


BABY'S OWN ÆSOP

WALTER CRANE

ROUTLEDGE



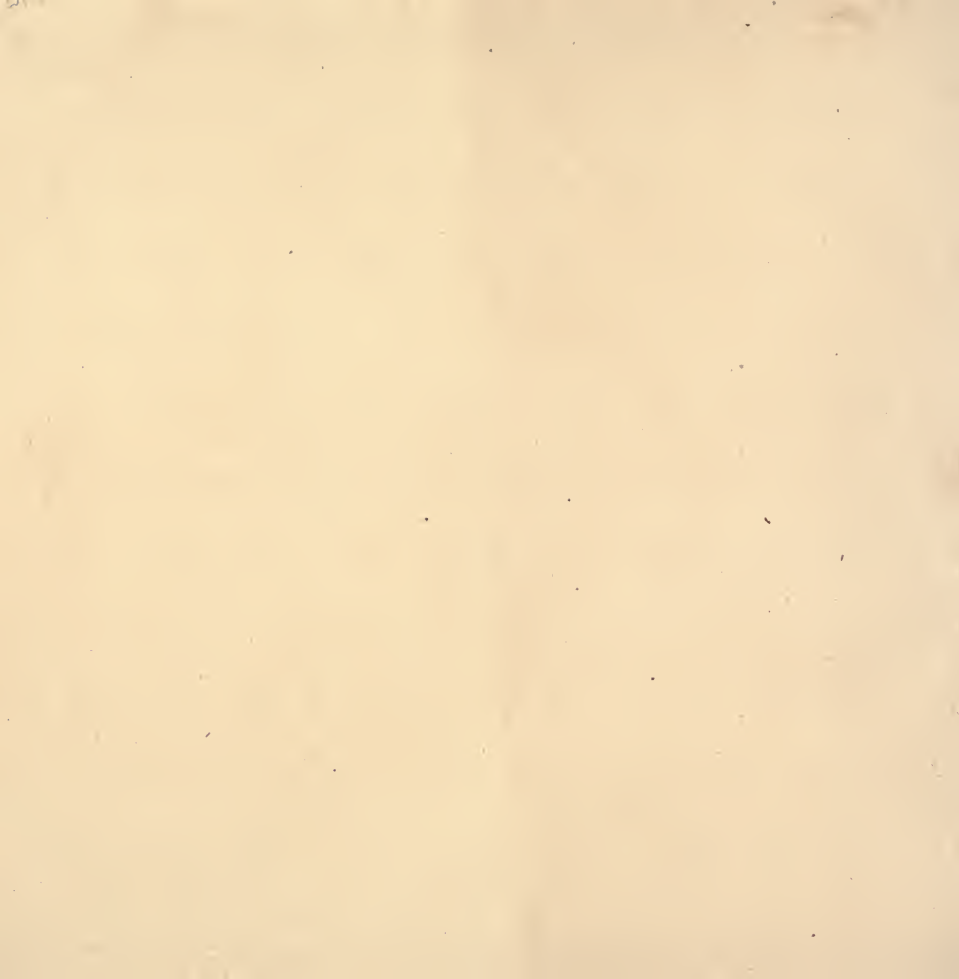
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CHILDREN'S BOOK
COLLECTION

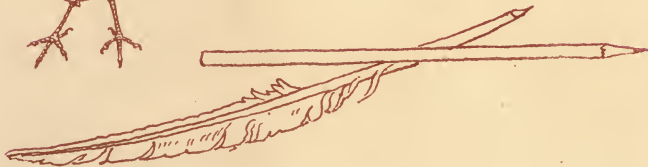
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THE
BABY'S
OWN
ÆSOP

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

· WALTER · CRANE ·

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P R E F A C E

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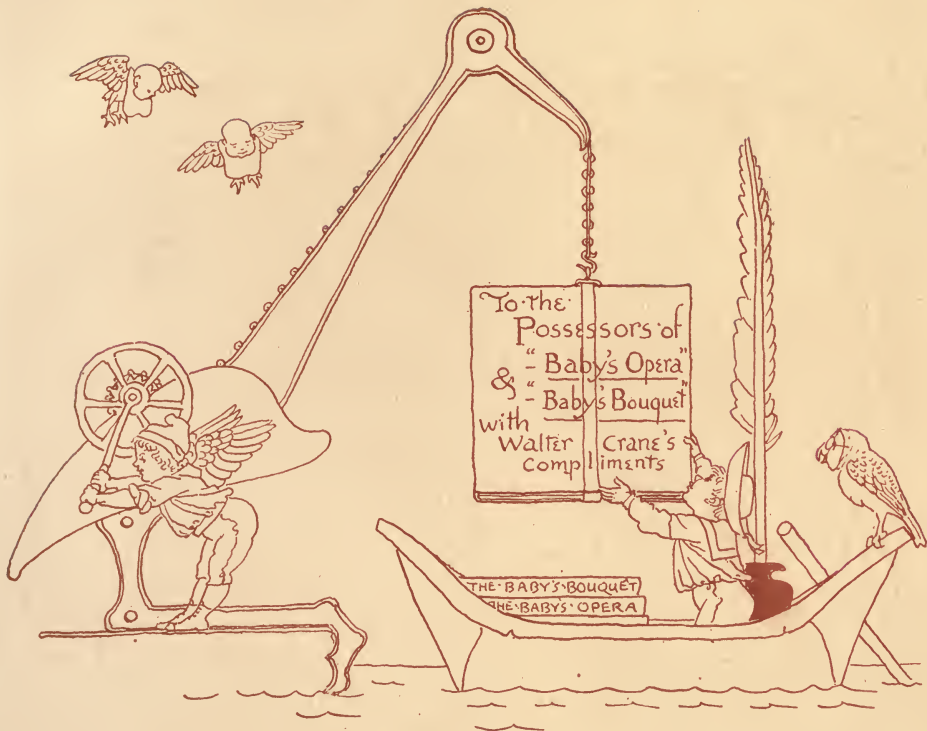
OR this rhymed version
of the Fables I have
to thank my early

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





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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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*.

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for grapes.

"THE GRAPES OF DISAPPOINTMENT ARE ALWAYS SOUR."



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T

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 roaring in a savanna setting. The lion is the central focus, with its mouth wide open, showing its tongue and teeth. It is surrounded by various plants, including large ferns and tall grasses. In the foreground, a frog is visible near a small pool of water. The background shows a hazy landscape with more vegetation and a small bird flying in the sky. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border of leaves and branches.

THE 'FRIGHTENED' LION:

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

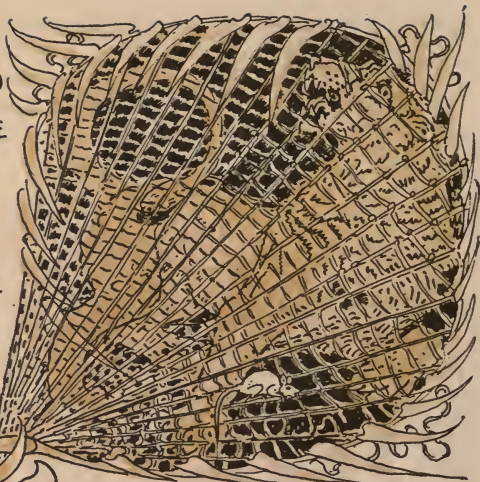
And he laughed in his heart
As a Lion did start
In a fright from the brink
like a fool.

'IMAGINARY FEARS ARE THE WORST.'

THE MUSE & 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 mouthful of hay;
 But a DOG in the manger 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 good,
 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: "pray don't send
one day 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.


An illustration showing a large, gnarled oak tree on the left bank of a river. The river is filled with reeds that are being bent by the current. The scene is framed by decorative, leafy borders.

THE OAK & THE REEDS

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

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

: BEND, NOT BREAK :

An illustration showing a tall, slender fir tree on the left and a dense thicket of brambles on the right. The brambles are climbing up the side of the fir tree. The scene is framed by decorative, leafy borders.

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's sound
Made the Fir wish himself
but a Bramble.

PRIDE OF PLACE HAS ITS DISADVANTAGES

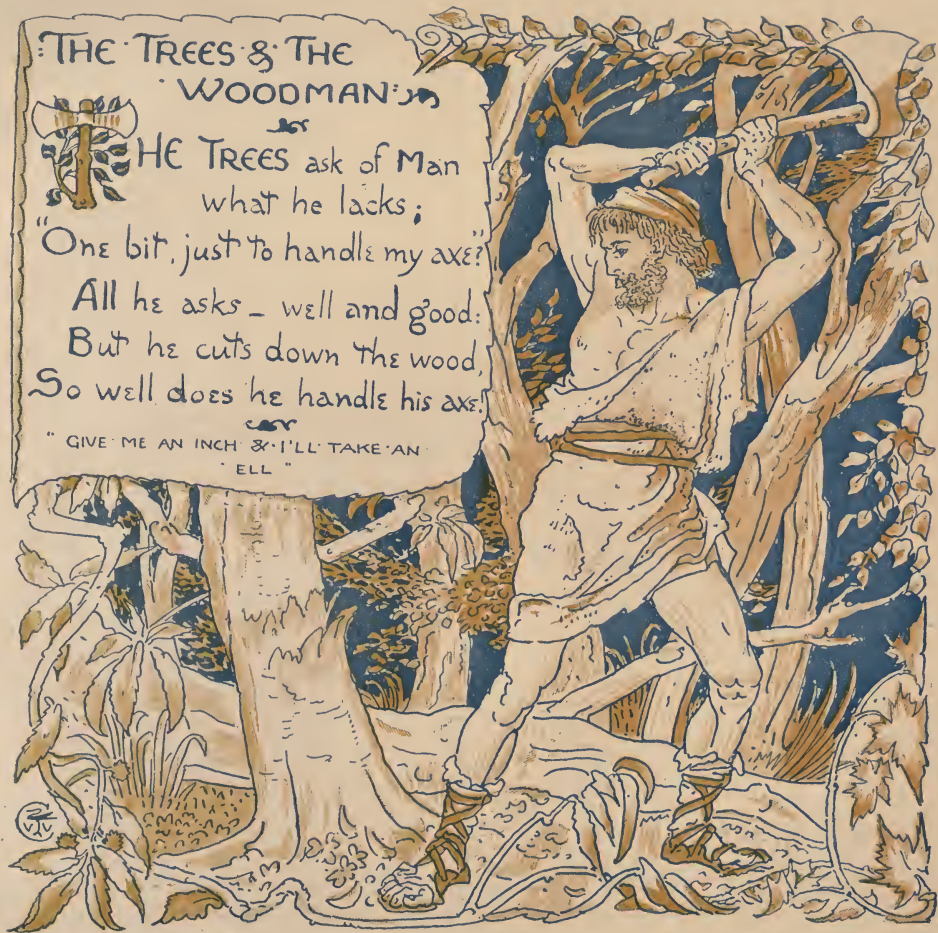
THE TREES & THE
WOODMAN




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

Hart by the hunters pur-
Safely hid in a Vine, ^{sued,} till
he chewed

The sweet tender green,
And, through shaking leaves
He was slain 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'



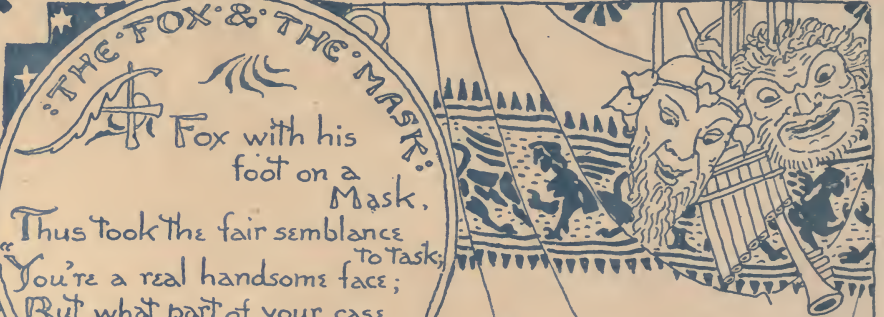
THE FOX & THE MASK

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?"

THE 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 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;

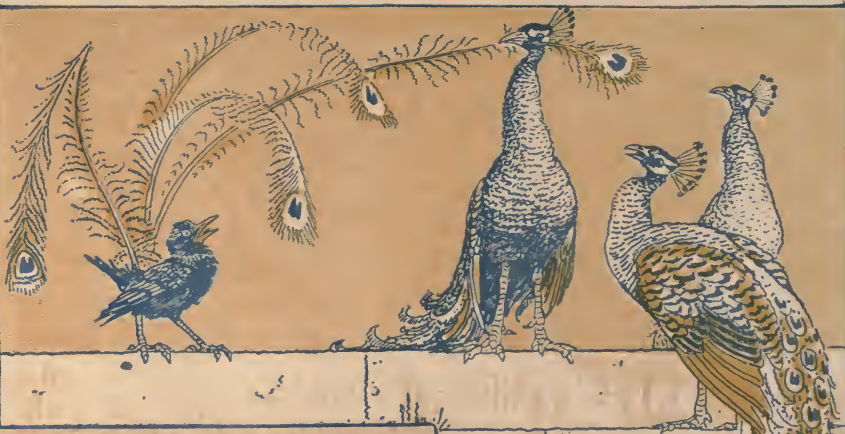
Till one said, with a sneer,

“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:

“So 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:
"I'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 english conceit,
The wool tangled his feet,
And the shepherd laid hold of the sham.

BWARE 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
All was well, till, disturbed at their ^{wheat;}
Light-winged, the Cranes fled, ^{treat;}
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 ^{when he said} fight,
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
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,
 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, Porcupine
 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
 "Who cares for such small things as please;
 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:

○ 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!"
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 :





3 FORTVNE AND THE BOY:



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 besel."

FORTUNE IS NOT ANSWERABLE FOR OUR WANT OF FORESIGHT.



THE UNGRATEFUL WOLF:

TO the Wolf, from whose throat
 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:

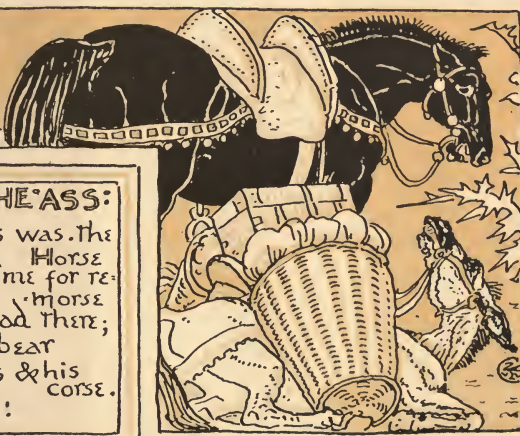
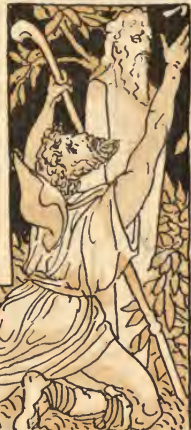
PRAYED the Fish, as the Fisherman took
 Him, a poor little mite, from his hook,
 “Let me go! I’m so small.”
 He replied, “Not at all!
 You’re the biggest, perhaps in the brook.”

· A LITTLE CERTAINTY IS BETTER THAN A GREAT CHANCE ·




·THE·HERDSMANS·VOWS

AKID vowed to Jove, so might
 Find his herd, & his herd did ^{he}
 Soon, of lions the prey: ^{he see}
 Then 't was "Get me away,
 And a goat of the best take for,"
 "HOW OFTEN WOULD WE MEND OUR WISHES!" ^{see}



·THE·HORSE·AND·THE·ASS·

OVERLADEN the Ass was. The
 Would n'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!

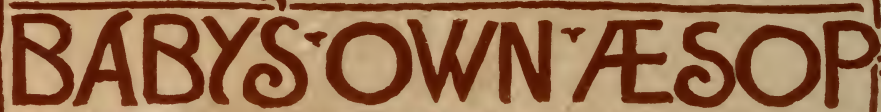
They go in, but I've seen none come out."

·REASON FROM RESULTS·


·THE END·







BABY'S OWN ÆSOP



WALTER CRANE

ALSO BY THE
SAME:

"THE
BABY'S
OPERA"

&
"THE
BABY'S
BOUQUET"

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ROUTLEDGE

