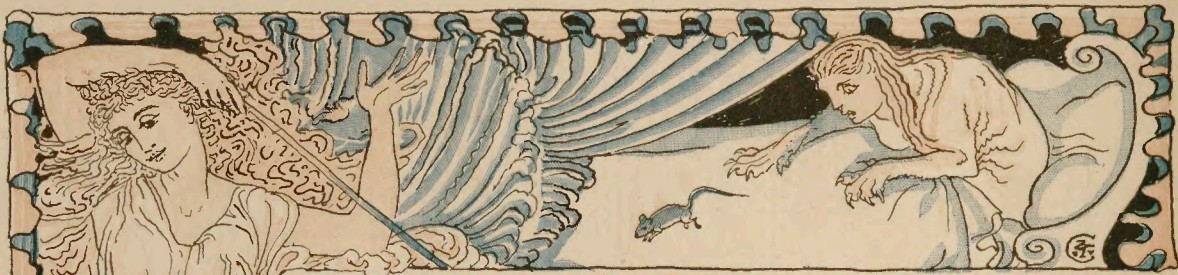


THE LION IN LOVE

THOUGH the Lion in love let
All his teeth, and pare down every
He'd no bride for his pains,
For they beat out his brains
Ere he set on his maiden
a paw.



OUR VERY MEANS MAY
DEFEAT OUR ENDS



THE CAT AND VENUS

MIGHT his Cat be a woman", he said:
 Venus changed her: The couple were wed:
 But a mouse in her sight
 Metamorphosed her quite,
 And, for bride, a cat found he instead.

: NATURE WILL OUT :

MICE IN COUNCIL

Against Cat sat
 a Council of Mice.
 Every Mouse came out
 prompt with advice,
 And a bell on Cat's throat
 Would have met a round vote,
 Had the bell-hanger not
 been so nice.

: THE BEST POLICY OFTEN
 TURNS ON AN IF :





·THE·HEN·AND·THE·FOX·

THE HEN roosted high on her perch;
Hungry Fox down below, on the search,

Coaxed her hard to descend
She replied, "Most dear friend!
I feel more secure on my perch"

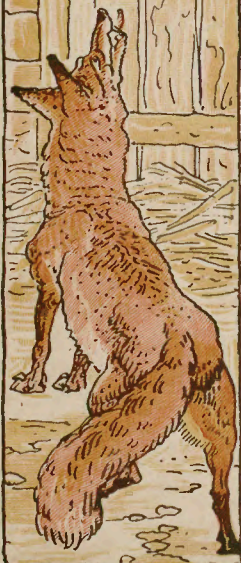
: BEWARE OF INTERESTED FRIENDSHIPS :

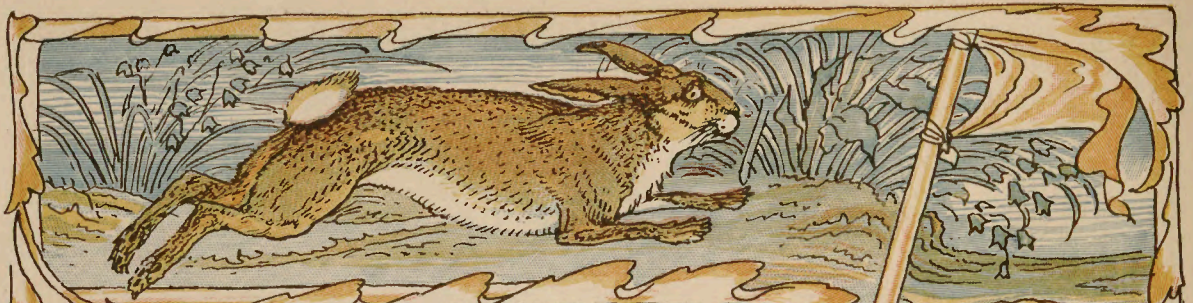
·THE·CAT·AND·THE·FOX·

THE FOX said "I can play,
when it fits,
Many wiles that with man make
me quits"

"But my trick's up a tree!"
Said the Cat, safe to see
Clever Fox hunted out of his wits.

: TRUST TO SKILL RATHER THAN WIT :





THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

T WAS a race between Tortoise and Hare,
Puss was sure she'd so much time to spare,
That she lay down to sleep,
And let old Thick-shell creep
To the winning-post first! You may stare.

PERSISTENCE BEATS IMPULSE

THE HARES AND THE FROGS

TIMID Hares, from the trumpeting wind,
Fled as swift as the fear in their mind;
Till in fright from their fear,
From the green sedges near,
Leaping Frogs left their ferror behind.

OUR OWN ARE NOT THE ONLY TROUBLES





PORCUPINE, SNAKE, & COMPANY.

GOING shares with the Snakes, Porcu-
 pine
 Said "the best of the bargain is mine."
 Nor would he back down,
 When the snakes would disown
 The agreement his quills made them
 sigh.

HASTY PARTNERSHIPS MAY BE REPENTED OF.



THE BEAR & THE BEES:

THEIR honey I'll have when I
 please;
 "Who cares for such small things as
 BEES?"
 Said the Bear; but the stings
 Of these very small things
 Left him not very much at his ease.

THE WEAKEST UNITED MAY BE STRONG TO AVENGE





THE BUNDLE OF STICKS:

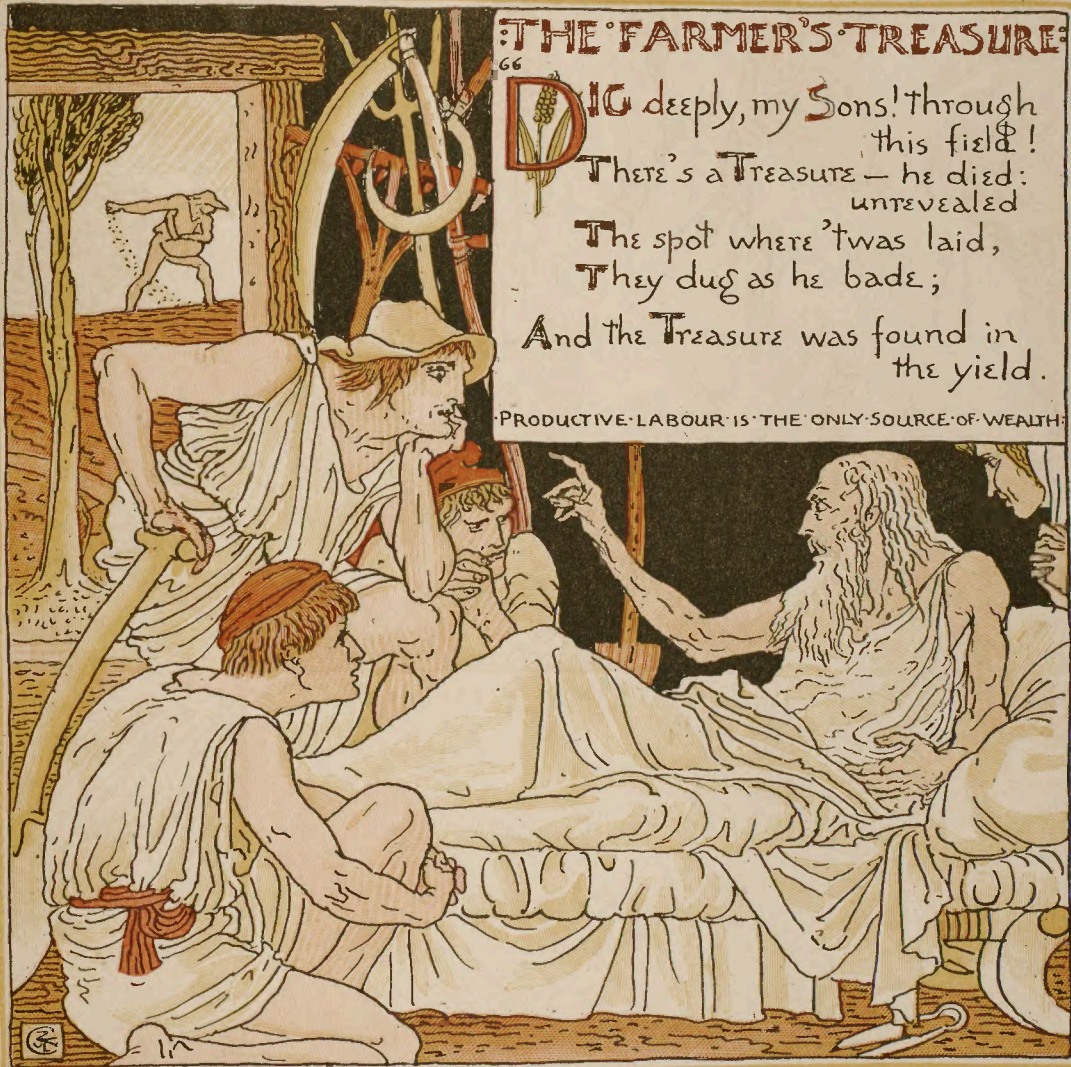
TO his sons, who fell out, father spake:
This Bundle of Sticks you can't break;
Take them singly, with ease,
You may break as you please;
So, dissension your strength will unmake.

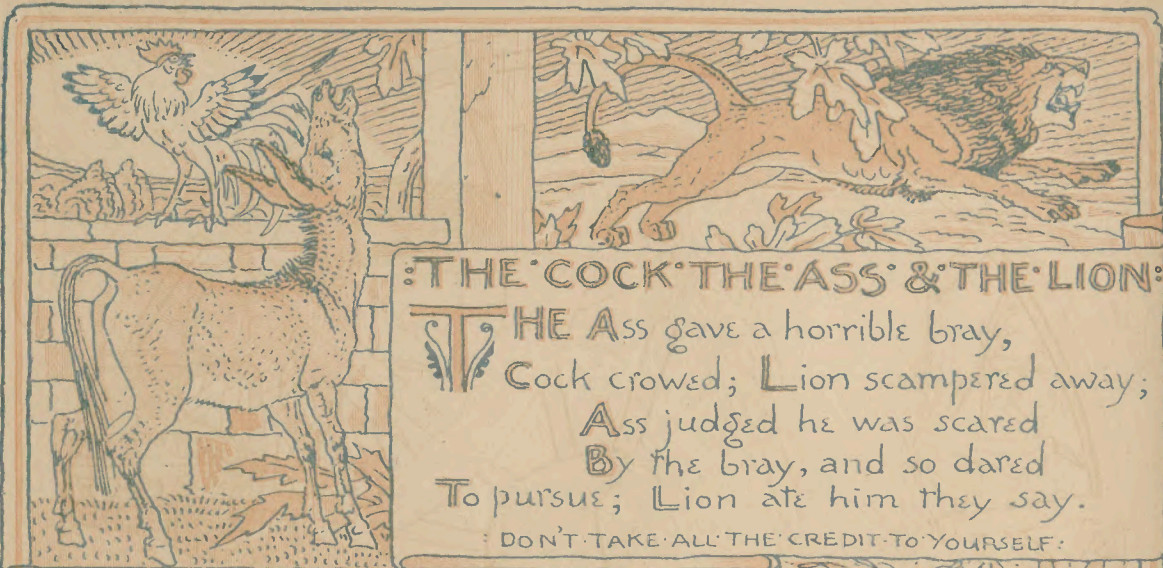
STRENGTH IS IN UNITY:

THE FARMER'S TREASURE

DIG deeply, my Sons! Through
this field!
There's a Treasure — he died:
unrevealed
The spot where 'twas laid,
They dug as he bade;
And the Treasure was found in
the yield.

PRODUCTIVE LABOUR IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF WEALTH





:THE COCK THE ASS & THE LION:

THE Ass gave a horrible bray,
 Cock crowed; Lion scampered away;
 Ass judged he was scared
 By the bray, and so dared
 To pursue; Lion ate him they say.

: DON'T TAKE ALL THE CREDIT TO YOURSELF :

:THE ASS AND THE LAP DOG:

“**HOW** Master that little Dog pets P^d
 Thinks the Ass; & with jealousy frets,
 So he climbs Master's knees,
 Hoping dog-like to please,
 And a drubbing is all that he gets.

: ASSES MUST NOT EXPECT TO BE FONDLED :

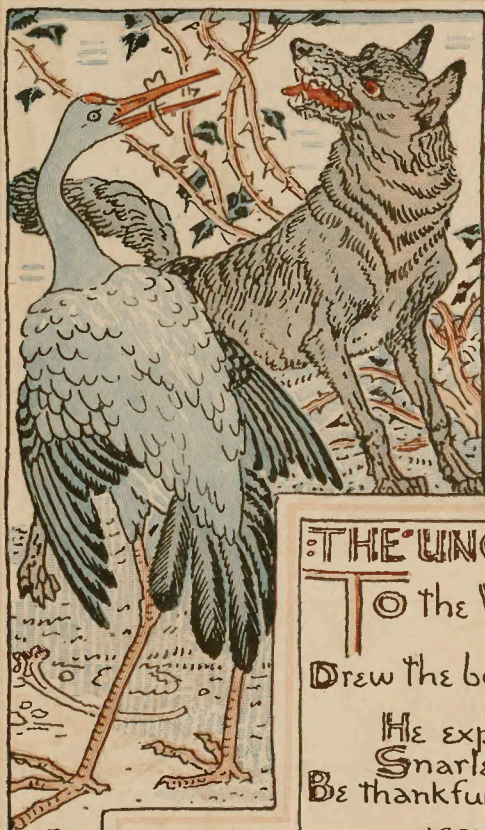




: FORTVNE° AND° THE° BOY° :

A Boy heedless slept by the well
By Dame Fortune awaked, truth to tell,
Said she, "Hadst been drowned,
It would have surely been found
This by Fortune, not Folly befel."

FORTUNE° IS° NOT° ANSWERABLE° FOR° OUR° WANT° OF° FORESIGHT°



THE UNGRATEFUL WOLF:

TO the Wolf, from whose throat
 D^r Crane
 Drew the bone, his long bill made
 it plain
 He expected his fee:
 Snarled Wolf—"Fiddle de dee,
 Be thankful your head's out again!"

SOME CHARACTERS
 HAVE NO SENSE OF OBLIGATION:

THE FISHERMAN & THE FISH:

PRAYED the Fish, as the Fisherman took
 Him, a poor little mite, from his hook,
 "Let me go! I'm so small."
 He replied, "Not at all!
 You're the biggest, perhaps in the brook."

A LITTLE CERTAINTY IS BETTER THAN A GREAT CHANCE:



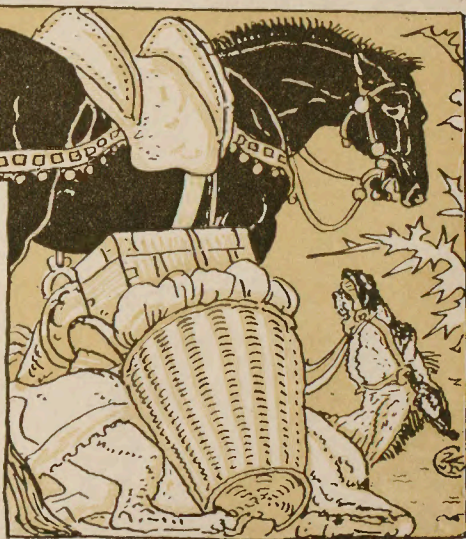
THE HERDSMANS VOWS

A KID vowed to Jove, so might
Find his herd, & his herd did ^{he}
Soon, of lions the prey: ^{he see}
Then 'twas "Get me away,
And a goat of the best take for ^{see}
HOW OFTEN WOULD WE MEND OUR WISHES!



THE HORSE AND THE ASS:

OVERLADEN the Ass was, the
wouldn't help; but had time for re- ^{Horse}
When the Ass lay dead there; ^{horse}
For he then had to bear
Both the load of the Ass & his ^{corse}
GRUDGE NOT HELP!





THE ASS & THE SICK LION

CRAFTY Lion, -perhaps with the gout
Kept his cave; where, to solve any doubt,
Many visitors go:
But the Ass, he said "No!
They go in, but I've seen none come out."

REASON FROM RESULTS

THE END

Crane, Walter

"

Holmes Coll

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ERRATA AND ADDENDA.

(CONTENTS PAGE).

Page 42.—For “*The Man and the Satyr*,” read *Hot and Cold*.

Page 43.—For “*The Cock*,” &c., read *Neither Beast nor Bird*.

Page 52.—For “*The Fisherman*,” &c., read

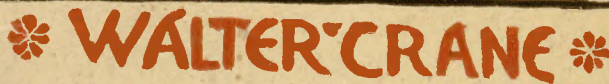
{	<i>Cock, Ass, and Lion.</i>
	<i>The Ass and the Lap Dog.</i>

Page 54.—Add *Fisherman and Fish*.

Page 55.—Add *The Herdsman's Vows*.



BABY'S OWN ÆSOP



WALTER CRANE

ALSO BY THE
SAME:

"THE
BABY'S
OPERA"

&
"THE
BABY'S
BOUQUËT"

ENGRAVED & PRINTED
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EDMUND EVANS

ROUTLEDGE