

BABY'S OWN ÆSOP



WALTER CRANE



ROUTLEDGE

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BABY'S OWN...
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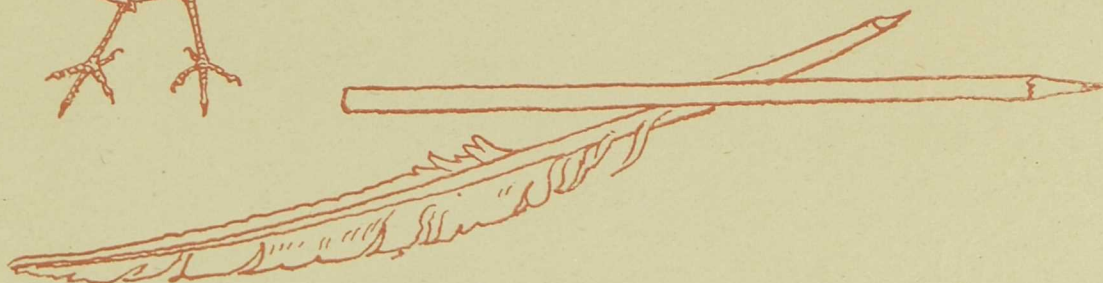
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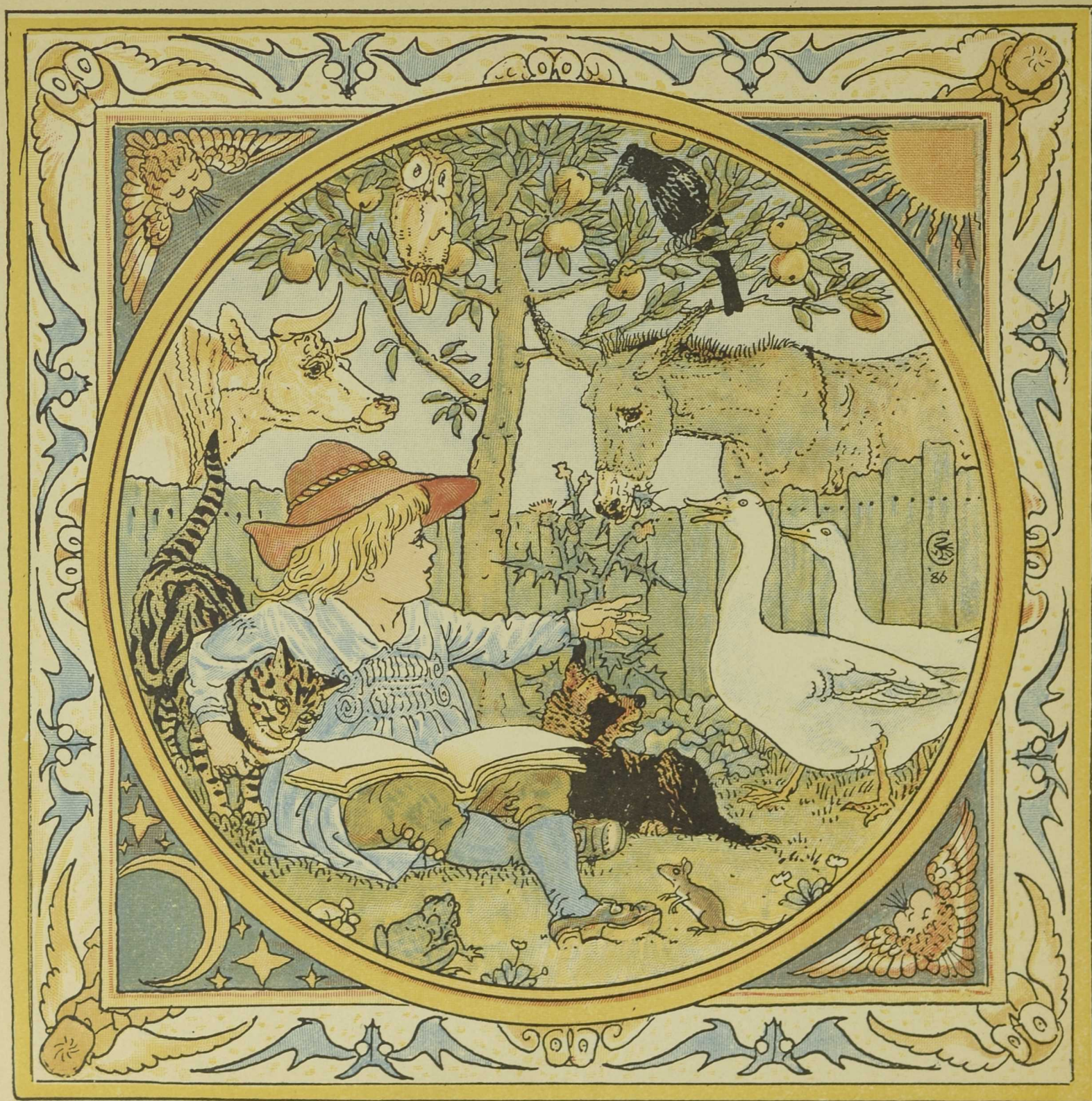
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THE
BABY'S
OWN
ÆSOP

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

· WALTER · CRANE ·

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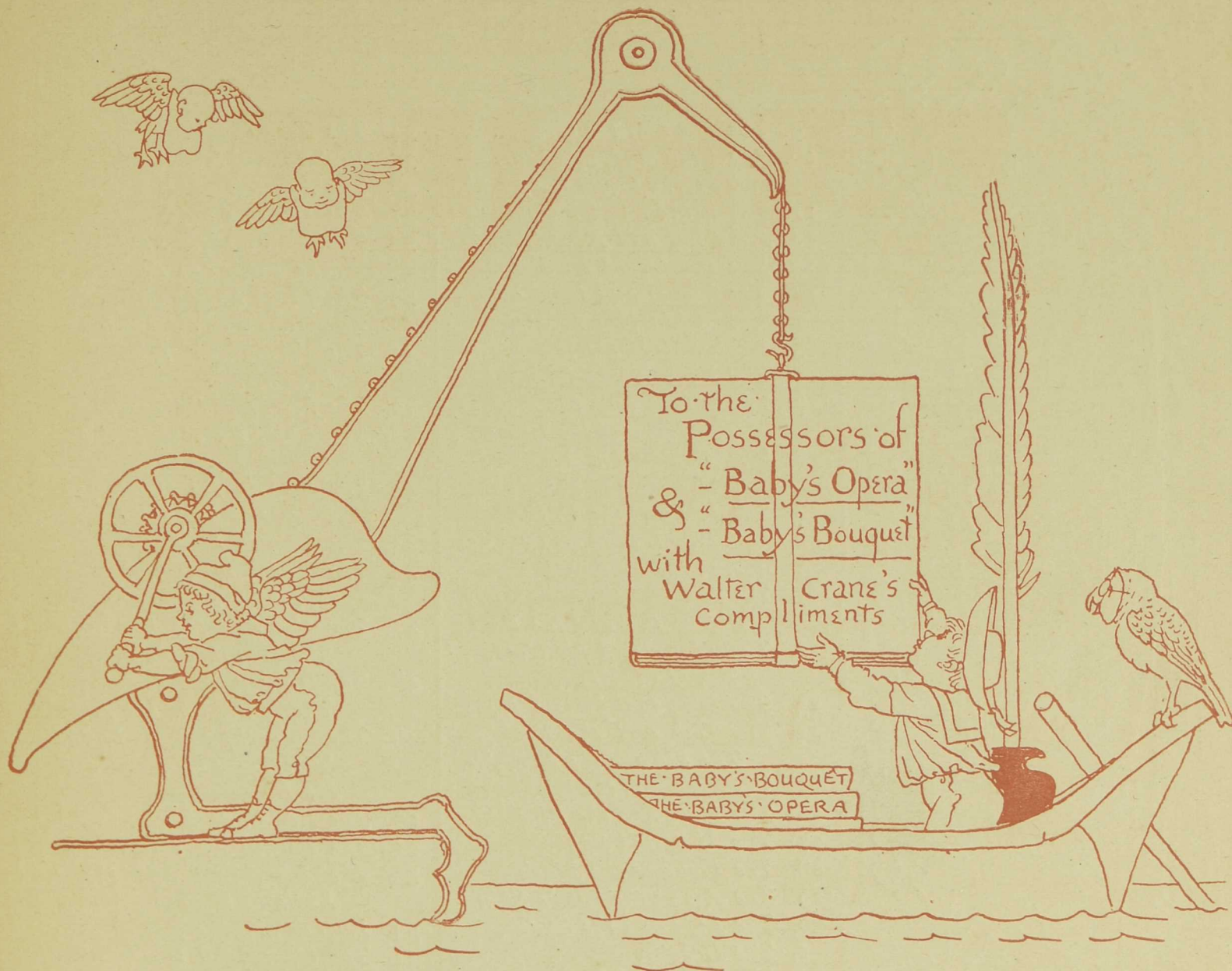
P R E F A C E



FOR this rhymed version of the Fables I have to thank my early friend and master **W.J. LINTON**, who kindly placed the **M.S.** 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





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ERRATA AND ADDENDA.

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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 { *Cock, Ass, and Lion.*
The Ass and the Lap Dog.

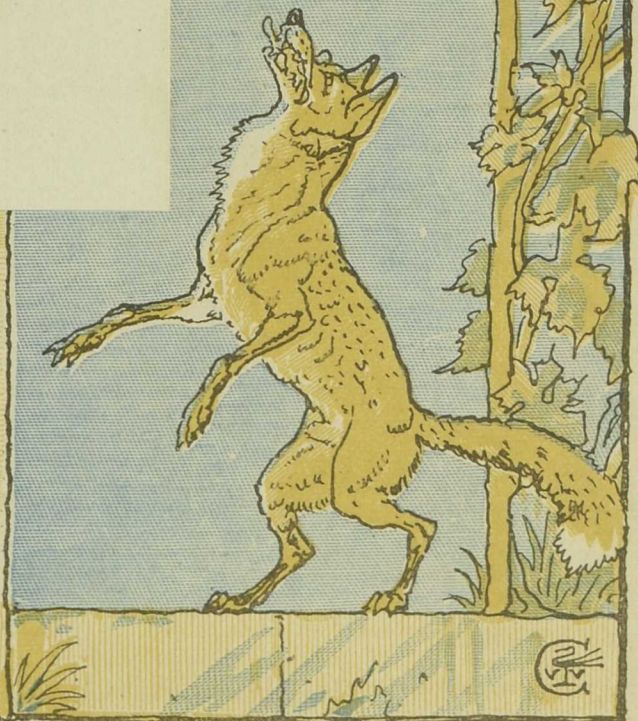
Page 54.—Add *Fisherman and Fish*.

Page 55.—Add *The Herdsman's Vows*.

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.’





THIS 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

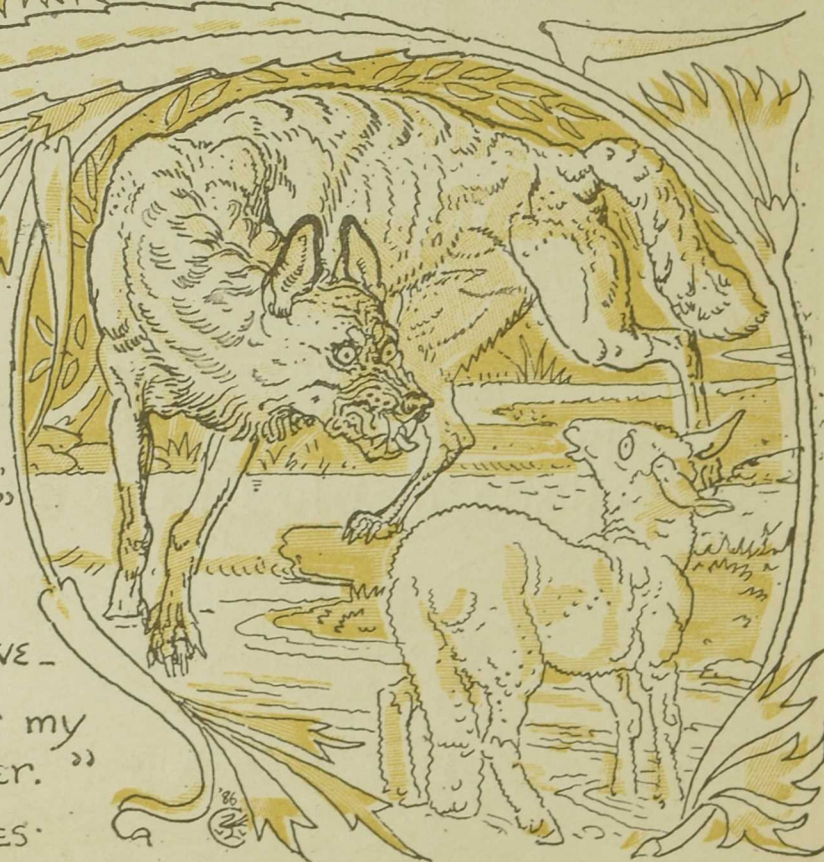
A ROOSTER, while scratching
for grain,
Found a Pearl. He just paused to
explain

That a jewel's no good
To a fowl wanting food,
And then kicked it aside with
disdain.

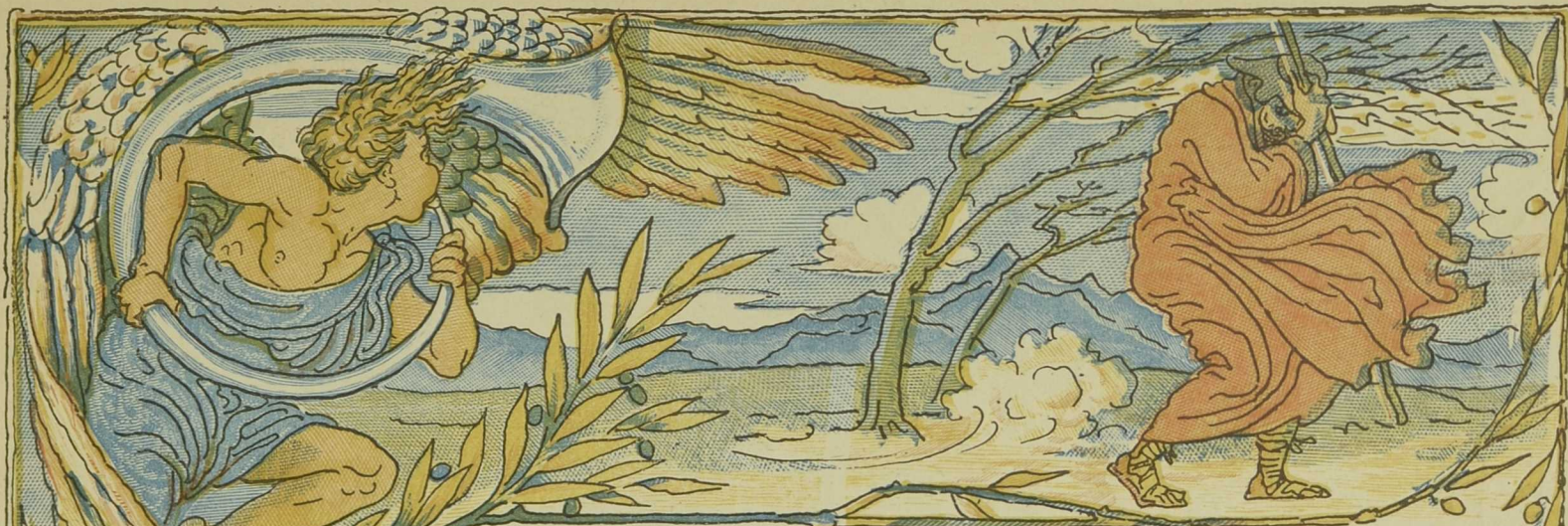
"IF HE ASK BREAD WILL YE GIVE HIM A STONE?"

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 'twas 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 lion with a large, shaggy mane is depicted in a natural setting with tall grass and reeds. The lion is facing right, and its mouth is open, revealing a small red object, possibly a piece of fruit or a toy, which it appears to be holding or about to swallow. The lion's expression is somewhat neutral, but the presence of the red object adds a touch of mystery or humor to the scene.

THE FRIGHTENED LION:

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

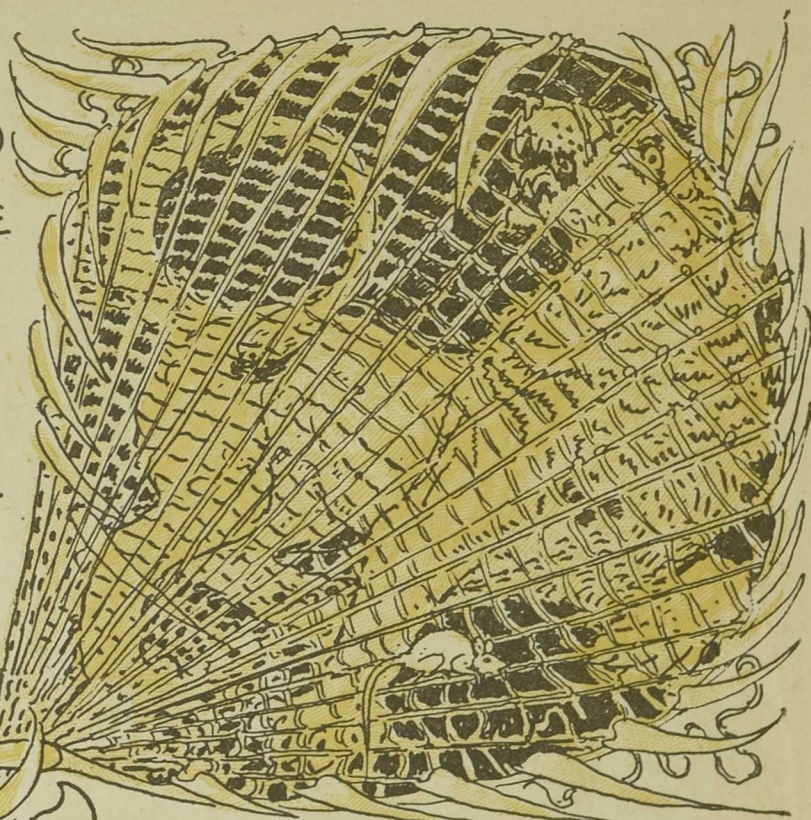
And he laughed in his heart
As a Lion did start
In a fright from the brink
like a fool.

'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

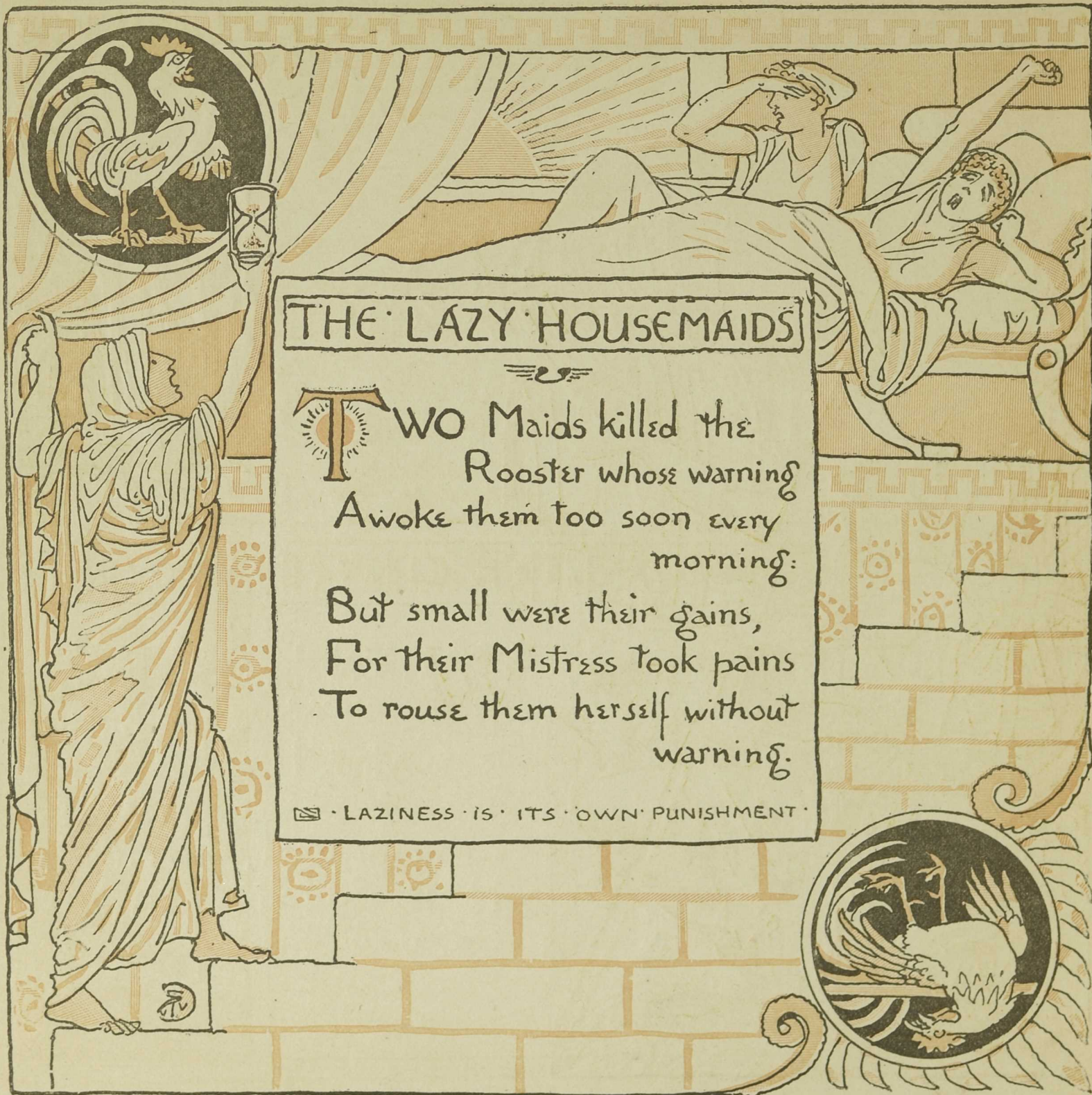




HERCULES & THE WAGGONER

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,
Cawed the bit from her beak.
" Music charms," said the Fox,
" and here's cheese!"

: BEWARE OF FLATTERERS:

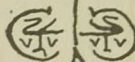




THE DOG IN THE MANGER:

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 AESOP'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 PLEAS'D 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 CAN NOT 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



HE 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 pur-
Safely hid in a Vine, ^{sued,} till
he chewed
The sweet tender green,
And, through shaking leaves
He was stain by his ingratitude. ^{seen,}

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

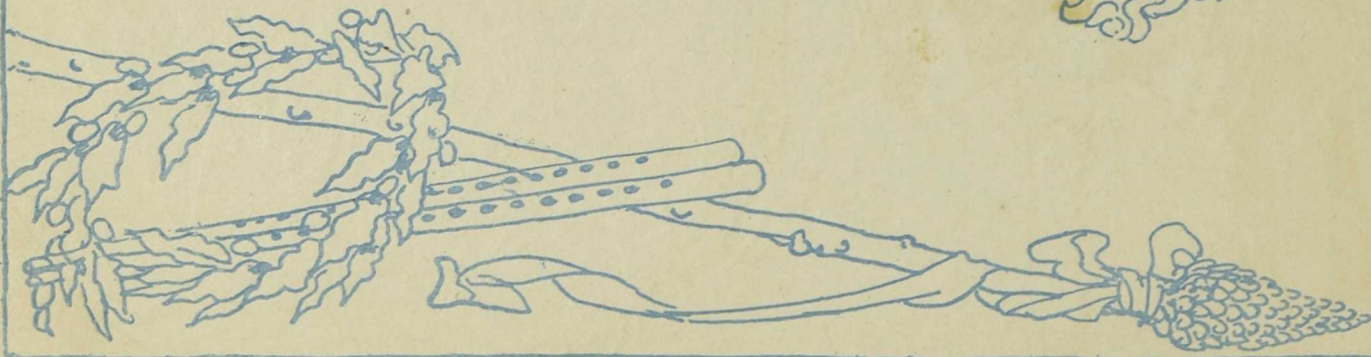
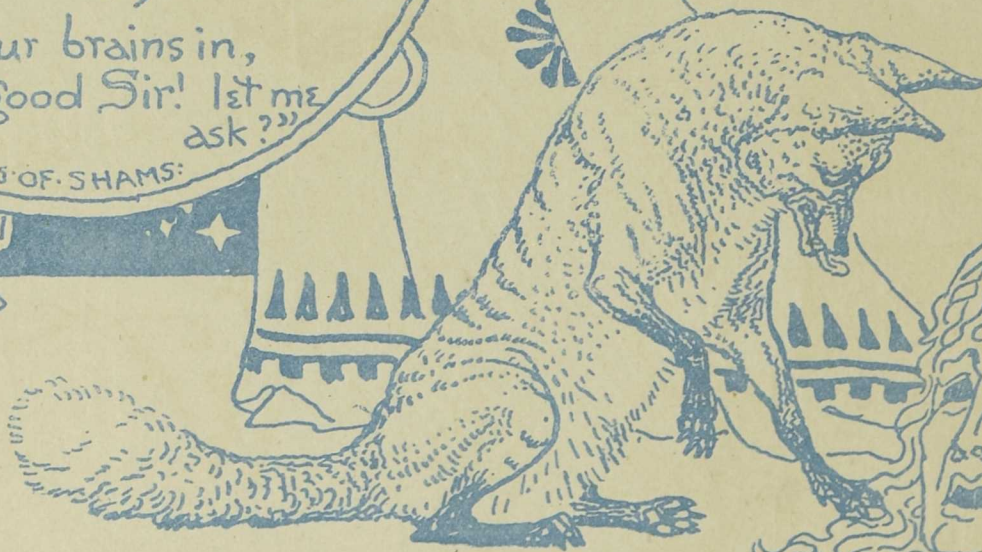
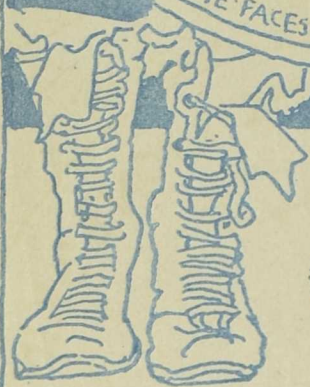


THE FOX & THE MASK

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!” 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 STATVE:

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;

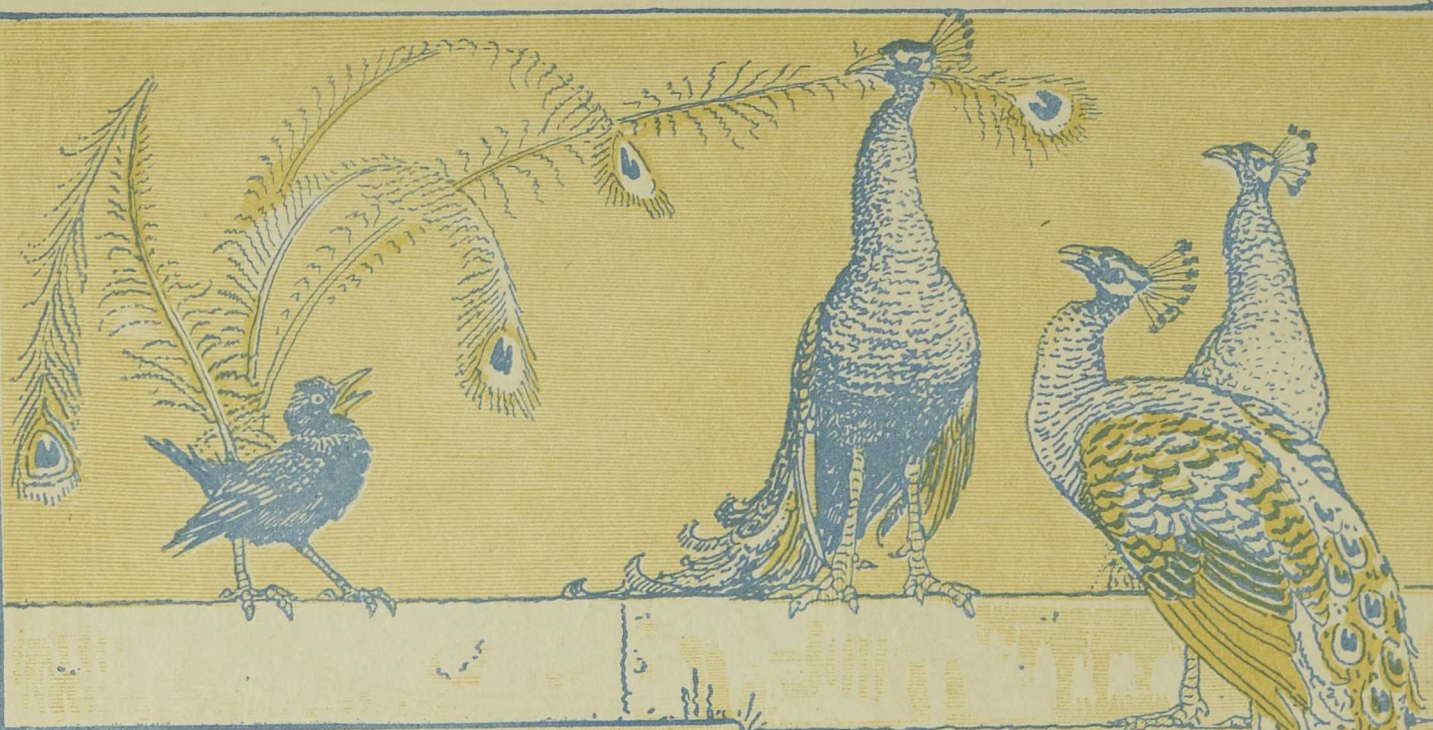
Till one said, with a sneer,

“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 weren't geese,
And none followed the fashion
of trap.

: YET SOME FASHIONS HAVE NO
BETTER REASON :



THE DOG & THE SHADOW

THIS image the Dog did not know,
Or his bone's, in the pond's painted show:
"T'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.

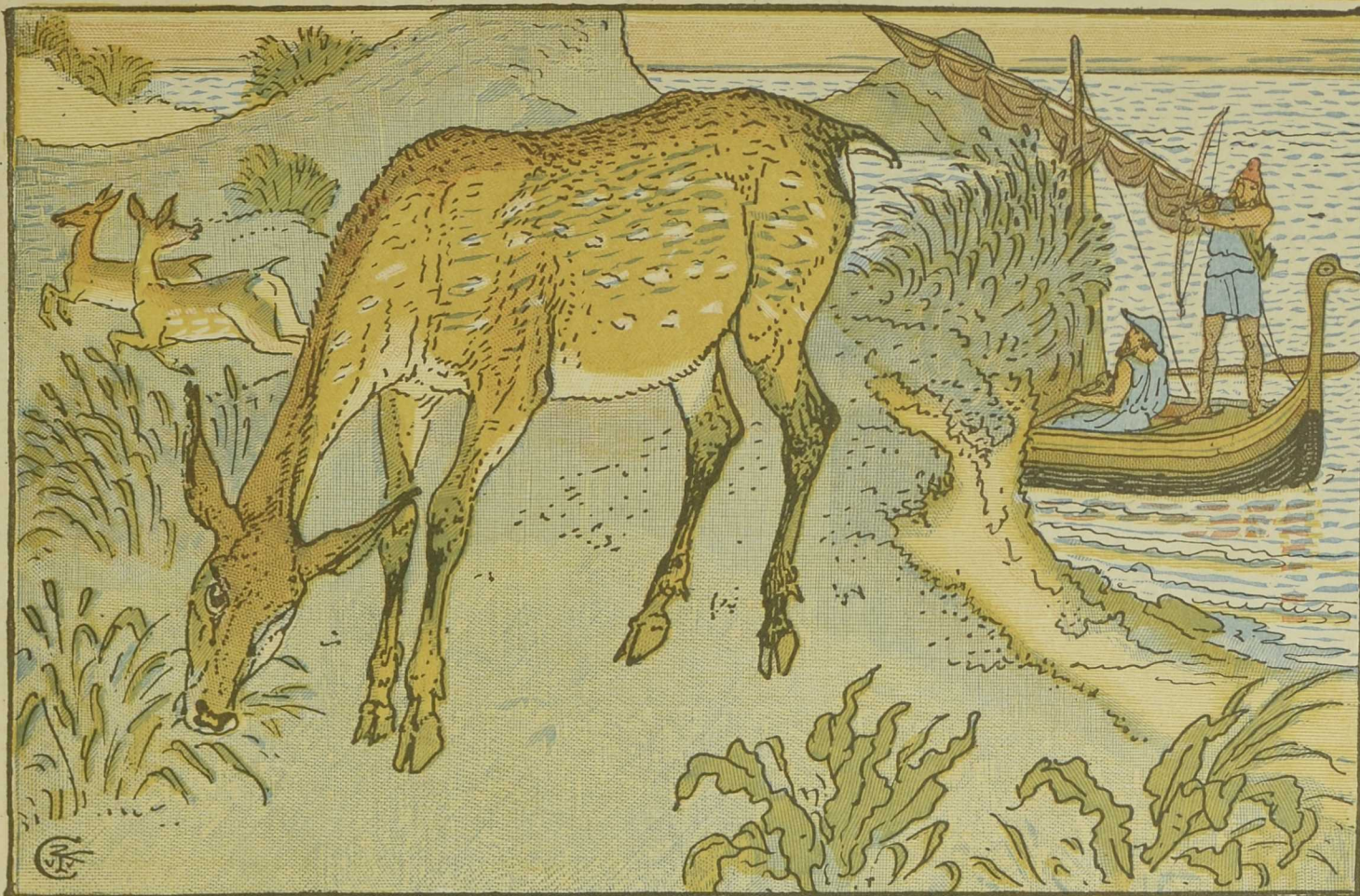
USE YOUR WITS

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

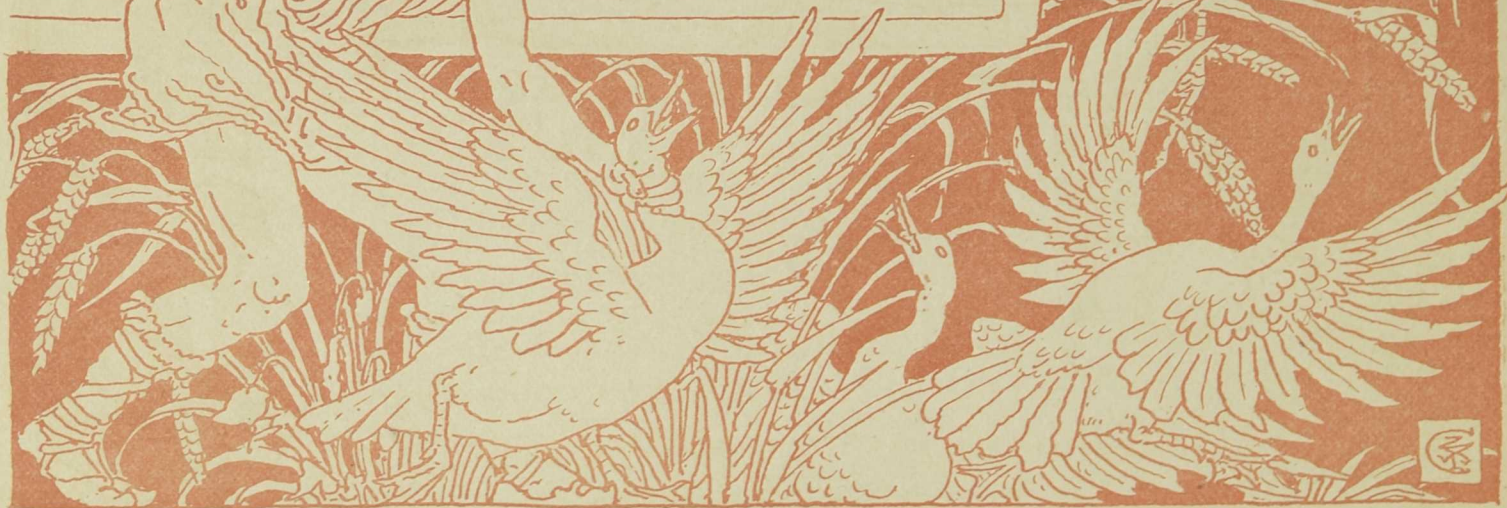
A poor half-blind Doe her one eye
 kept shoreward, all danger to spy,
 As she fed by the sea,
 Poor innocent! she
 Was shot from a boat passing by.

: 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,
 Could n't rise, and were caught in retreat.

BEWARE OF ENTERPRIZES WHERE
 THE RISKS ARE NOT EQUAL:





THE TRUMPETER TAKEN PRISONER

A 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.

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 :

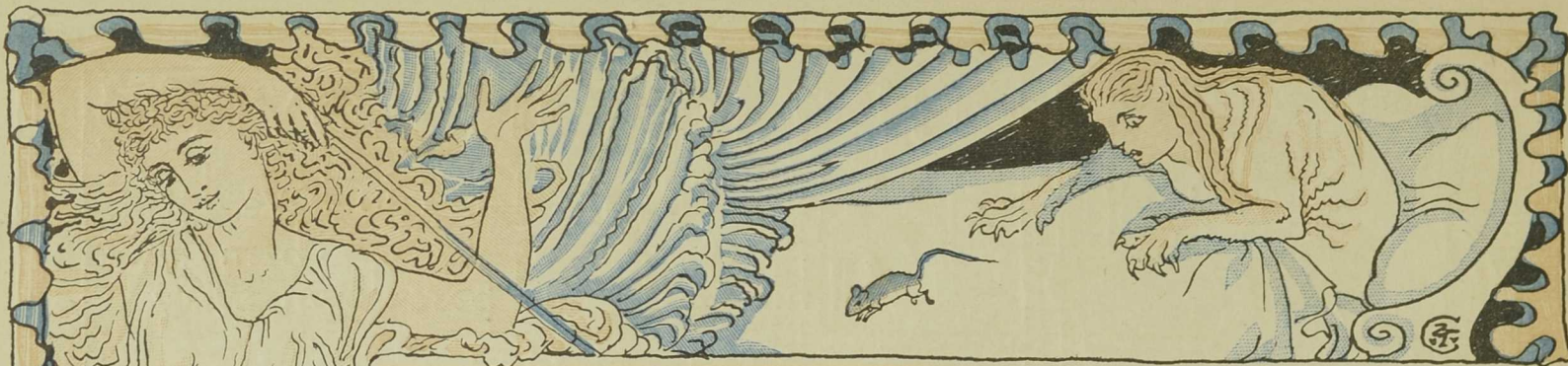


THE LION IN LOVE

THOUGH the Lion in love let
All his teeth, and pare down every ^{them draw} claw,
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.

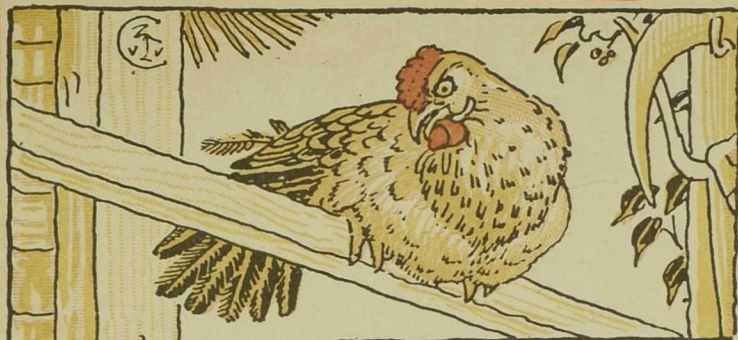
: NATURE WILL OUT :

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 **F**ox 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 **F**ox said "I can play,
 when it fits,
Many wiles that with man make
 me quits"
 "But my trick's up a tree!"
 Said the **C**at, safe to see
Clever **F**ox hunted out of his wits.

: TRUST TO SKILL RATHER THAN WIT :

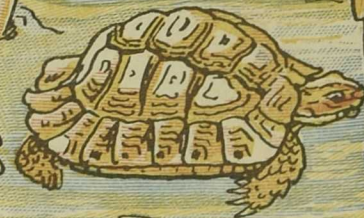




THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

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,
 Fleed as swift as the fear in their mind;
 Till in fright from their fear,
 From the green sedges near,
 Leaping Frogs left their terror 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 sign.

: HASTY PARTNERSHIPS MAY BE REPENTED OF :



THE BEAR & THE BEES:

THEIR honey I'll have when I
66 ^{please;}
Who cares for such small things as

Said the Bear; but the stings ^{Bees?}

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:

T⁶⁶o his sons, who fell out, father spake:
This **B**undle of Sticks you can't break;
Take them singly, with ease,
You may break as you please;
So, dissension your strength will unmake.

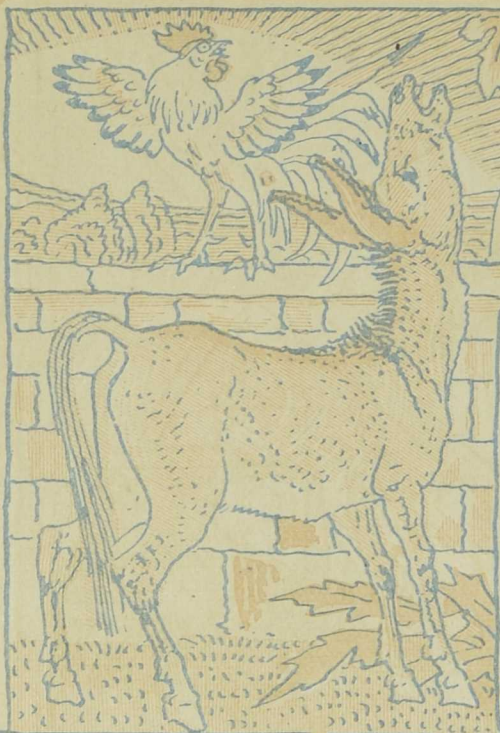
STRENGTH IS IN UNITY:

THE FARMER'S TREASURE

⁶⁶**D**IG 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!”
 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:

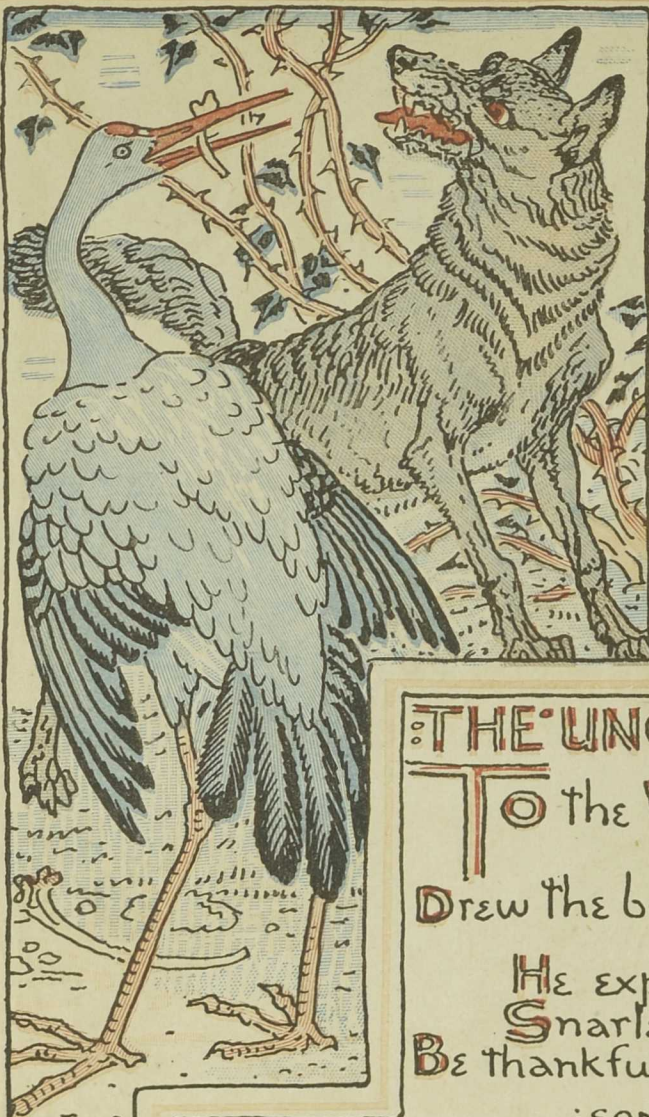




Fortune and the Boy

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

FORTUNE IS NOT ANSWERABLE FOR OUR WANT OF FORESIGHT.



THE UNGRATEFUL WOLF:

TO the Wolf, from whose throat
 Dr 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."

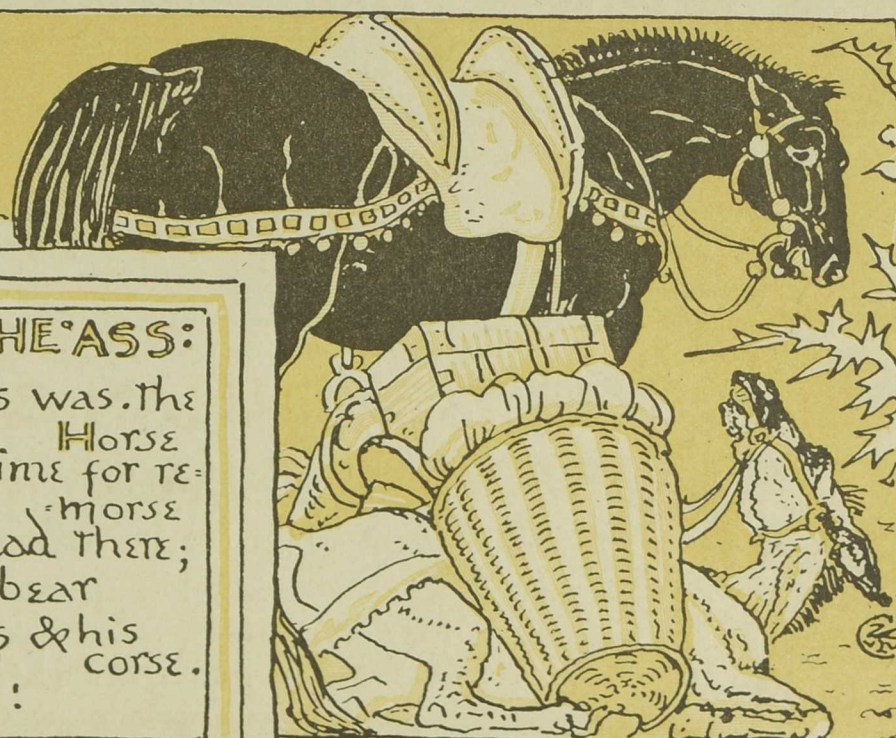
A LITTLE CERTAINTY IS BETTER THAN A GREAT CHANCE:



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 ^{fee.}

HOW OFTEN WOULD WE MEND OUR WISHES!



THE HORSE AND THE ASS:

OVERLADEN the Ass was. The ^{Horse}
Would n't help; but had time for re-
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



BABY'S OWN ÆSOP



ALSO BY THE
SAME:

"THE
BABY'S
OPERA"

&
"THE
BABY'S
BOUQUET"

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ROUTLEDGE