

BABY'S OWN ÆSOP

WALTER CRANE



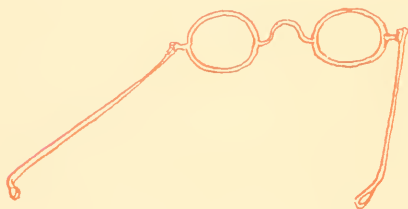


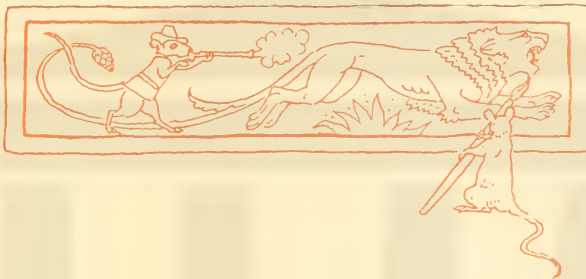
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Baby's own Aesop

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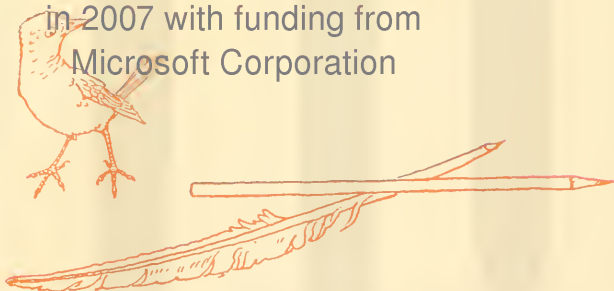
~~READING ROOM~~







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THE
BABY'S
OWN
ÆSOP

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

'WALTER CRANE'

ENGRAVED & PRINTED IN COLOURS BY

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ENGRAVER  & PRINTER



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 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



1348

PROPERTY OF
CITY OF NEW YORK

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OCT 24 1960



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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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?"

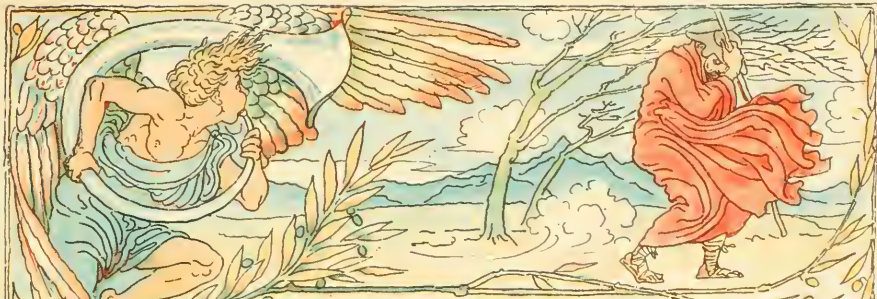


THE WOLF & THE LAMB

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.



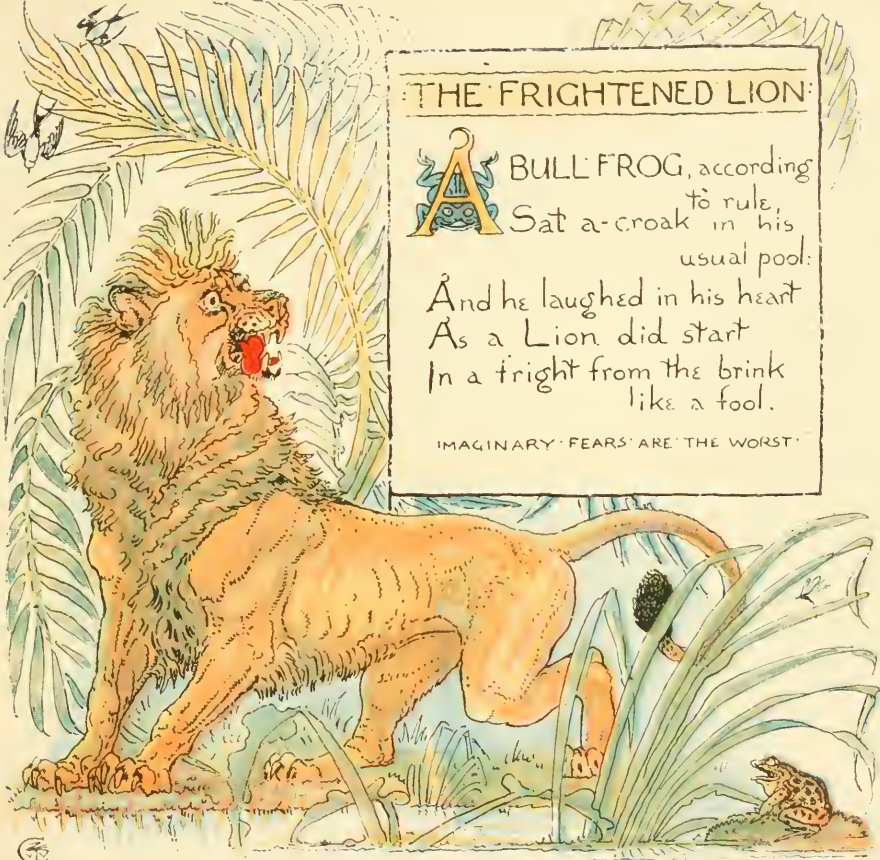
KING LOG & KING STORK

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





THE FRIGHTENED LION

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

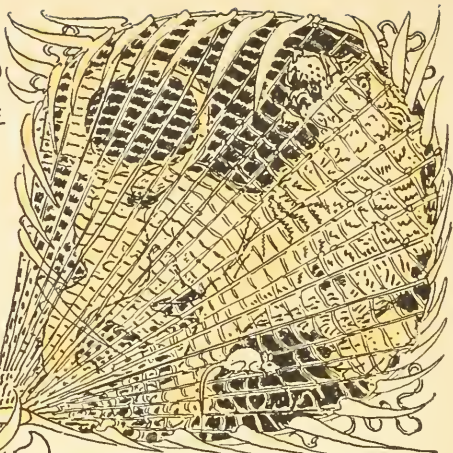
And he laughed in his heart
As a Lion did start
In a fright from the brink
like a fool.

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

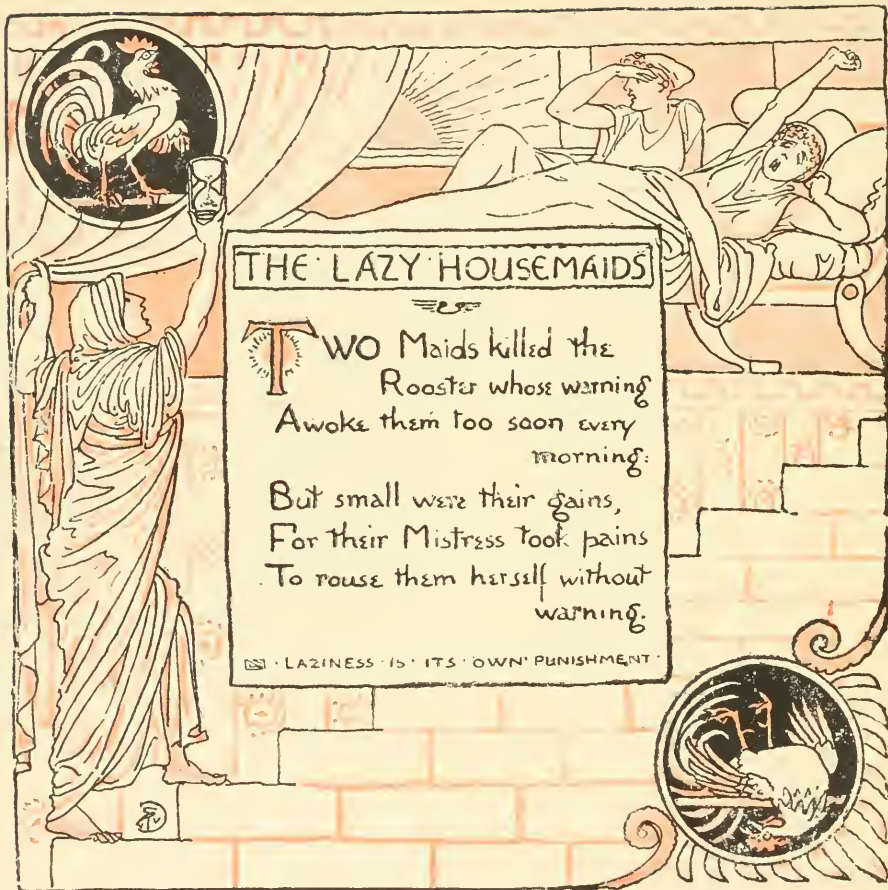




HERCULES & THE WAGGONER

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, de 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!"

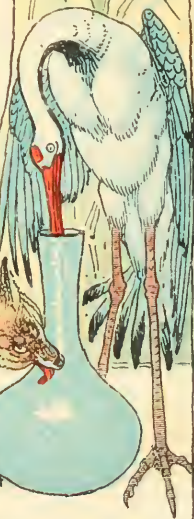
· BRAG IS · NOT · ALWAYS · BELIEF ·



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 goad,
 And by stirrup, I've no cause
 to go."

· YOUR · REASONS · ARE ·
 NOT · MINE ·





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 simpliton's Goose
 used to lay;
 So he killed the poor thing,
 Swifter fortunes to bring,
 And dined off his fortune
 that day.



GREED OVERREACHES ITSELF



THE OAK & THE REEDS:

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

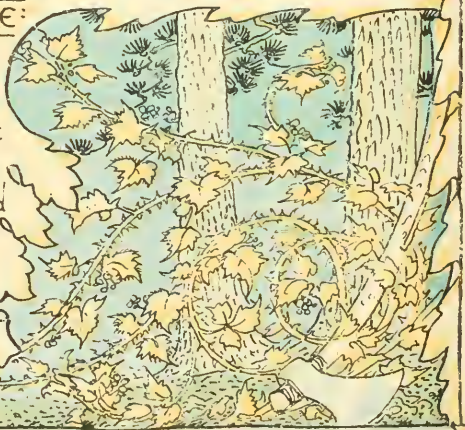
But slim Reeds at his side,
The fierce gale did out-ride,
Since, by binding the burden
was borne.

: 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

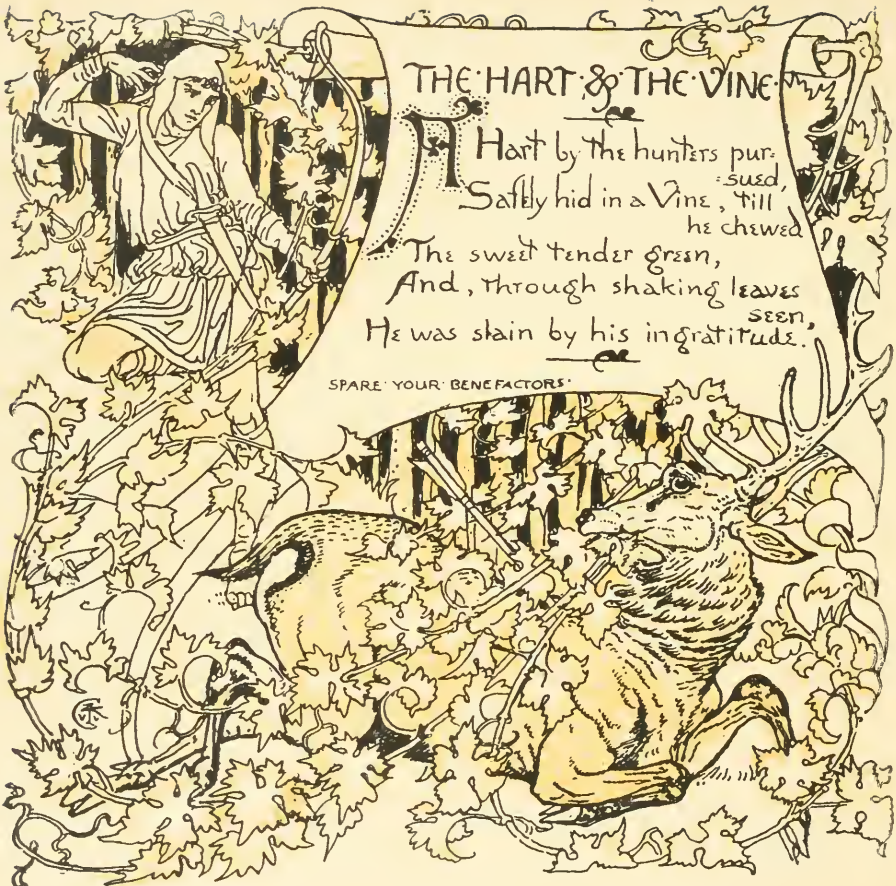


THE TREES & THE
WOODMAN

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 pur-^{sued,}
Safely hid in a Vine, 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.
For the ungrateful thing
Wife & children would sting.
I have known some as bad as
the Snake.

BWARE HOW YOU

ENTERTAIN TRAITORS



THE FOX & THE MASK



Fox with his
foot on a
Mask.

Thus took the fair semblance
"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.

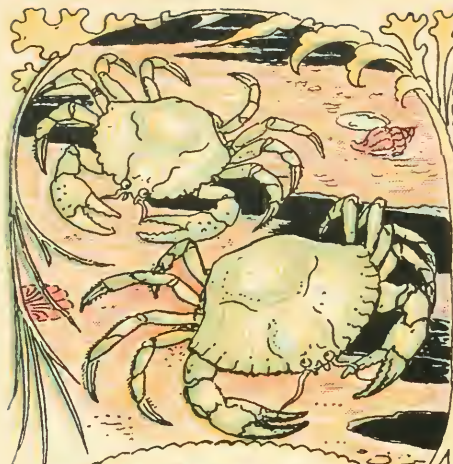
"BORROWED PLUMES"
ARE SOON DISCOVERED



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 QUAREL WITH NATURE



: THE TWO CRABS:

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

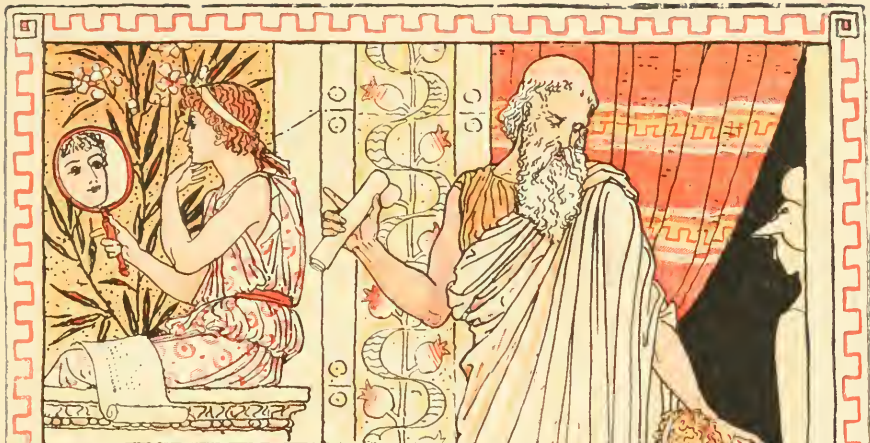
: LOOK AT HOME :

: THE TWO JARS:

“NEVER fear!” said the Brass
 to the Glass
 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

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

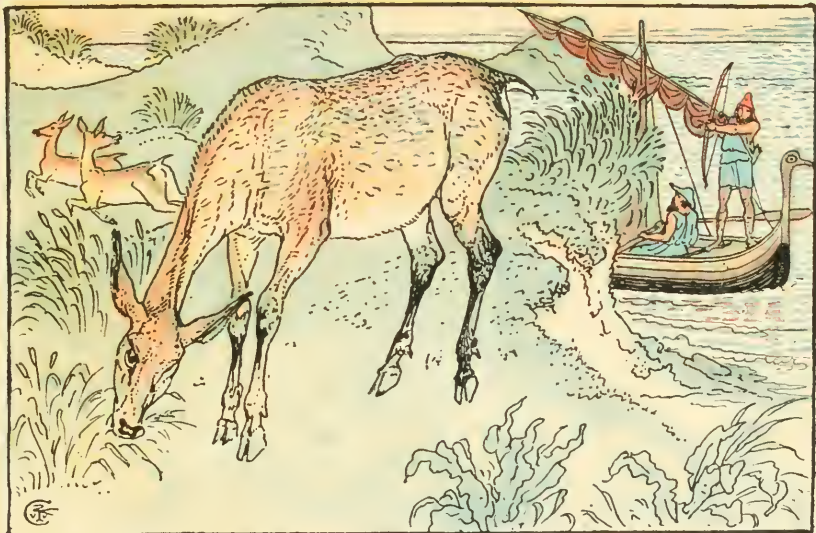
USE YOUR WITS

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 OVERRATING 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 not 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!

: RESOP 'AILED' AT DOUBLE DEALING :



NEITHER BEAST NOR BIRD:

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:

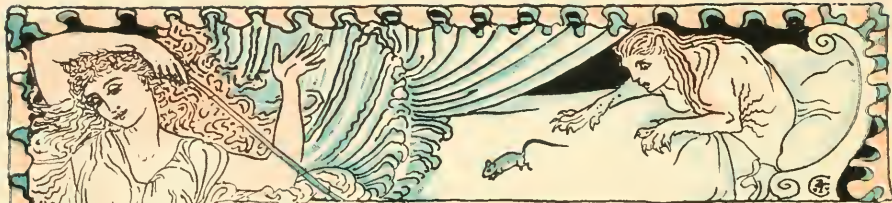


THE LION IN LOVE

THOUGH the Lion in love let
them draw
All his Teeth, and pare down every
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.

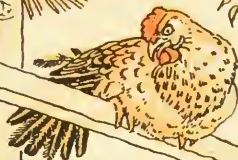
: NATURE WILL OUT :

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 Fox down below, on the search,
Coaxed her hard to descend
She replied, "Most dear friend!
I feel more secure on my perch."

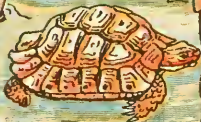
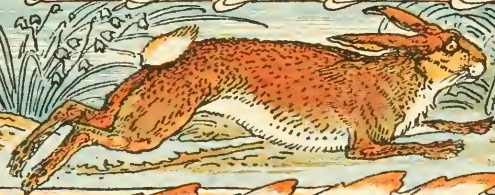
·BEWARE·OF·INTERESTED·FRIENDSHIPS·

·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 terror behind.

OUR OWN ARE NOT THE ONLY TROUBLES





PORCUPINE, SNAKE, & COMPAG

GOING shates with the Snakes, Porcu-
= pine
Said "the best of the bargain is mine!"

Not 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;
BEEES?"

Said the Bear, but the stings
Of these very small things
Lef him not very much at his ease.

THE WEAKEST UNITED MAY BE STRONG TO AVENGE





THE BUNDLE OF STICKS:



“O 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.

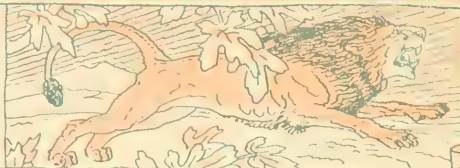
STRENGTH IS IN UNITY:

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°:

“**RE**OW Master that little Dog pets!”
TE 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 :





5 FORTVNE° 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
 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·

AKID 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·

VERLADEN 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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