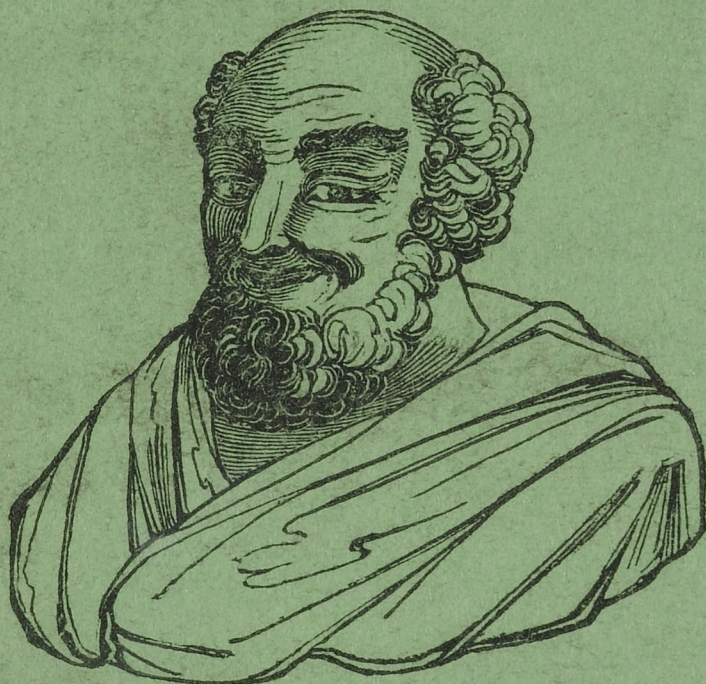


**SELECT
FABULIST.**



EDINBURGH :

**PUBLISHED BY JAMES CLARKE AND CO.
221, HIGH STREET.**

Price One Penny.

157

SELECT FABLES.



The Old Man and his Sons.

AN old man had many sons, who were often falling out with one another ; when he used this expedient in order to reconcile them. He desired a bundle of short rods to be brought, and then commanded them one after another, to try if, with all their strength, they could break it. They all tried, but to no purpose ;

for the rods being closely and compactly bound up together, it was not in their power to break them. After this the father ordered the bundle to be untied, and gave a single rod to each of his sons, at the same time bidding them try to break it, which they did with the greatest ease. On which the father addressed them to this effect: "O my sons, behold the power of unity! for if you, in like manner, would but keep yourselves strictly conjoined in the bands of friendship, it would not be in the power of any mortal to hurt you; but when once the bands of affection are dissolved, how soon do you fall to pieces, and are liable to be violated by every injurious hand that assaults you."

When differences arise among those who should live together in friendship, they bring upon themselves their own ruin.



The vain Jackdaw.

A PROUD vain Jackdaw, having found some peacock's feathers, decked himself in them, and joined their company. They did not observe him at first, but beginning to prate, he was soon discovered; on which the peacocks fell upon him with their sharp bills, stript him of his plumage, and drove him away.

Contentment is better than riches.



The Boy and Butterfly.

A Boy once pursuing a Butterfly with great eagerness from flower to flower, sometimes falling over one hillock, then another, till at last, quite tired, he lay down, and exclaimed, "Ha! what signifies it? It is only a painted butterfly!"

We are always ready to undervalue what we cannot attain to.



The Blind Man and Lame.

A BLIND Man travelling on a road, overtook one that was lame. The blind man stumbled at every stone he came to, which the lame man seeing, called to him that he might take him on his back, and he would direct his way; which the blind man agreed to, and so arrived safe at the end of his journey.

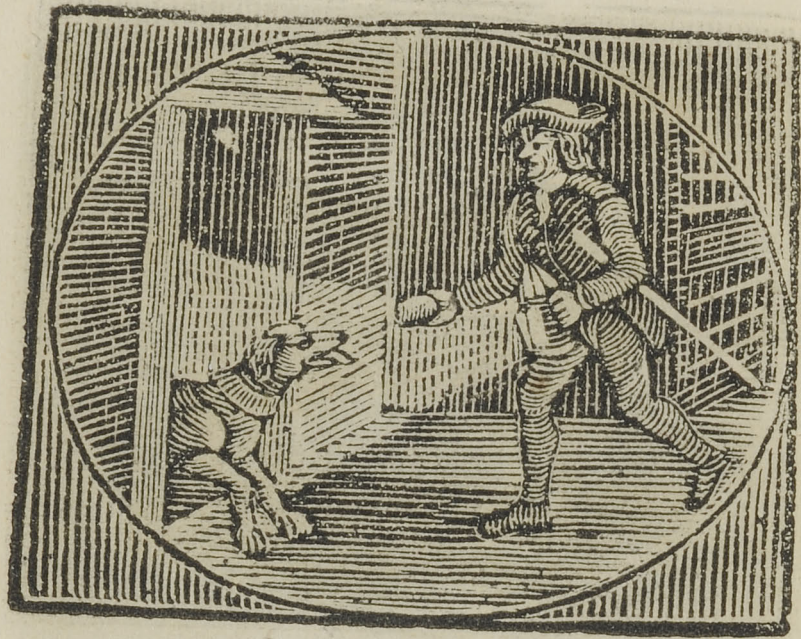
One good turn deserves another.



The Husbandman and Stork.

A HUSBANDMAN having found a Stork in a net which he had set to catch the geese who laid waste his fields, the Stork begged hard for his life, telling him he was no goose, but a poor harmless Stork. "Hold your prating, sirrah," says the Husbandman; "as I have taken you in bad company, you must suffer the same punishment."

Bad company corrupt good manners.



The Thief and Dog.

A THIEF once attempting to rob a house, was assailed by the Dog, who desired him to go about his business. The thief, upon this, offered to bribe him with a loaf; on which the Dog took hold of him till his master came, at the same time telling him, that he considered the taking a bribe to be as bad as the theft.

Honesty will accept no bribe.



The Lion and the Goat.

THE Lion, seeing a Goat upon a steep craggy rock, where he could not come at him, asked him what delight he could take to skip from one precipice to another, all day, and venture the breaking of his neck every moment? "Why," replies the Goat, "you reason well; but you look so very hungry and designing, that, to tell you the truth, I do not care to venture my person where you are."

Trust not to strangers.



The Jackdaw and Sheep.

A JACKDAW sat chattering on the back of a sheep. "Peace, you noisy thing," says the sheep, "were I a bear you durst not do so." "True," says the daw, "I know who I have to do with; I never meddle with the surly and revengeful, but I love to plague poor harmless creatures like you, that cannot do me any harm again."

Never be mischievous to the harmless.



The Old Man and Young.

AN old man, bent with age, being met by a pert young fellow, was accosted thus—"Well, old boy, will you sell your bow?" "Keep your money, you fool," said the old man, "for when you come to my age, you will have one for nothing."

Never mock at old age. Solomon says,
The hoary head is a crown of glory.



The Crow and Pitcher.

A CROW, ready to die with thirst, found a pitcher with some water ; but it was so near the bottom that he could not get at it. He tried to overturn it, but his strength failed him. At last, seeing some pebbles near him, he dropped them one by one into the pitcher, so raised the water to the top, and quenched his thirst.

Perseverance overcomes many difficulties.



The Fox and Grapes.

A Fox, very hungry, chanced to come into a vineyard, where there hung branches of charming ripe grapes, but nailed so high, that he leapt till he quite tired himself without being able to reach them. At last, he says, "They are as sour as crabs, and not worth one's while."

When we cannot attain what we wish for, it is as well to put it off with a jest.



The Fly and Ant.

A FLY meeting an Ant one day, insultingly told her, what a poor crawling reptile she was, obliged to feed on the coarsest of grain, while she herself fed at the table of kings. "Ay," says the Ant, "and as often as you are seen are driven away; besides, when winter comes, what will you do then?"

Industry is the road to riches and honour.



The Fox and Crow.

A CROW flew away with a piece of cheese from a cottage window to the top of a high tree. This a Fox observing, began a speech by flattering her beauty, at the same time desiring her to sing him a song. On which the foolish Crow, trying to sing, dropt her cheese, which sly Reynard snapt up and set off with.

Always distrust fair speeches.

FINIS.

157

THE
SELECT FABULIST.



Published by
JAMES CLARKE & CO. EDINBURGH
Of whom may be had,
An extensive Assortment of Juvenile
Books, at various Prices.