



SELECT

FABLES.

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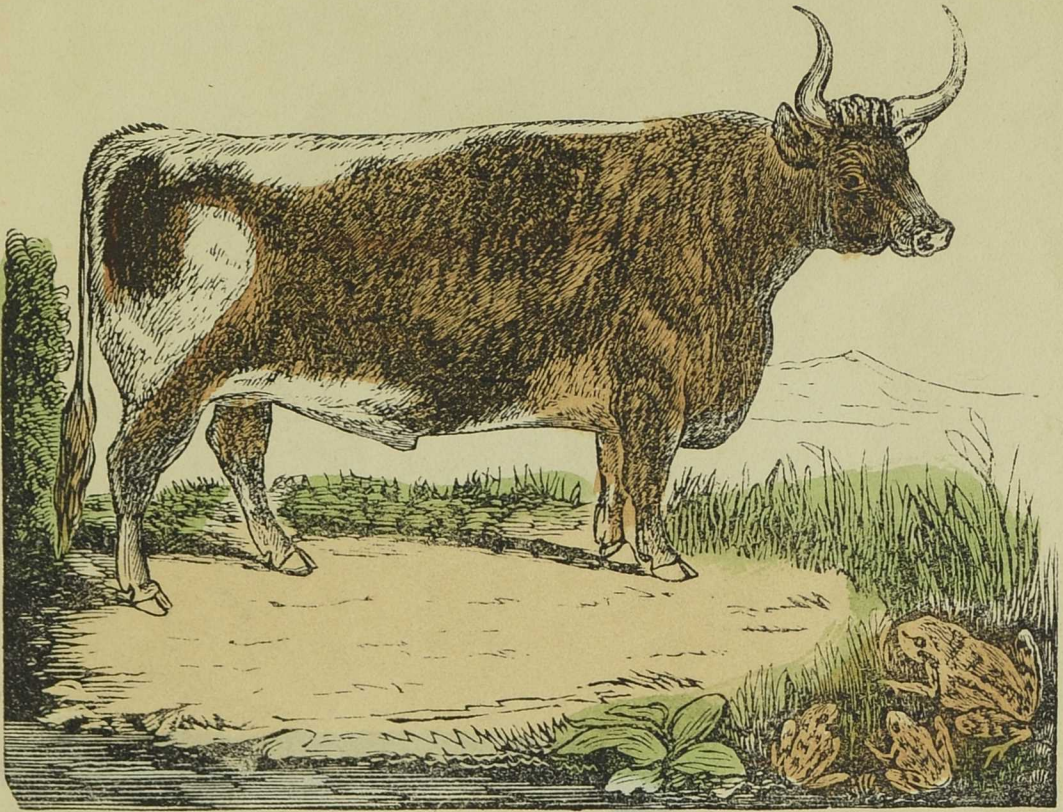
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PRICE THREEPENCE.

BOOK OF
SELECT FABLES.



THE OWLS AND SPARROW.



THE FROG AND OX.

ONE day, an Ox grazing in a meadow, set his foot among some young Frogs, and trod one of them to death. The rest told their mother, when she came home; and that the beast which did it was the largest they ever saw. What, was it so big? says the old frog, puffing herself up. Oh! bigger by a vast deal! say they. And so big? says she, puffing herself yet more. Indeed mamma, say they, if you were to puff yourself to death, you would never be so big. She tried again, and died indeed.



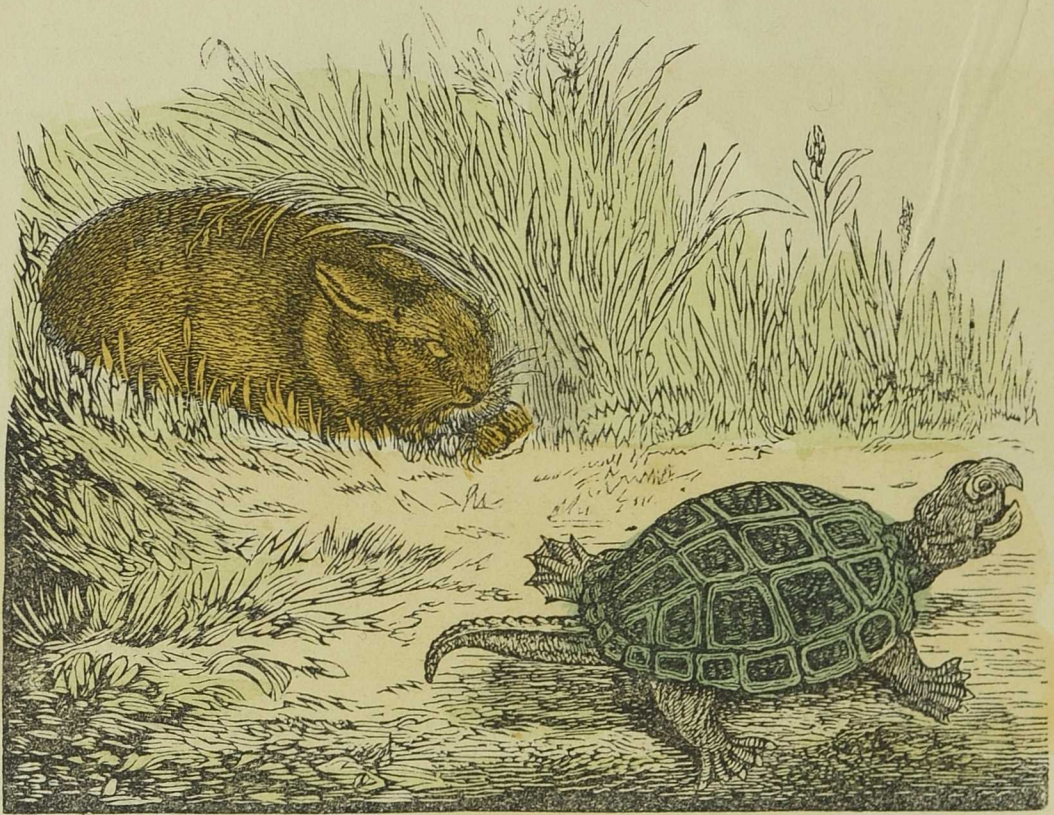
THE RAVEN AND SWAN.

A RAVEN had a great mind to be as white as a Swan, and thought to himself that the Swan's beauty was owing to his often washing and peculiar food. The Raven, upon this, left his former manner of living, and betook himself to the lakes and rivers; but the water did not change his colour, and his folly cost him his life for want of proper food.



THE CAT AND MICE.

THE Mice one day called a general meeting, to consult about the best means of securing themselves from the danger of the Cat. Many things were proposed. At last a young Mouse, in a fine speech, proposed that the Cat should wear a bell about her neck. Upon which an old grave Mouse stood up, wishing to know how this bell was to be fastened to the Cat's neck, and what Mouse would undertake to do it?



THE HARE AND TORTOISE.

A HARE jested the Tortoise on account of his slowness, and boasted of her own great speed.—“Let us make a match,” said the Tortoise; “I will run with you five miles for a wager.” The Hare agreed; and away they both started. But the Hare, by reason of her swiftness, got so far a-head of the Tortoise, that she made a joke of the matter; and finding herself a little tired, squatted in a tuft of grass that grew by the way, and took a nap. In the meanwhile the Tortoise came jogging on with a slow but steady pace, and passing the Hare whilst she was asleep, got to the end of the race first.



THE BEAR AND BEES.

A BEAR climbing over the fence into a place where Bees were kept, began to rob the hives of their honey: but the Bees soon set upon him; and though they were not able to pierce his rough hide, yet, with their little stings, they so annoyed his eyes and nose, that, unable to bear the pain, he tore the skin over his ears with his own claws, and was justly punished for the harm he did the little Bees, in breaking open their waxen cells.



THE WOLF AND LAMB.

ONE hot, sultry day, a Wolf drinking at a stream, saw a Lamb come to drink at the same time, a little lower down. He ran to it, and asked the poor Lamb, "how he dared to trouble the water as he did?" "Sir," said the Lamb, "you see that the water comes from you to me, so that it cannot be as you say." "Thou art a rascal," said the Wolf, "and I know that thou told tales of me last year." The poor innocent Lamb replied, "Alas! my dear Sir, I was not then born." "It was then your brother," said the Wolf. "In truth I have no brother," answered the Lamb. "It was then your father or your mother," said the Wolf, "for I know that you hate me." Thus saying, he tore the Lamb in pieces, and eat it.



THE COCK AND JEWEL.

A Cock had just come away from his roost as soon as the morning broke, and had mounted upon his favourite dunghill. He next, began scratching about for some corn for his breakfast; and as he scratched, he turned up a precious stone; which he looked at with disappointment. "If a jeweller had found you," said he, "he would have been glad of his prize; for my part, I should prefer one grain of Barley to all the precious stones in the world."

